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FireWise "News You Can Use" February 2017



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Mark Your Calendars

March 6th: La Plata FireWise Coffee Break, Durango Joe's in Town Plaza, Drop in 9:00am -12:00pm

March 9th: La Plata New Ambassador Orientation, San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnet Court, Durango, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

March 17-24: Wildland Urban Interface Conference, Reno, NV

March 28th: Fire Council Meeting, San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnet Court, Durango, 4:30-7:00 PM

April 11th: Montezuma Chapter Meeting, Time and Place TBD

April 19-21: Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Creating Fire Adapted Communities - Moving from Mitigation to Mitigation, Pueblo, CO

May 6: National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day

New Ambassador Professional Session Completed

On February 15th, we welcomed many new ambassadors to the FireWise family. There were four new Ambassadors from La Plata County and three Ambassadors from both Montezuma Archuleta Counties in attendance along with a few current Ambassadors and other interested individuals. After a quick dinner of pizza and salad, Chris started his presentation by sharing the importance of understanding why fire is a natural part of our ecosystems throughout SW Colorado also covering some basic fire behavior information. Kent followed by focusing his presentation on how residents can mitigate fire risk on their own properties.



New Ambassador Training Scheduled for March

We will be offering the second session of our New Ambassador training in La Plata County on 9th at the Durango Public Lands Center from 5:30-7:30 PM. This session will cover the New Ambassador Notebooks and will include presentations by Pam Wilson and Charlie Landsman on different aspects of the FireWise of SW Colorado organization. Please RSVP to laplatafirewise@gmail.com if you plan to attend the training. Please contact your County Co if you would like to learn more about when the training will be available in your county. Contact Amanda Brenner at mcfirewise@gmail.com for Montezuma County or Bill Trimarco at archuletafirewise@gmail.com for Archuleta County.

La Plata County Coffee Break

Charlie would like to follow the success of coffee breaks in other counties and make himself for regular meetings with residents. Starting in March, Charlie will be at Durango Joe's Town Plaza location on the first Monday of every month from 9:00am-12:00 noon. He encourages anyone interested in learning more about fire issues or wanting to complete mitigation projects to come have a drink with him. If there are specific areas of interest you would like to discuss, please [email Charlie](#) beforehand so he can ensure he has relevant materials ready to pass out at the coffee break.



Fire Council Meeting Schedule Change

Fire council meetings for the month of March will be the 4th Tuesday, March 28th in La Plata at the Durango Public Lands Center. Unfortunately, Charlie will be unavailable on the third T the month since he will be attending the WUI conference in Reno, Nevada. The next chapte meeting for Montezuma County will be held on April 11th with the time and place yet to be determined.

Colorado Wildland Fire Conference

Pueblo will host the 2017 Colorado Wildland Fire Conference from April 19-21st. Pam Wilsor Rebecca Samulski will both be presenting, and other FireWise contractors will be attending. years theme is "**Fire Adapted Communities - Moving from Awareness to Action, Mes to Mitigation, & Words to Work.**" This conference brings together stakeholders from aro Colorado to present and learn about other agencies success stories in raising wildfire awarer implementing new methods to reduce wildfire risk.

Topics that will be covered include but are not limited to: Wildland Urban Interface Research and Planning, Overcoming Barriers, and Sharing Success Stories. For more information on t will be presented at the conference, and to look at scheduled speakers, please visit the confi website at www.wildfire-colorado.com. You can also apply for a competitive conference sch for registration and/or accomodations on their website.

May 6th Community Wildfire Preparedness Day

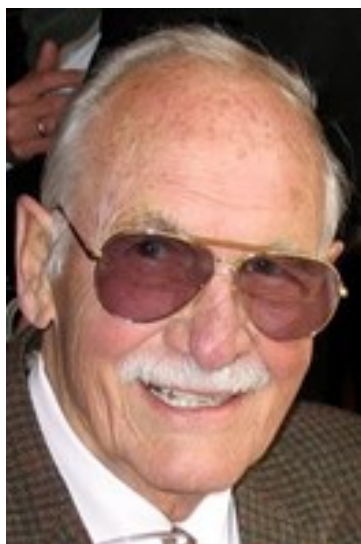
This years annual Wildfire Preparedness Day will be on May 6th and we encourage all Ambassadors to plan an event for their neighborhood on this day. Make sure to inform your county coordinator of any event you are planning on hosting. We are planning a community mitigation fair to be held on this day in La Plata County for those members of communities who want to learn more about chippers, hand tools, slash disposal, house assessments, evacuation plans, forest health, and more.

Our goal is to have multiple stations running throughout the day with presentations on these topics so individuals or families can come and learn about their specific interests. Please stay tuned for upcoming information about our Wildfire Preparedness Day plans.



A Memorial to Archie

Archie Hanson was among the first FireWise of Southwest Colorado Neighborhood Ambassadors. He was passionate about community emergency preparedness. In addition to extensive mitigation throughout the Indian Camp Ranch subdivision he developed west of Cortez, Archie spearheaded neighborhood



readiness for all emergencies, developed neighborhood maps and information for residents to relay information to responders at subdivision access points, invented "FireWater" fire-extinguisher in a wine bottle for kitchen fire safety, and trained neighbors on a used fire engine that he purchased for his community. Archie was an amazing man, and even rubbed off on his daughter Leila Hansen, who has been instrumental in creating wildfire preparedness connections with the real estate community in Montezuma County and in getting work done in her community of Kernan Creek Ranch. FireWise was a small part of Archie's amazing accomplishments. [He is remembered in The Journal Here.](#)



Our FireWise community has had many heartbreaks in the last few months. There are emergencies that we can prepare for and then there are losses of a loved one for which nothing can prepare us for.

Articles of Interest

The San Juan National Forest sent out a press release about the forest health funding they received: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sanjuan/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD532441>

San Juan National Forest also received a regional foresters award for their work with partners including FireWise of Southwest Colorado: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sanjuan/news-events/>

[cid=FSEPRD533481](#)

Dolores is using mapping to determine where forests will benefit from fire and where they w threatened: http://www.cortezjournal.com/article/20170116/NEWS01/170119896/0/SEARCH_River-Basin-analyzed-for-fire-risk

When it comes to disaster response and resilience, social connections are often more import donated goods: http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2017/02/recovering-from-disasters-social-n-matter-more-than-bottled-water-and-batteries/516726/?utm_source=nl_link5_021517



Working Together to Reduce Wildfire Risk

- [Pam Wilson](#), Executive Director
- [Rebecca Samulski](#), Assistant Director
- [Amanda Brenner](#), Montezuma County Coordinator
- [Charlie Landsman](#), La Plata Coordinator
- [Bill Trimarco](#), Archuleta County Coordinator
- [Jen Stark](#), CWPP Coordinator

FireWise of Southwest Colorado | 970-385-8909 | swcoloradofirewise@gmail.com | www.southwestcolora

STAY CONNECTED:



% San Juan Mountains Association, PO Box 2261, Durango, CO 81302

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