

# MLIA CABIN



# NEWSLETTER

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## Frank Kalinoski wins NFH Leadership Award

It's our pleasure to announce that **Frank Kalinoski has won the National Forest Homeowners Outstanding Leadership Award for 2020.** He'll be receiving his award at the NFH Annual Meeting in September.

Frank was selected based on the contributions he has made to the Mt. Laguna Cabin Owners' Association during his tenure on the board. Frank has taken major leadership in the upgrade and maintenance of our water systems, as well as representing MLIA to the Forest Service and County Water Authority.

When Mount Laguna experienced the Chariot Fire in 2013, Frank was Vice President of MLIA. The MLIA supplied emergency water to the Forest Service fire fighters. In the aftermath, Frank worked with the Forest Service and our water

manager to provide easier access to emergency water in the case of another fire.



In addition, water was provided to the Shrine tract of cabins, previously serviced by the Shrine Camp. Under Frank's leadership there have also been repairs to the wellhead, both of our water tanks and the pump

house. All of this required diligent work with the Forest Service to acquire requisite permissions and suitable contractors.

In addition, Frank has continued and encouraged the regular community events MLIA began some years back. He is active in the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council and has attended San Diego County training sessions for small water districts. We are fortunate to have a President who is willing to devote this much time and energy to our cabins and the mountain.

Please join us in congratulating Frank on his award!

Stay tuned . . . We will let you know if these events will happen as planned and the details.

Fire Safe Council

May 16

MLIA Community Picnic

June 20

# News from MLIA President

Frank Kalinoski

As I write this article the Coronavirus is circling the globe creating worry and panic. (This reminds me of an old sci-fi movie of aliens in huge spaceships invading the earth. Ironically the invaders were killed by an earth virus. ) This virus apparently can be particularly troublesome for us older folks. Hopefully we will not see any casualties in our mountain community. When in doubt, instead of running to the store for toilet paper and ramen noodles (from what I saw these were the essentials cleared from the store shelves), we should all go to our cabins and let the world turn itself into a pretzel.

Part of the viral response is the **cancellation of the National Forest Homeowners Annual Conference** scheduled for the end of April. It has been moved to September 12th and 13th. The location is the same in Vancouver, Washington (across the Columbia River from Portland) at the Heathman Lodge. I plan on attending since I was informed I am receiving the NFH Leadership award. It seems certain unnamed MLIA cohorts convinced the NFH I am worthy. I do not think I do anything extraordinary. I do not think I measure up to last year's award to Leslie Rydell and her recovery efforts after the Trabuco District Holy Jim fire. I just try and keep the water system running with the help of Dan, work with the Forest Service to remind them of our value to them and try to keep this herd of cats (cabin owners) running in the same general direction. I certainly could not do any of this alone.

*Dan* is indispensable for the proper running of the water system. *Carl* is doing a wonderful job with the cabin access (the main concern after water) and is encouraging others to participate. *Joanne* is helpful beyond belief and when she tackles something, she does not let go until it is

complete. *Karen* keeps the books and keeps us all on our toes and keeps us in line. The directors support is essential. *Devin* is hammering away at the Forest Service to get a permanent water source for his Shrine Tract. *Kerry* keeps us prepped for our social events. And *Eugenie* publishes this wonderful newsletter, that has won the NFH Communication award. What a crew!!! *Thanks for all you do to help run this organization.*

Our **District Ranger, Bob Heiar**, is still in Washington DC, working with the Forest Service on their 2020-21 budget. He is due to return in early May. Hopefully he will return. Even though it might be difficult to believe sometimes, but this guy wants our cabins to succeed. He is the only District Ranger that I have experienced in 20 years who takes the

time to meet with every new cabin owner. You got to give him credit for trying.

The winter started out wet and then got dry for a while and now the March Miracle has kicked in and everything is getting a good soaking. That means a lot of wonderful wildflowers to enjoy outside our cabins and along the hiking trails. It also means a lot of weeds to whack around our cabins in

a few months. And it means water for the aquifer that supplies our well. Hopefully the good work Carl did on part of Boiling Springs will hold up to the rain and snow. We can use this as an example of what can be done for the other ugly parts of Boiling Springs access.

Normally after the cold and wind and rain and snow it would be time to churn out some chili dishes for our April kick-off social event, the ChiliFest Social and Best Chili contest. But we had to cancel the ChiliFest due to the current state and local COVID-19 virus restrictions.







# Cabin Access Report

Carl Sessions, MLIA VP  
Cabin 716

The work on Boiling Springs Road from Sunrise Hwy to the bottom of the access to our Ole water tank was completed in February. Thanks to the financial contributions of all 10 cabin owners that utilize this access route as well as the MLIA's assistance (due to needing to access the water tank) we were able to hire a licensed road engineer to professionally re-grade the entire 1,200 feet. Material was recovered and utilized from past projects to keep the costs down. This project provided us with a view of the work we can expect from this contractor on future projects. The results, based on feedback, were very favorable.

The newest project for Upper and Lower Boiling Springs is in the works. Another amazing community

effort is making the renovations of these cabin access routes possible led by two Boiling Springs tract road 'captains' (one each for upper and lower Boiling Springs Road). An email campaign started the communications and was followed by a recent 'meet and greet' to answer last minute questions about both projects.

Upper Boiling Springs will begin soon, followed by Lower Boiling Springs Road. New drainage will be designed to alleviate the damaging runoff that causes ruts, crevices, and pot holes. Stay tuned for an update on this project made possible by these two awesome leaders and the tremendous spirit of the Boiling Springs cabin community.

## President's News, *continued*

However, we can still eat some fine chili! **See page 4 for a few winning recipes from prior Best Chili Contests.**

Finally, I have to remind you all that Karen Motta, our long-time Treasurer, will someday be needing to sell her cabin. Then she will need to be replaced. According to our bylaws, the MLIA Officers are chosen from the Directors and must serve as a Director for one year [Sections 4.01 and 5.02]. So, we are in need of a Director who could become a competent Treasurer. If any of you cabin owners think you could step into Karen's shoes eventually, please let me or any other officer or director know of your interest. This is probably the most important position in this organization, essential to its well being. Give it some thought all. This is your organization.

*See you on the mountain!! FRANK*

# No Chili Social but we can still eat chili!!

## Winning ChiliFest Recipes

### "White Bean Chili"

**Joannie Cochran, Cabin 554**

**2014 Winner**

- 1 - 32oz. box chicken stock
- 3 - Cans white beans undrained  
(Recommend S & W in a light seasoning sauce)
- 3 - Cups cooked chicken (rotisserie) shredded
- 1 - 16 oz. jar salsa (Recommend Pace chunky mild)
- 1 - 8 oz. block Pepper Jack cheese grated  
(Recommend Sargento.) Use a little bit less  
because than the full 8 oz as it can get  
really spicy.
- 2 - Cloves garlic minced
- Black or white pepper to taste

Place all ingredients except corn chips in crockpot and cook on high until cheese is melted.

When the chili is ready, add 1/2 cup crushed corn chips at the end to make the chili thicker.

Simmer for 10 minutes.

Garnish with more chips, cheese, and/or sour cream and serve.

Enjoy!

*Recipe from Diane Delgado. Copyright by Cheryl Huguley.*

### "Carl's Stake Chili"

**Carl Sessions, Cabin 716**

**2016 Winner**

- Brown 1 lb. lean hamburger and 2 lbs. cubed sirloin steak.
- Put the browned meat in a large crockpot.
- Add four 10 oz. cans of Mexican style stewed tomatoes, two 10 oz. cans of tomato Sauce. Brown 1 large chopped yellow onion and add to mix. (Do not brown the onion with the meat.)
- Add chili powder, habanero peppers and other peppers, and ground cumin . . . all suited to taste, of course!!
- Cook on high for 3-4 hours.
- Add a 28 oz. can drained kidney beans and a 10 oz. bag of sliced white mushrooms for the final hour of cooking.

### "Donna's Chili"

**Donna Whisman, Cabin 715**

**2017 Winner**

- 1-large can chili beans in chili sauce
- 1-large can crushed tomatoes
- 1-package Chili seasoning mix
- Chop: 1-medium onion  
1-medium bell pepper
- 1-whole yellow chili pepper
- 1-whole jalapeno pepper
- 1 and a half pounds carne asada meat

Cook beans, tomatoes, bell pepper, onion, bell peppers, whole chili pepper and jalapeno pepper and seasonings mixed together until tender in a stock pot.

Chop carne asada meat into 1/2" chunks.  
(Meat is easier to cut when partially frozen.) Saute in skillet until cooked.

Add to stock pot and simmer until blended together.



# From the Fire Safe Council

*Doug Reed, MLFSC President*

We want to thank John Wallar for all his hard work and dedication to the Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council, Mount Laguna Improvement Association and the Mount Laguna community over the past many years. We wish John and Peggy many happy trails in their new adventures and travel.

Our equipment and truck will continue to be managed by Richard Willis (619-990-1404, cabin 702) and Jack Splinter (858-472-4368, cabin 472). The wood splitter will be stored at Jack's cabin and the weed trimmers, pole saw and hedge trimmer will be stored at Richard's cabin. The truck and equipment will be relocated from John's cabin over the next several months. Contact either Jack or Richard to make arrangements to use the equipment. Truck key can be picked up from Mount Laguna Lodge and all equipment and truck procedures will stay the same.

The April 2020 Fire Safe Council (FSC) meeting is cancelled. The Roost has been shutdown by the USDA and Forest Service. Everyone will be notified

by a mass email of the status of the May meeting.

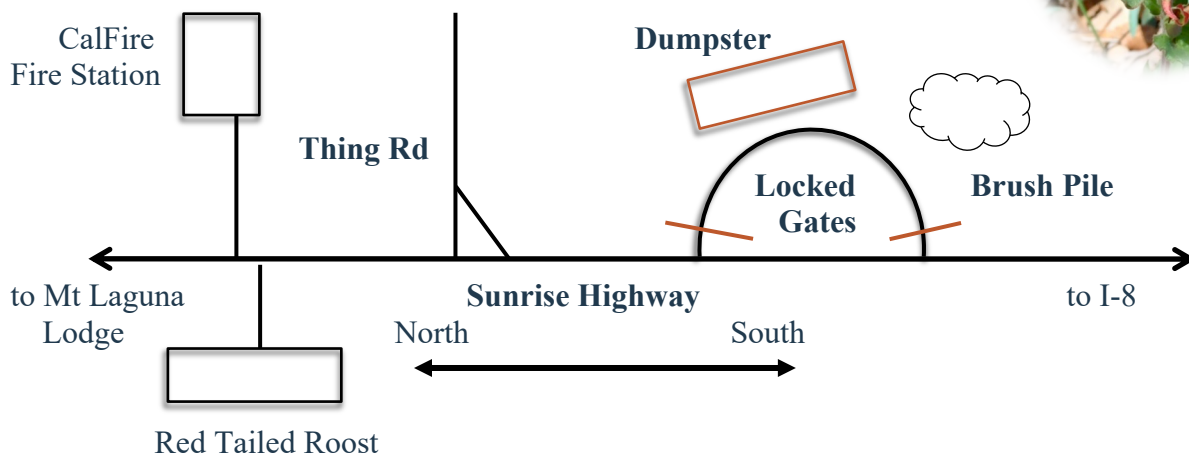
In coordination with the Forest Service, the dumpster (for grass, weed and pine cone disposal only) will be in the same location as last year. (Off Sunrise Highway just south of Thing Road. See diagram.) The dumpster will be set up in May. We will email all cabin owners when it is set up and the combination code for the gate lock. The site is still accessible for dumping of brush and branches up to 6" in diameter. And, always be diligent to keep this area clean and litter free. No bags are allowed in the dumpster or the brush pile.

Thanks to the MLIA, the US Forest Service and the community of Mount Laguna for their continued support of the FSC.

**HAPPY SPRING!!**



**MLIA Dumpster Location Map**



*First things first*, I hope you are all well and I'm sending positive vibes in all directions that everyone stays safe and healthy!

Secondly, I'm sorry if you've felt at all in the dark during this time. It's been almost impossible for me to keep updated on all of the changes daily so I am going to be doing my best to start sending out mass emails to partners so that you all can stay updated on what's currently happening.

From Lindsay Steinwachs  
Recreation &  
Lands Officer, USFS  
lindsey.steinwachs@usda.gov

**An official Regional Closure to developed recreation sites until April 30<sup>th</sup> is now in place.**

The closures are official and an actual ticket-able offense to be within the closed sites. (See *page 8 for closed areas.*) Trailheads & trails are still open under this Order. **WE ARE STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS** and we aim to be a resource for the public as long as there aren't crazy droves of humans and resource damage.

If you need to seek out the Forest for some solitude and hiking away from the world, please do that. Be mindful to disperse yourselves and not travel in large groups.

Things are constantly changing and I aim to update you as quickly as possible as things progress. Stay well!

## Cabin Happenings at National Forest Homeowners

The NFH Annual Conference, originally scheduled for this Spring, has been rescheduled to September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, WA. More information is available on the NFH website [www.nationalforesthowners.org](http://www.nationalforesthowners.org).

### ***So why do we need the NFH?***

The most visible benefit of NFH membership in the recent past was the passage of the Cabin Fee Act. It reduced our annual Forest Service fees and limited the rate at which they could increase each year. That was a major accomplishment.

### ***But, what are they doing for us now?***

In the past 3 years there have been a number of proposals in to:

- Distribute Federal lands to state governments (effectively eliminating the Recreational Cabin Program as we know it).
- Reduce or eliminate Forest Service law enforcement positions.
- Open more public lands to energy and mining activities, including those currently under various levels of protection that presently don't allow these activities.
- Reduce the size of some national monuments in order to open those lands to exploration for natural resources.

Not all of these proposals directly impact the Recreational Cabin program, but several could overall, regionally or even individually.

National Forest Homeowners has a *Government Liaison Committee* comprised of volunteer members. It researches, monitors, and responds to issues affecting our cabins by making recommendations to the NFH Board. We are also represented in Washington, D.C. by the law firm *Summit Strategies Government Affairs* is our primary representative to Congress and the Forest Service. They have the contacts we need to make our needs known.

Because our cabins are easily accessible to us and because we own our own water system (MLIA is legally a water district), we are less susceptible to some of the risks these proposals present. **The major risk we face is that of wild fires destroying our cabins and facing restrictions or limitations on rebuilding them.** *The NFH has been very active in cabin tracts where this has been a problem.*



I've concentrated on the benefits that are specific to the Recreational Cabin Program. Check out the other services NFH offers on their website.

***Brock Houston, Cabin 807***

# Yerba Santa, Versatile and Beautiful

The Laguna Mountains have at least two, possibly three different kinds of Yerba Santa.

*Eriodyction trichocalyx* has narrow leaves with a sticky underside. Flowers are tubular and white or pink. It grows along the desert overlook trails in a number of places from Burnt Rancheria campground north. There is a large stand of this particular Yerba Santa at Kwaaymii Point off Sunrise Highway.

Flowers, *E trichocalyx*



Leaves, *E trichocalyx*

Leaves, *E crassifolium*



*Eriodyction crassifolium* has thick, hairy leaves that feel very soft. The flowers are purple to white and tubular. The thick, soft leaves of *Eriodyction crassifolium* were used as a bandage, to cover wounds. There is a stand of this Yerba Santa about halfway up Sunrise Highway from Interstate 8. It must be in other places, also, but I haven't found it. In the spring it has beautiful purple flowers.



Flowers, *E crassifolium*

*Eriodyction angustifolium* grows in Southern California deserts, and may be present on the trails from Laguna down to the desert floor. It has narrow leaves and white tubular flowers.

All the Yerba Santas were used traditionally for lung problems such as asthma, coughs, colds and bronchitis. The flowers and leaves were made into a tea, or sometimes the herb was smoked. For arthritis, a tea was drunk or a liniment rubbed on the body. For dry mouth the leaves were chewed. Research on Yerba Santa has found it to be expectorant, decongestant, antioxidant, and antibacterial.

There is a Yerba Santa, *Eriodyction californicum*, which grows on the Northern California coast, mountains and desert. Recent studies have shown the plant to contain a constituent called "sterubin" which may be neuroprotective against Alzheimer's disease. There is no indication whether all the *Eriodyctions* contain sterubin, but it would be interesting to find out. As always, plants are amazing!

*Joanne Odenthal, Cabin 505*





## MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

### Mount Laguna Recreation Areas Closed Until April 30

- Visitor Information Center
- Agua Dulce Trailhead
- **Campgrounds:** Burnt Rancheria, Laguna, Boulder Oaks, Cibbets Flats, Corral Canyon, Bobcat Meadows
- **Picnic Areas:** Desert View & Pioneer Mail
- **OHV Areas:** Bear Valley and Corral Canyon

**NOTE:** All bathrooms are closed because staff is not allowed to clean them due to the health & safety risks. At many trailheads you can access the trails but amenities are limited.

### Broken Water Lines?

Report any problems with the MLIA water system to

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

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### Have you moved?

Let us know so we can stay in contact!

Please send address, phone and email changes to

**Karen Motta**  
**KLMotta46@gmail.com**  
**(619) 977-2083**