

Mt. Hood Forest Homeowners Association

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

P.O. Box 82351 Portland, OR 97282 info@mhfha.com www.mhfha.com



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ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

The **Annual Meeting** and picnic will take place June 22, 2013 at the Welches Elementary School located at 24901 E. Salmon River Rd, Welches, OR 97067—directly across the street from the Dorman Senior Center.

We will be meeting outside, rain or shine, so plan accordingly. There is a covered area that will be available to use should the weather be wet.

Sign-in 11:30

Barbeque 12:00

Meeting 12:45 - 2:30

MHFHA will again supply the main course (hamburgers, both real and otherwise, along with hot dogs and all the fixings.) Bring a

salad or dessert to share with others, non-alcohol drinks will be provided. Bring a chair and prepare to join the discussion.



Speakers and Guests:

Jim Sauser— *USFS Region 6 Regional Manager*

Chris Johnson—*USFS Zigzag Law Enforcement Officer*

Paula Hoiland and Jim Cline—*Update on our new FOREST WATCH program in our tracts*

David Jacobs - *Water Master for both of our water districts*

Fran Lanagan- *Forest Service Special Use Permit coordinator for Mt Hood Cabins*

Mt Hood Fire Department— *What can you*



President's Message by Paula Hoiland

What a great beginning to spring! We've had some of the warmest days for April and May at the mountain than I can ever remember. With spring comes new growth and new life on the forest floor. This spring we also have new breath into the Cabin Fee Act. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) introduced H.R. 1159 on March 14th, the Cabin Fee Act of 2013 (CFA). Under Doc's leadership, a successful 'markup' by the Natural Resource Committee quickly followed in April. The bill then went to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to determine its impact on revenue. H.R. 1159 is essentially identical to H.R. 3397, the 2012 Cabin Fee Act, which passed the House of Representatives last September. Although there have been a few issues, it is hopeful that the bill will be passed soon and then on to the Senate. For the most up-to-date information on CFA please check the NFH website often at www.nationalforesthowners.org.

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These signs have been placed throughout our cabin roads this summer.

"I looked up to behold the exquisiteness of a young soaring eagle...."



President's Message *continued*

Donor "weariness" may be setting in but we cannot stop now. Continued financial support is needed to push this bill to its passing followed by work in implementation of the bill. When you renew your MHFHA dues please add whatever you can for this worthy cause.

The 2013 permit fee bills are expected to be sent in June according to USFS. They are very late this year due to the implementation of a new accounting system throughout the Department of Agriculture. This affects many more people than just cabin owners. We will still have 30 days from the date the statements were generated to pay in full.

Finally I am pleased that our Forest Watch signs were installed in April. The USFS

did not allow as many signs as we had proposed but the placements that they did approve will cover all FS roads that serve the 552 cabins on Mt. Hood. We will continue to discuss the Forest Watch program at our annual meeting.

Our annual meeting is June 22nd. Please plan on attending. The Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) Regional Manager, Jim Sauser will be making his first appearance in many, many years. Join us - meet your fellow cabin owners and share a great barbeque while we discuss issues that affect us all—Forest Service rules, security, fire safety etc.

SEE YOU ALL JUNE 22ND!

Still Creek Baldy *by Scotty MacCaskill*

Bald Eagles are cool....REALLY COOL! Of course the species is America's national bird and certainly that symbolism evokes a sense of pride and respect. But I love the Bald Eagle because of its elegant grace, remarkable beauty, and proud self-esteem.

My peripheral vision, observation skills, and hearing have become highly sensitized since a fellow Boy Scout smeared tooth paste on my tent attracting bears in the middle of the night [but that's another story]. Indeed, my family calls me "Sherlock" as in Holmes, for my uncanny ability to capture movement, especially when outdoors.

Several years ago while sitting comfortably on my cabin deck reading, my vision was alerted to pure elegance moving left to right down the creek. I looked up to behold the exquisiteness of a young soaring eagle channeling itself fifty feet

above Still creek. First, I was shocked then disappointed at my fleeting glance, but instantly, and in an odd way I felt completely satisfied. The creature was magnificent....breathtaking. For sure the eagle was juvenile and small, but the head and tail were pure white and the brownish back and breast maturing into solid black.

My old routine included scanning the creek for aquatic birds and feeding trout and the forest for meandering deer and scampering chipmunks. Now it includes the tree tops and skies, all in the hope of a gratifying glimpse of the lofty eagle. I've been lucky enough to see my young friend four different times over the years and each remains special.

Saturday May 4th returning from my afternoon walk, my feathered friend was overlooking my cabin. Although unlikely, I felt he was protecting my favorite place on earth.

Outdoor Spring Clean-up by Ken Hoiland

At our cabin spring clean-up begins outdoors as soon as the last snow has melted which this year didn't happen until April. We rake up all the fallen branches and other debris and create a burn pile. You don't need a permit to burn as long as your pile does not exceed a 5' circle or 5' in height. Before burning you must call the Hoodland Fire Department Burn Line at 503-622-3463. This is a recorded message which will tell you the hours that burning is allowed (or not). I always have our hose nearby and keep a good eye on the burn pile and of course put plenty of water on it when done for the day.

The other chore that we routinely do is clean all those pine needles that accumulate in between our deck boards. Removing the dirt and needles help lengthen the life of the wood before rot sets in. Several years ago my wife found a tool that she thought would make this job much easier and gave it to me for Father's Day. I love it! It makes the job much easier.



Next we wash the windows inside and out and get ready for another great spring/summer at our cabin. Of course chores at the cabin never seem to end which actually isn't such a bad thing.

One thing is for sure - chores at the cabin seem to be a lot more fun than chores done at home - why is that?

Stay connected—stay in touch www.mhfha.com

RENTING OUT YOUR RECREATIONAL CABIN

The US Forest Service has a provision for renting out your cabin, but the procedure is very restrictive. The full description/requirements of the program are available on the Forest Service website - www.fs.usda.gov/mthood, then navigate to "Highlights" on the right side of the page, then scroll down and click on "Summer Homes". The following is a quick review:

1. The cabin owner must apply for, and obtain permission from, the Forest Service before renting their cabin.
2. It is the policy of the Forest Service that cabins are for personal recreational use and are **not** to be used in a commercial capacity. They will review your permit application to determine your compliance with that policy.

3. In addition, the cabin may not be rented for more than 28 days per year, or six weekends during a calendar year.

4. If a permit is issued to you, it is only valid for the calendar year in which it is issued. Rental permits must be renewed annually.

5. If a permit is issued, the cabin owner must complete a Forest Service form after each time the cabin is rented.

6. In addition, the cabin owner is responsible for the actions of the renter(s) to follow Forest Service regulations.

For questions about renting your cabin, contact Fran Lanagan, the Summer Homes Permit Administrator, at Flanagan@fs.fed.us.

Have You Recently Moved or Changed Your E-mail Address?

Please don't forget to keep us informed of any changes. You can email us at info@mhfha.com or send a note to: MHFHA ... PO Box 82351... Portland, OR 97282

DID YOU KNOW?.....



Our special permits from the Forest Service state many conditions and rules. Here are just a few to be mindful of:

- Tents, canopies and RV's may be used on your lot for a short time period—no longer than 2 weeks.
- Annual self-inspections by permit holders are required and are due by July 15th of each year. Permit holders should use the Recreation Cabin Permit Holder Inspection Form to document their inspection. Form can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mthood/passes-permits/other>
- Hot tubs installation must be approved by the USFS permit administrator. Hot tub citing and installation requirements and the form for requesting the authorization of a hot tub are available on the website mentioned above.
- Decorative yard items such as plastic flowers, plastic animals, wooden signs, figurines, or show lawn ornaments are not authorized and must be removed.
- Cutting, trimming, or removing streamside vegetation for any purpose, including for “view” improvement, is prohibited.

The Zigzag Ranger Station Law Enforcement officer has confirmed that ATV's or OHV's or anything other than a vehicle that is authorized for street driving is not allowed on any roads in the Zigzag District. This means they are not allowed on the FS cabin roads.

The summerhome roads are not included in places where ATV or OHV vehicles can be used. Recently tickets have been written, for example, on Still Creek Road.

ATV=“All-Terrain Vehicle”; OHV = “Off-Highway Vehicle”

Get Involved—Join a MHFHA Committee

Your Mt Hood Forest Homeowner's Association is reaching out to you. We have formed five committees to serve the needs of all cabin owners.

- ◇ Membership
- ◇ Security/Forest Watch
- ◇ Events (Annual meeting, Highway clean-up etc.)
- ◇ Communication/Newsletter

◇ Website/Data

All board members are directly involved in one or more of these committees but we need your help. If you have a little time and an interest in any of these areas **PLEASE COME JOIN US!**

For more information or to volunteer please email us at info@mhfha.com



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Transitioning the Family Cabin

There are three ways that cabin owners can transfer ownership of their cabin during their lifetime:

- Sell to a new owner – a new permit will be issued by the USFS
- Gift to a family member – a new permit will be issued by the USFS
- Transfer to a living trust – a new permit will be issued in the name of the trustee of the living trust.

The last one, transfer to a living trust, is widely used when there are multiple family members involved. The living trust is a document that states that the cabin will stay in the immediate family and will name a ‘trustee’ that will be named on the USFS special uses permit in accordance of the rules of the USFS. The rules of the USFS will allow a living person or husband/wife as the permittee, which also includes a trustee of a

‘Living Trust’.

There is an example of a “Revocable Living Trust” on the National Forest Homeowners website. Many attorneys are unfamiliar with the rules of the USFS and find this sample very useful. The new NFH website has a member’s only area with many useful documents such as this. If you are not a current member of NFH please consider joining. Go to www.nationalforesthomeowners.org and select “Join NFH” on the top menu bar and follow the instructions. Once a member proceed to the “Centers” section and select “Estate Planning/Multi Ownership”. There are several other useful documents in regards to trusts including a power point presentation.

Thank you to David Jacob for supplying MHFHA with snow road reports throughout the winter—we appreciate you David!

CRIME ON THE MOUNTAIN

In early March over 8 cabins along Rd 12 were broken into during the same crime spree that included Sandy, Tualatin and Canby according to Clackamas County Sheriffs Office . These cabins are set down from the road and most have gates, some even had alarm systems including security cameras. In some cases, all the furniture was taken and loaded into an apparent truck according to tire tracks left. The good news is that the suspect was caught by a vigilant Clark County Deputy who stopped to check on a suspicious parked U-Haul with the driver asleep on May 1st. The U-Haul was loaded with cabin style furniture and goods. The Deputy connected the goods with the Clackamas County robberies and notified cabin owners from Rd 12—they were relieved to have their belongings back.

On another law note – there have been several reports of shots being heard around our cabins. To be sure of the law, MHFHA contacted the Zigzag Law Enforcement officer, Chris Johnson. "There are no designated shooting areas (in Mt Hood National Forest). It is prohibited to shoot across a road, trail, body of water or within 150 yards of a building, campsite or occupied area."

Should you suspect someone is target shooting at or near your cabin, please call the Zigzag ranger station at 503-622-3191 or Mr. Johnson directly at 503-622-2039.

Spring On The Mountain

Avalanche lilies push through the melting snow,
Mosses weave a lush green carpet,
The river roars high on her banks.

Trillium and Lady Slippers appear in the dark,
Beside yellow violets,
Oxalis, Bleeding Heart,
Indian Plum, Red Currant, Salmon-berry.

Mergansers preen on the rocks,
Anna's humming-birds squabble,
Kingfishers soar.
A lone Dipper dives and dips,
Varied Thrush pierces the air.

Alders leaf out in a gentle breeze.
Nights are cool;
Days are warm.
The heart is full.

By Joe Condon Rd 24

Notes from the Treasurer:



I don't know about you, but I find I have so little time to read. But from time to time I find time ... and some interesting stuff. As the "MHFHA Treasurer for Life" (at least it seems like it), I find that I am always writing about numbers. How many members, where they come from or how many owners do not participate. While I consider this type of information important to pass along I came across some other numbers that could prove important to everyone. Numerous studies have been done on the effect a human derives from being outdoors. Owning our cabins give us a jump on those folks that live in the city.

Researchers at the University of Essex in England crunched the numbers on mental health studies and discovered that outdoor activity heightens self-esteem (as well as general mood)—and the biggest boost is in the **first five minutes**. Part of the reason could be that the scale and timelessness of nature put our more common daily concerns in their place, study coauthor Jules Pretty says.

In one week - You'll be better armed against summer colds. In a recent Japanese study, adults who visited a forest preserve on two consecutive days experienced a jump in immune activity—as measured in blood levels of germ-fighting NK cells that lasted a week. "As a defense against harmful bacteria and fungi, plants produce airborne compounds called phytoncides," explains naturopathic doctor Alan Logan, coauthor of *Your Brain on Nature* (Wiley). (Logan was not involved in this study.) "Once we breathe them in, these compounds help the body's defenses, as well," he says.

In one year - You might find yourself increasingly moved to volunteer or perform other generous acts. According to Logan, people who regularly immerse themselves in nature have high levels of brain activity in regions associated with altruism and love. Maybe with all this improved brain activity you may be compelled to volunteer for the board at MHFHA or become active with a committee.

Having a busy schedule means the day can slip by before you enjoy any green time. Try heading outdoors before things get hectic—say, by sipping your morning coffee on the deck or better yet, by the creek. If possible, avoid squandering weekends on indoor chores. The average American spends 90% of his or her life indoors, and as we get older we become even more inclined not to venture out. You can always save the indoor chores for when it is impossible to enjoy the outdoors. If all else fails, bring nature inside. Even small doses— a bouquet of freshly cut fir or cedar or some wild flowers—can lift your spirits.

University of Pittsburgh researchers reported that spinal surgery patients experienced less pain and stress and took fewer pain medications during their recoveries if they were exposed to natural light. An older study showed that the view out the window (trees vs. a brick wall) had an effect on patient recovery. Of course, windows and views are different than actually being outside, but I am betting that adding a little fresh air to the equation couldn't hurt and might help.

Enjoy the mountain and your cabin surroundings. You will open the door to greater confidence.

Our website www.mhfa.com contains a list of local service providers such as electricians, plumbers, contractors, chimney cleaners etc. Please keep us updated with reviews from your own experiences. This keeps the list up to date. MHFHA does not endorse any service provider. We only pass along useful information from fellow cabin owners. Check it out under "Cabin Owner Information" tab.

