

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Celebrating at the Firewise Appreciation Event

Sally Crum, Firewise Committee

Our 2024 Firewise Appreciation and Recognition Celebration and Taco Bar was enjoyed by approximately 125 friends and neighbors! THANK YOU to The Cookie Cabin, Ski Valley's Iron Door, the Mt. Lemmon General Store, the Mt. Lemmon Lodge, and Sawmill Run Restaurant for providing all the DELICIOUS desserts.

Steve Christy, our District 4 Pima County Supervisor, and his wife, Susan, attended, along with his Chief of Staff, Beth Borozan. Steve thanked us for our Firewise work and noted that there are now Firewise Communities in Green Valley, and our Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community is viewed as the "Gold Standard!"



(above) Firewise Neighborhood Captains gather for a picture at the Firewise Appreciation Event (photo courtesy of Henry Johnson)



(above) Community members gather at the Firewise Appreciation Event (photo courtesy of Henry Johnson)

We also celebrated and recognized the hard work of the Firewise Team and Firewise efforts of everyone this year. Our Neighborhood Captains are central to the success of our Firewise Community, and they are the "faces" of Firewise to you in your neighborhood. Many of our Neighborhood Captains have been trained to perform Firewise Assessments that provide individualized tips and suggestions to help YOU reduce the risk of wildfire to YOUR property.

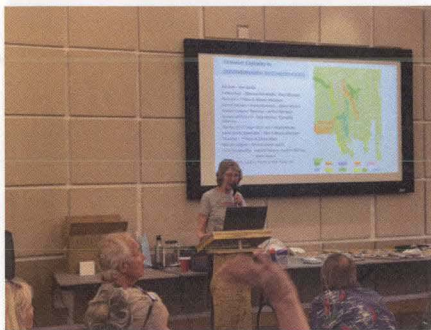
At the conclusion of Dorothy Johnson's presentation, we held drawings from the names of those who had completed/requested Firewise Assessments and from those who had turned in their reports of time and money spent on their Firewise efforts this year. Congratulations to the following winners:

- ◆ Firewise Assessment, Paul Baker: Free night's stay at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge
- ◆ Firewise time and money reports, Gail McDonald and Alison Maricic, Henry Johnson photographs, Marietta Marsh: Handmade Quilt.

Dorothy Johnson is retiring from her Neighborhood Captain Coordinator role. She has done so much to organize and coordinate all our Firewise efforts on Mt. Lemmon. While her shoes will be hard to fill, the position is critical to the success of our program. If you are interested and have a heart for helping continue Firewise efforts in our community, please contact Dorothy, djdorothyjohnson@gmail.com with questions.

The next chipper event is scheduled for Oct. 5. Please gather your slash along the chipper route. See SLASH PILES: What, When, Where, Who at mlfdaz.org/firewise for locations and information. This event includes properties in Soldiers Camp and Willow Canyon.

And if you haven't already, please complete the Property Owner Firewise Report @ mlfdaz.org/firewise. We must have this information by the end of October for our renewal process. Thank you for your efforts!



(above) Dorothy "DJ" Johnson presents at the Firewise Appreciation Event (photo courtesy of Henry Johnson)

The Mount Lemmon Woman's Club Summer Speaker Program

Robin Kirk

The Speaker for the fourth Speaker Series event of the year was 2nd Vice President of the MLWC, Teresa Wilson, MS, RN. The topic this month was "Preventing Domestic Abuse and Human Trafficking." Terry has a background in perinatal/maternal-child health and initiated a program of screening and intervention for domestic violence that became a model for other health care systems. The goal of the programs she has been involved with is to raise awareness and to change the way our community responds to victims of domestic violence, including the media, law enforcement and judges. Terry lectures at the U of A College of Nursing every semester on the topic. Helpline information posters for victims are planned for the Mt. Lemmon restrooms to increase awareness and intervention. This topic is a signature focus for the National Chapter of Woman's Clubs and our local MLWC.

Next month on September 21st, 2024, we will have the last of the Summer Speaker Programs (#5) for 2024. It will be the first of a kind "Panel and Exhibition of our Local Mount Lemmon Artists." Each artist will briefly discuss their art and after the presentations we will move to the displays of their art work and have discussion with the individual artists. It should be a fun and interactive session with our artist neighbors. The Panel will start at 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm and the Display of Art from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

The Artists participating in the Panel and Display are:

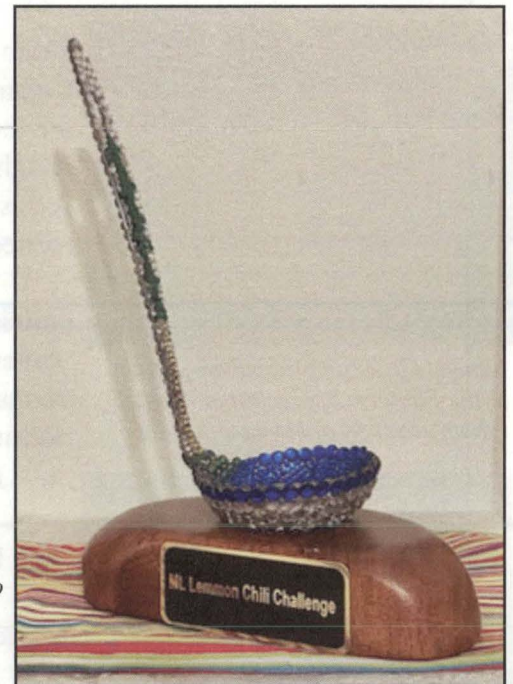
Carol Niehoff
Thompson Hughes
Pam Haskell
Jeanne Hartman
Mary Torrance
Lindy Brigham
Stephen Brigham
Donna Schotter



Thanks Mt. Lemmon Artists for sharing your talent with us!
Please Come and Enjoy the Art Show! See you there!



(right) The ultimate chili prize: the bedazzled ladle that serves as the Mt. Lemmon Chili Challenge trophy (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



Who Will Win the Bedazzled Ladle this Year?

The annual Chili Challenge and Halloween Party will be held Saturday, October 19 from 4-7 PM at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. Please contact Jenni at 520-861-0161 if you would like to participate by making chili and entering the challenge.

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National Public Lands Day Event

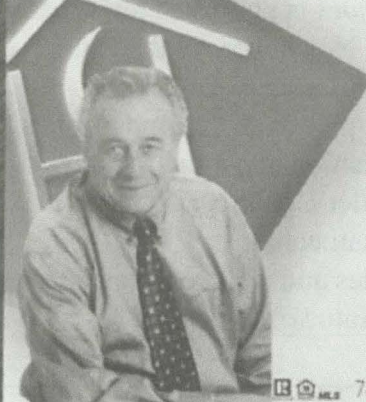
Amanda Adams, USFS

Greetings from the US Forest Service. On Saturday, September 21 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM we will be holding a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event at the Palisades Visitor Center and Ranger Cabin. NPLD is a signature event of the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF). The goal of NPLD is to foster a strong connection between people and the environment by educating and cultivating environmental stewards. There will be over four hundred events held across the country.

Please join the Santa Catalina Ranger District and volunteer partners as we celebrate the beauty and diversity of Coronado National Forest at our Palisades Family Nature Day for NPLD. We will have activities and experts on the following topics: birds, trees, geology, and local wildlife. There will be a story time for little ones and an excerpt reading from the book *The Forgotten Botanist* by Wynne Brown. Visitors can take a scavenger hunt to complete while out at a picnic area or hiking on one of our trails. Come see the updates to the exhibits and gift shop at the Palisades Visitor Center and get an inside peak of one of our Rooms with a View on the mountain.

Join the Fun at Bunko!

Bunko is held each month in the Mt. Lemmon Community Center on the Friday before the MLHOA and MLWC meetings. Come join us this month on Friday, September 20th at 6:30 PM. Bring a snack to share and get ready to have some fun!



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New Resident Stickers Available at Pancake Breakfast

Jenni Zimmerman

You will be able to purchase one of the new resident stickers for your car at the Labor Day Pancake Breakfast on September 1. The new sticker will replace the yellow hang tags for coming up the mountain when we have snow and when the road is closed to all visitors and open only to residents.

Stop by the MLBEA table at the breakfast to purchase a new sticker. Teri Carpenter will also have the stickers available at the General Store. The stickers will be \$5 each.

The new stickers will provide residents with access to the mountain during the winter months. To acquire a sticker, bring a mountain utility bill, your old yellow hanging tag, and cash for each homeowner, per car.

Trico Member Appreciation Event October 9, 2024 from 4–9 p.m. at Marana Pumpkin Patch

Registration for tickets will be available on our website www.trico.coop at 8 a.m. on September 21, 2024. First come, first served. Quantities of tickets are limited. **Maximum of five tickets per Membership.** Ticket includes general admission, refreshments and one pumpkin per Membership. Additional fee for the zipline, pumpkin cannon, rock wall and paintball. Please bring a copy of your Trico bill for fast check-in.



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September Events Calendar

9/1, 9-11 AM: MLHOA Labor Day Pancake

Breakfast, ML Fire Station (pg. 2)

11:30 AM: Fire Station Groundbreaking (pg. 9)

2-4 PM Music on the Mountain, MLL (pg. 7)

9/6, 7 PM: Movies on the Mountain, MLL (pg. 7)

9/7, 4 PM: Music on the Mountain, MLL (pg. 7)

9/14, 1 PM: Music on the Mountain, MLL (pg. 7)

9/20, 6:30 PM: Bunko, MLCC (pg. 3)

9/21, 8:30 AM: ML Water District Board,
Zimmerman School

10 AM: MLHOA Board meeting, MLCC

1 PM: ML Woman's Club meeting, MLCC (pg. 5)

1 PM: Music on the Mountain, MLL (pg. 7)

2:30 PM: Speaker Series: Mountain Artists,
MLCC (pg. 2)

5:30 PM: Ice Cream Freeze Off, MLCC

9/23, 4 PM: ML Fire Board, Fire Station and
via Zoom at mldaz.org

9/28, 12 PM Music on the Mountain (pg. 7)

Upcoming Events

10/19: Save the date for the Mt. Lemmon Chili Cookoff
and Halloween Trunk-or-Treat!

Note: **Wednesday, September 18** is the deadline for submitting items for the October 2024 issue of the *Echoes*. Please submit any articles, photos, or events to mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com

Locations:

MLCC: Mt. Lemmon Community Center (12949 N. Sabino Canyon Parkway)

MLL: Mt. Lemmon Lodge (12833 N. Sabino Canyon Parkway)

Sawmill Run: (12976 N. Sabino Canyon Parkway)

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.

Your MLHOA Board is Working Hard for YOU!

by Sally Crum, President

August has been a busy month for me, and probably all of you as well! We've enjoyed some rain and even a few hailstorms. Hopefully the monsoon is not yet over.

Several neighbors attended the August MLHOA Executive Board meeting and expressed interest in becoming more active. With many new cabin owners in our community there are many opportunities to participate and help our association move into the future. You're always welcome to attend, and meetings are always open to the membership.

Do you enjoy receiving your *Echoes* each month? Susan Miller-Cochran has let us know she will be stepping down as Editor of the *Mt. Lemmon Echoes* at the end of the year. She has done such an excellent job, and we will surely miss her professional work and interesting articles. Do you have a background or interest in helping with this important task? Susan will provide guidance to help you with the transition. Please contact her at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com.

Your Mt. Lemmon HOA is looking forward to more events on the mountain, including our **Pancake Breakfast** Sept. 1 (see announcement on page 6), the **Ice Cream Freeze Off** on Sept. 21 (see article on page 7 for details) and our **Chili Cook-Off and Halloween Celebration** October 21. And of course, **Bunko** on Sept. 20.

We are continuing to work with Pima County on our homeowners' insurance crisis and interfacing with our state legislators when they return from recess. In the interim, PLEASE do all you can to **complete all your Firewise tasks**, which in turn will help the insurance companies understand we are serious about doing OUR part to reduce the risk of wildfire.

The Mt. Lemmon "yellow tag" is coming to an end. Thank you to the Mt. Lemmon Business and Economic Association (MLBEA), which has been working with the Pima County Sheriff's Dept. to develop a replacement for the tag that will be acceptable identification during road closures. The new sticker will be placed inside your windshield on the driver's side and will be available to cabin owners (with proof of ownership such as a tax record or utility bill) at the Pancake Breakfast on September 1st. After that it will be available at the Mt. Lemmon General Store. The tags must be renewed annually.

See you on the mountain!

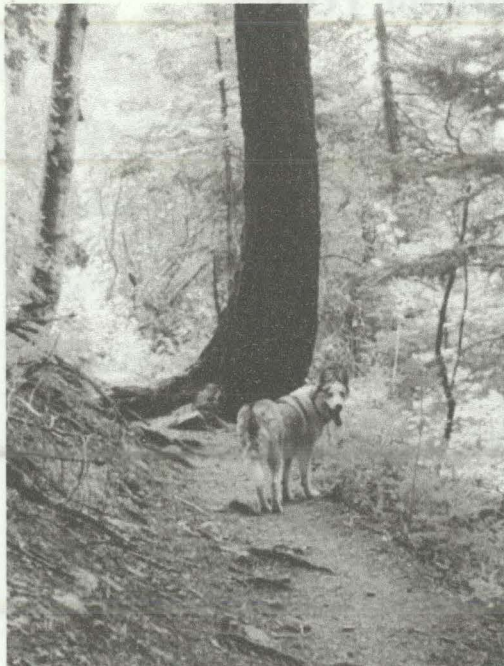
Mt Lemmon Woman's Club

Sandi Triplett, MLWC President

MLWC Vice President, Luann Waldron, presided over our August meeting, where we collected cash and supplies for Youth on Their Own. Thank you, ladies, for your very generous donations.

Our September meeting will take place Saturday, September 21 at 1:00 pm at the Mt Lemmon Community Center. The General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC) National Day of Service takes place in September, and this year's theme is "Food Insecurity & Hunger." Because of our affiliation with GFWC, our September Done in a Day project will be supporting the Tucson Food Bank with non-perishable foods or donations of cash. Come join us!





(left) Saba Bennett's dog takes a break on the Aspen Draw Trail to look back (photo courtesy of Saba Bennett)

Aspen Draw Should be for Hikers Only

Saba Bennett

Large groups of mountain bikers are becoming a danger to hikers and the delicate ecosystem on Aspen Draw trail. My dogs and I have been hiking Aspen Draw for many years, but during the last two years in particular, mountain bikers have seemingly taken over the trail, blasting downhill from the top of the ski lift at breakneck speeds which actually threaten to break the necks of the poor hikers in their way. It is only a matter of time before someone (most likely a hiker) is seriously injured. Last weekend, a group of 15 rampaged on the trail for hours, riding up the road and down the trail many times as we meandered to the top, creating a frightening, noisy hazard as

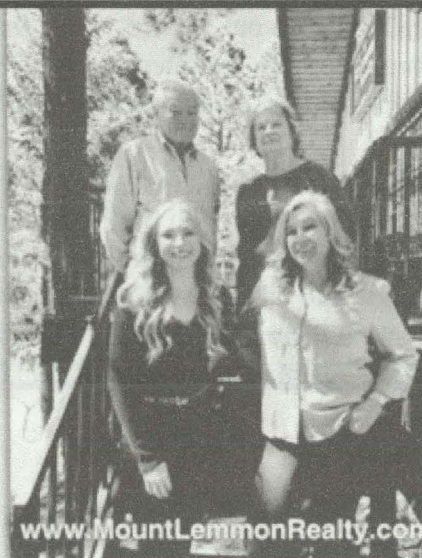
hikers, including young children, dove for cover. As you scramble to find a safe spot on the narrow trail to let the bombarding bikes blow past, you are in danger of losing your footing and tumbling down the steep trail.

Every weekend the biking groups get larger and the likelihood of a crash increases. While I appreciate the idea of mixed uses, Aspen Draw is not the place for mountain bikes. It is too narrow for bikers and hikers to pass safely, and the fragile and rare vegetation deserves protection. Huge swaths of the trail are now denuded because of mountain bikers, and many rogue bikers are taking shortcuts and creating jumps that have destroyed

several once-beautiful sections of the trail. Many trails on the mountain are more appropriate for mountain bikers. Aspen Draw should be off limits due to dangerous conditions and the value of the ecosystem. If you agree, please contact Don DelMastro (Santa Catalina District Ranger) at 520-749-8700 or write him a letter (5900 N Sabino Canyon Rd., Tucson, Az. 85750) or contact the Coronado National Forest District Office (520-388-8300, 300 W. Congress, 85701).

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MLHOA Pancake Breakfast to be held Saturday, September 1

The annual MLHOA Labor Day Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, September 1 from 9-11 AM at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. Come join others in the community to celebrate the Labor Day weekend and raise funds for the Mt. Lemmon Firefighters Foundation. A silent auction will be held for a variety of donations. You won't want to miss it!

Events at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge

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



9/1 **Nancy McCallion Band** (Americana) 2pm - 4pm

9/6 **Movie Night** 7pm - 9pm

9/7 **Nod Squad** (Classic R&B) 4pm - 7pm

9/14 **Susan Artemis** (Jazz) 1pm - 4pm

9/21 **Out of the Blue Tom Poley** (Contemporary Bluegrass) 1pm - 4pm

9/28 **John Hughes** (Saxophone) 12pm - 3pm

Upcoming Movie Nights will be held November 1 and December 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!

Annual Ice Cream Freeze Off on September 21 at 5:30 PM

Michael Stanley

Chocolate, Strawberry, Vanilla, Rocky Road. All of these frozen flavors could be featured at our Annual Ice Cream Freeze Off! This event is a fantastic opportunity to show off your favorite homemade ice cream recipe and win bragging rights as Mt. Lemmon's 2024 Freeze Off Champion. In a small community, we need all the champions we can get!

If you plan to make ice cream for this event, please prepare your entry before 5 PM on Saturday, September 21, and then provide a way to keep it frozen and cold for an hour while you serve the ice cream at the competition.

Last year there were eight competitors. While the grand champion was Strawberry with Homemade Rhubarb Sauce, all eight competitors were winners and the over fifty tasters all had smiles as they held their tasting spoons with pleasure. All of you are invited to this event. There is a \$5 donation with proceeds going to our wonderful fire department. This event is guaranteed to be the best tasting of the year! So, join us on the third Saturday of September at 5:30 PM at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center after the scheduled Art Show. I, for one, am looking

forward to enjoying your ice cream. If you have questions, please call me at 520-820-0613. Otherwise, I will see you at the event. MLHOA supports the Ice Cream Freeze Off and our community makes the event successful!

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Western Cordilleran Flycatcher Return Rates to Mt Lemmon: How Many Flycatchers Return and How Long Do They Live?

Dr. Charles van Riper, III

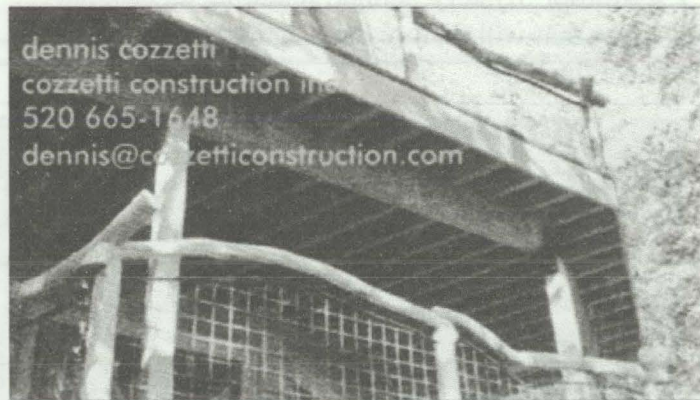
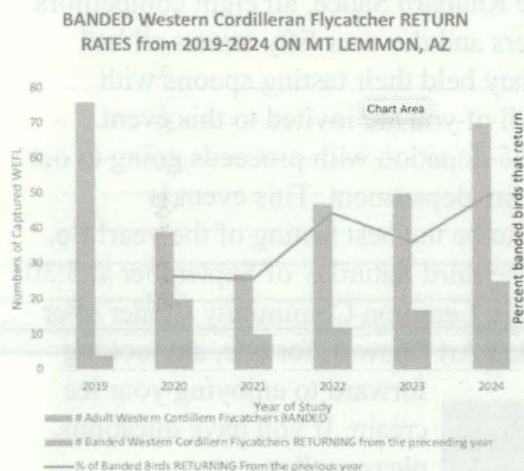
To examine how many and which Western Cordilleran Flycatchers return each year to Mt Lemmon, each summer I try to capture and color band as many birds as possible. Many of you have had to put up with me setting up mist nets around your house to capture flycatchers during the very early morning hours. When captured, the females receive a numbered federal metal band on the left leg and 2 color bands on the right. The male bands are reversed with the metal on the right leg and 2 color bands left. I also band all the young from nests (in 2024 over 100 flycatcher nests were monitored), but the young flycatchers only get a single metal band. One of the things that this banding effort does is allow me to look at annual return rates of birds.

Western Cordilleran Flycatcher return rates during the 2024 breeding season had many similarities to earlier years, but also some new and exciting aspects. One of the similarities was the percentage of banded adult flycatchers that returned to breed (Fig.1).

Although I was able to band a considerable number of adult flycatchers this year (first bar in 2024 portion of the graph), the percentage of breeding birds that had been banded during a previous breeding season (the line on the graph) was similar to other years. The numbers of banded flycatchers that return to breed each year on Mt Lemmon now averages 36.5% (range 25.5 - 50.1%). What does stand out in Fig. 1 is

the low number of flycatchers that returned to breed during the 2021 drought year. The overall breeding population of Western Cordilleran Flycatchers on Mt Lemmon is reliant not only on returning banded birds, but also on birds that are breeding for their first time. (continued on page 10)

Fig. 1. Numbers of Western Cordilleran Flycatchers banded each year from 2019-2024, the number of banded birds returning to breed in subsequent years, and the percentage of banded birds returning to Mt Lemmon, AZ each year.



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Fire Station Groundbreaking on Sept. 1

Dan Leade, MLFD

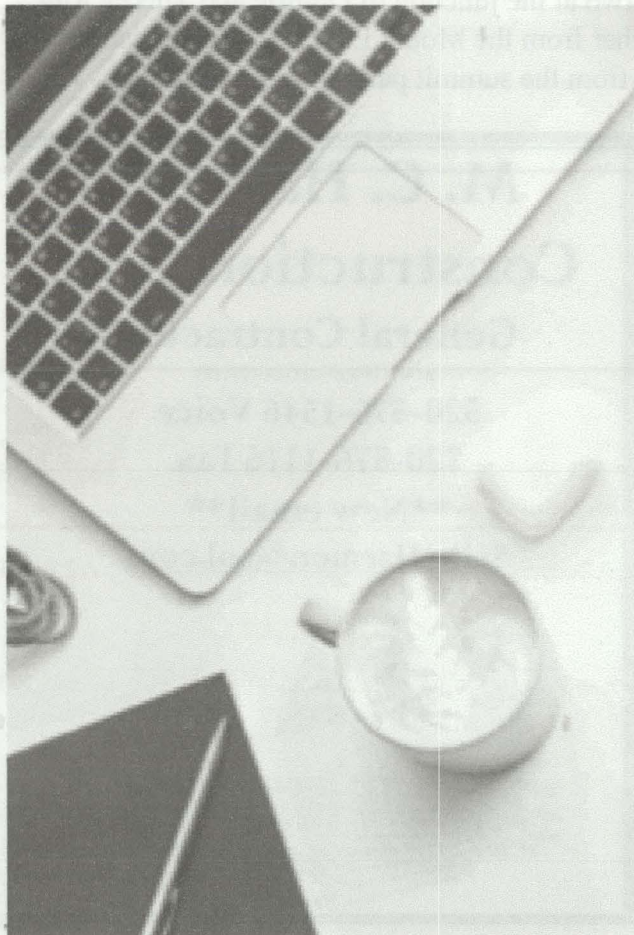
Please join us on Sunday, September 1st at 11:30 a.m. following our annual pancake breakfast for the groundbreaking for the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station expansion and remodel.

This remodel has been a long time coming! Built in 1984 to serve a volunteer department, the current fire station has served the community for decades; however, upgrading the fire station has become a necessity for the safety of our firefighters. Based on a strategic plan written by the Fire Board in 2019, a formalized call was made for a facility to better serve the operational needs of our fire district, while also protecting our firefighters and volunteers.

The district is grateful for the funding that is paying for this remodel. Specifically, the Arizona State Legislature provided a grant opportunity, and our Federal Congressional Delegation argued for the appropriation, which, together, are making this aspiration a reality. We recognize that without the support of the Mt. Lemmon Community, neither of these funding sources would have come to fruition, and we could not be more appreciative.

Additionally, we would be remiss not to mention that our architects at Shive-Hatterly, and our contractor, Lloyd Construction, have worked diligently with us over the past several months to develop a final plan that aligns with our budget.

Although there are not enough words to thank everyone who have assisted in this endeavor, we do hope you find the time to celebrate what has been a very successful journey; after all, this was a community effort to better serve an outstanding community.



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(continued from page 8)

**Longevity and Age Profile of Breeding Western Cordilleran
Flycatchers (2019-2024) on Mt Lemmon, AZ**

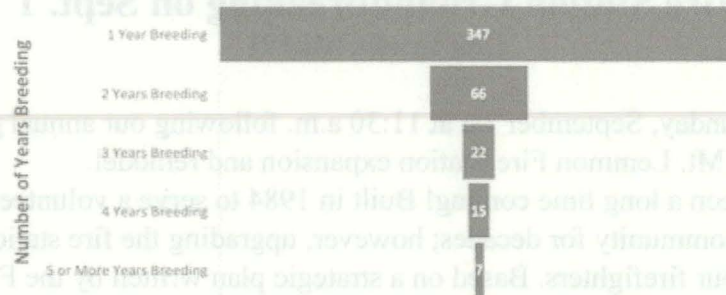


Fig. 2. The longevity and age profiles from 2019-2024 of breeding Western Cordilleran Flycatchers on Mt Lemmon, AZ.

The 347 first-time breeding birds in Figure 2 constitutes 75.9% of all birds documented breeding on Mt Lemmon in our Turkey Run/Aspen trail, Summerhaven/Marshall Gulch, and Palisades study areas.

Several people have asked me about the fate of the nestlings banded at their flycatcher nests. Until this year I could not answer that question because since 2016, in our three study areas only one nestling (from Rose Canyon) had ever come back to breed (on Turkey Run). This single return was from a total of 512 flycatcher nestlings that we have banded. The exciting news this year is that we had seven former nestlings return to our three study areas. A nestling from Bill and Cathie Brown's 2022 hose-bib nest was found breeding at the Boy Scout Camp Lawton in Palisades, having moved 6,600m (over 4 miles) down the mountain from its natal territory. Pam and Dennis Winsten had one of their 2022 nestlings return to breed on a platform at the end of Turkey Run Road (gate area), while BJ Sing and Terry Hopper had a flycatcher young born in 2022 nested this year at the old water tank on the Aspen Trail just below the ski area. Three of four returning 2023 nestlings were recaptured this year—two at the junction of Guthrie and Turkey Run roads (one was Paul and Mickie Gelsinger's young and another from the Mount Lemmon Water District maintenance yard at Marshall Gulch). A third 2023 nestling from the summit parking area was found breeding next to the old water cement cistern along Turkey Run, just above the two large metal water tanks. The fourth former nestling was a male that bred at Marshall Gulch, but I was unable to catch and identify the bird. The average distance moved for all seven former nestlings, from their natal area to capture location, was 1200 m (3/4 mile). It is exciting to see former flycatcher nestlings finally coming back to populate and breed on Mt Lemmon.

The increase in 2024 nestling returns might be related to several factors, including but not limited to habitat recovery from the Big Horn fire, perhaps more favorable conditions along the migration route or on the wintering grounds. There has also been a very positive influence of the efforts Mt Lemmon residents have made in supplying nesting platforms. The added nesting sites on the mountain, that are created by platforms, have greatly enhance breeding habitat for the flycatcher. If anyone would like a flycatcher nesting platform for their property, you can contact Kenn Block (kenn.block@aol.com) or me at charlesvanriper3@gmail.com.

M. C. Harmon Construction, LLC

General Contractor

ROC 219566~221184~221185

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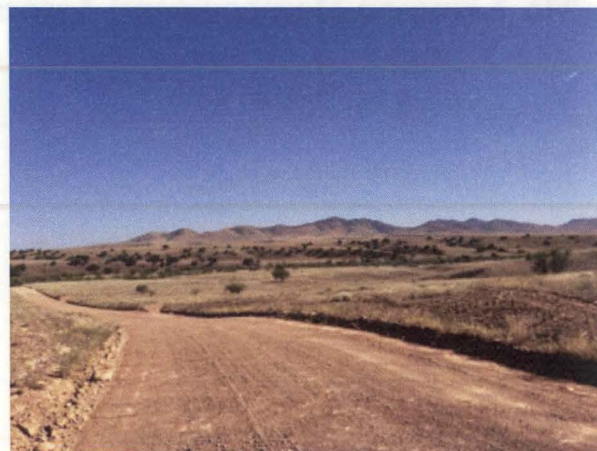


Coronado National Forest and Partners Conserve Land in San Rafael Valley

Starr Farrell, USFS

Tucson, Ariz., (August 15, 2024) –The Coronado National Forest has finalized the purchase of 149 acres of public land in Santa Cruz County. The Duquesne Road Parcel Acquisition is located in the San Rafael Valley, along Forest Road 61/ Duquesne Road, a scenic drive in the Sierra Vista Ranger District, Coronado National Forest. The San Rafael Valley is approximately 85 miles southeast of the Tucson metropolitan area, home to approximately one million residents, and near the communities of Nogales, Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin, and Sierra Vista. The valley provides a beautiful and historical setting for a variety of recreational activities, including scenic driving on gravel roads, bicycling, hiking, camping, wildlife watching, and hunting. Partners to the Coronado National Forest in this land acquisition include the Arizona Land and Water Trust and the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape.

Acquisition of the Duquesne Road Parcel will contribute to the protection of one of the most unfragmented examples of a prairie grassland ecosystem in the Southwest. Grassland habitat types similar to those in the parcel are known for their high species richness and diversity. The purchase was made possible by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The parcel conserved through this partnership is part of a landscape prized by surrounding communities. The effort to protect the San Rafael Valley has been driven by community partnerships and has been active for over 30 years. In addition, the Nature Conservancy has been active in the area, acquiring and conserving important properties.



Welcome to the team!

We are honored to announce that Doug Mance, AWM, CFP® has joined the Schaefer Present Corte Mance Investment Group as a full partner and financial advisor. Doug has distinguished himself as a top industry wealth advisor for 43 years, a community leader and a friend. Together, we offer diverse talent and perspectives, providing our clients with decades of experience and knowledge. We remain focused on creating lasting relationships built on trust, commitment and integrity.

Join us in welcoming Doug to the team.

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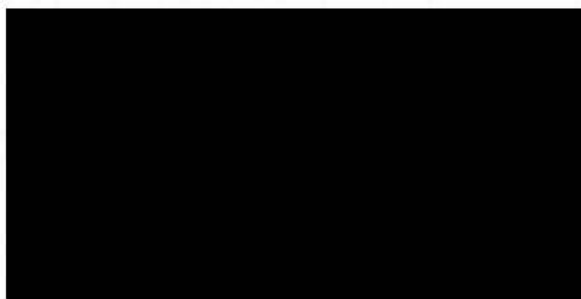
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