



THE MOUNTAIN MEMO

VOL. 5, NO. 1

MAR 1989

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP THE MOUNTAIN CLEAN AND MAINTAIN YOUR FIRE AWARENESS ON THE MOUNTAIN THIS SPRING

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

There is no guarantee that a septic system will not cause problems from time to time.

However, a properly located and installed septic system that is properly maintained should guarantee prevention of failure and costly repairs, according to State Health Department engineers.

The following recommendations for maintenance of septic systems are the best ways to protect both the pocketbook and the ground water drinking supplies from a failing septic tank system:

- * Use chemicals with care. They can kill the bacteria that help breakdown the solids in the septic tank and may also enter the ground water. While most septic tanks can handle normal amounts of detergent and bleach, chemicals like drain cleaners, pesticides, paint and thinners are harmful. Use drain cleaners that are labeled safe for septic tanks.

- * Conserve water to reduce the amount of water going into the system to prevent overloading. Water-saving devices such as lowflush toilets and low-flow shower heads can help in conservation efforts. Additional system loading from hot tubs, spas, or an increase in the number of people regularly using the system may create the need to reassess onsite sewage system sizing.

Septic Maint. Cont. on Pg. 3

CERAMICS

Ceramicware may be unsafe for food use.

Be careful to serve food in containers meant for food. A prized decorative ceramic dish may be safe only for decoration, not for food use.

Many ceramic products, including antiques and collectibles, may contain lead and other toxic metals that can pose a health hazard.

Lead has been a common component in glazing materials for ceramic dishes, bowls, pitchers, plates and other earthenware since the beginning of civilization. Many ceramic products sold in the United States today are coated with glazes that contain lead or cadmium.

Glazes that are improperly formulated and heated can be dangerous. That danger increases when glazed dishes store high-acid foods for long periods of time. Acid can speed up the release of lead from the glaze finish.

Continued exposure to too much lead can have toxic effects. Even at low levels, consumption of lead may cause learning and behavioral disorders in children and affect their growth.

Since 1971, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set limits on the amount lead ceramic-ware producers can use in making ceramic containers

Ceramics Cont. on Pg. 3

BOARD AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



FROM THE TOP



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THE MOUNTAIN MEMO is published four times a year (March, June, Sept and Dec) and is the Cacapon Highlands Property Owners official newsletter. All material for publication must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

General Information

I-Gypsy Moth Spraying

Our property has been approved for inclusion in the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's (WVDA) Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. A field agent from WVDA conducted an egg mass survey. His analysis showed that we qualified under the WVDA's guidelines with sufficient acreage, egg mass density (over 5,000 egg masses per acre average) and host tree species (mainly oak) to justify spraying for control of the gypsy moth population.

We forwarded the appropriate application and deposit for entry into the Suppression Program prior to the January 27, 1989 deadline. This was our first step in an effort to control the gypsy moth problem. Additional information will be provided at the annual meeting and in the next Newsletter.

II-Eight Annual Cacapon Highlands Property Owner's Association (CHPOA) Meeting.

We have begun preparation for the 8th Annual CHPOA Meeting. Each property owner will receive information concerning the location and date of the meeting. It is extremely important that the property owners support the CHPOA by showing good attendance at the meeting. In addition, many important issues will be discussed.

III-Board Nominations

There will be two (2) vacancies on the Board this year. These vacancies will be filled at the 8th Annual Meeting. We need volunteers to fill these positions. Each property owner has a responsibility to assist in matters that affect the mountain, and assuming a position on the Board is a great way to meet this responsibility. Besides, it is not fair to expect the same individuals to continuously handle all of the CHPOA responsibilities.

Please call Ken Kisling (301-437-4096) if you are interested in being nominated for a Board position.

III-Security Update

Mr. Whitacre, our security guard, continues to do an outstanding job. To date, we have no reported break-ins (although we have had the driveway entrance chain to one of the cabins on Rte 18 stolen).

Mr. Whitacre's services have again proven beneficial since he was able to alert us to trees that had fallen on cabins and/or power lines (there have been at least four incidents to date). Therefore, we were able to quickly notify the property owners involved as well as the power company.

Mr. Whitacre's services are contracted through March 31, 1989.



Septic Maint. Cont.

* Materials that do not settle well or that degrade slowly should not be put into the septic tank. Cooking fats, bones, coffee grounds and other ground garbage, wet strength towels, disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts and similar materials should be disposed of with household garbage and are undesirable in a septic tank.

* Have the septic tank pumped every three to five years to prevent settled solids and grease from accumulating in the tank and overflowing into the absorption field system. To determine when a tank needs pumping, periodically inspect the level of the sludge and scum layers. Ask a local approved septic tank pumper to measure the solids level and to pump out the septic tank when it is needed. A list of approved pumpers is available from the local health department.

Ceramics Cont.

intended for use in serving, storing, or preparing food. These limits were tightened in 1980.

The FDA is currently reassessing its present lead limits to determine whether they should be reduced even further. This reevaluation has been prompted by lead poisoning incidents linked to ceramic dinnerware, study data indicating heightened public concern about ingestion of lead from all sources, and the agency's own concern about the quality of some ceramic food-ware products, particularly imports.

FDA sampling of ceramic products has shown that a large percentage of domestic earthenware manufacturers do comply with lead limits. The major problem remains with imported products that escape the FDA's surveillance. These mainly are brought into the country by overseas travelers and through mail order.

You, the consumer, have no way of discerning if a piece of ceramic ware has lead in it or if lead-containing products were produced to meet accepted standards.

Tests can measure whether levels of lead content in ceramic ware are harmful. But the testing, done by commercial laboratories, may be very expensive.

To reduce your risk of lead poisoning from ceramic dinnerware, FDA experts advise you to:

* Avoid use of ceramic ware for storing food. This is particularly important for storage of acidic foods such as fruit juices and pickled products.

* Beware of products purchased in other countries. The safety of dinnerware can vary from country to country.

* Don't use antiques or collectibles to hold food or beverages. Items bought at garage sales, flea markets, and antique shops may have been made years before federal standards were imposed.

* Be cautious of ceramic items made by amateurs or hobbyists. Such items may have safe glazes, but you have no way of knowing if proper techniques and equipment were used to apply them.

**HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?
COUNTY PLANNERS MEETING**

Regulations like how to develop steep mountain land with an eye to disturbing as little ground as possible and building permits (Improvement Location Permits) are on the agenda for the planning board. These may or may not have any affect on Cacapon Highlands. I will be on the lookout for any new areas of concern to us.

THE MOUNTAIN MEMO
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FIRST CLASS

**Forewarding and Address
Correction Requested**



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