

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon

"You can overlook Tucson, but you can't overlook Mt Lemmon"

Message From The Pres.

By Debbie Fagan

Well here it is, January's end, and I along with the mountain have come out of a frosty hibernation, temporarily of course, to send out a cool, wet hello. Even the Pussy Willow bushes are budding. This last week has brought a welcome relief from the cold, icy conditions of the last 2 months. One particular morning I came upon Dennis {Cozzetti} trying to unfreeze the lock on his trailer door by placing his mouth over it and blowing hot air. I told him if his lips got stuck, I'd pretend I didn't know him. To my amazement, they didn't and it worked!

If you haven't been up recently, you will be amazed at the wonderful changes in our community. Cabins are popping up everywhere; each with its own unique personality. I reopened my shop Dec. 31st and moved into my home last week. There are no words to describe how truly thankful I am and how incredible it feels to have my roots back. Because the trees are gone from behind me, I have an unobstructed view of the night sky from my bedroom window. Loosing all my trees was devastating, to say the least. But they say, "When God closes a door, he opens a window." I now have a view of the



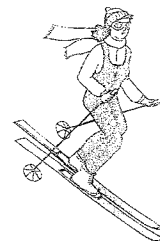
heavens at night that's truly magnificent.

Next month is not only "the month of love", it's the month the Cookie Cabin will finally open its doors. Your 2005 dues are also due, and the official date of the next Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's dinner will be April 19th. I'd like to also welcome Rick Small as the newest addition to the homeowner's board. He has taken over as the editor of The Echoes. Thanks to Gordon for doing such a good job. Last, but not least, it is very exciting that the plans for the business district are coming together for potential commencement of phase one this summer.

Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley

By Jay Davies

Ski Valley opened for skiing on December 10th. We were interrupted briefly by 4 3/4 inches of rain, but we are back at it again. We simply substitute skyrides for skiing when it gets too wet. We've had a lot of people - families, singles and even some free tickets claimed by those over 70 - having an awful lot of fun. The teenagers outnumber others preferring snowboarding to skiing, but we have a lot of younger kids trying it



Cut along Dotted line and return coupon with payment,

Thank you from the MLHO Association

too. The rental shop is ready to fit you with skis or snowboards. (\$300.00 deposit on snowboards.).

The Iron Door is open for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, but parking is a problem when we are skiing so come by 9:00. Friday through Monday come visit the gift shop, fudge shop or Iron Door. The Grub Stake is open for snack type foods on Saturday and Sunday.

See you on the slopes !!

Fire District Update

By Dean & DeAnna



Happy New Year to all! The Mt. Lemmon Fire District started the new-year with great news...Mt. Lemmon has been *Nationally Recognized* as a *FireWise Community*!! (make sure to tell all of your insurance companies) Thanks again to all members involved with the hard work and dedication that went toward this great achievement. Mt. Lemmon will be presented with the certification at the Annual Homeowner's Dinner in April.

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District would like to again thank the following previous Board members for their dedication, continued support, and hours: Fred Pace, Danielle Hayhurst, and Bob Zimmerman. Congratulations! To the newly elected Board: Chip DeLay, Chairman; Carol Mack, Clerk of the Board; and Dennis Cozzetti. All new members were initiated by going on a "road trip"! Chip, Dennis, and Carol accompanied us to Laughlin for the Annual AFDA (Arizona Fire District Association) Conference. Chip and Dennis attended a Fire Board Member Responsibilities course, while Carol joined us in Fire District Financials. We were all well educated and reassured that the District would continue to run in the most efficient manner. We wish you many good years ahead.

As many have seen or read in the newspaper, the Mt. Lemmon Fire District is accepting donations of \$50.00 per load of split firewood, or \$25.00 per load for rounds. The wood goes fast. It is recommended that pickup be done on Fridays, no later than Saturday afternoon. If homeowners would like arrangements to be made ahead of time, please contact the fire station at (520) 576-1201.

Trees are coming down



By Chip Delay
Mt. Lemmon Fire District, Chairman
chip@tuesonractor.com
(520) 820-0220 (cell)
(520) 623-5848 (Office)
(520) 623-6058 (Fax)

The weather over the last few weeks has produced high wind conditions on ML, resulting in a large number of trees falling. Some of these trees have landed in the roadways, on power lines, and on structures. These trees are primarily healthy green trees which are being uprooted, not snapped off. This is most likely an erosion related condition.

If you are on Mt Lemmon during windy conditions and are out for a walk, be acutely aware of your surroundings. If you see any potentially hazardous trees, notify MLFD immediately (576-1201). Let's be careful out there.

Since the above windy conditions, MLFD has had live green trees come down on no wind days. I contacted Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist for the Arizona State Land Department for some help in explaining this to the community. His comments follow.

Bob Celaya's reply

The following is a compilation of possible explanations for the tree failures you're experiencing on the mountain.

Continued on page 4

MT LEMMON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Summer is approaching and soon it will be time for our annual membership dinner. This year we will again use the buffet serving style in an attempt to give you more time to eat and less time to wait. This also means that you don't have to make any choices until you have plate in hand at the dinner. The dinner meeting will be held at

THE HIDDEN VALLEY INN

on April 19, 2005.

The cash bar will begin at 6:00 P.M. with the buffet line opening at 7:00 P.M.

**Roast Beef
Pork Medallions
Chicken Marcella
Linguini Alfredo w/Chicken
Roasted Red Potatoes
Caesar Salad
Marinated Veggie Pasta
Fresh Fruit Bowl
String Beans
Fresh Veggie Blend
Fudge Brownie Delight
Bavarian Cheese Cake
Assorted Cookie Tray**

The buffet price is 25.00 per person (includes-Relish tray, Cheese tray Rolls and Butter, Coffee, Iced tea or Lemonade ,tax and gratuity).

Please, place your reservations no later than **April 12** using the form below. THE HIDDEN VALLEY INN needs an accurate count of attendees. Make Checks payable to MLHO and mail your reservations to MLHO Annual Dinner, c/o Carrie Reitz---PO Box 31705, Tucson, AZ 85752-1705

Flagstaff, assisted me with the compilation.

1) Burned trees that have been removed in some areas (i. e. Carter Canyon) have exposed remaining green trees around these openings to the elements, making them more susceptible to wind throw. Recent heavy rains & restricted/ supportive root systems & little trunk taper in the remaining stagnant stands are also probably contributory. In addition, the eruption of springs we have noted in these opened areas in decomposed granite/clay soils, may also be loosening & removing the soil around the root systems.

2) Tree failure along power lines & roadways is more common due to the "wind tunnel" effect produced by these openings. We suspect that the majority of the tree failures in your area is due to the first two items. Other contributing factors may be:

3) Scorching & burning of the root collar & main/feeder roots by the fire or possible back fires, followed by wood-boring insects (i.e.flat/roundheaded wood borers) & increased activity by Turpentine beetles already present in these stressed trees before the fire, may be involved. A heavy duff layer may have also facilitated the scorching & burning.

4) Decay fungi present before or occurring after the fire (i.e. Shoestring root rot, Velvet-top fungus) may be contributing to some of the tree failures. Heavy fire fighting equipment/ post-fire logging/new home construction damage may have/is providing entry points for these fungi.

5) Older trees tend to fail more often than younger trees due to their inability to adapt to changes, & they're also more subject to decay.

Hopefully, this will give you some idea as to the possible cause(s) for the tree failures. In the meantime, let's just plan on examining a number of tree failures on January 28th to see if our assumptions are correct, & if there's any remedial actions we can take. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

Linda Mulay, President
327-4615

Our annual Christmas brunch was held in December at the awesome castle of Duane and Ginny Durham. What a treat for us! It was raining that day so it was like being in Germany in a castle. Ginny and Duane explained everything in and about the castle to us. We all had a wonderful time.

We have a board meeting scheduled for Monday February 7th to review bylaws and plan for the year. Please call me if you have ideas for us to consider. The next club meeting is Wednesday March 2nd, 6:30pm at the home of Thompson Hughes. I will email the directions to you. The speaker will be Demaris Drewry sharing her experiences swimming with the dolphins in the open ocean and other exciting experiences she has to share.

Saturday March 5th is the Southern District meeting in Benson, Arizona. I hope some of you will go with us to this meeting. Please bring any crafts or samples of hobbies you have done the past year to the March 2nd meeting for us to take to the District meeting. Rose Mary Hinsch is putting our annual scrapbook together for the District meeting and can use pictures or any other Mt Lemmon item you would share. GFWC 102nd annual Arizona convention will be April 22-24 in Prescott, Arizona. Consider going with us to this fun and informative meeting.

See you March 2nd 6:30 pm..

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Discounts for all Mt. Lemmon Homeowners

Local Photographic Artist Flourishes

Judy Epstein began her passion with photography just a few years ago while soaking in and appreciating the beautiful sights of Mt. Lemmon. Encouraged by compliments and sales, Judy continued to evolve the quality of her work. This past fall she has taken a quantum leap beginning with the purchase of a new camera and one of the largest professional printers (printing widths up to 44 inches!) available, allowing her to create stunning stretched-canvas images of up to 40" x 50"!

To display her (literally) "large" collection of art, Judy has transformed a house at 1710 E. Linden St. (near UMC) into her studio. There she displays a full variety of her new canvas work – large 4-piece and triptych canvas sets, abstract, contemporary, unique enlarged rock walls, and scenic images of Mt. Lemmon and Tucson -- as well as traditional presentations of photographs with mats and frames. Judy invites her extended "mountain family" to stop on by anytime that she is there. Please call 760-2802 to check if she is there or to schedule a time when she is.

If stopping by her studio doesn't work, Judy is also displaying in some upscale interior design businesses in the Fort Lowell furniture district and in the Stone Canyon area. She is also displaying in local "juried" art shows where customers order pieces that fit their unique circumstances, many of which are building or furnishing new homes. These are her upcoming shows:

Tubac 46th Annual Festival of the Arts, February 9 – 13
Jewell's Fine Art Festival, Oracle & 1st Ave., March 5 – 6
SABHA Home Show, April 8 – 10

Come the warmer weather, Judy plans to be back on the mountain displaying during most weekends (hopefully with sturdier canopies)! Whenever it works for you, stop by and say "Hi!"

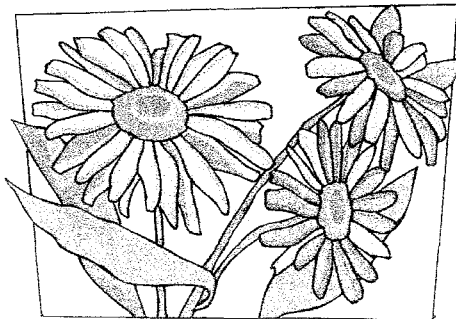
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Trees for Mt Lemmon

By Barbara Eisele

Plants may be dormant on the mountain, but Trees for Mt Lemmon is sending out a lot of new shoots and putting down more roots. Here's what's new:

Community Meeting

Trees for Mt Lemmon is sponsoring a Community Meeting to discuss Natural Resource Management. It will be held at the Lou Sorenson Center on Tanque Verde Road, Friday, April 1 at 7:30 PM. (It's not an April Fool's Trick) Watch your March Echoes for detail. Speaker and topic will be announced at that time.

Second Annual Aspen Ball

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, JUNE 18th

The 2nd ANNUAL ASPEN BALL

DOUBLETREE HOTEL at Reid Park

More details will follow in upcoming issues of the Echoes

Wildflower and Tree Questionnaire

You will soon be receiving a questionnaire regarding your experience with the Wildflower seeds and trees we distributed this past summer. Please fill it out and mail it back to us. It will help us get more grants to provide more trees and shrubs in the future.

Ponderosa's and Other Trees and Shrubs

Trees for Mt Lemmon was once again awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Arizona Community Tree Council to propagate native trees and shrubs. Brad Blake of NAU, Lindy Brigham and volunteers from Mt Lemmon and Bartlett's Tree Service harvested cones from our Ponderosa again. We will have approximately 1,000 trees to distribute this coming summer. Brad took cuttings from several shrubs, Coyote Willow, Raspberries and Snowberries to name a few. The trees and shrubs are being grown at the Botanical Gardens at NAU. Watch for details in coming issues.

ALMOST SPRING

By Barbara Welsh

Hasn't it been great to have all this rain? I only wish more of it had been snow on the mountain but we take what we can get from the Tucson weather. The chances of beautiful wildflowers both in town and on the mountain are increasing with each drop we get. Remember all the seeds we planted last summer?

Did you see comet Machholz in early January? It truly looked like a fuzzy green ball. After the full moon the comet will be fainter but up on the mountain you should still be able to see it with binoculars. Try after January 29th near the constellation Cassiopeia. Look toward the north star and slightly west and higher

This note was sent to the Naturalists several days ago and I thought it would be of interest to all of us because we have both skunks and foxes on the mountain.



In Sabino canyon there have been an unusual number of dead skunks and at least one believed to be rabid. Rabies attacks the central nervous system of infected mammals. The duration of the disease is about two weeks. There is swelling of the brain tissues that result often in aggressive behavior. At this point in the disease the virus is found in the salivary glands and is passed on by a bite from the infected animal. Another animal eating the infected dead animal can also contract rabies. Foxes often prey on the skunks.

Some tips to keep in mind:

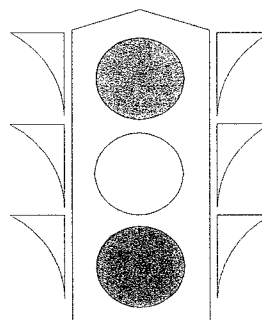
1. Be on the lookout for animals behaving strangely. This may include showing no fear of humans, moving erratically (staggering or moving in circles).
2. Avoid close approaches to animals that you encounter even though it may seem like they want you to get close enough for a great picture.

3. Never touch a dead animal. If it is necessary, use a shovel or other tool.

In summary, keep your eyes open. Rabies is not a disease to be taken lightly.

Josh Tais, who works for the Forest Service, sent this information. Pima County Animal Control has issued warning concerning rabid skunks in the northeast Tucson area.

If this warm weather keeps up we'll be on the mountain earlier than usual.



WINDING UP - The Final Phase Mt. Lemmon Highway Reconstruction

Milepost 11.2 – Milepost 15.9

TRAFFIC CONTROL SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE DATES

December 2004 – February 2005

Monday

9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. OPEN with hourly pilot car operations
(up through the construction area on the hour, down through the construction area at 5 minutes past the hour)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – CLOSED (*with passage at 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. - up through the construction area on the hour, down through the construction area at 5 minutes past the hour)

*Motorists wishing passage must be at the pilot car area **ON THE HOUR**. Once the traffic has been allowed to pass, the road through the construction area will be closed until the next scheduled opening.

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday
OPEN WITH NO DELAYS**

Water District

By Michael Stanley

Welcome back. 2004 brought us almost 41" of precipitation. Since the last Echo's article we have had a rather large amount of rain and snow. This helps the watershed and gives us the ability to store water during these wet times.

We are working on the same projects as in the last issue. This includes the Carter Canyon Tank replacement and the installation of a new 6" ductile iron main line from this new 140,000-gallon tank to the Upper Goat Hill Road fire hydrant. This is a major undertaking and will supply water to the area for domestic and fire fighting use. The increased capacity of the new tank will enable storage of 140,000-gallons, up from 30,000-gallons. This project is funded by FEMA with additional funds available from our WIFA loan. We are working toward completion of the project by September 2005 which will then allow us to start the Sabino filtered water storage tank project. We are still awaiting approval to remove 4 trees at this tank site. This area is in the Spotted Owl Breeding area and can only be worked from September to March. This project is funded by the WIFA loan that was secured before the fire.

We are exchanging some water meters with a radio reading system, which enables the monthly meter reads to proceed during bad weather and when the meters are covered by snow.

To better serve customers, we are also moving several main lines. These old main lines are in areas that are difficult to service. The lower Phoenix main from Carter Canyon Road to the north will be moved into the right-of-way and will provide better service to seven customers. The Bisbee main, that serves six customers, will be replaced and will provide the loop from Miners Ridge Tank to the Loma Linda Tank. This loop was damaged beyond repair during a customers site clean-up. We continue to help customers during their rebuilding process.

Some customers are encountering problems with brown water. This is caused by either non-use in the area, line maintenance, or mains damaged by contractors. Even with the utmost care damage to the mains will happen. Often, the main is old and rocks and/or roots are near or around the pipe. During excavation the main will move or be broken. We continue to flush the mains to provide the best quality water to the customers. If you have a continuing problem with water quality, please call. We will work to find the best solution.

We hope you have a great new year. Mt. Lemmon Water District



Open Letter to the Editor

By Bonnie Lohman

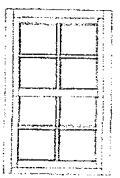
I would like to make others aware of a dangerous situation that I encountered as I was driving down the mountain this afternoon. As I came upon the hill by Bear Wallow, there were about 15 people, children and adults, standing by the side of the road. I slowed to avoid hitting anyone and the group waved me through. I noticed one of the people had a video camera pointed at the top of the hill, but I couldn't see anyone up there. They continued to wave me through but I stopped. Right at that time, down the hill came a man on a makeshift sled and continued into the road. Had I not been stopped, I would have run him over.

I pointed out to the group that it was illegal to sled on that hillside because of the seedlings that were planted. I told them there was a sign that said just that about 10 feet from where they were standing. They said they had not seen the sign.

I feel this is a dangerous situation and had I simply followed their directions and proceeded along the road, I would have run over the man who was sledding. He had no idea how far the sled would continue into the road.



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Additional Comments—Pete Krauss

Bonnie's observation was not an isolated incident, but the normal winter scene on Mt Lemmon and points to several problems:

- .damaging Forest Service seedlings
- .danger to illegal sledders
- .danger to drivers avoiding sledders sliding onto highway
- .illegal parking of snow players along highway
- .trash left behind
- .snow players all over private property in Summerhaven

During one trip down the mountain over the holidays I stopped twice in the Bear Wallow area to make way for ambulances to exit onto the highway after attending to "sledder" injuries. It resembled a disaster scene. There were literally hundreds of vehicles parked every which way but legal blocking traffic and emergency vehicles. MLFD attends to many times more injuries along the highway during the winter than occur at Ski Valley.

The problem: Lack of designated recreational areas available to the public during the winter (Bear Wallow and Marshall Gulch closed to vehicular traffic) and lack of Forest Service and Pima County enforcement personnel to control the out of control public.

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Mt. Lemmon and Tucson

2005 membership are due in January. The Echoes is the publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association for its membership. Membership dues are \$25 annually. Renters and "Friends of the Mountain" may obtain an association membership for \$20. Send your checks to MLHO, P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. This Echoes is brought to you courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association. It's one of the benefits of being a member. Board members are Debbie Fagan, President; Ross Quigley, vice-President; Carrie Reitz, Treasurer Fran Zimmerman, Secretary; John Mulay; Pete Krauss; Tom Thomas; Don Underhill; Larry Waldron; Kathy Shields; Bonnie Lohman; Gordon Hunter and Rick Small(editor of the Echoes). If you have any suggestions or comments, I can be reached at 749-4189 or by Email at rs659@msn.com.