



# CABIN-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, No.36

NOVEMBER 2010

## W I N T E R 2 0 1 0

As fall changes into winter, I want to reflect on this past year. By the time this issue is in your hands, we will be completing replacement of 2000 feet of water lines to cabins. We are trying to do a portion every year as preventative maintenance on our water system.

We've had a series of break-ins that focused on one particular cabin and a couple of their neighbors. This has been stopped with the arrest of the person who was leading groups of illegal immigrants. It is always good to be aware of what's happening around your cabin and your neighbors. Don't be afraid to contact the sheriff, border patrol, or forest service law enforcement and report any unusual activities.

Many of you have been attending the events MLIA sponsors, such as Oktober Fest, Progressive Dinner, Wine A Bit, and Chili Social. We all have a good time and are grateful for your support. Just to let you know what is done with these funds, I am including a break down of allocations. For the March Chili Social, \$800 was given to the National Forest Homeowners Coalition to work with Congress on establishing fair permit fees. At the July Progressive Dinner, \$1192 was raised, half of which went to Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council and half to the MLIA road fund. During the August Wine A Bit, \$1700 was collected and again half went to the Fire Safe Council and the other half to our road fund.

At our Annual Meeting in September, we honored one of our longest serving Board Members and expressed "thanks" for serving our community for 20 years! Cal Turner has helped in more ways than I have room to list. He will still be involved in events and activities on the mountain, but as he says he "just won't have to attend meetings any longer." We all owe Cal our sincerest appreciation for the time and energy he has given. And, of course, the same goes to his wife, Linda, because we know as couples, when one individual helps out, you get two. When you see Cal or Linda next time, please let them know how much their efforts mean to us.

We're looking forward to kicking off the holiday season with Oktober Fest on Nov. 6th. Even though it's a little past October, there's still plenty to celebrate with our friends and neighbors. Hope to see you there! Enjoy your time on the mountain.

John Wallar, Cabin # 718  
MLIA President  
949-361-5572 [jwallar2@gmail.com](mailto:jwallar2@gmail.com)

**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.**

All MLIA, MLFSC, Local Residents and Friends are invited.

# - MLIA - OKTOBERFEST



**Saturday, November 6, 2010  
4:00-8:00 pm**

**New Location - Eagle & Bear Cafe  
MLIA'S 4th Annual - "JUST PAST" Oktoberfest**

Bratwurst or Hot Dogs, Kraut, Real German Potato Salad,  
Desserts, Beer & Wine, PLUS lots of FUN!  
Prizes galore, big ticket auction, and more...

Please bring beer and/or wine to share (German if you like).  
Soft drinks and water will be provided

**Appetizers, desserts and raffle prizes are needed.**

Please call Karen Motta 760-440-9554 or email [RKMotta@cox.net](mailto:RKMotta@cox.net)  
to let us know what you would like to bring.

**\$10.00 in advance/ \$20.00 at door**

This event supports MLIA Road Fund & Fire Safe Council

RSVP by Oct. 29th to:

**[RKMotta@cox.net](mailto:RKMotta@cox.net) or call 760-440-9554**

**[calt8@cox.net](mailto:calt8@cox.net) or call 619-448-2410**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG](http://WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG)

# UNDER THE MISTLETOE ...



When the oak leaves drop on the mountain, things are revealed that have been hidden much of the year. One of these is our native mistletoe that nestles in the oak trees all over Mt. Laguna. Over 1300 species of mistletoe exist worldwide. Mistletoe varieties native to San Diego County include Oak Mistletoe, *Phoradendron villosum*, Dense Mistletoe, *Phoradendron densum*, Big-Leaf Mistletoe, *Phoradendron macrophyllum*, and Dwarf Mistletoe, *Arceuthobium campylopodum*. The European Mistletoe is a different species, *Viscum album*. All mistletoe use trees as hosts, but the trees vary widely across the world.

The two varieties of mistletoe you will find near our cabins are the Oak Mistletoe and the Dwarf Mistletoe. The Oak Mistletoe is the mistletoe we associate with Christmas decorations and kissing under the mistletoe. The leaves are oval, green and leathery and the berries are white. There are some massive stands of Oak Mistletoe in the Boiling Springs tract on the large oaks near cabins 770 and 771.



The Dwarf Mistletoe is also found on the mountain, but this you will see on our native Jeffrey Pine trees. It looks quite different from the Oak Mistletoe, having scaly yellow leaves on stems like skinny fingers. It looks almost like coral growing on the trunk of the pine tree. The Dwarf Mistletoe is slightly more parasitic than the Oak Mistletoe. You can tell this because it's more yellow indicating it doesn't create as much chlorophyll.

Mistletoe is hemi-parasitic, meaning it isn't a complete parasite. It uses the host plant for water and many nutrients, but makes its own chlorophyll through photosynthesis. Once considered a pest, mistletoe is now thought to be a "keystone species" with important influence on the ecological community it inhabits. A large number of animals, including native birds and butterflies, depend on the mistletoe for food. In return, they distribute the seeds and pollinate the flowers, continuing the cycle of life. There is some evidence that bees depend on the mistletoe flowers for food in early spring. Many birds nest in mistletoe, including Chickadees and Nuthatches. Seeds are spread by birds such as the Phainopepla.

According to legend, mistletoe was sacred to the Druids. It was cut at the beginning of the year and provided protection from evil. The oak trees on which the mistletoe grew were treated with great respect as mistletoe was considered a healing plant. In Norse mythology, an arrow made of mistletoe killed Baldur, the god of peace. The Christmas use of mistletoe may trace back to Druidic or Scandinavian legend, but it was not really part of British or American tradition until late in the 18th century.

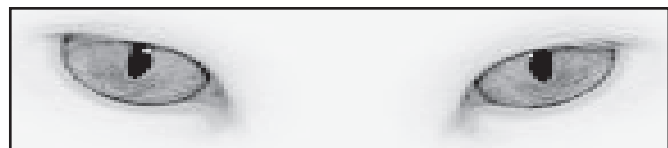
Leaves and young twigs have been used medicinally, but can also be toxic. The berries are poisonous. All parts of the plant are toxic in large doses. European mistletoe is used medicinally by trained practitioners and marketed in Europe under names such as Iscador or Helixor. American mistletoe is considerably more toxic than the European variety. Both the European and American mistletoe are plants to be treated with great respect and should never be used without the help of a trained medical practitioner. Please don't leave it where children can help themselves to the pretty berries!

Enjoy your mistletoe in a doorway this holiday season or appreciate it in its native habitat. If you look closely, perhaps you'll spot a nest left over from last spring.

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR MLIA NEWS BY EMAIL....INSTEAD OF MAIL?  
IF SO, LET US KNOW. EMAIL US AT JWALLAR2@GMAIL.COM WITH YOUR NAME AND CABIN NUMBER AND  
WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED AS TO WHEN THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE AVAILABLE ON-LINE. THANK YOU.

## MOUNTAIN CRITTER "Tales"



### RARE & ELUSIVES CREATURES OF MOUNT LAGUNA

Mount Laguna is at a cross roads of various different climates. It is where the tropical meets the temperate zone, where the coast meets the desert. All of this sets on top of a mountain range that's covered with pine, oak and chaparral brush. It is like an island where animals swim to for refuge and habitat. Along these mountain tops one can find an unusually wide variety of animal life rarely found in other places around the world. Interestingly enough there are rare and not so rare animals that can be found here.

The Ringtailed cat is one of those animals that most of us have heard about but is seldom seen. They are nocturnal creatures and they prefer rocky ground. They come out at night to hunt mostly for rodents or other small prey. I have encountered only one of these over the years. Several years back, my brother and I were driving up the grade from Pipe Valley at night. There had been some grading along the roadside and there were warning reflectors set out. We came around one turn and there perched on top of the warning reflector lay a Ringtailed cat. It sat there relaxed with its paws folded like the family cat on the living room couch. It appeared to have stopped just to watch the traffic go by.

The Desert Bighorn (Orvis Nelsoni), are the majestic wild sheep seen almost exclusively on the desert side of the mountain. They only number somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500 and their numbers seem to be faltering. They are commonly found between 1,000 and 4,000 feet along the arid and rocky mountain slopes between the Mexican border and Palm Springs. They are masters of the steep slopes and have been observed clip-clopping up the side of an almost vertical cliff when threatened or cornered. Several years back, a pair of Desert Bighorns were observed about half way up the Sunrise Highway between the freeway and the tree line. It is uncommon to see them in the chaparral since they prefer the mostly barren side of the mountain where they can escape from predators and also avoid being stalked. I have seen sheep on various occasions but always on the desert side and never in the chaparral brush. Chances are that if you go looking for them, they will see you but you won't see them.

There is a cat that has been seen on the mountains that is different than other cats. It is the exotic Jaguarundi. This is a small cat that is similar in size to a house cat but definitely much different. Unlike a common domestic cat, they have round ears and more scrunched up faces like a cabbage patch kid. They have unusually long tails and come in a black or red phase. They are more commonly found from Texas south into South America Most books do not even acknowledge that the Jaguarundi exists in California. The truth is that a few of our mountain residents have spotted this elusive creature in the Lagunas.

With that said, we are uncertain what we will see next. Will a camera be close at hand when one of these creatures shows up and we can get undeniable proof that these creatures like Mount Laguna as much as we do.

Joe Cook, MLIA Board Member, Cabin #1122  
760-564-2074 [jpc68592@earthlink.net](mailto:jpc68592@earthlink.net)



### BE SAFE THIS WINTER SEASON...

**Each year fire claims the lives of 3,500 Americans, injures 20,000, and causes billions of dollars worth of damage.**

WOOD STOVES cause over 4,000 residential fires every year. Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions. Look for solid construction, such as plate steel or cast iron metal. Check for cracks and inspect legs, hinges and door seals for smooth joints and seams. Use only seasoned wood for fuel, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash. Inspect and clean your pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions. Be sure to keep combustible objects at least three feet away from wood stoves.

ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS - Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Check to make sure it has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over. Heaters are not dryers or tables; don't dry clothes or store objects on top of your heater. Space heaters need space; keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater. **Always unplug your electric space heater when not in use AND when leaving your cabin.**

KEROSENE HEATERS - Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and check with your local fire department on the legality of kerosene heater use in your community. Never fill your heater with gasoline or camp stove fuel; both flare-up easily. Only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene. Never overfill any portable heater. Use the kerosene heater in a well ventilated room.

FIREPLACES regularly build up creosote in their chimneys. They need to be cleaned out frequently and chimneys should be inspected for obstructions and cracks to prevent deadly chimney and roof fires. Check to make sure the damper is open before starting any fire. Never burn trash, paper or green wood in your fireplace. These materials cause heavy creosote buildup and are difficult to control. Use a screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks. Don't wear loose-fitting clothes near any open flame. Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed. Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

Finally, having a working SMOKE ALARM dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.



**MOUNT LAGUNA  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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## - MLIA - OKTOBERFEST



**Saturday, November 6, 2010  
4:00-8:00 pm**

### HAVE YOU MOVED?

Send your address and email changes to  
**KAREN MOTTA - RKMotta@cox.net**  
760-440-9554

Marilyn Wallar, Editor mwallar@cox.net



## FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

After a brief hiatus as Chief of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, John Truett, our neighbor and former Battalion Chief, is back with us as Chief 2 of the Cleveland National Forest based in Rancho Bernardo. Welcome back, John.

Mike Jacobs and Joan Marshall passed the test and now have their EXTRA Amateur Radio Licenses, the highest level in the amateur radio world. We thank them for taking the lead in emergency communication preparedness on the mountain and invited anyone else that is interested in participating to contact Joan at 619-473-0102.

In September, SDG&E awarded the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council \$2500 for our emergency signage project. Board member, Carl Lower, John Spinetta and I attended the event. We were treated to a tour of SDG&E's training, transmission and distribution facilities in Mission Valley. What an experience! If you ever have the opportunity to tour the site, I highly recommend it.

The purpose of the signage project is to assist firefighters and other responders to locate a cabin or home during a fire at night when it is dark, with heavy smoke and almost no visibility. We are coordinating this project with Susie Desonia and Jeff Robinson, our new Battalion Chief. Carsonite stakes with reflective numbers will be placed in driveways. George Atkins is organizing the purchase. We will need volunteers in a few months to install the stakes.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER !

Please remind your guests of the rules of the mountains when they use your cabins/homes:

1. No live ammunition
2. No bonfires
3. Place all hot coals from barbeques and fireplaces in covered metal containers.

Again this season two of these rules were broken but thanks to the vigilance of campers at the Laguna Campground a major fire was averted.

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.**

*Pat Deasy-Spinetta, Cabin #1117  
President, Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council  
619-589-1789 pspinetta@cox.net*

**MT. LAGUNA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY  
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL OF  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY 2007  
A 501(C) 3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION