

# The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

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



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

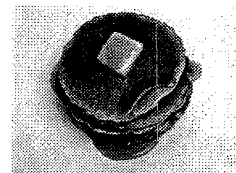
Sunday September 4

serving at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept

from 8:00 am until 11:00 am

Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Orange Juice and Coffee

\$5.00 per person Donation , kids under five are free.



**Members of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Board will be serving up this tasty breakfast . Proceeds to benefit the Mt Lemmon Fire Department and the Mt. Lemmon Water District.**

### Message from the Pres

by Debbie Fagan



What a beautiful month August has proved to be: 10 inches of rain, cooler temps, and so many raspberries, my mouth could not hold them all. (I know that's hard to believe). In fact, I had to perfect my belly crawl to get to one patch without disturbing the renters nearby. Because of the cool dampness, mushrooms are popping up everywhere. I guess you could say, "There's Fungus Among Us!" Along with the rain came a couple of rockslides, one which closed the road temporarily, and dropped close to 3 inches of hail in the village. A dust pan works pretty well when a snow shovel is not available. Thankfully, all the flowers "Trees for Mt. Lemmon" planted made it through just fine.

Zimmerman Accommodation School will not open this year, due to low enrollment but hopes are high for next year.

Much is happening behind the scenes in an attempt to start construction in the village. Our new community center could be up and running by Memorial Day 2006. Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming months.

Last but not least, please remember the Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 – 11, at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept. Besides good cooking (Ross is in charge of the MEAT), and an opportunity to spend time together, monies raised will be split between our Fire Dept. and Water District. See you there!

P.S. August 21<sup>st</sup> power outage was due to a bad breaker at the bottom of the mountain.

### *A Walk on the Wild (flower) Side—Mt. Lemmon*

By Susan Benson

Once again join Susan Fleming and Susan Benson for a wild-flower walk on Sunday, August 28. We will meet at the corner parking lot in town by Turkey Run Road across from Mt. Lemmon Realty. We will leave promptly at 9AM. We'll carpool to the site and then stroll along for a mile or so to check out the wildflowers, shrubs and trees. During our last wildflower walk in July our group found over thirty plant species, including a giant gentian. Bring water, snacks, notebook and pen, binoculars, camera, hand lens. Wear sturdy shoes for this relatively flat walk.

## Fire District Update

By Dean & DeAnna

Hello to all! As many of you are aware, the Fire District has removed the Air Curtain Destructor from the old Ponderosa lot. Our generous lease term has expired. Pima County is still working with the Fire District to continue the right-of-way Hazard Fuel Abatement program. The Pima County Board of Supervisors has approved an additional \$320,000 to assist with the funding. This means the cutting of dead trees will go on! Instead of the operation of the Air Curtain Destructor, the firefighters will continue with burn piles. These burn pile operations will not take place until the 1<sup>st</sup> snow. Cutting operations will begin mid-September. The Fire District is in the middle of hiring 2 full-time firefighter positions and additional crew for cutting operations. The Fire District is still cutting for personal lots. Precedence will be given to those under new construction. All others will be placed on a list and completed as time and availability permits. Please contact DeAnna or Dean at (520) 576-1201.

This brings us into FireWise. The FireWise program began on Mt. Lemmon in May of 2001. Since that time, the FireWise program has accomplished the following:

- Developed and Continues Interagency Relations with the Arizona State Land Department, Coronado National Forest, UofA Cooperative Extension, the Mt. Lemmon HOA, the Loma Sabino HOA, the Willow Canyon HOA, members of the Mt. Lemmon Community, the Pima County Sheriff's Department, and Pima County Development Services
- Host annual homeowner educational events
- Assists with educational programs for surrounding Communities
- Conducted bucket brigade and chainsaw safety classes for homeowners
- Created the Volunteer Fire Support program
- Completed and continues to distribute FireWise brochures and educational materials
- Developed the NeighborWise communication efforts
- Continues to receive and complete fuels treatment grant projects, along with the Loma Sabino Pines HOA
- Completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Become a Nationally Recognized FireWise Community

The FireWise Committee meets once each month, except during fire season. These are public meetings and we encourage all members of the community to participate, to attend and/or get involved. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The FireWise meeting will be held at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. For a copy of previous minutes or a current Agenda, please contact Joseph Gunia or DeAnna Barnella at (520) 576-1201.

Back at the Station. We have 2 staff members that will begin the Paramedic program on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will complete this program in April of 2006. After that time, we should have a Paramedic available on each shift. What a win, win! These two members have offered to split and deliver firewood during their shift. If anyone is interested in ½ chords of split and stacked firewood, it would be delivered on Fridays for \$100. All proceeds will be set forth to assist with tuition for our 2 firefighters. Please contact Joseph Gunia on Thursdays or Fridays to schedule delivery. Thanks again to all for your support. (Future fundraising events TBA throughout the Winter months)

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District is currently awaiting delivery of 2 water tenders. Each tender will hold 2,000 gallons of water and are all-wheel drive! Scheduled delivery to Tucson is for Sunday, August 21, 2005. Stop by and check out our newest apparatus, or meet us at a fire hydrant!

## OKTOBERFEST

By Jay Davies  
Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley

Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley has been putting on Oktoberfest since the 70's and do we know how to put on a party! Oktoberfest will be weekends from September 17th through October 9th - always the last two weekends in September and the 1st two weekends in October. Hours are from noon to 5:00 P.M. and takes place on the decks ski side. Norm Seiss and his German band will be coming in from Michigan to put on the show. Come dance and sing and generally make a fool of yourself doing the "Chicken Dance!"



The German food is incredible. We'll have brats, sauerkraut, red cabbage, Horst Magen (potato salad) and brotchen (that o should have two dots over it but I'm not that good with the computer.) Carol and Jim Oby will be back to make sure we get the recipes right.

We have some great German steins in the store, German chocolate fudge and we have promises of a repeat appearance of the St Pauli Girl. Bring your blanket, sit out on the slopes, have a German beer or 2, or bring the kids or grandkids and join the dancing. This really is a fun time for everyone. Of course the lift will be operating for skyrides and the Iron Door will be serving German food all week (except Tuesday and Wednesdays when we are closed.)

## ***Summerhaven Village Center***

by John Jones

Building plans for the construction of the Lodge at Summerhaven Village Center are now 85% complete.

The site plans for the mixed-use village center are nearing completion as well. The construction has been delayed until early spring in order to complete the financing package. Cleanup work will continue on the Lodge site to remove trees and debris.

Pima County has recently contracted with Hunter Contracting to begin work on the site improvements. Their first task will be the reconstruction of the drainage way under Sabino Canyon Parkway. A new bridge will be built to convey Sabino Creek using a concrete arch that will be faced with native stone. Construction will begin in the middle of October.

Kaneen Public Relations will coordinate with the merchants and the public to insure that access is maintained during the 3 to 4 week construction project. Depending on the weather, Hunter may provide temporary pavement and resume work in the spring.

Pima County will bid out the construction of the Mt Lemmon Community Center later this year with construction taking place in the spring. A group headed by Steve Brigham has been established to plan for the public art, furnishings and equipment for the Community Center and surrounding grounds.

## ***Santa Catalina Mountains Partnership***

At the last meeting of the Santa Catalina Mountains Partnership, the US Forest Service presented a grant opportunity to fund a project that would benefit the community. By consensus the group determined that continued tree removal of fire-damaged trees adjacent to the Catalina Highway would remove hazards as well as improve the visual quality of the approach to Summerhaven.

Future meetings of the Partnership will discuss the Mt Lemmon Community Center, the Mt Lemmon Aerial Tram, Watershed Planning, Forest Management and other issues that impact the Mt Lemmon community.

## ***WATER DISTRICT***

By Michael Stanley  
Operator/Manager

It is hard to believe that winter is just around the corner. Soon the leaves will turn to the yellows and reds of autumn and a chill will lie over the mountain. Yes, water freezes at thirty-two degrees and all of us need to be ready for the unexpected cold snap that gets here about the end of October. Most of the owners that have one of the historic cabins probably have a turn-on/turn-off list or procedure. Customers with newer cabins need to make a list to operate their water system and to ease the starting-up and shutting-down of their cabins. A draining procedure is necessary to prevent damage to your cabin. This operation procedure will help prevent damage of the expensive plumbing and prevent water loss. Always remember to shut off your water meter. This will prevent water running into your plumbing system when you are away. Several years ago, a customer did not shut off his meter. During a very cold spell, the water supply tube froze and broke under the kitchen sink. The leaking went undetected for two weeks. By the time we were able to find the leak and shut off the water meter, the damage was done. The water had soaked the lower portion of the walls, ruined the flooring, and caused a \$980 water bill. Sure the customer's insurance covered most of the thousands of dollars of damage but the repairs took over six-weeks. It is so much easier to shut off your water meter. Please call us if you have problems with a meter valve that is hard to turn. We will replace the valve. One of the District's requirements is for the customer to have a shutoff valve on their side of the meter. This customer valve can be operated when the district valve is inoperative. As we have discussed in past issues, there are two other requirements for the customer side of the meter. One is the pressure regulator and the other is a check valve. Review your past Echoes for details on these pieces of equipment or contact us at 576-1538.

The Water District's Board of Directors and Operation Staff hope your summer was enjoyable.

## ***CALENDAR of EVENTS***

Sunday, August 28, 9 am @ starting at Turkey Run and Sabino Canyon Parkway.--Wildflower walk

Sunday, Sept 4th, 8-11am MLFD \$5.00 per person, under Five free -Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. @ MLFD -- FireWise Meeting

**WHICH IS IT?**

by Barbara Welsh

There are many little gray birds flying around our houses this time of year. Are they nuthatches or chickadees?

There are three different types of nuthatches that live on the mountain. These are the only birds that are able to go straight down the tree trunk and eat the insects that are missed by some of the other birds like the woodpecker. Their diet also includes seeds, acorns and berries. They will also come to the feeders for suet and sunflower seeds. They nest any where from 5 to 120 feet above the ground in natural cavities or old woodpecker holes.

The white-breasted nuthatch is the largest of the three types. They have a black crown and white face and underparts but can have a little rust color on their rumps. The female has a little duller marking. The nest is made of twigs; bark shreds, fur and hair. They store their food in bark crevices and the male feeds the female when she is on the nest.

The smallest nuthatch is the pygmy nuthatch. They have a gray cap that goes down to the darker line through the eye, a light tan belly and gray back. This nuthatch eats pine seeds and uses pine scales in her nest as well as the other more common material. They also eat many insects along with the same foods of other nuthatches. The pygmy nuthatch goes in flocks and roost together. They have nests groups that consist of a breeding pair and several unmated males that help with the young.

The red-breasted nuthatch has a dark cap and a white line before the black eyeline. He has a reddish breast and gray back. He also likes the sunflower seeds and suet in the winter. When she builds the nest she uses mosses and grasses along with shredded bark and rootlets. The nest has pitch smeared around the entrance hole to help discourage predators. This nuthatch is fairly common all over the country.

The most common chickadee we have is the mountain chickadee. He has a black bib under his chin. There is a faint white line where an eyebrow would be but this is not always visible as it wears off going into and out of the nest. He does not go straight down the tree but still eats many insects from the bark. His nests are similar to the nuthatches and he does "courtship" feeding of the females. It is possible that an occasional Mexican chickadee may wander over but they are mainly in the Chiricahua Range. They would have a large black bib and buff colored belly.

So now you can tell which is which, the nuthatches go head first down the trees and the chickadees have a black bib. They are all acrobats and such fun to watch.

**Mt Lemmon Womens Club**by Linda Mulay, President  
576-1417 or 327-4615

Our deepest sympathy goes out to our long time friend and member, Regina Rhind and her husband Bill for the lose of their son Tylor.

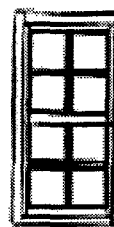
Our August meeting was held on the mountain at the home of Barbara Welsh. The speaker was John McGehee from Game and Fish. He talked about the fires we have had on the mountain and what happened to our wildlife. They may be bringing wild turkeys back to the mountain this fall.

As president of Mt Lemmon Womens club, I am also a member of the GFWC-AZ Southern District Executive Board. We met August 6th. The Southern District Fall Conference will be October 1st at the Womens Club in Tucson, so mark your calendar and plan to attend.

We will not have a formal meeting in September, but will have cabin tours on Saturday September 24th. I will convey any information I have to share at that time.



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## Water District Manager Honored

Clouds gathered like great piles of gigantic cotton balls over Pinetop. A flash of lightning cut through the distant hills as George Strait split guitar string twangs with tales of a first meeting. It was a familiar journey cut through the high desert and into the spectacular Salt River Canyon. The annual Arizona Small Utilities Association Leadership Conference brings together professionals and exhibitors from all corners of Arizona. Over this past year, Michael Stanley was honored as 2004 Water Operator of the Year by this organization. We can guess why this honor was bestowed on Michael. After the Aspen Fire, under the most stressful of circumstances, Michael and Nathan kept water flowing to the remaining homes, businesses and most importantly, for fire fighting needs in our small community. Michael has maintained and operated Mt. Lemmon water systems for over 23 years and is greeted warmly by his peers. Those of us who know him well can imagine his easy grace amid utility friends both old and new. Yes, there's the goofy "groaner" joke here and there, but how else would we characterize this fixture of our landscape? He shares smiles with the same ease as he collects business cards.

Perhaps, one of the reasons Michael was honored last year, and a reason many might not suspect, was his successful "road show" for disaster preparedness. Combining his talents for pictorial documentation and a clear understanding of needs assessment, Michael produced a riveting account of progress and loss as a result of fire. In seminars around the State, he left audiences shocked by the devastation we witnessed during the Bullock and Aspen Fires. These presentations help provide insight to alert other utilities as to how quickly an unplanned disaster can ravage their areas. Lessons learned were passed on to small utilities in similar circumstances and old tenants were revised with the knowledge gained through his experience. Michael is well known and respected by organization members.

So why do we care about honors awarded Michael? Because the current infrastructure improvements would not be possible without funding Michael has worked tirelessly to secure through FEMA and WIFA. Most importantly, these entities depend on Michael's recognized expertise and knowledge to get the job done for the benefit of all. We have an Arizona Small Utility of which we can be proud. Think about it next time you turn on your water faucet.

## MLHO

The Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association (MLHO) was formed in 1969 to protect the welfare of the Mt. Lemmon community and to be involved in all aspects of its improvement. The concerns of the organization are not limited to private property owners. Full membership with voting rights, is accorded to private owners and leased land holders upon payment of yearly dues.

The most visible product of the MLHO is the **ECHOES**; a newsletter published eight to nine times a year. The Association organizes social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles enabling owners to mingle while at the same time raising funds for various community causes. This group has always depended upon volunteer support and found strength in numbers. An elected board acts on behalf of and for the benefit of the membership. Board members are Debbie Fagan, President; Bonnie Lohman, vice-President; Carrie Reitz, Treasurer; Kathy Shields, Secretary; Fran Zimmerman, John Mulay; Pete Krauss; Tom Thomas; Larry Waldron; Ross Quigley; Chip DeLay; Fred Pace and Gordon Hunter (editor of the Echoes). If you have any suggestions or comments about the ECHOES, Gordon can be reached at 298-5971 or by Email at [gordon@hunteraz.com](mailto:gordon@hunteraz.com).

Being organized, having a legal fund and having active **LOCAL** voice participation enables the Association to accomplish most of its goals. Pima County has said the MLHO is the strongest and most respected homeowners' organization in the entire county. The Annual Dinner and Meeting is held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes.

Dues are \$25 per year. Renters and friends of the Mountain may obtain membership for \$20 a year. Membership fees are prorated quarterly. To join the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association in 2005; Clip the coupon below and send your check and the completed coupon to address on the back

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin Location (address);  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address for Echoes:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner – \$25

Friend of the Mountain – \$20

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Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Assoc  
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### Septic Survey

We would like to compile a survey as to what kind of experiences anyone whose cabin has burned down has had with re-certifying your septic systems. Please send a short summary of what your experience has been in an email to [mlrkaren@earthlink.net](mailto:mlrkaren@earthlink.net); a letter to Mt. Lemmon Realty, P.O. Box 1, Mt. Lemmon, Az. 85619, or a phone message or fax with your name, & phone no. to 576-1300. We would appreciate your response as soon as possible, and no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Mount Lemmon Realty

## Judy Epstein

*Photographic Artist*

(520) 760-2802

[www.JudyEpstein.com](http://www.JudyEpstein.com)

*Summer hours on Mt. Lemmon  
Weekends\* - noon to 5:30 p.m.*

*\*Weather permitting*

Judy Epstein will soon be closing down her "Tent" Studio on Mt. Lemmon. Rather than keeping regular hours, Judy will be more than happy to schedule a viewing for you or your mountain guests. Please call her at 760-2802. Thank you!

### Fine Art Photography

## Images by Melba

Melba Cope, 520-744-5095  
[epocphoto@comcast.com](mailto:epocphoto@comcast.com)

My photos can be purchased at  
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