



Welcome to the First Granite Falls Enews!

Our goal is to make this a venue for sharing common interests, experiences, and information that brings us closer together and makes us more informed as a community.

Thanks to the many homeowner contributors to this edition. The wealth and depth of knowledge and experience in our community is amazing and we hope you are compelled to share some of your life experiences in the future, as Barry and Judy Siel have in this edition. Send us your input, ideas and short articles.

If you know a new neighbor, or just someone not getting this email, please have them notify us so we can include them on our mailing list.

Sincerely,

Co-Editors: Sam Marutzky and Terra Rafael

Reach us at: granitefallsenews@gmail.com

Activities & Groups to Join

- **HOA Board Meeting** - Nov 3, 5:30PM, Monument Presbyterian Church
 - **Poker Club** - contact Aaron Meckler: 303.324-4510 (text) or Aaron.meckler@gmail.com
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- **Game Afternoon Club** - contact Jennifer Bradfield:
Jennifer.bradfield@gmail.com
- **Families w Kids Club** - contact: granitefallsenews@gmail.com
- **Frontier Wholesale Buyers Club** - neighbor Linda Chumbley:
gfbuyingclub@gmail.com
- **Book Club** - neighbor Terra Rafael: wisewomanhood@gmail.com
- **Biking Club** - Heartcycle Bicycle Touring Club. www.heartcycle.org (see article below)
- **Pickleball Club** - neighbors : Michael/Loretta Servedio servedio144@gmail.com
 - Western Slope Pickleball Club www.westernslopepickleballclub.com
- **Outdoor Club** - neighbor: :Deb Orlick: : DebOrlickcdorlick@gmail.com
 - The Outing Club, which has been around for over 20 years (no online presence). The purpose is to encourage & assist people to enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, camping, water sports, and skiing. Most hikes occur on Saturdays. For more info gjoutingclub2@gmail.com

Tips for Fall Plant Care by Bob Moehler

On Gardens, Lawns, Bulbs, Mulch, and Fruit Trees

Gardens:

Fall is a good time for garden and yard cleanup and preparation for the coming spring. For those who have planted vegetable and/or herb gardens in raised



beds or at ground level fall is a good time for cleaning up, same for flower annuals. Tomato vines should be discarded and not composted as compost piles (even in barrels) often do not get the degrading vegetation hot enough to destroy the pathogens associated with tomatoes, same with related crops such as potatoes;

thus if these are composted, one will deal with the same pathogens in the following spring and summer. Other crops such as the leafy vegetables are not as much of an issue if composted.

Some people with larger gardens, when cleaned up will plant with a cereal rye (Elbon) to act as a cover for the winter; this will lessen wind erosion and help capture root-knot nematodes which often affect tomatoes not resistant to such (these nematodes also can damage beans, potatoes and onions), others will use a light application of mulch or even plastic cover to help keep wind erosion down. The plastic cover can act as a solarizing agent to kill weed seeds and some pathogens.

What the “Old Timers” said about marigolds is somewhat true, they do help protect against root-knot nematodes and are a pretty addition next to the tomato plants; marigolds tend to do so by acting as a host where the nematodes invade the marigold roots and once inside the root the natural nematicides of the marigold kills the nematode.

Lawns:

Concerning a yard with grass, fall, as in late September and October, while the grass is still green, is a proper time to apply a fertilizer to help the roots “winterize”, especially with the bluegrass lawns. Often western soils do not need much potassium or phosphorus (the K and P readings on the fertilizer labels), but if a soil test shows a deficit in these elements, late September would be a good time to apply an all-purpose 10-10-10 fertilizer, otherwise, a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer will suffice.

Also, some people will utilize a weed and feed instead; if a weed-and-feed is applied too near young trees and bushes it can kill them so use with caution.

With the application of any lawn fertilizer, water it in right after application. The fertilizer needs to reach the roots and the dust from the fertilizer may brown your grass if not watered in (not good for pets running on your lawn either).

While on the topic of lawns, if one walks the common areas along Mescalero Avenue toward South Camp, near the borders of the grassy areas, one will see puncturevine (goat heads), these are often seen in lawns that are near the streets where the seeds will collect, especially along the concrete borders. The young vine will pull out easily this time of year and will appear somewhat like a green lace doily.

Bulbs:

Fall is also a time for planting of spring bulbs (late September into October); or to separate and replant day lilies (those having large clumps, e.g., several years old). Our soils have a good portion of clay mixed with the red sands and as such, addition of peatmoss to the bulb bed (a few inches) and tilling it into the bed prior to planting the bulbs is a consideration; a good compost will work also.

In general, bulbs such as tulips and daffodils should be planted about six inches deep, often when planting super phosphate is added prior to inserting the bulb into the hole; therefore, in the hole or if one is planting in something such as a rectangular bed, one adds the superphosphate (directions on the bag) mix it in the hole or bed and place about an inch of soil back into the hole or bed and then place in the bulb(s).

On top of the bed two inches of mulch will help protect the soil and conserve moisture. A shredded bark mulch, such as western cedar (Home Depot) will not be affected by our winds as much as a chipped mulch.

Note, the fertilizer is not so much for this year as it is to help the bulb get larger for the next year. Bone meal was often used in earlier times, but if you have a dog, the dog may do a lot of digging in your bed to get at the bone meal. Bone meal usually needs soils with a Ph below 7 (acidic) to be utilized so not really a good idea for this area as our soils tend to be alkaline (< Ph 7).

If one is replanting or planting day lilies or maybe peonies, the green nodule is planted at the surface and the root spread out in a wide hole to gently accommodate the root.

Also, remember that the roots will still be somewhat active in the winter, so watering over the winter is important. Some local nurseries recommend at least once a month, other gardeners in the area recommend watering every two to three weeks. Same with young trees.

Application of Mulch:

Along with cleaning up (such as getting rid of the seed pods of the rose of Sharon so one does not have several sprouting in the spring); fall is a time to apply or re-apply mulch around bushes and trees.

Recommendations vary from two to four inches, but the main thing to remember is not to apply too much mulch next to the trunk of the tree or bush (no more than about one-half inch near the trunk). The reason being is that a heavy layer of mulch next to the trunks can serve as a good home for insects and pathogens to now attack the bark and injure or kill the tree or bush.

If your bushes or trees are in the stone areas of the yard, raking away the stone and then applying the mulch will also help keep the roots cooler during the spring and summer months, the stone may be raked back to cover most of the mulch, but keep the stone about six inches away from the trunks to help prevent burning of the trunks.

In our area young trees such as red buds, lindens, maples, and crab apples are susceptible to sunscald, where the bark will split (especially on the western sun exposure), often at the base subjecting the tree to fungus, bacteria, and insects. Recommendations vary from wrapping the trunk of the tree for a few years continuously, until the bark hardens to wrapping from October through April for a few years.

Fruit Trees:

Fall is not a time for pruning, at least not until there have been several hard freezes (winter is much better). For those with fruit trees such as stone fruit (peaches, plums, and cherries) late fall is a time for applying a dormant oil spray for control of

critters such as the peach twig borer, especially if one sees such things as a cocoon along the trunk. A good source of information for gardens, yards and trees in general is the Colorado State University Extension Service (website: <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/>), look under publications.

Meet Your Neighbors: Biking Adventures

Keep Couple Together by Sam Marutzky

What do you get when you put two people on two wheels with four pedals? Lots of fun and adventures.

It all started with a bad knee. Judy and Barry Siel (Knowles Canyon) were avid hikers, but when Barry's knee started to act up, they switched to biking. That was 20 plus years ago and since then they have experienced over 40 biking tours/vacations together.



When asked why they love biking, Barry immediately responds, "because we can do it together". They started on a tandem bicycle because two people with different skill levels can ride together. Barry likes to ride fast...let's just say Judy enjoys the scenery. They also ride single bikes and Judy has graduated to an E-Bike to keep pace with Barry.

The Siels have ridden all over North and South America, Europe, and South East Asia. As an added benefit, they have made many close friends over the years with which they continue to share vacations both on and off the bikes. They just returned from a tour of the Adirondacks in upstate New York and earlier this year they led a tour of the Texas hill country centered around Fredericksburg, Texas, with rolling hills, vineyards, and armadillos.

But their favorite tours so far were in France and New Zealand. The tour in France

was full of medieval castles, prehistoric cave drawings, great food and, of course, wine. The New Zealand trip was memorable not so much for the biking, but an adventure on the water exploring hard-to-see coast lines. They got to stay with a local farm family who raised exotic animals as family pets.

They are members of a Colorado non-profit bike touring organization – Heartcycle Bicycle Touring Club. You can find more information at www.heartcycle.org. Judy is on the Board of Directors as the Tour Director and Barry is the Newsletter Editor. Looking for an adventure? Check it out. You might just be biking with some of your neighbors!

Highlights from the Design Review Committee

- Our committee is focusing on quick turn around of landscaping reviews
 - A concern is properties that have approved landscaping and later add landscaping or hard surfaces that could potentially change the positive drainage that was initially set up on their lot. Any changes to a property after the homeowner has landscaped must go through the approval process again.
 - We also focus on preserving your view and your neighbors.
 - Our review process begins with submittal of a Landscape/Fence Request form and Checklist (available on the website). Submit to drcgranitefalls@gmail.com
 - Committee Members: Barry Siel, Taryn Noll, Tracy Larsen, Robert Mohler, and Sandy Rhoades, Chair
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Pollinators – Why and How to Support Them by Linda Chumbley



Several years ago I was watching an episode of “Shark Tank”, the show where business owners pitch their businesses to wealthy investors, when a couple of chefs pitched “Bee Free Honee”, an apple-based honey alternative. Their pitch included statements such as “give the bees a break”, “the bees need our help” and each jar “saves 7500 bees”. During the exchange, one of the sharks even claimed to be a beekeeper himself.

As a backyard beekeeper, I think I probably yelled B.S. at the television and launched a sofa pillow in that general direction. Where did these chefs (and the shark!) think apples came from? As residents of the Western Slope of Colorado, we are fortunate to live in an amazingly rich agricultural area. The growing season starts with early cold-weather crops of hardy greens and peas, followed by cherries, countless summer veggies, peaches, late summer veggies, apples, squash and pumpkins. Without bees and other pollinators, these foods will cease to exist. Stop and think about that for a minute. No. Palisade. Peaches.

This is not just a beekeeper issue. It's an everyone issue.

The next time you're adding, replacing or starting from scratch with your landscape plantings, think about the need to share our spaces with nature by adding plants that will attract and feed pollinators. Even better, seek out native plants that have adapted to our high-desert environment. These plants require less water and maintenance, thrive in our dry, summer heat and provide food for pollinators.

Pollinator-Friendly Weed Control Options

When caring for your landscape, consider using alternative methods to off-the-shelf herbicides, such as Round-up, for controlling weeds. With just a bit of

planning, weeds can be surprisingly easy to control. In the spring, broadcast a pre-emergent, such as Preen, to prevent existing, dormant seeds from germinating. It's very effective in areas landscaped with stone, rocks and decomposed granite.

Two other weed controlling options to consider are horticulture vinegar and fire! Horticulture vinegar is highly acidic, 20-30% acetic acid (household white vinegar is 5%), and works by damaging the plant cell walls causing dehydration, wilt and killing the top growth of the plant. Horticulture vinegar is very effective on small, young plants. However, it is non-selective and will damage any plant it touches. My very favorite weed killer is a Bernzomatic Backyard Torch. It is a cane shaped tool that uses a 16oz propane cylinder, lights quickly and provides immediate weed killing satisfaction. However, great care must be taken when using fire to control weeds. The torch very effectively kills weeds in between rocks and cracks in concrete, in gravel and any that have sprouted in decomposed granite. Do not use the torch around anything flammable or your neighbor's vinyl fence. That's not a conversation you want to have with your neighbor.

Resources for Plants:

- Chelsea Nursery 3347 G Road, Clifton, CO
- Valley Grown Nursery 1702 10 Road, Mack, CO
- High Country Gardens (on-line) www.highcountrygardens.com

Weed Killing Tools:

- Horticulture Vinegar – available locally at ACE Hardware or on-line
- Bernzomatic Torch – available locally at ACE Hardware or on-line
- Preen – available at most big box stores

Additional Resources for Plants:

- Colorado State Extension Creating Pollinator Habitat:
<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/creating-pollinator-habitat-5-616/>
 - Utah State University Gardening for Native Bees and Beyond:
<http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/plants-pollinators09.pdf>
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- City of Grand Junction Tree and Shrub Guide:
<https://online.publicationprinters.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=a5bc7ecc-a7f8-4c8d-9d23-d1ffa5650216>

HOA BOD Update

As your HOA Board of Directors, we are honored to serve you. This year has been a year of transition and learning, and we appreciate your patience as we strive to make our community the best we can be. Here are a few items we are working on:

- We had a great turnout for the spring neighborhood cleanup and block party. Thank you to all the volunteers! Check the 'Save-the-Dates' section for the next cleanup and party.
- Our neighborhood continues to be a busy place. We currently have 66 houses completed, 16 houses under construction, and 22 empty lots.
- We are successfully running on one irrigation pump as we explore options to replace or repair the 2nd pump. This will continue through the season which ends on October 17.
- In keeping with our responsibilities for being water conscious, we have reduced water use in the common areas substantially and will continue to monitor our use.
- The board is reviewing committee recommendations on updates to our governing documents. These will be reviewed at our next board meeting, November 3.

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