



CABIN NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2023

VOL 21 No 86

Coming Up Soon

Picnic Time!!

Sat, June 17

Join us for fun, food,
games and prizes.

*See flyer page 3 for
details.*

Fire Safe Council Meeting

Sat. June 17
10:00 am

Red-Tailed Roost

Wine & Beer Fest
Sat Aug 19, 2023

Fall Food Fest
Sat. Oct 21

On the Mountain

Frank Kalinoski

The mountain has awakened!! Everything that has been waiting for the warmth of summer has burst forth. The grasses are heavy with their heads of seeds. The deer should be getting fat. The sap is running in the pines. The oak leaves are breaking and multitudes of acorns are forming. Squirrels are scampering everywhere. The hawks and coyotes will be happy. The woodpeckers are making a racket. And have you taken a hike to Laguna Lake?

I have not seen the lake so large in many years. Next the bugs and wildflowers will be everywhere. The bats and bees will be happy. Other than what is going on all around your cabins, there is not much else to note, except. . .

If you have not heard, our District Ranger, Bob Heiar, currently finishing up a detail in the Tonto NF as the acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, will be leaving the Cleveland NF. He is moving out and up to assume the duties of the Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Allegheny NF in Pennsylvania. That will be quite a change for him. *Good luck, Bob!*

His replacement has not been announced. It would be nice if our current acting District Ranger, Kyle Smith, would get the nod to stay. Of course, we do not know if he wants to stay or if he would be allowed to stay or if someone else has already been assigned. Another Forest Service person we all need to get to know is Andrew Cheskaty. He is the Assistant Recreation Residence Permit Administrator. I have heard good things about Andrew. A good working relationship with him will benefit us all.

The water system appears to be working well. We are running the pumps at night a few times a week to fill the tanks. Dan and



Big Laguna Lake,
April 30, 2023

I have been spending some time attempting to actually locate and mark our main water lines. It is one thing to look at an old map that indicates where the water lines *should be* and another to *actually locate* them. To our surprise the old maps are fairly accurate though.

The State assumed the oversight of the small water systems in the county last year taking over from the SD County Dept of Environmental Health. They have been surprisingly quite responsive to our questions and also more demanding and more costly. Like your cabins, the costs of running the MLIA are increasing. Our Treasurer, Mary Ladewig, is keeping us updated about this every quarter.

The FS Fire Prevention folks will be starting the cabin inspections in June and will hopefully finish in July. The cool, dry weather of late has allowed the FS fire fighters to set some planned and needed prescribed burns. This smell of

smoke in the air this time of year is a good thing for all. Now is the time for the cabins to do their part and clean up their lots - hard, dirty, hot work, but necessary.

The Chili Fest in April was really enjoyable and delicious. Our new Social Event Coordinator, Toni Cleveland, is IN CHARGE and organized! She has great ideas and lots of enthusiasm. Can't wait for the next event!! At our social events we usually have

some fund-raising efforts. Since the MLIA is NOT a charitable non-profit, the Mt Laguna Fire Safe Council will be managing the fund-raising activities at the social events from now on. The MLIA will handle entry fees to cover event costs.

Laura Bier, a Director, is going to be taking over the duties as webmaster from Eugenie, who will continue to publish the newsletter.

See you on the mountain!!
Frank



Support the Fire Safe Council!

Email all your hours of cabin
fuel reduction cleanup to
mountlagunasafe@gmail.com

Our hours of work help the FSC get grant money to pay
for the dumpsters and other fuel reduction.

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Community Family Picnic

All Mt Laguna Community Families
Are Invited!

Saturday June 17, 2023

Hosted by Carl & Vicki Sessions

Cabin 716 in Boiling Springs Tract



**Ugly
Hawaiian
Shirt
Theme**



**1:00 pm – Potluck Picnic
50/50 Raffle**

Games & Cornhole Championship

**Only Service Animals are allowed
at functions serving food.**

**Bring a potluck dish to share,
your meat to grill and beverage.**

**MLIA will provide grills to use, mountain
water, lemonade, paper products and utensils.
Please bring your own chairs.**

**RSVP to Toni Cleveland at
toni_cleveland@yahoo.com (619) 701-1519**



Bob Heiar, Descanso District Ranger

New MLIA Annual Billing Process

The annual invoice for Mount Laguna Improvement Association will be issued on or around October 1, 2023. The plan for this year is to send the invoices by email. Invoices will be sent to the primary email address for each cabin.

It is extremely important that you verify that MLIA has your correct email address since your billing invoice will be sent to your primary email. If you have any questions or want to change the primary email address notify MLIAcabins@gmail.com.

If you have more than one email address on file, please let us know which email you want to use for billing. Send the message to MLIAcabins@gmail.com

Please Note: We will not send invoices through the US mail **unless** MLIA has been notified that you do not have an email address.

MLIA is making this billing change to reduce costs and streamline invoicing and payment. We are working with our bank to accept electronic payments. We will send additional information about how to do this as it is available. Payment by check will still be acceptable.

Mary Ladewig,
MLIA Treasurer

Dear Descanso Ranger District partners,

You may be aware that I am currently on a temporary promotion assignment serving as the interim Tonto Deputy Forest Supervisor in central Arizona. It is with mixed emotions I that I also share, I will be permanently moving-on from my post as Descanso District Ranger. I recently accepted a promotion to serve as the next Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania. I will conclude my time on the Tonto NF the week of Memorial Day and return briefly to the Cleveland NF to prepare for transition. I am due to report to my new post in early July. Kyle Smith will continue serving as Acting District Ranger throughout my period of transition.

The decision to move on is bitter sweet. My 7+ years as Descanso District Ranger have been wonderful, in large part due to the amazing partnerships with your respective organizations. Together we have been highly successful in finding many creative solutions to some very challenging land and recreation management issues. I am grateful for your energy, enthusiasm, and true partnership over the years. I will take with me many fond memories of our work together and share our many successes as I move forward with my career. Thanks for everything!

Happy trails,
Bob Heiar
(he/him/his)
Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor
US Forest Service
Tonto National Forest



This month's MLFSC meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 17th at 10:00 am at the Roost. An invitation will be emailed prior to this meeting with the meeting agenda. Our meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Roost through November's meeting.

Need-to-know Fire Safe Information

Forest Service and CalFire inspections will start in June and wrap up by July 4th. So, make sure your home, cabin and property are ready. This all helps to reduce the wildfire fuels in our beautiful forest.

Thanks to The San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, Fire Safe Council of Greater San Diego County, SDG&E and the San Diego River Conservancy for their generous 2023 Safe Grant award of \$5,500.00.

Dumpster rules and location map on page 6.

Equipment Available to Community

Gas powered:

- weed whackers for \$20/1 or 2 day to use.
- trimmer and pole saw for \$20/1 day to use.
- wood splitter for \$30/1 day to use

Contact one of our equipment managers to schedule pick-up and return of the equipment.

Jack Splinter @ 858-472-4368 or
Richard Willis @ 619-990-1404

Special Notice to Cabin Owners about our MLIA cards

In the past, MLIA issued green cards to cabin owners showing proof of cabin ownership. We will no longer be sending the "green cards" as we are moving to all online documentation.

If you wish to carry proof of cabin ownership in your car or wallet, take a photo or make a copy of your latest permit letter from the USFS, your MLIA bill, and/or a recent SDG&E bill. If you have a cell phone, you can take photos of these documents to have with you at all times.



MLIA welcomes Andrew Cheskaty

Cleveland National Forest
Recreation Residence Assistant

I am a San Diego Native that grew up camping, hiking, mountain biking and sledding in the Cleveland National Forest. I attended California State University, Chico where I obtained a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration and a Minor in Geography. During my time at the University, I was a student and teacher's aid of an Outdoor Leadership Program and Trip Leader for the Associated Students Outfitter Guide, Adventure Outings.

I started my career with the United States Forest Service in 2009 as a Wildland Firefighter, mainly serving on Engine 348 out of Descanso. Additionally, I gained experience in Fuels Management and prescribed burning projects to reduce hazardous fuels and provide fuel breaks for communities in the wildland urban interface. In 2022 I was presented with an opportunity to work in recreation taking care of campgrounds and other facilities. I am now the newly hired Recreation Residence Assistant working out of the Supervisor's Office in Rancho Bernardo.

I have learned a lot in the last two months in this new position, but there is a long way to go! I am looking forward to developing positive relationships with cabin owners as your liaison to the Agency.



2023 Dumpster and Brush Pile

The community-only dumpster and brush pile are located for this season to the Old Air Force Station. (See map)

This site is open for our use 7 days a week from 8:00am to 6:00pm only.
This site is for Mt Laguna community members only, no contractors allowed.
Please follow these rules when using the dumpster and brush pile:

1. Our lock has yellow tape and the combination was previously emailed to all cabin owners.
2. Always close and lock the gate behind you when you enter and lock the gate when you leave.
3. We are only allowed to use the designated brush pile and dumpster, no other areas.
4. **DUMPSTER**
Leaves, grass/weed cuttings, pine needles and pine cones only.
No dirt, rocks or bags allowed.
Unload to the back and up to the top edge of the dumpster first.
Please close the doors after unloading.
5. **BRUSH PILE**
Native shrubs, brush and branches up to a maximum of 6" in diameter only, and only from the Mt. Laguna community.
Unload toward the back of the brush pile first.
6. Please keep the site clean of trash. Construction debris is not allowed at this site.
7. Follow the signs that are posted to and from the brush pile/dumpster only and drive slowly while at this site.
We will lose the usage of this site if we do not follow these rules

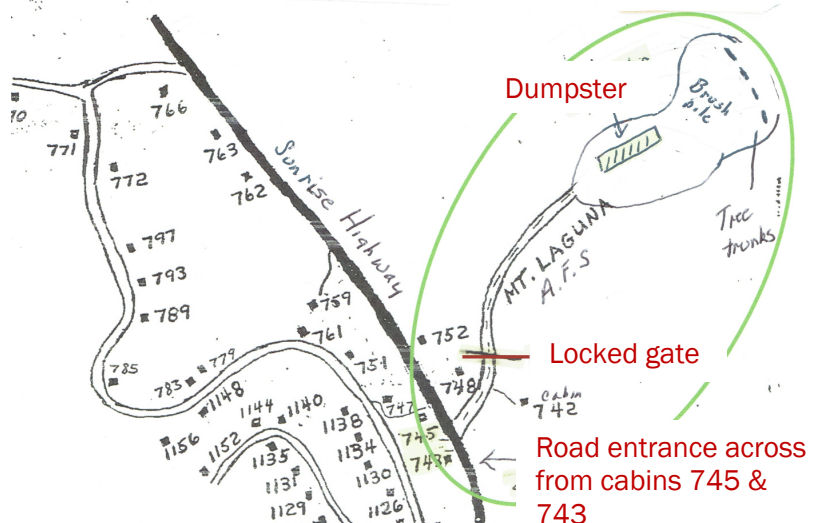
Donations to the Fire Safe Council?

Yes, thank you!

Please mail your check to:

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

Donations may be tax-
deductible.



My husband, Dan, and I attended the 2023 National Forest Homeowners Association Meeting in Tahoe, CA. in early May. We met Sharon Leach, NFH Executive Director, and members of the NFH Board. We encourage each of you to attend if you have the opportunity; it is well worth the time.

The theme of the conference was **Resilience** and included numerous interesting presentations.

Kevin Orth, NFH Director/Chair of NFH Stewardship Committee, discussed **preparing for wildfire emergencies** and how important this is to each cabin owner and tract. Our own Frank Kalinoski is a member of this Stewardship Committee. The committee's number one goal is Fire Preparedness with emphasis on increasing focus/funding for fire preparedness activities with the Forest Service (FS).

They are developing **framework guidance for tracts to work with the Forest Service on Firewise activities**, and exploring other activities/materials that support fire preparedness. Each cabin owner should look for an NFH fire survey in their email this summer. Please do participate.

NFH President, Meredith Randall, presented **Advocacy 101** and how each of us as cabin owners need to advocate for the recreation residence program both locally and nationally. Results of the NFH Economic study and how cabin owners' local spending supports the community were shared.

A Terrific NFH Conference!



*Dan Krall, Sharon Leach, and
Bunny Krall*

The **Cabin Fee Act** was also discussed. Beginning in 2025, all special use permit fees will be retained by the Forest Service and come back to the forest that generated these fees. Fees will support the recreation residence program and other recreational programs such as campgrounds, picnic areas and trails. NFH proposed how these funds should be used at the local level

Permit Continuation was presented by past NFH president, Doug Gann. Cleveland National Forest, along with all other National Forests, except the El Dorado Forest, are due for permit reissuance in 2028. Preparation for reissuance usually starts 2 years before the due date and is a combined effort of USFS and the local cabin organization, i.e., MLIA. Every cabin owner can prepare by reviewing their permit, and being in compliance with what it says. Noncompliance can create a situation where a limited

permit for one year is issued to a cabin owner until compliance is achieved. NFH is also advocating in Washington to get language in the new permit changed as it says that 5 months is the maximum time cabin owners can be in their cabins each year.

Jeff Vail from the USFS Washington Office spoke. It was refreshing to hear him emphasize the importance of a partnership and transparent communication between USFS and Cabin Owners. Hope this is threaded throughout all levels of USFS.

*Bunny and Dan Krall
Cabin 584*

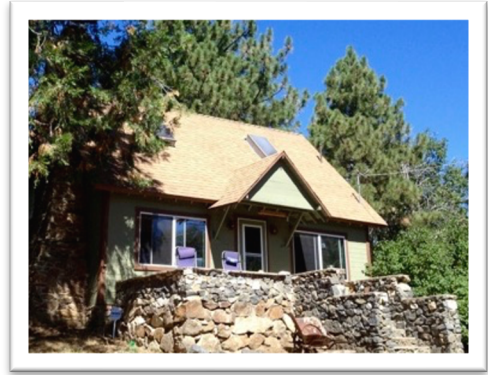


A Letter to All Cabin Owners from NFH

Sent by Deb Cowlshaw, NFH Director

Allocation of Permit Fee Funds

Currently our special use permit fees go to the U.S. Treasury. The playing field is shifting and cabin owners are gaining an advantage. Thanks to years of tenacious effort by NFH leadership and the foresight of some of our elected officials on Capitol Hill, the permit and transfer fees we pay will be retained in the Forest Service beginning FY 2025.



The Forest Service is budgeting for 2025 now, this summer. The Forest Service Washington Office has told NFH that 80-85% of the fees retained will be allocated proportionally to the forests with cabins. So, we urge you to give thought about the best use of these additional funds.

Permit Reissuance

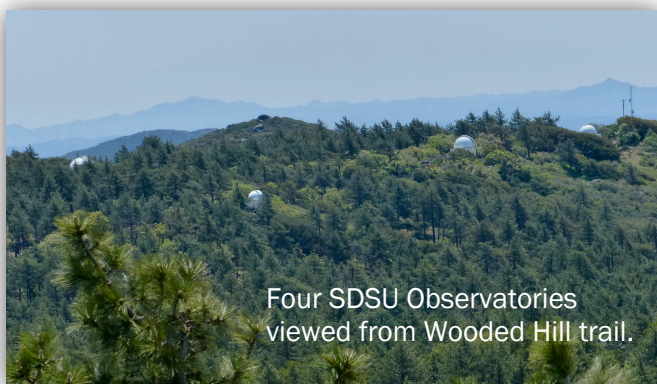
At our 2023 NFH Conference held at Lake Tahoe, NV our breakout session on permits explained the Consistency Review Continuation Determination (CRCD) process that the Forest Service begins two years before the expiration date of the cabin special use permits on that forest. The CRCD process has started for those who's permits expire December 31, 2024. The next expiration date will be December 31, 2028. This breakout session content is available on NFH's website.

Restoring Cabin Numbers

NFH recognizes that without intervention the number of cabins nationwide will continue to decline and soon there may be too few cabins for this to be a viable program. NFH is aggressively pursuing many pathways to restore cabin numbers.

One path described is about giving guidance to local cabin associations to strengthen their relationship with their local forest. How are your relations with the local Forest Service Permit Administrator and other staff? Has there been turnover of cabins and are there any neglected cabins where owners seem incapable or uninterested in maintaining the cabin?

~ Points of Interest on the Mountain! ~



Four SDSU Observatories
viewed from Wooded Hill trail.

“Mount Laguna Observatory (MLO) is operated by the SDSU Department of Astronomy to support its research, training, and educational programs.

This site is well protected from the urban lighting of the San Diego metropolitan area. Its remoteness, along with the high percentage of clear nights and excellent seeing, makes Mount Laguna one of the best overall observatory sites in the continental United States.”

<https://astronomy.sdsu.edu/mount-laguna-observatory-facilities/>

Call (619) 594-1415 for Summer Visitors Program

Take a walk on the wild side!

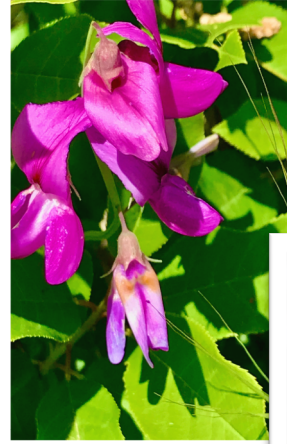
Well, maybe not so wild, but the Wooded Hill Nature Trail is a wonderful walk with flowers and views galore. Off Sunrise Highway, take the road marked for Wooded Hill and Agua Dulce trailhead. The nature trail will be on your left across from one of the entrances to the Wooded Hill Group Camp. Park near the trailhead and take the loop trail. It's a 1.5 mile loop, and ascends 300 feet. Along the way, there's an option to cut the walk short and take a different loop, but it's worth it to go to the top.

At the top the views are spectacular. On the way you have opportunities for plant viewing. When we hiked it in mid May, the flowers were just beginning to come out. By now many should be in full bloom. There were hundreds of Indian Paintbrush getting ready to open. The Checker bloom were also beginning to open.

We saw some miniature Lupine, *Lupinus bicolor*, as well as wild Pea vine, *Lathyrus vestitus*, and a number of tiny yellow Violas, *Viola pedunculata*.

Go now while things are opening up!

Joanne Odenthal
Cabin 505



Wild Pea



Viola



Miniature Lupine

~ VP Updates ~

The **Adopt-A-Highway program** was scheduled for a volunteer clean-up on Saturday April 29 led by committee chair, Denise Whisman and her husband, Arthur. Unfortunately, the weather was cool and no one volunteered to participate. **The new date for a clean up is Sat, June 10.** We will be making individual contacts via email to invite past volunteers to join us in future clean ups. This helps us determine exactly the right amount of help needed to effectively get the job done and avoid those showing up unnecessarily. We hope you'll be able to join us when the call goes out.

The **Nominations Committee** has put forward current board member Elizabeth Dunn as

candidate for retiring President Frank Kalinoski's executive seat on the board.

We can't thank Frank enough for the years of service to the MLIA and know that he will still be working hard to benefit the community for years to come!

Also, Daniel Morris, a Shrine Camp cabin owner, will throw his hat in the ring to run for the board position vacated by Ms. Dunn. The Committee will remain vigilant to future needs on the board ensuring that we find the best cabin owners available to fill upcoming vacancies. Cabin owners that have questions about serving on the MLIA board should contact any current board member for details.

Carl Sessions

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



Thank you to all our cabin photographers
Nola Houston, Scott Knodel, Terri Wiener, Cal Turner
for sharing their work for us to enjoy.

*Eugenie Newton, Editor
evnewton8@gmail.com*

Water Maintenance Issues?

Report immediately to
Dan Fritz
at (619) 405-1452.

Keep MLIA Up-to-Date!

Send your contact changes
to

Joanne Odenthal at
mliacabins@gmail.com