

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

CABIN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12

NUMBER 51

MLIA President's Update

Frank Kalinoski

All summer we have been working with Devin Breise, owner of one of the seven remaining Shrine Tract cabins, and the Forest Service to get water to the remaining Shrine cabins. (Of the seventeen private cabins in the Shrine Camp (#11 through #17 were left standing). It is not fun at a cabin without water!

After the Chariot fire, the Shrine Camp water system was declared unsuitable and the Forest Service suspended the permits of the remaining Shrine Tract cabins. The Forest Service preferred the Shrine Tract cabins be incorporated under the MLIA water system permit. Lots of issues needed to be resolved in figuring out how to get water from the MLIA water system to the Shrine Tract cabins. How would the old Shrine Camp water system be isolated from the remaining cabins? Where



would a "temporary" water tank be located? How would water be transferred from that tank to the Shrine Tract cabins? How would water be moved to the Shrine Tract water tank from the

MLIA system? How it would be paid for and who was responsible for getting the work done all needed to be figured out.

With the cooperation of the MLIA executive committee, Dan Fritz, Devin Breise, the Shrine Tract cabin owners, and the Shrine Camp honchos, we did it! The Shrine Tract cabins now have good, clean water trucked from the MLIA pump house to the water tank inside the garage at Devin's cabin.

Trina Wiener

The Forest Service amended our water permit to include the Shrine Tract water tank and cabins #11 thru #17. We have added seven cabins to the MLIA family. Quite a milestone!

Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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WANTED!
More Board Members.

Contact Frank K. or Joanne O. at
mliacabins.org to find out more
or to put your name on the ballot.

Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 11, 2014
4:00 – 8:00 pm

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Road Access Committee Report

Carl Sessions, Cabin 716

As many of you may know, our good friend and cabin owner, Jane Morley, has been the coordinator of the MLIA' Adopt-A-Highway program. We maintain a two and one-half mile section of Sunrise Highway that runs from the Visitor Center to Shrine Camp. Jane is unable to continue the semi-annual program and has turned it over to this committee. "Thank you, Jane" for the years you volunteered as the MLIA coordinator for



this very important program on the mountain.

The most recent road clean up was conducted on Saturday morning, August 16, at 8:00 am prior to both the Fire Safe Council Meeting and the Wine-a-Bit party later that afternoon. The excitement of the day was evidenced by the huge turnout of volunteers that allowed for the 2.5 miles of roadside to be scoured for trash in just one hour! A big shout out to the participants: Dennis Wilkinson, Bill Holland,

Bob Strangman, Joe Cochran, Eugenie Newton, Joanne Odenthal, Bob Olsen, Kerry Anderson, Hal Ringhand, John Wallar, and Carl Sessions. Thank you all for sharing some of your time to keep our mountain beautiful.

Two loads each of decomposed granite (DG) and Class II road base were delivered to the mountain since our last report. Three of the loads were for private cabin owners and one was for the MLIA. Those will be the final deliveries for the year. A work party will be heading out in the near future, prior to

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MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

Notice is hereby given of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Mount Laguna Improvement Association to be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the Red-Tailed Roost on Sunrise Highway across from the Fire Station.

The meeting is for the following purposes:

1. General Business Operation
2. Introduction of Associated Organizations
3. Secretary's Report
4. Financial Report
5. President's Report 2013-2014
6. Current Water System Activity
7. Transact other such business as may properly be brought before the meeting.
8. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

Mount Laguna Improvement Association
910 16th Street
Ramona, CA 92065

All members are welcome and we urge you to attend!

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**6th Annual
Saturday, October 11, 2014
4:00 – 8:00 pm**

Cabins 568 & 569 on Los Huecos Road
¼ mile from the Visitor Center on Sunrise Highway

**All MLIA, MLFSC, local Residents and
Friends Are Invited.**

**Fun Oktoberfest Food and Drink!
Brats, Hot Dogs, Kraut, Real German
Potato Salad, Desserts.**

**Appetizers and desserts wanted!
Let Karen Motta know what you can bring.**

**Please bring Beer and Wine
(German if you like) to share.**

Main course, soft drinks and water will be provided.

Gift Card and Big Ticket Auction

**\$10 Adults &
\$5 Children**

**Pay with Cash or
Gift Card**

RSVP by October 2

**Karen Motta
(760) 440-9554
RKMotta@cox.net**

Service Animals Only – No Pets Please.

California Buckwheat

Eriogonum fasciculatum



Have you ever wondered what those rust-brown flowers are that cover some of our dry slopes and meadows? It's California buckwheat. California buckwheat or wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is found on dry slopes and meadows below 7,000 feet. It is often the primary plant you will see. The leaves are needle-like and tough—sort of like a gray version of rosemary leaves. Flowers begin as white and pink puffs that turn rust-brown over time. They are a primary food and habitat for bees and other pollinators.

Native peoples, including the Kumeyaay and Chumash used the Buckwheat plant for food and medicine. Seeds were harvested and could be eaten raw. They were also ground into a flour to make a bread-like cake and cooked into soups with acorns and other plants. Flowers and seeds can be harvested once the flower heads are dry.

Leaves were brewed into a tea to treat all manner of illnesses, including colds, headaches and stomach

pain. A tea from leaves and stems treated urinary tract infections, while a tea from the flowers was used as a laxative. The root was used to make poultices to place on wounds. All parts of the plant proved useful.

This is one of those plants that can easily be overlooked because it's all around us and it appears scrubby. Take some time to observe this plant in detail. It's a testament to strength and utility. Like so many of our native plants, all parts of it are useful. And also, like so many of our natives, it is having a hard time these days. In parts of the state it has declined due to repeated fires in an area. Look for the brownish-red flowers now through the autumn, and appreciate the gifts we have around us!

Joanne Odenthal
Cabin 505

Sources:

Garcia & Adams, *Healing with Medicinal Plants*

Foster & Hobbs, *Western Medicinal Plants and Herbs*

Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council News

A FireWise Community

The Greater San Diego County Fire Safe Council at its annual luncheon in June honored the volunteers and projects of the over 50 active FSCs in the County. Representatives of the USFS, CALFire, the San Diego County Fire Authority, the BLM as well as representatives of local and state government were present. The Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council is pleased to report that this organization and a special volunteer were recognized with awards.

BOB OLSEN, an active member of the MLFSC and a Board Member of the MLIA, won the **Volunteer of the Year**

Award for his work in organizing the "Dumpster" program. This effort facilitated the removal of leaves from around structures as part of our annual fuel reduction clean up.



The Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council received the **Project of the Year** award for being the first FSC in San Diego County to apply for and receive national recognition as a FireWise Community. Marilyn Huntamer and Pat Spinetta were also acknowledged for their active participation on the Board of the Greater San Diego Fire Safe Council.

Close to 10 tons of leaves have been placed in the dumpsters at Camp Ole. The dumpster has been removed temporarily due to anticipated construction at Camp Ole by the USFS. A big thank you to those of you who have sent in donations to help fund this program.

We are still at a very high fire

danger level as you well know. The USFS police and fire officers ask that you call them if you see any dangerous behavior or activity that could cause a fire. They request and appreciate our vigilance. Use your ash buckets to deposit coals from barbeques, fireplaces, and stoves. If you don't have a bucket come to our next meeting on October 18 and we will give you one of our official Mt. Laguna FSC ash buckets!

We are evaluating our equipment distribution efforts. The MLFSC has weed whackers, rakes, shovels, saws, a log splitter, and a truck available for use by members of the community to expedite fuel reduction efforts. John Wallar and Chris Kenney are chairing this effort with the help of Tom McWay at the Laguna Mountain Lodge. We thank these men for their help and would like to hear from you as to how you use this equipment as well as any suggestions you may have to make this program better suit your needs. Email me at pspinetta@cox.net or call (619) 886-1789.

A big shout out to Cookie Ringhand and her helpers for the Progressive Dinner and to Cal and Linda Turner and their supporters for the Wine-A-Bit. Funds raised from both events will help the FSC as well as fund other projects for the MLIA.

Elections of Board officers will be held in November. Let me know if you want to serve on the Fire Safe Council Board.

Pat Deasey-Spinetta
MLFSC President

Fire Safe Council Meetings

Red Tailed Roost on Sunrise Highway

- Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 - Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- MLFSC Board elections will be held.



Favorite Photos Fabulous Fall

Terri Wiener



Rob
Knodle



Eugenie Newton



Cal and Linda Turner

Brush Clean-up Equipment Available for Cabin Owners

Mount Laguna friends, are you aware of all the equipment the Fire Safe Council has that can be used to clean up around your cabin? We have a truck that can be used to haul branches, twigs and pine cones to Camp Ole. A wood splitter is available for making firewood from downed trees and branches.

But there is much more! We have 12 chain saws with bars up to 24 inches. We have both gas and electric weed whackers. Gas and manual pole trimmers for cleaning-up branches that are too close to the chimney or cabin are available. We also have shovels, rakes and loppers.

All this equipment was bought by the Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council with grant money from different agencies and is available for our community to use. We want you to be safe using the equipment so we will make sure you are comfortable with these types of equipment when you check them out.

Contact John Wallar or Chris Kenney when you want to use any of the equipment. Chris and John work together checking the equipment out so it is more available to all of the community. John's phone number is (949) 422-9561 and Chris phone is (619) 729-0466. You can also make arrangements for the equipment by emailing John at jwallar2@gmail.com.

As in the past, the Fire Safe Council will provide the gas and oil for the equipment and ask only for \$10 to use the truck. The truck keys are still picked up at the Laguna Mountain Store. Just contact John or Chris and we will let the guys at the store know you are coming. The truck is currently stored at John's cabin (#718 in Boiling Springs).

Enjoy your time on the mountain and be safe so we all can continue to enjoy our community.

*John Wallar, Cabin 718
For the Mt Laguna Fire Safe Council*

Road Access Report, continued

winter rains (keep your fingers crossed for a wet winter), to work on Lower Boiling Springs, the entrance to Escondido Ravine/Burnt Rancheria, and culvert clearing throughout the tracts. If you have an interest in

joining up for a day of activity and exercise with fellow cabin owners please call me at (619) 571-2284.

We just might work on your favorite stretch of road and end up with a bar-b-q that evening!! Call me.

WINE-A-BIT



National Forest Homeowner Letter to Cabin Owners

Brock Houston

MLIA Representative to the National Forest Homeowner'

This report is from a recent letter sent to cabin owners by Joe Tripathi, President of the National Forest Homeowner' organization. Although Mount Laguna cabin owners are not subject to the extraordinarily high fees that some cabin tracts are, our local cabin program is connected to the overall health of national cabin tract activity.

CUFFA is still in place and the passage of the Cabin Fee Act is still vital to us all.

Dear Cabin Owner,

We at National Forest Homeowners and the Cabin Coalition 2 remain cautiously optimistic that the Cabin Fee Act (CFA) will be passed by Congress this year. As drafted, the bill will limit cabin fees to a maximum of \$5,600 per year, adjusted annually for inflation, and will retroactively set the highest fee for 2014 at the \$5,600 level. We know that many of you with extraordinarily high fees are faced with the difficult dilemma of whether to sell, surrender your Special Use Permit and remove your improvements before the 2015 fee is due, or hold out for passage of the CFA.

We would like to introduce you to another option. The Forest Service Handbook allows for the **administrative suspension of a Special Use Permit**.

At FSH 2709.11, Chapter 30, it provides:

31.23 - Temporary Fee Adjustments

1. Non-Use. The authorized Forest Service officer may place a use authorization in a non-use status when such action is necessary for the protection of the interest of the United States, or when circumstances beyond the holder's control deny the holder the use of the authorization. Placing an authorization in non-use status fully waives fees for that period. The holder may not use the area for the use authorized during the non-use period; however, the holder must maintain the premises and improvements in a satisfactory condition.

Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, DC supports passage of the CFA and does not wish to see the loss of cabins or removal of improvements. To this end, we have proposed that the Forest Service authorize administrative suspension of their special use permits by cabin owners who wish to retain their cabins though facing egregious 2015 CUFFA fees. While the discussions have been preliminary, and a policy must be approved at the highest levels of the agency, our contacts give us reason to believe that with an application, a cabin owner may be granted non-use status and obtain immediate relief.

This is not a simple decision and it is important that you consider all the ramifications. Permit Suspension does not equate to a fee Moratorium. If granted, a Permit Suspension means that you will not be able to use your cabin during the fee waiver period, but

you will still be obligated to maintain it. Should the CFA pass, a cabin owner would be entitled to return to active use of the cabin, subject to payment of all outstanding fees. If the CFA is not passed and you are unable to pay the CUFFA fees, the cabin and improvements would need to be sold or removed prior to the end of the non-use period.

We have attached a letter in template form for those considering abandoning your permit before winter snows arrive. Permit suspension would remove that immediate deadline for removal. Please modify it to your unique circumstances. Send it promptly to the Chief of the Forest Service via fax and email with copies to your District Ranger (authorizing officer), Forest Supervisor, and NFH (eatencio@nationalforesthomeowners.org).

While we can provide no assurance of passage of CFA, or of the grant of your request, we encourage your consideration of this option as a way to avoid losing cabins from the program.

Best Regards,

Jay Tripathi,
NFH President
For the Cabin Coalition 2

FALL 2014

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

Have You Moved?

Let Us Know!

Send your address and email changes to Karen Motta at RKMotta@cox.net or call (760) 440-9554.

Water Maintenance

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



Trina Wiener