

SPRING 2015

# MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION CABIN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 53

APRIL 2015



## President's Update

*Frank Kalinoski*

It's 2015 and it has started off with celebrating this newsletter (and the website) and its editor, Eugenie Newton, Cabin 505! She and the MLIA have been awarded the **2015 National Forest Homeowners (NFH) Communication Award**. The award will be presented at the NFH Annual Convention in May. Well deserved!

The **Chili Fest Social and "Best Chili" Contest** is coming up on April 18. All the details are on the email flyer sent a couple of weeks ago. You can find it on our [mtlaguna.org](http://mtlaguna.org) website with the link (<http://mtlaguna.org/chili-fest-social>). We will be judging the best Chili again. And we will be auctioning off a **new Stihl Chain Saw**, donated by the Fire Safe Council. Come on down! It will be fun.

*Continued on page 2*

## Favorite Hikes

What is your favorite Mount Laguna hike?

Where do you start from and where do you end up? Why do you enjoy this hike? What pretty flowers, interesting critters or mountain features do you see while you are walking, trekking or strolling?

Please send your thoughts and a photo to two to the newsletter editor Eugenie Newton at email [evn8@san.rr.com](mailto:evn8@san.rr.com).

These will be featured in the MLIA Summer newsletter.

Thanks!

*Eugenie*

## Save the Date!

### Chili Social

April 18  
1:00 - 4:00 pm  
See flyer on  
page 3 for  
details.

### Board Meeting

May 9  
9:00am - Noon  
Cabin 802

### Community Picnic

June 27  
Horse Heaven  
Campground



## President's Update, *continued*

Have you noticed some warning signs on the cabin tract signposts? One reminds cabin owners and visitors about keeping their dogs on a leash. Stan Jasek, Cabin 802, got this done. Another sign reminds us all that NO CAMPFIREs are permitted at our cabins by anybody! I got Sally Goodrich, USFS Fire Suppression, to put these up for us.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ALL CABIN OWNERS AND OUR GUESTS UNDERSTAND THAT  
**OPEN FIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED AT CABINS.**

IT CAN BE DANGEROUS TO ALL OF US AND COSTLY TO THE CABINOWNER IF CAUGHT.

The MLIA Water System permit (which has expired) is still under review by the Forest Service. This is a very important milestone in our relationship with the Forest Service. Until this agreement has been reached, we will not be able to proceed with our plans to refurbish the Los Huecos water tank and the rehabilitation of the well.

Since we are on top of the mountain, rainwater and snowmelt are the only ways the aquifer supplying our well is replenished. The well pump is hundreds of feet below the surface in fractured rock, and it takes years for water to seep down into the aquifer we are utilizing. We just have to be aware how vulnerable we are to the vagaries of the weather and ultimately our water supply. Water usage by each of us is important.



Dan Fritz and I monitor the static water level in our well quite closely, and it is remaining steady. We also monitor the amount of water pumped, stored and used to ensure that any leaks are detected and fixed as soon as possible. We have found and fixed two leaks at cabins this year already. *When Dan and I find a cabin valve open at the meter, we close it.* This helps prevent unforeseen leaks at cabins. So when you venture up the mountain to your cabin, check your valve to ensure that it is open before wondering what happened to the water. And be sure close your valve when you leave your cabin.

All of the cabin owners were sent a Mount Laguna Improvement Association Membership Agreement last year with the annual dues/fees. We ask each permittee to sign this document to ensure that you are aware of your responsibilities as a member of the MLIA. Each cabin owner must complete the membership agreement. It is for your protection and MLIA's protection against unreasonable claims and actions by either party. Most of the cabins have complied with this request, so thanks. Some cabins have not done it yet.



Please return your signed documents to Mount Laguna Improvement Association, 910 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Ramona, CA 92065 as soon as possible.

*Thanks, Frank.*

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

# CHILI FEST SOCIAL

All Cabin Owners, Shrine Camp  
Owners, Private Property  
Owners, LMVA,  
**Free!** Visitors and Guests  
Are Invited.



**Saturday, April 18**

**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Mt Laguna Community  
Church and  
Conference Center**

Sunrise Highway at the  
Desert Outlook turnoff.

New  
Stihl Chainsaw  
to be auctioned.



**Good Food!  
Good Neighbors!  
Lots of Fun!**

**Bring your favorite Chili, Cornbread,  
Salad or Dessert to share.**

**Vote for this year's "Best Chili."**

**MLIA will supply drinks, plates, utensils and  
cups. Bring your chili in a crockpot to keep it  
warm and serving utensils for your dish.**

*San Diego County Regulations allow only Service Animals at  
functions serving food. No pets, please.*

**RSVP to Cookie Ringhand at (619) 889-7145  
or email: [cookie@cox.net](mailto:cookie@cox.net)  
so we have a head count and know who is  
bringing what!**



# Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council News

[www.mtlaguna.org/fire-safe-council](http://www.mtlaguna.org/fire-safe-council)

A significant problem with outdoor fires around our mountain cabins continues to occur and endanger us all. We need every cabin owner's commitment to fix it.

There were several instances in 2014 and again early this year where bonfires in cabin areas have spread and required fire agency (USFS, CALFire, MLVFD) response to suppress. Our cabins are on Federal land, under Federal jurisdiction and subject to Federal rules and regulations. The rules regarding outdoor fires are clear:

**No fire pits, no fire rings, no campfires, no bonfires are allowed.**

Most cabin owners are aware of and comply with these requirements while some continue to disregard these rules. Still others fail to inform adult children, friends, and relatives who use their cabins of both the fire danger and the rules.

Fire rings are allowed ONLY in designated areas within specific campgrounds. Campground hosts are mandated to supervise campfires and to notify USFS Law Enforcement if campers fail to comply. The watchful attention of at least one campground host

spotted a fire around midnight at a cabin on Los Huecos Road, notified the USFS and prevented the fire from spreading into the forest.

When the USFS responds to a fire on federal land, USFS Law Enforcement is called on to evaluate the fire and its cause. If negligence is determined, fines range from \$225 to \$5000 and/or 6 months in jail. If the fire spreads and helicopters or other aircraft are called in for suppression, the cost is exponentially higher

*Pat Deasy-Spinetta*

At our last FSC meeting, our USFS Battalion Chief asked us all to be vigilant. If you see a fire, call 911 and dispatch will get right through to the USFS who will then take appropriate action. We all have to be vigilant.

Propane and briquette barbeques are still allowed in appropriate cooking containers unless we are notified of an extreme fire danger. Please do not bury briquettes. Place them in a galvanized container with a lid. If you don't have one, come to our monthly FSC meeting and we will give you one.

Fuel reduction around cabins is still a priority. Construction at Camp Ole requires our leaf dumpster to be relocated this year. Also the burn pile for brush and branches is not available. If you remove brush or branches from around your cabin, place them away from the cabin. I will send an email update as soon I have information about the new locations and procedures for the leaf dumpster and burn pile.

After 12 years as President of the MLFSC I have decided that it is time for new leadership and new ideas to run the Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council. Together we have accomplished a lot and are recognized

statewide for our efforts. I am looking for someone or some ones to step forward to assume the reins in November 2015. To insure a smooth transition, I will work with the new leadership and "show them the ropes."

If you have any ideas about spreading the word on fire safety or wish to learn more about what is involved in leadership of the MLFSC, email me at [pspinetta42@gmail.com](mailto:pspinetta42@gmail.com) or call at 619-886-1789.

## Fire Safe Council Meetings

**Saturday, April 18**

**Saturday, May 16**

**10 am - 12:00 pm**

**The Red Tailed Roost**

Sunrise Highway across from the  
Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Station



# Road Report

Our cabin access roads received little to no damage from adverse winter weather. Nor did we find damage from "off-roaders" wanting to test out their new Toyo tires!

On February 6 an MLIA Adopt-a-Highway work party consisting of Bill Holland, Kerry & Bobbi Anderson, Dennis Wilkinson, Mike Tomlinson and myself cleared trash and snow garbage along Sunrise Highway between mile posts 23.5 and 26.0. This two and one-half mile stretch is the MLIA's Adopt-A-Road section.

After two hours and with 3/4 of a mile to go we suspended the cleanup as our trash bags were simply overloaded. A special thanks to the Andersons who donated their pickup to ferry us and our treasures to the dump station and then to our cars. We turned in a total of 27 hours of volunteer time including round trip travel to our primary residences.

Thank you all for keeping our mountain beautiful! !

*Carl Sessions, Cabin 716*



## Next Sunrise Highway Clean-Up

**May 9, 2015**

**After the MLIA Board Meeting**

**Meet 11:30 am**

**at the Visitor's Center parking lot.**

## ~ Remembering our friend Shirley Potter ~

*December 27, 1921 - March 20, 2015*

Shirley Sands Potter passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones at the age of 93. Shirley was born in Moorhead, Minnesota and moved to Southern California to work for the Union Pacific Railroad during World War II. There she met Austin Potter while he was on leave before serving in the Army in the South Pacific. They were married upon his return from the service on February 3, 1946 in Inglewood, California. Shirley and Austin moved to San Diego after their wedding, where they were happily married for 51 years until Austin's passing in 1997.

Shirley was a homemaker, seamstress, bookkeeper, office manager, and the cornerstone of her family. Shirley is survived by her four daughters: Shirlyn Daddario, Terry Cameron, Carolyn Sharpe and Linda Anderson, all of San Diego County, as well as her nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Shirley had a close community of lifelong friends and business colleagues who knew her as an intelligent, capable woman and fabulous hostess who loved to entertain, particularly at the family cabin in Mt. Laguna. Shirley and Austin purchased their cabin 61 years ago in 1954 making Shirley the longest continuous cabin owner on the mountain. She was the editor of "Recreation Residences: Descanso District" giving information about each cabin in the Mount Laguna Tract.

Her family will remember her for being patient, loving, wise, incredibly stubborn, and always color-coordinated from head to toe. She was also, along with her good friend Shirley Cameron, one of John Wayne's biggest fans. We will miss her beyond words, but will always be guided by the example she set. She was always a lady, in the truest sense of the word.

*Sent to MLIA cabin owners by Shirley's daughter, Shirlyn Daddario*

# Amazingly Versatile Yucca

Joanne Odenthal

As you drive from the west on Interstate 8 and turn up Sunrise Highway, you can't miss the beautiful yucca in bloom in the early spring. The tall plant with the creamy blossoms is commonly known as chaparral yucca, Our Lord's candle or sometimes Spanish bayonet. These common names can be confusing, as there is an entirely different yucca also called Spanish bayonet. The plant with the basal rosette of sharp leaves and the single flowering stalk is actually *Hesperoyucca whipplei*. It used to be called *Yucca whipplei* until DNA analysis found that it is a slightly different species than *Yucca*. The chaparral yucca only blooms once, then dies.



*Hesperoyucca whipplei*

Source: California Native Plant Society

The other *Yucca* you may see is Mojave yucca or *Yucca schidigera*. This is a true yucca. It also carries the common name of Spanish bayonet or Spanish dagger. It has a different growth habit from the chaparral yucca. A trunk forms and as leaves die in the rosette, they fall and cover the trunk. The beautiful blooms are a combination of cream and bronze colors.

This yucca blooms more than once, differentiating it from the chaparral yucca. Both the chaparral yucca and the Mojave yucca grow over a wide range, from coastal San Diego well into the desert. In fact, Mojave yucca is farmed in Mexico for pharmaceutical preparations and other uses. One of its uses is as the foam in root beer. This is because yuccas are extremely high in saponins, a soapy, detergent-like substance.

Native peoples used every part of the yucca plant. The roots were used to make soap and poultices to treat skin conditions, the flower stalks could be cooked and eaten, and the hearts were harvested and baked in underground stone ovens. Fibers from the leaves were used as cordage and for sewing. The leaves were also used to make sandals.



*Yucca schidigera*

Source: Anza Borrego Natural History Association

All the yuccas and the agaves are related. Botanists have a habit of regularly reclassifying plants based on new findings. Yuccas have been included as part of the lily family and the agave family. Most recently, both agave and yucca have been placed in the asparagus family. It's actually not too hard to imagine the chaparral yucca in bloom as one great big spear of asparagus.

## Sources:

Garcia & Adams (2005) *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West*

Ingram, S. (2008) *Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada*



# What's Happening with Cabin Fees?

**Brock Houston**

Congratulations to Eugenie Newton! We've just learned that the National Forest Homeowners Association has awarded the NFH Outstanding Communications Award to Eugenie for her editing and production of the Mount Laguna Improvement Association website and newsletter. This is a national award recognizing her work and our newsletter as the very best.

## **What Happens Now with the Cabin Fee Act?**

Now that the Cabin Fee Act (CFA) has passed, there are many questions about its implementation. While there are no completely clear answers at this time, what follows is the best thinking so far from the National Forest Homeowners Association.



### **When will the new CFA Fee be effective?**

The USFS has up to 1 year to complete the current appraisal cycle and develop the regulations. We expect the last group of second appraisals from Region 5 will be

reviewed by the USFS during 2015 to complete the current appraisal cycle. We anticipate the CFA fee table will be used to bill 2016 Fees.

### **What fee tier will my permit be assigned to?**

It is really too early to provide a definite answer. The CFA specifies 11 fee tiers from \$650 to \$5,650, in \$500 increments. The assignment of permits to CFA Fee Tiers is a one-time event that we expect will take place in late 2015. Once appraisals are normalized and ranked, the USFS will assign permits to tiers in accordance with the percentages in CFA Fee Table. For most CUFFA permit fees in the \$500 to \$5,000 range, the CFA fee will be modestly lower or higher than your CUFFA fee for the same year. Because the CFA establishes fee tiers in \$500 increments, you can think of this as rounding up or down to align with a fee tier.

### **Under the CFA, when is the next major fee adjustment?**

Once the initial CFA fees are determined, all future increases are limited to an annual inflationary increase using the IPD-GDP index. There will be no future appraisals and no more steep fee increases! Stability and predictability of future fees are probably

the largest benefits of the CFA.

### **What event will trigger the Transfer Fee?**

The CFA specifies a \$1,200 fee will be paid when a new permit is issued due to a change of cabin ownership. The intent is that the transfer fee will apply to a cabin sale between unrelated parties, a sale between related parties, or the transfer of a cabin through gift or inheritance.

### **We are considering transferring our cabin to our children, when will the Transfer Fee become effective?**

The USFS must first develop the regulations for administering Transfer Fees. When the USFS will begin assessing transfer fees is unknown at this time.

## **National Forest Homeowners 2015 Conference**

**~ Celebrating 100 Years of the Cabin Program ~**

**May 1 & 2, 2015  
Vancouver, Washington**

**Information and  
registration at**

**<http://www.nationalforesthowners.org>**

**SPRING 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 water, roads and wood removal.



### **Cabin Art**

Rob Knodle

**Have you  
moved?  
Let us know!**

Please send your new  
email, address and/or  
phone number to Karen  
Motta at

**[RKMotta@cox.net](mailto:RKMotta@cox.net)** or  
call (760) 440-9554.

### **Water Maintenance**

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

*Eugenie Newton, Editor*  
[evn8@san.rr.com](mailto:evn8@san.rr.com)