

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

CABIN NEWSLETTER



Sunset over Cuyamaca after a prescribed burn, May 2020.

Photo by Peggy Elliot

VOL. 18, NO. 74

Thank you!

Quite a few of us decided to spend time at our cabins for “sheltering-at-home” in the last couple of months. Numerous photos and comments about your cabin shelter time this spring were sent to me for our newsletter.

Many thanks for sharing your experience.

Eugenie Newton, Editor

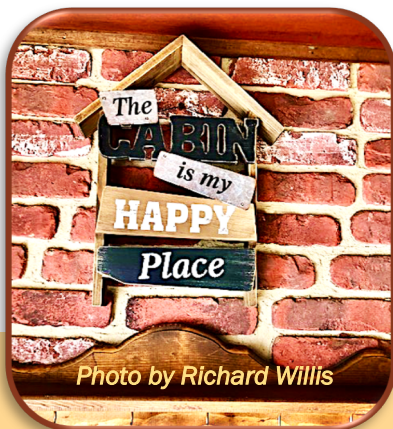


Photo by Richard Willis

All the photos used in this summer newsletter were taken by MLIA cabin owners.

MLIA President's News

by Frank Kalinoski

This time last summer I was commenting on the recent NFH Annual Conference on Mission Bay. This year's conference has been postponed for September. Hopefully I will be able to attend. This year we are sheltering in place with the trees on the mountain. What is allowed or not as defined by the county and the Forest Service changes every other week due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. So, we had our first quarterly MLIA Board meeting via Zoom on Saturday June 6th. It actually went fairly well. We probably had better participation, because people were not required to be on the mountain. Maybe this is a better way to go? Who knows?

With so much uncertainty we have decided to put a temporary hold on the scheduled MLIA social events on the mountain right now. The Board discussed options for having a socially-distant gathering in the fall. At this point we don't even know that the Forest Service will allow usage of the Red-Tailed Roost for our Annual Meeting in September. We will keep you posted.

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Treasurer Wanted - Soon!!

MLIA is looking for a cabin member who has bookkeeping knowledge and is willing to help the MLIA cabin community. Please contact Frank at kalfr1389@gmail.com or Karen at KLMotta46@gmail.com for more information.

President's News, *continued*

Some day we will be able to meet on the mountain!

Regardless of a virus running amok in the world, on the mountain the birds are squawking, the squirrels and gophers are digging, the turkeys are scratching around as they roam thru the forest, the bugs have hatched and are flying around, the wildflowers are announcing summer with their reds and yellows and blues and whites, and the weeds are growing up thru the oak leaves and pine needles. Yep!! Time to get out there and do the dirty job of clearing up around your cabin. The Forest Service will soon be out checking for fire safety/compliance.

Our USFS District Ranger, Bob Heiar, is still in Washington working on the Forest Service budget past his original three month stay. Whether he will be returning to the Cleveland is still unknown. Angela Cobb, Supervisory Administrative Operations Specialist from the Cleveland NF office in Rancho Bernardo is our acting District Ranger.

Devin Breise and the Chariot Fire Recovery Committee have been working with the acting District Rangers putting together a proposal to replace the old Shrine Camp well with a "new" well to service the remaining seven Shrine Tract cabins. The MLIA has agreed to help in this effort with a 50/50 contribution towards the project.

Hopefully any hurdles presented will not be too difficult to resolve and this long-sought solution can be achieved.

With so many folks hunkering down on the mountain due to the virus pandemic, the water usage is way up. Our water system is working just fine supplying you all with the precious water we need. All the water samples for bacteriological testing are "Absent for coliforms".

Photos by Nola Houston



We are watching the SDG&E

underground power and power pole replacement activities closely. The last thing we need is for a cabin water supply line or a water distribution line to be broken by SDG&E digging a hole. We have reached out to them without reply. This fall we hope to schedule a required water tank cleaning of our main storage tank, Ole. We will keep you informed of how this will affect water service on the mountain. That is all for now.

See you on the mountain!!

Frank

Camp Ole Dumpster and Brush Pile

Open 7 days a week, 9:30 – 5:00 pm. Days and hours may change in the fall. We will notify all of any changes. Please follow these rules when using the dumpster and brush pile and keep the site clean.



Photo by Nola Houston

Dumpster

- Only leaves, grass/weed cuttings, pine needles and pine cones can be put in the dumpster.
- Unload to the back and up to the edge of the dumpster first.

Brush Pile

- Only native shrubs, brush and branches up to a maximum of 6" in diameter only.
- Unload toward the back of the brush pile first.

No trash, bags or construction debris are allowed.

For use by Mt. Laguna community members ONLY. No contractors allowed.

Fire Safe Council

Summer is here and it's time to enjoy your mountain property and community. The Forest Service cabin inspections are expected to be completed by July 1st this year. The Forest Service "Defensible Space Flyer" is shown on page 4 for reference in your cleanup efforts.

Thanks to the US Forest Service, the brush pile and dumpster are now located at the Camp Ole Fire Station.

Equipment Available

FSC has gas powered weed whackers, a brush trimmer and a pole saw that community members can arrange to borrow at no cost. Also, MLIA cabin owners can use the MLFSC pick-up truck for hauling brush/leaves from your home to Camp Ole (only) or a log splitter for your fire wood. Please contact one of our equipment managers, Jack Splinter @ 858-472-4368 or Richard Willis @ 619-990-1404, for availability and rates.

The Red-Tailed Roost is closed to the public and all our monthly meetings are cancelled at this time. Once the Forest Service allows our meetings to continue, we will send out an email with the rules for our meetings.

We have submitted for and received a \$2,500.00 grant from SDG&E for 2020 that will pay for the cost of 3-1/2 dumpsters. We are on our third dumpster now and the clean-up season is not over yet! If you wish to donate a tax-deductible contribution to the Fire Safe Council, please mail your



Photo by Nola Houston

Photo by Laura May

check to: Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council, P O Box 292, Mount Laguna, CA 91948.

Emergencies

SDG&E will set-up power charging stations (for your phones and personal devices) during an emergency evacuation of our community. Check the SDG&E website for exact locations of these charging stations. If the emergency allows, the website shows a possible charging station in Pine Valley at the Improvement Center, Descanso Library, or Whispering Winds Catholic Church near Julian.

The SDG&E website shows outage maps, weather reports, area cameras and power shutdown status. 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.

Since the Red Cross is not hosting in person meetings at this time, below are the dates and times of the Red Cross Earthquake preparedness presentation online for anybody to join and watch.

Wednesday, July 1st at 10A

Earthquake Preparedness

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191439189?pwd=UThEVXcra2NjQW1pSzYxMnN4NTc1dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 9143 9189

Password: 288462

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

Doug Reed, MLFSC President

WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.*



ONE LESS SPARK
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit

READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG

TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

Staying home at the cabin

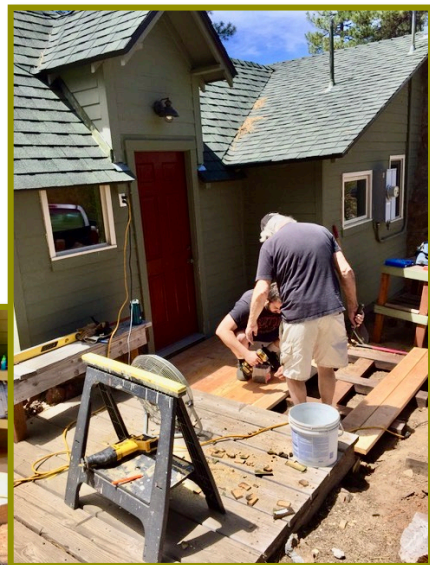


We've really enjoyed having the cabin as a weekend getaway, watching our girls explore nature, play together, and relax with us and their grandparents.

Elizabeth Twambley, Cabin 1134

After sheltering in place in Oakland for a month, starting the first week of March, Matt moved home April 3rd from Oakland. He went directly to our cabin and sheltered there for two weeks and was surprised by the early April snowstorm.

In early May, making use of the lovely weather, Matt and father Dave rebuilt the uneven deck beside the back door, a deck that had been there for decades.



Memorial Day weekend, three generations met at the cabin to celebrate an easing of social distancing rules.

Youngest family member, Benja Baer, enjoyed filling his wagon with pinecones under the careful supervision of Rocky, the dog, and Mom Carla.

Connie Baer, Cabin 318



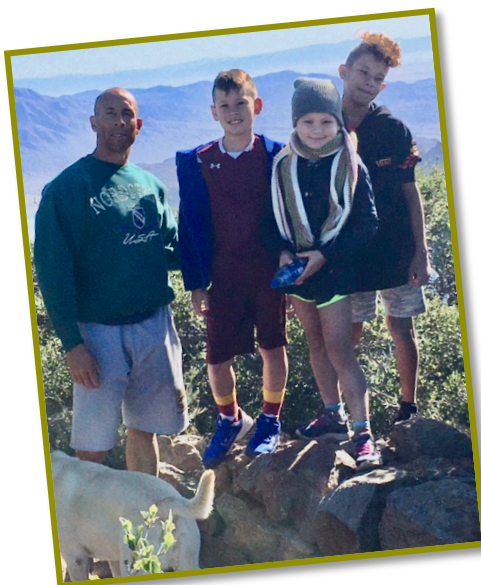
Being a teacher, I was forced to move my class to an online format (not too easy for kindergarten, but that's another story entirely!). I was able to bring my laptop up to the mountain and work remotely from here and in my downtime, I caught up in my reading! One of the benefits was showing my students the change of seasons.

Vince Gonzales, Cabin 747



"And- I am out here because . . . ?"

*Dudley Motta,
Cabin 569*



Picked weeds, played games, found bugs, took hikes, baked bread.
And remembered the five generations before us.

Kerry Anderson, Cabin 723



Chick-a-dee getting some
breakfast and looking at me,
"Like what in the hell are you
doing, human?" LOL!

The Chick-a-dees near our cabin
are so wonderful and social with
us. They somehow have a way of
expressing to you what is on
their mind, like your dog or cat
can. They will visit with us when
we are outside doing our chores
and hop from branch to branch
and really chat it up with us. The
Chick-a-dees are a real blessing
to Mount Laguna, at least to us.

*Libby and Craig Badgett,
Cabin 556*

We did spend many weekends (at the cabin) during this Covid
time. We were so HAPPY to have our little cabin away from
home. It was awesome to watch the forest change. Seeing
cabins in the distance we had never seen before.

Then the leaves started blooming on the oaks. The spaces
started filling in and the greenery was and still is remarkable.
We met some of our neighbors during our sheltering at the
cabin.

Trina and Gregory Weiner, Cabin 786



Three hummingbird all trying
to feed off our hummingbird
feeder on our cabin deck
These guys are so active, we
love to watch them.

Cindy Jensen, Cabin 1121

Wonderful walks. Peaceful
times being unhooked
from all the stress.

Toni Cleveland, Cabin 315



NFH WORKING FOR FOREST CABINS

There are two items for this newsletter issue.

First, the NFH Annual Meeting is rescheduled to the 12th and 13th of September. It will still be held in Vancouver, WA at the Heathman Lodge. We had an excellent turnout of Mount Laguna cabin owners at the meeting in San Diego last year. If you have a chance to attend this year's meeting, it's a great opportunity to meet cabin owners from across the country as well as hear special presentations from both cabin owners and Forest Service senior officials.

More information is available on the NFH website:
www.nationalforesthowners.org.

Second, The Great American Outdoors Act, Senate Bill S.3422.

The Great American Outdoors Act, S. 3422, introduced earlier this year, combines two other conservation bills into a single package. It would provide \$9.5 billion to address deferred maintenance projects for five agencies, including National Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education. It also fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). At least 65% of the funding must be used for non-transportation projects and none can be used for land acquisition.

The bill has strong bipartisan support as well as a diverse set of outside supporters, including outdoor recreation groups, environmental organizations, and state and local agencies. Senate Majority Leader McConnell has said he intends to have the Senate take up the Great American Outdoors Act in June. While this specific legislation has not yet been introduced in the House, there is broad bipartisan support on that side of the Capitol for the goals of this bill. (Extracted from an update by Summit Strategies – NFH's lobbyists in D.C.)

Brock Houston, Cabin 807

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Accomplished

Ellen Pierce, new to our group, joined in and worked with Arthur Miramontes to fill in between those areas.

We enjoyed our own version of social distancing sitting in the open in family groups, eating pre-made food, individually packaged snacks and we all tried the new Raspberry cookie from Costco! (A huge hit!) It was really good to catch up with some of our cabin neighbors! We all mentioned that it will be nice to get back to normal and have our social activities. Lots of cabin owners were on the mountain, running their weed-whackers, to get the mountain ready for fire season. Thank you to all the volunteers! Denise Whisman

Cynthia and Gary Jensen completed a huge portion of the route. (Thank you!) Susan Paige and Peter Ward worked the area near the Church and up to the Visitor's Center and did a great job!



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

Photos by
Nola Houston



**Problems with the MLIA
water system?**

Call
Dan Fritz
(619) 405-1452

**Please stay in touch.
Send all contact information
changes to:**

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

Forest Service Contact for Cabin Permit Questions

Kim Villa
**Recreation Residence Permit
Administrator lillian.villa@usda.gov**
(858) 674-2918

Kim Villa, not Lindsay Steinwachs, is now our primary contact when dealing with recreation residences. Kim responds to all issues related to permits, any potential improvement projects, inspection, and buying & selling cabins.

Lindsay is the Recreation and Lands Officer and is a resource to recreation residence owners for emergencies or questions and concerns related to recreation and lands.