Mr. Lemmon Echoes

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

Message from the Pres

by Debbie Fagan

It's that time of year again. October's knocking at the door and this is the last Echoes for the year. I mentioned my idea of having a November issue to Gordon, but the pained look on his face was too much to bear. This time last year I was trying to get in an



October mood by munching on Halloween candy. Today I'm nursing a sore mouth and a new \$1000 tooth. I never want to see another Candy Corn as long as I live. Other than cooler temps at night and a few yellow leaves on the ground, September's end on the mountain is still lush with green foliage and beautiful wildflowers. The apples were abundant and the ones on Tony Zimmerman's tree were sweet and juicy. The raspberries are gone but Not because I ate them all, as some of you who so wisely read last month's message, accused me of. Octoberfest at Ski Valley is back and will continue through October 9th.

Welcome New Full-Time Residents

Mark and Susan Shomo have escaped from their Tucson home and moved to the mountain as full time residents. They will be operating their business, Palo Verde Signs, via computer from Mt. Lemmon. Also, if you are looking for somewhere to stay on the mountain they have 2 rooms for rent. Each room has a microwave, refrigerator, bed and bathroom. Give them a call at Mt. Lemmon Guest Room Rentals 576-9159. They are off of Phoenix just behind the Living Rainbow. Also, Mike and Debbie Egell have moved to the mountain as full time residents. Mike recently retired and they sold their home in Tucson.

In other news Fred Pace resigned from the homeowners board due to other commitments. We would like to welcome Gerry Sparks and Dean Barnella as new Board members. They were approved by a unanimous vote of the Board to fill vacant Board positions. Thanks to all of you who attended the Pancake Breakfast. It was a great success!

Lastly, I'd like to extend our condolences to Dennis Cozzetti and family, for the passing of his father.

Labor Day Pancake Breakfast A Tremendous Success

by Ross Quigley

This years breakfast brought in many more folks then expected and it was wonderful to see you all again. The weather was great and the Firehouse smelled fantastic as we served pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee and juice to our best Labor Day turnout yet.

A special thanks goes out to George and Carrie Reitz, who once again pre-cooked all of the sausage and bacon so our crew of volunteers could keep up with the demand during the morning. While they were both exhausted, I understand their neighbors in Tucson loved the fantastic smell of maple bacon cooking all evening!

Also thanks to all the Board members and volunteers who helped to cook and serve: John and Linda Mulay, Bonnie Lohman, Debbie Fagan, Gordon and Mary Hunter, Larry and Luann Waldron, Tom Thomas, Monica Thomas, Fran and Bob Zimmerman Pete and Sandy Krauss and Dean and Deanna Barnella.



The Fund Raiser Breakfast raised \$1115.00 in donations. The proceeds were supposed to be split equally between the Fire Department and the Water District, but the Homeowner's Board voted unanimously to donate all proceeds to the Salvation Army Katrina Relief Fund. In light of the outpouring of donations made to our community in the aftermath of the Aspen Fire we felt it was only right to give these funds to help others recover from the hurricane. (The Fire Chief and Water District President agreed this was appropriate.) THANK YOU MT. LEMMON FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!





The Cooks-Dean Barnella, Gordon Hunter, John Mulay, Larry Waldron, Jerry Sparks



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!"

Oktober 9th. We really are having a great time with the Norm Siess Band, the Tucson Ethnic Dancers and all the people coming up with authentic German lederhosen and dirndles! The weather has been good to us and everyone is having a great time. Jim and Carol Oby have been doing the food forever and really have the recipes perfected. The food is incredible! We have German chocolate fudge as well as apple pie fudge and the store has a beautiful selection of German steins. Come enjoy the skyride and the party.

FOR SALE ON THE MOUNTAIN

31' Holiday Rambler Travel Trailer 2002 Alumascape Model with Slide-out Top quality, lots of windows, great floorplan Use year 'round while you rebuild Offered below book at \$20,500.00

CALLSTEVE AT 331-1720

Santa Catalina Mountains Partnership

By John Jones

At our last meeting Phil Swaim, Architect presented the building and site plans for the Mt Lemmon Community Center. Pima County voters approved the construction of the Mt Lemmon Community Center in May 2004. The Pima County Board of Supervisors also authorized the use of the 1997 shuttle funds for the adjacent road, parking lot and trail improvements.

The Community Center will be located at the southwest corner of Turkey Run Rd, and Sabino Canyon Park Rd. It consists of an 1800 sq. ft multipurpose room, an entry/lobby, storage rooms and rest rooms. Plaza areas lie west and south of the Center and border Sabino Creek. The parking area replaces the former "comfort station."

Hunter Contracting has been selected as the Construction Manager at Risk to guarantee the maximum price to complete the utility and road work including the construction of a 4' high and 20 wide concrete arch. Construction of the arch is planned to begin in October depending on the weather and Pima County's approval of the price.

A discussion of the use of the Center by the community and visitors ensued. The US Forest Service representatives Larry Raley, District Ranger and Heidi Schewel offered their services and resources to have a presence at the Community Center. Ideas regarding cross training of docents and trail guides, providing trail maps, establishing an interpretative center and trail and developing educational materials were presented by the group.

By consensus the partnership agreed to convey to Pima County their support for including the US Forest Service in the planning for the Community Center and the Forest Service having a presence there when completed. The opportunity to work collaboratively, to share resources and to educate visitors about the uniqueness of the Mt Lemmon environment, history and events were reasons given for including the USFS and other community groups in the Center's operation.

The Santa Catalina Mountains Partnership meets the last Wednesday of the month at noon. If you are interested in participating, contact

jsjones@dakotacom.net

Water District

by Michael Stanley

I have been a contributor to the Echoes for many years. I write about the water system; how you should turn off your meter, how to winterize your cabins, what to do when the supply is low or we have a leak, progress on improvement projects and other items of interest pertaining to the mountain. Years ago, I even wrote articles as the insane mayor, Psycho Manly, after several candidates decided to raise donated money for the school. Mt. Lemmon is home. I have found comfort on the mountain

I saw frost on the west side of the village this morning. The cabins behind the Living Rainbow had a hint of frost on the roofs. It seems strange that after Labor Day the weather knows to change to autumn. Soon it will be Halloween, then Thanksgiving, and Christmas will follow. Quickly, the year is gone and we start over again.

Personally, I like winter best. There are less people, less hustle, less stress, and everyone is in a wintertime spirit. The smell of smoke from a chimney adds to the wintry feeling and you cannot wait to get back to a warm home and have that glass of wine or cup of hot cocoa. Of course there are the chores of winter that must be addressed: the chopping of the wood to make the smoke come out of the chimney, the chaining of the tires to get you back to the house, the scrapping of your snow boots in the mud room, and the forever chore of removing all of the clothing.

Still, winter is hard to beat. The full moon on a fresh fallen snow is something that causes books to be written. Being first to put footprints in inches of snow rivals the snow angels you made as a child. Hearing the laughter off in the distance as children and adults gather for winter play makes us smile. It is like seeing a child's first experience while feeling and tasting snow. We smile.

As winter grips the mountain, there is a certain peace that resides in the forest. Yes, our forest has changed but there is yet untold beauty bounding from the land. There are more falcons and hawks than ever before. They gracefully dance in and out of the edge of the tree line, searching for their many preys. Sometimes they are in groups of three and four, catching the thermals and riding them high into the blue sky. They work their way into the burned patchwork of trees like magic, moving from branch to branch as in an enchanting scene from a National Geographic film. But here they are just in front of you, real and untamed, not in a film and not in your imagination. Yes, wintertime is a wonderful time of year and it is truly a gift for us to enjoy.

I want to take this time to thank all of the individuals and families that call Mount Lemmon their home. Thanks for being part of a community that makes us belong.

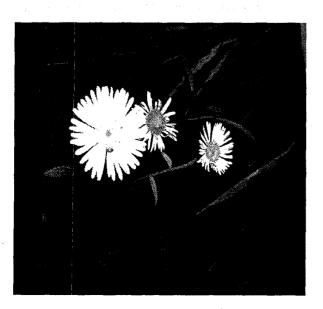
Thanks for your continued support in building this community. Thanks and have happy holidays.

Second MT. Lemmon Wildflower Walk

by Susan Benson

After meeting at 9AM, Sunday, 28 August, across from Mt. Lemmon Realty in Summerhaven, the 18 participants carpooled to the end of Turkey Run to begin our easy wildflower walk up the dirt road beyond the Forest Service gate. In the time it took the group to cover the first few hundred yards, the leaders, Susan Benson and Susan Fleming had identified some 15 flowering plants, trees and shrubs. Because this is a relatively flat out and back dirt road leading to the base of the Aspen Draw Trail, it is a good walk for people of all ages, including grandparents and toddlers.

Additionally Susan Fleming picked specimens of mushrooms, that is, the fruiting bodies of various fungi. Susan is a well-versed amateur on mushrooms. Inasmuch as she is a medical doctor as well, Arizona Poison Control utilizes her expertise on a volunteer basis, to identify mushroom ingestions by humans and on occasion, animals. Some mushrooms can cause severe gastrointestinal reactions, and a few, such as those in the Amanita family, contain poisonous liver toxins. Another few are choice edibles. But it takes a trained person to differentiate them in the field. Positive mushroom identification is accomplished by observing spore size and shape under a compound microscope. Eating wild mushrooms is not recommended for the uninitiated, as a few hapless people can testify. Susan pointed out the woodloving brown tufted pholiotas growing at the base of dead conifers such as our three-needled Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine and Douglas fir; various different colored russulas; a huge red pored bolete; and two white gilled/spored specimens in the Amanita family: shiny tan A. pantherina and a golden-colored A. gemmata.



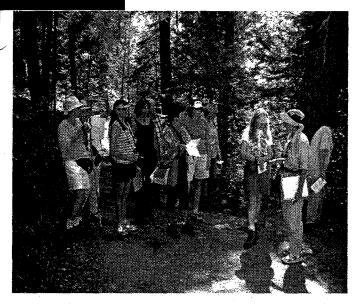
Although our group saw some 35 different species of plants, we only identified about a dozen new ones along Turkey Run. The leaders endlessly pointed out the snowberry shrub with its cream white berries; the New Mexico raspberry and the thimblerry shrub with fairly large tri-lobed leaves, and five-petalled white flowers, both members of the diverse rose family. Another shrub, the orange gooseberry was not in flower. We also saw the primitive joint-stemmed green scouring rush or equisetum in the creek bed, as well as Adder's mouth, an orchid with many small cream-green flowers. Giant gentian...



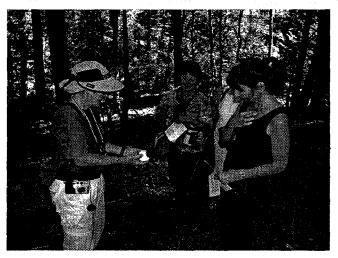
Bob Zimmerman pointed out several of the huge Doug firs, Southwestern white pines, and white firs. He also told us how these soft pine trees were cut and processed at the sawmill that was on the mountain years ago. Walking along the trail above the huge Coop water storage tanks, Bob was pleased to show the group an incredible anomaly that had occurred between two big toothed maples standing a few yards apart. Looking up, another tree trunk had fallen between the maples, and was resting on a stout branch that bridged, cradled the fallen trunk. The armed-sized branch was clearly attached on both ends to both trees! We haven't a clue how this happened.



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Throughout the walk, participants urged us to identify different plants and enthusiastically peppered us with questions, some of which we could answer. The participants included, Melanie Bates, Sharon Powers, Janet Ash, Michael Stanley, Carol Niehoff, Mary Ellen Barnes, Fran and Bob Zimmerman, Linda Curran, Marty and Paul Cobb, Judy Epstein, Bill and Cathy Logen, Donna Schoening, and Ginny Durham.



Mushroom Demo



Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

By Linda Mulay, President 327-4615 or 576-1417

If you are not receiving my club e-mails, please call me so I can give you the information. Using electronic communication has saved the club a lot of money in postage.

You can go on line to read the GFWC-AZ state newsletter and see what is going on with other clubs in our state. www.gfwcarizona.org GFWC clubs set their own agendas and work on projects and programs that address the specific needs of their communities.

Contact me if you would like to order a denim shirt or vest with our yellow columbine logo on it.

Sally Crawford organized another fabulous day of cabin tours and socializing in September. She is planning another one in the spring.

Six of our members attended the GFWC-AZ Southern District Fall convention held at the Tucson Woman's Club, October 1st.

Our next club meeting will be Wednesday November 2nd, 6:30pm at the Tucson home of Olga Pace. The Program will be Barb Welsh speaking on, Living with Urban Wildlife. We have some important issues to discuss, so please try to attend. I will email directions.

The annual Holiday Brunch will be Saturday December 3rd, 10:00 am at the Tucson home of Pam Winsten. I will e-mail details in November.

Call me with any questions you have about the club.

Thinning Work Progresses on Mt. Lemmon

by Heidi Schewel, Santa Catalina Ranger District, Coronado National Forest

The fuels treatment program on Mt. Lemmon has a twopronged approach with regard to tree thinning, one dealing with fire-killed trees, the other with live green trees. On one hand, there are more trees present on the mountain than a healthy forest can support. Prior research indicated that in the early 1900s, 75 to 125 stems per acre had grown in open, park-like forests. More recent studies indicate between 28 and 50 stems per acre to be a more accurate figure. Historically, periodic fires of low intensity swept through southwestern ponderosa pine forests every five to fifteen years, thinning young trees and clearing debris from the forest floor. After many years of fire suppression, forests are now choked with too many trees competing for limited resources. Mt. Lemmon is no exception. For example, tree density at Rose Canyon is 1,100 stems per acre. Or was, rather, before our thinning crews began working in the area. The Forest Service has been thinning, is thinning, and will continue to thin, as budgets allow.

Thinning is one phase in the process of reintroducing fire into its natural role in ecosystems. It is a means to transform unnatural conditions (too many trees) to more natural conditions, mimicking the open park-like forests of the past. Utilized as a pretreatment to reduce fuel loads before ignition, thinning allows a prescribed burn to proceed as a low-intensity ground fire, clearing accumulated debris and small trees and opening up the forest. It is a costly and time-consuming process, and progress will continue over time. Wishful thinking paints a picture of getting it all done now. Reality paints quite a different picture. So priorities have been set, and long-term planning has been done in preparation of an overall fuels treatment program.

Typically an area to be treated is thinned by cutting trees, which are then placed into piles. The piles are either burned as part of a prescribed burn during the cooler, more humid months, or the wood is given or sold to the public. Over the last year, some of this work has been done in the vicinity of Upper Soldiers' Camp and Sykes Knob. Additional projects have been conducted at Rose Canyon Lake, where Forest Service crews have thinned 50 acres, and another 104 acres have been thinned under contract. In accessible areas, some of the wood from the thinning will be sold to the public. The remainder will be burned in the fall and winter of 2005/2006.

The second aspect of our thinning program occurs as more of a response-mode. The Bullock and Aspen Fires left many hazard trees in their wake, trees which could easily fall at any time. In 2004, 151 acres around Summerhaven were thinned to remove these potentially dangerous trees. During the last fiscal year 39 acres along Ski Run Road have had hazard trees removed under a service contract, in which a contractor was hired to cut the trees.

Forty-five acres have been similarly thinned around the facilities on Mt. Lemmon's summit. Additionally, 27 acres have been thinned of hazard trees under a commercial salvage logging operation. In this case loggers cut fire-killed trees in Carter Canyon, Sykes Knob/Fern Ridge, and the area around Oracle Ridge Trailhead. This wood has been removed from the mountain. Forest Service crews thinned approximately 15 acres of smaller diameter unmerchantable trees following the salvage operation in the aforementioned areas, and are currently working along the Forest boundary behind the school in Summerhaven.

Restoring the functionality of fire-adapted ecosystems has become the central priority for the Forest Service nationwide. This goal embraces fuels treatments including thinning and prescribed burning, allowing fire to resume its natural role in maintaining healthy forests. We will continue our efforts to do what we can toward restoration of ecosystem health on Mt. Lemmon, parallel to those natural processes already taking place. Life on the mountain as we knew it will not be the same for some time. But day by day, step by step, Mt. Lemmon is returning toward that which drew us to it, and it's turning out to be a fascinating journey along the way.

Fire District Updates

By the Barnella's

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District would like to thank the *Trees for Mt. Lemmon* for their continued support and fundraising activities. We just received our contributions in the amount of \$6,000! And many thanks to all who assisted and were in attendance of the Aspen Ball.

The Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association was another success! Everyone was looking for the Mickey Mouse pancakes Bob had created at last year's breakfast...we weren't quite as creative this year. Thanks again to everyone, for your dedication to our community.

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District would like to announce the hiring of 3 full-time firefighters; Jacob Jirschele (he's back!), Jarrod Dorman (previously on the saw crew and now in Paramedic school), and Jesus Canales (previously on the saw crew and *still* cutting on his days off!). We look forward to having the additional firefighters available to provide the best possible service for our residents and visitors on Mt. Lemmon.

During the winter, the Mt. Lemmon Fire District will continue with the hazard fuel abatement projects. The Air Curtain Destructor will no longer be utilized, but you will see piles of slash being stacked and burned as weather permits (after the 1st snows). If you have any questions/concerns about the fuels treatment activities, please contact DeAnna at 576-1201.

Let it snow...Let it snow...Let it snow...

Trees for Mt Lemmon

by Barbara Eisele

Trees for Mt Lemmon is starting its third year. We have had the help of our wonderful Mt Lemmon community, as well as Larry Raley, Bill Hart and Steve Hensel of the USFS, Ramona Garner and Bruce Munda of the NRCS, Donna Matthews and Kim Webb of the Coronado RC&D, Brian Lauber of the AZ State Land Department, Alix Rogstad of the Cooperative Extension Service, and Brad Blake of NAU. We have received grants from the AZ State Land Dept, the Cacioppo Foundation and the National Forest Foundation. We have been able to accomplish more than we ever dreamed of doing two years ago because of the generosity of so many organizations and individuals.

Three demonstration gardens were created to provide examples of native wildflowers, shrubs, grasses and trees suitable for the elevation and climate of Mt. Lemmon. These gardens were made possible by generous grants, donations and many volunteer hours to give business owners, residents who rebuild and visitors to Summerhaven ideas for re-vegetation in burned areas. Many thanks to the following for their efforts:

- Ø Cacioppo Foundation Grant
- Ø Patio Garden Club
- Ø Civano Nursery/Scott Calhoun
- Ø Dennis Cozzetti/Cozzetti Construction
- Ø Dave Henes/Mike Dowers Backhoe
- Ø Brad Blake/Northern Arizona University
- Ø Mt. Lemmon Fire Department
- Ø Mt. Lemmon General Store and Gift Shop
- Ø The Living Rainbow
- Ø The Cookie Cabin
- Ø Bob Hansen, Dominic Cozzetti, Michael Stanley, Sally and Bob Crawford, Susan Benson, Nora and Charles Goff/Log Homes, Inc. and others who donated time and energy to make these gardens possible

There has been a steep learning curve on the propagation of Ponderosa and other native vegetation. Perseverance and expertise from others has allowed us to distribute 3,000 trees and shrubs. These all started as pinecones, seeds or cuttings from Mt Lemmon. In partnership with the USFS we have sponsored four Aspen tree-harvesting events, and another one is planned for this fall. The propagation of native species for the last two years has been made possible by:

The Arizona Community Tree Council
Hundreds of volunteers giving countless hours
The Mt Lemmon Woman's Club
The Patio Garden Club.

Cozzetti Construction Company Trico Electric Cooperative Bartlett Tree Service Brad Blake, NAU Botanical Garden US Forest Service AZ State Land Department

We started the tradition of the Aspen Ball fundraiser in 2004 and have had two very successful events. The net income from the 2005 Aspen Ball was \$22,149.73. Mt Lemmon Fire and Mt Lemmon Water each received \$6,000 from the 2005 proceeds and \$5,000 each from the 2004 Ball.

We have distributed 1200 packets of wildflower and grass seeds through a grant from the University of Arizona Healthy Forest program. Alix Rogstad of the U of A Cooperative Extension service has been our advisor on this grant.

Trees for Mt Lemmon received a grant from the National Forest Foundation to initiate a process for collaborative management of the natural resources on Mt Lemmon. The Stakeholders' Meeting was held on April 1 and 2. The participants agreed to form the Santa Catalina Mountains Partnership with a mission to restore healthy forests and sustainable communities through collaborative management by: Promoting Stewardship, Practicing Partnership, Joint Planning, Project Implementation, Public Education and Community Involvement. An active partnership among the organizations and agencies with interests in Mt Lemmon will result in better management of scarce resources such as water, a forum to address issues such as snow play areas and an opportunity to work on long-term projects such as expansion of the Mt Lemmon Waste Water Facility.

At our last meeting the Trees for Mt. Lemmon Board of Directors voted to move to an all-volunteer organization, so Barb Eisele will move from paid director to being a volunteer board member. We have a strong and dedicated board, but we are looking for interested community members who would like to be active with our board. Please call John Jones, 271-7298, Lindy Brigham, 955-2599, or Barb Eisele, 977-0562 if this is something that might interest you.

YOGA on Mt. Lemmon

by Jill Potts

Hi, my name is Jill Potts and I've lived on Mt. Lemmon, as a full time resident for about 6 years over the past 17 yrs. For the last 33 years I have taught exercise, as a full time job. Teaching anywhere from 3540 hours per week. I have run complete fitness centers and programs and have worked with over 5,000 students. I have instructed Water Aerobics, Stretch & Tone, Pilates, Kickboxing, Yoga and much more. Yoga is the only physical activity you can do into your 90's. I am teaching Yoga a couple of times a week to a small handful of residents here on the mountain. We're truly enjoying the class. However, I'm very limited on space. If you have a cabin where weekly classes could meet, please contact me. We're in the ideal area to practice Yoga. I'd like to offer some monthly knowledge to everyone connected to Mt. Lemmon through The Mt. Lemmon Echoes. Each month I will be pointing out the importance of Yoga. Each month I'll include a pose for the month. Be sure to read about proper form, that's everything! Try it. It couldn't hurt. Give Yoga a chance. I'm here to help guide you and motivate you and remember, Yoga can be practiced by anyone, any age and for a lifetime. Yoga is a way of life, an integrated system of education for the body, mind, and inner spirit. Yoga philosophy sees the body as a vehicle for the soul in its journey toward enlightenment. Yoga is learning to come back to yourself. It's finding your limits, expanding your boundaries, and being able to truly relax into who you are. Yoga is actually a state of mind. Achieving the goal of stilling the mind is rather difficult and takes time and patience. On a physical level, as in life, being off balance doesn't feel good. One of the reasons yoga has grown dramatically in popularity is that it helps you feel harmonious, integrated and complete. As you slowly learn about your center in any yoga pose, you practice finding your center in other areas of your life. In fact, dealing with a pose can train you to deal better with life events. As you open your body and mind with yoga postures and breathing you become open to experience of inner stillness.

Now for our first pose. "The Shooting Star".

STARTING POSITION

Stand erect with the head and body straight but relaxed. (Get yourself into position then try to relax your body). The feet are shoulder width apart, the knees are straight but not locked and the arms are relaxed at your sides. I recommend you close your eyes and lengthen your eyelids It'll help you to focus. Inhale deeply and begin.

l As you exhale, bring your hands together at the chest in the Prayer Pose position. Elbows are pointing out-ward and downward. Hips are slightly rolled under, relieving pressure off the lower back. The head is held erect. Hands are relaxed. Body weight is centered on the balls of the feet.



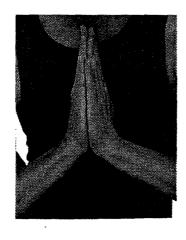
2 Inhale and stretch your arms up over your head. Shoulders are back over hips over knees over ankles. Reach for the ceiling, palms together, thumbs locked and arms alongside of ears. Knees are straight but not locked. Buttocks should be tight and slightly rolled under and body weight is centered over balls of feet. Continue a comfortable breathing pattern and relax. Do not fight the stretch, instead go with it. Breath! Hold this extension 4 comfortable breaths. Take your time, no rush.



3As you exhale, return arms back to starting position. Hold the hands in prayer pose and continue to hold for 4 breaths. Repeat by inhaling and stretching arms up over your head for 4 more breaths and so forth.

PRAYER POSE

Place the palms and fingers flat against each other at the center of the chest. The elbows are dropped down on an angle close to your waistline. Close your eyes, lengthen your eyelids and focus on a comfortable breathing pattern. Remember to exhale as much air as you previously inhaled. Remember, a breathing pattern is very important. In through the nose, out through the mouth. Relax.



I look forward to enlightening you and motivating you to exercise for a lifetime. Watch for "YOGA" on The Mountain in each issue of The Mt. Lemmon Echoes.

For private instruction for Yoga or Aerobic classes or for more information on "YOGA on The Mountain", please feel free to call Jill Potts at 576 9155.



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; Jerry Sparks, Dean Barnella 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.

Being organized, having a legal fund and having active LO-CAL 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);	ļ
Mailing address for Echoes:	- -
Property Owner – \$25 Friend of the Mountain –\$20	- ! ! !

SQUIRRELS, GOPHERS, AND MOLES. OH MY!

by Barbara Welsh

Many people have been asking about the critters they have been seeing in their yards. Usually we see a rock squirrel about once a summer, but this year he has a nest under our deck. The rock squirrel lives both down in Tucson and up on the mountain. This animal looks like a squirrel and is active in daylight especially morning and early evening. He has a long bushy tail, and is much larger than the Tassel eared squirrel that lives in the trees. He is a seedcater but is not a seed spreader as the animals that eat the fruit whole are better at spreading seeds. He builds extensive burrows and stores seeds in these burrows. They have a litter in the spring and can have a second litter. There are 5 to 7 babies in a litter and they stay with the parents for 2 to 3 months. Their predators are the golden eagles, bobcats, ringtails, foxes and rattlesnakes. I have read that if you put a cotton ball soaked in peppermint oil (not extract) in their hole it will discourage them without harming the animal. I haven't tried this yet.

Moles dig their tunnels just under the ground and seldom come out of their burrows. They have enlarged front feet for digging and love to eat your bulbs and roots of plants. They also eat seeds and store them in their burrows. Their tails are short and they have hairs around their snouts to protect their noses during digging. They push the dirt directly in back of the entrance to their burrow and then put dirt over the entrance.

The gopher has a body similar to the mole and is usually underground. They also dig dirt piles, but tend to pile the dirt to the side of their burrows. The piles of dirt can be a foot across and four or five inches high. He has long front claws and very small eyes and ears. You might try the peppermint oil on cotton and drop it down the hole. Maybe they will go to your neighbor's yard. Hope you have a good winter and we get lots of snow on the mountain.

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Assoc P0 Box 699 Mt. Lemmon, AZ. 856190699

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; 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 31st, 2005. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Mount Lemmon Realty



Judy Epstein Photographic Artist (520) 760-2802 www.JudyEpstein.com

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

Fine Art Photography Images by Melba

Melba Cope, 520-744-5095 epocphoto@comcast.com

My photos can be purchased at The Living Rainbow

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