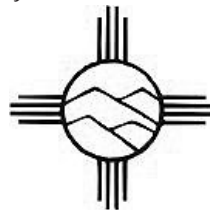


Tierra Grande Tales 'n' Trails

June 2008



**Tierra
Grande
Improvement
Association**

P.O. Box 1388 • Belen New Mexico 87002 • 505 864-2345

Vote On The Back Page Of This Newsletter

This newsletter includes your ballot for electing a member of the Board of Directors of the Tierra Grande Improvement Association. The ballot is on page 7 and the back page of this newsletter.

To vote please mark your choice on the page, sign in the appropriate spots and cut the half page off the top. Fold the half page and put tape around it so it is sealed. Then place it in the mail. Postage is paid.

If you are going to attend the annual meeting in person, you may carry the ballot and cast it at the start of the meeting. If there is a chance you will not attend, please sign the ballot and proxy and return it.

The proxy can be found with the ballot. Be sure to sign this so your vote can be counted.

Do not mail payments with your ballot.

New Links on TGIA Website

Please take the time to review the TGIA website at www.tierragrande.org.

The site has been updated to include links to the Night Sky Protection Act, Multiple Listing Service, where to report possible Land Fraud issues, up dated information on "Building in Tierra Grande" and much more.

Koch Runs For Re-Election to Board

Valencia County Realtor George Koch is running for re-election to the TGIA board

Since 1972, when he arrived in Belen, Mr. Koch has owned Koch and Associates in Rio Communities where he resides.

He has been in the real estate business for over 40 years and has worked in appraising for more than 30.

Mr. Koch has been an active board member and has served several times as board president.

During one term as TGIA board president he led the fight against a sludge site in Tierra Grande and the fight against a proposed chicken processing plant in the area.

Look for the ballot on the back page.

New TGIA Office Hours

Effective July 1, 2008 the TGIA Administrative Office will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mountain time.

Welcome New TG Residents

Earnest & Ellen Nagy - Unit 23

Steven Nelson - Unit 13

Mario & Marlene Tartaglia - Unit 22

Jonathan Trujeque - Unit 13

Mark The Date – TGIA Annual Meeting July 19



Inside This Issue:

- Keeping Your Lot Clean
- Firescape — Fire Safe Landscape Design
- Tierra Grande Map • Neighborhood Watch

**11 AM - 1 PM
Tierra del Sol
Golf Club**

**1000 Golf Course Road
Belen**

*Tierra del Sol Phone 864-1000
See Map Page 2 For Directions*

Spiny Cocklebur: Toxic to Livestock

Spiny cocklebur, part of the aster family, is native to Chile, but is now widespread in North and South America as well as a variety of other places. It is found in New Mexico.

The seeds and young cotyledon plants of the spiny cocklebur are toxic to livestock.

The flowers of the plant are small, inconspicuous and creamy green. The plant will grow up to three feet tall with one inch spines found in leaf axils and at stem nodes.

Leaves are bright to dark green, hairy on the upper surface and mostly three-leaved with the center lobe much longer than the other two. The center lobe might grow up to three inches long with a prominent white mid-vein.

The spiny cocklebur is an annual which reproduces by seed. The hooked spines of the fruit enables it to adhere to animals and be transported long distances.

It grows in a wide variety of soil types and is most frequently found in disturbed areas and barnyards, but has also invaded pastures and fields.

To control the spiny cocklebur, the plant should be identified early and monitored so the plant does not produce seed. Planting competitive grass or other crop cover can help control the plant also.

For more information, contact the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District at 505 847 -2243 or 505 847-2941. You can learn more about the Claunch-Pinto SWCD on the website — claunchpinto.org.

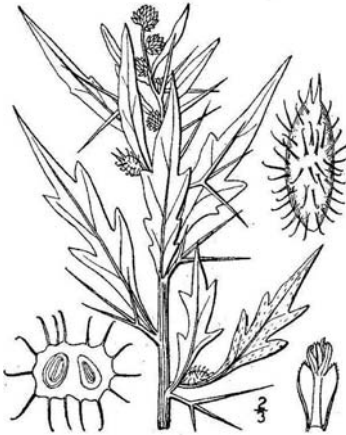
It's in the Covenants - Keeping Your Lot Clean - Consideration Pays. . . Off!

A friendly reminder to everyone, in accordance with the Covenants:

5. No structure of a temporary character, trailer, tent, shack or other similar structure shall be permitted on any lot at any time, either temporarily or permanently.

If you have any temporary structures on your lot such as metal storage buildings and/or box cars, without the permission of the Architectural Control Committee, it would be appreciated if you would remove such before the Committee has to contact you directly.

8. . . . No offensive activity, condition, odor or



Spiny Cocklebur
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 3: 344.

A Very Simple Map to Tierra del Sol Golf Club



**Tierra del Sol
Golf Club**
**Phone #
864-1000**

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Membership of Tierra Grande Improvement Association Inc.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Bylaws of Tierra Grande Improvement Association, that the annual meeting of the membership will be held at the
Tierra del Sol Golf Club

1000 Golf Course Road, Belen, New Mexico 87002

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 19, 2008

Dear TGIA Members:

The following business will be transacted:

1. Close Balloting
2. Board President will address members
3. Treasurer's report
4. Election Results
5. Transaction of other business as may properly come before this meeting.

Please execute the Proxy and mail it to the Secretary of the Association as per the instructions on page 7.

And remember Hors d'oeuvres will be served!

Sue Moran, Administrator

pollution be created or permitted to exist on any lot which may be or may become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood; the lot shall be kept clear of all trash and waste. In the event trash and/or waste is allowed to accumulate the Architectural Control Committee (after giving fifteen (15) days notice to the owner or occupier) may enter upon the lot and have the lot cleared of such trash or waste. The expense of same shall be the expense of the owner and same shall be due and payable as the Committee directs. The expense becomes a lien on the lot and the Committee shall have the right to enforce the lien. . .

Socorro Electric Making Improvements in Tierra Grande

Socorro Electric Cooperative will be building a jump station in the commercial section of Tierra Grande which will be the start to extending three-phase power lines east through Units 4, 5, & 6 and then north up Military Highway through Unit 22.

The jump station is expected to be on the west side of Highway 47 near the BNSF Railroad tracks.

Socorro Electric will begin laying out power poles this summer along the sides of the roadways where the poles will be erected.

Longtime Resident Dies in Florida

Funeral services were held in February for a former Tierra Grande resident who had been a noted artist and one of the original settlers in the Tierra Grande area.

Faith (Elliott-Smith) Cassidy, age 89, passed away in Sunrise, Florida.

She had been a member of Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church as well as the New Mexico Art League, Belen Art League and the National League of American Pen Women.

Faith had been a noted Valencia County artist and had studied at the City College of New York and Columbia University.

TGIA Board Member Judi Magnussen said, "Faith will be remembered fondly by many of us for her beautiful talent, kind manner and generous heart. I remember her coming by each time Don and I finished building our homes here and making sure I picked out any of her works to display with each house.

"She was a delight to know and I'm sure each of us has especially tender memories of our experience with her that will remain for the rest of our lives."

While working as a draftsman at Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Faith met Frank Cassidy, to whom she was married for 57 years, until his death in Belen in 2004.

The couple moved to Tierra Grande after Frank's retirement in 1975. They were among the original residents of the then-new development. For the next 30 years the couple acquired numerous friends throughout the area.

Faith's art was influenced by the light and unique subject matter of the Southwest. She always encouraged other artists, particularly the young artists just starting out.

In 2001, she donated the majority of her works to the Belen Art league to be sold for the League with the funds to be used to promote other artists.

Power line extensions will take approximately one year to complete.

A detailed map of the planned extensions is available for review in the Tierra Grande Office at 480 Rio Communities Boulevard.

Please drive carefully everywhere, but especially where this work is being conducted.

Firescape — Fire Safe Landscape Design

The Trigo Fire in the Manzano Mountains burned more than 13,000 acres, destroyed at least 59 homes and did major damage to the environment in April.

The blaze started in Trigo Canyon which is in the wilderness area not too far from Tierra Grande. The fire could have moved closer to Tierra Grande, but instead moved east and then north.

Had it moved otherwise, Tierra Grande residents might have been experiencing what people on the other side of the Manzano Mountains experienced. So here is some straight talk about firescaping and fire safe landscape design.

Firescaping is landscape design that reduces house and property vulnerability to wildfire. The goal is to develop a landscape whose design and choice of plants offers the best fire protection and enhances the property.

The ideal is to surround the house with things less likely to burn. It is imperative when building homes in wildfire-prone areas that fire safety be a major factor in landscape design.

Firescape integrates traditional landscape functions and needs into a design that reduces the threat from wildfire. Firescape doesn't have to look much different than traditional designs.

In addition to meeting a homeowner's aesthetic desires and functional needs, firescape includes vegetation modification techniques, planting for fire safety, defensible space principles and use of fire safety zones.

Three things determine wildfire intensity: topography, weather and vegetation, the last one being the only one that can be impacted by property owners.

Through proper plant selection, placement and maintenance, the possibility of ignition can be diminished and fire intensity lowered. This increases a home's survivability.

Plant selection when considering firescaping is primarily determined by a plant's ability to reduce the wildfire threat.

The traditional foundation planting of junipers is not a viable solution firescape design. Minimize use of evergreen shrubs and trees within 30 feet of a struc-

Continued on page 5

Valencia Sheriff Encourages Community Participation

Valencia County Sheriff Rivera was adamant about residents becoming involved in the business of running Valencia County by attending commission meetings and contacting Tierra Grande Commissioner, Ron Gentry (866-2001) when Rivera spoke at the April 12 Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Some 40 people attended the meeting, organized by Roger Martin, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, and Mary Cate, northwest area Block Captain, and held at the Tierra Grande Fire Station.

As Valencia County grows, more police are needed to respond to the needs of the increased population, pointed out Rivera. A deputy also attended.

A New Mexico State Police officer noted that the area he is responsible runs approximately from the intersection of Highway 47 and Highway 304 south to Highway 60. The State Police also provide back-up to the local sheriff's department when needed.

The law officers pointed out how important it is that residents have their house number prominently displayed near the road. It is difficult to impossible to locate a property in Tierra Grande, without the house numbers being easily identifiable.

Sue Moran, Tierra Grande administrator, asked if a map of Tierra Grande home locations would be helpful to the police/sheriff. Sheriff Rivera stated it would. Sue will forward a map.

The Sheriff and the State Police provided the following contact information:

Non-emergency number to report suspicious activity in Valencia County - 841-9256

Using the Multiple Listing Service

The TGIA office receives many calls regarding land for sale in Tierra Grande and the current value of land.

Here's how to locate land and/or homes for sale in Tierra Grande through the Multiple Listing Service

Go on line to: www.swmls.com

It will bring you to the Albuquerque Board of Realtors Select "Find Properties"

Property Types – check "land" and/or for homes check "residential"

Areas – check the last one "Rio Communities, Tierra Grande" – press OK

Lot Size – fill in 5 acres to 50 acres

Press Submit – at the top of the screen

The MLS listings for properties for sale in Tierra Grande will come up by price.

This page will provide you with information about the property as well as the name and phone number of the realtor.

Be careful to make sure you are viewing Tierra Grande listings. Sometimes properties are not identified correctly by community.

State Police - District 5 (505) 866-2460 for dispatch Number to report suspicious activity in Socorro County - (575) 835-0741

Cell Phone users should call 841-9256 in lieu of 911 as their 911 number transfers them to Albuquerque.

General discussion took place regarding the success of the Neighborhood Watch Committee. Roger Martin provided the following updated list of Block Captains and Alternates:

NW Area Mary Cate 861-1256 Alternate John Cassel 864-8254

N Central Area Jim Shaw 480-4101 Alternate Gary Spinler 861-7125

NE Area Roger Martin 861-3306 Alternate Allen Hancock 864-4250

Central Area Lori Nolan 861-2050 Alternate Robert Ritt 864-9421

East Central Richard Rast 864-8664 Alternate Kelly Sinclair 864-6930

South East John Best 288-0586 Alternate Vacant

Discussion took place regarding Qwest and Socorro Electric. Both topics are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Mary Cate asked if there was any interest in creating a Home Owners Association (HOA) for Tierra Grande residents. The response was no, not at this time.

Some residents expressed concern regarding the status of the continuation of the Indentures which are due to expire in 2013. Sue Moran reported the Board of Directors is working on the matter. More information should be available at the Annual Meeting of the membership.

TGIA Board

President — Michael Sumner

Valencia County banker

Term expires 2012

Executive V.P. & Treasurer

Carol Gasperetti

Tierra Grande resident

Term expires 2011

Secretary — Tim Lardner

Rio Communities Resident/Business Owner

Term expires 2010

Judi Magnussen

Tierra Grande resident

Term expires 2009

George Koch

Valencia County Realtor™/Appraiser

Term Expires 2008

TGIA Staff

Administrator — Sue Moran

Assistant Administrator — Janie Earthman

Newsletter Editor — Sandy Schauer

The listing may also provide you with information about the property, pictures, the approximate location and various other details.

SEAL THIS SIDE Do Not Use Staples

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED IN
THE UNITED
STATES

Do Not Use Staples

SEAL THIS SIDE

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 401, TOME, NM
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY THE ADDRESSEE

TIERRA GRANDE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 401
TOME, NM 87060-9900

SEAL THIS SIDE Do Not Use Staples

TGIA Annual Meeting Ballot Above

Fill out the ballot on the other side and cut on the dotted line

Fold the ballot in half (address side out), seal (no staples) and mail it

Tidbits of Information about TGIA

It is the Mission of the Tierra Grande Association and its Board of Directors to:

- Protect the Integrity and Secure the Future of Tierra Grande by:
 - Monitoring compliance with and enforcing the protective covenants
 - Adopting and publishing rules and regulations governing the use of Tierra Grande property
 - Establishing assessments and collecting annual charges and all other charges referred to in the indentures
 - Preserving the wilderness areas

The Board of Directors constantly strives to build an environment of trust, and open communication with the landowners of Tierra Grande.

The Administrative Office averages:

- 600 visitors a year
- Over 2,000 calls and e-mails each year
- Staff mail or distribute thousands of statements, newsletters and hundreds of information packets annually

Two More Houses Under Construction

Valencia County building permits were issued for a new home at 88 Tocado Loop in February and for a new home at 15 Mora Loop in March.

Visit www.tierragrande.org

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP TO BE HELD
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008, AT 11:00 a.m.
TIERRA DEL SOL GOLF CLUB BELEN, NEW MEXICO 87002
PROXY**

The undersigned hereby appoint (s) George Hobbes, Judi Magnussen and Janie Earthman, each of them, as proxy agents with full power of substitution and with discretionary authority, to vote the number of votes to which I (we) am (are) entitled to vote at the annual membership meeting of TGIA to be held at the time and place set forth above, and at any adjournment thereof, as fully and with the same effect as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, and to vote upon the election of directors, the propositions listed on the Ballot, and any other matter which may properly come before the meeting, subject to any direction indicated on the Ballot.

THIS PROXY REVOKES ALL PROXIES PREVIOUSLY GRANTED BY ME FOR ANY PURPOSE. I UNDERSTAND THAT UNLESS I GIVE OTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PROXY, THE PROXY AGENTS INTEND TO VOTE THE LOTS OR LIVING UNITS REPRESENTED BY THIS PROXY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTORS FOR THE MATTERS LISTED ON THE BALLOT.

Signature (s) of Member (s)

Date: _____, 2008

BALLOT

Please sign and return ballot so that it is received by July 18, 2008. To return ballot, cut on the dotted line to the left. Fold ballot in half so this side is inside and seal with tape. Do not use staples.

You may also cast your ballot just before the start of the July 19, 2008 meeting.

There is one vacancy to be filled for a five-year term on TGIA's Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee has selected George Koch to run for this position.

FOR: GEORGE KOCH

FOR: _____
(Print name of write-in candidate, if desired)

If the proxy is executed but no direction is given as to how this ballot shall be voted, the proxy confers discretionary authority to the named proxy agents to vote as to all matters which come before said meeting of the membership including those listed on this Ballot. Ballots must be received by July 18, 2008.

SIGNATURE (S) OF MEMBER (S): _____

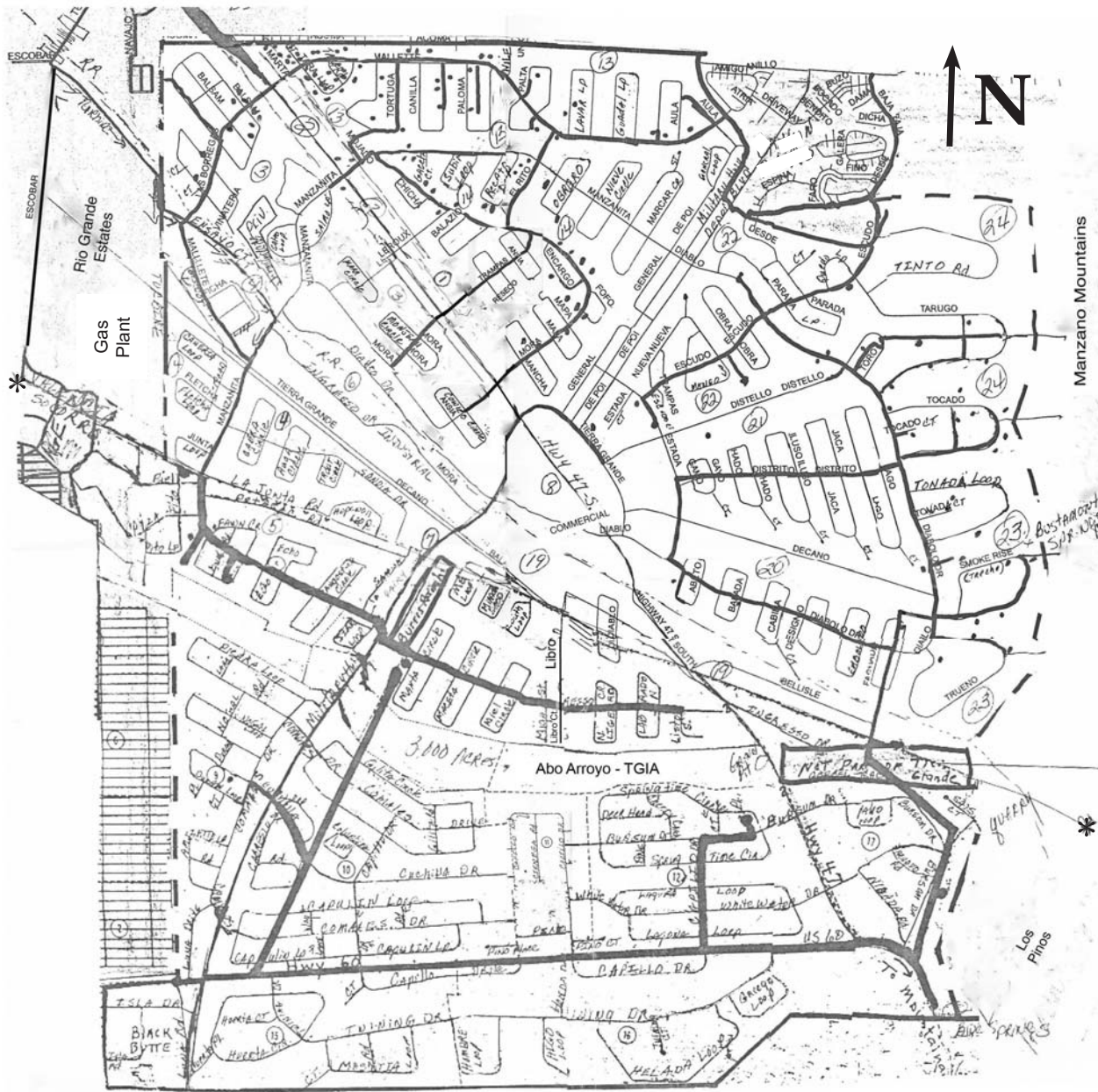
DATE: _____

DATE: _____

**Tierra Grande
Improvement Association
PO Box 1388
Belen, New Mexico 87002**

**Annual Meeting
July 19, 2008
Your Ballot on This
Page of Newsletter**

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Tomé, New Mexico 87060
Permit No. 05



Map of Tierra Grande

Note: This map is not to scale and a rough approximation created to let interested people know what is and what is intended in Tierra Grande.

- Heavy Black Lines — Power Lines
- Ⓝ Circled Numbers — Units within Tierra Grande
- Dots — Homes
- - - - Dotted Lines from northwest to southeast show the approximate route of the railroad
- * — * Line between asterisks — Valencia County/Socorro County line

What's Going on in Tierra Grande

Document Conversations About Postal Cluster Box

Sue Moran, TGIA Administrator, has followed up with Belen Postmaster Harold Pittman several times regarding the request for a postal cluster box for residents of the east mountains in Tierra Grande.

Mr. Pittman does not provide any information.

Other residents have followed up with this issue as well.

Mr. Pittman has a copy of the roads in Tierra Grande as well as a map of the locations of homes in the area. To date no progress has been made.

All residents interested in mail delivery to the east mountain area of Tierra Grande should take the time to talk to Mr. Pittman and document those conversations.

Sue Moran would appreciate knowing when someone has spoken with Mr. Pittman and his reply. She will consolidate and track this information and follow-up with letters to the U.S. Postal Customer Service Center and the U.S. Postmaster General. Perhaps by working together postal delivery to the east mountains can begin.

Qwest Telephone and DSL Service

While we can continue to inquire and request Qwest extend telephone service within Tierra Grande and ask that DSL service be available to our residents as well, it does not look like it is going to happen any time soon or at all.

Tierra Grande is just too sparsely populated to make it cost effective for Qwest even with the availability of rural extension funds as technology is changing too rapidly.

Qwest is aware that many residents are choosing to use cellular service for all of their telephone and internet needs and that other residents have chosen satellite providers for internet service. So, even if they extended service in Tierra Grande, not everyone would choose to sign up, which makes it even less attractive for Qwest to provide service.

Efforts will continue and alternate internet providers explored, said TGIA Administrator Sue Moran.

Firescape ... Continued from page 3

ture, because junipers, other conifers and broad leaf evergreens contain oils, resins and waxes that make these plants burn with great intensity.

Fuel breaks are a vital component in every firescape design. Water features, pools, ponds or streams can also be fuel breaks.

The area closest to a structure out to 30 feet will be the highest water use area in the fire safe landscape. This is an area where highly flammable fuels are kept to a minimum and plants are kept green throughout the fire season. Use well irrigated perennials here.

When designing a landscape for fire safety, remember less is better. Simplify visual lines and groupings. A firesafe landscape lets plants and garden elements reveal their innate beauty by leaving space between plants and groups of plants. In firescaping, the open spaces are more important than the plants.