

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Update on the Mt. Lemmon Water Shortage by Harper Cochran

Moisture levels on the mountain have increased significantly, and that is good news for residents on Mt. Lemmon, allowing the Mt. Lemmon Water District to move back to Stage 2 curtailment (voluntary 50% reduction in water usage). It takes a few weeks for the moisture from the recent snows to sink into the ground and really begin to increase water flow, according to Nate Davis, Manager of the Mt. Lemmon Water District. In early February, Davis reported that the source flows had doubled because of the snowfall on the mountain, but the water tanks had not yet filled. The shift from Stage 3 to Stage 2 curtailment means our water levels are finally improving.

One major contributing factor to the recent water shortage is that some residents who leave their homes on the mountain vacant for more than 24 hours do not shut off the water supply to the house when they leave. If a leak occurs in such a situation, nobody is there to notice, and the volume of water lost from these leaks can be extensive. When leaks occur on the system, whether it is a main line or a customer's location, it significantly slows the process of refilling the water tanks. Leaks can occur any time of the year. Davis reported that the Mt. Lemmon Water District found leaks at customer locations last summer when nobody was at home. If a customer is not present to notice a leak, it can take some time to notice the leak before large amounts of water have already been wasted. Davis says that the Mt. Lemmon Water District is trying to get funding for new customer meters that can send alerts about leaks when there is a constant flow.

Many residents have been working extraordinarily hard to conserve water, and for that the Mt. Lemmon Water District is grateful. We hope for continued precipitation on the mountain to help us continue to refill our water tanks!



Snow on the mountain (photo courtesy of Michael Stanley)

Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community Receives Chipper Donation by Sally Crum

On February 15, the Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community took possession of a commercial wood chipper, thanks to the generosity of Mike and Susan Anderson.

It began with a conversation at the Annual White Elephant Party between Dorothy Johnson and the Andersons about the challenges we've had scheduling chipper crews for our reduction efforts with hazardous fuels. Mike and Susan had previously owned a small chipper which they shared with their neighbors. Continuing discussions led to Mike locating a previously owned chipper for sale. After arranging to have it inspected for mechanical soundness, Randall Miller delivered it to the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station on February 16.



Wood chipper donated to the Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community by Mike and Susan Anderson (photo courtesy of Sally Crum)

Remembering Tina Hanks

by Carol Niehoff

So many friends from Mount Lemmon remember Tina Hanks, and those who knew her well were always impressed by her love of the mountain. Her generosity of spirit led her to help the mountain whenever asked. One example was the quilt she made for a raffle to benefit the water district. She found the most extraordinary design, reminiscent of a waterfall, purchased all the fabric and enlisted many MLWC members to work on crafting the most beautiful blue creation! Rather than complete the project on her own, she recognized the value of group participation and brought us together to construct the quilt. I remember working with Catalina Blair, attempting to pull together colors and designs that would complement each other. It was a dizzying experience but fun to share with Catalina. The raffle was a success and funded educational expenses for district employees. On many days Tina and I sat and discussed possible solutions to community problems. She was hoping to take them all on! We'll never replace Tina, but we can encourage many to work toward her example of generosity toward the mountain community. You may find Tina's obituary at legacy.com.



Tina Hanks (photo courtesy of Carol Niehoff)



The beautiful quilt Tina helped MLWC make for a raffle benefitting the Mt. Lemmon Water District. (photo courtesy of Carol Niehoff)

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MLHOA Tradition Lives On with the Annual Dinner on Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Your Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association by-laws require us to have an annual meeting to be held on the Tuesday the week after the US Tax Day, and it is the first big opportunity of the season to gather and visit with "old" friends and meet the many new to the mountain. This happy event will be held again at the popular Doubletree by Hilton in Tucson – Reid Park, centrally located at 443 South Alvernon Way.

Come for Registration and Happy Hour Cash Bar: 5:30-6:30 PM

Delicious dinner buffet served at 6:30 PM

A short business meeting and important speakers, followed by drawings for several exciting door prizes and raffle tickets

The Summit Award will be final highlight of the evening!

Please get your reservations in right away, completing the coupon (below), and sending your remittance to MLHOA, P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. Deadline for reservations is **Friday, April 19th. No reservations or checks taken at the door!!! See you there!!**

Questions? **Contact Linda Currin**
520-247-2582 or
lcurrin81@gmail.com

Menu for the Annual Dinner: The Cookout

Iceberg Salad, Cotija, Chopped Bacon, Tomato, Cucumber, Ranch Dressing
Pasta Salad
Chili Spiced Pulled Pork with Ancho Chili Glaze
Grilled chicken, Chipotle BBQ Sauce
Sonoran style Ranch Beans
Fire Roasted Green Chili Macaroni and Cheese
Yogurt Jalapeno Corn bread, Whipped Agave Butter
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
Apple Pie
Coffee, Iced Tea

2024 Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association Annual Dinner

Location: Doubletree, Tucson-Reid Park.
Menu: The Cookout, \$60 per guest

Name _____

Add'l Guest _____

Add'l Guest _____

Add'l Guest _____

Total Paid (\$60 per guest): _____

Please send remittance to: MLHOA, P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Checks due by **April 19, 2024.**

Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association - 2024

Annual Dues \$45.00, payable to MLHOA
(\$40.00 if paid by Annual Dinner)

Mail this form and your check to:

MLHOA

P.O. Box 699

Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mt Lemmon Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mt Lemmon Phone _____

Email Address _____

Check One

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March/April Calendar

3/16

- ML Water District Board, Zimmerman School, 8:30 AM
- MLHOA Board, Zoom, 10 AM
- MLWC, Wilmot Library, 1 PM

3/18

- ML Fire Board, Fire Station and via Zoom at mlfdaz.org, 4 PM

3/23

- MLWC at Southern District Conference

3/30

- Firewise Assessor Training (see page 7)

4/23

- Annual Dinner at the Doubletree Tucson Reid Park. Details on page 3!

Note: March 18 is the deadline for submitting items for the April 2024 issue of the *Echoes*.

How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Information

By Matthew Grossman

Here are online resources to keep Mt. Lemmon residents informed between editions of *The Echoes*:

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 Homeowners' Association maintains a website at mtlemmonhoa.org. Get informed and contribute to the community.
3. Sign up at Nextdoor.com, using your cabin street address. If you use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a new email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This offers general information and important communication, especially with wildfires and road closures.
4. MLFDAZ.org is the web address for our Fire Department. On the home page, under the Resources tab, is Firewise. This takes you to important information and forms, including an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

About *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes*

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is published 10 times a year, February through November, by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association.

To contribute stories, photos and calendar items, or for additional information about the *Echoes*, email Editor Susan Miller-Cochran at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com.

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President's Corner: March 2024

by Sally Crum

Your MLHOA Executive Board had its first meeting of the year on February 17, after taking a winter break, and spent time working on issues and upcoming events. We also received updates from the ML Water District, US Forest Service and Pima County.

Some members of the Executive Board, along with members of the Mt. Lemmon Business Economic Association, met recently with Pima County Dept. of Transportation, Visit Tucson, Pima County Economic Development, and Beth Borozan of Steve Christy's office. The intent was to explore 'What's Next' after the construction this coming fall of new parking and restrooms as the result of the FLAP grant. Mt. Lemmon is a major tourist attraction, and congestion is a primary concern for businesses, residents, and visitors alike. We will continue to meet and hope to schedule another Town Hall-type meeting for the 2nd quarter this year.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 23 at the Doubletree Hotel on Alvernon. Details and a reservation form can be found on page 3. We hope to see you there! It's a wonderful opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones as we kick off the spring and summer on the mountain.

The **FLAP Grant Townhall meeting** was held Mar. 2 at the Wilmot Library. Final plans and details were provided about the construction in Summerhaven of nearly 100 new parking spaces as well as additional restrooms and road improvements. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2025.

USFS Scheduled Burns: The Forest Service has been busy burning piles in the Bear Wallow and Marshall Gulch area with plans to do more, as weather permits.

Deep Thoughts...

from Linda Currin

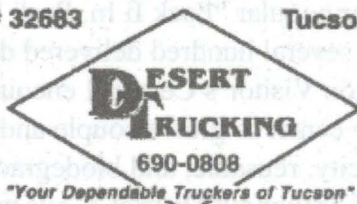
Do you ever wonder...

- ◆ Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- ◆ Why the person who invests all your money is called a "broker"?
- ◆ Why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins the Lottery?"

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Take to the Trails

by Dan Leade, MLFD

As winter shifts to spring and the weather begins to warm, one of the best times to enjoy hiking on Mount Lemmon arrives. Bird watching, viewing the budding foliage, exercising, or simply exploring are just some of the enjoyable activities that visitors and residents take advantage of on the many hiking trails atop Mount Lemmon. That said, it is important to remember that there are hazards associated with hiking that can result in many different types of injuries; some of them life-threatening. Getting lost is an all-too-common occurrence on the mountain, adverse weather conditions can occur at a moment's notice, and dangerous animals may be present. Many trails have been affected by wildfire, and some pose unique hazards not found in other areas like falling trees, loose soil/rocks and trail damage.

In order to help hikers enjoy the outdoors and mitigate risk, the National Parks Service lists ten essential health and safety items to consider when planning a hike: navigation, sun protection, insulation, illumination, first aid supplies, a way to start a fire, a repair kit or tools, nutrition, hydration, and an emergency shelter. No list will be all inclusive, and it is impossible to prepare for every possible emergency, but this is a great place to start. In addition, some other tips are to let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back. Hike with at least one other person. Research the trail and stay on it. Wear proper hiking gear and research the anticipated weather for your hike.

Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Happy Hiking!



Snow on Upper Loma Linda (photo courtesy of Michael Stanley)

From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

It's hard to believe that we are already almost one-quarter of the way through our eighth year of service to the Mt. Lemmon Community. The time certainly has flown by, and it is remarkable to look back and then see where we are now, especially in Summerhaven.

This year, we are continuing our efforts to facilitate discussion, collaboration, and ultimately solutions for mountain residents and visitors. We are working with the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association to assemble quarterly meetings addressing subjects of community concern. The first is in early March and revolves around the upcoming FLAP Grant project that will just about double the number of available parking spaces and add public restrooms, beyond the south end of the village, near Marshall Gulch. Next up is the topic of water and wastewater processing. And while we have made great progress, the topics of road conditions and trash remain top of mind.

Speaking of trash, we recently ordered more of our popular "Pack It In, Pack It Out" trash bags, with several hundred delivered directly to the Mt. Lemmon Visitor's Center. I encourage you to stop by the center to grab a couple and share these large capacity, reusable, and biodegradable bags.

Throughout District 4, our team cares for our community and in the Santa Catalina Mountains, which I call "Pima County's playground," you know you can always call on Beth and me.

Firewising during Mexican Spotted Owl Breeding Season and Other Firewise Information

by Sally Crum, Firewise Chair

March is here, which marks the beginning of the Mexican Spotted Owl Breeding Season. This means that between March 1 and September 1st, those of us on National Forest Service property may not use power tools, including gasoline or electric chain saws, for removing/thinning hazardous fuels. Those in Summerhaven, on private property, do not have the same restrictions. But you can rake/remove pine needles and other flammable fuels from around the base of your cabin and from your gutters (VERY IMPORTANT!) You can also paint or seal unfinished wood siding or decks, caulk gaps and holes where embers could ignite a fire, and replace or upgrade siding and stairs with metal or concrete, and wood roofing materials with asphalt shingles, metal or tile.

THANK YOU to Mike and Susan Anderson for the donation of a wood chipper so that we are not restricted to scheduling and using outside agencies to assist us. Please see the article on page 1 for more details. The burn pile at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station will be unavailable until the renovation of the station is complete, so the availability of our own wood chipper is very critical to keeping our hazardous fuels under control.

As a reminder, here are some of the important dates for the Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community:

- ◆ **March 30:** Firewise Assessor Training*
- ◆ **May 5:** National Community Wildlife Preparedness Day (activities to be announced)
- ◆ **May 25:** Firewise Community Education and Block Party Day
- ◆ **Late July or early August:** Firewise Appreciation Potluck

2024 TRICO ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 11 AM

Casino del Sol Resort

5655 W. Valencia Rd.

APRIL						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

Come join us as we reflect on our progress and discuss our future goals

- 9 a.m. — Registration opens
- 9–11 a.m. — Informational Booths and Workshops
- 11 a.m. — Meeting starts
- Please bring a copy of your bill for fast check in
- Win raffle prizes (must be present to win)
- Trees will be available for purchase



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* This training is open to ALL. If you are a cabin owner who is interested in specific training on steps you can take to reduce the risk of wildfire to YOUR property, please join your Neighborhood Captains for classroom and hands-on training. Please contact Dorothy Johnson at dj.dorothyjohnson@gmail.com and let her know if you are interested. There is no cost for the training, but reservations are required so that there enough training materials are available.

GET INVOLVED – Volunteers are needed for help with Social Media, Event Planning, becoming a Neighborhood Captain, and administrative areas. Please contact me @ sbc602@gmail.com or Dorothy Johnson (contact information above). This is an opportunity to truly make a difference in Reducing Wildfire Risk on our beloved mountain AND you get to have fun and meet your neighbors!

Trico Electric Cooperative to Receive \$7M Grant for Clean Rural Microgrid Project in Arivaca

Trico is one of seven cooperatives across the country participating in a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) consortium that was selected to receive \$45 million in funding from the Department of Energy to build solar and battery microgrids in rural communities. The benefit is expected to be around \$7M to Trico Members, which Trico will use to build a solar generation and battery energy storage microgrid system in rural Southern Arizona.

To help provide reliable, cost-effective service to its Members, reduce the impacts of climate challenges, and advance clean energy in rural Arizona, Trico has developed the Clean Energy Rural Microgrid Project to serve Trico Members in Arivaca, AZ. The project will use solar generation and battery energy storage to provide increased electric reliability and sustainable energy to a traditionally disadvantaged community.

Arivaca is currently served by a single power line. Trico works hard to maintain that line and will continue to do so. This project will provide Trico with an additional means of serving our Arivaca Members and help improve reliability throughout the year, including monsoon season.

When not being used for reliability purposes, the microgrid project will provide energy and capacity for the Trico system and help Trico to reduce its loads at peak time periods. This will help reduce costs for all Trico Members and increase the amount of renewable energy on Trico's system.

"This is an excellent result for Trico's Members and southern Arizona," said Brian Heithoff, Trico CEO & General Manager. "We are excited about this opportunity to work with NRECA and the Department of Energy. They share Trico's commitment to innovation and service. This funding and our microgrid project will help us provide Members reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy solutions."

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Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club Events

by Sandi Triplett

On Wednesday, February 21, members of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club enjoyed the opportunity to gather informally for coffee at Coffee Exchange at Tanque Verde and Camino Principal in Tucson. It was wonderful to see each other!

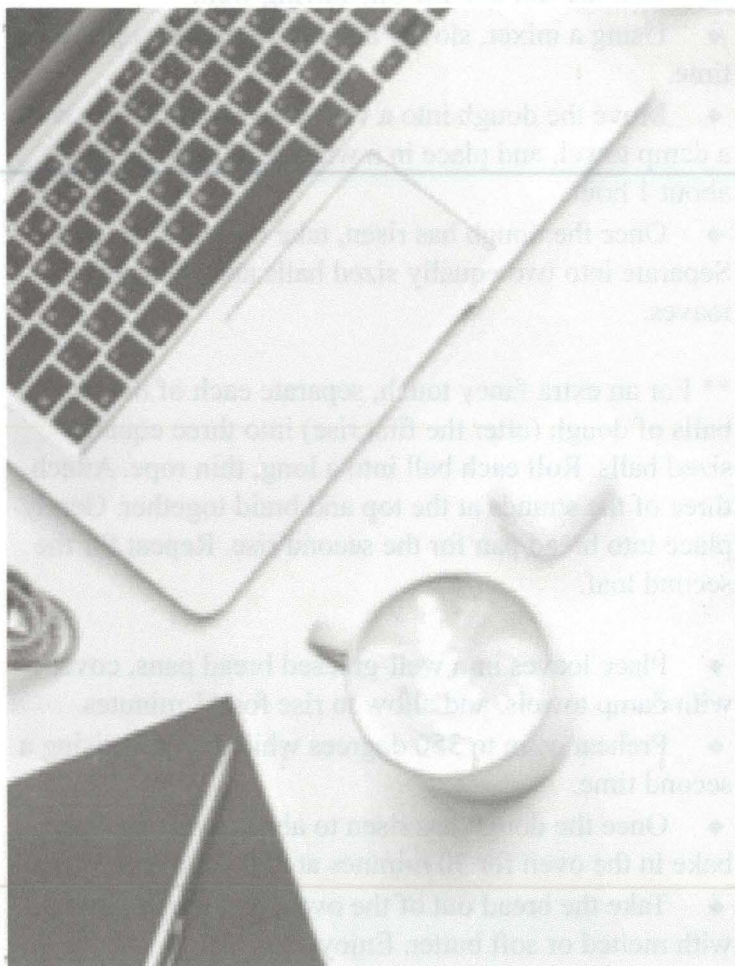
Our first official meeting of 2024 will be held at the Wilmot library on **Saturday March 16 at 1:00 PM**. On that date, we will hear the report from the nominating committee regarding upcoming officers (come see if your name is on the ballot) as well as updates on planning for upcoming events such as Cabin Tours and the 4th of July Parade.

The Southern District Conference will take place on **Saturday March 23** in Tucson at the Tucson Woman's Club at 6245 E Bellevue (Bellevue and Wilmot). Please contact Sandi Triplett if you are interested in attending.

Our first meeting of 2024 on the mountain will be **Saturday April 20 at 1:00 PM** at the Community Center, and we will vote for our 2024-2026 officers.



Members of the MLWC gather for coffee at Coffee Exchange on February 21. Their first official meeting of 2024 will be held March 16 at the Wilmot Library. (photo courtesy of Tami Arthur)



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Those Yellow Tags

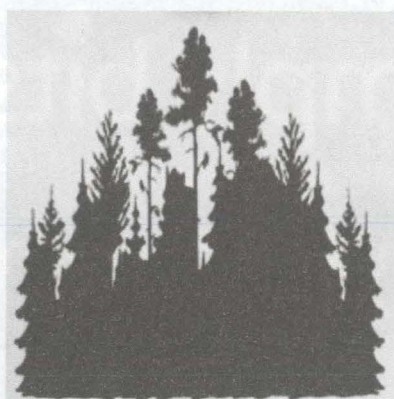
by Sally Crum

At the recent MLHOA Executive Board Meeting it was discovered that there has been some confusion about the use of the Yellow Tags issued to members of the Mt. Lemmon, Soldier Camp, and Willow Canyon Homeowner/Cabin Owner Associations. Here are the guidelines for their use.

- ◆ The tags are available for \$5.00 ea. to owners to help law enforcement differentiate vehicles which should be parked on your property, especially during heavy snow days and other busy days when there is a parking shortage, from trespassers.

- ◆ When the road is 'Closed to all except Residents and Employees', you must provide proof of ownership, such as a driver's license with a Mt. Lemmon address, a Trico bill for the Mt. Lemmon address, or a copy of your Special Use Permit for Forest Service Cabin Owners. The Yellow Tag is NOT acceptable as proof of residency.

- ◆ Tags may be purchased for \$5.00 from Debbie Fagan at the Living Rainbow. Be prepared to show her proof of residency as well.



**MT.
LEMMON**

**SUMMERHAVEN
WILLOW CANYON
SOLDIER CAMP**

Homemade Bread

a recipe from Susan Miller-Cochran

I've made this bread so many times that I sometimes joke that I could do it in my sleep. In fact, I think I have dreamt about making it. And I've definitely dreamt about eating it. I first learned to bake bread as a teenager when I worked summers at a bed & breakfast in Estes Park, CO. As far as I'm concerned, there is no better bread recipe out there than this one.

Ingredients:

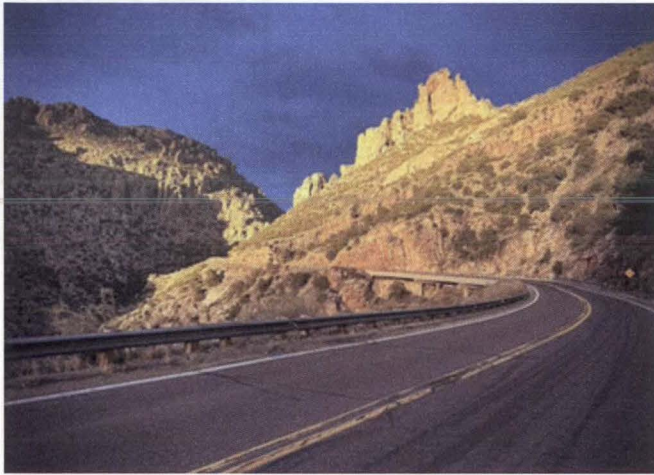
2 cups lukewarm water
2/3 cup sugar
1 1/2 Tbsp yeast
1 1/2 tsp salt
1/4 cup oil
6 cups flour

Instructions:

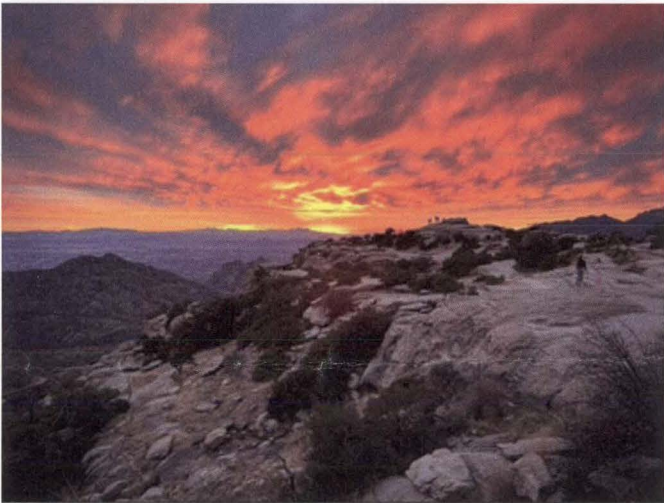
- ◆ Dissolve the sugar into the water.
- ◆ Add the yeast and stir until there is a light foam.
- ◆ Add the salt and the oil, stirring well.
- ◆ Using a mixer, slowly add the flour one cup at a time.
- ◆ Move the dough into a well-oiled bowl, cover with a damp towel, and place in a warm, undrafty place for about 1 hour.
- ◆ Once the dough has risen, take it out of the bowl. Separate into two equally sized balls and shape into loaves.

****** For an extra fancy touch, separate each of the two balls of dough (after the first rise) into three equally sized balls. Roll each ball into a long, thin rope. Attach three of the strands at the top and braid together. Gently place into bread pan for the second rise. Repeat for the second loaf.

- ◆ Place loaves into well-greased bread pans, cover with damp towels, and allow to rise for 45 minutes.
- ◆ Preheat oven to 350 degrees while bread is rising a second time.
- ◆ Once the dough has risen to about twice its size, bake in the oven for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.
- ◆ Take the bread out of the oven, and brush the top with melted or soft butter. Enjoy!



Golden hour on the Catalina Highway in March (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



Sunset at Windy Point in March (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

Share Your Photos...Win a Book!

We would love to publish your photos of the mountain! For the April 2024 issue, share your favorite images of Mt. Lemmon scenery in the springtime. We'll select a few to be published in the *Echoes*, and those photographers will receive a signed copy of the newly-released (Feb. 2024) novel *Jordan Version 3.2* by Summerhaven author, Stacey Cochran (Blank Slate Press).

For April: What are your favorite images of Mt. Lemmon in the spring?

To participate, follow these simple steps:

- ◆ Send your photo as a .jpg or .png file to the editor at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com
- ◆ Photos must be emailed by March 18, 2024
- ◆ Please indicate who should be credited for the photo
- ◆ Include a brief description of the photo
- ◆ Include your mailing address to win a book

That's it. Share the beauty of Mt. Lemmon, contribute to the *Echoes*, and start your spring/summer reading list!

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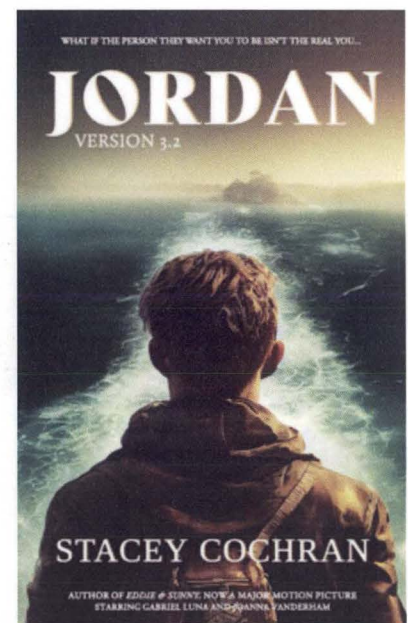
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Win a copy of *Jordan Version 3.2* by Stacey Cochran! (image courtesy of the author)

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