

CABIN NEWSLETTER

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



MLIA President's Report

Frank Kalinoski

Well, this time last year we were looking for old pipelines around the Los Huecos water tank and watching over its rehabilitation. What a milestone to get that old tank rehabilitated and connected to the system!

Dan and I have conducted a water audit on the new tank. The water volume pumped from the well and distributed to

the Los Huecos and Laguna cabin tracts and/or transferred to the Ole tank all adds up. We are fairly confident that this part of our water system is performing as we expect and has no major leaks.

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Board Meeting

February 4
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Red-Tailed Roost

Chili Fest

April 22
Watch for Flyer!

Fire Safe Council

April 22
10:00 - 12:00 pm
Red-Tailed Roost



New Forest Service Contact Information!

We want to let you know that the Forest Service contact person for permission to remove trees or make changes to your cabin has changed. Becky Brand is no longer the Special Use Administrator for the Descanso Ranger District. Until that position is filled please route all requests to Lindsey Steinwachs, lcsteinwachs@fs.fed.us (619) 445-6235.

She is the Recreation Officer for the Descanso Ranger District and will be filling in for Becky until a replacement is hired.

Lindsey will review all

President's Report, *continued.*

In 2017 we will be concentrating on locating the old water lines around Ole water tank. We are losing a significant amount of water up there and it is really bugging Dan and I. We have located and fixed some leaks in our 2" distribution lines from the Ole tank, but something else is still going on.

Our water is so precious. We are constantly trying to conserve this essential resource and monitor its usage. We may have to invest in some meters that can be remotely monitored so that we can monitor potential problems as they occur instead waiting for them to come bubbling to the surface somewhere. We may also consider getting the Ole tank interior cleaned and inspected.

Joanie Cochran has taken the social events fully under her control. She did a great job this year and has some good ideas for 2017. Also other cabin owners are stepping up to help her out. Things are going to be a little different in 2017, and that is a good thing. I can't wait for the fun to begin!

I will keep contacting the District range and we look forward to him showing up and saying hello. The Cal Fire Chief assures us that the Mount Laguna fire station is going to be manned starting January 2017. The Forest Service has given the County the go-ahead to rehabilitate the Mount Laguna fire station. Improving the fire station will help out the entire Mount Laguna community.

See you on the mountain!

Frank

requests and answer any questions you have. She will forward your requests to the appropriate person for action. You may also wish to "cc" the District Ranger, Bob Heiar (rheiar@fs.fed.us) in any email correspondence.

Special Note: If you are requesting permission to

make a cabin improvement, such as enlarging a deck or replacing windows, you must make your request between January 1st and March 30th of this year. Requests will be held until March 30th, and reviewed at that time.

~ Road Access News ~

Two full loads of Class II road base have been delivered and are strategically placed within our community. We plan to use the material after the winter storms have had their way with our roads and drainage systems.

Please help! If you see a clog in our drainage pipe either at the entrance to a culvert or in a main line dammed up with leaves, grab a rake or shovel and clear it. Your involvement will go a long way in making your road to your cabin passable for emergency vehicles as well as for you, your guests, and family members.

Also note that the material is there for use by MLIA work parties and should not be taken for private road repair at this time. When we have finished our Spring

repairs we will open up the remaining material for private use. Thank you!

Our Adopt-a-Highway permit expired in November. We are applying, once again, for the stretch of Sunrise Highway from mile marker 23.5 near Shrine Camp to marker 26.0 near the Visitor Center. I suspect that approval will be forthcoming without too much ado!! The County Department of Public Works appreciates our volunteer effort in time and manpower savings as much as we love a clean and beautiful mountain.

Thanks to all the volunteers, past and future, who have given their time to this beneficial event.

A Good 2017 New Year to All!
Carl Sessions

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ❖ February 4th - MLIA Board Meeting
- ❖ April 22nd - Chili Fest Social
- ❖ May 6th - MLIA Board Meeting
- ❖ June 24th - MLIA Community Picnic
- ❖ August 5th - MLIA Board Meeting
- 19th - Wine-A-Bit
- ❖ September 16th - Annual Meeting
- ❖ October 21st - Western Party
- ❖ November 4th - MLIA Board Meeting



News from our National Forest Association

The National Forest Homeowner's **Annual Meeting** will be in Seattle this year on April 21st and 22nd. It will be held at the Cedar Brook Lodge near the SeaTac airport in an area referred to as "an oasis". More information about the meeting can be found at nationalforesthomeowners.org.

There are two **legislative action** issues that the NFH is currently working on. The first is the one that is most likely to have the greatest impact for us on Mount Laguna.

Wildfire Funding Fix - The NFH distributed a letter to members of Congress urging them to support a wildfire funding solution. Wildfire legislation currently is at least loosely tied to the Energy Bill, which would be the first significant energy bill since 2007. However, optimism for a deal is dwindling. Look for a wildfire funding fix provision to be attached as a rider to another must-pass bill, such as the omnibus appropriations bill.

Comment: Fire fighting now consumes more than 50% of the Forest Service annual budget. As a result many other programs in the national forests are under or even unfunded including programs to reduce the intensity and size of fires.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 - Both chambers of Congress have passed their versions of WRDA. The process of reconciling differences between the two has been ongoing.

Cabin owners have to comply with the **National Historic Preservation Act** if we want to make any exterior changes to our cabins. All cabins over 50 years old are subject to evaluation for historical significance. That means that all exterior improvements must be evaluated and approved by the Forest Service and the State Historical Society. In addition, the status of the historic evaluations varies from region to region. Cabin evaluations for historic relevance have been completed in some tracts, while in others the process is just underway.

Comment: This isn't a new requirement; it was formalized in 2014.

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Remembering Ken Miles

~ 1924 - 2016 ~

The Mount Laguna community lost a valued member when Ken Miles passed away December 11, 2016. Ken was active on the mountain for over 50 years as he owned a private home on Morris Ranch Road. He was fond of hosting deep pit barbeques and enjoying his fishpond there.

Ken fought with the Marine Corps in WWII. He loved playing golf and flying small airplanes.

Ken was an associate member of the MLIA for many years and was very involved in the Mt Laguna Shriners' community.

Ken was married for over 60 years to his wife "Skeeter" (Juanita Frances Vaughn) who passed away in 2010.

WINTER 2017

Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council has again been recognized as a Fire Wise Community for 2016 and 2017 by the National Fire Protection Agency. Thank you all for your efforts in clean up and abatement of fuels around your cabins.

I want to remind you all in this winter season of the importance of having not only smoke detectors but also carbon monoxide detectors at home as well as your cabin.

The following Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council officers were re-elected to their positions at the November meeting.

- ❖ President -
Joe Cochran, Cabin 554
- ❖ Vice-President -
Marilyn Huntamer-Wilkenson,
Cabin 568

❖ Secretary -
Meg Moore, Cabin 472

❖ Treasurer -
Tom McNicol, Cabin

The Board Member election will be held at the first 2017 Council meeting on Saturday, April 22.

Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council

We'll see you on the hill. Best wishes for a safe and prosperous 2017.

Joe Cochran

❖ 2017 Meetings

April 22	July 15
May 20	August 19
June 24	October 21
November 18	

- ❖ 10:00am - 12:00 pm
- ❖ Red-Tailed Roost

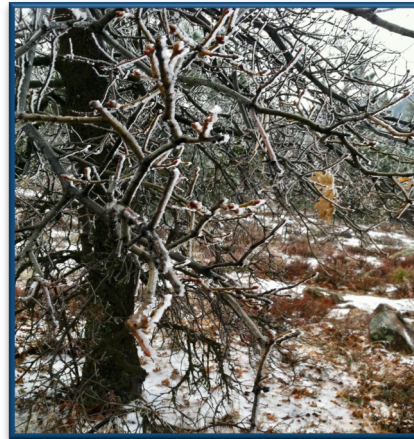
National Forest News, *continued.*

Based on the notices we've received from Cleveland National Forest, we need to follow this process for any changes we want to make. Expect a 6-12 month delay for approval. The Forest Service has a form for making the application for modifying your cabin. The NFH has a USFS guide on their website that they developed with the Forest Service.

Many cabin owners around the country have found it either very expensive or even impossible to obtain **cabin insurance**. The NFH Board has established a task force to explore the possibility of developing a cabin insurance project. They have been in touch with several companies to explore the options. At this time I have no further information on the status of this study.

Thanks!
Brock

WINTER 2017



Spring

Winter

Fall

ICONIC OAKS OF MOUNT LAGUNA

It's impossible to think of Mount Laguna without thinking of the Black Oak, *Quercus kelloggii*. Along with the Jeffrey Pine, the Black Oak is one of the grand masters of our forests. Large trees can be up to 500 years old. Right now these oaks have all dropped their leaves for the winter, so you can see their impressive skeletons.

Other oaks on Mount Laguna include the evergreen interior live oak, *Q. agrifolia* var. *oxyadenia*, and possibly the California scrub oak, *Q. xacutidens*, *Q. berberidifolia*. These tend to be found at slightly lower elevations, such as along Pine Creek at about 5,000 feet.

Oaks are a critical species to support wildlife. Squirrels, deer, woodpeckers, jays, other birds and rodents all browse on acorns from the oak trees on our mountain. The trees (even the dead ones) provide nesting cavities for owls, woodpeckers, squirrels and more.

Oaks were a major food source for the local Indians. Black oak acorns were

preferred by the Kumeyaay over acorns from other species. Acorns were soaked, shelled and dried. The dried nut meats were then ground into a meal which had to be leached with multiple washings of water. This removed the bitter tannins and made the meal edible.

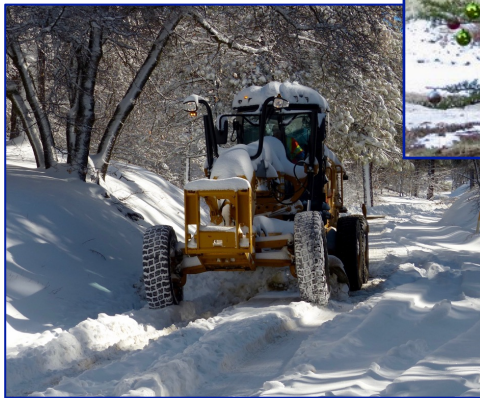
Acorn meal could be made into a soup, bread, or pudding. The Indians managed the oak woodlands by selectively burning areas under the oak trees in the cool season. This created more open woodland, removed ladder fuel, and killed acorn pests and other parasites.

In recent years, all our oaks have suffered the effects of drought, compounded by pests such as the Golden Spotted Oak Borer beetle. A May 2016, report in the San Diego Union Tribune reported that at least 100,000 oak trees have died across the county. In California as of November 2016, over 102 million trees were dead (oaks, pines, and other mountain species). The Sierra Nevadas have been the hardest hit, but Southern California has its share of dead trees.

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WINTER 2017

Winter On The Mountain!



ICONIC OAKS, *continued.*

All you have to do is look around your cabin to see the results of our extended drought. If you haven't been on the mountain lately, don't be surprised if one or two old oaks near your cabin have come down. The rain and snow after the holidays have saturated the ground and quite a number of the oaks that were dead have fallen.

For me, it's hard to see these trees go. I played under them when I was a kid, watched the squirrels harvest acorns, and the acorn woodpeckers dive in and out of the branches. We lost most of the tree I thought of as Grandfather Oak in a storm in 2003. The last little bit of it died last year.

Time always brings a changing landscape, but the extent of tree die-off in California is unprecedented. No one seems to know what to do about it, and it may indeed signal a significant change in our mountain ecosystem. For now, we can appreciate what we have and care for the area around our cabins, hopefully being good custodians of the forest.

Hope to see you on the mountain!
Joanne Odenthal

WINTER 2017

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

**Have a new email?
Please let us know!**

Send your email, phone or
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.**

*Eugenie Newton, Editor
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