

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

# Cabin Newsletter

VOLUME 15

NUMBER 64



## President's MLIA News

*Frank Kalinoski*

Well, there just doesn't seem to be much excitement happening on the mountain. Peace and quiet reign!

The Forest Service is cutting down dead trees in and around the cabin tracts in their Fuel Reduction program. This is a very good thing. It really helps and is very encouraging. A contractor is assembling logs into piles in the Los Huecos Tract. What happens next is anybody's guess. And how long this all will take is not known. But progress is being made, which is another good thing.

Dan Fritz, the MLIA water man, has been regularly checking our water system and everything appears okay. The well pumping rate is steady and the water quality remains good. No new major leaks have been reported. This is definitely another good thing.

Our Forest Service Recreational Residence special use fee has been delivered and it has gone up less than 2% from last years CFA baseline, which we all should appreciate.

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**Save the  
Date!**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Board Meeting**

9:00 – 11:00 am  
Red Tailed Roost

**April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Chili Fest Social**

Mt. Laguna Community  
Church.  
Watch for flyer!

**April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Fire Safe Council**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Red Tailed Roost



~ 2018 ~

FEBRUARY

February 3 – Board Meeting

APRIL

April 21 – Chili Fest Social

MAY

May 5 – Board Meeting

JUNE

June 16 - Community Picnic

AUGUST

August 4 – Board Meeting

August 18 - Wine-A-Bit

SEPTEMBER

September 15 –  
Annual Meeting

OCTOBER

October 6 - Oktoberfest

NOVEMBER

November 3 –  
Board Meeting

## President's News, *continued.*

Accompanying the cabin fee invoice was a letter from the District Ranger outlining "a number of common issues that have come to light". Apparently closer inspections are coming and the Forest Service "will work with the permit holder directly to remedy the issues". As it states in the letter, please review the list to ensure you are in compliance.

Unlike last year, the weather is very dry and warm and windy and could be dangerous. We all must be a little extra safe, observant and thoughtful about what is happening around our cabins and around the mountain.

By the time this message goes out in the newsletter, I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and the New Year brings you health and happiness and time for family and friends on the mountain.

See you on the mountain!

*Frank*

### Need to limb up your trees?

Now, winter, is a good time to limb up the oak and pine trees around your cabin.

Cutting into trees now when they are more dormant is less harmful than in spring and summer when they are blooming and growing.



*Photograph by Nola Houston*



# Cabin Access Update

*Carl Sessions  
MLIA Vice - President*

Our semi-annual Adopt-a-Highway clean up occurred as planned on September 16 after the Annual Meeting. The turn out was great! We actually had to turn away four volunteers. So "Thank You" to the 16 folks that showed up. We also had a nice group of volunteers over for vino and spaghetti dinner afterward. The post winter clean up event will be scheduled around April 2018, depending on weather conditions.

Our roads are currently in fairly good condition. They have recovered some from the torrential rains last July. We did get about five hours of road work completed with Dave Keller's tractor before it left the mountain for good this past October. It now lives in Alpine much to our chagrin.

I have established a "neighborhood watch" team to report on road conditions within the community. Each tract has its own cabin owner who will report repair needs and discuss strategy for addressing those needs.

Watch Team members are:

- Carl Sessions - Boiling Springs Road
- Joe Cook and Ben Schindler - Upper/Lower Boiling Springs
- Brock Houston - Escondido Ravine
- Frank Kalinoski - El Centro tract
- Bill Holland - Laguna tract
- Jack Splinter - lower Los Huecos Road.

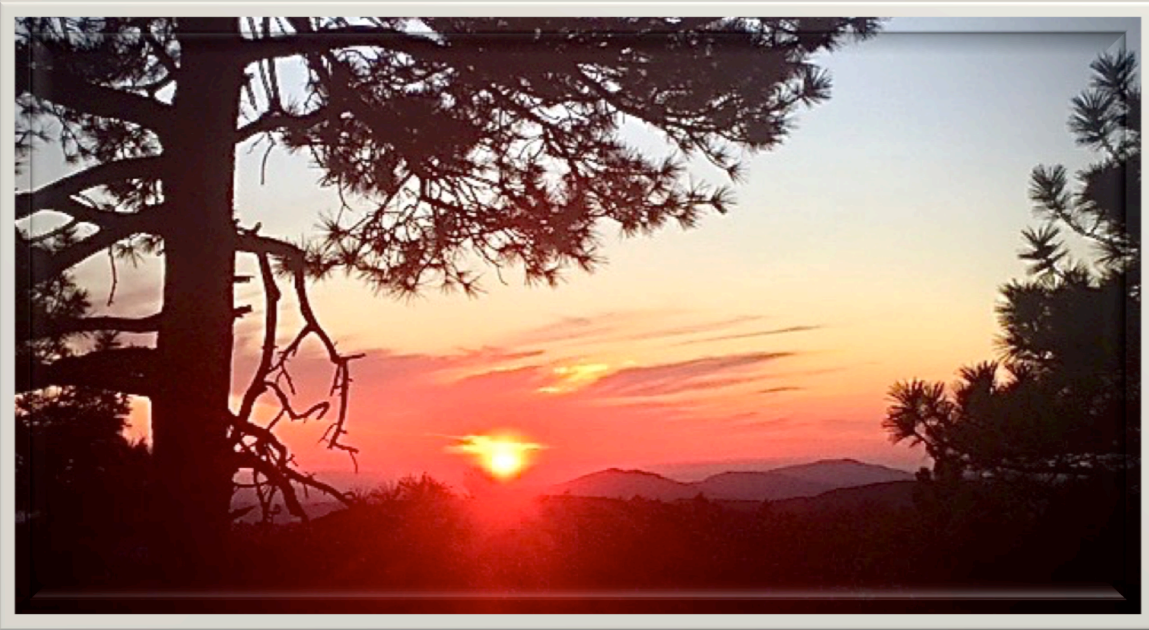
We already formed a work party for Boiling Springs Road from the cabin owners on that stretch of road and it worked great. We cleared leaves from the drainage system and opened culverts to allow for free flow of water when it arrives this winter. Stay in touch with your "go to" roads person and we will form a work party as needed to assist in any area.

Enjoy your cabin time this winter!!

*Carl  
Cabin 716, (619) 571-2284*

Oh, for just  
a bit of  
snow!





"A beautiful ending to a Mt. Laguna day." Cal Turner photograph

## Cabin Insurance

As we are all very aware, the destruction caused by massive wildfires in the West has been tremendous this year. All estimates are that it will continue to be a serious problem in future years. Cabin owners in many areas are unable to obtain fire insurance or, if they can, it's at a very high price.

Several issues ago I mentioned that the National Forest Homeowners Association that we, as MLIA members, are members was working on a cabin insurance program. Here's an update from the National Forest Homeowners organization.

"We're in the final stages of an agreement that will offer cabin insurance for NFH members. "How can I get insurance for my cabin?" or a variation of that question is among the most common request we receive at NFH. Currently, we are still examining critical factors including pricing models and coverage options. Our cabins are located in wooded areas and all

have a higher Fire Protection Rating Classification than typical residences. That means insurers face higher risks. Those higher risks generally mean higher pro-rated costs than standard home insurance policies. Our goal is make sure this benefit is available to all NFH members, as competitively priced for the market as possible, and that the coverage options meet your needs.

These final stages are proceeding rapidly, and the program could be in place by the time you read this. Watch for an email bulletin with more information, and make sure you can receive the emails from [nfhnews@nationalforesthomeowners.org](mailto:nfhnews@nationalforesthomeowners.org).

Don't miss out on this new member benefit!" If you're at all interested in this program, be sure to sign up for their emails.

*Brock Houston*  
*Cabin 807*





Chain saw crew.

## Mount Laguna Forest Service Fuel Reduction Project



Moving fallen trees.



Ready to be chipped.



## Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council

In December we still had Red Flag warnings. With no appreciable rain in November and none in December we are indeed still in peril. We had Santa Anna winds that damaged some of our tract signage and we'll need to repair/replace them by this coming Spring.

The USFS removal of dead and downed wood from around the cabins and all of your efforts to create defensible space around your cabins will certainly help in defense of our mountain retreats. If you want to use any of the wood they've cut down you'll need to get on it right away. Just a reminder the FSC has a log splitter available for your use. (See information below.)

We are presently working on updating our Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Many thanks to cabin owner Doug Reed for assisting in this effort! We are hoping to have it updated and approved by January.

We are "dark" with our Fire Safe Council meetings for the next few months. Our first meeting in 2018 is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. We'd like to see you there!

We thank MLIA and all for their continued support and efforts in 2017. Our best wishes for a prosperous 2018.

*Joe Cochran  
President MLFSC  
(619) 540-4616*

### Using FSC Equipment

The Fire Safe Council charges \$10 to use the truck for hauling on Mount Laguna. Recently, we had a much needed valve repair job done on the truck that cost several thousand dollars. It has been decided to charge \$10 to use the FSC log splitter and weed cutters. Over time this will help make up for the expenses of maintaining the equipment and repairs.

Contact John Wallar (949) 422-9561 or Chris Kenney (619) 729-0466 to arrange for equipment use. Truck keys are picked up at the Laguna Mountain store. The log

## Stay Current Between Newsletters

Check the MLIA  
website.

[mtlaguna.org](http://mtlaguna.org)

- ✓ News . . .  
[mtlaguna.org/news](http://mtlaguna.org/news)
- ✓ Social Events . . .  
[mtlaguna.org/events-2018](http://mtlaguna.org/events-2018)
- ✓ Your forest cabin . . .  
[mtlaguna.org/our-cabins](http://mtlaguna.org/our-cabins)



splitter and weed cutters are kept at the Wallar cabin #718.

Payment for the truck, log splitter and weed cutters needs to be done at the time of pickup.



# www:The Wood Wide Web

Ever wonder if plants really communicate? Or how they do?

In the past few decades researchers have found that there really is a “wood wide web” that allows plants to share information and resources. That name was coined in an article in the journal *Nature* in 1997, based on research done by Canadian scientist, Dr. Suzanne Simard, into mycelium networks or mycorrhizal fungi.

The word “mycorrhizal” is from the Greek—myco=fungus and rhiza=root. These fungus networks colonize tree roots, as well as the roots of shrubs and grasses. There are many different types of fungus root and specific plants resonate with specific fungi.

Fungi receive food from their plant hosts in the form of sugars such as glucose and sucrose. In return, fungal partners provide the plants with water and nutrients such as the minerals phosphorus and nitrogen. Plants with fungal partners are able to receive up to twice the nutrition compared with plants not part of a mycorrhizal network.

In addition, the mycorrhizal network can send messages alerting nearby plants to a pest invasion, so the shrubs or trees can mount a defensive response. Trees create compounds in response to invasion that taste bad to the invader, such as tannins in oaks or salicylic acid in willows.

Fungus root networks expand the reach of plant roots and intertwine plants in a mutually supportive system. Plants in arid and nutrient poor zones seem to benefit the most. Many trees in an arid forest (like ours) wouldn't survive without the support of the extra water and nutrients delivered by the mycorrhizae. At the same time, the fungus root network can be fragile. The tiny thread-like hairs that form a mat to connect plants just below the surface of the soil are delicate. They can be disturbed by tilling or any activity that tears up the earth. Plants can then become isolated, not receiving adequate water or nutrition until the fungal network repairs itself.



Oak fungus

For more about forest health and how trees communicate, read *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. Much of the information in this article came from his book.

Joanne Odenthal  
Cabin 505

# 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.

## KEEP US POSTED!

Please send new email,  
phone, and address contact  
information to

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

## Water System Notes

Any problems with the  
MLIA water system needs  
to be reported to

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

Thanks to Nola Houston and Cal  
Turner for their photograph  
contributions.

*Eugenie Newton, Editor*  
evn8@san.rr.com