

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Board of Supervisors Meeting Addresses Affordable Dwelling Insurance in Wildfire Prone Areas

Dorothy Johnson and Sally Crum

On June 18, Barbara Richardson, Director of Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI) spoke to the Pima County Board of Supervisors about the urgent need for "Affordable Dwelling Insurance in Wildfire Prone Areas." The presentation offered several highlights important to Mt. Lemmon homeowners:

1. In high-risk areas, companies that had been covering a large portion of properties are pulling back so that the risk can be shared by more carriers. Arizona's DIFI surveyed insurance companies to find those that are willing to cover properties in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and have compiled a list of those carriers. It is available on their website: <https://difi.az.gov/home-insurance>. Look for HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE COMPANIES - FORESTED AREAS.

2. If your agent is tied to a particular carrier or company, the DIFI document gives resources for locating an unaffiliated agent:

- Arizona Independent Agent & Brokers Association - <https://www.iaabaz.com> (preferred)

- Arizona Surplus Lines Association - 602-279-6344. (According to Surplus Lines Insurance: What It Is, How It Works, Uses, and Types, Surplus Lines insurance "protects against a financial risk that is too great or too uncommon for a regular insurance company to take on." It is generally much more expensive, and "There is no guaranty fund from which to obtain a claim payment if the surplus lines insurer goes bankrupt, as is the case with standard insurance policies."

3. Insurance companies are looking for communities that are serious about reducing wildfire risks/hazards (ours clearly is) and owners who are making significant mitigation efforts to "thoughtfully" protect their property, "not just doing a couple of things." These kinds of efforts could include consideration of landscaping choices, clearing debris, establishing defensible space, and using fire-resistant building materials.

(continued on page 2)



Linda Block, Vonnie Hickman, and Don Hickman volunteer at the Firewise Block Party on Saturday, May 25, 2024 (photo courtesy of Henry Johnson)

Steve and Lindy Brigham with Harold Thurston, successful bidder for Stihl Chain Saw and accessories. The Brigbams donated the saw to raise money for Firewise efforts (photo courtesy of Henry Johnson)



USFS Updates

by Amanda Adams, USFS

Greetings from the US Forest Service. As you all know, the mountain is busy with visitors and camps. With the heat, many of our amazing Coronado volunteers have moved up the mountain.

The second weekend of June brought the Candelighters: Childhood Cancer Foundation of Southern Arizona to Camp Lawton for their family camp event. The Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists sent 5 naturalists to set up displays and activities for the families on Friday evening. The families enjoyed a nature hike with hidden animals and a scavenger hunt, a rocks and mineral table, and an "Ask a Naturalist" table featuring skulls, pelts, and cactus.

The Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists (SCVN) are also hosting weekly Mount Lemmon Summer Hikes. They start at 9am every Friday in the summer from various trailheads on the mountain. You can find more information about July hikes offered by SCVN on page 11.

Some of our Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol members have moved up the mountain to patrol and be of assistance on the trails. Please feel free to say hi. They love to talk with the public and answer questions. David Dean, a longtime patroller, is closing in on 5,000 volunteer hours in our district! This summer, you will find him at the parking lot of the Summit Trailhead 2 to 3 days a week handing out maps and answering questions from hikers and tourists.

We are also engaging youth in volunteer work on Mount Lemmon. Boy Scout troops and church camp groups are cleaning up litter, pulling invasives, and inventorying plant specimens.

We are grateful for the service of our many volunteers. If you, or anybody you know, are interested in joining the volunteer efforts on the Santa Catalina Ranger District, please reach out to Partnership Coordinator Amanda Adams at: amanda.adams@usda.gov.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Addresses Affordable Home Insurance

(continued from page 1)

Several Mt. Lemmon residents attended in person, while others were able to watch live on YouTube. After Ms. Richardson's presentation, I was able to respond and speak to the need for the Arizona legislature to enact legislation comparable to the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan which is available in other states including California. According to Explanation of the FAIR Plan by the balance, this facilitates coverage of high risk properties at higher prices. The article goes on to say that owner steps to decrease risk are required. The Board of Supervisors responded positively and will follow up with the County's lobbyist to look at legislation to provide safety-net insurance.

We will seek to provide updates, as they occur.

(right) A Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalist helps at the Candelighters of Southern Arizona event at Camp Lawton the second week of June (photo courtesy of Amanda Adams)



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From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

While we sear on the desert floor, the high country is attracting a large number of visitors. We are concerned that some are not mindful of responsible campsite use, and specifically putting out their campfires. We are told that there will not be Stage 2 fire restrictions this season, although that's being evaluated weekly, so we worked with the Transportation Department and the Sheriff's Department to have the signage at Mile Post 0 remind visitors of the extreme fire danger.

As I write this, there are forecasts of incoming monsoon activity. We all want the rain, yet it may delay the Gen. Hitchcock Hwy. repairs (from about MP 0 to MP 3), which are scheduled to be complete by Independence Day, with no work occurring on the weekends. We have also asked Transportation to evaluate and repair the upper highway conditions. You can help us by reporting potholes, downed signs, and more via the See Click Fix app.

We spearheaded the initiative to call attention to, and solutions to, the lack of available and affordable insurance for mountain property owners. Recently, we placed on the agenda, and the Board of Supervisors voted to direct letters to the State Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions Director Barbara Richardson and Governor Hobbs asking for action to aid property owners in wildfire prone areas. Director Richardson presented during the June 18 Supervisors meeting and your HOA President Sally Crum spoke eloquently and directly about the situation. It was great to see our mountain residents who attended the meeting huddled with the director in the lobby after the agenda item. There is more work to do, and updates will follow.

I encourage all to enjoy your Independence Day holiday and delight in the greatest spectacle in the village, your annual parade. Happy Fourth of July!

A Guide to Monsoon Safety by Dan Reade, MLFD

As monsoons are quickly approaching, it is easy to get excited about cooler temperatures and much needed precipitation. While always a welcome time of year, this season presents some unique hazards.

Flash flooding, as the name indicates, occurs very quickly and often with deadly results. If you are planning to be outside during the monsoon season, it is crucial to check local forecasts for flash flood watches/warnings. If caught in flooding conditions, never attempt to drive or walk through the flood waters. These waters are fast-moving, murky, full of debris, and difficult to gauge the depth of.

Lightning is another major concern during monsoon season. Lightning strikes are a frequent occurrence during monsoons. Per the Arizona Emergency Information, if you are in a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees, while you should go to a low place such as a ravine or valley and be alert for flash floods if caught in an open area. If you feel your hair stand on end, lightning is about to strike. Do not lie flat on the ground. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet and place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees to make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground.

Other safety concerns to be aware of are rapidly deteriorating driving conditions, dropping temperatures, falling trees, downed power lines, and rock slides. Be especially cautious in previously burned areas.

Although this list is not all-inclusive, the safety tips listed are always worth an annual review. Enjoy the monsoons with all their positive advantages, but please do so safely.



July Events Calendar

7/4, 12 PM: Summerhaven 4th of July parade

7/5, 7 PM: Movies on the Mountain, Mt.

Lemmon Lodge (pg. 7)

7/6, 1-4 PM (and Saturdays throughout July):

Music on the Mountain, Mt. Lemmon Lodge
(pg. 7)

7/19, 6:30 PM: Bunko, ML Community Center

7/20, 8:30 AM: ML Water District Board,

Zimmerman School

10 AM: MLHOA Board meeting, Community
Center (pg. 6)

1 PM: ML Woman's Club meeting, Community
Center (pg. 10)

2:30 PM: Speaker Series: Don Hickman
and Jesús Garcia (pg. 5)

7/22, 4 PM: ML Fire Board, Fire Station and
via Zoom at mldaz.org

7/27, 5-7 PM: Loma Sabino HOA Potluck,
MLCC

Upcoming August Events

8/17: Save the date for the Firewise Appreciation
Celebration/Potluck

9/1: Save the date for the Labor Day Pancake
Breakfast

Note: **July 22** is the deadline for submitting items
for the August 2024 issue of the Echoes. Please
submit any articles, photos, or events to
mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com

How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Information by Matthew Grossman and DJ Johnson

We have several resources that help to keep
Mt. Lemmon residents informed between editions of
The Echoes:

1. Join our Google Group for email updates. To
join go to <https://groups.google.com/g/mtlemmonhoa> and request to join. You will receive
an acceptance email within days.

2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowners' Association
maintains a website at **mtlemmonhoa.org**.

3. Sign up at **Nextdoor.com**, using your cabin
street address. This is an informal network that
many residents use for sharing information.

4. **MLFDAZ.org** is the web address for our Fire
Department's website. Its **Firewise** tab takes you to
the **Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community** website,
the doorway to important information and forms to
get connected (Connections, Neighborhoods and
Request Assessment), plan your firewising (an
invaluable 13-minute video and Firewising Your Mt.
Lemmon Cabin), access support, understand bark
beetle and cheatgrass, and provide information to
your overnight guests.

5. For the most timely updates, open "Mt
Lemmonite Connections" on the Firewise website
and click to fill out the form that provides your
email to Mt Lemmon Firewise and, *only if/as you
choose*, to Mt Lemmon Fire District, Mt Lemmon
Women's Club, MLHOA, and Sky Islands Kids
Club.

About *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes*

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is published ten times a
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or for additional information about the *Echoes*,
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Summer Speaker Series

by Robin Kirk and Susan Miller-Cochran

On Saturday, **June 15th, 2024**, the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club held the second Speaker Program of the season at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. The speaker was Butch Farabee, a retired National Park Service officer who served in Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Glacier National Parks. Approximately sixty people attended to hear Farabee share details of the history of Search and Rescue operations in Southern Arizona throughout the twentieth century. The information that Farabee shared is also documented in his book *Southern Arizona Search and Rescue History: 1901-2000*, which is available as a free download online at butchfarabee.com/download.html.

Upcoming events in the Speaker Series include:

- Saturday, **July 20th, 2024**, 2:30 pm: Don Hickman, a Mt. Lemmon resident, on cultivating and growing heritage Mt. Lemmon apple trees and Jesús García, from Mission Gardens and the Desert Museum, on successful growing and grafting fruit trees on the mountain and in Tucson.
- Saturday, **August 17th, 2024**, 2:30 pm: Teresa Wilson, RN, MSN, will speak on Domestic/Intimate Violence and Human Trafficking. This topic is a focus topic of the National Woman's Club and the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club.
- Saturday, **September 21st, 2024**, 2:30 pm: "Artists of Mt Lemmon" panel and exhibition of art work. Local artists will discuss their inspiration, techniques, supplies, style, and history of their artistic lives. Artists on the panel include: Pam Haskell, Thompson Hughes, Carol Niehoff, Jeanne Hartman, Lindy Brigham, Steve Brigham, and Mary Torrance.

All programs are open to the public and free of charge. They are sponsored by the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club as a public outreach to the community.

Mt Lemmon Woman's Club

by Sandi Triplett, MLWC President

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club has been busy in June! Last month Sally Crawford chaired her twenty-first successful annual Woman's Club cabin tour with Mike and Susan Anderson providing the host cabin. The following week, Luann Waldron chaired our annual membership luncheon, and Denny and Leigh Anne Thrasher hosted the event.

At our June membership meeting, we set up committees for the 2025 cabin tours, the annual membership luncheon, the Fourth of July parade, our directory update, and a finance team to research event insurance. We welcome members to join these teams. In June we also had a very successful Done in a Day project: we collected much-needed supplies and cash for Sister Jose's shelter for women.

Following our June membership meeting, we were treated to the speaker program featuring Butch Farabee from Search and Rescue. See more information about the Speaker Series in the article on this page. We are also excited to be the sponsor of the Mt Lemmon Fourth of July parade. Thank you to Hazel Rugg and her team for putting this important annual event together!

Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 20, at 1:00 pm at the Mt Lemmon Community Center. Our Done in a Day project in July will be donations of supplies for the non-profit More Than a Bed.



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MLHOA News You Can Use

by Sally Crum, president

Hopefully, you are taking advantage of the cooler temperatures on the mountain and meeting up with friends and neighbors once again.

Every third weekend of the month finds Lemmonites meeting and socializing. Our FIRST Bunko event on June 14th saw over 20 people having a great time, so join your friends and neighbors on July 19th for our next Bunko party! No experience required!

The MLHOA Executive Board meeting took place on June 15th. We have opportunities for YOU to participate as a member of our board. Please consider stepping up and providing your expertise to our organization. Current board: president, Sally Crum; vice-president, Jenni Zimmerman; secretary, John Osborne; treasurer, Michael Singervalt. Members include Linda Currin, Matthew Grossman, Peter Krauss, Kim McNurlin, John Mulay, and Tom Thomas. Susan Miller-Cochran serves as editor for the *Echoes*. Some members have served faithfully for many years and would like to step down and turn over the reins as we prepare for what the future holds for our community.

At another meeting on June 15th, Trico provided information on its continuing efforts to reduce fire risk by maintaining rights-of-way and wrapping poles with fire retardant material. See the story on page 10.

Members of the community attended the Pima County Board of Supervisors meeting June 18th to hear a presentation by AZ Dept. of Insurance and Financial Institutions Director, Barbara Richardson on Affordable Dwelling Insurance in Wildfire Prone Areas. See this important article on pages 1 and 3. We continue to advocate for available/affordable wildfire/homeowners' insurance.

The 4th of July Parade is right around the corner. Hopefully you will either be participating or attending. Thank you to Steve Christy's District 4 Office for helping obtain a dumpster to assist with our trash needs during this very popular weekend!

As the Mt. Lemmon Fire District facility begins its renovation and remodel, demolition will begin in August of this year and will impact our annual Pancake Breakfast on 9/1/24. Stay tuned for updates on this fun event!

Thanks to all of you for your support. See you on the mountain!

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WHEN: Saturday July 27th 5-7PM

WHERE: Mt. Lemmon Community Center

Please bring a dish/dessert to share. Plates, utensil & drinks will be provided.

Come and meet new and old neighbors in our association and the current LSHOA Board members.

Events at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge



The Mount Lemmon Lodge will be continuing to host Music on the Mountain and Movie Nights in July, and they've added some other events to the summer schedule that you might want to mark on your calendar:

July 5 - Movies on the Mountain - Lodge Deck 7pm

July 6 - Music on the Mountain - Tom Walbank and the Ambassadors (Blues) 2-5 pm

July 13 - Music on the Mountain - Gift Horse (70's Classic Rock) 2-5 pm

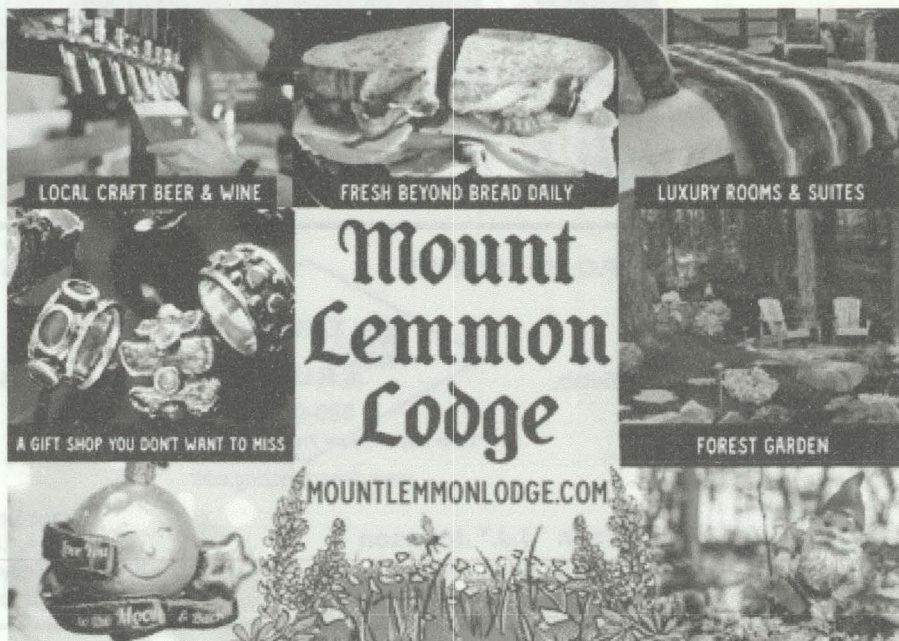
July 19 - One Year Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 11 am

July 20 - Music on the Mountain - John Hughes (Saxophone) 12-3pm

July 27 - Music on the Mountain - Max Goldschmid Trio (Jazz) 4-7pm

Upcoming Movie Nights will be held August 2 and September 6.

On **October 26**, the Mt. Lemmon Lodge will host a Murder Mystery Dinner, featuring an original script that will feature the location and its history. Save the date!



Keep Up Your Firewising Efforts!

by Sally Crum

There is still time to schedule your **FIREWISE ASSESSMENT!** Request your Firewise Assessment and have it completed, to be entered into a drawing to win a **FREE night's lodging at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge.** The Firewise Assessment is an opportunity for you to get recommendations about what YOU can do to **REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE** to your cabin. We have trained Firewise Assessors available and standing by. Just complete the form at mlfdaz.org/firewise. The application is located under 'Firewising on Mt. Lemmon'. You will be contacted for an appointment. The drawing will be held at the Firewise Appreciation and Recognition Celebration on August 17.

And don't forget to report your **hours and \$ spent** on your Firewise work. Complete and submit your information for an opportunity to win prizes, including a quilt, a Henry Johnson photo and other prizes. The drawing will also be held at the Firewise Appreciation and Recognition Celebration on August 17.

Another chipper event will be held in September. This will include Forest Service properties in Soldiers Camp and Willow Canyon, as well as Summerhaven. More details will be available as time gets closer. **PLEASE PLEASE** continue your Firewise efforts to create defensible space, and reduce your wildfire risk.

And...**SAVE THE DATE!**

2024 Firewise Appreciation and Recognition Celebration and Taco Bar!

August 17 at 5:30 PM at the MLCC.

July Sawmill Run Events

July 6: Live Music 6 PM The Egg Thieves

July 13: Bingo 6 PM

July 20: Live Music 6 PM The Egg Thieves

July 27: Bingo 6 PM

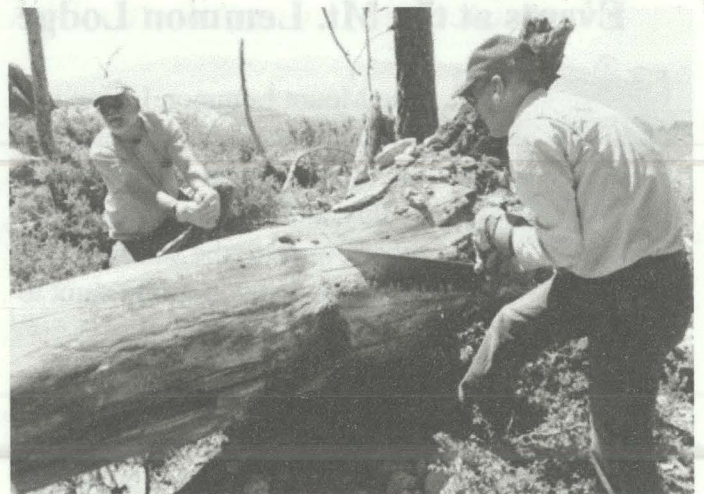
The Mt. Lemmon Sawyers

by Leigh Anne Thrasher

Jasmine and I first met Tom Kimmel, founder of "Tom's Sawyers," on a gnarly Mint Springs trail long before the Aspen Fire of 2003. Tom was sawing on a fallen tree bigger around than Santa Claus! Tom was nearly finished sawing when we came along, but we still witnessed the best show ever watching that guy use his saw to clear that tree. It was the start of our love affair with the Mt. Lemmon Sawyers.

Over the years I have come to appreciate all they do for our mountain trails and the Arizona Trail. The Sawyers undergo training from the Forest Service. They are a tight knit team, skilled at swinging picks and using a variety of handheld saws to clear trails. Each person on the team brings their unique skills and personalities to the task of clearing, protecting, and preserving the trails. The bigger the challenge, the bigger the prize of seeing a job well done. The trails can be choked with dense thickets and toppled trees from recent storms with each obstacle requiring a careful blend of strength, strategy, and the right equipment.

I love these guys and gals. They have made so many memories for me and Jasmine. I would love to tell you my latest Sawyer tale called "The Boulder and Rock Wall Snag." It's a whopper! If you see them on a trail, please thank them and tell them Jasmine sends her love. Oh, by the way...see me sometime and I'll tell you about their email signature block!



(above) Lee and Dave sawing with the Mt. Lemmon Sawyers.
(photo courtesy of Leigh Anne Thrasher)

Get to Know Your Neighbors at Bunko!

Bunko is held each month in the Mt. Lemmon Community Center on the Friday before the ML HOA and MLWC meetings. Come join the fun this month on Friday, July 19th at 6:30 PM. Bring a snack to share and get ready to have some fun!



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Trico Electric Co-op Awards POWER Grants to Five Local Non-Profits

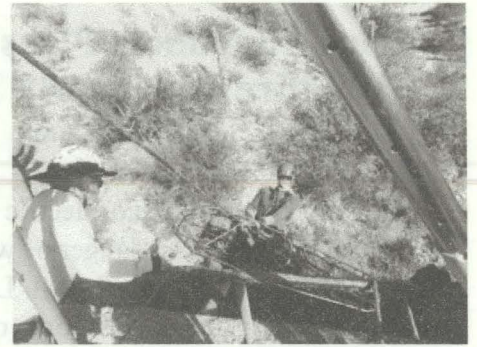
by Roberta Lopez-Suter

Trico Electric Cooperative has awarded a total of \$35,000 to five non-profit organizations providing critical services in southern Arizona. The grants are part of Trico's POWER Grants program and are awarded twice a year to charities throughout southern Arizona. Non-profits are selected through an application process and reviewed by a six-person committee made up of Trico employees, Members, and Board Members.

Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center and Marana Food Bank & Community Resource Center both received grants of \$10,000. Marana Unified School District (MUSD) received a grant of \$8,750. Mt. Lemmon Fire Fighters Foundation received a \$1,500 grant. Youth On Their Own (YOTO) received a \$4,750 grant.

Elizabeth Slater, CEO of YOTO, expressed her gratitude: "Thank you Trico for supporting Southern Arizona's students experiencing housing insecurity! This grant award will provide direct financial and basic needs support to YOTO youth, helping them remain focused on their goal of high school graduation."

Since 2008, the POWER Grant program has awarded \$875,000 in grants. For more information or to apply go to www.trico.coop/power-grants.



(above) Mt. Lemmon Firefighters Foundation

(below) Youth On Their Own (both photos courtesy of Trico)



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Trico Announces Plans to Reduce Wildfire Risk on Mt. Lemmon

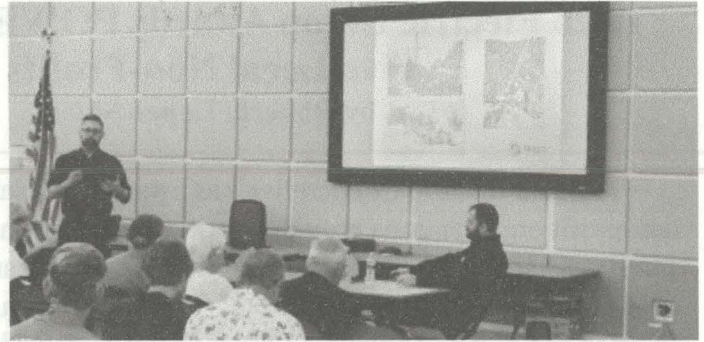
by Sally Crum

Employees of Trico Electric Co-op introduced their plans to reduce the danger of wildfire on Mt. Lemmon during a meeting for Mt. Lemmon property owners and other interested people on Saturday, June 15, at the MLCC. Trico employee presenters included Eric Hawkins, COO and General Counsel, Andy Betancourt, Manager of Distribution Maintenance, Justin Banales, Vice President of System Operations, and Kevin McCarthy, Board Director of District 7.

After providing historical information on Trico's service to the mountain, speakers shared updates on their plans to continue to maintain their rights-of-way to reduce wildfire risk. They also provided information about their efforts to wrap power poles in fire resistant material to reduce damage in the event of fire, which will in turn keep electricity flowing and also reduce the time and cost to replace fire-damaged poles, as they had to do after the Bighorn Fire.

Thanks to Trico for graciously providing a delicious meal (from the Sawmill and the Mt. Lemmon Cookie Cabin) after a long day of meetings and presentations. The meeting was well attended, and Trico indicated their desire to have similar informational meetings on a more regular basis. A question-and-answer period followed.

Thank you, Trico, for being our important utility for Mt. Lemmon.



Eric Hawkins from Trico provides information about plans to reduce wildfire risk at community meeting on June 15, 2024 (photo courtesy of Sally Crum)

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Want to get involved? Volunteer at the MLCC Visitor Center!

The mountain community could use your help! We're looking for a few volunteers to staff the Visitor Center on a weekend or two this summer. It's fun, relaxing, interesting, and you don't need special training. ! If you could spare a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday, please contact Linda Mulay (520-327-4615) or Pete Krauss (520-235-6904).

Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists Offer Mt. Lemmon Hikes

by Cathy Yungbluth

The Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists offer several outdoor activities on Mt. Lemmon during the winter, and you are welcome to join in! All hikes start at 9 am from the respective trailhead. Hikes are not “nature walks”; rough and often steep terrain can be expected. All hikes are free and guided, and they urge participants to consider their physical condition for hiking at higher elevations. They suggest bringing snacks or lunch for longer hikes and plenty of water.

No pets are allowed on hikes, and older children with hiking experience are welcome when accompanied by an adult. The following is also recommended and advisable for hikes:

- Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, hiking poles, and rain gear
- Bring and use cell phones for emergency only.
- Bad weather may change or cancel the hike. Check the website calendar on the morning of the hike for cancellations. All event status updates or cancellations will be posted by 7 a.m. the day of the event. For questions, call or text 520-488-8007.

July 5 Turkey Run, Aspen Draw from Summerhaven, milepost 25.0

5.2-mile hike starting on the paved Turkey Run Road past cabins then up the Aspen Draw Trail to the top of the ski lift. Elevation gain of 1100' makes this hike great exercise along with the beauty of nature.

Guides: Tim Ralph-lead, Maureen Cunningham, Jim Behra

July 12 Palisades Trail from Bigelow Trailhead, milepost 19.8

3.5-mile hike will be a nice ramble along Organization Ridge Road to the Palisades Trail then along the trail with a detour to a beautiful spot along a creek. We might be allowed to explore the Whispering Pines Girl Scout Camp on the return trip.

Guides: Ricki Mensching-lead, Adora Marie Higgins, Jennifer Harman

July 19 Aspen Draw to Radio Ridge from Ski Valley, turn right at milepost 24.9

3.6-mile hike follows a shady trail up to the top of the ski lift. Lots of switchbacks and an elevation gain of 1100' makes this a good exercise hike. Nice downhill return!

Guides: David Dean-lead, Nozomi Wade, Nancy Bradley

July 26 Upper Sabino Creek Overlook from Sunset Trailhead, milepost 22.9

4.0-mile out and back hike along the Sunset trail, crossing Sabino Creek at Marshall Gulch then climbing a short distance up the Aspen Trail to a rocky outcrop overlooking the creek below for a nice lunch stop. Elevation gain of 500'.

Guides: Phil Bentley-lead, Sharon Fields, Trip McGrath

Recent Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists' hike on Sunset Trail (photo courtesy of Cathy Yungbluth)



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