

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

The Unsinkable Rainbow

(This is the first in a series of articles profiling mountain businesses and owners.)



“Owning a business and living up here is heaven.” Debbie Fagan’s take about her Living Rainbow dream continues even after battling the Aspen Fire, sifting through the ashes and remains of over one million glass beads, rebuilding that dream, celebrating her life with humor, spirit and zest.

A tourist from across the world or local Tucsonan walking into The Living Rainbow is drawn to the amazing array of colors, unique and imaginative trolls, to the eclectic book selection, the clever tees and sweats, unusual wind chimes and sparkling crystals. It’s those crystals that create Debbie’s Living Rainbow theme, because each prism captures the sunlight and casts the colors of the rainbow.

As those tourists come through the door, Debbie “puts on the armor”, since everyone wants to know about the fire. It’s difficult to keep the Aspen Fire’s memories in check, even as some display cases are constant reminders of what happened that terrible time almost eleven years ago. She walks and hikes every day to make those memories tolerable, and her scariest feeling is “not being prepared” for whatever might happen in her future. However, Debbie declares her happiest times “are too numerous to tell!”

After the Aspen Fire, Debbie knew she would return to the mountain, and the day she faced the burned out remnants of her Rainbow, the birds and butterflies welcomed and encouraged her to begin the rebuilding process. Today’s exquisite wind chimes are still fashioned with love and affection, but they require different designs and more time than those of the pre-fire era, when Debbie could make up to ten chimes per hour. Everything in the store reflects her energy, spirituality and love of life. Her excitement for books and greeting cards is evident, as these items are always being sold out, most often to Tucsonans. She stocks her gift shop with items that reflect her special personality and love of nature.

Many more people come to visit Mt. Lemmon since the Aspen Fire, especially from the Phoenix area and to the north, all expressing amazement at how the mountain is healing, building is continuing and businesses and restaurants are open. Before the fire, people had that “just do it” attitude about starting a business, but today, Debbie urges careful consideration and research to anyone interested in investing on the mountain; high overhead costs, soaring property taxes and difficulty housing employees present challenges. Every penny counts. “You can do anything you set your mind to” is her philosophy for success, as she remembers how it was and how she makes it today. “We can go on” no matter the season.

Debbie has no dramatic plans for the future but lives in the present, her goal is “to put everything away” every day, and she never gets it done! There’s something powerful in this Living Rainbow property, a certain spirit that comes from the ground that provides grounding for Debbie and her life. Native Americans often come to the Living Rainbow, not to purchase but to share the feelings of constancy in their lives and depth of emotion, or even to bring her something of the heart; it’s a deep spiritual message they express. Debbie has inherited that spirit, and the mountain has “allowed me to live on it, empowering me so I don’t ever have to pretend.”

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

by
Jerry Taylor, president



April 2014 Calendar



- 1st - April Fool's Day
- 12th - Woman's Club -
General Meeting 1 PM
- 15th - Passover (Full Moon)
- 19th - Board Meeting:
Water District - 8 AM
- 20th - Easter Sunday
- 22nd - Annual Homeowner's Dinner
No-host bar at 6 PM

Welcome to Spring

Here it is spring again, and it is beginning to warm up here on the mountain but it is still dry. I understand the long range forecast calls for a wetter than usual April. I hope it is correct and will stay that way going into fire season since the winter was so dry.

Our annual meeting is April 22 and will again be at the Viscount Suites on Broadway. We will again be in the atrium as last year. The acoustics were not as good as the previous year but everyone seemed to enjoy the setting more. The program will not be too long, about like last year. Folks tell me this event has always been a lot like a homecoming, and the part they enjoy most is visiting with neighbors, some of whom they only see once a year. It is also a time to hear about what is happening on the mountain from those who are involved in the day-to-day activities which affect us all. Hope everyone can make it. Our next board meeting will also be immediately after the annual meeting on April 22. Thank you to everyone for all you did this past year. Too much of a good thing is a good thing.

Raffle Tickets Are Still Available

by Jennifer Shacter



You'll have your chance to purchase LOTS of raffle tickets for the beautiful hand-crocheted afghan in wonderful mountain colors of greens and blues, fashioned from easy-care, machine washable, machine dryable acrylic yarns.

This afghan is perfect for chilly mornings and nights on Mt. Lemmon and can be yours for the winning ticket! \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00.

Tickets are available at the annual MLHOA dinner on April 22nd, or you can call Jennifer at 749-9233 or 576-9329.

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

It's Time for Dinner!

by Carrie Reitz

The annual Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's membership dinner will be held again at the **VISCOUNT SUITES HOTEL, 4855 EAST BROADWAY, ON APRIL 22ND, 2014**. The Viscount Suites did such a great job on our dinners the last few years, so we're looking forward to their hospitality once again. Come early and enjoy seeing old and new friends, the no-host bar at 6:00, and buffet-style dinner. Price will be \$35.00 per person and includes dinner and gratuity. We'll be in the atrium and have been promised a new and improved sound system.

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**MLHOA
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Reservations need to be in no later than **APRIL 18, 2014**. We will have several interesting guest speakers and promise they will be brief. Your MLHOA board is looking forward to seeing everyone on April 22nd!

**MLHOA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER
APRIL 22nd, 2014
VISCOUNT SUITES HOTEL**

NAME _____	\$35.00
NAME _____	\$35.00
NAME _____	\$35.00
NAME _____	\$35.00

TOTAL _____

Get Out Your Hiking Boots!

by Linda Currin

Right in our own back yard is the Arizona Trail Trek, an 800 mile thru-hike across our state promoting the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the Gateway Communities and a new official guidebook. Sirena Dufault of the Arizona Trail Association began the Arizona Trail Trek at the Mexican border on March 14, 2014, and will hike the trail, reaching the Utah border on May 31st! As she hikes up the state, 15 events at fun and funky locations in the Gateway Communities are planned where hikers, bikers and equestrians come together to talk, train, and enjoy live music, good food, and Arizona Trail Ale. You can register to hike along with Sirena on select day hikes or backpacking trips, highlighting the best our Arizona Trail has to offer!

Last fall Sirena attended a MLWC meeting to share her experiences about building the trail and pictures showing its progress, and maps were provided at the MLCC and various businesses in the community. Check out the website to see her progress and get information about this exciting opportunity for our state at www.aztrail.org/azttrek

You may read about the Catalina Mountains connection on the website and see a map of the route. Look for Passage #11 to find the trail beginning at the Gordon Hirabayashi Trailhead to Romero Pass, over 11 miles of some serious hiking! This trail includes Summerhaven as hikers traverse the Catalinas. The entire trail beginning at the Mexican border, winds its way through the Catalinas, up through the Grand Canyon, the Kaibab National Forest to its completion at the Utah border.

Think About Water Conservation

by Michael Stanley

The Arizona Daily Star's March 4th article on water usage noted that many Americans use twice as much water as they think they do. These people were only slightly aware of the water used and of water used to grow the food they eat. The study was based on an internet survey of 1,020 people affected by drought from California to the Mississippi Valley. "Most Americans assume that water supply is both reliable and plentiful. However, research has shown that with climate change, water supplies will become more variable due to the increased salinity of groundwater and changes in precipitation."

Research has shown that 28% of water used in the average household is the result of flushing toilets. Surprisingly, only 2% of the surveyed group understood that installing a low flow flush toilet would be the greatest water saving device in the home. People underestimate this use because we use these devices throughout the day, and a standard toilet uses between 3.5 to 5 gallons per flush. Low flow toilets average 1.6 gallons per flush, saving a massive amount of water during a 24 hour period. The article mentions that reducing the number of flushes decreases the amount of home water use. "If it's yellow, let it mellow" was also mentioned.

The clothes washer is the next highest water user. A standard top loading washer will use about 34 gallons while a high efficiency unit should use less than 15 gallons. But when asked about the way people could best conserve water, roughly 43% said taking shorter showers would save the most.

Water customers on Mt. Lemmon are very aware of their water use, especially since monthly usage is stated on the water bill. Conservation is practiced every day. Most newly constructed mountain homes now have low flow devices installed and operating such as low flow toilets, shower heads, washing machines and dishwashers. And most customers shut off their water meters when they are away from their homes, preventing water loss.

As spring approaches and you find your way back to the beautiful mountain to enjoy your cabin, please be sure to check for leaks as you turn on the water meter and remember to shut off your meter when you are away from your cabin for any length of time. I hope to see all of you at the Annual Homeowner's Dinner on 4/22/14.

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

by Linda Mulay, president

The February 18th fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes provided great food, fun and conversation for 42 Mt.

Lemmonites in attendance. Special thanks to Carol Niehoff for organizing this event for us and to those of you who attended.

MLWC won the GFWC "PLUM" (Publicity and Leadership=Ultimate Membership) State Grant of \$50.00, submitted by Linda Mulay and Carol Niehoff, and a \$75.00 grant to GFWC-Arizona Communications and Public Relations for our GFWC road sign was also awarded.

The Southern District Spring Convention, held at the Tucson Woman's Club on March 8th, was attended by members Linda Mulay, Luann Waldron, Helen Quigley, Fran Zimmerman, Kay Slocum and Sally Moffett. Thanks to Mary Cobb, Tina Hanks, Kay Slocum, Sally Moffett, and Linda Mulay for participating in the Arts and Craft show, and a special thanks to Helen Quigley who sold raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt donated by Marie Ahmann to raise money for our MLFD volunteer firefighters for new radios.

Winners of the Arts and Craft show included Marty Cobb - Folk Art/Fabric Art, Kay Slocum -Fine Art/Photography, Sally Moffett - Folk



Sweet Tomatoes—February 18th

Art/Recycled, and Linda Mulay - Club Scrapbook.

Connie Taylor donated a beautiful Italian food basket from our club for the Southern District fund raiser silent auction raffle. Everyone wanted to win this!! Patsy Riley did an outstanding job writing our reports, and we received 1st Place in all 11 categories! Thank you, Patsy, for a job well done! And Connie Taylor received a certificate from ESO (reading society) for her outstanding reading record.

All club members are invited to attend GFWC-AZ annual state convention. This provides an opportunity to learn, celebrate and have fun with our federation friends. Date is May 2-4th, at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix. Let me know before April 18th if you plan to attend.

The next MLWC meeting is April 12th at 1:00 PM at MLCC. We will be voting on our slate of officers, and club member, Mary Ellen Barnes, will launch her new book *Peregrine*.

Contact Linda Mulay 576-1417 or 327-4615 if you have questions.

Mt. Lemmon Community Center Update

by Fran Zimmerman

The summer season is fast approaching, and that means many activities will be available at our community center including interesting events and gatherings. If you have suggestions or thoughts for programs, please let one of our board members know or email me at franxim@mindspring.com

Once again, our many thanks to Paul who volunteers at the visitor's center every Friday and Saturday. I know he would appreciate and enjoy having you stop by and say hello. It would be great if we could have the center open more on Sundays and during the week. Sharing a little knowledge of mountain history and introducing yourself to people visiting from all over the world is all it takes, and it's fun too. Please consider volunteering once or twice during the summer.

Your Mt. Lemmon Community Center's Board of Directors: Linda Currin, Rose Mary Hinsch, Pat Klein, Pete Krauss, John Lewis, John Mulay, Linda Mulay, and Fran Zimmerman.

Please Do Your Part!

by Randy Ogden



It is getting to be that time of year when the Mt. Lemmon fire fighters begin preparation for the upcoming fire season. The recent cabin fire on the mountain is just a reminder of how quickly fire spreads. I have been in the fire business for all of my adult life and continue to be surprised about the impact fire has on all of us. I was proud to be the fire chief when I witnessed the supreme effort that the members of our public safety team displayed late into the early morning hours of the cabin fire. Deputy Dave Conto was amazing, as always, in his willingness to help with whatever was needed. MLFD volunteers Carol Mack and Leroy Day reminded me how professional, compassionate, dedicated and very necessary they are to our fire district and to the community. Thank you.

That night the Mount Lemmon fire fighters demonstrated their willingness to "fight the dragon", but we would much rather not let it out of its cave again this season. We need your help to do that.

Several years ago as a young captain, I stood in the middle of Old Tucson as it burned. I was in awe and somewhat overwhelmed by the power of fire. It was then that I started to believe that fire has a personality like nothing else. It is something to be respected, and it is something that we all need to be prepared to prevent.

I want to share with you my concern for this year's fire season. It seems like almost every year the media tells us that we are in for the "worst fire season on record." I worked with the media for well over a decade as the public information officer for the Tucson Fire Department. I am not often fooled by the media's propensity for the dramatic. This year, I'm not so sure that they are off target. The mountain is so very dry.

I am asking... no, I am pleading with you to address FireWise issues on your properties. MLFD will do everything we can to help you. The firefighters will come to your cabin and do a fire prevention inspection and provide suggestions on how to make it more fire safe. Please call the fire station and schedule a time for us to meet you at the property. We are working with the U.S. Forest Service to find a place to gather and burn slash piles.

Please be a good neighbor and do your part.



FireWise Block Party

Saturday, May 24th, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Mt. Lemmon Community Center

It's almost time for the first fun event of the summer! The annual Block Party features food, informative demonstrations, music, and fun for all! Lunch is served between 11:30 and 1:30.

This year's focus – Fire Danger Is High! Let's Be Prepared!

Note: Be on the lookout for the FireWise Postcard invitation coming soon in the mail. Be sure to sign in at the registration table when you arrive.

Questions: Contact Susie Pearce/Glen Schager @ 906-5985 / 465-6906 or
susiepearce12@gmail.com

My Side of Fire

by Carol Mack

Just before 8:00 PM, after a long day in the store, I was all set to sit and relax in my soft “molded-to-my-body” recliner, when fire tones went out on the volunteer fire radio. The calls frequently indicate false “smell of smoke in the area”, so I wasn’t too concerned to hurry and get dressed in my wildland fire gear. What I wasn’t expecting were firefighters’ voices saying that it was a structure fire. That’s when I threw off my pajamas as fast as I could to put on my fire gear and respond.

Getting to the scene creates such anxiety not knowing whose cabin it may be, but in this case the flames that fully engulfed the cabin told me the sad news. The firefighters are on scene connecting the fire hose to the hydrant and pulling hose from the fire truck. This wasn’t a time to think but a time of doing, and doing as rapidly as possible.

The first concern is checking that no one is inside, then shutting off utilities, especially the propane. Thankfully the propane tank was highly visible. (Some can be difficult to find or buried with no marker.) Fear and adrenalin flowed as I watched a community member’s home going up in flames. All I could think about is what I can do next to help the firefighters. Once all the hose is connected and water is flowing, my next duty is checking exposure of the surrounding cabins and the possibility of fire spreading to the forest floor. We are glad there is no wind; the night is in the 30’s. Our clothes are wet from overspray; my body wanted to shiver, but I won’t let it. As I pass the exhaust pipe from the fire engine I can feel its warmth.

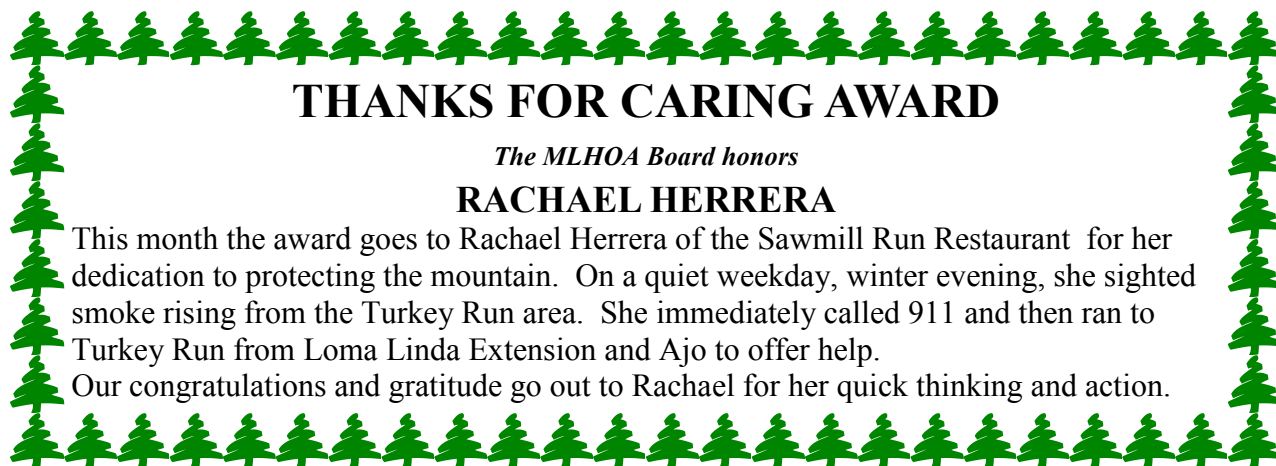
This fire was a stubborn one, fighting for its life and not wanting to give up. I could see how exhausting it was for the fire guys and the volunteers on scene and yet they continue to give it their all plus some....

By 2:30 AM, there was nothing more I could do, so I went home. That’s when the flashback came to me as I tried to get some sleep, reliving the devastation of the Aspen Fire, and how sad so many of us were over losing homes that had brought so much summer and winter joys. I can tell you I am ever so grateful to have a fire department that can perform so well, and so quickly. I’m grateful for our local law enforcement that shows up and helps with the same energy as the firefighters. I’m grateful for the water district that is always on call to help direct water flow from tanks that will give the fire trucks the most pressure.

Despite the fire fighters fighting the fire all night long in two hour shifts after the initial defensive attack, there was no chance of saying the cabin could be saved. My heart goes out to anyone who has had to go through losing a cabin not once (Aspen Fire), but twice. I honestly don’t know what I would do if this happened to me. I feel the greatest contribution I can offer my community is to be a volunteer wildland firefighter and EMT because I care so deeply about where I live and the people I call my neighbors.

If after reading my story you may feel compelled to volunteer, the fire department has an excellent program that lets you volunteer at the level you are comfortable with. Contact me at 576-1468, between 10:00am and 6:00pm, and I would be happy to fill you in.

Mt. Lemmon General Store & Gift Shop, 520-576-1468 or www.mtlemon.com



Historic Palisades Cabin Available to Rent

by Rachael Biggs, USFS

The **Palisades Ranger Residence** is now available in the “Rooms with a View” Arizona Cabin Rental Program. The five room cabin can accommodate up to 4 people and has indoor plumbing, electricity, a fully stocked kitchen, furniture, beds and a large enclosed front yard. The fee of \$125.00 per night will cover operations and maintenance, including the preservation and repair of the historic structure and surrounding site. For more information and to make reservations visit: <http://www.recreation.gov/> Click on “Search for Places”, then under “Where?” type in “Palisades Ranger Residence”, and you’ll find the site.

After the Coronado National Forest was established in 1908, a ranger station was constructed at Soldier’s Camp so that the Catalina Ranger could respond quickly to wildfires. By 1935, the Soldier Camp Administrative Site consisted of an office, barn, and corral. However, when the Control Road located on the north side of the Santa Catalinas was extended from Soldier Camp to Palisades, a new administrative site was constructed by the members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the current Palisades location. The CCC constructed a small Ranger’s residence, a bunkhouse, a log barn and corral.

The Palisades Administrative Site has been continuously occupied since 1935. Since then, the residence and log barn have been modified, the bunkhouse demolished, and several new structures added to the site. The Palisades Ranger Residence and the log barn have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Be sure to check out this historic and interesting place on Mt. Lemmon.

Also, plan to attend the **USFS Recreation Concept Plan** public meeting at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center **May 1st at 6:00 PM** to see how this plan might impact Mt. Lemmon.

Join MLHOA

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MLHOA P. O. Box 699 Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619**

Mt Lemmon Homeowner’s Association Annual Dues

Voting member (property owner)\$35.00 Non-voting member (renter or friend of the mountain)
\$30.00

Make checks payable to MLHOA and mail to MLHOA P.O. Box 699 Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

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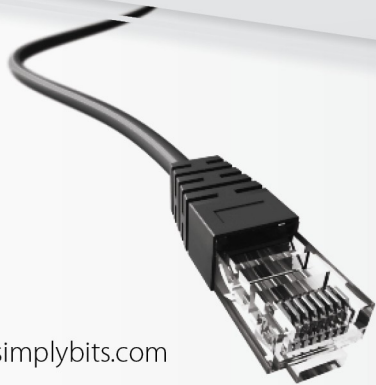
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Mt. Lemmon Community Center

The Mt. Lemmon Community Center (MLCC) is part of Pima County's Natural Resources Parks Recreation (NRPR) department. The Mt. Lemmon Community Center, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, social and educational purposes. The facility is dependant upon local volunteers to staff and support the visitor's center. Our mission is to welcome all who visit the facility and promote Summerhaven, Mt. Lemmon and Pima County Arizona.

The MLCC board would like to encourage local social & charitable use of the community center. The community center can be used at no charge with approval for our local events.

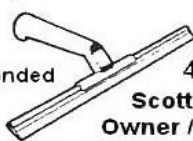
Reservations to use the Community Center can be made by calling Kelly Cheeseman at Pima County Parks and Recreation phone number 520.877.6155 or E-mail Kelly.Cheeseman@pima.gov

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MLHOA

The Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association (MLHOA) 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. 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 MLHOA is the strongest and most respected homeowner's organization in the entire county. Dues are \$35 per year payable in January. Renters and Friends of the Mountain may obtain membership for \$30 a year. The Annual Dinner and Meeting is held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes. To join the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association, send a check to Box 699, Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

The most visible product of the MLHOA is the **ECHOES**, a newsletter published nine times a year. The Association organizes social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles, enabling owners to mingle. Members of the Board are: Jerry Taylor, president; Bonnie Lohman, vice-president; Jennifer Rollins, treasurer; Mickie Gelsinger, secretary; Carrie Reitz; John Mulay; Pete Krauss; Debbie Fagan; Glen Schager; Michael Stanley; Bill Piatkiewicz; and Jenni Avram..

Advertising in the Echoes is \$10 per issue for 2x3 inch business card and \$50 per issue for a 1/4 page ad.

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