
CABIN NEWSLETTER

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume 13, Number 56 ~ January 2016

President's Update

Frank Kalinoski



Hey! I just got my annual Forest Service Recreational Residence bill and my fee went down \$300!! All the work the National Forest Homeowners organization did over the last seven years to get the Cabin Fee Act passed has been well

worth it.

Dan Fritz and I worked around the Los Huecos water tank for several weeks trying to locate the old water lines that need to be connected for our water tank rehabilitation. All we knew for sure was what we saw - a large pipe attached to the tank disappearing into the ground.

We have old diagrams and some old structures

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Coming Up



Board Meeting

Saturday, February 6
9:00 -11:00 AM
Cabin 569



Chili Fest Social

Saturday, April 16
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Mt Laguna
Community Church



Fire Safe Council Meeting

Saturday, April 16
10:00 am -12:00 pm
Red-Tailed Roost



Mike Margolis

Special thanks to MLIA cabin owners Mike Margolis and Scott Knodle for their generosity in sharing photographs used in this newsletter and on the MLIA website.

Eugenie Newton, Editor



Scott Knodle

stuck in the ground, but that didn't necessarily help! We hired a pipeline locator service to help us determine the location of some old water lines but that gave us false positive information. So we started digging. Some of the stuff we found made us scratch our heads and wonder what someone was thinking 40 years ago. But we found the old lines we have been hunting for, replaced them and re-rerouted lines to fit our needs now.

President's Update

continued

The Los Huecos water tank refurbish project began January 11 after the most recent large snowstorm. The weather cleared and hopefully will cooperate for the estimated two weeks needed to complete the project. The Los Huecos tank was emptied and the water transferred to the larger Ole tank. After the tank refurbishment is complete Los Huecos will be refilled and the water disinfected. Then that water has to be transferred into Ole and Los Huecos filled again.

Water samples need to be taken to make sure there is no residual contamination from the rehabilitation work. It will take a while, but it will be worth the effort. This will create an inconvenience for the Los Huecos and Laguna cabin tracts. Dan and I are trying to devise a plan to provide water to the affected tracts if this project gets drawn out. We will keep everybody as up to date as possible as the project continues to unfold.

Our District Ranger, Donn Christiansen, has been transferred. The new District Ranger is Robert Heiar. His most recent assignment was in the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands in New Mexico. Ranger Heiar will be located in the Alpine District Office and start his assignment in February.

See you on the mountain!

Frank

Scott Knodle



Mike Margolis





"Thank You, Pat Spinetta"

MLFSC President 2003 - 2015

As 2016 begins, I end my 12 years as President of the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council. The Council is now in the very capable hands of Joe Cochran.

This was a wonderful experience for me. Working together as a community we accomplished a lot. Each of you, cabin and private property owners, contributed your time, skills, expertise,

labor and financial support to our many projects. All of those efforts were to fulfill our MLFSC mission: to work together as a community with agency partners to prevent the risk of fire and promote a healthy forest.

Have a healthy and happy 2016 and thank you again for all you have done to help me personally in this adventure.

Pat

~ News from Mt Laguna Fire Safe Council ~

Welcome to a new year on the mountain which is bringing changes to the MLFSC. For those of you I have not met or who were not at the meeting in November, my name is Joe Cochran and I am the new President of the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council. Please bring any concerns or suggestions you may have to the attention of myself or any FSC Board Member.

It will not be an easy task to replace Pat! We are going to carry on all of the things that have been working and, with all of your help, maybe even attempt some different avenues.

Our first meeting in 2016 will be April 16th at the Red Tailed Roost. I have arranged for my daughter-in-law Jennifer Cochran to provide a refresher course in CPR to all who may have not used it in a long time.

This is not a certification course but will be a hands-on demonstration with some dummies for practice. Jennifer is a Registered Nurse and works as a critical care flight nurse for Reach helicopter services. She also is an instructor for paramedics at Emstra School in El Cajon. Jennifer presented information about Reach rescue services at the October MLFSC meeting. She is an excellent speaker and I'm sure we'll find this CPR update informative and helpful.

With all our efforts together we can stop fire from taking our happy homes. This is OUR council and will only be as successful as we make it, so "Thank you" in advance for your participation.

Best Regards,
Joe Cochran Sr., Cabin 554
Cell: 619 540-4616

Laguna Snow Days



Scott Knodle



Mike
Margolis



Bobcat track



ROAD ACCESS

Carl Sessions

The final roadwork of 2015 was conducted on November 17. The steep grade mid-way down Upper Boiling Springs was completely re-graded, widened a bit, and repacked. A cabin owner drove by as we were wrapping up and she put her hands together in prayer thanking us for the improved road condition. (This is a part of your annual dues at work!) We also excavated both ends of the major culverts on Boiling Springs Rd using the fill, which is accumulated road base, as an additional topper on the access road itself.

All in all it has been a good

year for roads due to the dry conditions. With El Nino lurking on the horizon, and our desperate need for water on the mountain to save our trees, we will keep an eye out for trouble spots. We do a call to arms as needed to ensure you all have good access to your cabins.

I want to thank all the volunteers that participated in roadwork and Adopt-a-Highway cleanups during the year. Be vigilant and let me know (619-571-2284) if any trouble spots develop needing immediate attention.

Thanks again, and Happy New Year!!



San Diego County snowplow working on Los Huecos Road.

2016 EVENTS

February 6 –

MLIA Board Meeting
Cabin 569, El Centro Tract

April 16 –

Chili Fest Social
Mt Laguna Community Church

May 14 –

MLIA Board Meeting
Cabin 14, Shrine Camp Tract

June 25 –

Community Picnic
Horse Heaven Campground

August 6 –

MLIA Board Meeting
Cabin 472, Los Huecos Tract

August 20 –

Wine-A-Bit
Cabins 802 and 803

September 17 –

MLIA Annual Meeting
Red Tailed Roost

November 5 –

MLIA Board Meeting
Cabin 17, Shrine Camp Tract

Sumac Family Plants

Joanne Odenthal

Southern California is home to various plants commonly known as sumacs. They are all part of the cashew family, and they can all be toxic to one degree or another. Even the cashew fruit that we eat is toxic if it isn't soaked and processed prior to eating. Sumacs are interesting medicinal plants, used by the Indians of this region for many different ailments. Some sumacs can cause dermatitis, but not everyone is sensitive.

Our coastal sage scrub is home to lemonade berry, *Rhus integrifolia* and sugar bush, *Rhus ovata*. Both were used medicinally. Both have glossy green leaves, oval shaped with a pointed tip and an obvious midrib. They have white to pink flowers in the spring and pinkish berries in the summer. The berries were steeped in water to make a sour lemonade-like beverage said to quench thirst. Berries of the lemonade berry are larger than those of the sugar bush.

Here on Mt. Laguna our most common sumac is the skunkbrush or basket bush, *Rhus trilobata*. Some of you may have known this plant as squaw bush, a name that is no longer used. Skunkbrush can be mistaken for poison oak, *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, also a member of the cashew family. Both have shiny leaves with

scalloped edges, in groups of three.

Skunkbrush has red berries and poison oak has white berries. This is a sure way to tell the difference. Both have leaves that turn red in the fall and are deciduous. Skunkbrush is a distinct bush while poison oak can be vine-like or bushy. They grow in similar areas,



below 6000 feet. I've found skunkbrush on the Pacific Crest Trail, south of the Desert View and going down Pine Creek Road at about 5000 feet. There's probably poison oak along Pine Creek also, but I haven't encountered it. It tends to like streamside habitat. Skunkbrush grows in drier areas, but poison oak can also be found in dry wooded areas or chaparral. Take the time to learn the difference!

Skunkbrush, also known as basket bush, was a primary source of basketry material for the local Indians. Medicinally, skunkbrush was used for coughs, colds, stomachaches and bowel problems. Celia Garcia reports that the Chumash used skunkbrush by making a tea of the leaves. They also ate the berries and dried them to make into

soup. Like most plants, the local Indians had many uses for skunkbrush and other sumacs. They even used poison oak in tiny amounts to provide immunity against poison oak rash. Please don't try this yourself—it can backfire terribly! But do look for skunkbrush when you're out hiking and appreciate the many gifts it provides.



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

Water Maintenance

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

New Contact Information?

Let us know!

Please send your email, phone, and address changes to **Karen Motta at (619)-977-2083 or RKMotta@cox.net.**

Eugenie Newton, Editor
evn8@san.rr.com

