

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

CABIN NEWSLETTER



President's Report

Frank Kalinoski

As I write this I am looking at the latest message from the NFH. What do I see but a picture of Meg Moore standing in front of the MLIA table with her tri-board displays she made for the Conference. The displays really showed off Mount Laguna. **Thank you, Meg, for your extra efforts!**

It would take forever to relate to you all of the stuff that went on at the **National Forest Homeowners Conference** in early May, so I won't do that here. I strongly encourage you all to visit the NFH website and view the presentations we had the pleasure to attend.

Most of the conference presentations have been posted and it is worth your time and effort to take a look. There is **valuable information about Cabin Permits, Wildfires, Cabin Insurance, Cabin Trusts, Historic Cabins, and Forest Plan Revisions.** **Go to the NFH website at:** www.nationalforesthowners.org/page/SanDiego2019

Doug Gann, NFH President, asked the audience how many attendees were from Mount Laguna. A lot of hands went up! The other folks there knew we were there in force. The MLIA cabin owners that I saw there: Laura and Tom Bier, Tina Pivonka and Pat Faircloth, Meg Moore, Carl Sessions, Doug Reed, Cookie Ringhand, Michael and Kristy Rennie, Brock and Nola Houston, Devin Briese, and Lara Mays. (If I missed you I apologize.)

Continued on page 2

Save These Dates

Community Picnic

Saturday June 15
See Picnic Flyer p4.



It helps to
know how many will
be there!

RSVP to
pokokerry@aol.com
(928) 503-7965

MLIA Board Meeting

Saturday Aug 3
9:00 – 11:00 am
Red Tailed Roost

Wine-A-Bit

Saturday Aug 17
Watch for event flyer

President's Report, *continued*

For many, this was their first NFH Annual Conference. I hope it was worth their time and money. This is the place to meet other cabin owners from across the western states, share stories and common problems and happy stories. I met a lady from Echo Lake, off US Hwy 50 near South Lake Tahoe in the Eldorado NF. She can only access her cabin by boat and has no electricity. See how lucky we are.

Carl was there looking for info on road maintenance. Devin was looking for anybody who had experience getting water from the Forest Service for their cabin, and he found it.

Our own **District Ranger, Bob Heiar** opened the Friday afternoon General Session with remarks about the Cleveland NF. He did a good job. The **Deputy Regional Forester, Jennifer Eberlein**, outlined five national goals: *empower employees, provide responsive customer service, share stewardship of the forest, enhance recreation access and infrastructure, and improve the forest habitat.* These goals are quite a challenge, but encouraging.



At the Saturday lunch, Leslee Riddell was presented with the Bob Ervin Outstanding Leadership Award. Leslee is the President of the Holy Jim Cabin Improvement Association in the Trabuco District north of us in the CNF. Her leadership was instrumental in the recovery efforts after the Holy Jim Fire this past summer. She made an impressive acceptance speech. There are some amazing people in our cabin community.

There are **new things happening in the NFH via their website**. Under Resources you can find 'Ask the Community' where you can post questions There is a link to 'Cabin Insurance.' (Ask Brock Houston about this.) Under 'Cabins for Sale' you can view cabins available for sale. You have to check this stuff out! The NFH is really trying to make their organization a useful tool for us.

On Monday following the conference NFH Executive Director, Sharon Leach, the Field Director, Desiree LaMaggiore, and USFS WO Lands Special Uses Manager, Elrand Denson, and Lands Realty Specialist, Mark Chandler, trekked out to a cold and windy and rainy east county to tour the Pine Creek Tract in Pine Valley and five of our tracts on Mount Laguna.

We went to four cabins in Pine Valley. (They mostly have their own wells!) On the mountain we visited Brock's place in Burnt Rancheria, my cabin in El Centro, Pat & Tina's place in Los Huecos, the rock cabin on Sunrise Hwy (shown by Cookie), Carl's cabin in Boiling Springs and finally Devin's place in Shrine Tract. They all really appreciated this opportunity to see cabins first hand. By the time we got to Carl's place these folks were cold and hungry and Carl had hot chili to share. They were mighty grateful! **Many thanks to Carl** for the extra effort.

I would call this NFH Annual Conference a SUCCESS. Thank you for your support.

See you on the mountain!!

Frank

May 2019 National Forest Homeowners Conference

Brock Houston

This year's National Conference was held at The Dana on Mission Bay. Some of the highlights are . . .

Our MLIA Sponsor's Table-

Along with a map of our area and Outstanding Cabin Tract award banner from 2005, there were two outstanding three-piece display boards created by Meg Moore. They included many photos of our cabins, wildlife and scenery on the mountain.

Copies of recent MLIA Quarterly Newsletters edited and produced by Eugenie Newton received extremely favorable comments from cabin owners from across the country.

Thanks very much Meg and Eugenie!

NFH Initiatives-

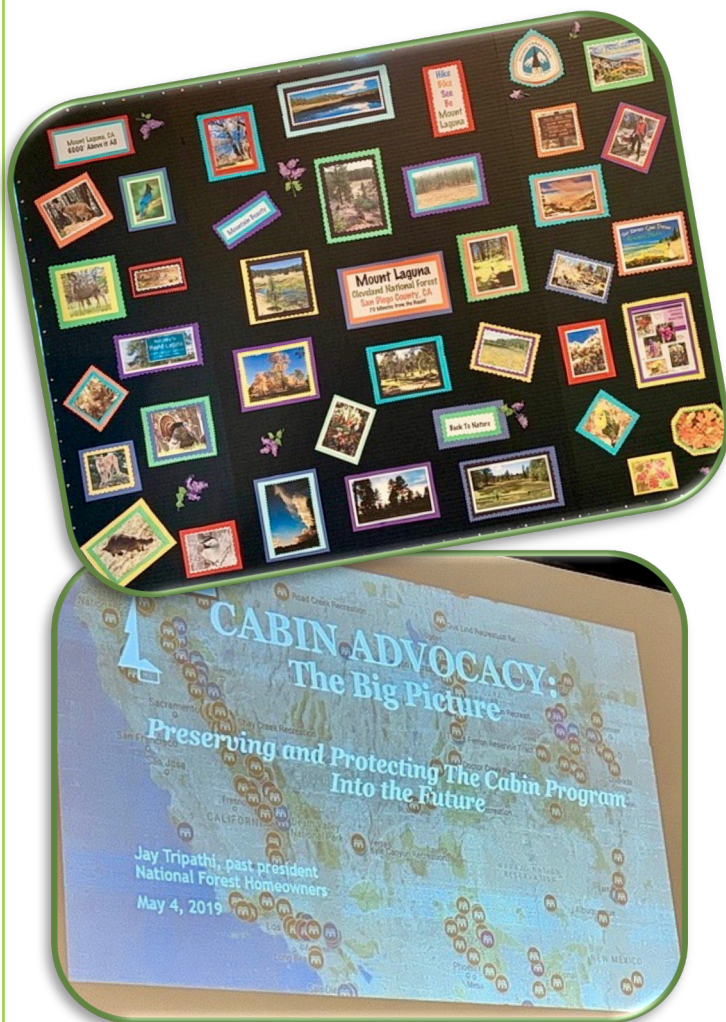
- **Cabin Insurance** – Parker Humes from Assurance Risk Management attended the conference. He mentioned that whether or not we are satisfied with our current coverage, it might make sense to have him seek quotes from a number of the different companies he represents. Applications are on the NFH website. His phone number is (303) 454-9562.

- **Cabins for Sale** – The NFH has implemented a free service for us where we can list our cabins for sale & see other listed cabins. Listings and information about listing a cabin are also on the NFH website. In the near future there will be some additional services offered such as items for sale or exchange.
- **Community Forum** – This is where we can discuss and seek answers to a wide range of subjects related to our cabins. While the public can view the discussions, only NFH members can post or reply. Some cabin owners will be acting as “subject experts” as this site grows. On the website the forum can be found under “Ask the Community”.

Miscellaneous

Our **cabin permits** will renew in 2028. It's likely the Forest Service will begin working on this process as early as 2026. When they are up for renewal they will review our cabins for compliance with their requirements. It's worth taking a look at your permit and the comments that the Forest Service includes with the annual bill for our cabin fees to see what could be involved.

Cabin Fee Act - When the Act passed in 2015, there was a requirement that after 10 years (in 2025) the fees we pay go into the Forest Service budget and **MUST** be used for recreational purposes including supporting the recreational cabin program. Currently this would be about \$30,000,000.



SUMMER 2019

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

Community Picnic

Saturday June 15, 2019

Hosted by The Andersons

Cabin 723 in Boiling Springs Tract

**All Mt Laguna Community
Are Invited!**

**Cabin Owners - Private
Residents - LMVA - Cal Fire
and USFS Fire Personnel**



12:00 pm - Potluck

2:00 pm - Prize Drawings

50/50 Raffle

\$100 Grand Prize

Must be present to win!

RSVP to

Kerry Anderson

(928) 503-7965

pokokerry@aol.com

Bring a potluck dish to share and your meat to grill.

**MLIA will provide grills to use; soda, beer, wine, paper products
and utensils. Please bring your own chairs.**

Only Service Animals are allowed at functions serving food. No pets please.

A Bit of History Cabin 330 Laguna Tract from Andy Myers



Circa 1920.
Cabin built 1915 or 1919. Lucille
Pennick and Leslie Houston in front.



Mid-1970's.
Sign on the front says *The Pennicks*,
aka *El Tee Pee*. Note the large pine
behind cabin in both photos. It later
fell between 330 and the cabin next
door.

Community News from our Fire Safety Council

Summer is here and it's time to clean up your mountain property! The dumpster has been delivered to the area south of Thing Road off Sunrise Highway. This is the same dumpster location as last year. The dumpster is for **ONLY** leaves, grass cuttings and pine cones! Please see Tom at the Laguna Lodge store for a key to access the site. Be sure to thank Tom.

The pile for branches and shrubs only, maximum 6" in diameter, is also available next to the dumpster. Please no trash, bags or construction debris is allowed at this site. See page 8 for *Dumpster Etiquette and Cleanup tips*.

Thanks to the US Forest Service for this location again.

At our **June 15th meeting**, May Kyaw from the Red Cross will provide information and training on "hands only" CPR. Our **July 20th meeting** will include Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) information regarding wildfire safety and cabin/house hardening. The information provided will be from a Cal Fire/San Diego County Fire Safe Council based WUI seminar. Cabin owner Richard Willis has offered to be the speaker.

SDG&E provides outage maps, weather reports, cameras and power shutdown status on their website. Remember to check these sites before and during visits to the mountain as weather conditions dictate. Also be sure to sign up for weather and power outage warnings and alerts to your cell phone and email through your SDG&E online account.

Thanks to the Mount Laguna Community, US Forest Service and the MLIA for their continued support of the Fire Safe Council.

Doug Reed, President MLFSC

*Thank you Nola Houston for sharing your
photographs - NFH, ChiliFest, flowers, and
critters - for our Summer newsletter.*

SUMMER 2019



Auction Time . . .
Frank Kalinoski and Meg Moore

Chili Fest organizers Kerry
Anderson and Karen Motta



2019 Chili Fest Social



Hoping for Spring!



BEST CHILI WINNER Martha Woodworth, Cabin 701

- Toast cumin seeds in a dry skillet until golden and fragrant. Use mortar and pestle to crush seeds, or grind them to a powder in a coffee grinder.
- Roast peppers and chilies under broiler or over gas flame to blacken skins. Place in a tightly closed large brown paper grocery bag and steam for five minutes. Peel off skins and remove seeds. Puree with tomatoes in a food processor or blender.
- In a large pot, cook ground meat 1 pound at a time until meat is just cooked through. Drain off juices after each pound, except the last.
- Remove meat and cook onions and garlic in the juices until onions are transparent.
- Return meat to pot and add tomato-pepper puree and all seasonings. Add water to cover.
- Simmer, covered, for two hours, stirring occasionally. Let chili cool completely and skim off surface fat.

Approximately 18 servings

4 pounds ground beef
4 pounds ground pork
3 tablespoons whole cumin seeds
2 green peppers
1 red pepper
6 Anaheim chilies
4 fresh jalapenos
28 ounces tomatoes with juice
3 medium onions
5 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon dried oregano
4 tablespoons chili powder
2 tablespoons salt
Freshly ground pepper

Getting to the cabin

We continue to monitor ongoing damage created by recent rains and the subsequent ruts and clogs caused by run off. As you all are aware, we are experiencing reduced maintenance due to the lack of readily available equipment. We are working on alternatives as quickly as possible and hope to have some very positive alternatives in the near future.

In the meantime, we must continue to form work parties within the local cabin tracts to alleviate travel hazards and ensure that emergency vehicles can safely reach our cabins. Let me know if you have a specific project in mind that requires some able bodies. No promises, but we will try our best to rally some folks with rakes and shovels!!

See you at the MLIA Community Picnic on June 15th.

Carl Sessions, MLIA VP



Clean up Crew



Really! You really left this mess?

Cleaning up Sunrise Highway

We had 11 hard-working volunteers on April 6th who cleared our section of highway. We had about 14 bags of trash and a few unusual items: a tire, an old wooden folding chair, part of a bumper and what looked like the carpeting from the inside of an SUV.

The Bier Family had a great time and the kids really worked hard hunting for every piece of trash they could find! After the cleanup we met at Carl's and had a nice lunch and relaxed under the beautiful trees. It was really nice to have such a great turn-out for the project. It was a very productive event!

*Denise Whisman
Adopt-A-Highway Chair*



**Bier Family
Tilly, Tom
and Jasper**



Dumpster Etiquette & Cleanup Tips

Here are some guidelines for your cabin brush reduction. You will also find complete information posted on the website at <http://mtlaguna.org/create-defensible-space>.

1) Fire inspections will begin soon.

2) Pay attention to the fire danger level when you work. No power tools are to be used if the fire danger is extreme. Have a fire extinguisher handy or a hose primed while using power tools!

3) We are responsible for cleaning the area within 100 feet of our cabins. (Often this is shared with neighboring cabins).

Within 30 feet of all structure:

- **Rake leaves and needles and weed-whack grasses.** You can leave wildflowers and very low-growing shrubby plants that hold the soil.

From 30 feet to 100 feet:

- **Cut grasses to 4" or less.**
- **Remove dead branches and other ladder fuel.**
- It's OK to leave a layer of leaves and needles as mulch.

Check out the Cal Fire website at <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Defensible-Space/> for more detailed information.

4) **Remove all leaves, needles, and pinecones to the dumpster** south of Thing Road off Sunrise Highway. (Same as last year.) You will need to get the key from Tom at the Laguna Mountain store. **Don't' keep the key all day**; return it to the store after each dumpster run.

5) Dumpster Etiquette

- **ONLY leaves, needles, and pine cones go into the dumpster.**
- **Push everything to the back of the dumpster!**
- **No bags** — everything in the dumpster must be loose.

6) **Branches up to 6 inches in diameter go on the burn pile** near the dumpster. Branches larger than 6 inches in diameter should be cut up and retained at your cabin for firewood.

7) **Please instruct any day laborers you use in these guidelines.** Go with them for the first run to the dumpster so you can assess the situation and see how much room is remaining in the dumpster.

If the dumpster is near full, please alert Doug Reed at ohio0411@hotmail.com right away.

Thanks for your cooperation in keeping our cabins clean and fire safe!

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

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

MLIA website
www.mtlaguna.org

Keep us current!

**Send new contact
info to**

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



**Water line problems?
Questions?**

**Call
Dan Fritz
MLIA Water Supervisor
(619) 405-1452**

Eugenie Newton, Editor
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