

# MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION CABIN NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 20  
NUMBER 81

## MOUNT LAGUNA NEWS

*Frank Kalinoski*

It's warming up!! The snow is gone. Before you know it the oak trees will be breaking new leaves and the wildflowers will be blooming. It was not a particularly "wet" season this winter, so expect there will be additional stresses on the pines and oaks. Sure could use some more rain. We will see if we get some tropical moisture this summer.

Looks like **SDG&E is done with its power pole replacement project.** There are still remnants of their endeavors remaining - metal stakes with

yellow twine, varmit infested batten, bits and pieces of equipment. I have no idea what the Forest Service is doing about the leftovers. We have received some monies from SDG&E for the damages their heavy trucks imparted on our waterlines. Many thanks to Carl for his tenacity and persistence.

Dan Fritz has not reported any significant problems with our water system, outside of a few winter service line breaks due to the cold weather. The water level at the well is remaining



steady. The water samples for bacteria have been coming back absent. Water wise we are looking good. When you get back into your cabins, **please perform a water leak test** to make sure you don't have a broken line.

Remember the water used by you after the meter is your responsibility, whether you are aware of it or not. Nobody

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## Save These Dates!

**April 23**  
**Chili Social**  
**RSVP NOW!**  
*Flyer on page 3*

**May 5**  
**MLIA Board Meeting**  
**9:00 – 11:00 am**  
*via Zoom*

**June 19**  
**Community Picnic**  
*Watch for flyer*

## News, *continued*

wants to see water wasted and/or a high water bill at the end of the year.

I have heard that the Forest Service is allowing the LMVA to use the Red-Tail Roost again. That is good news. We will have to see if we can or if we want to have our annual meeting on the mountain this year. I imagine the quarterly MLIA Board meetings will remain via Zoom, because we are able to get good attendance. It is up to the board to decide.

The latest stressful cabin issue is **septic tanks/systems repair and/or replacement**. Years ago, the Forest Service requested that the cabins remove their outhouses and put in septic systems. The cabins complied. What the FS process was then and what cabins actually installed has apparently not been well documented. Some cabins installed true septic systems and apparently some just installed an in-ground vault without leach lines. Now, years later, problems are occurring.

And, most importantly, the rules have changed since the septic systems were originally installed. For any significant ground disturbance, permission needs to be requested of the Forest Service. The FS is in a bit of a quandary as how to exactly approach these requests. They have complicated and competing guidelines to adhere to. Each request will require extensive review by a number of FS Resource Specialists



who are in short supply and have other competing priorities.

Then the Recreation Residence Program Manager needs to approve of the requested action. Finally, the septic system project requires final approval by the District Ranger. All this will take time. I do not know how much time. I have spoken many times with the District Ranger and the NFH Executive Director about our problem to reach an understanding. What I have stated above is all that I know.

On a better note, I am getting excited about the **Chile Social & Contest** coming up on Saturday April 23rd!! **Are you?!?** It is BYOB. You are required to attend with a smile on your face and something to share in your hand, a chair to sit on and maybe a funny hat. What an excuse to spend some time on the mountain enjoying your cabin and friends. Can't be beat - unless you win the corn hole contest.

The following weekend [April 29 & 30] the **National Forest Homeowners** is holding their **2022 Annual Conference** in Vancouver Washington at the Heathman Lodge. It is a lovely location across the river from Portland. If you can attend one of these annual conferences, it is worth the time and money. This is a great opportunity to see the people who run the NFH organization and how enthusiastic and committed they are to the cabin program. The best part is meeting other cabin owners from all over.

**Sunrise Highway Cleanup**  
**Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am at Desert View**  
**Parking lot**

**Let us know you will be there!**  
**Call Arthur Miramontes**  
**(619) 457-2317**

*See you on the mountain!!*  
*Frank*

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

# Chili Fest Social

All MLIA Cabin Owners,  
Private Property Owners, LMVA,  
Visitors and Guests  
Are Invited.



**Saturday, April 23**

**2:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Mt. Laguna  
Community Center  
(The Haven)**

Sunrise Highway at the  
Desert Overlook turnoff.

**\$15.00 Gift Card or  
Cash Donation  
Per Person**



**Good Food!  
Good Neighbors!  
Good Fun!**

**Bring your favorite chili, bread,  
salad or dessert to share.**

**Vote for the Best Chili of 2022!**

**Silent Auction ~ Raffle ~ 50/50 Drawing  
Corn Hole Crown Contest**

MLIA will provide Mountain Water and lemonade,  
plates, utensils and cups. Bring your chili in a  
crockpot to keep it warm and serving utensils  
for your dish.

Please bring a chair for seating.

*Service Animals Only. No Pets.*

**RSVP to Kerry Anderson**

How many are in your party and  
what you are bringing.

**(928) 503-7965 Email: pokokerry@aol.com**

# Keep your cabin safe!

Hello to all and new cabin owners!

Great weather is in the forecast and it is time to spend more time in Mt. Laguna. Start planning for your summer clean-up and Forest Service inspections of your cabins and the surrounding land. Cal Fire will do these inspections for the private land owners and their property.

The first Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council meeting of 2022 is set for Saturday April 23rd at 9:00 am via Zoom. An invitation and meeting agenda will be emailed out prior to this meeting. Our meetings will continue on Zoom while I check with the Forest Service about returning to the Roost for in-person meetings.

Thanks to the US Forest Service, the community only brush pile and dumpster will continue to be located at the Camp Ole Fire Station. The Fire Station is open for our use seven days a week from 9:30am to 4:30pm only. We will notify everybody of any changes to these hours. The dumpster will be put in place May and the brush pile is open now.

FSC has the following equipment available for use by our community members.

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

Please contact one of our equipment managers, Jack Splinter @ 858-472-4368 or Richard Willis @ 619-990-1404, to schedule the equipment usage.

Thank you to those members who donated to the MLFSC in the past. If you wish to donate 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.

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



Please follow these rules when using the dumpster and brush pile:

- ◆ The dumpster is for leaves, grass/weed cuttings, pine needles and pine cones only. Unload to the back and up to the edge of the dumpster first.
- ◆ The brush pile is for native shrubs, brush and branches up to a maximum of 6" in diameter only. Unload toward the back of the brush pile first.
- ◆ Please keep the site clean.
- ◆ No trash, bags or construction debris are allowed at this site.
- ◆ This site is for Mt Laguna community members only. No contractors allowed.
- ◆ Follow the signs that are posted to and from the brush pile and dumpster only. No entering of any buildings and drive slowly while in the Fire Station.
- ◆ While on this Government facility, COVID-19 precaution masks are required to be worn at all times.

## 2021-2022 New Cabin Owners

### Welcome to the mountain!

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John and Charlene DiRiemer,  
Cabin 504

Mary Dunn and John Draper,  
Cabin 608

Nell and Maureen Feerick,  
Cabin 585

Robert and Mele Fox,  
Cabin 745

Leonardo Hatefi,  
Cabin 806

Bunny and Dan Krall,  
Cabin 584

Brian and Susan Mathews,  
Cabin 588

Danial and Rachel Morris,  
Cabin 12

Jay and Barbara Moser, C  
Cabin 589

Wesley Padfield and Tawnie  
Harris, Cabin 581

Gloria Sterling, Cabin 553

William Swartz and Susan  
Irey, Cabin 772

John and Jessica Trotter,  
Cabin 580

Jim and Patsy Wahlroos,  
Cabin 569

## Road 'spin hole' repairs

Hello, fellow road warriors and cabin owners!

We lucked out by not having any major rain events that swamped our roads. The two snowfalls, since the last report, did not cause significant damage to any access routes, to my knowledge. Typical spin holes from lead footed drivers accounted for most of the needed repair work. This repair is best accomplished by using a 'drag' to smooth out the depressions. Heavy chain link fencing is a good method. An I-beam tends to pull up rocks and stones that should best be left imbedded in the roadway.

I wish to take a moment here to celebrate Val's Equipment and its crews that rehabilitated access routes during the SDGE pole replacement project. Many areas were greatly improved including lower Los Huecos, El Centro, Upper & Lower Boiling Springs, and significant portions of Morris Ranch Road. These repairs were all authorized by the Forest Service and paid for by SDGE.

We only wish that the MLIA could also get authorization for equipment, other than hand tools, to work on our access routes. Maybe an access permit will be in our future someday with parameters to work within. In the mean time, work parties are the call to action and have been successful in several tracts.

Until next time, hope see you at the Chili Social!!

*Carl Sessions,  
VP-MLIA*

## National Forest Homeowners

### 2022 Conference

**April 29 & 30, 2022**

**Vancouver, Washington**

**The Heathman Lodge**

**Register [Here!](#) Early bird prices through April 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Click [Conference Schedule](#) for program.**



## What pine is that?

In the winter and early spring, before the oak leaves start to show, you can see the predominance of Jeffrey and ponderosa pines on Mt. Laguna. At one time there were also many pinyon pines, but the majority of those were lost in a fire in the 1940s. The remaining few are on the hill behind the Visitor Information Center.

But there is yet another pine found on the mountain. That is the Coulter pine, named after botanist Thomas Coulter. It is found in our mountains, as well as other Southern

and Baja California coastal mountains. The Coulter pine is a distant relative of the Jeffrey and ponderosa pines, more closely related to the foothill pine. These pines grow amidst the Jeffreys, ponderosas, and black oaks. You might not notice the differences among the pines until you see the pinecones.

The cones of the Coulter pine are enormous! They can be bigger than a football, and extremely heavy. Some can weigh up to ten pounds. You don't want to be under one of those when it falls. That's undoubtedly why the tree is nicknamed the "widow-maker." Anyone working under a Coulter pine is advised to wear a hard hat. Not only are the cones heavy, they're extremely sharp.

If you're wandering around and you see a pine tree with outsized cones, you've undoubtedly found a Coulter pine. They seem to grow in small groups, surrounded by Jeffreys and ponderosas. Keep your eyes open and your hard hat on!



*Joanne Odenthal  
Cabin 505*





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

## WATER ISSUES?

Call

Dan Fritz

MLIA Water System Supervisor

(619) 405-1452

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## NEW CONTACT INFO?

Send your new email, address,  
or phone number to

Joanne Odenthal

joanne6336@gmail.com



*Thank you, Nola, as always for  
your wonderful photographs!*

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