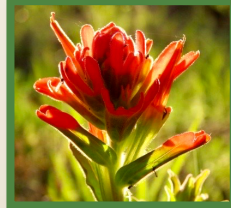


CABIN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 89



~ CABINS ON MOUNT LAGUNA ~ THE EARLY YEARS

Recently I was going through my drawer of cabin files and found a binder my mother had assembled over the years. My parents bought our cabin in 1957. The Special Use Permit is dated 1958, so apparently things took a while then, also. They paid \$1800 for the cabin. Going through these files made me curious about the history of the cabins on Mt. Laguna.

The most informative sources I found were *Cleveland National Forest*, by James Newland, published in 2008 and *Historic Resources Survey & Evaluation Report: Recreation Residences: Descanso District*, also by James Newland, September 1995. He was the historian for the Cleveland National Forest and his survey report assembled a wealth of information about the cabins on Mt. Laguna.

Of course, the first thing I did was turn to the page

on our cabin—only to find that some of the information was incorrect. (So, you always have to double check your sources!) But, with that said, Newland’s survey is the most complete record of cabin history in the Lagunas. It should be noted that the Kumeyaay and other groups of native peoples have been living in the Southern California area, including Mt. Laguna, for at least 10,000 years. They practiced land management in such a way that resources were sustained rather than depleted.

All that changed with the arrival of the Spanish and later American settlers from the east. In the 1890s conservationists pushed for protection of forest reserves in Southern California, eventually resulting in the 1908 establishment of the Cleveland National Forest

continued on page 2

Save the Dates

Chili Cook-Off
Sat. April 27
1:00 - 5:00 pm
Details on page 3

Fire Safe Council
Sat. April 20
10:00 am
Red-Tailed Roost

MLIA Board Meeting
Sat. May 4
9:00 - 11:00 am
Red-Tailed Roost

Cabins on Mount Laguna, *continued*

covering almost 2 million acres of forest land. Today the CNF spans 460,000 acres of forest from the Santa Ana Mountains to the north through the Laguna Mountains to the south, definitely a smaller footprint than at the beginning.

Early forest management focused on fire control, managing over grazing, and handling private interests within the forest such as mining and ranching. This changed with the advent of the automobile and a desire for recreation away from the city. The Forest Service, responding to this interest, built the Laguna Road, a one-track dirt road that opened in 1918.



The road was almost immediately inadequate for traffic and talk began about widening and resurfacing the road. Finally in 1931 the new Sunrise Highway opened going from

Highway 80 up to the Laguna meadow.

The Lagunas became a popular weekend and summer recreation destination. Service organizations such as the 4-H and Shriners received special use permits to build structures. The Shriners built a clubhouse in 1923 and the lodge in 1926-27. It was the largest special use structure on the mountain, until it burned in the 2013 Chariot Fire. Mt. Laguna Lodge and the Blue Jay Lodge were built in the 1920s, as well as a resort in Los Huecos Tract and a livery service in El Centro tract.

Cabin building began in the 1920s with cabins in the Laguna, Los Huecos, Burnt Rancheria, El Centro and Boiling Springs tracts. According to Newland, there were three cabins on the mountain that were built in 1918 and 1919: #574 El Centro Tract, #330 Laguna Tract, and #466 Los Huecos Tract. Burnt Rancheria Tract has the largest percentage of cabins built before 1930: 8 out of 11 cabins. Laguna Tract has 6 of 13; Los Huecos, 9 of 17; El Centro 20 of 48 and Boiling Springs, 6 of 74 all built in the 1920's or before.

Campground rangers in the Lagunas reported 400-500 people camping continuously during 1920. Originally there were three campgrounds: Laguna, Boiling Springs and

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE
MLIA BOARD**

We want you to join us!

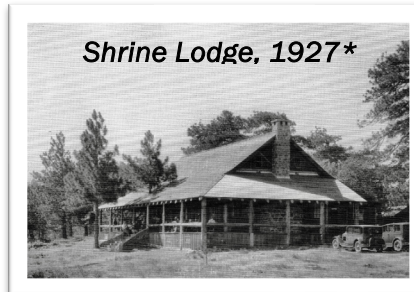
A board position is available as of the Annual Meeting, September 21, 2024. Many of you know current board members. We are a dedicated group of volunteers that strive to keep up with the times, technologically, and continue to preserve and protect the delivery of crystal clear water to our cabin members.

If you have an interest in joining our small group of volunteers, contact Carl Sessions. He will be glad to answer your questions, and go over details to get your candidacy rolling in time for the September Annual Meeting.

Carl Sessions, Chair
Nominating Committee
santeeduo@cox.net

Verde.

The Depression brought a need for even more chances to escape from city life. People like my grandparents camped in the Lagunas during the summer in order to rent out their houses in town and make a little money.



Cabin building continued through the 1930s and into the 1940s. Electricity to the cabins was provided by the Mountain Empire Electric Company and MLIA was instrumental in securing water service for the cabins on Mt. Laguna.

Stay tuned for the next installment.

~ Joanne Odenthal, Cabin 505

*Photos from "Cleveland National Forest" by James D. Newland

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Chili Cook-off

All are welcome!

MLIA cabin owners, private property owners, LMVA, Firefighters, US Forest Service rangers, and guests are invited.



Saturday, April 27

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Jay & Barbara
Moser's Cabin #589**

East side Sunrise Highway,
south of the church/Haven.

**\$15.00
Cash Donation
Per Person**



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

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

**50/50 Drawing
Corn Hole Crown
Contest**

**Vote for
the Best
Chili of
2024!**

MLIA will provide tea, lemonade and water, plates, utensils, napkins and cups. Bring your chili in a crockpot to keep it warm and a ladle.

Please bring a chair for seating.

Service Animals Only. No Pets.

RSVP to Toni Cleveland

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

(619)701-1519 or toni_cleveland@yahoo.com

GETTING READY FOR CLEANUP

Hello Mt. Laguna!

2024 MLFSC meetings of 2024 is set for Saturday April 20th, 10:00 am, at the Red Tail Roost. An invitation and meeting agenda will be emailed out prior to all meetings. Our meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Saturday of each month through November. If there are any changes to the date or time of these meetings, an email will be sent out to all members.

The 2024 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is in for review, approval and signatures by Cal Fire and their associated agencies. A copy of the approved CWPP will be available for review by any interested persons at the FSC meeting.

It is time to start planning for your annual clean-up, weed abatement and brush trimming as required for our community. The Forest Service will do their inspections of the lease cabins and surrounding area, and Cal Fire will do these inspections for the private land owners and their property. *(FSC equipment rental info on page 7.)*

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

~ Doug Reed - MLFSC President, ohio0411@hotmail.com



Thanks to the US Forest Service, the community only **brush pile and dumpster** will continue to be located at the Old Air Force Station.

The Basics

Open seven days a week, 8:00am to 6:00pm

Follow the posted signs to and from
brush pile and dumpster.

Access to other areas is not allowed. Drive slowly!

No trash bags or construction debris allowed.

Mt Laguna community only; no contractors.

Keep site clean.

Dumpster: Available in May

- Leaves, grass/weed cuttings, pine needles and pine cones only.
- No dirt, rocks, wood chips or bags allowed.
- Unload to the back & up to the top of the dumpster first.
- Please close the doors when done.

Brush Pile: Open Now

- 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.

Send them in!

All those hours you and your family will spend this spring mowing, weed whipping, trimming, raking, and taking fuel to the burn piles and dumpster help our Fire Safe Council - record and send to: mountlagunasafe@gmail.com

Please include:

- Cabin number and owner name
- When (ex., May 2023)
- Total number of hours (ex. 16.) Yes, you can turn in hours for helpers you paid to maintain the area around your cabin or property.

Repeat for as many months as you have work hours!

These hours come back to the community helping us with fire prevention, including dumpsters!

Getting to our cabins

San Diego county road crews are at work again pulling decades of silt, leaves, and pine needles from the drainage system that parallels Sunrise Highway. Recent efforts are moving from the south entrance of Sunrise Highway to the Boiling Springs turnoff.

I emailed all cabin owners just east of the Visitor Center to contact the county road division in Julian requesting drainage clearance in their area. It is completely full of debris. If you haven't been here as long as I have, you wouldn't think drainage ever existed.

The fire prevention crew now clearing our forest improved the steep entrance to Escondido Ravine by adding material to the road. Please thank these men and women if you have a chance. They are doing us a huge service. (If only our insurance companies would notice!)

Winter saw many downed trees and branches due to the heavy wet snow that fell. Big tires created the usual "spin holes" in our roads. Please find material to fill those, as you can, so that they do not fill with water, become larger and deeper. I have seen evidence of areas where cabin owners have cut drainage to alleviate pooling of water. It is pure evidence that this works by studying the topography and directing the water safely away from pooling and roadway erosion.

Please call me if you ever need a work party for a large project on the common access within your tract. We do not work on cabin driveways.

Keep up the good work!

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



Photo by S. Willis

National Forest Homeowners recognizes Cleveland National Forest Supervisor, Scott Tangenberg



Recipient of 2024 NFH James Saucier Recreation Residence Award

Scott is being recognized for the role he played in supporting the Krall cabin septic process. Scott's award will be announced at the NFH Virtual Conference April 25 -27, 2024.

Pictured above are Dan Krall, Scott Tangenberg, Bunny Krall and MLIA president, Elizabeth Dunn who met with Scott at the Cleveland National Forest Office in San Diego, CA.

~Bunny Krall

Need help with something at your cabin?

Oftentimes it is a challenge to find vendors who will come to the mountain to provide services.

Checkout the resource list on the MLIA website at <https://mtlaguna.org/contacts/services/>

The vendor list is based on existing cabin owner referrals. NOTE: MLIA is not affiliated with nor has any financial interest in those referenced on the list.

~ Bunny Krall

~ Working for Cabin Owners and Our Cabins ~ The National Forest Homeowners Association

Reports by Bunny Krall

The NFH Virtual Conference

Thurs-Sat, April 25-27, 2024

“Stronger Together: Building Relationships that Work”

Don't Miss out!

The NFH Annual Conference is being held virtually this year to reach as many cabin owners as possible. You can engage with the NFH Board and staff and Forest Service staff directly from the comfort of your home - or cabin!

Learn more about NFH's efforts to ensure the cabin program continues to thrive. Attend and take this opportunity to ask questions of Forest Service leaders.

Visit the NFH website at <https://www.nationalforesthowners.org> to register for the conference and learn more about the sessions. Early bird pricing ends April 12, 2024. Members \$50 until April 12, \$60 after that date.

Topics include information about cabin succession planning, trusts, relationships with the Forest Service, and breakout sessions on cabin insurance, cabin community communications, Forest Service appeals and more.

Check this link to see the schedule: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nationalforesthowners.org/resource/resmgr/events/2024/2024_virtual_conference_prog.pdf



Photo by
Joanne Odenthal

MLIA members support NFH Ask Frank or Bunny!

Frank Kalinoski, former MLIA president, is on the Stewardship Committee (Fire Preparedness, Partnerships/Volunteering, Education) and Board member Bunny Krall is the Outreach Coordinator to MLIA and participates on the Awards Committee.

Have a question about what NFH is doing to help you and your cabin?

Contact Frank at kalfr1389@gmail.com or Bunny at ekrall415@cox.net and they will fill you in.



Photo by
Nola Houston

Special note to cabin NFH members about NFH news!

MLIA will no longer email NFH national updates directly to cabin owners.

The MLIA board is doing this to reduce the number of emails to cabin owners. The NFH email information will be available on the MLIA website.

Please check the April 9th NFH message with info about cabin fees and more. Here is the link:
<https://mtlaguna.org/news/posts/>

**Bookmark it!
Check it out frequently!**

WELCOME TO THE MOUNTAIN!



Eugene Bruno, cabin 512, invites you to call him Geno! Originally from Brooklyn, New York, he has lived in San Diego for more than 30 years.

Geno is a lawyer and he’s always escaped to the mountains to beat the stress of the job. On Mt. Laguna, he has found the quiet cabin retreat he had been searching for. He’s looking forward to tranquil mountain weekends as often as possible. He and his dogs couldn’t be happier.



Photo by Nola Houston



Photo by Terri Wiener

Fire Safe Council Equipment Rental

Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council has the following equipment available for use by our community members.

Please contact Jack Splinter at (858) 472-4368 or Richard Willis at (619) 990-1404 to schedule the equipment usage.

Rental \$20 for 1 or 2 day use.

- Gas powered weed whackers
- Gas powered trimmer
- Gas powered pole saw

Rental \$30 per day

- Gas powered wood splitter

2023 Chili Cook-off Good Times

Last year’s Chili Cook-off was such a great time with many wonderful chilis to choose from. It was so fun to see the different assortments of chili presented in the cook-off.

Mary Ellen Haywood, used her 'secret recipe' to win first place.



Voting was followed by a delicious feast of chili, salads, corn breads and desserts.

The “Corn Hole Crown” was a hot contest with many competitive teams hoping to win the gold crown.



Mary Ellen Haywood and her cornhole partner Daniel Morris had the luck of the day and won the Corn Hole championship.

Please join us on April 27 for this year’s good food and fun. See page 3 for all the details.

~ Toni Cleveland

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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.



Laguna Lodge Webcam, Apr 5, 2024

Website for Cabin Owners

mtlaguna.org

Here is a reminder that our website has a page with very helpful links for cabin owners.

Bookmark this link!

<https://mtlaguna.org/our-cabins/>

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