

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Limited Water Supply is Diminishing by Diana Osborne

The monsoons came early this year and now we are in short supply.

My husband and I recently hiked the Mint Spring Trail and were caught by a strong monsoon. The rain was delightful; the lightning increased our speed. Unfortunately, this monsoon experience has not happened enough this year to keep us in the water!

Our two source spring rates dropped by over 50% to 4 gallons per minute and 11 gallons per minute in the past 4 weeks. Our busy summer season sees cabins filled with our wonderful neighbors seeking relief from desert heat. This busy season brings with it increased water use.

The good news: the tanks are full as of mid-July. The important news: our current use exceeds the spring flow. When this happens, the tanks begin to empty leading to water restrictions.

Help us avoid water restrictions! Check for slow drips and toilet flappers creating leaks when your water is turned on. Install low flow fixtures. Limit showers to 5 minutes. Use your dishwasher rather than handwashing dishes. PLEASE do not water landscapes or clean your driveway using potable drinking water. Try to keep water use to under 3,000 gallons per month per household of 2 persons. Turn off your water when you leave for more than a day.

There is plenty of water for all to enjoy a healthy happy experience on the mountain if we all do our part.



Hummingbirds gather around a feeder as a monsoon storm cloud gathers strength on July 14, 2024 (photo courtesy of Michael Stanley)

July 4 Parade Celebrates Community

The July 4 parade included 23 entries and music by the Tucson Concert Band under the direction of Arno Dittrich. Michael Stanley emceed from the Community Center, and for the first time this year, Jeremy Gassen, General Manager of the Mt. Lemmon Lodge, also announced entries from the lodge's porch, providing information for spectators further along the parade route. For parade pictures, see pg. 11.

Mt. Lemmon Lodge Celebrates 1st Anniversary



Mt. Lemmon Lodge celebrates its first anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony and congratulations offered on behalf of Supervisor Steve Christy by Beth Borozan. More on page 5. (photo courtesy of Tammy Jensen)

Benches Provide Beauty and a Place to Rest in Summerhaven

by Pam Haskell

Fundraising has always been an important and unifying factor for our mountain. Sometimes it has even been FUN!

My husband, Jeff, has staged musical events, bringing a variety of talent to the mountain. Past events funded the acoustic baffle system in our community center. The last concert, however, was simply tagged for "beautification."

With funds available to beautify Summerhaven, volunteers Robin Kirk and I brought ideas to the Mt. Lemmon Business Economic Association and got support for a proposed bench project. We designed and worked with local bear carving craftsman, Tom Riley. The goal was to create benches out of local pine that would fit the aesthetic of our mountain. Just in time for the Fourth of July holiday, the first two benches were installed in Summerhaven. Within moments, people gratefully made use of a place to sit and enjoy their surroundings, giving us an appreciative "thumbs up."

We hope to install additional benches this summer. Please, stop, sit and enjoy.



(left) Volunteers Robin Kirk and Pam Haskell rest on one of the newly-installed benches in Summerhaven. The benches were installed as part of a beautification project supported by the Mt. Lemmon Economic Association (photo courtesy of Pam Haskell)



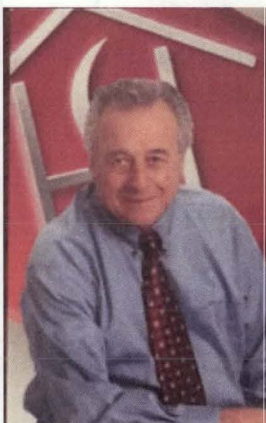
(right) Local craftsman, Tom Riley, and his wife, Patsy, pose next to the benches he designed and built for the Mt. Lemmon beautification project (photo courtesy of Pam Haskell)

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Water Shortage on Mt. Lemmon: Why?

Mount Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District Board

Before the Aspen Fire, there were ~425 water meters for residences and there were one to two lodges historically in Summerhaven at any given time. Today we have around 339 water meters for residences and the equivalent of two lodges. We also reserve 500,000 gallons of water at all times for firefighting.

So why did we go into Stage 3 water restrictions for the first time in history last year? Our shortage occurred for the following reasons:

1. Less rain and snow than the previous year!
2. **Leaks - #1 cause of water loss.**
 - ◆ Large Leaks
 - Residential – no one in residence & the meter is left on.
 - Snowplow damage to a fire hydrant drained 500,000 gallons of water winter before last. It took a while to recover from the water loss.
 - Commercial – large leaks are rare because someone is at these properties daily, and leaks are discovered right away.
 - ◆ Small Leaks that can lead to Large Leaks
 - Residential – when occupied, leaks are usually discovered early. Causes include toilet flappers & dripping faucets.
 - Commercial – open year-round so discovered early.
3. **Excessive water use - #2 cause of water loss.**
 - ◆ Residential
 - Residential rentals are the biggest water consumption – far above normal use even when rented only on weekends.
 - Residents with lack of conservation education
 - Water harvesting tanks supplemented with potable water.
 - Watering landscaping & driveways.
 - ◆ Commercial
 - The lodging and restaurants use a reasonable amount of water when looking at the large number of people they serve, both public and residents. Permanent conservation practices are as one recent large residential leak in one leak.

What is reasonable water use? About 97% of our property owners normally use a reasonable amount of water, which is 3,000 gallons per month or less. We will see no Stage 3 water restrictions if we as property owners eliminate large leaks and use a reasonable amount of water per household, which must include rentals.

Future

Your Water District is looking at conservation measures which include more efficient meter monitoring systems to catch leaks sooner, improving infrastructure, and increasing storage capacity to supplement during dry or drought conditions while maintaining water reserves for firefighting.

There is plenty of water for all to enjoy a healthy happy experience on the mountain if we all do our part.

August Events Calendar

8/2, 7 PM: Movies on the Mountain (pg. 7)

8/3, 1-4 PM Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

6 PM: Live music, Sawmill Run

8/10, 4-7 PM Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

6 PM: Bingo, Sawmill Run

8/16, 6:30 PM: Bunko, ML Community Center
(pg. 11)

8/17, 8:30 AM: ML Water District Board,
Zimmerman School

10 AM: MLHOA Board meeting, MLCC

1 PM: ML Woman's Club meeting, MLCC (pg. 6)

1-4 PM: Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

2:30 PM: Speaker Series: Terry Wilson,
MLCC (pg. 7)

5 PM: Firewise Appreciation

Celebration/Potluck, MLCC (pg. 10)

6 PM: Live music, Sawmill Run

8/18, 12-3 PM: Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

8/19, 4 PM: ML Fire Board, Fire Station and
via Zoom at mldaz.org

8/24, 4-7 PM: Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

6 PM: Bingo, Sawmill Run

8/31, 1-4 PM: Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

6 PM: Live music, Sawmill Run

Upcoming September Events

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

Note: **August 21** is the deadline for submitting items for the September 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

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 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.

To get advertising rates and reserve ad space in *The Echoes*, email mjsintuc@gmail.com.



Tips and Guidelines for Contacting 911

by Dan Leade, MLFD

Calling for emergency services can be a stressful event. Whether you are calling on your own behalf, calling for a loved one, or calling for a complete stranger, dialing 911 and providing the best possible information can be a daunting task.

If you suspect a person is in need of emergency assistance, it is a best practice to call for help. Dispatchers are trained to be able to help make that determination and mobilize appropriate resources. Do not hang up the phone, even if the call was made by mistake. If the call is truly an emergency, try and stay calm and answer all questions. This means allowing the dispatcher to help you by leading the conversation. Also, DO NOT call the fire station directly! If your firefighters are out of the station or on another call, the dispatchers will either make radio contact or dispatch another unit. The time that can be lost by not activating the 911 system immediately can be critical and could lead to an unfavorable outcome.

State the location of the incident. Make sure your address is clearly marked. Pay attention to mileposts when on the highway. Know the name of the trail that you plan to hike. This will help the dispatcher be certain that resources arrive as quickly as possible. Helping geographical markers could be the best routing information, known hazards in the area, or where you see smoke in relation to the location you are calling from. This will support resources by moving in the right direction. Describe the access to your physical location, especially if you are trapped or cannot answer the door.

Nobody wants to have to contact emergency services by calling 911, but by being mentally prepared prior to an emergency the process will go considerably more smoothly.

For additional information, please refer to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA): <https://www.nena.org/page/911TipsGuidelines>

From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed already since the Mt. Lemmon Lodge opened.

I extend to Diana and John Osborne my heartiest and sincerest congratulations on their dream becoming reality, and for their love of Mt. Lemmon in bringing back to our village their vision of Summerhaven hospitality.

The Mt. Lemmon Lodge serves as an anchor for Summerhaven and symbolizes its rebirth. This community has overcome horrific hurdles over the years, and the Mt Lemmon Lodge proclaims so eloquently that our precious Sky Island is back, is thriving, and is here to stay.

The lodge further conveys that this community is a welcoming destination, a space to be enjoyed and nurtured for generations to come.

Again, my congratulations on first anniversary of the Mt. Lemmon Lodge. I know we will be gathering to celebrate more anniversaries in the years to come.

Monsoon season is here!

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Mt Lemmon Woman's Club

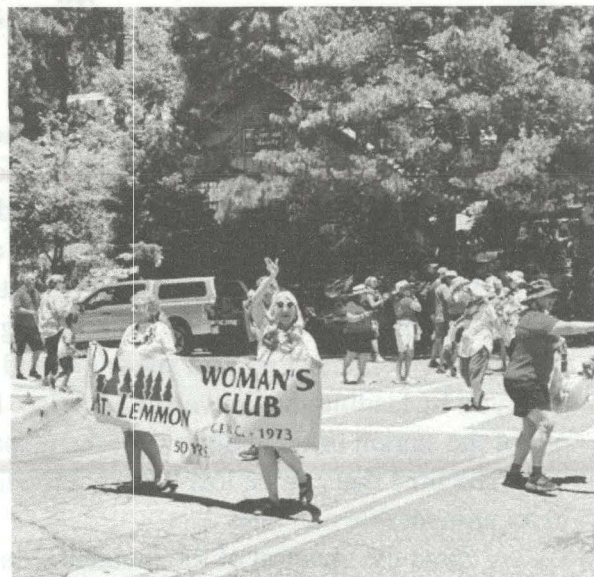
by Sandi Triplett, MLWC President

The Mt Lemmon Woman's Club has been active this summer! In July, we donated cash and supplies for More Than a Bed, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports foster children. We were also excited to have received a Second Place award from the July Fourth parade in the Patriotic category. See photos from the donation drive and the MLWC parade entry on this page.

In August, we will donate cash and supplies to Youth On Their Own. This is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness. Needed school supplies include heavy duty back packs, USB flash drives, headphones, mechanical pencils, loose-leaf lined paper, scientific calculators and colored pencils. They could also use food items like peanut butter & jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, cereal, shelf-stable milk, and individually wrapped snacks. They also have need of such hygiene items as shampoo & conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss, insulated reusable water bottles, toilet paper, paper towels, and personal hygiene items.

We are honored to announce that the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club will host the Fall 2024 General Federation of Woman's Clubs' (GFWC) Southern District Convention. This will take place on Saturday, October 26 at the Community Center. We will learn more about the convention in the upcoming weeks.

Our next meeting will take place on **Saturday, August 17, at 1:00 PM** at the Community Center.



(above) Members of the MLWC participate in the July 4 parade (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

(below) MLWC collected donations for More Than a Bed at its July meeting (photo courtesy of Luann Waldron)



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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:



8/2 **Movie Night** 7pm-9pm
 8/3 **Jacob Acosta** (Americana) 1pm – 4pm
 8/10 **Kayla Von de Heide** (Americana Original) 4pm-7pm
 8/17 **Jay Faircloth** (Country Western) 1pm-4pm
 8/18 **John Hughes** (Saxophone) 12pm – 3pm
 8/24 **Heather Lil Mama Hardy/Alvin Blaine** (Blues/Americana/Bluegrass Original) 4pm-7pm
 8/31 **A-1 Reggae Band** 1pm-4pm

Upcoming Movie Nights will be held September 6 and October 4.

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!

(right) Don Hickman (seated) and Jesús Garcia present on desert agriculture (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-



August MLWC Speaker Series: Heritage Apple Trees and Sonoran Desert Agriculture

By Harper Cochran and Susan Miller-Cochran

The August MLWC Speaker Series featured Don Hickman, a local resident, and Jesús Garcia, visiting from Mission Garden in Tucson.

Before moving to Mt. Lemmon, Don Hickman owned orchards in Cochise County. He explained that the heritage apple trees on Mt. Lemmon (*malus pumila*) have very long lifespans, with some of them surviving over 100 years. Their fruit can range in color from red to green to yellow to pink, but the taste of the apples is consistent. He also clarified that if heritage apple trees are not trimmed as they should be, they can grow to over forty feet.

Jesús Garcia, who works at Mission Garden, emphasized the importance of understanding the culture in which plants are growing to truly learn about and understand agriculture. He gave the example that if you eat an apple from an apple tree that was planted one

hundred years ago, then you are “tasting history.” He reminded the audience that perfect looking fruits are not found in nature, and one of Mission Garden’s biggest goals is to teach future generations to value and respect the foods grown in the desert. The speakers also acknowledged that the very podium they were speaking from was made from a local apple tree.

Join us for next month’s MLWC Speaker Series presentation on Saturday, August 17 at 2:30 PM in the Community Center, featuring Terry Wilson, who will be speaking about domestic violence prevention.

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FOREST GARDEN

USFS to Conduct Prescribed Burns

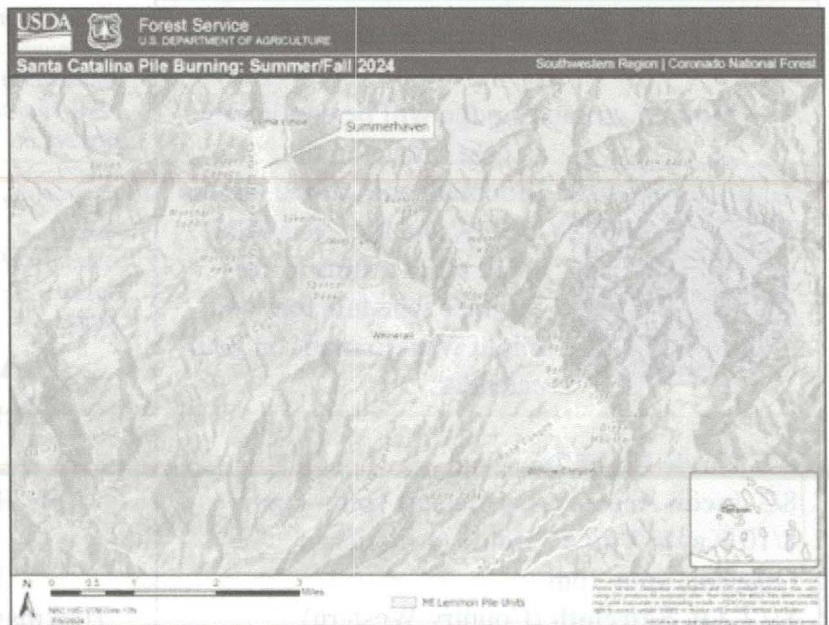
by Amanda Adams

Greetings from the US Forest Service. On July 11, the possibility of pile burning operations on Mount Lemmon was announced. The district plans to treat approximately 750 acres at the top of Mount Lemmon, near the town of Summerhaven, around the Soldier Camp area, in the Willow Canyon area, and near General Hitchcock Campground. Operations may be postponed due to limited resources or unfavorable weather.

Prescribed burns are highly dependent on having the right environmental conditions to achieve the desired effects while mitigating the risk. These desired effects and environmental condition parameters are detailed in a document called a Burn Plan. Factors like physical science, fire modeling, research, and experience with fire behavior are all considered when developing a burn plan.

Prescribed burns have many benefits. The most critical is the reduction in wildfire risk. Prescribed burns are meant to safely replicate the effects of naturally occurring wildfire, resulting in less available material to burn. Prescribed burning is less intense than wildfires, leaving tree canopies intact, thus mitigating erosion risks. Burn piles employ both mechanical thinning and prescribed burning. Burn piles allow for more control and smaller burns. Burn piles must cure and should not be touched or disturbed.

Visitors and residents can expect increased fire traffic and smoke in the area. All trails and roadways will remain open during pile burning operations, but visitors are asked to avoid the areas.



(above) Map indicating the locations of prescribed pile burning by USFS in Summer and Fall 2024. Burns may be postponed due to limited resources or unfavorable weather. (map provided courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service)

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Celebrate Our Critically Important Firewise Success!

by Sally Crum, Firewise Committee

It's time to celebrate our accomplishments as a Firewise Community!!

Join us on **Saturday, August 17th @ 5:00 PM** for a Firewise Appreciation and Celebration event at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center, especially to recognize our Firewise Team members for the hard work accomplished this year with all of you helping our community to "Reduce the Risk of Wildfire."

We will be joined by District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy and his Chief of Staff, Beth Boroza. The taco bar will be provided by Sean and Barb Magee, with desserts by our local eateries. Donations of \$5.00 will be accepted (Firewise Team members are FREE), with proceeds going to support our Firewise efforts.

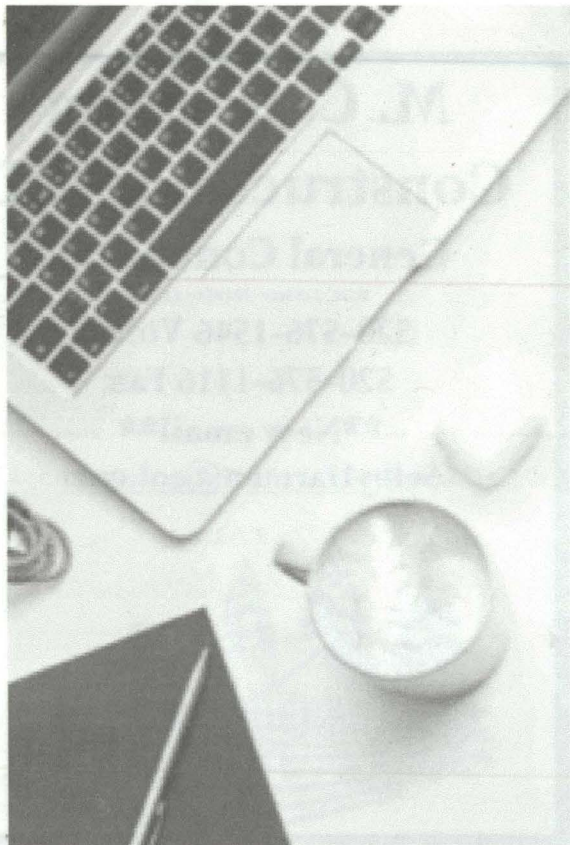
Names of those who have had Firewise Assessments completed for their properties will be drawn for a **FREE** night's stay at the **Mt. Lemmon Lodge!** Time is running out, so don't wait until the last minute to request an assessment, using the form located at mlfdaz.org/Firewise. You will be contacted to arrange an appointment.

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 (this form is also available at mlfdaz.org/Firewise), including a quilt and a Henry Johnson photo. This drawing will also be held at the Firewise Appreciation and Recognition Celebration on August 17th

We will be having another chipper event in October (not September as previously noted), so please continue to remove hazardous fuels from your property in preparation for this event. Volunteers will be needed to assist, and once a final date is arranged, we will let you know.

Just because we have been designated a Firewise Community, don't rest on your laurels! Please reach out to your Neighborhood Captain (see: mlfdaz.org/Firewise, select 'Firewise Neighborhoods, Welcome to Yours') for questions on what steps you can take to Reduce the Risk of Wildfire to your property.

Remember, when it comes to wildfire, **it's not IF, but WHEN.**



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Mt. Lemmon Western Cordilleran Flycatcher Breeding Season Gets Off to a Staggered Start

by Dr. Charles van Riper, III

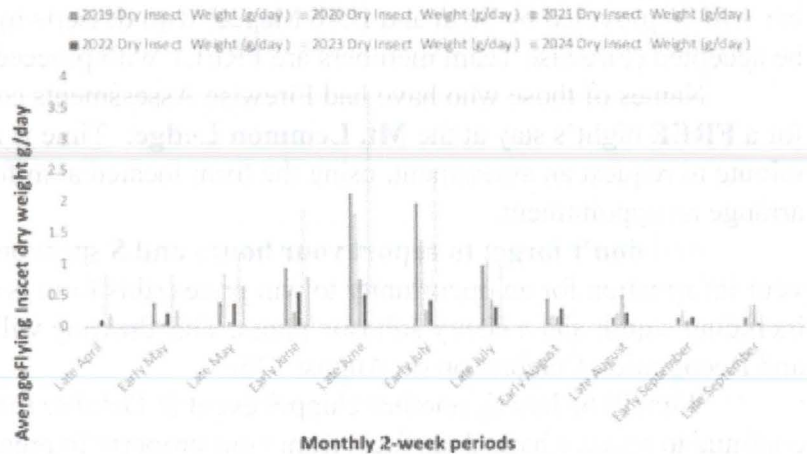
The early 2024 breeding period for the Mt Lemmon Western Cordilleran Flycatcher has been characterized by many starts and stops, with several females building up to three nests before successfully laying eggs. Of the 65 flycatcher nests that we are currently monitoring, 45% have been disrupted during the early breeding period. At first, I thought that the early prolonged nesting period might have been caused by a lack of food. This appears not to be the case as flying insect biomass through early June, although not as good as last year, is still within the range of what we have recorded during previous breeding seasons (see 2024 bars on the right in the figure for a comparison).

Instead, I believe that part of this disruption is being caused by the very successful 2023 flycatcher breeding season that we had last year. Because so many young flycatchers were produced in 2023, many of those birds from around our mountain and other areas of the breeding range seem to have come this year to Mt Lemmon for breeding. Those new birds are trying to pack into the Mt Lemmon ecosystem, and they appear to be disrupting the normal breeding process.

The Western Cordilleran Flycatcher has a Type "A" breeding territory, an area that contains all their food, and the space is also defended against all other flycatchers. The extra abundant numbers of flycatchers here this year, are trying to squeeze into areas that are already full of breeding birds. For example, the territory at the junction of Turkey Run and Guthrie has always been a single pair territory, but this year has two breeding pairs, while the territory around the adjacent cabin has three pair squeezed into the space that in previous years only contained one breeding pair.

If insect numbers continue at a high level this summer, the habitat may support some of these extra breeding pairs. It will be interesting to see if the large number of returning birds from the very productive 2023 breeding season will result in more young being produced on Mt Lemmon, or if their disruptive influence will result in a lower reproductive output. I will continue to keep you all posted in future *Echoes* articles on the outcome of the 2024 flycatcher breeding season.

MT LEMMON MALAISE FLYING INSECT BIOMASS 2019-2024



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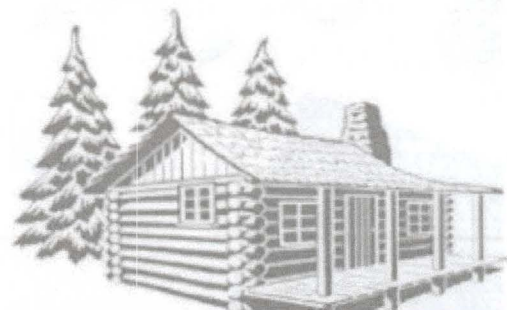
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Where Are You, Monsoon? Volunteers?

by Sally Crum, president MLHOA

It is August already??? The summer is zipping past, and I'm STILL waiting for the monsoon. There's still time, right?

The MLHOA Executive Board continues to look for members interested in serving on the Executive Board. The minimal time commitment is spent working with great people to make this special piece of heaven a better place for us and our visitors. If you have an interest, please feel free to join us at 10:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center, or send an email to mlhoa@gmail.com.

This year's 4th of July Parade was another resounding success, thanks to Hazel Rugg and her group of incredible volunteers. See the article on page 1 and photos on this page.

Due to a change in scheduling for the demolition of the kitchen at the Fire Station, our annual MLHOA Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station, Sept. 1st from 9:00 –11:00 as it has been for many years. Join us and invite your friends, family, and neighbors for a delicious breakfast prepared by your MLHOA Executive Board. There will also be an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for gift baskets and other prizes to support our Mt. Lemmon Fire Fighter Foundation.

Check the calendar on page 4 for a list of upcoming events. Be safe and I'll see you on the mountain!

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, August 16th at 6:30 PM. Bring a snack to share and get ready to have some fun!



(left) Smokey the Bear made an appearance at the annual July 4 parade (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

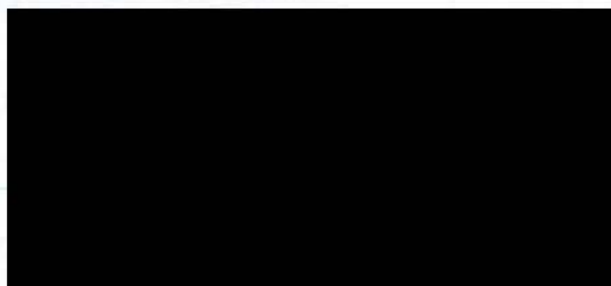
(right) Local Scouts John and Helena Sloan served as color guard to start the parade along with personnel from the BSA Catalina Council (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



(left) The Tucson Highlanders played bagpipes and entertained the crowd at the July 4 parade (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

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