



## BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

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### POTLUCK FRIDAY MAY 30 6:30PM AT THE FIRE HALL “BEING FIRE WISE” AND SHERIFF’S MILL LEVY

**Weed Control:** On April 25 Jack Stiver and Tom Benson from Lake County Extension Office & Weed Control gave a terrific presentation on weed control and management. If you have weed problems please contact Tom Benson for rental equipment, ATV sprayers and retail chemicals. He will also visit your property to advise you on the best control. Jack Stiver has offered to conduct a Weed School at Big Arm; he needs 10 people to register and the cost would be \$40 each person or couple. The course would be one night a week for 4 weeks. There is a possibility of forming weed districts and if large enough there is a possibility of some grants. The county does not spray private property but does have a list of licensed and bonded operators. Non compliant neighbors can be reported but Tom advises trying to negotiate first and to arrange joint spraying to share costs. The spread of Knapweed can be controlled by mowing the flowers before seeds form. Recommended herbicides are HiDep—no residual, safe on turf; Range Star—not on turf grass, attacks top down; Milestone—safe can spray up to water’s edge. There are other herbicides that can be used. A penetrative agent should be used with the herbicide on noxious weeds and follow all directions carefully. Please call Tom at 883-7330 he will be able to answer all your questions.

**Cherry Tree Spraying:** Barry Hanson gave a very interesting talk on the 100 year old cherry orchards in the Flathead Valley. He discussed the 7-10 day cycle of the fruit fly and how it can lay an egg in nearly every cherry. If the inspectors at State borders find signs of fruit flies in any of the trucks from this area they can reject all shipments. Fruit flies from our unsprayed garden trees can travel very far especially in windy weather and can infest the valley orchards. He recommends spraying with GF120, fermented bacteria, which is very effective and easy to apply as you only have to spray the center of the tree every 7-10 days throughout the season. This spray is expensive and suggests sharing a gallon with neighbors as very little is used on each application. GF120 is available at Cenex in Kalispell and Westland Seeds in Ronan. For more information call Vern Childers at 837-4350.

**Highway 35 no Different than 93:** Karen Maurer recently wrote an email to Mr Lynch of the DOT emphasizing that the potential plan of re-routing truck traffic onto to 93 from 35 will not solve any problems just the change the location of the problems. With increased truck traffic at an increased speed of 70 mph it is another disaster waiting to happen. For more information on public comment and who to contact please call Karen 849-5131.

**Mowing Lawns at the Fire Hall** Alison & Jeff and Tim Beebe moved rocks, sprayed weeds and completed the spring cleanup on the grounds of the fire hall. Ron Roberts has volunteered to mow next and to also plant some grass seed on bare areas. Ron Friez has volunteered to provide woodchips around the base of the shade tree. We are looking for volunteers to take it in turns to keep the lawn mowed on the west, south and around the reader sign. Please call 849-6628.

**Exercise Class** is in its 5th week. You will be able to tell the ladies who have attended by the spring in their step and a tendency to break out into a grapevine, waltz or other energetic dance when music is heard. The exercises cover stretches, balance, low impact aerobics and fun dance steps to tone the muscles and strengthen bones. Every Wednesday at 9:30, cost is \$2 per person. Call Amy for info 849-5209

**Community Coffee Hour** will be Thursday June 12 10:30 am. This is an informal community social hour everyone welcome!

**Monthly Potluck Friday May 30 at 6:30pm** please bring your favorite dish! At 7:00pm Chris McGuinness from the Polson Fire Department will give a power point presentation on fire risks and how best we can protect our family and homes during this upcoming fire season. Carey Cooley from Lake County Fuel Reduction Office will give information on grants. Representatives from the sheriff’s dept. will give a presentation on their upcoming Public Safety Mill Levy and answer questions.

**FAMILY FUN DAY JUNE 28 10:30 AM HAMBURGERS AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS COOKED BY BIG ARM’S WONDERFUL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS; A KID’S CARNIVAL AND BOUNCE CASTLE; A MAGIC SHOW; LIVE MUSIC; CRAFT SHOW; OUR SECOND ANNUAL WATER WARS ORDERED BY BIG ARM’S DESPOT DICTATOR PAULUS MAURERUS. RAFFLES, BINGO & SURPRISE VISITORS ARE BEING PLANNED.** We hope you will attend and bring all of your family and friends. We could use volunteers to help with tent setup, kid’s carnival, ticket sales etc. please call 849-6628. The proceeds will go towards saving the historic school for a community building and to help the firefighters buy much needed equipment that will keep us all much safer.

**Historic School Update:** We were really hoping that this month we would be able to announce a successfully negotiated lease for the school building. We were listed on the School Board’s agenda to discuss a possible lease but Trustee Elke Allik and Theresa Taylor made a motion to declare the historic school building obsolete and to sell it to the highest bidder and require them to remove it off the property; the land would then be sold to raise money to replenish school budget shortfalls. A discussion followed with our speaker, George Bailey, explaining that the land was originally taken from the Native Americans and if no longer needed as a school the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes would have every right to make a claim on the land. Our SOS committee managed to persuade the School Board not to do anything with the building until they researched the matter with their attorneys as it would be a terrible mistake to remove the building from its historic site if they are unable to sell the land. Removal of the building would make the building renovations ineligible for most of the National and State Preservation Grants. **If you would like to help please call especially if you signed our petition as public support is critical for this next meeting on June 9. Tel:849-6628**

**We regretfully accepted Jan Phillips resignation.** Jan has been such a big part of BAA and we sincerely appreciate her hard work, sense of fun and ability to solve problems. She will be hard to replace as one of our three general leaders. The leaders will miss her.

**Rollins Community Club events and Quilt Raffle.** The club has a monthly potluck with interesting speakers call Dave at 844-0168. Sharon Geiser is selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt the proceeds will support the Rollins Fire Dept. Call Sharon 849-5545.

**Bring your soda cans to the fire hall** we will recycle them and use the money to provide essentials for the fire hall, chairs, tables etc.

**Plum Trees Shoots free for the digging call Al 849-5393**

**Teaser: “Chesty”** - all 6 letters can only be arranged into one word, what is it? **Apr.Ans:** 97% of the women, 1/2 wear 2 earrings and 1/2 none, this is the same as each wore 1 so = 800 earrings.