

● **Community Society tree planting day a go for May 3**

● **Seedlings are closely matched with the latitude & longitude and elevation conditions of Anarchist Mountain**

## Tree Planting Project Goes Ahead May 3rd

Anarchist Mountain Community residents, landowners and those with just an interest in conservation are gearing up for Saturday, May 3rd. On that Saturday morning, neighbours will be meeting at the Anarchist Mountain Fire Hall at 9 AM then heading out to take on our first conservation project - planting trees on the mountain.

In all about 15 Anarchist Mountain families, most of them already members of the Anarchist Mountain Community Society, have asked that seedling trees be put aside for them. The Society has purchased just under 4,000 ponderosa pine seedlings from PRT Nurseries of Armstrong, BC.



Seedlings can grow amongst brush or on their own

There is no cost to land owners for these seedlings—this is a project sponsored by the Anarchist Mountain Community Society and available to everyone on the mountain, whether a member of the Society or not.

We chose ponderosa pine seedlings for this year's efforts for a couple of reasons. This is the dominant pine species on the mountain, but also the seedlings the Society has purchased match very closely with the latitude / longitude and elevation conditions of Anarchist Mountain. The foresters tell us that some of the seed for these seedlings may indeed have been collected right here from Anarchist Mountain, and this improves the likelihood of survival of these little trees .

There is another reason for planting ponderosa pine. The Society has been getting more information about mountain pine beetle, which we will be reporting to you in the near future. These insects are devastating the pine forests of BC, with some 13.5 million hectares of forest now infested. There are trees in Penticton, and a few areas as far south as Oliver that have been discovered to have mountain pine beetle infestations. It is virtually inevitable that Anarchist Mountain will be visited by these nasty critters. One strategy for dealing with the likely loss of mature ponderosa pine is to start planting new stock - now. This year's project is a tiny little step on what could become a serious beetle kill reforestation strategy in the future.

## Tree Planting Day (con't)

The Society is investigating a number of pine beetle related activities; like a resident's seminar to hear from the experts on what this is all about, and ways of helping the community protect your most precious pine trees. More news on this will come soon.

The plan for the tree planting day is to meet at the Fire Hall (Grizzly Rd) at 9 am, on Sat. May 3rd. Families that have requested trees can pick them up that morning, or call Mark McKenney (495-4519) to make alternate arrangements if that is required. The seedling trees are stored in a frozen state, and will be thawed a day or two before the tree planting day. We will have the seedlings in carry bags for you - and what we hope will happen is that volunteers will pair up with families planting trees on their properties. We hope to have about 12 - 16 volunteers out that morning — PLEASE consider coming out to help even if you aren't putting any trees on your own property. We hope to be done planting around noon or so, or when you've had enough.



*Seedlings come frozen in crates like this.*

What do you need to bring?

- Your own vehicle
- A spade or long handled shovel for each person coming with you (seedlings are about 10 - 12 inches; with 6 inch root plugs)
- Some WATER - **FOR YOU to drink** - not for the trees
- Sturdy footwear , some of the ground may be damp, or rocky; its easy to twist an ankle
- Outdoor clothing (weather dependent)
- If possible, a plastic sheet or tarp, to put the seeding bag (s) in your car without making a mess in your vehicle ( some water may leak out of the bags containing the seedlings)

Some tips on planting these seedlings. The trees will be in bags with some source of moisture keeping them damp. It is important not to let them dry out - so try to get them planted before they dry out. Using a spade push a slot in the ground to a depth to get the root plug into the ground. Try to loosen the soil to allow some loose earth to be gently tamped around the root plug. Place the plug in the ground, gently tamp the ground around the plug. Say good bye to one little tree - you have done your part and now it is up to Mother Nature. If possible putting a seedling near a dead stump is a good idea, because that tree was a source of nutrient concentration before it was cut or died. Also, some protection if available, like closer to a small bush can be beneficial. If on your own property, a few waterings if it is practical couldn't hurt. But these are forest seedlings - such special treatment like watering is not normal for a forest plant to expect. It depends on whether you are around and have the ability to give these trees a drink or not (the majority will just have to fend for themselves).

This tree planting project is the first community project of the Anarchist Mountain Community Society. We are convinced that residents and land owners are passionate about conserving the area and hope that this project will have your support.

We hope to meet you on Saturday , May 3rd - along with lots of your neighbours. For more information call Mark McKenney at (250) 495-4519 or [mckenney@xplornet.com](mailto:mckenney@xplornet.com)

• Or call Mark McKenney (495-4519) to make alternate arrangements if that is required

• Building a "sense of community" is a key interest

## Conservation Lands - Discussions

Since our last newsletter, the Board of Directors has met to discuss what relationship might be considered and negotiated with the Regal Ridge (RR) company, in regards to having the Community Society involved with the conservation lands. Regal Ridge owns about 2,500 acres of lands that have been designated as "conservation" land, and an agreement or covenant has been signed between RR and the Regional District of Okanagan—Simikameen designating these lands as conservation lands. The Board has reviewed the covenant and created a negotiating committee to begin discussions with Adrian Erickson, the President of RR, on what role the AMCS might play. One round of meetings occurred in late February, which were very positive in their tone. Clearly RR sees a role for the community in preserving the conservation lands, and in making sure that these lands provide the maximum benefit for all members of the Anarchist Mountain community.

The negotiating committee, of Ron Palmer (Director & Chair of Negotiating Committee), Bonnie Douglas (Director) and Naga Terada (Member) are completing a written draft of an agreement that will be discussed with Regal Ridge in the near future. It is likely that the AMCS will take on some form of "advisory council" role to provide advice and suggestions related to conservation land management. As indicated in earlier communication with AMCS members, before the board formalizes an agreement on our role we will circulate more information about this to all members, for your comments.

We expect the discussions to be conclude in May 2008, and a draft agreement to be exchanged some time in the early summer.

## Membership Report

As of April 15th, 2008 we now have 26 families signed up as members of the Anarchist Mountain Community Society.

While this isn't a huge number of members it is a great start. Many people on the mountain are still learning about the AMCS , and what we are trying to accomplish. As you know our main mission is to build a sense of community on the mountain. We plan to focus on community and conservation issues, and are pleased with the continued encouragement that we are receiving from mountain folks.

If you aren't a member yet, please consider becoming one. The annual family fee is \$50 per year, which helps get us started in doing community projects. The Society has now paid its bills for the legal work in getting the Society up and running. We acknowledge the founding support provided by the Regal Ridge company, in their contribution of \$5,000 to get us going. Regal Ridge has indicated that they will consider funding requests from the Society for "community—based" projects on a project by project basis.

With membership fees and our founding donation, our net bank account is at about \$3,800, after buying the trees.

## Coming soon .... Our website

What's an organization in this day and age if it doesn't have its own website????

The Board of Directors has approved spending some funds (\$500) to create a very modest website for the Anarchist Mountain Community Society.

A web design firm has agreed to create a very simple, 2 or 3 page website, which can be added to as time goes on.

Work on the website has begun, with some ideas being exchanged between the web designers and Society president Mark McKenney. Mark hopes that the site will become a way of getting this newsletter to you in the future, for communicating news from the Mountain and as a place for members to get minutes o f board Meetings, Annual General Meeting information and much more.

## Join the mountain .....

If you haven't joined the Anarchist Mountain Community Society we hope that you will consider signing your family up to get to know more neighbours, and participate in your community.

Send in the application on the next page and join the mountain gang.

● One round of meetings occurred in late February, which were very positive in their tone

## Anarchist Mountain Community Society

### Membership Application - 2008

Yes, I wish to join as a member of the Anarchist Mountain Community Society. I enclose my annual family membership fee of \$50. The persons from our family that we wish to have listed as members are:

(names) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to participate in a committee \_\_\_\_ (yes/ no)

Cheques payable to Anarchist Mountain Community Society. No cash in the mail please or bring Application and payment to Founding Members meeting—Jan 16, 2008. Mail to : Anarchist Mountain Community Society, 324 Grizzly Place, Osoyoos, BC V0H 1V6 Info at 250-495-4519 or mckenney@xplornet.com

- Non-residents can join the Society by mailing in their membership form and a cheque.