A Sense of Place:
Wildflowers in the Heart of the
Santa Cruz Mountains

Guest Speaker – Kevin Bryant

Friday, April 30 at 7:00 pm
Thomas Fogarty Winery

Premiere Fogarty wines will be available. We request a donation of $5.00 per glass. Light hors d’oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided.

Join us for our annual spring meeting at the beautiful Thomas Fogarty Winery. Our presenter, Kevin Bryant, is the President of California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter.

Living along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains allows us to have a close up view of the natural world, with many outstanding local places to experience an amazing diversity of wildflowers and native plants. Learn the names and local distribution of some of our most beautiful native plants, why certain wildflowers occur where they do, and how the plants here in the heart of these mountains relate to those in the rest of the state and the world.

Kevin Bryant has taken photos of a myriad of plants and their habitats since he moved to the Santa Cruz Mountains 15 years ago, so expect lots of colorful pictures during the presentation. Originally from the Chicago area, it took just one hike at Castle Rock State Park to spark an extreme appreciation and thirst for knowledge about our local flora, and he’s spent a lot of time studying and experiencing the plants of our area and beyond ever since. He works as a native plant landscape consultant, and has taken several leadership positions as a volunteer with the California Native Plant Society since 2004.
What Is Your SSA Board Doing?
By Judy Grote

- The SSA January General Meeting was held at the CDF Saratoga Fire Station on Sunday, January 24th. The featured speaker was Suzanne Schettler, owner of Greening Associates. She spoke on the basics of Fire Resistant Landscaping. Election of SSA Board members was also held at this meeting. The two new Board Members are Karim Khalid and Frances Mann-Craik. The next General Meeting will be held on Friday, April 30th, at Fogarty Winery, and will feature Kevin Bryant speaking on wildflowers in our region.

- The winter Skylines Newsletter was published to the Community. The next newsletter is being developed for distribution on Sunday, April 18th, 2010.

- SSA Roster Update: The SSA Roster Update was published and delivered to members in Q1 2010.

- SSA Community Communications Enhancements: And in an effort to keep with the times, a new communication resource is the SSA Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, you can become a ‘fan’ and get info pushed to your Facebook ‘wall’. Or you could post comments for the other fans to receive. http://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Skyline-Association/148607836587

- Fire Safe Council: Input was provided to the San Mateo - Santa Cruz Counties CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan). The group has been focused on understanding the King’s Creek Truck Trail proposal (presented by Eric Isacson) for the grant and seeing how this might be a model for grant input from other communities. A second focus is getting more neighborhood coordinators and providing training to the coordinators.

- Firesafe corridor on Old Haul Rd in Alpine-Portola Neighborhood. The Old Haul Bridge was completed at the end of October. Now the hard work begins with hiking the Old Haul Rd. Trail to determine its condition, gates, and private property owner identification so as to request emergency usage of the trail over their property.

- South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO): SSEPO is finalizing an Emergency Communication system that it will recommend to the SSA Community—the neighborhoods in the community. Two issues from SSEPO were brought to the SSA Board this past quarter: 1) Is there a need for a Community Operations Center? 2) Emergency comms: How do we develop procedures and get communities to embrace them in emergency situations so they can operate without a cell phone or the internet? Continued on page

- Land Use Planning & Building Permits: The Board committee is developing an inventory of all open space, county and state park units, water sheds in the SSA Community area. The focus is on 1) Identifying the physical attributes, management, public use, and public safety interfaces for each, and 2) identifying the common use access points. The committee will initially focus on the topics which our community needs to be aware of:

- Public Works: The committee items in progress include Traffic Signs to SR 17 at the intersection of Skyline Blvd. and Black Road and improved Cell Phone Service along Skyline Blvd. We are waiting replies from Cell Phone Providers to letters from SSA offering Membership group contracts to any provider who offers better service.

- Public Safety: See SSEPO summary above.
Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing current information on the agreement with Amerigas, Kamps Propane, or Suburban Propane, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com, or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website at www.southskyline.org.

Recent SPUG prices with Amerigas are:

- December: $2.02/gal
- January 2010: $2.29
- January 14: $2.55
- February: $2.40
- March: $2.40
- March 14: $2.04
- April: $1.94

Recent SPUG prices with Suburban are:

- December: $2.02/gal
- January 2010: $2.29
- January 14: $2.55
- February: $2.40
- March: $2.36
- April: $2.19

Recent SPUG prices with Kamps Propane are:

- December: $2.12/gal
- January 2010: $2.48
- January 14: $2.75
- February: $2.43
- March: $2.43
- April: $2.07

Do what you can to conserve! The open market price is about $1.00/gallon higher than the SPUG price.

Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices we post are for the first of the month. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not “will-call” service. Some propane suppliers offer members 55 years of age or older a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price.

Those whose membership in SSA has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the benefit of SPUG price for propane.

For more information visit the website: www.southskyline.org, or contact Ruth at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

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Santa Clara County Sherriff Candidate Forum

SSA Public Safety Committee is hosting a candidate forum for the three candidates for Santa Clara County Sheriff.

Monday May 3
6:00 PM
Lakeside School on Black Rd.

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Literary Night at Sullivan’s

By Karen Delee

Sullivan’s Restaurant in La Honda hosts a literary night the last Wednesday of each month. Folks of all ages read their own poetry, fiction, songs, or brief memoirs, or, recite favorites from the canon. Local literary teens, as well as published old-timers, have presented work augmented occasionally by theatrical dyads, passed-around photographs and artwork, as well as music. We’ve also had literary trivia contests, spontaneous writing, and virtual haunted hotel tours.

The venue began a year ago to celebrate local book publications, and has evolved into a strong community outlet. Dinner and drinks are served throughout the evening starting around 5:30. The reading begins around 7PM and is over by 9PM. You can sign-up by email, or on the spot.

The event is organized and MC’d by Terry Adams and Joe Cottonwood, local published authors. With questions please email Terry Adams at ta56@coastside.net.

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Skylines Is Going Green by Going On-line

For those associate members who receive the Skylines through the Post Office we are asking you to receive your copy of the newsletter on-line. This will save paper as well as postage. If you sign up for this option you will be notified by email when the next issue is released.

Update your email address with Ruth Waldhauer at: ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466 or sign up on the enclosed membership form when you send in your $15 dues for 2010.

Those members who live locally where we stuff mail boxes will continue to get a paper copy.
The Santa Cruz Mountains are ground zero for Sudden Oak Death, which was first noticed in Santa Cruz and Marin in the mid-1990s and is believed to have been introduced through nursery plants. This plant disease has since spread throughout much of California’s coastal forests killing thousands of trees including tanoaks, coast live oaks, California black oaks and Shreve’s oaks. Last June, scientists revealed that the Santa Cruz Mountains contain the only known site where mature canyon live oaks are dying from Sudden Oak Death. Scientists previously thought that canyon live oaks were not seriously affected by the disease.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency managing over 58,000 acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains for environmental preservation and public enjoyment. While there is currently no known cure to Sudden Oak Death, the District is working with scientists researching several possible methods to treat and prevent its spread through forests.

The newest study uses the fungicide Agri-Fos in combination with the removal of adjacent California bay trees in an attempt to protect individual large oak trees. Bay trees are removed because they can host the pathogen that causes sudden oak death, Phytophthora ramorum, on their leaves, and spread spores to susceptible oak trees nearby. Agri-Fos is sprayed onto the tree’s trunks and may help protect healthy oaks by boosting their natural immunity.

This spring, twelve large canyon live oak trees in the Los Trancos Open Space Preserve will be sprayed with Agri-Fos for the second time. California bay trees within 16 feet of these oaks were removed at the time of the first spraying in December, to reduce the risk of sudden oak death infection. Bay trees were also removed from around select large oaks in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. Scientists will continue to spray selected oaks annually and monitor for Sudden Oak Death symptoms in this long-term study.

Oaks are not only beautiful; they play an important role in the ecosystem by providing food and habitat for wildlife and contribute to healthy watersheds. In 2005, the District committed more than $150,000 over 10 years to research the prevention and treatment of Sudden Oak Death. In addition to the new study at the Los Trancos and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves, there are currently several other ongoing research projects on District land conducted in partnership with scientists from U.C. Davis, U.C. Berkeley, the U.S. Forest Service and Phystostome Research.

By supporting research, the District hopes to help scientists develop the tools that land managers need to preserve a healthy natural environment, and provide safe, beautiful recreational areas today and for future generations.

For more information visit www.openspace.org/plans_projects/SOD or www.suddenoakdeath.org

Skyline Adopt-a-Highway
By Ken Broome

Volunteers on February 20th included a visitor from Brisbane, Australia, Rick Molting, Tunnel Engineer who was here on vacation and was joined by his son James, a student at U.C. Santa Cruz to help our President Fred Glover and Chair of the Public Works Committee Ken Broome remove a record accumulation of debris from Vista Point and four miles of our Scenic Highway, Skyline Boulevard.

The debris included what appeared to be domestic garbage that either someone had deliberately dumped or had dropped off a collection truck. All of us residents along this beautiful stretch of California Scenery need to keep a watchful eye open for anyone causing this kind of eyesore and to note their license number for the police to deal with.

The next Adopt-a-Highway clean-up will take place on Saturday May 1st from 9 am until noon, volunteers are needed. Call me at 650-529-1810 or e-mail at broome.assocs@gmail.com.
Alumroot Hangs On
By Sarah Schoen

Crevice alumroot (Heuchera micrantha) is a perennial member of the Saxifrage family. The plant grows up to 3 feet high in moist shaded areas of stream banks, cliffs, and damp rocky outcrops. To help it hang on, the plant has a thick, scaly taproot. The root’s astringent qualities reminded early European settlers of alum, a metal sulfate salt and key ingredient in baking soda. However, the astringency in this case is actually due to a high concentration of tannins.

Scalloped leaves, fuzzier on the underside, grow mostly from the base of the plant. New leaves emerge green, forming purple to red veins (and sometimes spots) on exposure to the sun. Reddish stems are erect and hairy, with no or few leaves.

Tiny white to light pinkish flowers bloom in loose clusters from May to June. A top-shaped cup holds the individual blooms which have one-celled ovaries, 5 curled-back petals, 5 protruding stamens and 2 protruding styles. Seeds are contained in light brown capsules, ripening August to October.

California Indians ate the just-emerged leaves as greens in winter and early spring. Other Native Americans to the north used the alum-like substance medicinally, to stop diarrhea for example. Some pounded the whole plant and rubbed in on their scalps to grow hair, or (sometimes mixed with Douglas fir pitch) applied it to cuts to aid in healing. An infusion of the roots was used to treat liver problems or relieve sore throats. A small cleaned root piece was chewed for mouth sores.

Crevice alumroot grows below 7500 feet in the coastal range from California to British Columbia, and from the Sierra Nevada west to Idaho.

Alumroot plants seem as though they are reaching out – leaves dangling on the ends of long leaf stems, flowers waiving the ends of long stalks. Perhaps they are reaching out from their dark cliff toeholds out into the light.

There’s History in our Place Names - part 5
By Janet Schwind

Alpine Road

Alpine Road wends its way south from Sand Hill Road in Palo Alto over the skyline ridge and then turns to the west toward La Honda. This circuitous route has a long and fragmented history.

A path along this general route was likely blazed by the Ohlone Indians. When the Spanish settlers deepened and widened it, it became known as the Old Spanish Trail. In the 1830s, during the Mexican era, Antonio Buelna obtained land grants at both ends of the present road and is credited for improving it to accommodate ox carts. When extended to the coast, it became known as the Pescadero Mule Path.

In their journey down the trail, Californios used a large pine tree near the junction of the present Alpine and Portola State Park Roads as a landmark. In the 1850s this pine tree was on the ranch of Eugene Soto which was called “El Pino.” English speakers later transformed this Spanish word for pine tree into the word “Alpine.”

“The Alpine” then became the designation for the headwaters of Alpine Creek and adjoining area. In the 1870s, ranchers and timber cutters settled in The Alpine and formed a school district. They successfully petitioned for a county road to connect to La Honda which was named Alpine Creek Road.

From then on the name Alpine Road was applied to connecting routes, including the upper Page Mill Road from Skyline to Portola State Park Road. In 1894, a new route up Corte Madera Canyon was constructed to replace the Old Spanish Trail. It was named Alpine Road presumably because it connected to the one with the same name on the other side of the hill.

Now the section that passes through the Corte Madera Canyon has been reduced to a trail, and is no longer available for car travel. The open portion of Alpine Road in Portola Valley is left dangling, disconnected from The Alpine area.
Vegetable Gardening in the Mountains
By Shelly Monfort

I grew up in Los Altos, where vegetable gardening was easy. My first attempt at a vegetable garden up on Skyline was a shock – my tomatoes languished, the zucchini curled their stunted yellow leaves in protest, and I watched in horror as my onions, one by one, were sucked underground by gophers. After years of hard lessons I’ve managed to grow all kinds of tasty vegetables up here in the mountains, and you can too.

Vegetables like long hours of abundant sunshine, stable weather and deep rich soil. We have little of these attributes in the mountains. Ridges and trees limit sun hours, the weather is challenging at best, and our soils can be sandy, nutrient-deficient, and even nonexistent. If at last you manage to get a crop of anything, a cadre of guests, mostly four-legged, show up to share the bounty. To coax vegetables from these tough conditions, you must improve your soil, invest in protecting your plot from critters, and then use a few tricks to protect your crop from our mountain weather extremes. And if all goes well, you’ll stake or trellis and (at last!) harvest.

Site/Soil
I’ll assume you’ve already chosen a site where YOU would love to hang out – sunny (south-facing), somewhat level, and close enough to the house/water supply that you’ll actually go out there and putter around. A hill or wall behind (south of) your garden plot is a boon because it soaks up warmth during the day and re-radiates it at night.

Our soil characteristics vary. No question you will need to amend your soil, and I’d strongly suggest you get a mail-in soil test. It takes a little time, but you’ll waste less shoveling effort and money on fertilizers if you know what you need. My soil needed nitrogen and organic material and it was acidic (pH level was lower than the optimal 6.5). I added lime to correct the acidity, among other things, because if the soil pH is too far from neutral, the plants can’t uptake nutrients no matter how much fertilizer you apply.

Organic amendments improve the structure, water-holding capacity and nutrition of the soil. The Ben Lomond Transfer Station sells bulk soil amendment and (fancier) compost at reasonable prices. Livestock manure is good if it is well decomposed. Avoid any free “compost” if it contains obvious wood chips or straw. These elements take valuable nitrogen out of your soil as they decompose. You can choose to till or dig/fork in the amendments (some people don’t like rototilling) or leave them on the surface, but dig or till your soil only if it’s dry enough (if you squeeze a ball of it in your hand it should crumble back apart). Otherwise you’ll end up with soil cement.

We have egg-laying hens, and their manure makes a great fertilizer for the vegetable bed. They also eat all my food scraps, insects (and things like the sour cream that went bad in the fridge). If you are considering hens in your backyard, get a hold of the book Chicken Tractor by Andy Lee et al.

Pests
You’ll have to fence for deer. Period. My garden plot is long and thin, so I’ve gotten away with a six-foot fence. My bigger problem has been voles (microtus), rats and gophers. My management strategy is trapping, lack of shelter and a “DMZ”. In my garden, I removed all the old garbage/brush from the area (rats made homes in piles of boards, then ate my tomato plants whole). Then I laid bare a three-foot strip of soil all the way around the garden outside the fence. I maintain this DMZ so that critters have to scramble across bare ground or dig through compacted soil to get to my garden.

I grow many vegetables on trellises and I manage weeds and avoid organic mulches (straw, wood chips) so that rodents have NO shelter. Voles thrive in shelter (think meadows), and when I have weeds or mulch I have voles. If populations get high, I snap-trap the voles by baiting with peanut butter, and I shelter the traps with a board so that I don’t accidentally trap birds.

If you have a serious problem with gophers, you can install barn owl boxes. Barn owls eat LOTS of rodents. I’ve included a link for detailed info, but know that you’ll have to site the boxes carefully and clean them out a couple times a year.

Water & Shelter
I use a product called T-Tape for drip irrigation. It’s inexpensive. It’s easy to install, maintain and repair. It doesn’t clog from hard water, and it works on low water pressure (10 psi from my water tank versus 40+ psi suburban water pressure). I’ve included a link to a company that sells T-Tape and I have photos on my website. The T-Tape and automatic sprinkler valves solved my watering issues overnight. I’d also recommend it for irrigation for firescaping and general landscaping. The plastic tape has slits every eight inches, and it’s best to install it as level as possible to get even watering. I install two lines of tape side-by-side for each row of vegetables, so that I get good water coverage in our sandy quick-draining soil.

To protect tender plants from our spring cold snaps and biting wind, I use floating row covers, a thin fabric that you unroll over rows of plants. The cover keeps the plants a few degrees warmer than outside temps. It allows light through and it protects from insects. I keep these covers on heat-loving peppers and melons until they start flowering. The row covers can also be used in fall to extend harvest.

I also use red or black color plastic mulch beneath tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and melons. This mulch heats the soil, keeps the weeds down and keeps soil from splashing onto your tomato leaves, which spreads disease. Don’t use straw type mulches on warm season vegetables in the spring as it insulates the soil and keeps it colder! Secure plastic mulch and row cover materials with metal stakes and soil along the edges. Otherwise [Continued on page 7...]

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Book Reviews of Local Authors:
Part 3

Moonlight Sonata by Frank Rogers

In our July 2007 issue we reported on Frank Rogers’ publications, including his novel When the Fight Was Done, published by Penguin Books-India. Now Frank Rogers reports the recent publication of a new novel, Moonlight Sonata (348 pages), published this year, this month by The BDR Press.

The new novel is currently available in several on-line stores, including Kepler’s, and Book Shop Santa Cruz. Search in the “Books” category for “Moonlight Sonata, Frank Rogers.” On or about April 7, it will become available through your local bookstore.

Set in upstate New York in 1869, this novel tells the story of a young woman (Hetty Griswold) beset on the one hand by a jealous husband, Archie Griswold, Chief Signalman of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, a man all too ready to believe the worst of his wife; on the other hand Chauncey Miller, a former suitor who left off his suit in 1861 to answer Lincoln’s first call for volunteers at the outbreak of the Civil War. After one letter, hearing nothing further during the entire war and for two years after Lee’s surrender, she gave Chauncey up for dead and married Archie only to see Chauncey reappear two years later now crazed and crippled after four years as a prisoner of war and four further years seeking revenge on his captors. Chauncey claims the right to resume his role as suitor and, to do so, announces his willingness to “make [her] a widow.” The struggle between the two men and Hetty’s own struggle to maintain her balance unfold against the backdrop of the worst corporate outrage in US history, the attempt by Jay Gould and James Fisk, Jr., of the Erie Railroad to take over the Albany & Susquehanna, by armed force, the affair known in history as The Susquehanna War.

Frank Rogers’ former student best-selling author Amy Tan says, “The creative instincts of Franklin Rogers have had a profound effect on awakening my own. He helped me see the universal resonance that lies within images: how they glimmer beneath the consciousness of the reader, accumulate depth of emotion, and become the memory of the story’s life... Readers will find the same aesthetic and emotional pleasures in reading Franklin Rogers’ work...”

About the Author:
A PhD in English and American literature, an internationally distinguished scholar and literary critic, Frank Rogers has written thirteen fiction and non-fiction works, the latter all published by major US and UK university presses, and numerous articles. As a university professor, he has taught at a number of universities in the US, Europe, and Asia, including the University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV). He has conducted seminars at L’Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, Bures-sur-Yvette, France, and at the American Studies Summer Seminar at Kyoto, Japan, under the auspices of Kyoto and Doshisha Universities. A long-time student of the history and civilization of India, he has lived and traveled extensively in that country, visiting the sites that figure in his stories, studying the people, their customs, and their lore.

Vegetable Gardening [Continued from page 6]

our strong winds will peel the materials off the plants and make a mess. If you get voles under your plastic mulch in late summer, remove it.

I like to stake and trellis my vegetables. This year for my tomatoes I’m going to try “horizontal trellising” – a large rectangular wood frame which holds a flexible nylon mesh, set horizontally about eighteen inches above the tomatoes. The plants spread out on the mesh, the fruit is easier to harvest than reaching through hardware wire, and it won’t become top-heavy like those store-bought tomato cages. I’ll add a second trellis above the first if the tomatoes get big.

If you want only a few vegetables that are simple and gopher-free, you can grow above ground using a product called Smart Pots. These are durable fabric-type pots that come in a variety of sizes that can be used year after year. They clean up nicely and store flat, and you can plant as many as you like with sizes large enough for beefstake tomatoes or pole beans. My smart pots hold strawberries and potatoes, and my T-Tape irrigation runs right over the tops of the pots. You can order smart pots from Peaceful Valley Farm Supply.

For climate and planting timing help, consult Sunset garden books. We’re Sunset Zone 7 in the colder ridgetop areas, Zone 15 in the milder spots. The earliest I plant tomatoes (and similar summer vegetables) is Tax day (4/15). If you live in a cold zone, it might be prudent to wait a couple more weeks and use those floating row covers for protection. The Santa Clara Master Gardeners has a good searchable website for general garden issues. They also host a tomato/pepper plant sale in April that is popular for the interesting varieties that they offer. I’ll mention a few of my favorite mountain-friendly vegetable varieties on my website. Happy gardening!

Links
Soil Testing: www.drgoodearth.com
Barn Owl Box info: http://tommy51.tripod.com/aboutbarnowls.html
Peaceful Valley Farm Supply (row covers, trellis mesh, plastic mulch, Smart Pots): www.groworganic.com
Dripworks (T-Tape): www.dripworksusa.com
Master Gardeners: www.mastergardeners.org
Sunset Magazine: www.sunset.com
Shelly’s website: http://web.me.com/smonfort
South Skyline FireSafe Council
Action: Kings Creek Truck Trail
Fuel Break Grant Request
By Eric Isacson

Calfire and the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County have submitted a grant application to create a fuel break and emergency access route over the Kings Creek Truck Trail (KCTT). It would help protect several communities against another wildfire like the one in July 2008.

The KCTT runs from Skyline Blvd. near the Castle Rock parking lot to Kings Creek County Road which connects it to Highway 9. It was originally implemented by Calfire in the mid-1950s to provide fire truck access splitting in half the wildland triangle formed by Skyline Blvd., Highway 9, and Bear Creek Road. However in recent decades maintenance by Calfire has been sporadic due to funding limitations and it is badly overgrown. As a result fighting the wildfire in Castle Rock State Park in July 2008 was delayed by nearly half a day while the KCTT was cleared to allow fire truck access.

Calfire has identified KCTT fuel break as a strategic element in planning to fight future wildfires in the area. Because it lies almost entirely on ridge tops it would serve as a major line of defense protecting homes in Las Cumbres, Deer Creek, Skyline Blvd., Kings Creek, etc. Although much of it lies on State Park land, it crosses a number of private parcels and is therefore generally not open to the public.

The plan is to implement a “fuel” break rather than “fire” break. The difference is that a fire break is cut clear of all vegetation while a fuel break only thins the vegetation. It leaves a mosaic of shrubbery and shaded fuel breaks. The latter involves removing the understory, thinning trees and removing lower limbs. Fuel breaks inhibit the spread of fire, reduce its intensity and allow fire equipment access. They also provide escape routes for residents. Both mechanical mastication and hand labor will be used.

A critical element in winning the grant is local support. It is measured by the amount of in-kind support and cash committed. In-kind includes labor, observation of inmate work crews, organization of demonstration workshops, preparation of educational materials, etc.

With coordination by the South Skyline Fire Safe Council, the South Skyline Association and community have committed an outstanding amount of support; more than $13,000 of in-kind support and $4,500 in cash! The cash commitment is earmarked for future maintenance of the fuel break. In addition Calfire and State Parks have committed substantial in-kind support. The estimated cost of the project is approximately $60,000.

Thank you to all who have committed support for this project. We should know in June if the application is funded. After more detailed planning work would start in the Spring of 2011.

Time to Review the Home Emergency Escape Plan
By George Johnson

Spring is the time when we set the clocks forward, start on Spring cleaning, planting, and emergency preparedness. A lot of people use the daylight saving time event to change the batteries in the home smoke detectors. This is also a good time to review the family home emergency escape plan. Review with the family what to do in the event the smoke detector sounds off in the middle of the night. First make sure everyone wakes up. Next make sure everyone exits the house and goes to the pre-established family meeting place. For my family we established the meeting place at the large oak tree that is about 100 feet away from the house. The emergency meeting place should be away from the driveway where the fire truck will be arriving, away from overhead power lines, and far enough away from the house that burning or clasping material will not present a safety problem. This was also my family emergency meeting place in case of an earthquake. When the kids were little we would make a game of practicing getting out of the house and meeting at the oak tree. Later as the kids got older and were sometimes home alone it provided me with piece of mind to know should something happen to the house the kids would know where to go and be safe until help arrived. Knowing the family was safe also let me focus on calling 9-1-1 and then dealing with whatever the situation needed.

Spring is also the time to continue with the home defensible space activities, water storage tank fire fitting accessibility, house address visibility, and winter storm clean up. You can find more information on these subjects and more at the Santa Cruz County Fire, Company 29 fire web site http://www.southskylinefire.org/.

Thank you to all who have committed support for this project. We should know in June if the application is funded. After more detailed planning work would start in the Spring of 2011.
The SSA Board voted to endorse the Lakeside School District Parcel Tax Measure C. If you are a registered voter in Lakeside School District, please mark, SIGN, DATE and return your ballot by May 4th. You can still register to vote until April 19th.

INVEST IN LAKESIDE

INVEST IN OUR KIDS
Lakeside Elementary School has some of the best academic success in Santa Clara County, mostly due to the small class sizes we’ve enjoyed:
- 4th in the county by API in 2008-09
- 1st in the state for math scores in 2007-08
- 14th in the state overall in 2007-08

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY
Lakeside has been the cornerstone of our community for over 127 years. We are fortunate to have a local School Board of Trustees comprised of local mountain residents, which ensures your voice is heard.

INVEST IN OUR MOUNTAIN HOME
We can’t accurately predict how much property values would drop if our school district were less desirable, but it would certainly be far more than $311.

Yesforlakeside.org

Paid for by the Committee for the Lakeside School Parcel Tax Measure C (ID# 1324612)

FOR SALE


FREE

Children’s Swing Set with metal frame. ~10 years old. Has 2 swings (need to be replaced), tandem and single glider, trapeze bar and slide. Free if you take it away! 408-867-3973

Free fire fitting. This fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. South Skyline Fire and Rescue, web site, http://www.southskylinefire.org in the “Help us help you” section.

SERVICES

Brown’s Roofing Inc. Licensed Roofing Contractor, 15 year Kings Mountain resident. New roofs and repairs - no job too small. Free estimates, contact Jeff Brown at (650) 851-1125. Also, visit our website at brownsroofing.com.

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Free consultation and estimate
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fredrosenberg@sbcglobal.net

Handyman/defensible space clearing:
On Skyline, very experienced, inexpensive. References. Bob Speer
408-867-2784

Residential Design
Country and urban custom houses, remodel and additions.
20+ years experience in California. See some of my work at:
http://www.TSResidential.com
Taruno S. Vega 650-747-0654
taruno@coastside.net

Skyline Broadband Service
1 Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area.
http://SkylineBroadbandService.com
650-917-9279

The Mountain Terrace
Charming and rustic atmosphere.
Now available for private events. Open for wine tasting on Sat. and Sun. 12:00-4:00. (650) 851-1606

Call Mark 408-354-4430.
SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION
Box 400, Star Route 2
La Honda, CA 94020

Skylines
Is Published Once A Quarter
Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads:
Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue.

Skylines Ads and News Articles:
The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is June 19, 2010. We reserve the right to shorten ads if there are space limitations.

Send all ads and articles to:
Patti Begley c/o 22400 Skyline Blvd #35, La Honda CA 94020, or SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net. 408-867-3973

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. We assume no responsibility for omissions, incorrect information or personal opinions.

SSA Calendar
General Meeting – April 30 at Thomas Fogarty Winery 7:00pm

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:
Thurs. May 13
Thurs. June 10
Thurs. July 8

(Call Fred Glover for location and directions)

President: Fred Glover  408-354-7121
Editor:  Patti Begley  408-867-3973
SPUG & Membership Chair: Ruth Waldhauer 650-948-1466

Join SSA Today
For just $15 a year, your membership dues to the South Skyline Association will provide the funds to publish the Skylines newsletter, offer free classified ads, allow membership in the South Skylines Propane User Group, and provide speakers for our general meetings. Send your dues to:
SSA Membership Chairperson
22400 Skyline Blvd. Box 35
La Honda, CA 94020

Membership forms can be found on www.southskyline.org.

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