



CABIN-NEWSLETTER

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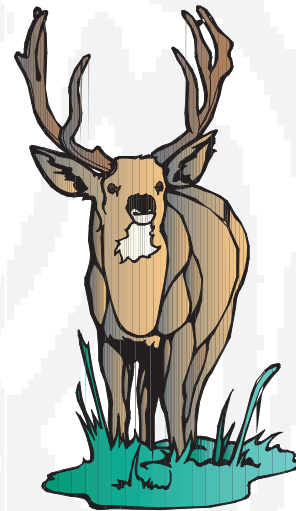
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MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
OF THE 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
TO BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010
AT THE MOUNT LAGUNA SHRINE CAMP ON SUNRISE HIGHWAY.**

THE MEETING IS FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- 1. GENERAL BUSINESS OPERATION**
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS**
- 3. SECRETARY'S REPORT**
- 4. FINANCIAL REPORT**
- 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009-2010**
- 6. CURRENT WATER SYSTEM ACTIVITY**
- 7. TRANSACT SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY
BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING**
- 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



MOUNT LAGUNA
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
910 16TH STREET
RAMONA, CA 92065

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND WE URGE YOU TO ATTEND!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG

P A G E 1

THE YARROW DAYS OF FALL

Late summer and early autumn are dry times on the mountain. By now most of the summer wildflowers are gone, but there are a few that hang around until winter covers them with snow. My favorite of these is yarrow, achillea millefolium. Yarrow has lacy, fernlike little leaves, straight stalks about a foot high, and flat flower heads with many little white flowers. There is also a yarrow with yellow flowers on the mountain, but the white is more common.

The Latin name, achillea millefolium, comes from the story of Achilles from Greek mythology. When he was injured in the Trojan War a compress of yarrow leaves was placed on his wound. The Chinese many centuries ago used yarrow for divination in the I Ching. Dried stalks of yarrow were cast onto the ground and their forms were read to mean certain things. Clearly, yarrow is found worldwide. It appears to have originated in Eurasia and spread from there.

The Indians all over California used yarrow for various ailments. A tea brewed from the flowers treated colds, flu, headaches and stomach complaints. A poultice of the leaves might be placed on wounds, since it helps slow the flow of blood. Traditional herbalists today consider yarrow to be anti-inflammatory, astringent (drying), and hemostatic (stops bleeding).**

Notice yarrow the next time you take a walk on the mountain. It is truly a wondrous plant.

**This information is not intended to be used to treat any illness. As with all plants and herbs, please consult a professional before using them medicinally. Yarrow can cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals.

Joanne Odenthal, Cabin #505
MLIA Board Member
619-275-5377 joanne@plantwoman.com



FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Fire Safe Council meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Tailed Roost. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

A 501(C) 3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Our Condolences

Our sympathy goes out to the Reed family on the recent passing of long time cabin owners, friends, and neighbors James and Ardith Reed. We share in their loss and wish to express our sincerest sorrow.



Everyone is Invited to...

Wine A Bit

Saturday, August 21, 2010

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Enjoy an evening of food, drink, good friends, and good cheer.

Join us in the Burnt Rancheria Tract between cabin 802 & 803.

Just follow the signs.

Donation \$10.00 per person.

Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks are provided.

Bring an appetizer and/or bottle of wine to share or, if you'd like, just come out and socialize with friends.

50/50 Drawing will be held at \$1.00 per ticket.

Door Prizes will be raffled off at \$1 per ticket/ 6 for \$5

All proceeds benefit MLIA and the Fire Safe Council.

See you there!



RSVP to Don & Teresa at 619-420-0829
or Stan & Cathy at 619-691-1423

BECOME A MLIA BOARD MEMBER

The Mount Laguna Improvement Association is looking for new board members. We enjoy getting to know the mountain while making new friends and supporting our cabin community.

For information on becoming a board member contact JOHN WALLAR, MLIA President at 949-361-5572 or email to mwallar@cox.net

WATER METER READINGS

MLIA will be reading the water meters after the annual meeting on Sept. 18th. If you would like to double check our accuracy, please read your own meters at that time as well. Also, it would be appreciated if you would kindly clear any brush around the meter site and/or dig out any dirt from the critters. Thank you.

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.

MOUNTAIN CRITTER "Tales" SLITHERY THINGS

Over the fifty plus years on the mountain I have seen a few snakes. I want to emphasize a few snakes and not many. On average I see about one snake a year on the mountain or along the mountain roads.

To the best of my knowledge there are five species of snakes on the mountain. Sometimes I would find a gopher snake squeezing between the crevices of the rock walls near our cabin where they would hunt for ground squirrels. Around streams or pools of water it was not uncommon to find a garter snake. Around the warm hilltop or along a road you may find the colorful Mountain King snake. Once while searching in a thicket of cacti I saw the tail end of what appeared to be a Corn Snake. And then there are rattlesnakes.

My first opportunity to see a rattlesnake occurred when I was quite young. My father killed a rattlesnake near our cabin that the cat had discovered. Even though it was dead, he didn't allow me to go down and see it. I think it was more common in those days to consider that a dead rattlesnake was a good rattlesnake and besides there were several small children around the house that could have gotten hurt. For many years after that, I never saw a rattle snake on the mountain even though I frequently hiked about the hillsides. I now see rattlesnakes from time to time. They are more often seen as I drive up at night from the desert. My attitude is different than my father's and I always avoid harming a rattlesnake when driving. I know that they have a job to do. Rattlesnakes are an important predator of rodents and there were already too many rodents on the mountain. This was good as long as they were not living too close to you.

It was early summer and I was at Tom Orr's cabin. I had just bought a used chainsaw from him and was trying to get my new toy ready for use. A car drove out and out stepped Mr. Wiener. "Tom can you help me? I have a rattle snake at my house".

I knew Tom well enough to know that he preferred to deal with a rattle snake with a rifle. A look at Tom's face told me that he was not interested in helping a rattlesnake live. I stepped in "I think I can help remove the snake". I had seen people handle rattle snakes and have received some instruction. With that, we gathered up some things that would help us get the snake. Since we had to improvise, I remember picking up a golf club, a stick, a roll of wire mesh, a plastic bucket and a pillow case. We got in the car and drove a little farther to my cabin and I picked up a few more tools. While driving I stressed the importance of keeping the snake calm during our ordeal if we were going to do a successful removal.

It didn't take long to get to the house and sure enough, there was the snake curled up in the hollow of an oak tree only about ten feet from the front door. It was a Southern Pacific rattler. To make things more interesting, the weekend residents included two women, two youths and one dog. This snake had to go. We set up a barricade on one side of the tree and coaxed the snake from its comfortable den. A few attempts at taking hold of the snake with my ill assortment of tools didn't do any good. I changed tools to some sort of half pitchfork half rake. It was one of those tools that never got much use around our cabin but it came in handy that day. Once again, I coaxed the snake from its hiding place. Once in the open, I lifted up the snake like spaghetti and carefully placed in the bucket with the pillow case inside. I watched the snake for any irritability and then carefully gathered the top of the pillow case and tied it in a knot. Success, part one! We next got in the car and headed for a place that we could release it.

A short way down the road we met up with Jackie Smith who started up a friendly conversation. All I could do was smile until she asked the right question. "What do you have in the bucket?" she asked. "A rattlesnake." I said. "Oh my goodness, I suppose you should be on your way!"

We drove down the road about two miles stopped and walked north of the road for about 200 yards. I cautiously untied the knot and released the rattlesnake near a fallen oak tree. Success, part two! A happy ending for one lucky rattle snake and one lucky rattlesnake catcher.

If you enjoy the mountains, you will eventually encounter snakes. Know your snakes and by all means know the Mountain King snake and don't hurt them. Only the rattlesnake is poisonous but they are not necessarily a problem if they are far from your home. If you encounter a rattlesnake, avoid sudden movements with your feet because this will only startle a snake and make it much more dangerous. Try not to react with fear. Most snakes are much more afraid of you than you are of them. And always remember that they were here first.

Joe Cook, MLIA Board Member, Cabin #1122
760-564-2074 jpc68592@earthlink.net



Joe Cook, cabin owner and MLIA board member, is assembling a series of stories devoted to Mt. Laguna animals. Drop him a note and share your "tale". We all want to hear your stories.

★ DEAD WOOD GANG ★ STILL RIDES THE MOUNTAIN!

The Dead Wood Gang has some remaining funds for the 50/50 hazard tree removal program. If you have a dead tree or branch that could fall and damage your cabin or surrounding areas, contact John Wallar at 949-361-5572 or email mwallar@cox.net.

HISTORY MYSTERY

History of Mt. Laguna Junction - Part 1

Laguna Junction was the first business property leased by the U.S. Forest Service to a private operator when the Cleveland National Forest came into being in 1916. The junction was where the Sunrise Highway into the Laguna Mountains intersects what is now Interstate 8. The first building at the junction was built by Lena Berhardt, a German immigrant. "She built a 'shanty' at the top of the hill east of Pine Valley and served cold drinks to any motorists who would venture up what was then an almost new highway from Imperial Valley," said Clay Stuart to the Union Tribune reporter in July of 1970. Mr. Stuart was at that time the postmaster at Mt. Laguna and a long time mountain resident. Miss Bernhardt's business was quite successful. She soon met and married an itinerant dentist named Doc Terry. "No one can remember his real first name, it was always just 'Doc'," said Mr. Stuart. After their marriage, Lena and Doc decided to expand their business. The county had just built a road up into the Lagunas and people were exploring the area for summertime outings. Doc and Lena built a tiny store at what is known today as Mt. Laguna Lodge. Their building remains today as part of the Laguna Mountain Lodge and post office.

Both businesses were successful from the start. Success for the Mt. Laguna store came from people now having access to the cool, pine-shaded Laguna mountains for recreation and leisure. The Junction's success came not just from having cold drinks available but rather from conveniently having a good spring on the property. Radiator water was a necessity in those days for motorists making the long climbs from Imperial Valley and San Diego in summer.

Doc and Lena eventually moved out of the picture at both locations. The Junction lease was taken over by C.A. Perkins Sr., a Texas railroad man, who moved his family to California in the 1920s. The Perkins store in Descanso still bears his name.

This story will be continued in the next newsletter...

Mary Ann Dawson Cabin # 1134
MLIA Board Member
619-296-8522 dawson3560@cox.net



We're looking for old postcards and photos of the Mt. Laguna area and cabins to put on our virtual historical archive. If you have something to share, please scan (front and back, if available) and email to me with location and date (if known). Our plan is to have them in a central location for all to enjoy. Please send to Mary Ann Dawson at dawson3560@cox.net

Marilyn Waller, Editor mwaller@cox.net

760-440-9554

KAREN MOTTA - RKMotta@cox.net
Send your address and email changes to

HAVE YOU MOVED?

MLIA
- TO ALL CABIN OWNERS -
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, SEPT. 18, 2010
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
- AL BAHR SHRINE CAMP -

You're Invited
The 3rd Annual Mt. Laguna
Wine A Bit
Saturday, August 21, 2010
See details inside




246 Avenida Victoria, Suite C
San Clemente, CA 92672

MOUNT LAGUNA  **IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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