



NTP E-BITES NTP E-BITES

May 24, 2007

Defensible Space Education Night a Success

Before a standing room only crowd of Nevada residents at Kahle Community Center on Thursday evening, representatives from several local and federal agencies teamed up to present their programs with one common goal—keeping our neighborhoods fire safe!



Hosted jointly by the Round Hill and Skyland Fire Safe Chapters, the event gave property owners valuable information ranging from the planting of non-combustible plants, to complying with BMP regulations, to convincing our legislators to pass a critical bill that will fund future fuel reduction projects. After the presentations, attendees were able to ask questions of the various agencies and receive additional information displayed by each group.

Glen Smith and Ann Grant, chairpersons on the Round Hill and Skyland Chapters respectfully, kicked off the festivities with the introduction of Smokey Bear. (There is no "the" in his name, unbeknownst to most of the audience).

Jason Arnold, Project Coordinator of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, gave an overview of the 11 chapters that span from Upper Kingsbury to Glenbrook, and the process of obtaining grants. "We've spent over two million dollars in grants during the last six years, which has helped clear our area of many hazardous fuels."

The importance of Senate Bill 564 was presented by Andrew List, Executive Director of the Nevada Fire Safe Council. The bill, currently in committee, would appropriate 1.9 million for fuel reduction efforts. "Our goal is to fight fire before it starts," List said. "It is an investment in Nevada's future." List urged all Nevada citizens to call or e-mail their legislators to support SB564.

Mark Novak from the Tahoe Douglas Fire Department discussed the "grass roots" efforts of his department to help keep property clean and combustion free. Between May 25th and June 24th, Nevada residents will have the opportunity to bring their disposable waste—pine needles, grass, and clippings—to Boulder parking lot. Also available from the TDFD is curbside chipping, permits for hazardous fuel removal and help with disaster preparedness. Further information on these programs can be obtained at 775-588-3591 ext. 227.

Integrating BMP's with defensible space, using different types of vegetation was addressed by Jason Brand of the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District. "We can draw up a site plan for your house that will help reduce erosion and improve lake clarity", added Brand. Guests were invited to visit www.ntcd.org, or call 775-586-1610 ext. 28 for information.

A group from the US Forest Service, lead by Beth Brady, presented their "community outreach for fire education." "Fire is part of our environment" said Brady. "The Living with Fire program, can help keep the immediate area around your house safe". Handouts are available at any of the USFS offices, or information can be received by calling 530-543-2600.

Joanne Skelly from the UNR Cooperative extension closed the presentations with horticultural options that were the least flammable. Recommendations included shorter, deciduous plants, and avoiding native plants in the defensible space zone.

With the wealth of information absorbed by invitees, (not to mention the abundance of goodies), guests left the evening with the knowledge and confidence that a consolidated team effort is in place to help Tahoe properties in the event of a wildfire.

Written by Paul Andrew, Round Hill Fire Safe Chapter

For more information on services available go to:

- www.nvfsc.org
- www.ntcd.org
- www.tahoefire.com
- www.unce.unr.edu
- www.fs.fed.us/r5/tbmu/

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E-Bites are published and sponsored by Nevada Tahoe Partnership. The Partnership seeks to engage Nevada Tahoe stakeholders in locally led conservation efforts and invests in capacity building efforts to institutionalize solutions for long-term change. Currently the Partnership has 5 Core members, 1 full-time coordinator and over 300 representatives of Nevada Lake Tahoe General Improvement Districts (GIDs), Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Fire Safe Chapters (FSCs) and local residents.

Visit the Partnership website: www.nevadatahoepartnership.org for up-to-date information about Nevada Lake Tahoe conservation issues. We encourage you to visit the website often for updates on local planning and resource conservation efforts.

The Partnership publishes a FREE E-Newsletter to help keep residents informed and educated as well as hosts local public forums and provides leadership development and technical training.

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