

FALL 2015

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

Cabin Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 55

September, 2015

Message from MLIA President

Frank Kalinoski

We have been working for a year towards rehabilitating our Los Huecos water tank. This tank was installed in 1974! It was a used tank then and a fiberglass liner was placed inside to isolate our potable water from the tank. After 40 years with no maintenance the tank has become problematic. *All of the water* pumped for the MLIA cabins goes through this tank to be distributed to all of the cabins. It is essential to keep this vital link in our water system up to par.

The USFS is still trying to figure out how to incorporate water systems on federal land, so our water permit remains in limbo. However the Forest Service has granted us permission to rehabilitate the Los Huecos water tank. The Superior Tanks Company has surveyed the tank, pointed out the maintenance issues that need addressing and has given us a solution to our problem. The MLIA board supports and approves the expenditure of about \$80,000 from our capital fund to

Continued next page.

Participation Matters!

One of the most important things happening at the coming Annual Meeting will be the election of the MLIA Board. This year we have three members completing their terms. The Board wants to maintain vibrant cabin owner participation and is asking cabin owners who might not think about joining the Board to do just that!

Board members attend four meetings a year and provide support for MLIA activities. The whole MLIA cabin community thrives when a diverse group of cabin owners gives their voice and experience to key issues impacting our cabins and Mount Laguna. It is fun, interesting and rewarding.

Please contact Frank Kalinoski, Carl Sessions, Joanne Odenthal or Karen Motta at "mliacabins@gmail.com" to find out more or say you want to put your name on the ballot!

Coming Events

Annual Meeting

September 19, 2015
10:00 am

Red Tailed Roost

See Agenda page 3.

Board Meeting

November 7, 2015
9:00 – 11:00 am

Cabin 751

Fire Safe Council Meeting

October 17, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Red Tailed Roost

President's Message, *continued*

rehabilitate the Los Huecos tank. Doing this work should get us a water tank that will last at least another 30 years. It will be a real milestone to get this done!

The proposal to do the rehabilitation work on the Los Huecos tank will be presented to the general membership at the Annual Meeting on September 19. I am confident MLIA cabin owners will recognize the need to approve this expenditure that will allow us to continue to provide the best possible potable water on Mount Laguna.

Without this rehabilitation our water system could be in jeopardy. Did you know that the water MLIA provides requires no treatment? This is because we are drawing the water from an excellent aquifer, we monitor the water quality monthly and we keep our water system in good working order using best practices. We want to keep it that way.

Additionally, I am sure you all have received a Cabin Inspection report and a Fire Inspection report for your cabins. We have not seen this level of effort from the Forest Service in about five years. There may be some discrepancies between the report and reality, but these interpretations can be worked out. Actual problems noted in the reports need to be addressed as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for working to keep your cabins in compliance.

See you at the Annual Meeting and on the mountain!

Frank



MLIA fun on Saturday, August 15



MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE 53ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 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
2014-2015
6. CURRENT WATER SYSTEM
ACTIVITY
CAPITAL PROJECT: REHABILITATE LOS HUECOS WATER TANK
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

Fire Safe Council News Brief

Pat Deasy-Spinetta

Wildfires raging in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and other regions in the West are featured daily on the national nightly news. August through October, which are traditionally our months of high wildfire danger, are still to come. According to an article in the San Diego Union "CALFire spent \$63 million battling wildfires since the beginning of its fiscal year starting July 1. Last fiscal year it spent an estimated \$434 million." In the first month of its 2015 fiscal year, CALFire spent 32% of last year's costs!

On Wednesday, August 6, 2015, the US Forest Service released a report showing rising firefighting costs are affecting forest conservation, restoration, recreation and management programs. Firefighting costs now consume more than 50% of the Forest Service budget compared with just 16% in 1995. They are expected to comprise two-thirds of its budget in 10 years if left unaddressed." (San Diego Union-Tribune, Thursday, August 6, 2015, p. A6)

All that we do to reduce fuel around our cabins and homes contributes to reducing the threat of fire on the mountain. No campfires, bonfires, firepits are allowed in the cabin areas. Briquettes from barbeques should not be buried in the ground since they can continue to burn for days and have started fires.

As cabin owners you are aware and respect these rules. However, to date it is friends, family and others who use your cabin that start these fires.

***Please instruct your guests
on these fire hazards.***

A dumpster is available for you to deposit leaves and pine needles and an area to deposit brush and branches is now available. Emails have been sent to everyone with detailed information about these dump sites. If you did not get that information, please let me know. (Note: This Information is also available at mtlaguna.org on the Fire Safe Council Updates page.)

Also, we all need to be vigilant. If you see anything you consider a fire threat be it a spark from a lightening strike or illegal campfire, please call 911. A big "thank you" to those of you who have made the calls in the past.

On July 16, 2015 the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council received a grant from SDG&E specifically to support our fuel reduction on the mountain. SDG&E funds help support our dumpster program. This year SDG&E awarded over one million dollars to Fire Safe Councils, CERT Teams and other fire related community organizations in San Diego County.

With your effort and the cooperation of the weather, let us hope we have an uneventful fire season.

Fire Safe Council Meetings
October 17
Reach Medical Services Presentation

November 21
Election of Officers

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
at the Red Tailed Roost.

Cabin Fee Act: What's Next?

Brock Houston

Since the CFA was passed last December a clearer picture is emerging of how and when we can expect to see its impact on us. Much has yet to be finalized, but here's how it looks at this time.

Implementation Timing

The final appraisals should be completed soon and then cabins will be assigned to 1 of 11 tiers. Tier 1 is set at \$650 and Tier 11 is \$5,650. Each tier increases by \$500. The best guess, *and it is a guess*, is that we are very likely to be in Tier 3 with our fees initially set at \$1,650 beginning in 2016. 48% of all cabins across the country will be in Tier 3 or lower.

Cabin Transfers

A very important new rule takes effect beginning in 2016. A Transfer Fee of \$1,200 will be incurred whenever a transfer of cabin ownership takes place

and a new permit is required.

It is unknown what exemptions, if any, will be permitted in the new rules. It appears the Transfer Fee rule will apply to cabin sales as well as transfers to family members if a new permit is issued. The USFS has informed NFH that permit change requests initiated in 2015 will not be subject to the new Transfer Fee, i.e. it will first apply to transfers initiated in 2016.

Future Fee Increases

Following the initial fee year, fee amounts will be adjusted annually using a 5-year rolling average of the Department of Commerce IPD-GDP index. This will also apply to the Transfer Fee.

Once we have specific, accurate information about how the Cabin Fee Act applies to us, we'll let you know.

Keeping Sunrise Highway Cleaned Up

Carl Sessions

We had an awesome turnout of twelve cabin owners for our Sunrise Highway cleanup on August 1st. We broke into 6 teams of two and covered the complete "course" of 2.6 miles in a total of one hour. It should be noted that we not only worked on the immediate roadway but also the drainage areas below Sunrise Highway.

Our final report to the Transportation Division of the Department of Public Works reflected twelve hours of actual clean up and 1,277 cumulative miles driven by the cabin owners to participate in the clean up event.

We acknowledge the participants and look forward to you all joining us again for this MLIA community event.

Thank you to John Wallar, Bob Anderson, Kerry Anderson, Bill Holland, Dennis Wilkinson, Gary and Cindy Jensen, Joe Cochran, Brock and Nola Houston, Frank Kalinoski, and Carl Sessions.

Please join us next time for this quality event!!

My personal thanks on behalf of MLIA for all of you who did participate.

California Goldenrod

Solidago californica

Joanne Odenthal



Goldenrod, *Solidago spp.*, is a yellow flowering plant in the Asteraceae family, often confused with ragweed. Since many people are allergic to ragweed, they also give goldenrod a wide berth. Although a few people may be allergic to goldenrod, most are not. It has been used in traditional societies for centuries as a medicinal herb.

The goldenrod we see in Mt. Laguna is most likely *Solidago californica* or California goldenrod. It grows well in dry soil, and sends out a mat of roots in all directions. In that way it can cover entire hillsides. Leaves are gray-green and hairy. Flower stalks bloom in late summer and are 6" to 2' high.

The summer after the Chariot Fire, there was a magnificent hillside of goldenrod on the east side of Sunrise Highway, near the Sierra Club property. These were quite tall, so could have been *Solidago canadensis* or Canada goldenrod, as it is much taller than California goldenrod. Or, it could have been

our usual goldenrod growing unusually tall.

The Indians of southern California used goldenrod medicinally. Some used a decoction* made from the leaves and stalks as a hair rinse and to retard hair loss. A decoction of leaves was used to wash sores and burns. An infusion* of leaves and flowers was used the same way. Powder of the dried, toasted leaf was applied to sores. The powdered leaves act as a styptic agent and stop bleeding. The flowers were chewed for sore throat.

Current herbal medicine, especially in Europe, uses goldenrod in a variety of ways. It is known to dispel intestinal gas, so is used as a stomach remedy. It's used as a cold and flu remedy. It's also a diuretic that is used as a kidney tonic, and possibly to dissolve bladder stones. In studies, goldenrod has been found to be anti-inflammatory, antifungal, analgesic, and diuretic.

The flowers are said to have a pleasant taste. A simple tea is made from the leaves by taking 1 teaspoon of leaves and steeping them in a cup of hot water. Since some folks can be allergic to goldenrod, be sure to check before using it liberally. None of this is intended as medical advice. Be sure to consult a professional if you want to use any herb medicinally.

Meanwhile, enjoy the display that goldenrod puts on for us every year in the late summer or early autumn.

*Decoction: made by simmering plant material in a covered container. Infusion: made by steeping plant material in hot water.

Sources:

Foster & Hobbs, *Western Medicinal Plants and Herbs*. Hutchins, *Indian Herbarology of North America*.

Moerman, *Native American Medicinal Plants*. Tilford, *Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West*.

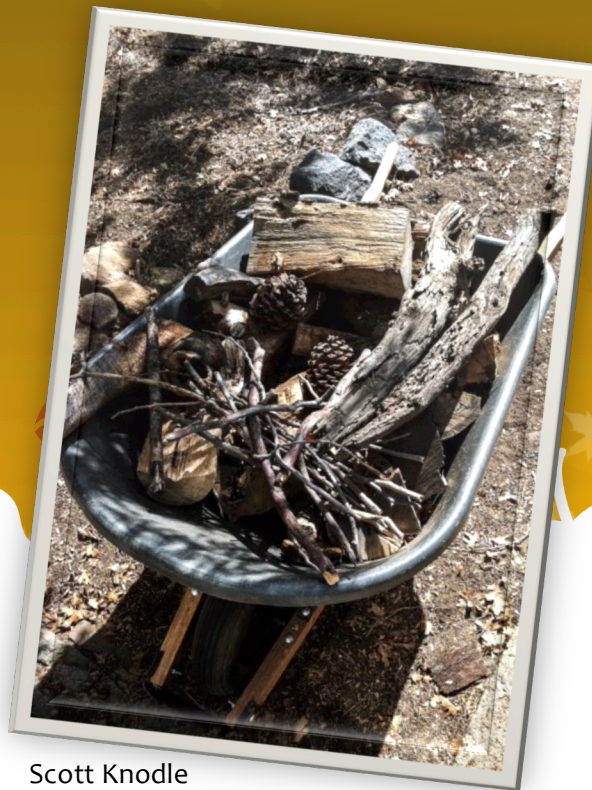
FALL 2015

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

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



Donna Eibert Crossman



Scott Knodle

Water Maintenance

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

New Contact Information?

Let us know!

Please send your new email, phone number or mailing address to RKMotta@cox.net or call (619) 977-2083.

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