

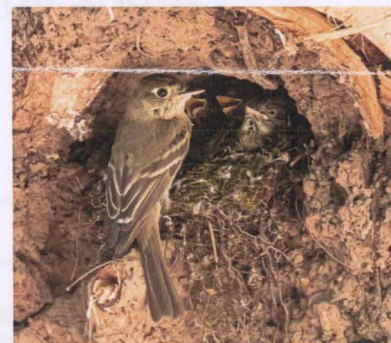
The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Sunrise photo by Michael Stanley

Cordilleran Flycatchers have delayed nesting. WHY?

by Dr. Charles van Riper III, and Dr. Harold F. Greeney III,
School of Natural Resources and the Environment & US Geological Survey, University of Arizona, Tucson.

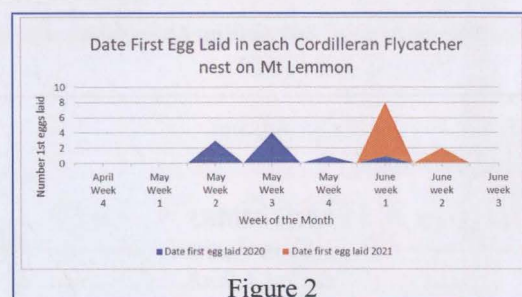
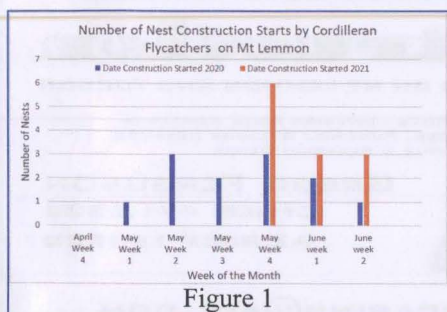
We have been conducting research on the Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) since 2016, at several study sites placed along an elevational gradient on Mt Lemmon. Our lowest elevation study location is at Willow Canyon, then Rose Canyon campground, Marshall Gulch, Soldier Camp, throughout Summerhaven, and up the Turkey Run trail to the Ski area. The moister regions of Mt Lemmon provide excellent breeding habitat for the Cordilleran Flycatcher. This bird migrates to Mexico in early August each year, returning to breeding areas on Mt Lemmon each spring where it nests throughout the summer. We have captured and banded over 1,000 birds on Mt Lemmon during the Cordilleran Flycatcher project, and many of the flycatchers are uniquely color banded so that we can tell individual birds and who returns each year.



Comparing previous years with 2021 Cordilleran Flycatcher nesting

From 2016-2020 we found that the Cordilleran Flycatcher can only complete one successful nest each summer. The reason for only one nest is due largely to the length of their breeding cycle – it takes over 60 days from the beginning of nest building until Cordilleran Flycatcher young become independent from their parents. Arriving in May and leaving in early-to-mid August, birds only have a total of 70-80 days to breed, so any delay to the start of nesting can have a negative influence on successfully completing their nesting cycle. So, the earlier the birds can begin to nest the better, and earlier breeding does increase chances of successfully raising young. During 2021 we found that the start of the nesting season has been greatly delayed. For comparison, during 2020 Cordilleran Flycatchers began building their nests on Mt Lemmon during the first week of May (Figure 1) New Cordilleran Flycatcher nests continued to be started during each week of May in 2020, with new nest initiations beginning to decrease by early June. In 2021 the temporal pattern of first nests being built was delayed until the 4th week in May, as shown by the orange bars in Figure 1. This is a 3-week difference from when Cordilleran Flycatchers began building nests in 2020 versus 2021.

The late breeding pattern we are experiencing in 2021 is also seen by our data of when the first egg in each clutch is being laid. In 2020 the Cordilleran Flycatcher began laying their first eggs starting the second week in May (blue triangles in Figure 2). continued





- 4th Independence Day
BBQ at Fire Department
11:00 am—2:00 pm
- 17th Board Meetings
MLWD 8:30 am
MLHOA 10:00 am
MLWC 1:00 –2:30 pm
- 24th Full moon

Continued from page 1

This year we did not detect any first eggs of Cordilleran Flycatchers being laid until early June (see the orange triangles). First eggs continue to be laid this year during the second week of June, whereas in 2020 all the birds had finished laying their first eggs by early June. Again, we are seeing a 3-week delay in aspects of the Cordilleran Flycatcher breeding this year.



What might have caused this delayed nesting for Cordilleran Flycatchers in 2021?

There are many possible factors that might have contributed to the 2021 delay in Cordilleran Flycatcher nesting on Mt Lemmon. We are all aware of the recent lower than normal precipitation and higher temperatures in the south-west. There are also long-term ramifications from last year's Big-horn fire and understory removal that factor into this equation.

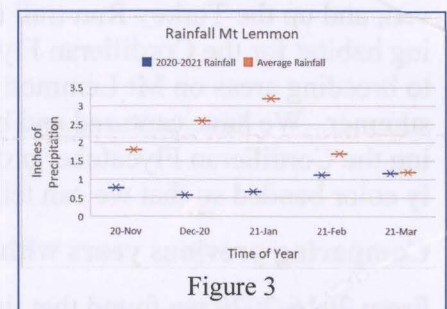


Figure 3

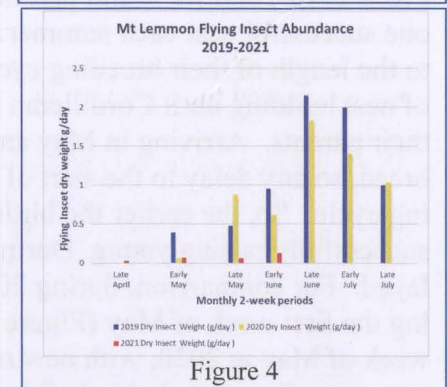


Figure 4

continued



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Continued from page 2

We must also consider how all these factors may have worked together to change food availability pattern on Mt. Lemmon. This Empidonax flycatcher eats almost exclusively flying insects, so it is important to be aware how this food resource compares among years. We will now try to explain what we have found about each of the above factors and will show how all factors have ultimately contributed to present low levels of flying insect food for the Cordilleran Flycatcher.

Present weather patterns

The National Weather Service found that the year 2020 was one of the driest on record in southwest Arizona, and that the 2020 monsoon was almost nonexistent. We have been collecting weather data from our weather stations at Turkey Run and at the Mount Lemmon Water District Yard, and these stations also show that lower precipitation than normal continued into the spring of 2021 (Figure 3).

In Figure 3 the orange data points are the averages of precipitation over many years from Weather Service records on Mount Lemmon, while the blue data points are what we found at our weather stations. As you can see, last December and January were almost three times drier than the normal. This continued lack of moisture not only affects the ability of the MLWD to collect water for human consumption, but also greatly affects the ability of insects to complete their life cycle.

Lack of Food for the Cordilleran Flycatcher

We operate malaise insect traps along the Turkey Run trail and at Camp Lawton. These traps collect flying insects and provide us with an index of potential Cordilleran Flycatcher food. To simplify our data, we have pooled daily numbers on the graph into 2-week blocks, with each bar being grams dry weight of insects (Figure 4). During 2019 (dark blue bars) and 2020 (yellow bars) we found that flying insect numbers began to rise in early to late May, then continued to increase through early June, peaking in late June. You can see in Figure 4 that the patterns of flying insect numbers were similar during 2019 and 2020, but throughout this year (2021) the numbers of flying insects (as shown by the red bars), are over 5-times lower. It is now June of 2021 and flying insect numbers still have not begun to rise. This lower level of available food during 2021 certainly would have an influence on the ability of the Cordilleran Flycatcher to secure enough resources and energy to begin nesting and egg production. It could well be that the birds have deferred the beginning of breeding this year, waiting for higher levels of food (flying insects) – we will see.

We have been able to keep up our mist netting efforts along Sabino Creek on Turkey Run, and the results of those netting efforts have demonstrated a large increase in the number of Cordilleran Flycatchers using the Summer Haven area on Mt Lemmon for nesting this year. We do not know exactly what has caused this increase in flycatcher numbers but believe it may have to do with the small patch of unburned habitat that remains around Summerhaven following last year's Bighorn Fire. We will see what happens later during this summer and if flying insect numbers will rebound to provide adequate food resources for the Cordilleran Flycatcher to successfully complete breeding.

Later this year we will also try to provide more updates to everyone on Mt Lemmon in ECHOES about our Cordilleran Flycatcher project and how the completion of breeding turns out for the 2021 summer. We wish to thank Bill and Cathie Brown, BJ Singh, Henry Hopper, and Mike Mayo for permission to mist-net on their private lands. We also wish to thank Tom Tracy and the Catalina Boy Scout Council for allowing us to work in Camp Lawton at Palisades and the USFS to work on their Catalina District lands on Mt Lemmon. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Ready, Set...Refresh!

by Dan Leade, Capt. A-shift

Arizona in the summer is hot, dry, and has the constant potential for wildfires. While the monsoons were always a welcome summer reprieve, the last two years were the driest since records began in 1895, with 2020 even drier than 2019. Unfortunately, the National Weather Service models, released in June, predict slightly drier than average precipitation, although monsoons will likely start at their normal time. This means that even with the United States Forest Service in Stage II fire restrictions, the potential for wildfire will persist until well after this Echoes is published.

As I write this is in mid-June, the Telegraph Fire has burned over 140,000 acres near Superior, while the Mescal fire has scorched over 72,000 acres near Globe. As these two fires merge and encroach on populated areas, the residents face evacuation orders that many of our community members are all too familiar with. Even with the Bighorn Fire forcing evacuation of our Mount Lemmon just last year, refreshing on some of the terminology and procedures associated with evacuation is a good reminder for what you can do to remain safe in any of Arizona's wildland-urban interfaces.

The Arizona Emergency Information Network states that, "Ready, Set, Go! is a nationwide program adopted by the 15 Arizona sheriffs that educates residents about proactive measures to take before an emergency and actions to follow when communities are threatened. The three steps encourage Arizonans to get **READY** by preparing now for what threatens their community, be **SET** by maintaining awareness of significant danger and to **GO**, evacuate immediately when the danger is current and life-threatening." The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends remembering the Five Ps of Evacuation: People/Pets, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs, and Priceless Items.

With any luck wildfire will not impact Mount Lemmon this year, but that can never be ruled out as Arizona continues to transition to a year-round fire season. The most important thing you can do to protect yourself and property is to continue to practice the principles defined in Firewise and remember to prepare now for the potential of wildfire, be alert for hazards and significant dangers in your area and evacuate when it becomes clear that there is an imminent danger to you or your family. Below are links that will help you to remain prepared. Enjoy the cooler weather atop the mountain and cross your fingers for a better than predicted monsoon with significant drought relief!

<https://ein.az.gov/ready-set-go> - Ready, Set, Go

<https://www.ready.gov/wildfire-safety-social-media-toolkit> - Preparedness Toolkit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4QKg4nfl3o> - Monsoon Outlook

ready. set.
go! 

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Dangerous Fire Month Brings Water Curtailment Plans

By Doug Mance, MLWD Board chair

Historically, we are now in the most dangerous fire month on the mountain and a good time to remind you of the Mt. Lemmon Water District's Water Curtailment Plan stages. **We are currently in Stage 2 and have NEVER had to go further up the ladder.** Nonetheless, here are the restrictions as defined in all four curtailment stages:

Stage 1 Restrictions - the public water system is deemed to be operating normally, and no curtailment is necessary.

Stage 2 Restrictions - the District requests its customers reduce water consumption by 10% **voluntarily**. Customers should water outside landscaping and vegetation only during weekdays. Customers with **address numbers** ending with an **even number** should irrigate on days ending in an even number, and those with **addresses** ending with an **odd number** should irrigate on calendar days ending with an odd number.

Stage 3 Restrictions - the District will make reasonable efforts to inform the customers of **mandatory** restrictions to employ water conservation measures to reduce daily water consumption. Failure to comply will result in customer disconnect. The District's operation of its standpipe service, if any, is prohibited. The addition of new service lines and meter installations is prohibited.

Stage 4 Restrictions - the District shall inform customers of a **mandatory** restriction to employ water conservation measures to reduce daily consumption. Failure to comply will result in a customer disconnect. The following uses of water shall be prohibited:

- Irrigation of outdoor lawns, trees, shrubs, or any plant life
- Washing of any vehicle
- The use of water for dust control or any outdoor cleaning uses
- The use of drip or misting systems of any kind.
- The filling of swimming pools, spas, fountains, or ornamental pools
- The use of construction water
- Any other insensitive water activity

This is the time of year that we all pray and hope for monsoon rain, and I hope as you are reading this, we have had some. We are all in this together; new owners and owners who have been on the mountain for generations. Thanks for your understanding, compliance, and respect for our precious resources.

Shut off your cabin water when you leave.



Don't Forget to Celebrate July 4th at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station!
Hosted by the MLHOA Board of Directors

**HAPPY
4th of July**

WHO: Mt Lemmon residents and families/friends

WHY: Because it's about time!

WHERE: MLFD

WHEN: 11:00 - 2:00 Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, water, lemonade, and plates and plasticware will be provided. Based on your last name you are asked to bring:

A-G appetizers H-R sides S-Z dessert

Come prepared to purchase raffle tickets for GIFT BASKETS and to bid on QUILTS, donated by Tucson Quilters Guild. Proceeds will support Mt Lemmon Fire Fighter Foundation and Firewise to fund ongoing equipment and supply needs. Raffle prize donations are appreciated as well! Watch the virtual 4th of July parade on "big screen," shown continuously so you won't miss a thing!

Watch the sky at 12:00 Noon for Air National Guard Flyover!

Help us get an idea of how many to expect – please send an email and let us know how many are coming: sbc602@gmail.com. Please put '4th of July' in the subject line. Can't wait to see everyone and meet our new neighbors!



**The Sawmill Run
restaurant has
new summer
hours:**

Wednesdays &
Thursdays: 10:30 am -
4:00 pm

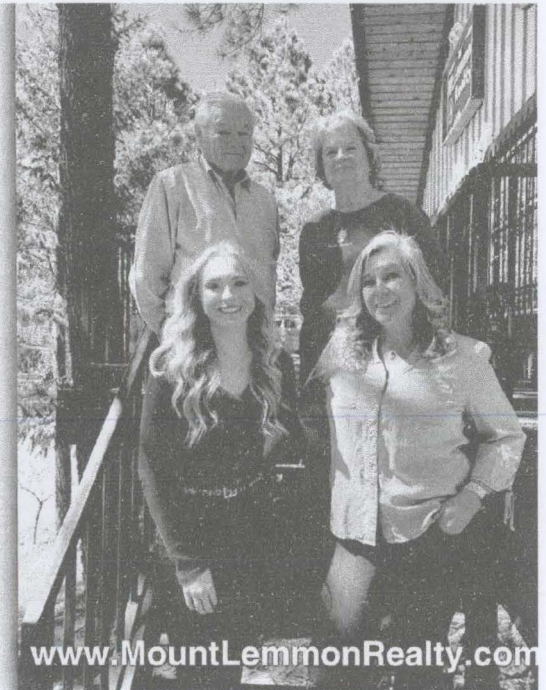
Fridays: 10:30 am -
8:00 pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am -
8:00 pm

Sundays: 9:00 am -
5:00 pm

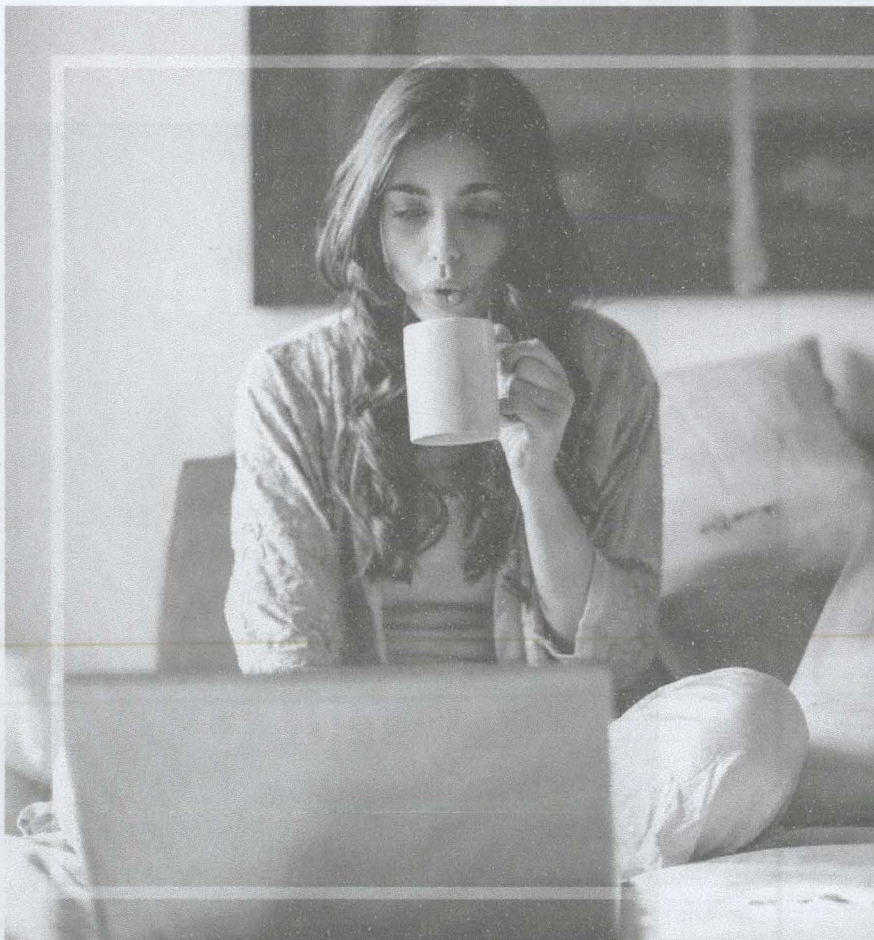
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A Mountain legend moves on

In case you have not heard, Marty Mollo passed away early in June, right around his 71st birthday. Marty was a unique man with a heart of gold. The stories abound about this man! Michael Stanley said, "Marty had talent you could not believe. I think he could play any instrument with grace and with chaos. Once I saw him play guitar with his feet, behind his head and with a spoon. It was a strange sight, but he hit every note. His original music was usually right on for the subject. He would record his music playing all of the instruments and cutting a tape with edit skills only known to the professionals." To say he was a gifted musician is a gross understatement. We know it took a special person to be married to Pam Rinella; he helped her run the Mt. Lemmon Café for many years. Visitors still ask about the Café, or "The Pie Shop," as it was affectionately called, even though it's been gone for 12 or more years. Marty sold his cabin up here a few years ago, as his health was declining. He was living in Oracle near his brother John.



We will have a memorial service on Saturday, July 10th, starting at noon, at Duane Durham's cabin. Anyone who knew him is welcome to join us, and a few of his extended family members, as we say goodbye to a legend.

Michael and Marty, "back in the day" photo courtesy of Michael Stanley

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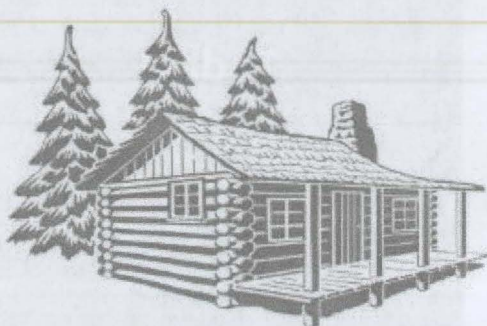
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Message from your Wandering MLHOA President!

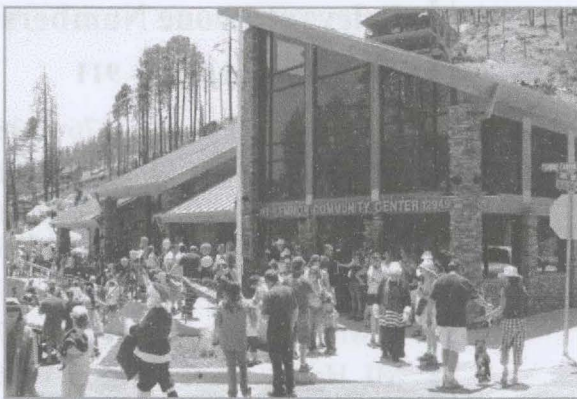
by Sally Crum, MLHOA president

As I write this, I am in the cool pines of Montana reading about the soaring temperatures in Arizona and am concerned about all the wildfires burning in our state. Maybe by the time you read this, we will be experiencing the beginning of a REAL monsoon.

The 4th of July will be here soon and with it the FIRST of our face-to-face community events. Your MLHOA board is looking forward to seeing you at the BBQ being held at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station from 11-2. The virtual parade will be shown continuously on the screen at the station. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for gift baskets, quilts and other goodies donated by our local businesses, the Tucson Quilters Guild, and individuals. For details, see the Echoes, Nextdoor and the MLHOA listserv updates. You can also see the new generator just recently purchased and installed, thanks to the generous donations of our community.

With Stage 2 fire restrictions in place, it is a reminder that we are in the midst of a serious drought. Please be on the lookout for campfires and other fire hazards. If you have rentals, please make sure your renters are also aware of the restrictions. Be sure and thank those wonderful volunteers with the Pima County Sheriff's Dept. who are working weekends at the base of the mountain in the incredibly hot temperatures to get the word out to visitors. They appreciate goodies as well; I understand from our friend Beth Borozan.

Thank you for your support. If you haven't paid your dues, there is a form available in this issue, and be mindful of our water shortage! Conserve carefully. See you on the 4th!



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.

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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.

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: Sally Crum, president; Jenni Zimmerman, vice-president; Anne Skelley, treasurer; John Osborne, secretary; Pamela Selby-Harmon, Echoes editor; and members-at-large Linda Currin, 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 Anne Skelley at 520-429-9199 sgca891@gmail.com.

Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association

Annual Membership \$35 (payable to MLHOA)

Mail this form and your check to MLHOA, PO Box 699,
Mount Lemmon, AZ 85619

Name _____

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Check one:

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Mount Lemmon Woman's Club Celebrates Together!

by Carol Niehoff and Tina Hanks, co-presidents

Anticipation was running high, and so were the temperatures as the date for our Mount Lemmon Woman's Club Membership Luncheon rolled into place on the calendar. We crossed our fingers, hoping that our guests wouldn't wilt like the flowers. It was a particular delight to welcome six new members to our club event. The afternoon passed with spirited conversation and never-ending salad delights. After each attendee introduced herself, Carol Niehoff recognized our past presidents. Then Tina Hanks surprised each with a beautiful, engraved memento of her presidency. The afternoon wound down with desserts and hugs. It is difficult to recapture a lost year, but a single hug, filled with the joy of reunion, can instantly rekindle a friendship!

As sponsor for the Independence Day Parade, the MLWC and our member/organizer, Susanne Drolet, are working hard together to bring a memorable video to entertain the mountain community and the larger Tucson area. A special thanks goes to the ML Firefighters Foundation and our HOA for arranging the upcoming "local picnic celebration" at the firehouse. Details can be found in this edition of the Echoes and also on Nextdoor and the MLHOA website.

The club plans to have a wildflower walk in August. If this interests you, please send an email to Carol at niehoffc@aol.com. The tentative date is Saturday, August 14, and we will meet at 8 AM, location to be announced, to finish our easy walk around 9:30 AM.

Our Holiday Brunch is set for Ventana Canyon again on December 4th. Mark your calendar now for our favorite catered party. Again, details are forthcoming! Wishing you cooler days with a fair measure of rain.



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Turn Back the Pages to September 1976

by Michael Stanley, MLWD

Reminiscing history recently with longtime friend and resident, Eden Hackney, about leaders who impacted Mt. Lemmon, she mentioned Charles "Chuck" Molander. Chuck and his wife Nancy moved here in 1970. An Echoes article from September 1st, 1976, read, "It was the cold weather and snow that brought our new president of the Homeowners Assn. to the mountain. But it was his work toward developing a fire department that got him so completely involved in community activities. Being a ski enthusiast and being a member of Ski Patrol, Chuck decided that he and his wife, Nancy and daughter Heather, should get a place on the mountain. This decision turned out to be one of the best things that ever happened to Mt. Lemmon." The article went on to say that "singlehandedly Chuck was responsible for our first fire truck and spent weekends building the fire station," located across from the Alpine Lodge. In the early 1970's the Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department became a reality rather than a dream. As president of the MLHOA, Chuck planned for the future by getting more trained volunteers for the fire department and to get an alarm system that most of the people within the central portion of the village could hear.

Chuck attended the University of Arizona and obtained his associate degree in fire science from Pima College. He was a Captain at Tucson Fire Department and served on the State Fire School Board.

As all of us know, talent, hard work and leadership skills are always necessary for continued growth. Chuck Molander is a fine example of these skills put to direct benefit for our community. Without him and others working hard we would not have the structure to survive.

Hats off to all our leaders, Past and Present!

Important News You Can Use

by Matt Grossman

There are four online resources 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, you need 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, worthwhile educational benefits and timely communication, especially during critical concerns such as fire danger and road closures.
4. MLFDAZ.org is the web-address for our Fire Department. On their home page, under the Resources tab is *Firewise*. This tab takes you to the compilation of the important Firewise information and forms. This includes an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and even more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

News from Supervisor Steve Christy

Our 2021 fire safety program, in partnership with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, launched in mid-June. Each Saturday and Sunday morning, and continuing until the summer rains arrive, the Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers will be at the base of the Mt. Lemmon (Gen. Hitchcock) Highway, handing out flyers reminding visitors of the Stage 2 restrictions. This program, initiated after the 2017 Burro Fire, was instrumental in preventing forest fires during the 2018 and 2019 fire seasons. Last year's lightning-caused Bighorn Fire preempted the program.

As you approach Mile Post 0, please take a moment to thank our dedicated SAVs. We must also thank the mountain deputies for working with our Department of Transportation crew to get Stage 2 alerts flashing on the nearby message board.

And thanks to the efforts of the entire mountain community, especially the Firewise crew and volunteer evening fire patrols, we may just avoid a repeat of 2020. Bring on the rain!



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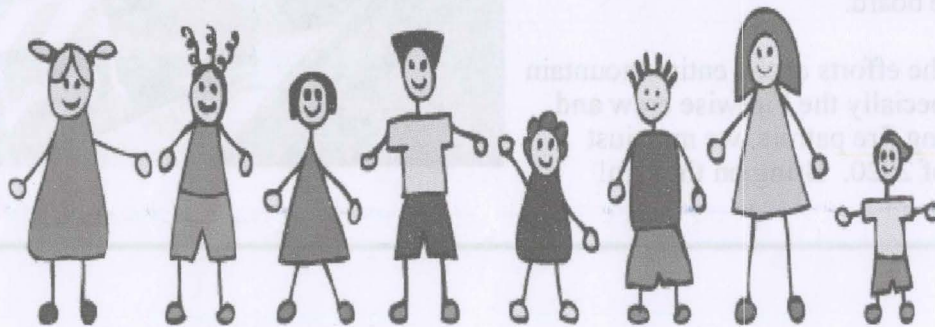
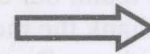
Sky Island Kids Kits Delivered to 24 Children for Summer 2021

by Christina Grossman

Thank you to the Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association and the Mount Lemmon Woman's Club for sponsoring 24 bags for the children of Sky Island Kids Club. I am happy to report that all bags have been delivered to thirteen families on the mountain. We have extra Milo & Moxie booklets, as well as wildlife magazines.

We have plenty of new families on the mountain this year. Welcome! If you would like to be part of the email list for next summer, volunteer with outdoor activities, or can be a resource to teach the kids mountain skills, email me at christina@grossman.com. We also have a Facebook group and group on Nextdoor. Let us stay connected!

Check out the pictures of what kids have been doing this summer so far!



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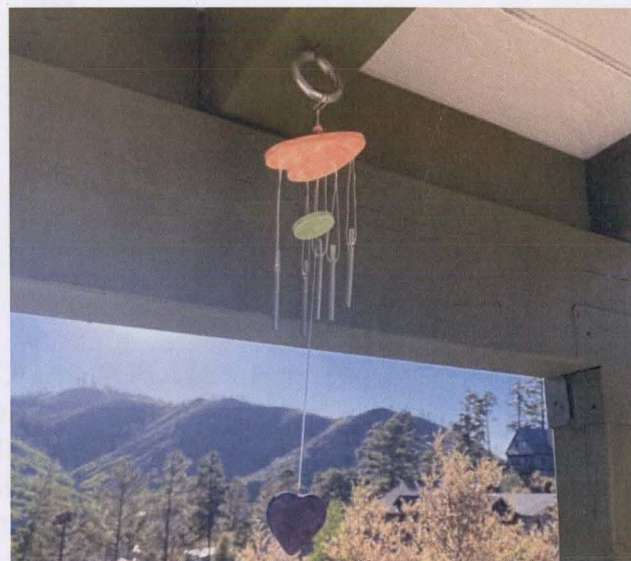
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Mirianna Grossman was ready to roll up her sleeves and start building this birdhouse for the Mount Lemmon birds. There will be plenty of birdseed to feed all who fly to her cabin! Photo courtesy of Christina Grossman



Harper Cochran painted this wind chime beautifully, and it is now hanging on the porch at their cabin. It must be a lovely sound to compliment the serene mountain area.

Photo courtesy of Susan Cochran

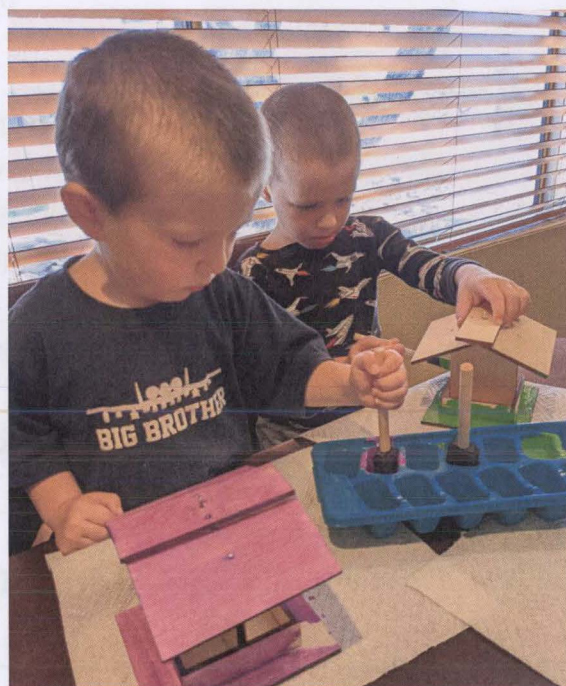
Zoë Gunia set up a scene on fire evacuation, using the Milo & Moxie Wildfire Prevention Booklet. If you have questions, just ask her, as she is now ready to lead the way!

Photo courtesy of Laura Gunia



Ben and Sam Levy are hard at work on their birdhouses they built from the kits. You better believe it that they will be on the lookout for any feathered friends!

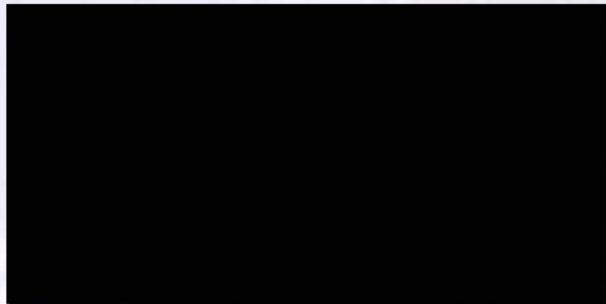
Photo courtesy of Jill Levy



**Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Assoc.
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Keep Your Eyes on the Sky!

by Susanne Drolet, 4th of July Parade chair



July 4th at 12:00 noon,
the 162nd Wing, Air National Guard F-16 Flyover!
Enjoy it live as the jets roar up Sabino Canyon Parkway!
Thanks so much, Dennis Winsten, for arranging this!
Mt. Lemmon 4th of July Virtual Parade will also be on
YouTube 12:00 noon and
on the big screen at the ML Fire Station looped
for continuous viewing.
Enjoy the MLHOA Barbeque lunch anytime between
11:00 – 2:00.

Enjoy and have a safe 4th of July!