



# Weekender

February 11, 2010

## RV/COMPACTOR COMMITTEE MEETING

### Inside this issue:

Lands and Buildings	2
Bunco	2
Compactor Hours	3
Board Meeting	3
Black Bears	4
Black Bears	5
100 Days of Color	6
Calendar	7

On Wed. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, the newly combined committee's of RV and Compactor met for a committee meeting. Attending the meeting were the co-trustees John Williams and Debbie Richmond and committee members Sophia Platt, Linda Beadle and Surfside Compliance Officer, Jim Meyers.

Larry Nelsen and George Miller from the Land and Buildings Committee attended and requested approval for a storage shed to be placed in the vacant lot next to the RV storage lot. This storage building will be used to store various committee supplies. This request was approved by the RV Committee.

The RV/Compactor Committee is working hard to ensure that the operation of the RV storage lot and compactor are cost effective and the member assets are maintained.

Thank you to the RV/Compactor Committee for their continuing work .



## LANDS AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE START INSPECTIONS FOR 2010

On Tuesday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, the Lands and Buildings committee did their first inspection of the year. The Surfside office building and grounds were inspected and recommendations for repair or replacement will be presented to the General Manager for action. This inspection will be compared to the inspection that was done a year ago.

This active committee will be busy this year as they continue to inspect all lands and buildings owned by the Surfside members. These inspections include the bridges and beach trails. Watch for updates on the progress at the 306<sup>th</sup> bridge site.



Larry Raymer and Chris Hanson preparing the inspection report.

## Bunco Group

### Surfside Bunco Group

#### Meets the second Tuesday of Every Month at 6:30

- Every month beginners are welcome
- This will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Surfside Board/Community Room at 6:30 pm
- One table snack will be provided. Bring your own drinks.
- This is a perfect chance for you to join a group and not have to host in your home.
- To get in on the FUN, call Valerie at 665-0804.
- This group is both men and women
- Cost is five dollars a month
- Come have fun!
- **Everyone is welcome. You do not have to be a member of Surfside to play!**



## SUNDAY COMPACTOR HOURS



**SUNDAY COMPACTOR  
HOURS  
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY  
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

## BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2010

### Tentative Board Agenda

**February 20, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Surfside Homeowners Association**

**Note: The Board Room will open at 8:00 am to allow time for Board members to review and discuss agenda items and materials among themselves as needed prior to the start of the meeting.**

Call to Order - Regular Board Meeting – Flood

Safety in the Workplace – Flood

Floor Comments (20 Minutes)

Adopt Agenda – Flood\*

Approval of Minutes of the January 16, 2010 Regular Board Meeting– Flood\*

Old Business

Operations Manual Final – Board Approval/  
Adoption\*

Storage Building Placement Approval\*

Resolution – Surfside Pension Plan Renewal\*

New Business

A. Winter Office Hours

Communications

Incoming

Outgoing

Meetings & Contacts

Staff & Committee Reports

Comments (10 minutes)

Recess to Closed Session on Personnel, Legal, & Contract Issues or Employee Matters (If necessary)

Reconvene to Open Session for Action Items (If necessary)

Floor Topics for the Good of the Order

Adjourn\*

**\* Requires Board Action**

## AMERICAN BLACK BEAR



**Figure 1. The American black bear is the most common and widely distributed bear in North America. (Photo by Alan Bauer)**

**American black bears** (*Ursus americanus*, Fig. 1) are the most common and widely distributed bears in North America. In Washington, black bears live in a diverse array of forested habitats, from coastal rainforests to the dry woodlands of the Cascades' eastern slopes. In general, black bears are strongly associated with forest cover, but they do occasionally use relatively open country, such as clearcuts and the fringes of other open habitat.

The statewide black bear population in Washington likely ranges between 25,000 and 30,000 animals. As human populations encroach on bear habitat, people and bears have greater chances of encountering each other. Bears usually avoid people, but when they do come into close proximity of each other, the bear's strength and surprising speed make it potentially dangerous. Most confrontations with bears are the result of a surprise encounter at close range. All bears should be given plenty of respect and room to retreat without feeling threatened.

### **Facts about Washington's Black Bears**

**Food and Feeding Behavior** Black bears are omnivores. They eat both plants and animals; however, their diet consists mostly of vegetation. In the spring, black bear diets consist mostly of herbaceous plants, from emerging grasses and sedges

to horsetail and various flowering plants. In summer, bears typically add ants, bees, grubs, and a host of later emerging plants to their diets. During late summer and fall, bears typically shift their diets toward tree fruits, berries, and nuts, but they still may consume a variety of plants. Fall is a critical season for black bears and they commonly acquire most of their annual fat accumulation at this time. Bears may forage up to 20 hours a day during fall, increasing their body weight by 35 percent in preparation for winter. Typically, a small proportion of the black bear's annual diet is made up of animal matter, including insects, mice, voles, ground squirrels, fawns and elk calves, eggs, carrion (animal carcasses), and fish, but their availability varies and is often unpredictable. An occasional bear may take livestock. Black bears have adequate senses of sight and hearing, but their keen sense of smell and innate curiosity make them skilled scavengers. They consume carrion when they can find it, and are notorious for taking advantage of human irresponsibility with food, garbage, and bird-feeder management. Bears will eat anything that smells appealing and will help them prepare for their long winter sleep. Black bears move in response to the seasonal availability of food, roaming constantly throughout their home range.

**Den Sites and Resting Sites** Black bears den during the winter months (typically from mid October into April) when food is scarce and the weather turns harsh. Denning black bears enter a state of torpor, a modified form of hibernation. This drowsy condition allows bears to defend themselves (and their cubs) more effectively should a predator visit the den. Bears do not urinate or defecate during denning—they recycle their waste into proteins and other nutrients. By not defecating, bears keep their dens essentially scent-free, protecting them from potential predators like cougars.

Black bears in coastal areas may remain active throughout the winter, except for pregnant females, which den to give birth to cubs. Black bears can take up residence in small dens, some scarcely bigger than a garbage can. Den sites include tree cavities, hollow logs, small caves, and areas beneath large roots, stumps, logs, and rural buildings. They'll occasionally excavate a den in the side of a hill near shrubs or other cover. Summer beds are merely concealed places scratched in the ground among dense vegetation, by a rock, or under the branches of a fallen tree.



**Figure 2. Black bears are notorious for taking advantage of human irresponsibility with food bird-feeder management. (Photo by Alan Bauer.)**

### **Reproduction and Family Structure**

Female black bears breed for the first time at 3½ to 5½ years of age. Mating takes place in June and July. Males compete for the right to breed, and breeding fights between males may be intense. Older males frequently have extensive scars on their heads and necks from fights in previous breeding seasons. Following a gestation period of about seven months, females normally give birth to one or two cubs in the winter den during January or February. Females have one litter every other year. Bears



## AMERICAN BLACK BEAR CONT.

have a reproductive pattern known as delayed implantation. Following fertilization in early summer, a bear's embryo goes dormant, free-floating in the uterus. After the female dens in late fall, the embryo implants in the uterine wall and development of the fetus proceeds rapidly. Although the total gestation time is approximately seven months, the actual developmental period for the bear fetus is less than three months. At six months, cubs are able to locate food, but generally remain with their mother for over a year—usually denning with her during their second winter. Parental care is solely the responsibility of females; males sometimes kill and eat cubs.

**Mortality and Longevity** Other than humans, black bears have few predators—cougars, bobcats, and coyotes attack cubs if given the opportunity. Male bears may eat cubs. In the year 2005, hunters harvested 1,333 black bear in Washington. Female black bears have the potential to live into their mid 20s. Male black bears do not typically live as long, rarely attaining 20 years of age.

### Bear Encounters

Bears tend to avoid humans. However, human-habituated bears are bears that, because of prolonged exposure to people, have lost their natural fear or wariness around people. Human-food-conditioned bears are those that associate people with food. Such bears can become aggressive in their pursuit of a meal.

Do everything you can to avoid an encounter with any bear. Prevention is the best advice.

If you are recreating in bear country, always remember: Never travel alone, keep small children near you at all times, and always make your presence known—simply talking will do the trick. Most experts recommend carrying pepper spray when recreating in areas of high bear density. A pepper spray that has a pepper content between 1.3 and 2 percent can be an effective deterrent to an aggressive

bear if it is sprayed directly into the bear's face within 6 to 10 feet.

**Here are tips should you come in close contact with a bear:** Stop, remain calm, and assess the situation. If the bear seems unaware of you, move away quietly when it's not looking in your direction. Continue to observe the animal as you retreat, watching for changes in its behavior. If a bear walks toward you, identify yourself as a human by standing up, waving your hands above your head, and talking to the bear in a low voice. (Don't use the word bear because a human-food-conditioned bear might associate "bear" with food . . . people feeding bears often say "here bear." Don't throw anything at the bear and avoid direct eye contact, which the bear could interpret as a threat or a challenge. If you cannot safely move away from the bear or the bear continues toward you, scare it away by clapping your hands, stomping your feet, yelling, and staring the animal in the eyes. If you are in a group, stand shoulder-to-shoulder and raise and wave your arms to appear intimidating. The more it persists the more aggressive your response should be. If you have pepper spray, use it. Don't run from the bear unless safety is very near and you are absolutely certain you can reach it (knowing that bears can run 35 mph). Climbing a tree is generally not recommended as an escape from an aggressive black bear, as black bears are adept climbers and may follow you up a tree

**Bear Attacks** In the unlikely event a black bear attacks you (where actual contact is made), fight back aggressively using your hands, feet, legs, and any object you can reach. Aim for the eyes or spray pepper spray into the bear's face.

**Preventing Conflicts** State wildlife offices receive hundreds of black bear complaints each year regarding urban sightings, property damage, attacks on livestock, and bear/human confrontations. The number one reason for conflict, (95% of the calls to offices) are the result of irresponsibility on the part of people: Ac-

cess to trash, pet food, bird feeders, and improper storage of food while camping make up the majority of the calls. Secondly, young bears (especially young males) are not tolerated by adult bears and they wander into areas occupied by humans. Food may also be scarce in some years—a late spring and poor forage conditions may be followed by a poor berry crop, causing bears to seek food where they ordinarily would not. If you live in areas where black bears are seen, use the following management strategies around your property to prevent conflicts:

**Don't feed bears.** Often people leave food out for bears so they can take pictures of them or show them to visiting friends. Over 90 percent of bear/human conflicts result from bears being conditioned to associate food with humans. A wild bear can become permanently food-conditioned after only one handout experience. The sad reality is that these bears will likely die, being killed by someone protecting their property, or by a wildlife manager having to remove a potentially dangerous bear.

**Manage your garbage.** Bears will expend a great amount of time and energy digging under, breaking down, or crawling over barriers to get food, including garbage. If you have a pickup service, put garbage out shortly before the truck arrives—not the night before. If you're leaving several days before pickup, haul your garbage to a dump. If necessary, frequently haul your garbage to a dumpsite to avoid odors. Keep garbage cans with tight-fitting lids in a shed, garage, or fenced area. Spray garbage cans and dumpsters regularly with disinfectants to reduce odors. Keep fish parts and meat waste in your freezer until they can be disposed of properly. If bears are common in your area, consider investing in a commercially available bear-proof garbage container.

## RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

Bob Cole was at the compactor last week and heard about two lanes of I Street being covered with broken glass. Bob borrowed a broom and dust pan from the compactor site and promptly swept the area. Thanks Bob!



## 100 DAYS OF COLOR PROGRESS



January 7, 2010 Peeking thru

February 4, 2010

February 11, 2010

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## FREE FIREWOOD !

There is still **FREE FIREWOOD AVAILABLE**

Located to the south and west of the 315th Street bridge on H Street.

Come by cut it up and haul it away! Hurry Hurry it is going fast



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## FUND RAISER FOR LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA

"Hello! My name is Gary Williams and a member of Surfside. I will be participating in the Big Climb - a stairclimb up 69 flights of stairs - on March 21st. While I'll be gasping for air, the real challenge is to help fight blood cancers. All proceeds benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Please support me by going to <http://www.bigclimb.org/> and clicking donate. Type in my name, "Gary Williams" and then donate to my cause. It's that easy! Thanks for supporting me in the fight against blood cancers!"

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# February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Architectural Committee 9:00 am  Community Relations Committee Meeting 1:00 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Architectural Committee 9:00 am  Lands and Buildings Committee Meeting 1:00 pm  Bunco 6:30 pm	10  RV Committee Meeting 9:00 am	11	12	13
14 	15	16  Architectural Committee 9:00 am	17	18	19	20  Board Meeting 9:00 am
21	22	23  Architectural Committee 9:00 am	24	25	26  Tentative Clam Dig	27  Tentative Clam Dig
28  Tentative Clam Dig						