

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Cabin Newsletter



Volume 13, Number 54

June, 2015

Coming Soon

June 27 MLIA Community Picnic

RSVP NOW!

See Flyer on Page 4

August 1 Board Meeting
9:00 – 11:00 am
Cabin 569

August 15 Wine-A-Bit

Sept 19 MLIA Annual Meeting



NFH Conference News

Frank Kalinoski, MLIA President

I attended the National Forest Homeowners (NFH) Conference in Vancouver, Washington in early May. I met a group of people, cabin owners and United States Forest Service (USFS) personnel, dedicated to the Recreational Residence program. Over 100 cabin owners and numerous USFS personnel from the Washington DC office and Region 6 (Pacific Northwest) came to this important meeting. The conference celebrated 100 years since the passage of the legislation known as "Term Occupancy Act of 1915" allowing the Forest Service to grant 30 year permits for summer homes. The Forest Service wanted to show that it could provide a meaningful recreational opportunity for the public as joint stewards of the forest.

Jay Tripathi, the NFH President chaired the **Tract Leaders' Forum** on the first day. This man is passionate about our cabins! One of the main topics was

Continued on page 2

Congratulations to MLIA and Eugenie Newton

National Forest Homeowners

2015 Outstanding Communications Award Winner

NFH Conference, *continued*

communications with the Forest Service. The Forest Service Washington Office recognizes the effect of low staffing levels on the national forests and is sending guidelines to the forest districts regarding their responsibilities, authority and limits. Working with the Forest Service and assuring them that the cabins can help manage themselves will relieve the Forest Service of minor, day-to-day administrative duties. Communications with the Forest Service must be respectful, and if there is no response, cabin owners are encouraged to go a step higher. The cabin tracts need consistent policies from the Washington Office to the Districts, and rules need to be enforced consistently at the District Forest level.

The **General Session** opened with encouraging remarks from Jim Pena, Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region. Greg Smith, Director of Lands and Realty Management, USFS (WO), reported that the Forest Service is concentrating on forest restoration and that water availability and quality is a priority for them. This reflects the current issue with our water system permit as the FS clarifies what their requirements going forward are going to be.

The **passage and implementation of the Cabin Fee Act** was the key topic of discussion throughout the conference. Presentations about the Cabin Fee Act began with remarks from Pete Bailey and Doug Gann, who have been instrumental in the passage of the CFA throughout the entire 7-year struggle. Basically the CFA specifies 11 fee tiers from \$650 to \$5,650, increasing in \$500 increments. All the cabin appraisals are complete nationwide. Now the Forest Service must rank all the appraisal values nationally and assign each permit to a tier. This is supposed to be completed this year. The rules for application of the Transfer Fee also need to be clarified.

Elrand Denson, National Lands Special Uses Program Manager, USFS (WO) explained how

the Forest Service at the national level was involved in the CFA development process and its implementation.

I attended two helpful workshop sessions. The first dealt with **cabin water system**. I was encouraged to learn that the MLIA is doing all that needs to be done to maintain a safe and reliable water system. Julie Creed, USFS Region 6 Environmental Engineer, pointed out that the USFS has to meet NEPA regulations and adhere to the Safe Drinking Water Act 1996.

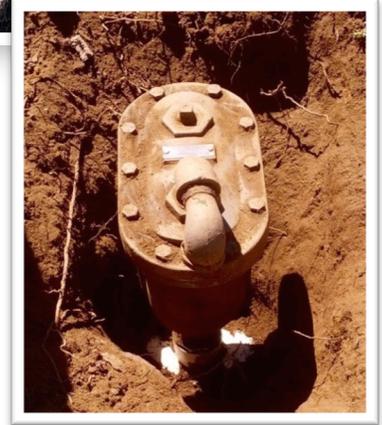
The second very interesting workshop was about **"What's Eating the Forest?"** Susan Hummell, Research Forester Region 6, and Karen Ripley, Forest Health Program Manager, explained how the Pine Bark Beetle attacks the pine trees in the forest and how the FS gathers forest damage data. Craig Goodell, Fire Ecologist Region 6, gave a talk on the ecology of fire in the western forest and the history of fire suppression by the Forest Service since 1910 including the need for management of accumulated fuels in the forest.

Finally at the **NFH Awards Banquet** leaders from the NFH, the cabin tracts and the USFS were recognized. I had the opportunity to eat and talk with Greg Smith and Elrand Denson. These two individuals are intelligent, knowledgeable and hardworking USFS employees who are aware of the importance of working together with the NFH to keep the cabin program part of the Forest Service.

Our own Eugenie Newton, website and newsletter editor, won the **Outstanding Communications Award**. The National Service Award went to Aubrey King, the NFH Washington D.C. representative who guided the CFA through three Congresses to its final passage. He remarked that the NFH is now known and needs to use the CFA passage momentum to further the recreational residence cause. The Recreation Advocate of the Year award went to two USFS personnel from Region 6 forests. They exemplify outstanding relations with their cabin tracts over many years.

MLIA President's Updates

Frank Kalinoski



Working on the Water System

*Top: Water sample station
Bottom: Lost air relief valve*

Fire Inspections Start Soon

I received a notice in the mail from the Forest Service about the upcoming fire inspections starting mid-June. The Fire Hazard Inspection form sample included in the mailing is very helpful and should be our guide in maintaining defensible space around our cabins.

Mount Laguna Community Church Closing

It appears that the Presbyters have decided to tell the Forest Service that they no longer want to keep their community church/retreat center on Mount Laguna. The closing of the Mount Laguna community church and conference center is a great loss for our Laguna Mountain community.

Come to the MLIA Community Picnic

The **Annual Summer Picnic** that we host for the Mount Laguna Community will be at Horse Heaven on **Saturday June 27th**. This event has taken place almost every year since the formation of the MLIA. Invite your neighbors and friends to join a fun event. I hope you all can attend!



Martha Kantor and Frank Kalinoski

Chili Fest "Best Chili" Recipe

by Martha Kantor

- 1 lb dried northern beans
- 2 med onions, chopped
- 1 TBL olive oil
- 3 (4.5 oz) cans chopped green chili, undrained
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp cumin
- 2 tsp oregano

- 6 c chicken broth
- 5 c chopped cooked chicken breast
- 3 c shredded Monterey jack with jalapeno cheese
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ¼ c chopped fresh cilantro

- Cover beans with water and soak overnight. Drain, set aside.
- Saute onion in hot oil in dutch oven over med-hi heat 'til tender.
- Add green chilis, garlic, cumin and oregano.
- Cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly.
- Add beans and chicken broth.
- Bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer 2 hours or until beans are tender.
- Add chicken, 1 c cheese, salt and pepper.
- Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer uncovered 10 minutes, stirring often. Stir in cilantro. To serve, top each serving with remaining cheese as desired.

SUMMER 2015

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Community Picnic

All MLIA Cabin Owners,
Private Residents, LMVA,
Fire Safe Council and
Shrine Camp Members Are
Invited.

Saturday June 27, 2015
Horse Heaven Campground

12:00 pm – Potluck
2:00 pm – Prize Drawings

50/50 Raffle
\$100 Grand Prize

Winners must be present to win.

Bring a potluck dish to share and your meat
to grill.

MLIA will provide
grills for your use,
soda, beer, plates,
utensils and cups.

Please bring
your own chairs.



Only Service Animals are allowed at functions
serving food. No pets please.

RSVP to Karen Motta at
(760) 440-9554 or
RKMotta@cox.net

Spectacular Penstemon

Joanne Odenthal



Red flowered
Scarlet Bugler
Penstemon centrathifolius



Showy Penstemon
Penstemon spectabilis

Spring and summer flower season on Mt. Laguna always includes some spectacular examples of the penstemon family. The American West has approximately 200 varieties of penstemon. I've only managed to find two on our mountain. If anyone has spotted others, please let me know. Penstemons have leaves that are lanceolate and opposite. The base of the leaf may hug the stalk in some varieties. Foliage varies from green to gray.

Our most prevalent penstemon is the red flowered Scarlet Bugler (*Penstemon centrathifolius*). Since it is extremely drought tolerant, it is perfectly suited to our dry mountain habitat. The leaves are narrow, gray and waxy. Flowers are red and tubular, in tall racemes. This penstemon is pollinated primarily by hummingbirds, so watch for them nearby when the flowers are in bloom. Find it along Los Huecos Road or any of the trails throughout the mountain, blooming in May through July depending on the weather.

The other penstemon I've found is the Showy Penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*). I've only seen it in one place—along Pine Creek Road about ½ mile from Sunrise Highway. It was about 3 feet tall, with tall stalks of gorgeous purple flowers. Again, this is a drought tolerant plant, growing in chaparral and dry mountain woodland areas. It's worth a trip to find it—it really is stunning. The one shown here was blooming in mid May.

The Cleveland Penstemon, (*Penstemon clevelandii*) is another penstemon listed for our area. This penstemon has pink to purple flowers with grayish green foliage. It is said to grow in the coastal mountains of Southern California, so we should have some examples although I haven't found them yet.

The Indians of the southwest, including the Chumash, and probably the Kumeyaay, used the local penstemons externally for their wound healing properties. They would make a poultice of the leaves and flowers to apply to sores, wounds, insect bites, and other skin problems. The plant has certain glycosides and alkaloids that have wound-healing properties and is also anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and antiviral. Celia Garcia, a Chumash medicine woman, reported that penstemon was used for grief issues, although she didn't indicate how it was used. Penstemons are so beautiful, simply contemplating the plant could probably help. Have fun stalking penstemons in this flower season!

References - Garcia & Adams, *Healing with Medicinal Plants*. Kane, C. *Medicinal Plants of the American Southwest*. *California Penstemons that grow in dry areas* (edited Jul 11, 2013). www.laspilitas.com.

~ Fuel Reduction Updates ~

Mt Laguna Fire Safe Council News by Pat Spinetta

Its that time of year again when our annual fuel reduction efforts get underway. By now you have received a letter from Talbot Hayes, USFS District Fire Management Officer, announcing that the yearly inspection will begin June 15, 2015. He included a diagram of the two zones involved in creating 100 feet of defensible space as well as a copy of the Fire Hazard Inspection form that will be used. If you have not received this information, contact the USFS at 619-445-1725.

As a community, cabin and private property owners on Mt. Laguna understand the need for fuel reduction to reduce the threat of fire and the results have been great. Our efforts have been aided by the USFS and grants from SDG&E. The Forest Service provides the space and SDG&E has funded through grants the cost of the dumpsters. SDG&E has also partially funded the Mt. Laguna FSC truck used to haul leaves and pine needles to the

dumpsters as well as the carsonite address signs at homes and cabins.

To reserve either the truck or FSC equipment, call Chris Kenney (619-729-0466) or John Wallar (949-422-9561). Tom McWay at the Laguna Mountain Lodge has the keys and the truck is kept at Cabin 718. Please leave a \$10 donation to cover fuel and maintenance of the truck when you sign for the truck. Thanks Chris, John and Tom.

The **dumpster** is located on USFS land on the east side of Sunrise Highway a few yards south of Thing Valley Road. The dumpster is for the exclusive use of community members to deposit leaves, pine needles and pine cones. The new functioning combination lock code is 1926. Set the code, push down on the top and it will open. Remember to observe the signs. Lock the gate as you leave and scramble the code.

Hopefully, you will be able to enlist your family, friends and grandchildren in your clean up

efforts. However, if you need additional help contact John Heuberger at the East County Transitional Living Center 619-415-1681. Over the past 5 years the ECTLIC has helped many of us on the mountain.

Because of a delay in the planned construction at Camp Ole, we cannot take our brush and branches there at this time. When you do your fuel reduction, place brush and branches in a pile away from your home or cabin. Just as soon as the site becomes available, I will let you know.

Even though we have had much needed rain this month, the fire danger is still very high. Pine trees are stressed from the drought and if ignited could easily spread. Please be vigilant. Campfires, fire pits are not allowed in the cabin areas Gas and briquette barbeques are allowed. Remember to place briquettes in a galvanized container after use. Please do not bury coals since they will ignite. **Call 911 IMMEDIATELY if you see a fire anywhere on the mountain.**

Dumpster Etiquette

Put ONLY leaves and needles in the dumpster.

Please Do Not -

- Leave black bags of leaves next to the dumpster.
- Put the black bags in the dumpster!

Fire Safe Council Meetings

- June - No Meeting
- July 18
- August 15

All meetings from 10:00 am -12:00 pm at the Red Tailed Roost.

LAGUNA
SPRING
BEAUTIES

Photographs by
Scott Knodle
Cabin 1101



Indian Paint Brush
Castilleja affinis



**Blue Dicks,
Wild Hyacinth**
*Dichelostemma
pulchellum*



Lupine
Lupinus spp.



Manzanita berries
Arctostaphylos



**Have a name
for this beauty?**
Let the Editor know!

SUMMER 2015

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1935 the Mount Laguna Improvement Association acts as a liaison between cabin owners and the Forest Service addressing roads, water, and wood removal.

www.mtlaguna.org



Water Maintenance

Please report any MLIA water system problems to Dan Fritz at 619-405-1452.

Let us know if you've moved!

Please send your new email, address and/or phone number to Karen Motta at RKMotta@cox.net or call (760) 440-9554.

Wine a little.

Whine a lot!

Join your neighbors and friends on August 15.

Hosted by the Cochrans and Wilkinsons at Cabin 554.

~ Remembering Betty King ~

August 22, 1947 - April 25, 2015

Hiker – Writer – Teacher - Bright Spirit

Eugenie Newton, Editor
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