

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

CABIN NEWSLETTER

VOL. 19 - No. 79



MLIA President's Update

Frank Kalinoski

The MLIA had a **fantastically successful Wine-A-Bit & Craft Beer Fest** celebration August 21st. Over sixty cabin members showed up including past cabin owners - new, old, more and less able, and young. Our last such event was fall 2019. Many thanks to Kerry Anderson for her planning and enthusiasm, for Meg & Jack at Los Huecos #472 for sponsoring the event and for all those who contributed food and auction items. A GREAT time was had by

ALL. I think we should continue with these efforts, despite the inconvenience of the coronavirus threat. We can weather this storm if we prepare properly and do not act foolishly.

The Laguna Mountains have been relatively quiet this summer. **SDG&E** is wrapping up its

Continued on page 2

Annual Meeting

Saturday, Sept 18, 2021

Via Zoom

Zoom link and ballot emailed on Sept 6.

Agenda notice on page 4.

Fall Food Festival

Saturday, October 16, 2021

RSVP by Oct 7

Flyer with details on page 9



Nola Houston

Cleveland National Forest Closed Until September 17th

The US Forest Service has issued a closure order for all Southwestern National Forests, including the Cleveland National Forest. The order affects **ALL** Mount Laguna tracts: Boiling Springs, El Centro, Los Huecos, Laguna, Burnt Rancheria, La Piedra, and Escondido Ravine.

Both Samuel Orozco and Kim Villa of the Cleveland National Forest District confirmed **cabin owners are not exempt from this order. Cabin owners are not allowed to access our cabins until the order is lifted, which is scheduled for September 17, 2021.**

This is a new order and supersedes other orders issued previously.

MLIA President, *continued*

power pole replacement project. They should be cleaning up the wattle and the metal stakes and many ESA signs. Hopefully, they will be repairing their damage to the forest and to our cabin access roads. The County is enlarging their road station to accommodate the County Fire Department rigs. The Blue Jay is still up for sale. The old trailer park is now occupied with cute little tiny-houses. The Mount Laguna Outfitter has a new owner with some interesting ideas - even a real lawn! The Pine House restaurant is worth a visit.

Our District Ranger, Bob Heiar, is currently serving as the Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor in the Angeles NF. We have an **Acting District Ranger, Randy Striplin**, who comes from the Region 5 Office in Vallejo CA. He is not familiar with recreation residences but he will try and address our issues as we present them. Also, we have a **new Lands & Recreation Officer, Sam Orosco**, replacing Lindsay Steinwachs. Sam is from the US Army Corp of Engineers Recreation. Tracy Knapp is still with us.

We try to have a monthly Zoom meeting with the District Ranger. This started many months ago when we were negotiating with the Forest Service for an improved water supply situation for the Shrine Tract cabins. This is really helpful to voice cabin concerns and ask questions to get an understanding of where the Forest Service is on issues. On August 22nd, I received the following message From Sam Orosco: *"Due to the extreme fire conditions, the Cleveland National Forest has elevated their fire restrictions. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fires will now be prohibited."* So be careful and watchful out there. If you have cabin visitors not familiar with this area, remind them of our fire danger and restrictions. **NOTE:** *The forest is closed until September 17th. To read the order click: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/cleveland/home>.*

With the drought **our water system** is performing well and we have had no major problems. All of the bacteriological water samples this past quarter have been negative. All of our required chemical tests have returned results within the approved limits. Even though we have seen no degradation in our water levels or quality, please be mindful that we are in a severe

Continued on page 3

MLIA Update, *continued*

drought and our water is precious. We have begun to read the cabin water meters. With that data we will be able to gauge how well we are managing our water system. The MLIA Board has given our long time and hard-working water operator, Dan Fritz, a well-deserved raise. When you see him, thank him for his service.

We continue to have our **quarterly MLIA board meetings via Zoom** and probably will continue to do so. They are more convenient than in-person and we get good participation. Since the Forest Service does not allow large gatherings in the Red-Tailed Roost, we will have our Annual MLIA meeting via Zoom again. We had great on-line participation last year - better than in person.

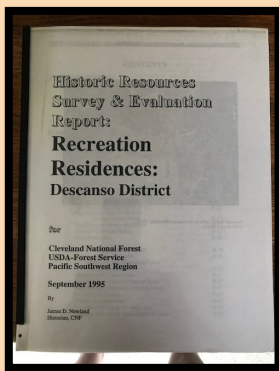
Our **new MLIA Treasurer, Mary Ladewig**, has stepped into the shoes left by our long-time,

retired Karen Motta and Mary is doing a great job. She is still learning the ins and outs of the MLIA treasurer job, and might be making some changes to make things a little more efficient. I am up for election this year and I have decided to take on another two years serving the MLIA and the cabins on Mt Laguna. At the August Board meeting we discussed the upcoming Annual meeting and included a review of the election ballot.

In an effort to try and enlist additional interest in the election we sent out a message asking the cabin membership to consider participation on the board or a committee. The response to this appeal has been nil. Remember, this is YOUR ORGANIZATION and it needs YOUR PARTICIPATION to be successful.

See you on the mountain . . .after September 17th!

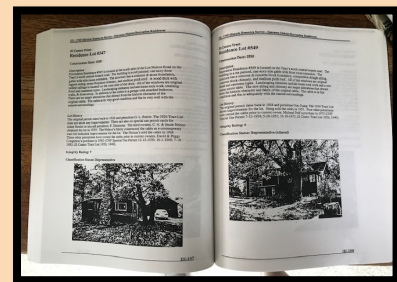
Frank



The book is 460 pages and has a clear vinyl cover. If you are interested in purchasing one please let Meg Moore know. Email Meg at megamods@gmail.com. The cost is \$40 each. Arrangements can be made with Meg for pickup.

Cabin History Book

MLIA is taking orders for the cabin history book (shown here). The book about our cabins, "Recreation Residences: Descanso District" was compiled by the US Forest Service in 1995. The history of how the cabins came to be on Mount Laguna is described. Each cabin is listed with a description of when it was built and the condition it was in when the book was written.



**MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
PO Box 91, MT. LAGUNA, CA 91948**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE 59TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
TO BE HELD AT 10:00 AM, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021.**

The meeting will be held via Zoom due to COVID-19 and the unavailability of meeting space.

The meeting is for the following general purposes:

- ◆ General Business Operation
- ◆ Secretary's Report
- ◆ Financial Report
- ◆ President's Report 2020-2021
- ◆ Current Water System Activity
- ◆ Transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting
- ◆ Election of Officers and Members of the Board of Directors



All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Instructions for attending the Annual Meeting via Zoom and how the meeting will be conducted will follow.

FALL, 2021

The September MLFSC meeting will be a part of the MLIA annual cabin owners' meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 18th at 10:00 am via Zoom. The regular FSC meetings will finish out the season on October 16th and November 20th at 9:00 am via Zoom. Our annual elections will be held at the November 20th meeting. If you are interested in a Board position or Directors position, please contact me at ohio0411@hotmail.com.

We have budgeted for one more leaf dumpster this season once the present dumpster is full. Please continue to unload to the back and up to the edge of the dumpster first to maximize the capacity of these dumpsters.

The Forest Service and Cal-Fire inspections are complete. I hope you have received your reports by email or in the mail. Please complete any remedial work listed on your report as soon as possible. This helps to reduce the wildfire fuels in our beautiful forest and community.

Thanks to the US Forest Service, the community only brush pile and leaf dumpster at Camp Ole will continue to be open for our use 7 days a week from 9:30am to 5:30pm only. These hours and days of operation may change during the fall season and we will send out an announcement when there is a change in operation. The only problem recently at Camp Ole was someone put trash in the dumpster. That is not allowed. This site is for Mt Laguna community members only, no contractors allowed. *Doug Reed, MLFSC President*



~ Fire Safe Council ~

Follow the Posted Rules!

Dumpster and brush pile rules are now posted at Camp Ole.



Please
read and
do what
they say!

Equipment Available

Contact one of our equipment managers, Jack Splinter (858-472-4368) or Richard Willis (619-990-1404) to schedule the equipment usage.

- Gas powered weed whackers for \$10/1 or 2 day to use.
- Gas powered trimmer and pole saw at no cost.
- Pick-up truck to use for hauling approved debris to and from Camp Ole only, for a \$10/day donation.
- Gas powered wood splitter for \$20/day.

Thank you to all who donated to the MLFSC. If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Fire Safe Council, please mail your check to: Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council, P O Box 292, Mount Laguna, CA 91948.

NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 15 -16, 2021
The Village at Squaw Valley

The NFH Conference is an opportunity to meet other cabin owners from across the country as well as hear from senior Forest Service staff from Washington DC. There are breakout sessions covering different subjects as well as an "Ask the Experts" session.

It's a great opportunity to learn more about the Recreational Cabin program. And this year the theme is "Restoration" – especially of our national forests.

Early Bird Registration (with discounted registration fees) is available through September 24 as well as discounted hotel rooms at the Village at Squaw Valley until September 21st.

There is much more detail available on the NFH website. Obviously, what happens with COVID infections could change the plans and an in - person meeting might not be possible.

Please Note:

**As of the time of this newsletter,
the conference has NOT been cancelled.
If you plan on attending, be sure to check the
NFH website for the latest information.**

<https://www.nationalforesthomeowners.org/default.aspx>

A handout summarizing the various programs offered to us by our membership in NFH will be sent with MLIA Annual Meeting information.

*Brock Houston
Cabin 807*



*Finally getting
together!!*



*Frank
Kalinowski and
Joe Cochran
face off in
the Cornhole
Tournament.*



*Listen up!
Kerry Anderson,
MLIA event coordinator
extraordinaire.*



The Mount Laguna Oak Freeze/Fry

We had an interesting weather event this spring that has affected some of the black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*) on the mountain. In early June there was a late overnight freeze, followed by a week of unseasonably hot weather. Many of the oak leaves, flowers and catkins were just beginning to open. Those that were very tender froze then fried. The result is many trees with groups of leaves and catkins that look like crispy critters.

These tender leaves and the associated flowers and catkins are critical to acorn production. Oaks are *monoecius*, meaning each tree produces both female flowers that become acorns and male catkins that produce pollen. Pollen is blown from one tree to another, fertilizing the female flowers. Pollen drop tends to happen over a few days, and if interrupted, the acorn crop is affected.

On Los Huecos Road, the trees that froze then fried don't appear to be producing acorns—or will produce very few. The affected trees run down either side of Los Huecos Road, beginning at about cabin 570 and going all the way to the end of the road near the campground.

The oak trees on Los Huecos Road closer to Sunrise Highway weren't affected, for some reason. Either they were in a different phase of their growth cycle or it didn't get as cold or hot where

they are. Trees up by the visitor center appear to have a bumper crop of acorns this year. It's hard to know if all the trees would have produced like this, but now we may have a scarce acorn year. A scarce acorn year is hard for wildlife that depend on the food and may reduce squirrel and mice populations (some may think this is a good thing).

Bumper crops of acorns are known as "mast" years. They occur every 2 to 5 years, but scientists haven't learned yet what causes them or how to predict them. In a mast year a very large oak can produce up to 10,000 acorns. Amazing!



Acorns on oaks at Visitor Center



↑
'Fried' oak leaves.

←
"Fried" leaves and catkin

Take a look at the oak trees around your cabin and see if they're producing acorns. It would be interesting to map which trees on the mountain were affected by the freeze/fry event. Let me know what you find.

Joanne Odenthal
Cabin 505, Joanne6336@gmail.com

NEW Forest Service Contacts

Cleveland National Forest, Descanso District

Randy Striplin, Acting District Ranger

p: 619-445-6235

c: 707-373-1009

randy.striplin@usda.gov

3348 Alpine Boulevard

Alpine, CA 91901

Samuel Orosco

Lands & Recreation Officer

samuel.orosco@usda.gov



Cal and Linda Turner were visiting and a few folks gathered to say "Hi!" courtesy of Connie and Larry Lambert.

Accessing Our Cabins

The rain in early August was welcomed by the mountain and our roads. Debris was pushed down the drainage systems and piled up in certain areas. If you see this in your area please feel free to clear the debris to avoid it diverting the next flow of water.

The large steel plate that covered the pipes at the entrance to Burnt Rancheria Tract is gone. Seems SDGE was required to place it there only while they worked the area to protect the pipes. Once again, we're on our own to mitigate any damage created by spinning tires over the new road base entrance.

Waddle is being gathered up but not much else. SDGE has submitted their access restoration plan to the FS who now has the option to delete areas, change method of repairs, or do nothing at all. We have not heard from the Forest Service yet on developing a plan to issue a permit to MLIA for road maintenance. So, in the interim folks take matters into their own hands and make repairs in their tract to the best of their ability.

Please reach out to your neighbors to ensure that there is proper run off and free flow of water to avoid ruts and pot holes making access difficult. Work parties make a difference.

See you around!!

*Carl Sessions, VP-MLIA
(619) 571-2284*

FALL, 2021

MLIA
Fall Food Festival
Saturday, Oct 16, 2021
2:00 - 6:00 pm

Hosted by The Cochrans - Cabin 554, Los Huecos Road

**Bring a casserole,
crockpot dish or
dessert to share.**

**Wine, beer, soft
drinks and water
provided.**

And bring your chair!

Entry Donation \$15 Gift Card or Cash

**Opportunity Raffle,
Silent Auction & 50/50 Cash prize**

**Donation prizes always welcome.
Proceeds support ML Fire Safe Council & MLIA.**

RSVP Needed by Oct 7th

Kerry (928) 503-7965 or pokokerry@aol.com

Service Animals Only - No Pets Please

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

www.mtlaguna.org



Terri Wiener

New Contact Info?

Send your new email, address,
or phone number
to

Joanne Odenthal

joanne6336@gmail.com

Water Issues?

Contact

Dan Fritz

MLIA Water Supervisor

(619) 405-1452

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