

CABIN NEWSLETTER



Volume 14, Issue 59

September, 2016

~ Coming Events ~

Sept 17 Annual Meeting
10:00am - 12:00pm
Agenda and details
on page 3.

Oct 15 Oktoberfest
Flyer on page 8.

Nov 5 MLIA Board Meeting
9:00 – 11:00 am
Cabin 17, Shrine Camp
Tract



President's News

Frank Kalinoski

Yo! Mountain Folk,

I hope you all have been enjoying your cabins on the mountain. It is hard to recall a bad day on Mount Laguna since I got my cabin in 1995. It is such a pleasure to venture up the hill and enjoy our national forest.

Every year there seems to be an issue that needs our attention. This year it is the apparent change in policy by the Forest Service to consider any standing dead tree within 100 feet of a cabin as a **"hazard tree" requiring removal**. This has been reflected in the Fire Hazard Inspection notices we have all received with many noting trees for "removal". I have been given notice to remove three old, long-ago-dead oak trees on my lot for Cabin 504. When I communicated with Becky Brand, the Cleveland National Forest Special Use Administrator, she confirmed the following information. If the fire inspection cited a hazard tree, that is what

Continued on page 2

Thanks to cabin owners Nola Houston, Scott Knodle, Mike Margois, Cal Turner, and Trina Wiener for the generous photographic contributions used in this newsletter.

President's News, *continued.*

it is. The Forest Service will not remove the tree. The cabin owner needs to request permission to remove the trees from Becky. When the District Ranger approves the request, the tree can be "removed." Removal means felling, cutting up and stacking the wood. I have no idea how urgent the removal request is.

Theoretically, this is going to be an ongoing process. By terms of our permits we are responsible for maintaining a fire safe area within 100' of our cabins. The interpretation of "fire-safe" has evidently changed due to the large number of dead and dying trees on the mountain. The increased citing of hazard trees this year has caught many of us by surprise. We are working to get you current information, including a list of people who can help cut trees and stack wood.

I have invited Robert Heier, our new District Ranger, Lindsey Steinwachs, our new Recreation Officer, and Becky Brand, our Forest Special Use Administrator to the **54th Annual Meeting of the MLIA on Saturday, September 17th**. Hopefully they will be able to attend and introduce themselves to the cabin owners. The Annual Meeting will give you an opportunity to meet and greet and question the Forest Service representatives. A big turnout will show the Forest Service that we care about our national forest and our cabins.

Please try and attend the Annual meeting. The MLIA is your organization. This is the one time during the year where the entire MLIA membership can get together to catch up on what is happening. This is your opportunity to become more involved in the MLIA. We have openings for Directors, so please let me know if you are interested in being on the MLIA Board.

Since the Cabin Fee Act passed last year and we all have seen our new assessments generally decrease, you may think the National Forest Homeowners organization is done. Well, that is not true. Every forest is required to update their Forest Plan by 2018 and the process has begun. As owners of recreational residences we have to ensure that our forest plan accurately represents our interests.

By the time this newsletter goes out, the **11th Annual Wine-A-Bit** will be in the books. It is hard to believe that we have been having this social event for so many years. We are so fortunate to have cabin owners like Stan and Cathy Jasek, and Don and Theresa Barahura to sponsor this wonderful event all these years. There is also the **Oktoberfest** set for Saturday October 15th being sponsored by Dave and Judy Keller on Morris Ranch Road. Send your RSVP's for this fun event by October 10th. See the flyer on page 8 for details.

See you on the mountain!
Frank



MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE 54TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 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
2015-2016
6. CURRENT WATER SYSTEM ACTIVITY
7. TRANSACT SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY BE BROUGHT
BEFORE THE MEETING
8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE



ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND WE URGE YOU TO ATTEND!

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
910 16TH STREET
RAMONA, CA 92065

Congratulations to all of you on your efforts with cleanup and fire prevention so far. Although many of us have issues with dead and/or dying trees the Fire Safe Council and MLIA have been trying to work closely with the USFS to reach an equitable solution. More to come!

Again, we want to thank our friend Jason Kraling with USFS for his continued assistance in providing a place for disposal of our branches and the leaf dumpster at the old Air Force station. We've had some issues with the loading of the leaf dumpsters however. Leaf and pine needle material hasn't been loaded properly, some has been left outside the dumpster while plastic bags have been put in the dumpster. The photos here show some of these problems.



Because of these issues, **the access gate to the dumpster has been changed.** The combination lock has been removed and replaced with a keyed padlock on the gate. Cabin owners can check out the dumpster key from Tom McWay at the Laguna Mountain store during his business hours. The key must be returned to the store when the dumpster

News from the Fire Safe Council

Joe Cochran, MLFSC President

load has been completed. Tom will go over the leaf dumpster procedure with whoever checks out the key and we'll see how it works out. The leaf dumpster will be available until November.

As a reminder to all:

- *No bags, branches or trash in the dumpster.*
- *Only leaves and pine needles in the dumpster.*

- *Load the dumpster from the back first!*

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

We will not have a September meeting because it would interfere with the annual MLIA meeting. Our next MLFSC meeting will be October 15th. Keep in mind our annual election is November 15th. All positions are open for nomination if you want change in leadership or just want to get involved. Please call me in advance if you are interested in any position.

Thank you all for all the hard work -- because of you we are a fire safe community.

Fire Safe Council Meetings

Third Saturday of the month
October 15 & November 19
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Red Tailed Roost

Rose Ramblings

Joanne Odenthal, Cabin 505



Rosa Californica

Autumn brings changes in the light, even if it's still warm on the mountain. When winter approaches and the leaves begin to drop things that are hidden come into view. You might see little splashes of red here and there in a thorny thicket. Chances are you're seeing rose hips—the fruit that's left after the flowers drop their petals. Rose hips can be a tasty treat if you know when to pick them. And they're a major source of nutrients for birds and small animals.

Wild roses were one of the many medicinal plants used by the Indians in our area. They are extremely high in Vitamin C and other nutrients. Their red color indicates that they're probably high in many of the same nutrients that make red grapes, red raspberries, and red pomegranate seeds good for you. Indians used all parts of the plant, including the roots, for medicine. Celia Garcia, a Chumash Indian talks about wild rose in her book, *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West*: "California rose was a sweetener. I make tea to soothe people. It is an internal plant used to lighten someone's load. Drinking the tea relieves anxiety, helps soothe people, so they're not so irritated at the world."

On Mt. Laguna we have wild roses along many of the streambeds. There are a number of thickets along Los Huecos Road, near the seasonal stream that runs down toward the meadow. You might want to continue on the trail that leaves Los Huecos Road about a mile and a half from the Visitor Center. Once it drops down near the streambed there are more stands of roses all along the stream.

The time to pick rosehips is after the first frost, which concentrates the sweetness in the fruit. The hips are very seedy and hairy in the center so it's best to separate the sweet-tart outer flesh from the seed pulp. Some years there are few hips and others have bumper crops. I've collected hips as late as February in some years, but usually it's best right around Thanksgiving.

There are some simple rules for collecting in the wild. First, never take all the fruit off a plant. Our wild friends depend on these fruits for nourishment during the winter. My personal rule is to only take less than 1/10 of the fruit on any one plant. There are so many stands of wild roses on the mountain that you can get plenty this way. Be sure to wear long sleeves to protect your arms—those thorns are sharp!



Unripe rose hips

Rose hips make great tea. You can use them fresh—just take a handful of whole, fresh hips, crush them up in the bottom of a small teapot, pour one or two cups of boiling water in. Steep for 10 minutes, then strain, add honey and sip. Delicious! For longer-lasting treats, either dry the rosehips or make rosehips brandy. Drying hips can be a bit tedious, but in a bumper crop year it's worth it. You need to cut each hip in half, scrape out the seedy pulp and leave the tender flesh that's on the outside. Then place the deseeded hips in a single layer on a screen or in a basket that gets good air circulation. Leave them to dry for about two weeks in a warm dry place.

Continued on page 6.



Road News

Carl Sessions, MLIA VP

The summer has been one of rest and relaxation for the road committee. The event to reshape the entrance to Burnt Rancheria/Escondido Ravine Tract planned and organized by Brock Houston was canceled due to excessive heat.

Many thanks, however, to Al Bispo (Cabin 984) and Don Hall (Cabin 563) for showing up with a tractor and making quick work of what would have been a manual job. The

entrance looks great and we await some much needed rain to see how it holds up. We are getting bids on more road base for delivery sometime this Fall. Keep an eye out

on the usual staging sites. The semi-annual Sunrise Highway cleanup will occur after the Annual Meeting. John Wallar will "host" the event while Vicki and I are traveling. We will split into teams and work sections of Sunrise Highway between mile markers 24.0 – 26.5.

Thanks, John, and all of you volunteers, for stepping up to keep our mountain beautiful and free of litter. We are better together!!

"Adopt-A-Highway" Sunrise Highway Cleanup

**Saturday, September 17
Meet 1:30 pm
Visitor Center Parking Lot**

Rose Ramblings, *continued.*

Check periodically to make sure they're not getting moldy. When they're dry, put in a jar and keep in the tea cupboard.

Rosehips brandy is simple to make. Take one cup of fresh rosehips. Remove any grit—rinse and let dry if necessary. Place the rosehips in a fresh mason jar. Crush them slightly with a fork or spoon. Add good brandy to the jar until it covers the rose hips. Then add a little more. Make sure there's enough brandy to keep the

rosehips wet all the time. If you don't like the taste of brandy, you can use vodka instead.

Put the jar someplace in your kitchen where you can shake it every day. Shake it two or three times a day for a month. Then strain out the pulp and keep the brandy in the cupboard. It is ok to leave the pulp in the brandy longer. I've left some macerating in my cupboard for up to a year before straining. Not only does rosehips brandy taste great, it's

good medicine too!

For a great cough syrup, take 1T rosehips brandy and 1T honey, mix and use. Mix rosehips brandy and honey in equal parts and keep in a jar during the winter for treating colds and flu.

Have fun on the mountain this fall and winter and enjoy the rosehips!

Rose photos from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Rose_hip#Rosa_californica.

Laguna Critters



NATIONAL FOREST UPDATE: CABIN CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & USE

Brock Houston, Cabin 807

We are passing along new information recently released by the Forest Service with current regulations regarding the construction, maintenance and use of recreation residences. While we haven't had too many issues on Mount Laguna, there have been a lot of conflicting rules and directions in other areas.

This new Supplement clarifies a few things. The updated regulations incorporate past amendments and seek to identify and clarify unclear, confusing and perhaps unfair requirements. And it immediately replaces all prior versions and amendments. What follows is a brief summary extracting some of the more important changes or clarifications that may be most applicable to us on Mount Laguna. Provisions 2, 3 and 4 below seem most important if/when we are faced with questions about our older cabins complying with newer regulations.

New Region 5 Special Uses Handbook Supplement

Issued by the Pacific Southwest Region [Region 5] effective July 1, 2016.

1. Abandonment [41.23.3.b] Allows cabins and improvements that become property of the United States to be sold, destroyed or otherwise disposed of. This provides clear authority for sale or auction of abandoned cabins.
2. Achieving Compliance with Building Requirements [41.23e.3]
This paragraph recognizes that cabins may not comply with the described requirements for appearance and structure, but specifies that they should be brought into compliance only when ...opportunities develop during replacement, maintenance or reconstruction affecting the non-compliant issue.
3. Cabin size [41.23g.2.a] Limits square footage of new or reconstructed cabins to a maximum of 1400 square feet, which may be limited by factors such as environmental, visual and historic resources. Reduction in size of existing authorized cabins is not required prior to permit issuance.
4. Decks, Porches and Patios [41.23g.2.d] This section includes language from a 2006 directive which clarified allowed deck size. Importantly, new language specifies that historic value must be considered before changes are made to previously authorized decks/porches/patios.

This information is courtesy of Roy Glauthier, the coordinator of the California Cabins group. I've asked Roy if he has a source for the full document. I'll pass the information along once I receive it.

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

**7th
Annual**



Saturday, October 15, 2016

3:00 – 7:00 pm

Hosted by Dave and Judy Keller

8120 Morris Ranch Road

(Turn off Sunrise Highway between mile markers 21.5 and 22.
Drive one mile up the hill to the house.)

Ocktoberfest Food and Fun

Brats, Hot Dogs, Kraut,
Real German Potato Salad,
and Desserts.

Please bring an Appetizer, Salad,
or Dessert and Beer or Wine
(German if you like) to share. Be sure to bring a chair!

Main course, soft drinks and water will be provided.



Gift Card Opportunity Drawing & Auction

Raffle & Auction donations always welcome.

Proceeds support Mt Laguna Fire Safe Council & MLIA.

Entry Donation

Cash or Gift Card

\$10 Adults

\$5 Children

Reservations

REQUIRED by Oct 10th

Joanie Cochran

(619) 443-4105

sassysilks8501@att.net

Service Animals Only ~ No Pets Please.

FALL 2016

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

www.mtlaguna.org



New Email? Let us know.

Send your email, phone and address changes to

**Karen Motta at
(619) 977-2083 or
RKMotta@cox.net.**

Water Maintenance

Please report any problems with the MLIA water system to

**Dan Fritz at
(619) 405-1452.**