

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Sunrise photo by Michael Stanley

Birds Welcome Spring and You to the Mountain

by Henry Johnson



April is the beginning of spring, but it is still cold on the mountain with a bit of a winter feel. Our year-round avian residents (Acorn Woodpeckers, Pine Siskins, Yellow-eyed Juncos and Steller's Jays) are all here, but everything is still in a bit of winter mode. However, come May, everything explodes with life; trees come into leaf, Cow Parsnip miraculously sprouts out of the mud along streams, and birds that wintered in Mexico return to nest, or just pass through on their way further north. In May we will see the return of Black-headed Grosbeaks, Red-face Warblers, Painted Redstarts, as well as Western Bluebirds, who winter in Tucson. We will also see migrants such as the Townsend Warbler on their way North.



Of the Black-headed Grosbeaks, males return first, followed by the females. Last year males returned in mid-April. Red-faced Warblers and Painted Redstarts arrive from Mexico to nest, and last year

were spotted in Rose Canyon in May, when the pandemic restricted car access, but before the Bighorn Fire. This year we should see them again in Summerhaven and Rose Canyon, depending on food availability and the status of the ground since they are both ground nesters. Western Bluebirds live in the Tucson area year-round, wintering in the valley, and nesting on the mountain. They will return soon to check out the many bird houses put up around town by our devoted neighbors. Keep an eye out for them.

We will also see the return of the Cordilleran Flycatchers (COFL's), platform nesters here on the mountain and the subject of research by Drs. Charles Van Riper III and Harold Greeney. Many of you have built or put out platforms for them or have seen them nesting almost anywhere that is flat. In past years they have been sighted on Turkey Run, along the creek downstream, and in Rose Canyon. I am looking forward to seeing them again.

For more photographs and details of what I was able to capture last spring both in Summerhaven, and in Rose Canyon, see my blog posts from last spring and summer at www.mtlemonnazimages.com, or search for "Henry Johnson Mt Lemmon" and you will likely find my website. Happy trails!



Top left is a male Western Bluebird

Top right is a Painted Redstart

Bottom left is a male Black-headed Grosbeak

Near right is Cordilleran Flycatcher

Far right is a Red-faced Warbler





April

1st	April Fool's Day
4th	Easter Sunday Passover ends
17th	Board Meetings MLWD 8:30 am MLHOA 10:00 am MLWC 1:00 pm Zoom
19th	ML Fire board meeting 4 pm
22nd	Earth Day
27th	Full moon

Editorial ramblings

So, April is upon us. It's hard to believe how long it's been since we've had any real get-togethers. But it seems, as more people are getting vaccinated, we are slowly coming out of the collective funk this pandemic has caused. Spring brings a renewal that seems extra poignant this particular year.

Most of you have probably heard that Dennis Cozzetti got hurt. But he is doing well, rehabbing at home with a few extra pins in his leg. He has a long road ahead, but he is in good spirits and good care. My husband Matthew is also rehabbing at home, getting better every day. It's the stamina that is taking the longest to recover.

Between the rebuild of Matthew's face and Dennis's leg (and didn't Gregg Ferguson end up with metal in his spine?), we've got some bionic builders up on the mountain! But they're a very strong breed and will be back up on the Lemmon before you know it. Spring renewal after all.

Pamela Selby-Harmon SelbyHarmon@aol.com

Exciting Information about the MLHOA Annual Dinner!

by Matt Grossman

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association Annual Dinner and meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom. It will be held on **Tuesday, April 20 at 5:30pm**. You can join via the link below or email matthew@grossman.com for a clickable link and phone numbers if you wish to join by phone.

For the Annual Dinner Zoom experience on April 20th, click on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86460944042?pwd=TVlwUXZHdktoMm5NN1RwcHgxYllmZz09>

To make the virtual experience of sharing a meal more cohesive, we have made arrangements with **Beyond Bread** to provide take-out meals for the event. You can order online at <https://beyondbread.com/> -- click the "Order Online" button on the right-hand side of your browser window, then select the location nearest to you. You can order up to 24 hours ahead of time. Be sure to enter code "lemmon" at checkout. Beyond Bread will donate 20% of sales to the Mount Lemmon Fire Fighter Foundation. This is a great opportunity to sample the items that will be available in the Mount Lemmon Lodge cafe next year while contributing to our Fire Department.

Looking forward to "seeing" you at our MLHOA Annual Dinner! Be there.

The Mt. Lemmon Community Center is part of Pima County's Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) department. The center is located in the heart of Summerhaven. The facility is dependent upon local volunteers to staff and support the visitors center. The mission is to welcome all who visit the facility and to promote Summerhaven, Mt. Lemmon and Pima County, Arizona. To reserve the MLCC, call Kelly Cheeseman, Pima County Parks and Recreation, 520-724-5208, or email Kelly.Cheeseman@pima.gov.



Howdy, and Welcome to Spring

by Michael Stanley, MLHOA president

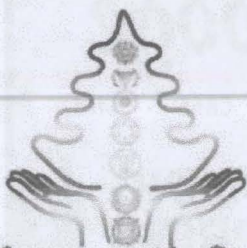
There are hopes that the current status of the health threat is lessening. Most of us have been safe and are in good health. The vaccinations are becoming more readily available, and sites are being set up to supply the increasing demand. Though the end is not visible, it is refreshing to see the light at the end of this past year's long saga.

On the mountain, spring is upon us, and 90-degree days in Tucson are expected this week. Soon we will be on the mountain enjoying cool weather. This summer will be a challenge for the community, but we all expect things will be back to normal soon. Association plans will be made as things progress, and we hope to have plenty of activities for the duration of the summer. The winter was kind with some snow and rain. The water in our creeks is running, and the sound is very peaceful. It has been a while since the flow has been this strong and continuous. However, there is yet a deficit on the moisture we received, and continued conservation is required. We need to get some regular precipitation to get out of these exceptional drought conditions.

Our community is holding up despite business closures or limited operations. We have seen a massive number of visitors during the week and especially on the weekends. Some trails are open, and most of the pull-outs are packed. The Forest Service has closed some of the restrooms and campgrounds, so the Community Center facilities have been used extensively. In the village, you will notice work is taking place on the Hotel site. Grading and dirt work are progressing daily with paving soon. The Hotel will open early in April, and work continues on the Mt. Lemmon Lodge. The retaining structure is quite impressive and foundation work is starting to advance. Plans for other projects are in place and the business community is growing.

This month I will be ending my tenure as president of the Homeowners Association, and Sally Crum is stepping into this position. Linda Currin is closing the MLHOA books as treasurer, and Anne Skelly will take over. John Osborne will assume secretarial duties. Your Association continues to need your support to remain strong and resilient. We need you to write an article or two to keep our Echoes publication fresh. Your contributions will help our members stay interested and informed. Our regular writers have done a wonderful job, but new and fresh ideas are always necessary. Please write something and get it in to our editor, Pamela Harmon. Everyone appreciates your efforts.

The Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association has had virtual board meetings, but we hope to resume our 3rd Saturday board meeting at the Community Center. Please check the Echoes for continued scheduling. Thank you and have a wonderful Spring.



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Important News You Can Use

by Matt Grossman

Three online resources are available to keep Mount Lemmon residents up-to-date between Echoes editions:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmon-hoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.
2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association maintains a website at <https://mtlemmonhoa.org/>. Check it out, get informed, and contribute.
3. A neighborhood group has been set up on Nextdoor.com. Sign up using your cabin street address to be connected to the Mount Lemmon group. If you already use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, be sure to sign up for Mount Lemmon under a different email address, since only one neighborhood is permitted per email address at this time. This venue is important for general information and worthwhile educational benefits and communication, but especially during critical concerns such as fire danger and road closures.

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MLWD Board Announces Spring

by Doug Mance, MLWD chair

Spring greetings from your Mt. Lemmon Water District Board. Our mountain recently received another foot of precious snowfall, a gift for all of us. Last week, some early daffodils were opening on my hillside, as Mother Nature always bats last.

My message, Spring snow or not, continues to feature water conservation as permanent behavior for all of us. As of late March, snowpack levels are well below normal throughout the major water basins in Arizona. Obviously, our sky island is a high peak in one of those areas, and we depend on our own isolated snowpack to supply precious water locally, while the Salt and Verde Valley reservoir system is at 76% capacity, and the San Carlos Reservoir is at...wait for it...2% of capacity.

Mark Twain said, "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting," but our love of the Santa Catalina Mountains must keep us together. Good water conservation habits are numerous and creative.

With that in mind, I would like your input on water conservation ideas that we can all use. Please send me your thoughts at: dmancementlemmon@comcast.net and they will be printed in the May Echoes, just in time for the re-opening season.

Remember this most important tip, often repeated throughout the years: **Shut off your cabin water when you leave.** Thanks, and the MLWD will publish all your great suggestions!



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From the Desk of Steve Christy

What a blessing to the Mountain last month was. We had two “just right” snowfalls, and as I write this, it is snowing again. Given the wildfire outlook that the state forestry department released predicting a “very severe potential” for wildland fires, we’ll take all the precipitation we can get – rain and snow.

There’s been good news on the Valley floor as well recently, with Pima County announcing the re-opening of outdoor facilities for organized sports activities and reservations being taken for park ramadas. This news begged a question, which we posed to Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Director Chris Cawein, “When will the community centers reopen?”

Here’s what we learned. NRPR has not been cleared by the Pima County Health Department to open the centers just yet, but the COVID-19 data trend is expected to continue to improve with the vaccine roll out. NRPR is cautiously optimistic that the centers will open this summer. Now that forecast is for the traditional centers that offer various programs and are staffed. We know the Mt. Lemmon Community Center is unique, both in its staffing and use. We asked about the resumption of community group meetings. In the latest PCHD health advisory, the recommended size of gatherings was increased from 10 to 25 people. We were advised that when the Mt. Lemmon groups are ready to have in-person meetings at the community center – of course with masks, physical distancing, etc - NRPR staff will liaise with the Health Dept. for its approval. And this could happen as soon as next month if the numbers keeping trending in the right direction.

Who’s going to tell the raccoon that its extended stay in the community center is just about over?



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MLFD Volunteer Wildland Firefighters

Dan Leade, Capt/A-Shift

As the winter fades and spring arrives, MLFD begins getting prepared for the upcoming fire season. If recent years are any indicator, the work your firefighters put in will be necessary for a successful season. As many of you know, we have seen an increase in volunteers becoming wildfire certified to help their community in the hopes of helping keep fires in the district from growing out of control and to help prepare the community in the event of another Bighorn-type fire approach. With this in mind, we thought you might want to know what these volunteer firefighters need to complete in order to assist the community in this manner.

Firefighting is a science-first field. Because of this, the first step volunteer firefighters must do is learn about fire/firefighting basics through classroom instruction. Each volunteer must complete Firefighter Training and Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior. In addition, Human Factors on the Fireline teaches communication, situational awareness, decision making, and team cohesion.

After completing coursework, volunteers must pass a work capacity test. This "pack test" is an arduous test consisting of completing 3 miles in under 45 minutes while wearing a 45-pound pack. This test is difficult, but each volunteer firefighter must complete it to receive his or her annual certification. Finally, they must throw a fire shelter in order to prove proficiency. A fire shelter is a firefighter's last resort; a heat resistant safety device that they will crawl into in the event they are trapped by a wildfire fire. In order to recertify, volunteer firefighters must complete an annual fire refresher and complete the "pack test" and shelter throw each year.

As you can tell, this is quite a lot of work before a volunteer firefighter ever even gets to fight fire. We also ask our volunteers to assist with equipment checks, participate in pre-fire planning, complete driver training, and attend monthly trainings that involve other necessary aspects like water supply, area familiarization and basic first aid. Volunteers are also encouraged to continually expand their education by taking additional courses to build upon their knowledge base and skill set. We hope you are proud of their efforts (we sure are!!), and if you happen to know one of them, feel free to let them know you appreciate them. They will probably shrug it off and say they are just doing what they feel they need to do (most all public safety will do the same), but deep down, it will be appreciated.



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USFS Announces Trail Openings

by Tchelet Segev, Acting Deputy District Ranger USFS

Thanks to the hard work our partners, volunteers, and Forest Service staff put towards restoring trails impacted by the Bighorn Fire, we were able to open Aspen, Sabino West Fork, and Wilderness of Rocks trails, and the Pima Canyon trail is now open up to four miles from the trailhead. This means the Arizona National Scenic Trail is now fully open! The updated Bighorn Fire closure order went into effect March 3, and you can find more details on the Coronado National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/coronado/alerts-notices>

Also, with spring arrival, RRM is anticipating opening the Rose Canyon, Showers Point, Spencer Canyon, and Whitetail campgrounds over Easter weekend. Watch for further information in the near future.



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About your Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

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, but the mountain community in general. Full membership with voting rights is accorded to private owners and leased land holders upon payment of yearly dues; renters and friends of the mountain can be non-voting members. Being organized, having a legal fund and having active local voice participation enables the Association to accomplish most of its goals. The Association organizes social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles, enabling owners to mingle. The Annual Dinner and Meeting is traditionally held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes. Unfortunately, most of these events have been canceled this year due to the current health crisis.

Pima County has said the MLHOA is the strongest and most respected homeowner's organization in the entire county.

Members of the board of directors are: Michael Stanley, president; Jenni Zimmerman, vice-president; Linda Currin, treasurer;

Sally Crum, secretary; Pamela Selby-Harmon, Echoes editor; and members-at-large John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Debbie Fagan, Mike Bernstein, Tom Thomas and Matthew Grossman.

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is the primary communication arm of the MLHOA. It is published monthly, from February to November. Advertising in the Echoes for one year (10 issues) is \$100 for a proportional business card, \$250 for a quarter page and \$500 for a half page.

Membership dues for the MLHOA are \$35 annually. To join or renew, clip the form below, fill out all the information and send it, along with a check to the MLHOA. If you have questions or concerns regarding your membership status, contact Linda, Currin, treasurer at 520-247-2582 or lcurren81@gmail.com.

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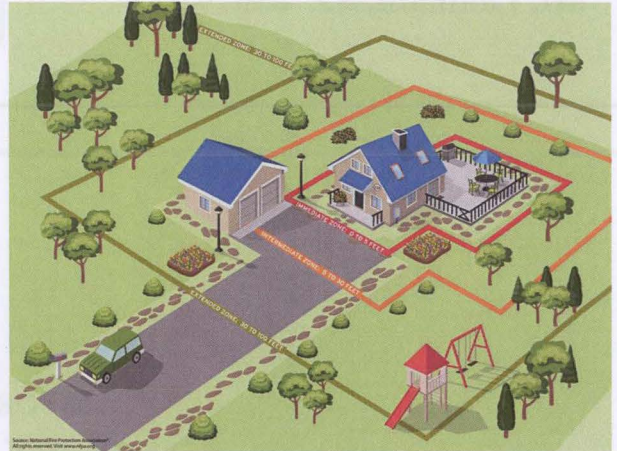
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Important Firewise Update for You!

by Sally Crum, Firewise chair

We will once again be participating in the **National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day** on **Saturday, May 1st**. This will be similar to last year; with pine needle, slash collection and chipping. Thank you to MLHOA/Loma Sabino and Willow Canyon Homeowners Associations for sponsoring dumpsters for PINE NEEDLE collection as well as the chipper rental.

We are reminding everyone that you need to rake pine needles **ONLY 3-5 feet** from around structures, propane tanks and wood piles. Some basic things you can do: Screen any areas where embers could reach the structure, such as under porches and decks, make sure that bare wood is painted/sealed, and remove flammables.



We know that many of you do not open your cabins until Memorial Weekend, but as we saw last year, wildfire has no respect for calendars. With the 'nonsoon' of 2020, we are continuing to experience **EXTREME DROUGHT** and need to do our part to reduce the risk of wildfire.

We are asking for **neighborhood volunteers** to be available to help hand the slash to the chipper team when it arrives in your neighborhood on **Saturday, May 1st**. This should only involve about 15-30 minutes, depending on the amount of slash gathered in your particular area. Please be watching for detailed information from our hardworking Neighborhood Captains, and on NextDoor.

This from the National Fire Protection Agency "Research shows there are proven methods for preparing properties for withstanding the devastating impacts of a wildfire. This Prep Day, you have the power to protect the part of the community that means the most to you and your family by eliminating vulnerabilities in the Home Ignition Zone/HIZ, particularly the immediate 5-foot zone around your residence. Whether it's replacing wood chips with gravel or reimagining your entire landscape design, what you do on Saturday, May 1, really matters. Be ready to make a difference in helping to avoid loss and tragedy with information and resources from NFPA®".

Above is a diagram of the Home Ignition Zones. Explanation of the zones as well as **LOTS** of Firewise information that can be found on the Mt Lemmon Fire District website @ MLFDZ.org. Select the 'Resources' tab, and look for 'Firewise'. A HUGE Thank You to Dorothy Johnson and Bernadette Blatt for keeping this resource up to date and informative.

Mount Lemmon Woman's Club

by Carol Niehoff

If you look closely at the **General Federation of Woman's Clubs** logo, you will see the motto: **Unity in Diversity**. While some may appropriately argue that we lack diversity, I see a group of extraordinary women with a wide variety of talents and perspectives, diverse in their histories and experience. We should all be proud to be part of this organization and the history each of us brings to this place at this moment in time. Every unique thing you did or felt in the past has brought you here where you have the opportunity to creatively employ your experience and share your perspective. Yes, we find unity in this organization and collectively bring energy, creativity and enthusiasm to our mountain community. As we approach the Firewise season, let's be a visible force, participating wherever possible.

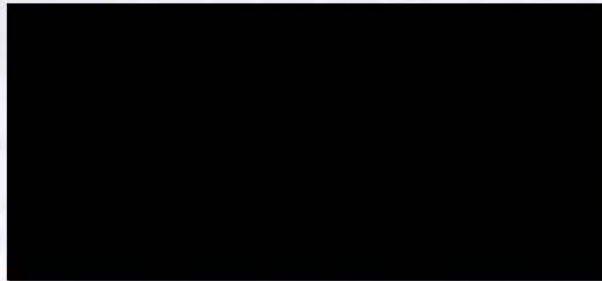
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Cotten Cabin circa 1962

Mountain Memory Magic

by Diana Osborne

My earliest memory as a child on Mount Lemmon ~ 1959 is of waking up to a bundle of vibrating daddy-longlegs on the ceiling above me. Now, this would not have been terrifying, except that I was on the top bunk and only 4 or 5 years old!

The only way to keep the massive bundle of daddy-longlegs from falling on me was to somehow get off the top bunk without moving the blankets in fear of alerting them that I was just below them. So, I slowly slithered to the edge of the bunk under the covers, then dropped to the floor and RAN! It was always a close call.

This was at my grandparents' cabin on Sabino Creek just south of the parking lot at the current Sawmill Run Restaurant. My parents and us children quickly outgrew staying with our grandparents and moved to Sleep Hollow, another great adventure.

Later, at Sleep Hollow, my sisters and I could have one friend up each (only 2 of us at a time = 6 kids). We older children slept in the Little Cottage. We would have fun scaring our city girlfriends after dark while in bed by telling scary stories. Then out would come the flashlight shining on the daddy-longlegs on the ceiling above the bed!