



CABIN-NEWSLETTER

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W I N T E R 2 0 0 9

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT - MLIA ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

For the cabin owners that missed the annual meeting in Sept, here are a few important issues. Our guest speaker was Tom Coleman, the Forest Service Entomologist talking about the Gold Spotted Oak Borer. He is the foremost authority of this insect and his research is our hope to save the oak trees in the area.

He has been testing trees with systemic applications to see how fast it travels through the trees and what dosage is the correct amount. He has also been traveling to Arizona doing research on what are the natural enemies of the Gold Spotted Oak Borer to see if that is a possible solution. These are things that take time. Our best hope, in the meantime, is for a wet winter so the trees are stronger to fight off the insects naturally.

In addition, here are a few things you can do to limit the spread of infestation:

1. Do not transport oak firewood off the mountain.
2. Chipping infested oak wood to one-inch pieces is the best method of eliminating oak borer population.
3. If oak cannot be chipped, cover the wood with 6mm, UV-stabilized, durable plastic tarps beginning in the spring. Tarps should be used until the end of Sept. Pin or otherwise secure all the edges of the tarp to the ground to prevent the beetles from escaping. It is best to tarp oak firewood piles in continual direct sunlight with a southern exposure. Check the tarp periodically to ensure that it does not shred and therefore allow escape routes for the oak borers.
4. Season oak firewood with bark removed in direct sunlight. Scatter oak firewood in areas in direct sunlight, preferably with a southern exposure, for an entire growing season. Cut or split large pieces of wood into smaller pieces to enhance drying. Removing and destroying the bark also can facilitate control of the oak borer. Turn over the firewood monthly to expose all edges to direct sunlight.

We will keep everyone informed to new developments as they occur. For more information, you can visit this website: <http://groups.ucanr.org/GSOB/>

Another item presented at the annual meeting was the ongoing preventative maintenance plan of MLIA. We replaced 1100 feet of water line this summer. We installed new plastic pipes and marked them with wire, so they can be found with a metal detector in the future. We plan to do this every year until all the water lines have been replaced. The current lines are old and past their normal life expectancy. We are fortunate that the soil of Mt. Laguna is not as damaging to pipes as in other areas. MLIA has also started to replace many of the shut off valves at cabins with ball valves rather than gate valves. This will continue until everyone has new valves installed.

We are also looking into a second well and possibly replacing the smaller water tank on Los Huecos. These are long-term projects we are working on with the Forest Service.

MLIA has started a fund for gravel to do some work on the access routes to cabins. We have over \$2000 in the fund as of now. The money so far has come from different events that MLIA has hosted throughout the year, such as: Chili Social, Progressive Dinner, Wine-a-bit, and Ocktober Fest.

As a point of interest, we have a new restaurant open on Mt. Laguna, The Eagle & The Bear. You now have a second option if you want to go out for food and socialization with your fellow cabin owners. I have been there twice and the food was very good and enjoyed in a pleasant environment. Help support this tasty new addition to the mountain. Hours are posted outside the door. Check in advance as to when they will be open.

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WATER MAINTENANCE

Reminder, if you have any problems with the MLIA water system, please report it to Dan Fritz at 619-405-1452 or 619-749-4553.

VISIT THE MOUNT LAGUNA WEBSITE AT WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG