



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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www.basslakeaction.org



This picture located the lost dog's owner

LITTLE LOST DOG REUNITED WITH OWNER

by Kathy Prevost

One evening about two weeks ago I received a phone call from a neighbor who had an older stray dog without a collar that was staying on her property and would not leave the front porch. A dog lover with two large dogs of her own, she was concerned about leaving this dog outside on one of our recent decidedly chilly nights. "Could you get the word out to your Bass Lake Action Committee email list?" she asked.

Soon a picture of the dog popped into my in-box and the emails were dutifully sent to the Bass Lake Action Committee mailing list asking for their help in identifying the dog so he could be returned to his owner. Within less than an hour, my neighbor received a phone call from the owner, and the dog was home again. A very happy ending for all concerned!

Unfortunately, for whatever reasons, dogs do get lost and the question is, what to do when this happens? The El Dorado County Animal Shelter has a suggested list of action items to take when you either lose or find a dog at <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/AnimalServices/>. If the dog does not have a collar with current tags, the finder can have the animal checked for a microchip at a nearby veterinarian's office or at the Animal Shelter. Lacking such identification, the shelter suggests the following:

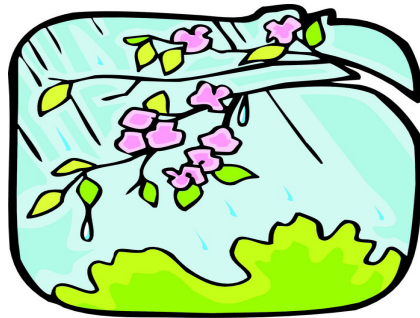
First, check with the El Dorado County Animal Shelter either in person or online at least every two or three days.

Second, depending on whether you have

lost or found a pet, file a Lost Pet Report or a Found Animal Report with the Animal Shelter. The forms are available online, and when completed may be faxed to the Animal Shelter at 530-622-6851 or dropped off in person at the Shelter at 415 Placerville Drive in Placerville.

Third, take direct action: post /distribute flyers or posters; call local vets; actively search by talking to your neighbors or by using Craigslist, Facebook, or local newspapers; check other rescue agencies and shelters, etc. Walking or driving around the area where a dog was found or lost can sometimes be effective.

Lastly, and most especially, if you have lost your dog, don't give up hope! ~



WET SPRING WEATHER THREATENS CROPS

A recent article by Melanie Turner, Staff writer for the Sacramento Business Journal, reported that the unusually wet spring has damaged some Sacramento area crops.

There are upsides to the unseasonably wet weather. It could extend the season for cool-weather crops, such as peas and salad

greens, and warm-weather crops still have a chance to get back on track. Most crops were reportedly as far as 10 days behind last year, but were successfully harvested in late summer and early fall.

The cool, wet weather has damaged cherries that were about to be harvested and slowed the development of processing tomatoes and many other crops in the region. It also threatens to degrade the quality of alfalfa hay that had been cut and left out to dry. Farmers were expected to have a better idea late this week if their grass and alfalfa hay managed to avoid mold damage, according to Sacramento County agricultural commissioner Frank Carl.

While some in the industry say farmers expect an occasional loss, others say this year has been particularly challenging.

The unusual rain also has slowed the growth of rice and in some cases delayed planting, Carl said. When the fields are too muddy for planting, that gets delayed, too, pushing harvest further into the fall, at which time rain could threaten the crop again. Sacramento County has about 6,000 acres of rice, down from as many as 15,000 acres 15 years ago.

Overall, crop delays are expected to affect prices, though it's too soon to say by how much, Carl said.

The wet, cool start to summer in some cases also could mean farmers are spraying more fungicides. Tomatoes and wine grapes don't like overhead water, said John Young, Yolo County agricultural commissioner.

Calif. wine grape growers are also suffering a sobering spring, according to an article by Tracie Cone in the Beaver County Times.

Wild spring weather across California's wine country has been enough to drive a vintner to drink, writes Cone. From killer snow in the Sierra Nevada foothills to dry-season downpours along the coast to a hard freeze in temperate Paso Robles, 2011 is proving a challenging vintage.

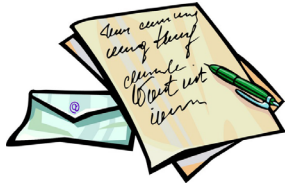
Vintners have long joked that the weather is just like last year -- different. But people expect to find constants in the nation's premiere grape-growing state.

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NOTICE TO READERS

The *Bass Lake Bulletin* will not be published in the month of July. There will be no Bass Lake Action Committee Meeting, as the Board of Directors has declared July a month of vacation. Publication of the *Bulletin* will resume in August.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

This Spring has been pretty wild and wooly. Between rain, hail and wind, the first days of June were exciting to say the least.

One thing that got me excited was the lack of warm weather, which I need every June to have my grapevines bloom. The vines need Spring temperatures of over 70 degrees to bloom, and while they are blooming they don't like rain, hail or high winds, because they are self-pollinating. The warm weather arrived, and was followed by our wild weather. I was worried that the vines would think that warm weather was here and they could bloom, only to have their blooming disrupted by wild weather.

So I kept an eye on the little buds every day, walking the vineyard looking for bloom, and telling the vines to wait awhile until the wind and rain stopped. Luckily they held off until last week, when we got good warm weather. Now they are blooming to beat the band.

It looks like it will be a good crop this year, though it may be until late fall until we can harvest, if the Summer is a cool one. The article on page 1 of this month's Bulletin explains how cooler weather is affecting the California crops this spring, and of course wine grapes are affected. However, if we get decent high temperatures this summer, we can make up for lost time.

I have already sprayed for powdery mildew three times this Spring, hoping to avoid the disaster of last year when the mildew caught us unawares. Thank goodness for agricultural chemicals, as every farmer will tell you.

The extra wet Spring brought the growth of our plants in the yard, for which we are grateful, but it also brought out the weeds in profusion. We have weeds that we never saw before in our yard. The bountiful rain

CROPS *(continued)*

Rain usually tapers off in April and ends by May, not returning until November. In those months, balmy temperatures awaken dormant vines from their winter slumber and buds start to break. This year there has been frost and record rain in June. Sustained temperatures over 70 didn't hit until this week in most wine regions.

Now just days before the official start of summer it looks like early spring across California wine country. Buds are just emerging and the fruit is forming far behind schedule.

While rain is good for some crops, late precipitation is not for California's \$18.5 billion wine industry. Regulating water controls the intensity of grape flavors -- and too much causes mildew.

It's snow, not rain, that caused problems in mountainous El Dorado County, where leafing vineyards have been hit by the same spring snow storms that have some ski resorts dreaming of remaining open through July 4.

Grapes are resilient plants that produce the best-tasting fruit while stressed. They can recover and push new shoots after a freeze, as Tablas Creek and others now are seeing.

The cooler weather has left plant development a month behind schedule in some regions, saving some plants but creating the prospect of harvests in late October and early November, even early ripening pinot noir.

Now growers are hoping for a warm fall. A late harvest could mean chaos at wineries that stagger production by planting both early varieties such as chardonnay and late-ripening varieties such as cabernets.

However, while quantities of some wines might be lower in 2011 -- for example, a 2001 freeze cut Tablas Creek Winery of Paso Robles' production by half to 5,500 cases -- quality shouldn't be affected anywhere in the state. ~

must have germinated weed seeds that were many years old.

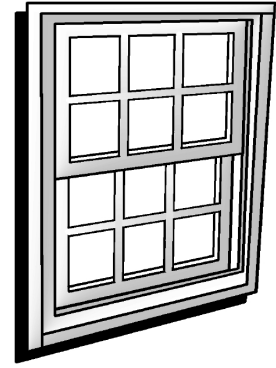
However, the yard looks great and as we sit and watch the sunset we are grateful to be living here, in beautiful El Dorado County.

Before we do any complaining, let's be sure to count our blessings—we have more than we think.

See you all in August.

Sincerely,

John Thomson
President



DO YOU HAVE FOGGY WINDOWS?

by Kathy Prevost

We recently had several dual-paned windows replaced in our Warmington home in WoodRidge. Three of them began to show signs of condensation over the previous winter, indicating a seal failure. The fourth window had shown pink streaks for some time, a condition that gradually became worse.

Fortunately, our builder, Warmington Homes, had installed Milgard (<http://www.milgard.com/>) windows. Milgard offers a lifetime warranty for the original homeowners, covering both labor and materials, for their dual-pane (insulated glass also referred to as IG) windows. We had our original warranty information in our homeowner's manual that we received when we bought the house. With Milgard offices in Sacramento it wasn't difficult to have an inspection and arrange an appointment to have the windows replaced.

It was easy to see why the windows had failed. Insulated windows have a spacer bar and glass with an adhesive material used to maintain the sealed area between the glass panes and the spacer bar. Two of our west-facing windows receive the intense afternoon heat of Sacramento in the summer, which has a tendency to deteriorate the seals around the window glass. When the seals in those windows failed, the gas between the panes is forced out when the air space heated up and expanded. As the windows cooled down in the evening, humid air was drawn in, causing condensation or fogginess in the window between the panes.

When dealing with windows, you always want to know the manufacturer's heat transmission rating. That rating will either be a "U Value," which gives an indication of that window's tendency to transfer heat either in or out, or by an "R Value," which describes the window's resistance to transferring heat in or out. U Values are a measure of heat

(continued on page 3)

WINDOWS *(continued)*

conductance, and R Values are a measure of heat flow resistance. R Values are most common. If a window's R-value is high, it will lose less heat than one with a lower R value. Single pane windows transmit heat very quickly and have an R rating of about 1. A dual-pane window with an air space between the two layers dramatically reduces this heat flow, increasing the R rating to about 2. In addition, low-emissivity (Low-E) coatings on glazing or glass control heat transfer through windows with insulated glazing. Windows manufactured with Low-E coatings typically cost more than regular windows, but they reduce energy loss by as much as 30% to 50%.

A window's low-E coating is a microscopically thin, virtually invisible, metal or metallic oxide layer deposited directly on the surface of one or more of the panes of glass. The Low-E coating reduces the infrared radiation from a warm pane of glass to a cooler pane, thereby increasing the R Value of the window. Low-E dual-pane windows usually have "LOW-E" marked on them, with arrows indicating which way the window must be installed to utilize the coating.

The seals around dual-pane windows have to withstand changes in weather, slamming and banging, atmospheric pressure changes, hail, rain, etc. Through it all they need to remain flexible so to allow the windows to expand in hot weather and contract in cold weather. The leading causes of seal failure (fogging and discoloration) are exposure to water, excessive heat, and old age.

Dual pane windows are very reliable according to the studies by the Sealed Insulating Glass Manufacturers Association. However, manufacturers recommended that homeowners periodically examine their windows, frames and seals. Caulk any separated frame sashes or deteriorating perimeter seals to increase the longevity of insulating glass. For high quality units that are properly installed, dual-pane windows show a 1 percent failure over 10 years and a 3 percent failure after 15 years.

Lakemont Homes, the other builder in WoodRidge, installed Jeld-Wen windows, whose warranties are specific to when a window is purchased. Residents should consult the Jeld-Wen window warranty that came with their home. You can also contact the Jeld-Wen at <http://www.jeld-wen.com/> to find out what will be covered if you have a problem that needs to be corrected. ~



JOHN SKEEL, CSD GM, ADDRESSES BLAC

John Skeel, General manager of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD), was the guest speaker at the June meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC). John was introduced by Kathy Prevost, and after introductory remarks, answered several questions which are of concern to BLAC.

Question 1: Statistics show that the El Dorado County and El Dorado Hills population is maturing, and we would like to know what the CSD has considered and/or is planning to prepare for the future of seniors in the district?

John said that the EDH CSD has a Master Plan that deals with programs and infrastructure. The CSD will be updating that Plan this year. John wants to conduct an outreach survey to find out what residents would like to see in the future. The CSD would like to have a proper community center some day as its current facilities are reaching capacity. Janet Kenneweg, who is responsible for CSD programs at the Senior Center, provided John with some items the CSD would like to implement for seniors in the future. They include transportation for seniors (probably a van or shuttle), life-long learning programs for younger seniors, increased fitness opportunities, parks with trails and equipment that can be used by all ages, and evening and weekend programs. John said that the items Janet identified appear to be valid and won't wait for a new Master Plan to be developed.

Question 2: The Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) for WoodRidge and Hills of El Dorado have not been enforced for some time, much to the detriment of WoodRidge and the community as a whole. What is the CSD planning to do to protect our property from further deterioration of our home values because of homeowners who either do not apply for Design Review Committee approval before making improvements, fail to have pride of ownership of their homes, or clearly disregard the CC&Rs?

John said that he thinks it is shocking that individual households pay only \$10 for administration of CC&Rs. The CSD has one part-time compliance officer, and he can only give 15 minutes per week per village to these activities. John said that people ignore compliance warnings, and there are no teeth to the regulations. It's not a good system. CC&Rs are a civil contract, and there is no law requiring people to comply. The position of the CSD is that CC&Rs are compliance not enforcement.

Members told John that they feel that ineffective use of volunteers by the CSD in the past is a major cause of the inability of the CSD to adequately handle the CC&R administration.

Question 3: When Bass Lake Road is improved there will be some loss of Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) property (the landscaped area at the entry to WoodRidge) for which we pay maintenance through our taxes. Will the CSD, who prepares the tax assessment, re-survey the property when this occurs?

John said that if there is a loss of land in Woodridge's LLAD district as a result of the alignment of Bass Lake Road, the CSD would look at the situation. If there is a significant loss of land, then the maintenance fees should be reduced. Until the road is built, they couldn't know what the impact would be.

Question 4: You have now served as the general manager for several months, what would you like to continue and what would you do differently based on your experience?

John said that the most important thing for him at this time is to build a solid foundation of trust, respect, and communication with his CSD team. He wants to understand the issues and how things came to be the way they are. It's not an overnight process.

John sees his first year as a transitional year when he will have to do extensive assessment, listening, monitoring, and planning with policy guidance from the board. He will have to try to reduce cost and create opportunities for sustainability within the community with less reliance on taxpayers' dollars. Some of his goals are to: (1) Maintain what we currently have while making improvements and adjustments over time; (2) Focus on the district's core services of recreation and quality parks; (3) Recruit for administrative staff or figure out other ways to get things done; (4) Get the district better organized; (5) Develop long-range plans; (6) Implement more outreach and imple-

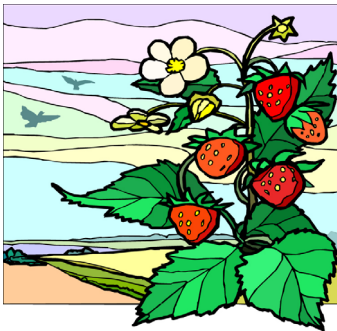
JOHN SKEEL *(continued)*

ment a community survey.

Question 5: Oak Knoll Park in Hills of El Dorado has a club house which is basically unused, and for which the CSD charges a substantial amount for rental fees. We would like to know if it would be possible to use the building for civic uses (such as a Neighborhood Watch meeting) without charge? This would allow local residents to meet locally, rather than in residences in the area or travel away from WoodRidge, and would be a real benefit to our community.

John said that part of updating the CSD's Master Plan includes making sure that the district is best positioned for future change. Oak Knoll Park's clubhouse is undergoing remodeling to make it better to use. CSD staff is updating the rate schedule to encourage increased use of the upgraded facility. They will market it aggressively. John said that he expects the rates for non-profit and community organizations to be changed to make them more attractive.

After more general discussion and good-natured banter, the group gave John a round of applause and wished him well on his efforts as CSD general manager. ~

**Wild Strawberries**

Strawberries that in gardens grow
 Are plump and juicy fine,
 But sweeter far as wise men know
 Spring from the woodland vine.
 No need for bowl or silver spoon,
 Sugar or spice or cream,
 Has the wild berry plucked in June
 Beside the trickling stream.
 One such to melt at the tongue's root,
 Confounding taste with scent,
 Beats a full peck of garden fruit:
 Which points my argument."

— Robert Graves



JUNE BLAC MEETING HELD, NO MEETING IN JULY, AUGUST MEETING AND SPEAKER SET

The regular monthly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee was held June 6, 2011. The guest speaker was John Skeel, General Manager of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District. See the article on page 3 for a summary of the guest speaker's remarks.

There will be no BLAC meeting in July.

The next BLAC meeting will be held on August 1, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the home of Dee and Denny Olberding, 4068 Kirkwood Drive, Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-8739. The guest speaker will be EID General Counsel Tom Cumpston of the El Dorado Irrigation District, who will answer questions about the redistricting and the EID rate structure. All BLAC members are cordially encouraged to attend. For further information contact Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

STAR VOLUNTEERS TO MAN EL DORADO HILLS SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Team of Active Retirees (STARs) has taken over the El Dorado Hills sheriff's substation to assist the public with crime reporting, offer crime

prevention tips, and answer questions.

A STAR volunteer will be on duty from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday through Friday. The office, located at 4354 Town Center Blvd., Suite 112, will be closed on weekends and major holidays.

El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini said he's grateful for these volunteers, who last year contributed 37,000 volunteer hours to the Sheriff's Department, assisting in everything from deputy training to special events. Budget cuts have forced the Sheriff's Department to shrink from more than 400 paid employees a few years ago to now less than 350, according to D'Agostini, who said he sees no relief when it comes to budget matters.

"If it wasn't for the STARs we couldn't do it," D'Agostini said. ~

PROPANE UPDATE

Monthly updates on propane pricing will be suspended over the summer and resume in the fall with the advent of cooler weather and the home heating season. ~

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly seven to ten days after the regular monthly BLAC meeting, by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California
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John E. Thomson, Ph.D.
 President and Editor
doctorjet@basslakeaction.org
 530-677-3039

For additional information
 see our website, basslakeaction.org
 or contact

Vice President Kathy Prevost
kathyp@basslakeaction.org
 530-672-6836

Bass Lake Action Committee
 501 Kirkwood Court
 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762