

## Grounds Committee Report for Timbrshor Annual Meeting June 27, 2020

2019/2020 has been a good year for our neck of the woods. We were lucky to maintain enough moisture in the soil a good balance of temperatures to avoid a difficult smoke filled July and August in 2019. The winter was relatively mild but the spring has been cool and wet, and Timbrshor shows well with good moisture. The candles of new growth in the trees is beautiful and impressive this year and “hopefully” we will have adequate moisture throughout the summer.

We avoided much of the expenses of the past couple of years, of the healing the scars from the drain field construction. We attacked the weeds aggressively last summer and that has payoff this year. We need to be vigilant in addressing the weed problem.

Our maintenance company, Guys for the Job, \$11,571.21 is a major expense for all. Their work includes mowing, wedding, spraying, and cleanup. We try to use them as judiciously as possible but there is a lot of work to do especially in the late spring period.

Jim Payson, our main worker, returned to the Lake much later than usual to get a lot of the usual spring work accomplished. It took Jim and Jill, a week to burn all that had been gather by members and Guys for the Job. Thank you Jill and Jim. Open burning ends on July 1 so hauling to the garbage center south of Polson is the next step for those that need to get deposit branches and brush.

We got needed and appreciated help again in July 2019 from Dan Novinski son's fraternity. They did cleanup, tree trimming and put a new roof on the washhouse. We are grateful for their day of labor. Because of the current situation, we will not have them this year.

Tree work was halted by Covid-19, in addition Greg Dennison, our logger, broke two ribs. We will resume tree work after Memorial Day.

We worked with the dock committee to secure the permits and oversee the walkway, boat ramp, and sundeck work. Please, no one should be climbing on the railings of the walkway to jump into the lake. Everyone is responsible!

It is great having more people wanting to be involved the maintenance and upkeep of our community. As is evident we need to address the overcrowding in the boatyard and plan for how we want the community to grow in the coming years.

Lastly, we again used Bob Miller, to put out Beetle Blockers to protect the pine and fir trees. I have copied below Bob's professional comments on our community. It is an interesting little read.

Blake

From Bob Miller:

- removed old pouches.
- Overall, the trees on the property look quite good. Heavy snowfall in the winters of 2017/2018/2019, together with an abundance of rain (particularly in 2020) appears to have accelerated growth and tree health. The exception would be dwarf mistletoe in Douglas-fir and poor tree vigor on a very harsh growing site.
- Continue pruning dwarf mistletoe infected limbs and removing Douglas-fir that are heavily infected with mistletoe.
- Consider adopting an annual reforestation program with the planting P. Pine and W. Larch seedlings in openings.
- I have seen no evidence of mountain pine beetle and/or Douglas-fir beetle. However, endemic populations of these two beetles are always present and can build up quickly under the right conditions. **Be vigilant and cut and burn or remove any tree with a crown that is off-color and fading.**
- As we have previously discussed, some of the ponderosa pines have red flags (needles) on the ends of branches. This condition is not mountain pine beetle. Rather, it is a combination of two diseases, "*Elytroderma needle cast*" and "*Diplodia needle blight*". There is really no effective control measure for these diseases. However, removing and replacing heavily infected trees, spacing healthy trees and pruning as many infected limbs as possible slows the rate of spread. Generally, these diseases will not kill trees, but for sure, they are not very attractive.
- Good job on treating noxious weeds. However, there are a few areas where noxious weeds still exist.
- There still appears to be no impact on tree health as a result of installing the new septic system in 2016/2017. However, sometimes impacts are not visible for a number of years. As a result of installing the new septic system, there may be some impact on tree health resulting from damaged root systems. Also, soil that is built up around the base of trees may have the effect of suffocation.
- For information on Tussock Moth and the Metallic Wood Borer see my **NOTES** on 4/15/20 Invoice RE Douglas-fir Blockers.

Call or e-mail if you have questions or concerns about Beetle Blockers or any other tree health issues.