

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association

mtlemmonhoa.org



Is the forest destined to disappear?

Prescribed Burning Scheduled October through February

By Michael A. Chihak

The U.S. Forest Service will begin prescribed burning in four areas on Mt. Lemmon in mid October if weather permits, an official said.

The burns will cover 80 acres below Inspiration Rock, another 10-20 acres along the Mt. Lemmon Highway near Inspiration Rock, 250 acres on

Continued on Page 3



Slash piles such as these along the Turkey Run trail in Summerhaven will be burned by the Forest Service this winter.

Climate Change Called Threat to 'Sky Islands'

Editor's note: This story originally appeared on TucsonSentinel.com Aug. 22, 2022, and is printed in The Echoes with permission.

By Jacob Owens
TucsonSentinel.com

Southern Arizona may appear as nothing more than a dry haven for saguaro cacti and mesquite trees at first glance, but it includes a region internationally known for its biodiversity — the Madrean Sky Islands.

These tall mountains — including the Santa Catalina range and its tallest peak, Mt. Lemmon — that dot the landscape are threatened by climate change and at risk of losing some of the characteristics that foster such a wide variety of plants and animals.

Drought and fires are expected to permanently alter the ecosystems of the sky islands, with pine forests in the upper

reaches at risk of disappearing and water sources such as natural springs and winter snows stressed.

The "islands" elevated above the desert valleys are becoming increasingly hot and dry, said Emily Burns, the program director at the Sky Island Alliance, a group focused on conservation in the area. This is putting the forests at the top of the mountains at risk, she said.

"The ecosystems that depend on the most water and the most cold overnight or winter temperatures, we are at risk of losing those," Burns said.

The sky islands are a series of 55 mountain peaks that span from Arizona and New Mexico into Mexico. Each range is a "habitat island, such as a forest surrounded by desert," according to the Sky Island Alliance.

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Fun for Kids of All Ages: Halloween Trunk-O-Treat



By Christina Grossman

The Sky Island Kids Club announces our first Halloween Trunk-O-Treat event for families, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022.

The event will take place at Summerhaven's main parking lot, in front of the Sawmill Run Restaurant, on Sabino Canyon Parkway, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Come and enjoy the haunted Halloween trail for all ages and the decorated cars full of candy, games to play and other treats.

Bring flashlights, Halloween buckets and dress up in costume.

As part of our giving-back mission, we will collect canned goods to donate to a community food bank in Southern Arizona.

We are also collecting arts and crafts kits to give to the Catalina Village Mount Lemmon Woman's Club project.

If you are interested in setting up, cleaning up, decorating your car to hand out candy or have any questions, please email christina@grossman.com.

Thank you to Agnieszka Sloan for planning this event.

Highlights of September MLHOA Board Meeting

By John Osborne
Board Secretary

Forest Service: Chrissy Pearson introduced herself as acting district ranger, replacing C.J. Woodard. *(Story on C.J.'s farewell on Page 12.)*

The Forest Service soon will plant 47,000 trees on 97 acres. Any leftover trees will be provided to private landowners.

Vegetation thinning will begin near Lemmon Park and Inspiration Rock. *(Story and map on Page 10.)*

Pima County: Beth Boroza of Supervisor Steve Christy's office said a "town hall" is being planned by county staff members for Mt. Lemmon residents, within six weeks. *(Details on Pages 5 and 8.)*

Water Warning: Cabin owners, please remember to shut off your water and drain pipes before freezing temperatures set in and cause water leaks. *(Story on winterizing pipes on Page 3.)*





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Freezing Nights Are Coming; Drain Pipes, Shut Off Water

By Nathan Davis

It's that time of year, so let's start getting ready for winter. There are so many new homeowners over the last five years who might not be aware of what winter can be like on the mountain.

We have had some mild winters for a while and therefore fewer issues from frozen or broken water lines. Sometimes we get complacent and forget that it can get cold and stay cold for an extended period.

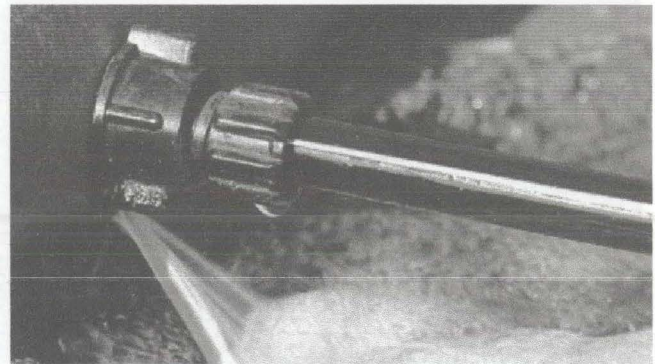
Every homeowner should know where the water shutoff valve is for his or her house. There is one located at

the water meter, and every customer is required to have an additional shutoff valve on the customer side of the meter.

If you don't live fulltime at your Mt. Lemmon residence, you should shut off the water every time you leave the mountain.

Don't rely on the power staying on to protect the pipes from freezing.

The power will go out, and that means the pipes will start to freeze. Heat tape works only when there is power. The furnace won't run without power. Insulation protects for only so long before the cold air



Don't let a pipe leak cause ruin. Drain your pipes.

takes over.

Draining the water lines and winterizing is a must for any house that is not occupied constantly. Frozen and broken water lines are costly to repair, and the damage caused by flooded houses that freeze after flooding is extensive.

If you find a wooden stake with blue paint on it, please let it be. It is used primarily to mark

the meter boxes so we can find them when it snows. This helps the Water District and the homeowners

The Mt. Lemmon Water District looks forward to seeing you on the mountain.

Nathan Davis is systems manager for the Mt. Lemmon Water District. Reach him at 520 576-1538 or mtlemmonwater@gmail.com.

Forest Service Schedules Prescribed Burns on Mt. Lemmon

Continued from Page 1

Mt. Bigelow and dozens of slash piles along Turkey Run northwest of Summerhaven.

"Broadcast burns," covering large areas, should start the week of Oct. 17 and could be completed in two to three weeks, depending on weather. The pile burns on Turkey Run could last until February, Forest Service Fire Management Officer Ian Morgan said.

"We might do a test burn the week before (week of Oct. 10), probably at Turkey Run," Morgan said. "It will be easy to cut off" if there are any problems, he said.

Slash piles have been lined up along Turkey Run for up to five years and now are covered with heavy paper to help keep them dry for more efficient burning, Morgan said.

If conditions allow, the Forest Service could use these burns as nationally focused training for prescribed burns, he said.

Burning will reduce forest undergrowth and post-harvest slash, provide forage for animals, recycle nutrients into the soil and promote growth of native vegetation, according to a Forest Service press release.

The burning will be done under state air quality rules and

in cooperation with the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department, utilities and Pima County, the press release said.

Representatives of those agencies met Sept. 23 to plan for the prescribed burns.

The designated areas will be closed during the burns, while the mountain remains open.

"Motorists are reminded to use caution when approaching areas of burns," the press release said. "Reduce speed and be alert for the presence of vehicles, personnel and smoke over the road."

Other fire prevention news, Pages 10 and 11.

October Calendar

(Event details on Page 14)

- 1-2, 8-9 - Oktoberfest, noon-5pm at Ski Valley
- 7 - Movie night, 6:30pm at MLCC
- 9 - Full moon
- 14 - Bunko, 6:30pm at MLCC
- 15 - Mountain meetings:
10am - MLHOA Board, MLCC
1pm - ML Woman's Club, MLCC
- 15 - Chili Cook-Off, 5:30pm at MLCC
- 17 - ML Fire Board, 4pm, ML Fire Station; also live-streamed at mlfdaz.org
- 19 - Wildflower Walk, 9:30am, Bear Wallow
- 22 - ML Water District Board, 8:30am, Zimmerman School
- 22 - ML Water District water customer q-and-a, 10am, Zimmerman School
- 26 - Nature hike, 9am, at top of Mt. Lemmon parking lot

Stay Up to Date on Mountain Information

By Matthew Grossman

There are four online resources available to keep Mount Lemmon residents up to date between editions of *The Echoes*:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmonhoa+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 Mt. Lemmon group. If you already use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, you need to sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a different email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This venue provides general information, worthwhile educational benefits and timely communication, especially during critical times, such as fire danger and road closures.

4. MLFDZ.org is the web address for our Fire Department. On the 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.

Contribute to *The Echoes*

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 15th of each month. If you have a story or an idea for a story and need help writing it, send an email to Michael Chihak at chihak.echoes@gmail.com.

Send stories and announcements in Word documents emailed to chihak.echoes@gmail.com. Send photos and other artwork in jpeg files.

We cannot guarantee that items submitted after the monthly deadline will appear in the next issue of *The Echoes*.

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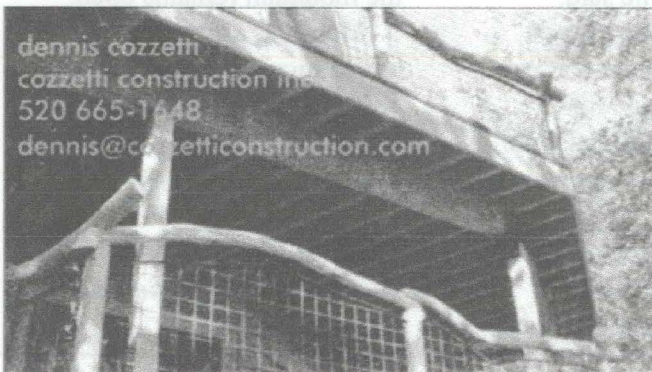
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HOA Report

It's All About the Food: Pancakes, Chili Cook-Off

*"Life starts all over again,
when it gets crisp in the fall."
- F. Scott Fitzgerald*

**By Sally Crum
HOA Board President**

Where did the summer go? The weather has been pleasantly cool and nicely wet as we usher in fall.

The annual Pancake Breakfast was again a huge success. Thanks to all the MLHOA Board members and other volunteers who shopped, set up, flipped pancakes, made coffee, served and cleaned up. Thanks, also, to Pam Haskell, who did a wonderful job with kids' face painting.

Walgreens again brought up a team, including a Soldier Camp resident, to provide flu and pneumonia shots. More than 50

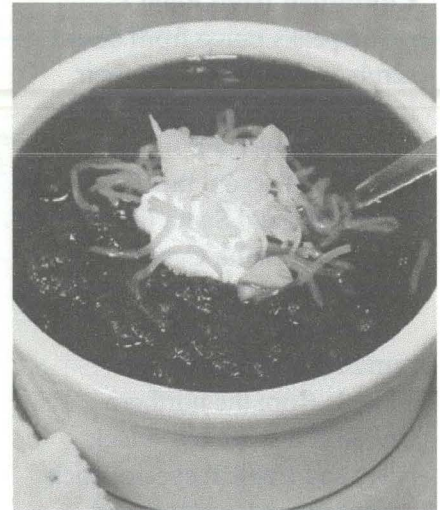
people took advantage of the opportunity.

Your executive board continues to look into ways to improve life in our community. Two high-priority items are trash collection and road maintenance/snow removal.

We are working to schedule a "town hall" meeting on road maintenance and snow removal. Please watch Nextdoor (nextdoor.com) for information on the date and time.

Save the date: On Oct. 15, our annual Chili Cook-Off will return starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center.

Proceeds from this event support our Mt. Lemmon Fire District volunteers, helping to provide training and equipment. Come out to vote for your



favorite chili, and meet with friends and neighbors to support our volunteers.

With summer gone and fall setting in, enjoy by taking a walk in the forest, looking up at the clouds and stars, and being ever thankful for this place called Mt. Lemmon.




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Climate Change Threatens 'Sky Islands'

Continued from Page 1

The peaks range from desert scrub and grasslands at their lower elevations to ecosystems with pine trees and fir near the top. Near Tucson, the Rincon Mountains and Santa Ritas as well as the Santa Catalinas are part of this group.

The mountains are an “amazing crossroad” for animals from the northern United States such as black bears and tropical species such as jaguars and ocelots, said Burns, who credits the biodiversity of the islands to their structure.

“It’s kind of like an apartment building, with so many different types of people (who) can live in an apartment building because there’s lots of space vertically,” she said.

There are roughly 1,300 species of bees found in the region, more than anywhere else in the world, Burns said.

More extreme fires

Climate change has led to extreme fires in the area, she said, such as the Bighorn Fire in 2020, which burned nearly 120,000 acres. Drier vegetation combined with less water is making parts of the sky islands a “tinderbox,” she said.

Traditionally the Santa Catalinas saw frequent fires every 10 to 20 years among the lower trees and other vegetation. Now, the fires are becoming more severe due to climate change and past fire suppression, said Laura Marshall, a postdoctoral researcher on seedling fire

survival at Colorado State University.

The Catalinas became a victim of the fire suppression push in the 20th century, Marshall said, meaning natural burns were limited, leading to dense forests today.

“And that causes problems when climate change becomes an issue because all those trees are going to suffer from drought, a lot more than they would in a more open stand,” she said.

Instead of burning smaller plants and allowing fire-dependent species such as pines to grow, larger fires now reach the crown of tall trees and can burn everything in certain areas.

Severe fires can also hamper future generations of pine forests, typically found in the upper layers of the sky islands. Seedlings require more moisture and cooler conditions, Marshall said.

“So even if we can avoid severe fire burning all the mature trees directly, you still might not get the forest reproducing seedlings if it’s too hot and dry too often, which is what’s predicted for the future,” she said.

Oaks replace pines

The forests sprouting in places like the Catalinas may become dominant with oak trees if fires wipe out ponderosa pine, Marshall said. Remaining pines would likely be around springs and cooler areas, she said.

The loss of pines would in turn affect biodiversity in the ecosystem such as birds that

nest in the old-growth trees, she said, in addition to animals such as deer possibly being preyed on more. Years like 2020 will likely be “very typical” as climate change continues with more drought and fires, Marshall said.

Multiple species, including migratory birds, have still not completely recovered from 2020’s lack of precipitation, Burns said. The year was the driest on record for Tucson with 4.17 inches of precipitation and a record 108 days of temperatures surpassing 100 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.

“So if we’re going to have more of these droughts, how many droughts can we have before we fully lose species?” Burns asked. “And I don’t think any of us know the answer to that.”

Wildlife need springs

The few natural springs in the area support species that do not live anywhere else, said Larry Stevens, the director of the Springs Stewardship Institute. One of these species is the Chiricahua Leopard frogs, which lives in wet meadows and spring-fed areas, he said.

The green and black-spotted frog is listed as “threatened” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The animal ranges from about two to five inches long and can live up to 18 years, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

Places like Mt. Lemmon are seeing less snowpack, leading

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No More Ponderosa Pines? 'Sky Islands' Threatened

Continued from Page 6

leading to less water absorbing into the ground and less to feed the upper-elevation springs, Stevens told the Sentinel. Water sources lower down the mountains are also being affected, he said.

"It's kind of a complicated story because climate change means there's less water available overall, less surface water," Stevens said. "That means that more people are withdrawing groundwater from wells."

In the last five years, Mt. Lemmon's Ski Valley has averaged about 75 inches of snow, said Nicholas Aldinger, Ski Valley's operations manager. The 2000s have been

"hit or miss" with snowfall, he told the Sentinel. The last major snowstorm was in 1997-1998 when 14 feet fell, he said.

Snowpack is very important for getting water to absorb into the ground, Stevens said.

Evaporation levels high

"One thing that is quite shocking to people is to learn that most of the precipitation – more than 90% of the precipitation that comes into Arizona – particularly at lower elevations, just evaporates out," he said.


The Sky Island Alliance has a three-year "erosion control campaign" to help restore springs in the Bighorn Fire area and eight "spring rescue

projects," Burns said. One way the group protects the precious springs is by piling rocks above them, causing soil to gather, while also preventing landslides from interfering with the resource.

Effects of climate change can be mitigated with individual efforts like collecting rainwater, Burns said. Maintaining hope is vital, she said.

"Otherwise if we all feel like there's nothing that can be done and we give up then it really is game over, but it doesn't have to be like that," she said.

Reporter Jacob Owens is a Tucson native and senior at the University of Montana. He interned this summer at tucsonsentinel.com.



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'Town Hall' Meeting in the Works with County Officials

From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

I hear another Mt. Lemmon tradition emerged from its COVID pause on Labor Day Sunday, with the annual pancake breakfast to benefit the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department. Beth Borozaan tells me it was a wonderful gathering, with many familiar faces and some new ones, too.

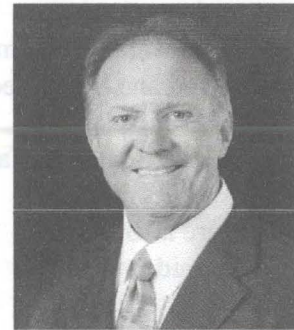
Beth also mentioned that Mt. Lemmon HOA President Sally Crum announced in her remarks the desire to have a town hall-style meeting with Pima County officials.

What a great idea!

Topics would be the usual suspects: road repairs and snow removal, and could include items such as residential and commercial trash collection, revisiting the tram concept and water conservation efforts.

My office will work with the Mt. Lemmon HOA Board on the meeting logistics and Pima County administration to make sure we have the right officials in attendance.

Perhaps we will finally get to the bottom of the road maintenance mystery. Unfortunately, we did not make much progress in September; the Transportation Department



Supervisor Christy

had to reschedule our quarterly meeting.

But I hear the scheduled road repairs are underway. I love the smell of fresh asphalt in the morning.

Contact Supervisor Christy at 520 724-8418 or district4@pima.gov.

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Raspberry/Bananas Foster Combo Takes 1st in Ice Cream Freeze-Off

By Michael Stanley

The Annual Mt. Lemmon Ice Cream Freeze-off and Social was Sept. 17 at the Community Center. Five locals with excellent frozen delights provided samples for almost 50 people wanting to taste their wares.

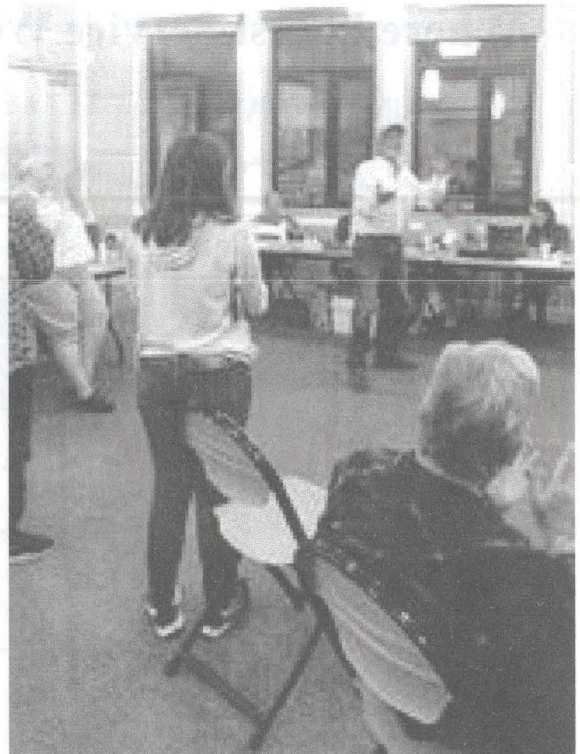
The contestants and flavors were:

- * Ginny Durham, vanilla and a side of brownies.
- * Jim and Katie Ammon, mango (service help: Tami Arthur).
- * Karen Burrows, vanilla with caramel swirl.
- * Jennifer Shacter, raspberry/ bananas foster.
- * Michael Stanley, piña colada.

Conversation and murmurs moved from how to make ice cream to how wonderful it was to see so many Lemmonites out for a great event.

Soon all the tastes were tested, and voting took place. Many people commented that everyone displayed big smiles, and laughter was present in every corner of the center.

As the ice cream was getting low, the votes were counted with the winners and prizes awarded as follows: First, Jennifer, ice cream party box; second, Karen, General Store fudge gift certificate; third: (tie) Ginny and Katie, Frost gift certificates.



Michael Stanley (background center) gets the crowd wound up for the ice cream freeze-off. On behalf of the MLHOA, Michael sponsored the event, which raised \$250 for the ML Fire District. (Photo by Christina Grossman)

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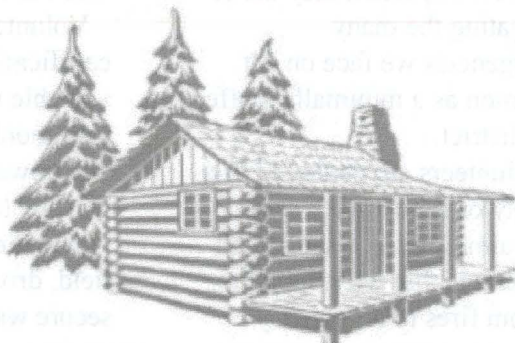
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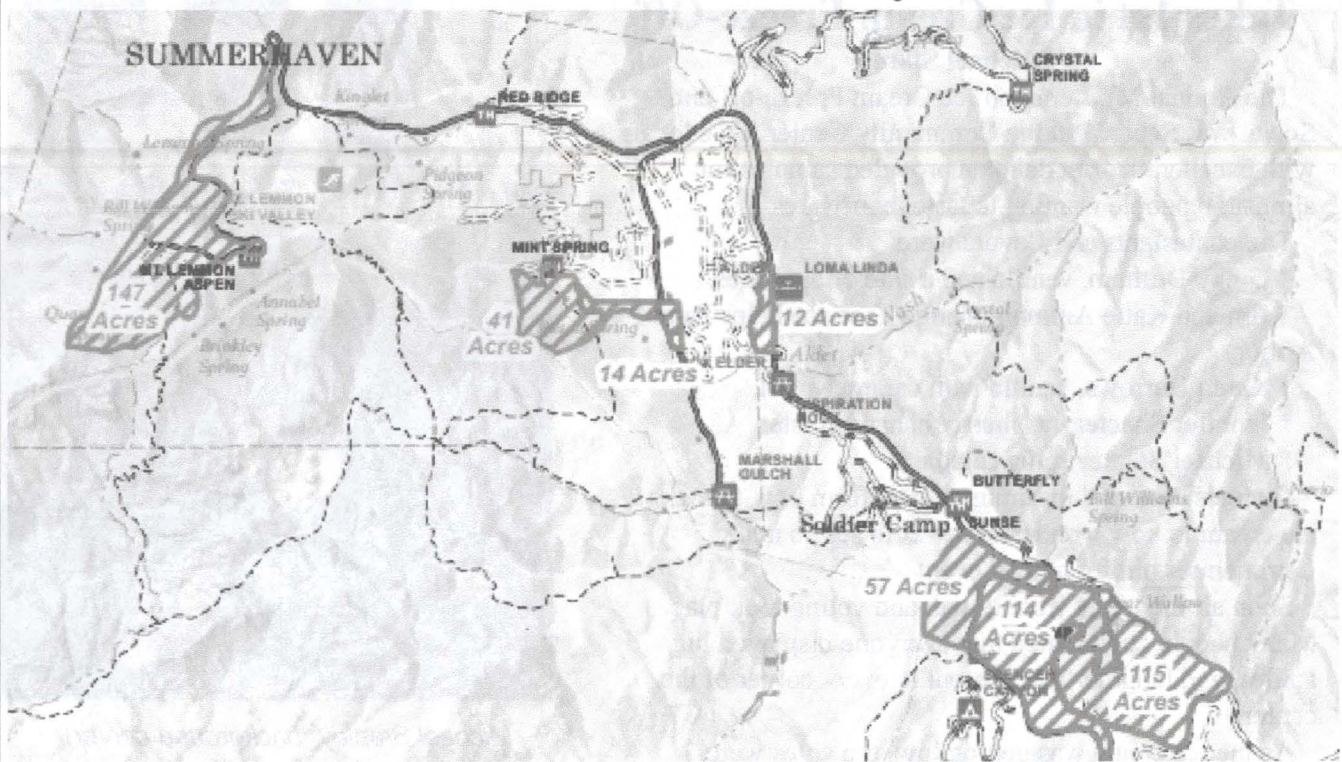
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Where Forest Service Work Is Underway to Thin 500 Acres



The U.S. Forest Service has contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for crews to thin the forest

in the above areas. Work will continue throughout the year, with pile burns scheduled for fall 2023.

From Mt. Lemmon Fire: We Appreciate Volunteers

By Dan Leade

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District utilizes, and quite frankly relies upon, the support of fire support volunteers to function both efficiently and effectively.

While we have the utmost appreciation the commitment that these volunteers make to serve their community, we would like to impart on those who may not be aware of the services our volunteers provide just how important they are to mitigating the many emergencies we face on Mt. Lemmon as a minimally staffed fire district.

Volunteers are deployed in a variety of functions to assist with almost every type of call for service that we respond to.

From fires to emergency

medical services and motor vehicle accidents to trail rescues, our volunteers are vital to our continued success.

Some of our volunteers hold certain certifications that allow them to perform duties above and beyond typical support functions. This means that they can actually engage in wildland firefighting operations or provide lifesaving medical interventions as emergency medical technicians.

Volunteers without specific certifications are no less valuable to an operation. Commonly referred to as manpower, our volunteers can manage traffic control, assist with patient extrication from the field, drive apparatus to a scene, secure water and many other

duties too extensive to list.

The effort and experience these individuals provide continue to impress upon our staff just how valuable their contributions are.

So if you know, or recognize, a Mt. Lemmon fire volunteer, please take the time to acknowledge them for the integral part they play in public safety.

While many will shrug and state that they are just doing what they can to support their community, they deserve recognition for the crucial part they play in helping the Mt. Lemmon Fire District run as smoothly as possible; we truly could not do it without them.

Dan Leade is a Mt. Lemmon Fire Department captain.

Firewise: Wood Chipping, Tree Removal Completed

Volunteers Lead the Mountain's Year-Round Fire Prevention Efforts



Crews work Sept. 13 to clear remains of a fallen tree near the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station as part of

the Firewise cleanup campaign to keep the habitat safe from wildfire. (Photos by Sally Crum.)

**By Sally Crum
Firewise Chair**

Did you notice that our chipper piles are finally gone from mountain neighborhoods?

Crews from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Re-entry returned Sept. 13 to complete the Firewise cleanup.

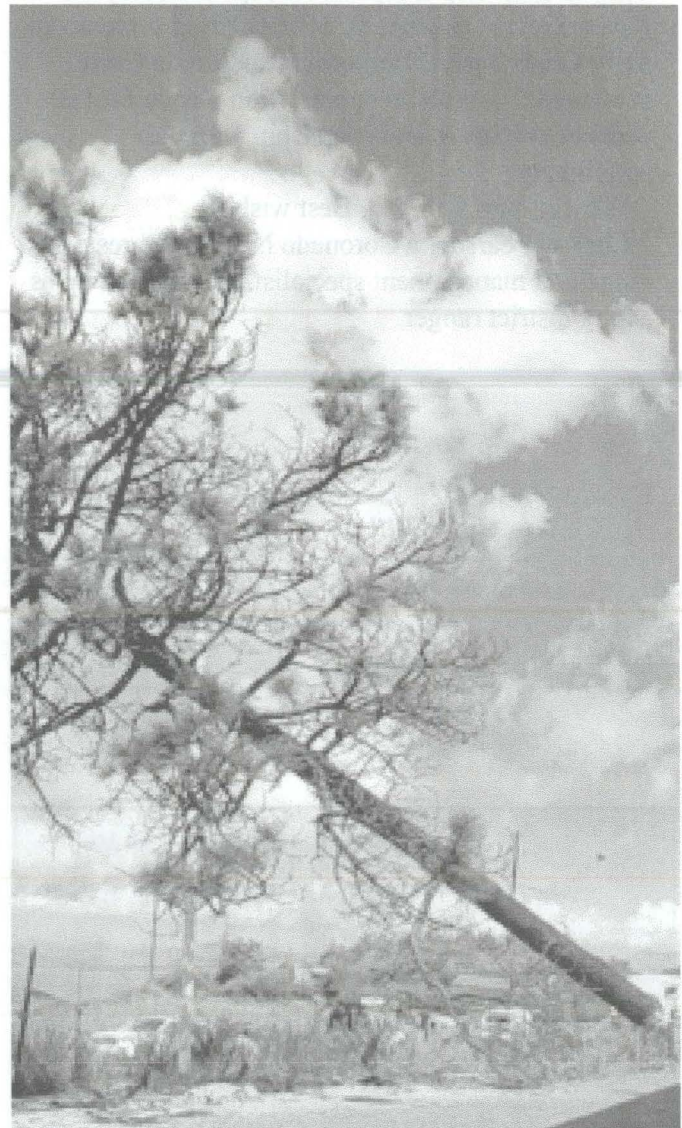
Besides chipping all the piles, they removed two dead and hazardous trees in front of the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. It was amazing to watch them work so efficiently and safely.

Volunteers from the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club provided lunch with snacks and homemade desserts for the crews, for which they were grateful.

The U.S. Forest Service is planning several fuels reduction efforts and tree planting soon, including prescribed burns (story, Pages 1 and 3).

Thank you to all property owners and Firewise volunteers for your efforts to protect your property and the mountain neighborhoods from the risk of wildfire. This is a year-round responsibility, and we all must continue to do our parts.

Firewise volunteers: Submit your time and materials using the form found on the Mt. Lemmon Fire District website, mlfdaz.org. The forms can be emailed to Sally Crum at sbc602@gmail.com, or snail mailed to her at P.O. Box 662, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619.



Tim-berrrr! Before the big pine tree came down.

Adieu and Thank You to Forest Ranger C.J. Woodard

By Sally Crum
MLHOA President

Santa Catalina District Ranger C.J. Woodard has been with us since 2018.

All who had the pleasure of knowing him and working with him knew him to be fair and honest, with a true love for the Santa Catalinas.

He loyally supported Mt. Lemmon and the Summerhaven community, attending Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association meetings whenever he was not deployed elsewhere.

We were sad when the Forest Service announced he would be departing, after he accepted a post in Mississippi to be closer to his family.

At an informal going-away party at the Three Canyon Beer and Wine Garden, sponsored by the Forest Service on Sept. 6, MLHOA Board members Sally Crum, Jenni Zimmerman and Linda Currin presented C.J. with an appreciation plaque for his years of service in and friendship with our community.

We will miss you, C.J. Best wishes.

Chrissy Pearson, a Coronado National Forest rangeland management specialist, has stepped up as acting district ranger.



Forest Ranger C.J. Woodard

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Wakin Up With the Bean

Human-Provided Nesting Platforms Give Mt. Lemmon Flycatchers a Boost

By Charles van Riper III

The Cordilleran flycatcher is a crevice-nesting species that is nest-site limited. These birds normally use rock ledges, stream banks, bark crevices, roots of blown-down trees and other crevice-like locations for nesting. They will also nest on man-made structures such as protected flat horizontal cabin beams.

We have found that the flycatcher will also readily nest on man-made nesting platforms. Through a program with the Boy Scouts, spearheaded by Thomas Miller and later by Kenn Block, platforms were made and have been placed by individuals on their residences around Mt. Lemmon. There are more than 75 nesting platforms for flycatchers on Mt. Lemmon, and more are being added each year.

With all the platforms, Cordilleran flycatchers have finally begun using them for nesting.

In 2022, almost 40% of all active flycatcher nests that we found on Mt. Lemmon were on platforms, many that residents have on their properties.

The platform nests also fledged more flycatchers this year than in any of the previous

breeding seasons, pointing to the importance of this public outreach effort. The birds will continue to use nesting locations on houses and other man-made structures, and this year those nests contributed almost half of the fledged flycatcher young.

We monitored seven nests that were placed in natural locations (e.g., roots, logs, trees, stream banks) and only two were successful. Although in 2022, not all available platforms were used for nesting, we can see that having this additional nesting opportunity will be an important factor in helping to maintain and conserve Mt. Lemmon's Cordilleran flycatcher population.

We plan to conduct our research again next year on Mt. Lemmon and will continue to provide updates to everyone with articles in *The Echoes*.

In 2023, we plan to focus efforts on seeing which color-banded birds return and how the flycatcher breeding season progresses. We also hope to attach transmitters to track young and adult breeding flycatchers to see if they migrate off Mt. Lemmon together or separately.

This will provide an opportunity to examine what routes the birds take off the mountain on their journeys back to Mexico.

We wish to thank Bill and Cathie Brown, B.J. Singh, Pam and Dennis Winsten, Mike Mayo, Larry Peterson, Karen Burrows, Stu and Jen Shacter, John Perchorowicz, Paul



Platform nesting site for a Cordilleran flycatcher, along Turkey Run. (Photo by Charles van Riper III.)

Gelsinger and others for allowing us to mist-net on their lands.

We also thank Tom Tracy and the Catalina Council of the Boy Scouts for allowing us to work in Camp Lawton at Palisades, and Charles Woodard and the Forest Service for allowing us to work on its lands on Mt. Lemmon.

I am thankful for Teo Melis' and Scott VanderKooi's continued support of our research in the U.S. Geological Survey Southwest Biological Center's emeritus program.

(Any use of trade, firm or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. government.)

Charles van Riper III, Ph.D., is an emeritus professor and scientist with the School of Natural Resources and U.S. Geological Survey at the University of Arizona.

Why Is It Called Cordilleran Flycatcher?

"Cordillera" is old Spanish and refers to "cords" or chains of mountain ranges, which make up the bird's primary habitat.

It's a flycatcher because its diet consists primarily of flies and other insects.

October Activities on Mountain

Oktoberfest, Oct. 1-2, 8-9: At Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley, noon to 5 p.m. each day. Music by the John Prokop Band.

Movie Night, Oct. 7: At MLCC, 6:30 p.m. "The Grand Budapest Hotel." Rated R for language.

MLBEA Speakers Program, Oct. 13: At MLCC, 1 p.m. John Perchorowicz of Southern Arizona Search and Rescue.

Bunko, Oct. 14: At MLCC, 6:30 p.m. An easy game to learn and a good way to meet neighbors. Bring your own drinks and snacks to share.

Chili Cook-Off, Oct. 15: At MLCC, 5:30 p.m.

Wildflower Walk, Oct. 19: At Bear Wallow, 9:30 a.m. Led by David Dean. Last walk of the year; see fall colors. Park in Sunset Trail parking lot.

Water District customer q-and-a, Oct. 22: At Zimmerman School, 10 a.m.

Nature Hike, Oct. 26: At Meadows Trail, top of Mt. Lemmon, 9 a.m. Led by naturalists Cathy Yungbluth and David Dean.

Woman's Club Has Another Busy Month

Chipper crew: Sally Crum, Carol Niehoff, Luann Waldron, Karen Burrows and Sandi Triplett provided lunch for the hardworking crew.

Done-In-A-Day: We collected hygiene products for Tucson's Youth On Their Own.

Next meeting: Oct. 15, 1 p.m. at the MLCC.

Holiday Brunch: Dec. 3, at the Lodge at Ventana Canyon.

Catalina Village holiday event: Dec. 7. We need many donated items. Details in the November *Echoes*.

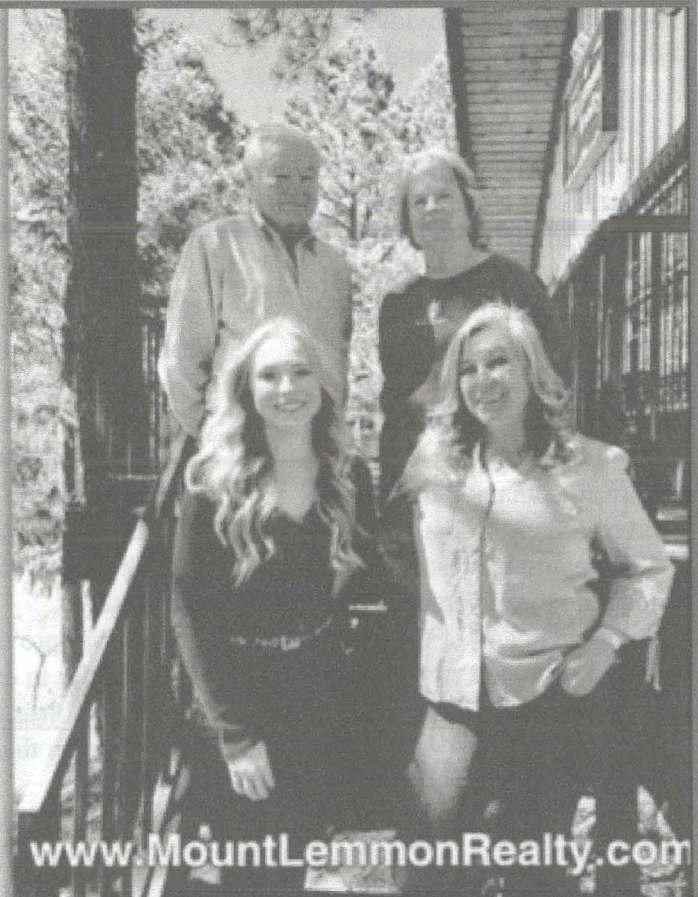
Fire Foundation Wins \$1,800 Trico Grant

The Mt. Lemmon Firefighters Foundation won an \$1,800 grant last month from Trico Electric Cooperative, the utility that serves Mt. Lemmon.

The grant was one of nine totaling \$35,000 that Trico awarded to nonprofits in its service areas in Southern Arizona as part of its charity program.

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Autumn, Spectacular Autumn, Is Upon Us

See the beauty on the year's final Wildflower Walk, Oct. 19 at Bear Wallow



Naturalist David Dean will lead walkers from the Sunset Trail parking lot, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19. The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club sponsors the walks.

Naturalist-led Mountain Hikes Start Oct. 26, Run Till Spring

**By Cathy Yungbluth
Volunteer Naturalist**

Mt. Lemmon offers marvels from the largest ponderosa pine to the smallest greater short-horned lizard. Here's an opportunity to explore them with naturalists and learn more about what makes the Santa Catalina Mountains special.

Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists, a non-profit known for teaching schoolchildren, is now offering naturalist-led hikes on Mt. Lemmon every Wednesday from October through April. They are free and open to everyone. Each hike will start at a predesignated trailhead.

The first hike, Wednesday,

Oct. 26, 9 a.m., will start at the Meadow Loop trailhead in the parking lot below the gate of the SkyCenter Observatory.

"Most people think summer is prime hiking season but I find fun and interesting things during the cooler months as well," said naturalist Cathy Yungbluth.

"And while no one naturalist knows everything, we will all have fun learning together in this spectacular open-air classroom."

Naturalist David Dean, who leads summer wildflower hikes on Mt. Lemmon said, "Traveling up the Catalinas is like driving from Mexico to Canada: each of the biomes you pass through has a unique

ecology with much to learn at each elevation."

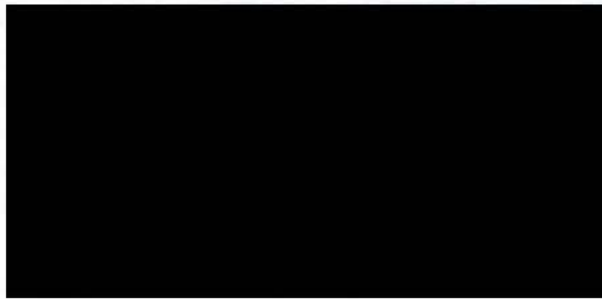
The naturalist-led hikes will cover two to five miles with varying levels of difficulty. Although these are slower-paced nature hikes, physical fitness is always required for walking at mountain elevations.

Participants should bring plenty of water, trail snacks or lunch, and dress in layers for the unpredictable mountain weather. Hiking poles may be helpful and supportive shoes are highly recommended. USFS fees apply to trailheads: \$8 or the appropriate Interagency Pass.

More information is at sabinonaturalists.org.

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Critter Pictures: Stealthy Wildlife All Around Us



One peanut at a time! Photographer Henry Johnson caught this gluttonous Steller's jay in Summerhaven about to swallow one peanut while grasping another in its beak.



John Lynch provided this image of a bobcat, taken by a trail cam under his deck on Middle Sabino Road.



Bonita Lohman found this squirrel sitting atop Bernie, her wood-carved bear, on her Phoenix Avenue porch.

Submit Your Wildlife Photos

The Echoes wants your photos of Mt. Lemmon wildlife. Submit photos, along with names of species and where photos were taken, to chihak.echoes@gmail.com.