

The

# Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association.

[mtlemmonhoa.org](http://mtlemmonhoa.org)

## 4th of July Parade Returns to Summerhaven

The Mt. Lemmon 4th of July Parade is back, and this year, it's live on the streets of Summerhaven for the first time in three years.

The parade will begin at noon on Monday, July 4, at the Mt. Lemmon Realty driveway and proceed south on Sabino Canyon Parkway to the Mt. Lemmon Water District offices.

Spectators are asked to stay on the sides of the road, and adults are urged to attend to small children for everyone's safety.

Bring your flags, bottled water and sunscreen, and get ready to celebrate our nation's birthday with other Mt. Lemmonites and mountain visitors.

Bottled water and public restrooms are at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center, located at Sabino Canyon Parkway and Turkey Run.

Parade participants are asked to check in as early as 11 a.m. and absolutely no later than 11:45 a.m. at Loma Linda Extension/General Hitchcock Highway across from Ski Valley Road.

## The Great Pumpkin Is Here, Even Though It's Not Halloween

By Dan Leade

Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept. Captain/A-shift

As we "parade" into July, the weather remains hot, dry and conducive to significant wildfire activity.

Even with the monsoon fast approaching, MLFD remains vigilantly prepared for the potential of wildfire impacting our community.

One of the ways we do so is by having available water for operations either by ground or air. This means having a portable tank set up ahead of time in case of a wildfire emergency.

No, it is not Halloween yet, but there is a pumpkin perched atop Mt. Lemmon.

A pumpkin is a term used for a portable tank holding a static (non-pressurized) water supply for firefighting operations and application. If you happen to stop by the fire station, you will notice the pumpkin at our helicopter landing zone. The



*MLFD's Great Pumpkin*

reason it is called a pumpkin will be immediately apparent as it is shaped like, and the color of, the autumn staple. Pumpkins have a wide variety of

**Continued on Page 3**



July



- 1 - Movie night, 6:30pm, MLCC
- 4 - Independence Day  
Mt. Lemmon Parade, noon
- 13 - Full moon  
Wildflower Hike, 9:30 am,  
Box Camp parking lot
- 15 - Bunko, 6:30-9pm, MLCC  
Submissions due for  
August Echoes
- 16 - Mountain meetings:  
8:30 am - MLWD Board  
10 am - MLHOA Board  
1 pm - ML Woman's Club  
Speaker Program, 2:15 pm,  
ML Community Center

## New Echoes Editor Steps In

Michael Chihak, a retired newsman with 45 years experience, takes over volunteer editing the *Mt. Lemmon Echoes* with the July edition.

Chihak was editor and publisher of the *Tucson Citizen* for eight years. He retired after nearly four years as news director at Arizona Public Media, the PBS and NPR affiliate in Tucson.

Chihak and his wife, Shraddha Hilda Oropeza, own a Summerhaven cabin and a home in Tucson.

*The Echoes* is published by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association monthly, except December and January.

Deadline for stories, photos and announcements for *The Echoes* is the 21st of each month. If you have a story or an idea for a story and need help writing it, contact editor Chihak at [chihak.echoes@gmail.com](mailto:chihak.echoes@gmail.com).

Send stories and announcements in Word documents emailed to [chihak.echoes@gmail.com](mailto:chihak.echoes@gmail.com). Send photos and other artwork attached in jpeg files.

Materials that come in past the deadline are not guaranteed to make the next edition.

A big thanks to Pamela Selby-Harmon for her work editing *The Echoes* for the last three-plus years.





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## The Great Pumpkin Is Here

Continued from Page 1

sizes. MLFD has multiple pumpkins ranging from 1,800 to 6,000 gallons, the latter of which is the one visible at the fire station helipad.

Due to its size and location, this particular pumpkin is designated for aerial operations. This means that if a firefighting helicopter were assigned to a fire close to town, it could retrieve water with the means of a hanging bucket and fly over top of the fire while strategically dumping water to cool and slow the spread of the fire or protect structures and infrastructure from the advancing inferno.

Pumpkins can also be set up in areas without pressurized fire hydrants for firefighting or structure protection. Water tenders will shuttle water to these pumpkins, and an auxiliary pump will pressurize a fire hose to push water to where it is deemed necessary.

Some of you may be familiar with sprinklers

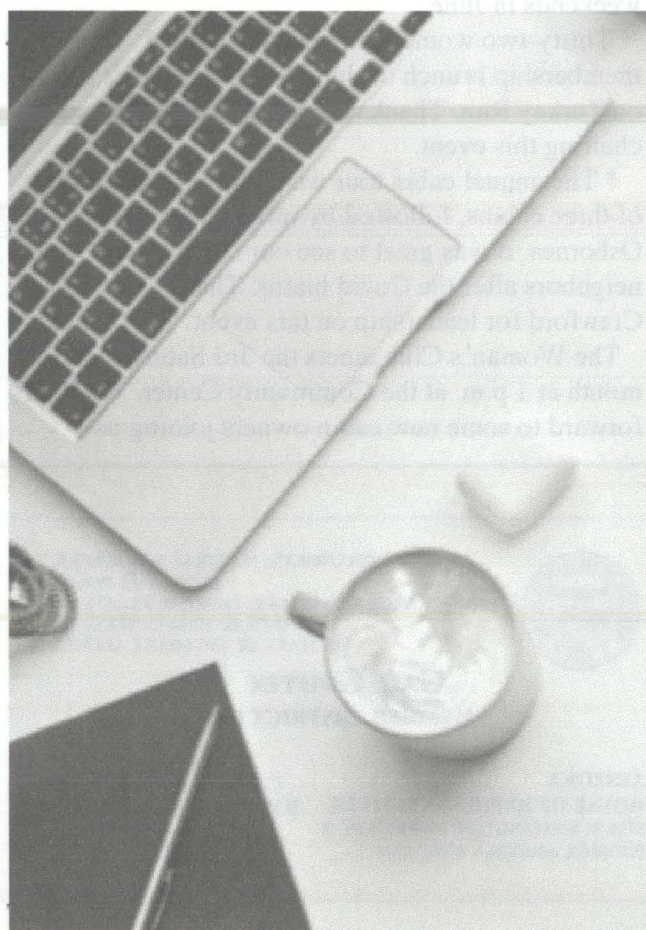
being placed on your property to cool the building before a flame front arrives. This is accomplished with the use of pumpkins.

Pumpkins, and portable water tanks by any other name, are vital pieces of equipment when facing wildfire in rural areas with minimal water supply or while attempting firefighting in terrain that makes firefighting too difficult, unsafe, or inaccessible.

Be mindful if you see pumpkins in your area as firefighting equipment will most likely be moving through that area. Additionally, while they are not swimming pools, treat them as such from a safety standpoint if children are around. They are open-top and very difficult to get out of.

Finally, if you are interested to know what one looks like, ours will be operational until after fire restrictions are lifted due to significant monsoonal moisture across the forest.

So feel free to stop by!



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## Rain, Blessed Rain

By Sally Crum  
MLHOA President

*"Rain is grace; rain is the sky  
descending to the Earth; without rain,  
there would be no life."*

- John Updike

On June 9, I happily welcomed our first rain of the summer.

Willow Canyon received more than an inch of rain and hail that day. Nearly another inch, plus more hail, fell on Summerhaven on June 18, and a few sprinkles came in the week following.

We hope these were portents for a good monsoon.

We look forward to seeing many of you this summer at the events planned by the various community organizations.

An exciting one will be the first in-person 4th of July Parade since 2019, sponsored by the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club.

While we all enjoyed the virtual parades in 2020 and 2021, I'm sure the 2022 parade will be one to remember!!

Your MLHOA continues to work with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations to improve life here on the mountain.

If you have concerns or questions, please reach out to one of our board members.

Watch Nextdoor and the MLHOA Listserv for updates on events, schedules, and fun summer happenings!

## Help Someone See, Hear

By Linda Mulay

In July and August, the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club is sponsoring a program to provide eyeglasses and hearing aids for the Rincon Lions Club of Tucson and the Tucson community.

The Lions Club has a recycling center that will process and refurbish your old glasses, sunglasses, reading glasses and used hearing aids.

After professionals make your discarded objects like new, they will be donated to low-income individuals and missions.

A collection box will be at the Living Rainbow and the July and August MLWC meetings. If you have questions, call Linda Mulay, 520-576-1417.

## Woman's Club Activities

By Luann Waldron  
1st Vice President

The Woman's Club had had two fun filled weekends in June:

\* Thirty-two women attended the annual membership brunch on June 4 at B.J. Singh's cabin on Turkey Run. Thanks to Connie Taylor for chairing this event.

\* The annual cabin tour was June 13, with tours of three cabins, followed by refreshments at the Osbornes. It was great to see our friends and neighbors after the Covid hiatus. Thank you Sally Crawford for leadership on this event.

The Woman's Club meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. We look forward to some new cabin owners joining us.



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## School Time Capsule: Happy Remembrances on the Mountain

By Michael Stanley

Several Zimmerman School students from the 1980s gathered and hovered around the school's apple tree one day last month in search of a hidden, buried treasure. A time capsule was buried in 1981 in a metal coffee can filled with several items close to the students' hearts. Art DeFilippo, the teacher at that time, later became Arizona Teacher of the Year and is still revered by these students. Some sweat and shovels of dirt opened several holes with no evidence of anything buried. Soon though, the clink of metal brought up a mostly disintegrated can with a few items mixed in the dirt. There were several tears of joy and looks of astonishment as pieces came out of the dirt tomb.



Back row, L to R: Jenni, Amy, Billy, Larry. Front Row, L to R: Lucy, Bill, Jim, Misty. More Michael Stanley photos, Page 6.

Yes, they had exhumed the buried treasure. A deteriorated class photo and paper with the students' signatures were pieced together, but little else survived the 40 years

underground. All the rumors of some other class finding and removing the capsule were wrong. Triumph was at hand, and everyone was pleased. Memories were captured in hearts and minds.

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## Treasure Hunters Strike it Rich with 1981 School Time Capsule

(Story, Page 5)



*Celebrating at the Sawmill (at left): Lower Row: (backs toward camera). Amy, Jim, Jenni, Lucy, Misty. Back Row: Art, Billy, Bill, Larry, Mr. Art (the schoolteacher), Jim.*

*The fearless treasure hunters (at right): Back Row: Lucy, Larry, Jim. Front Row: Lynford, Billy, Misty, and Bill. Lucy, Lynford and Larry are kids of the Beachy Family. Misty and Bill are kids of the Hensley Family. Billy is Bill's son.*




*Photos by Michael Stanley*

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# Summerhaven Roadwork Gets Underway

From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

I am delighted to have better news to report about the overdue Summerhaven roadwork. In late May, Granite Construction won the job contract, and work has begun to repair the concrete water crossings in the village before the monsoon rains are in full swing. The road repair work will resume after the summer rains have ended, with completion expected by October 1.

We have heard resident concerns about Pima County road maintenance and snow removal. There appear to be discrepancies between maps of the roads maintained and practice over the years. We will be meeting with the Transportation Department to discuss these and other issues.

As you know if you have made the trip up the mountain on a weekend, the amazing Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers have been at Milepost 0 distributing fire safety flyers to visitors. We owe them so much for their efforts; please thank them as you pass.

Finally, we have been working with Visit Tucson to ensure the trash receptacle is in place in Summerhaven for the Independence Day weekend. And what a wonderful weekend it will be with the return of a magnificent mountain tradition, the Fourth of July Parade. Congratulations to the organizers, participants, and our great mountain community. Happy Independence Day!

## Friday Night Movie: 'Mississippi Messiah'

The first film of our summer movie series is a documentary, produced and directed by one of Mt. Lemmon's very own.

Jeff and Pam Haskell's son, Clay, practically grew up on Mt. Lemmon. One of his first jobs was at the pie shop.

A Fulbright Scholar and graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Clay received his film degree from the American Film Institute, where he began his focus on documentary film work.

Clay Haskell loves a good story and found one while trying to understand the civil rights movement from before he was even born. This film, "Mississippi Messiah," is the result of over a decade of work and research into the complex civil rights icon James Meredith.

The film is being shown at film festivals throughout the country. Clay answers questions and talks about the process of documentary work.

Tell your friends and join us at 6:30 p.m. at the MLCC.

## Have an Item for *The Echoes*?

The deadline for the August edition is July 15. Email your story and photos by that date to [chihak.echoes@gmail.com](mailto:chihak.echoes@gmail.com).

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# Firewise Season Never Ends

By Sally Crum  
Firewise Committee Chair

It's been an exciting year, thanks to Dorothy Johnson's hard work with her Neighborhood Captains. Dorothy, better known as DJ, has worked tirelessly in locating new volunteers, gathering research and creating easy-to-use documentation around all things Firewise.

I owe a debt of gratitude to DJ for helping to motivate the community in reducing wildfire risk.

While the formal Firewise work is winding down (we're just waiting on our chipper crew), the process of removing hazardous fuels and keeping our cabins properly protected is an ongoing effort.

While we're enjoying the cooler temperatures, it is a good time to complete caulking, painting,

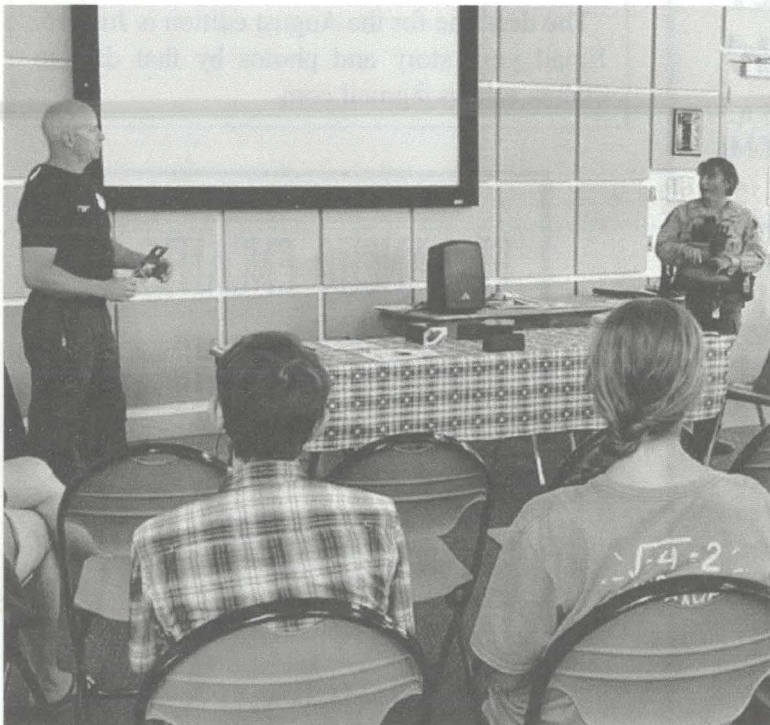
replacing damaged screens and wood and removing unnecessary items from around our cabins.

The Firewise Event on May 28 was a great success, thanks to the many volunteers and speakers. We're already beginning to plan for next year.

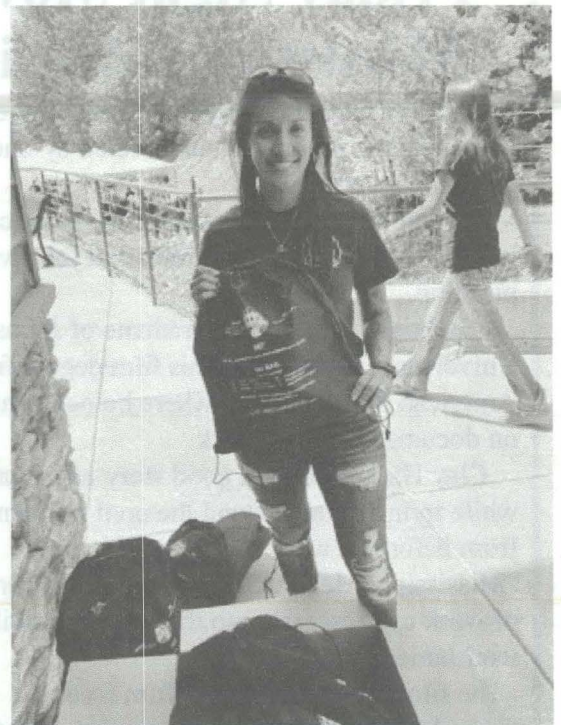
If you would like to know more about Firewise, or how to become a Neighborhood Captain, please reach out to me (520-419-8204 or [sbc602@gmail.com](mailto:sbc602@gmail.com)) or Dorothy Johnson (520-444-9918 or [spiritdancertrl@gmail.com](mailto:spiritdancertrl@gmail.com)). I know you've heard it before, but it bears repeating "It's not IF but WHEN" for wildfires.

## Scenes from Mt. Lemmon Firewise Planning and Training

(Photos by Linda Currin)



MLFD Chief Joe Gunia and Pima County Deputy Sloan providing information on Ready Set Go.



Laura Gunia with Ready Set Go goody bags for Sky Island Kids



## Recap of June 18 MLHOA Board Meeting

By John Osborne  
Board Secretary

MLHOA President Sally Crum announced for Santa Catalina District Ranger C.J. Woodard of the U.S. Forest Service that planting of 43,000 ponderosa pine seedlings started on June 7 and will end on July 6. The planting areas will be Inspiration Rock, Marshall Gulch and Ski Valley.

Beth Borozan of Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy's office reported that Granite Construction is repairing and upgrading Sabino Creek road crossings this summer. Target date for completion is July 4.

Other business:

**Movies:** We plan for movies to start now on the first Friday in July if the Community Center is not otherwise rented. Bunko will be held in the Community Center on the third Friday of each month starting in July.

**The Pancake Picnic:** It is scheduled for Labor Day Sunday and flu vaccinations will be available along with food and fun.

**Water:** Tucson Avenue work is in process hampered by loss of Nate's co-employee Mike. Guthrie Road is next scheduled for work to stop the underlying water pipes from freezing. Far future plans include a large new \$3 million water storage tank on Upper Loma Linda.

**Willow Canyon:** The homeowners raised \$4,000 to bring in fill, and the Forest Service provided a backhoe to work it onto the very challenging roads.

**Soldier's Camp:** Michael Singervalt was re-elected President of the Homeowner's Association.

**MLFD:** Chief Joe Gunia reported that the exclusion of Willow Canyon from the proposed new boundaries is under review due to the loss of tax dollars to which it leads. In the meantime, however, the subscription service will go into effect. So, if you want fire assistance for your cabin in Willow Canyon, subscribe now.

### BUNKO IS BACK

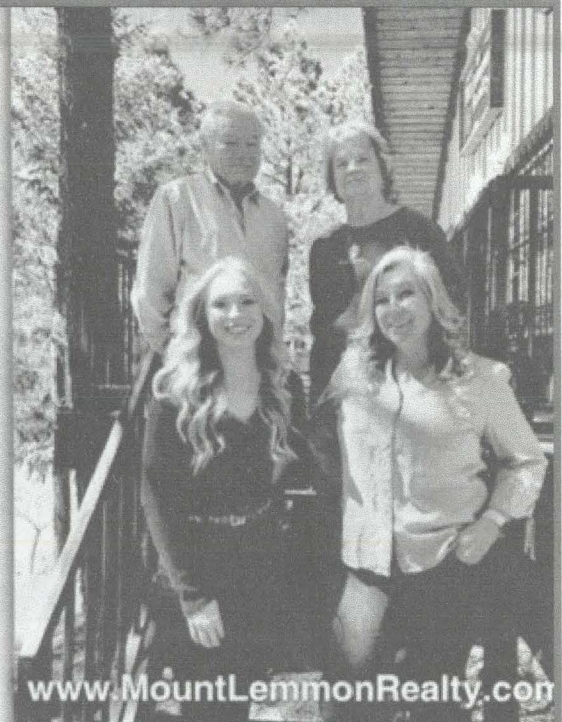
Friday, July 5,  
6:30-9 pm  
MLCC

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# Lions and (No Tigers) and Bears!

By Robin Kirk

Of course, there are no tigers on Mt. Lemmon, that we know of.

But there are lions and bears. Find out all about them on Saturday, July 16, beginning at 2:15 p.m. at the Summer Speaker Program, sponsored by the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club.

David Dean, a member of the Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists, will appear again to discuss Part 2 of his Mammals of the Santa Catalinas, focusing on mountain lions and bears.

Dean spoke last month to rave reviews from many in the audience of 50 at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center.

The presentations are free and open to the public.

Also coming in July is the Wildflower Hike, on Wednesday, July 13, at 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Box Camp parking lot, and bring water, sunscreen, a hat and good walking shoes.

The Wildflower Hike is also free and open to the public.



*Naturalist David Dean presents at the Summer Speaker Program in June.  
(Photo by Robin Kirk)*

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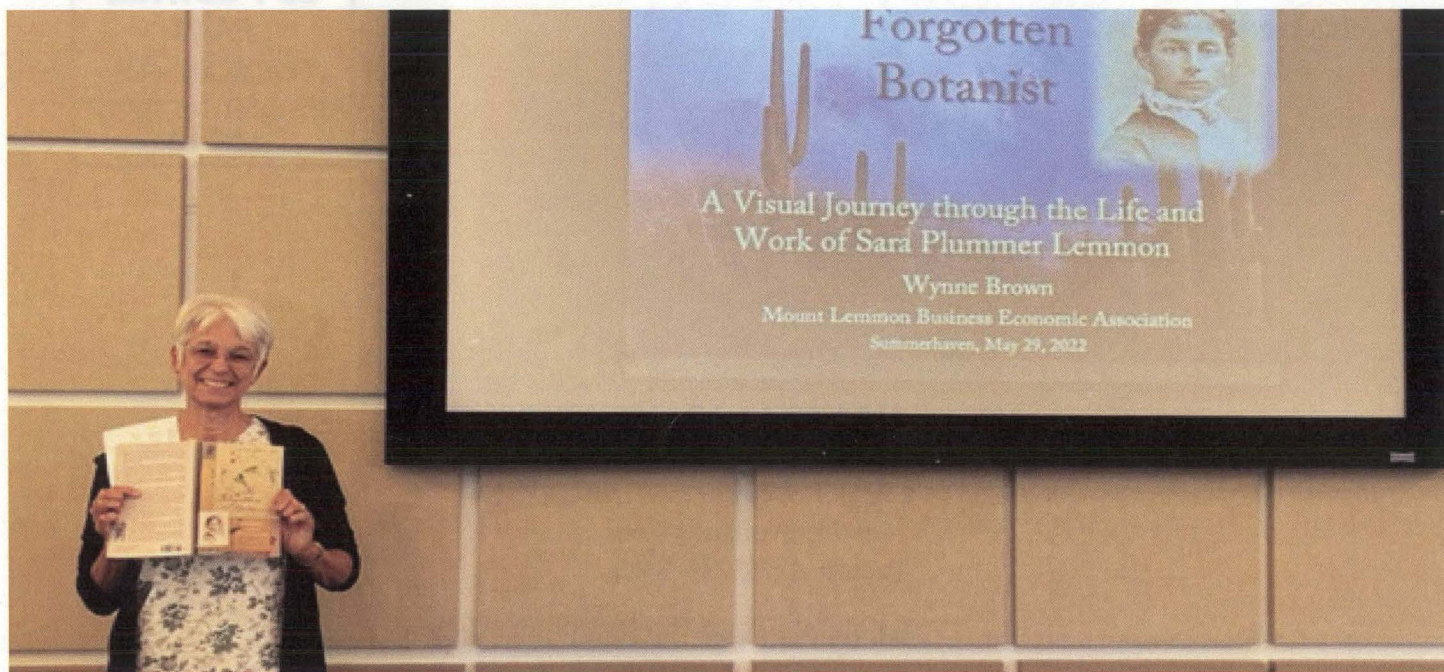
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## Author Wynne Brown, Who Wrote of Sara Plummer Lemmon



Southern Arizona author **Wynne Brown** spoke in June to members of the Mt. Lemmon Business Economic Association about her definitive book, "The Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art."

Our mountain is named for Sara Plummer Lemmon, who legend says was the first white woman to ascend the mountain.

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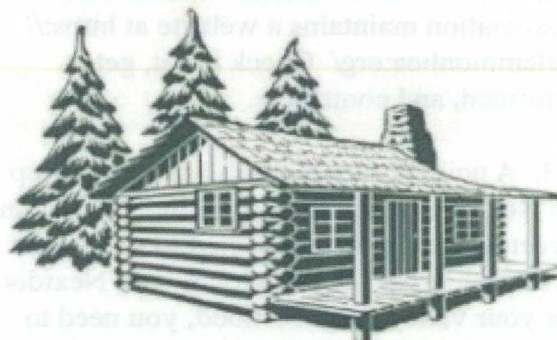
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## **How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Happenings**

**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](mailto: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 Mt. 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.