

Mt. Hood Forest Homeowners Association

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

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 23rd at the Welches Elementary School located at 24901 E. Salmon River Rd, Welches, OR 97067—directly across the street from the Dorman Center where we held our meeting last year.

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

Lunch 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:

Sarah McClurg - *Clackamas County Sheriff Crime Prevention Officer*

Paula Hoiland and Jim Cline—*Introducing a 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 do to fire protect your cabin?*

Security System Displays— *From cameras to alarm systems*

President's Message by Paula Hoiland

It's time to fight back. After the rash of break-ins and thefts that over 60 cabin owners experienced this past winter, it is little solace that one of the culprits is behind bars. Another accused is scheduled to go to trial later this month. Unfortunately there are other people in the surrounding areas that may be the next to target our cabins. After research and several meetings with the Clackamas County Sheriff's office, the association has created a **FOREST WATCH** program. This program will be introduced at the annual meeting on June 23rd. The program will consist of security cameras, alarm systems, increased cabin awareness, engraving identification on all tools and valuables and special signs made especially for Mt Hood cabin roads.

President's Message continued



These signs will be placed throughout our cabin roads this summer.

"With broom in hand you rid the surface of needles, cones and other debris..."



There is not a silver bullet answer to rid us of the theft problem, however, together we can fight to make a difference. Please plan on attending the annual meeting to learn more about this important project.

The Cabin Fee Act (CFA), S. 1906, is now languishing in the Senate awaiting scheduling for markup by the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR), Chaired by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). While both the House and Senate bills are well positioned for enact-

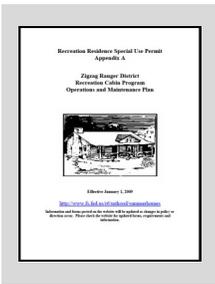
ment into law, the complexities of the legislative process can be detrimental to the orderly and timely progression of even non-controversial bipartisan bills such as the CFA. Therefore we need to be forever vigilant and proactive at critical times to ensure the timely progress of the CFA that is so essential for its passage and enactment into law.

Please go to our web-site to read more details about the current status of CFA and please donate what you can as the process is costly for all cabin owners.

The Cabin Fee Act affects each one of us—please continue to give financial support generously to this critical cause!

Poetry of Seasonal Cleanup by Scott MacCaskill

Time to climb the ladder and securely negotiate the slippery roof. With broom, hose, or blower in hand, slowly and gently you rid the surface of needles, cones, and other winter debris, always mindful of your roof's limited lifespan. With detailed inspection you sniff out a new layering of Spring moss, and, with purchased foresight, unleash your seasonal sniper - Moss Control. You then prolong the rooftop adventure by means of Windex and elbow grease, brightening impossible-to-reach windows and simultaneously electrifying that assured mid-morning light which always seems to catch your eye. Before climbing down, you stop briefly to survey the annual perspective; the view from the top. The creek, the forest, the grounds surrounding your cabin, all looking a little different, better somehow, and the thought fleetingly crosses your mind; how wonderful it would be to extend this visual feast. With ladder firmly hung in the shed, wheelbarrow in your grips, rakes, trimmers and shovels all ready for action, you systematically groom the driveway and walkways, dumping rubbish in secret locations, shielded from public view. Out comes the electric weed-eater with its 200ft extension cord, and you begin the arduous task of re-hacking the historic trail leading down to the creek, not that you'll use it, but because it's tradition. You clean and store your equipment, which was easily withdrawn but surprisingly laborious to return. You clean your boots, hose off your safety glasses, and strip off your overalls for a quick dunk in the chilly creek. Now dressed, you pour a heavy-handed glass of bourbon, and with a splash of water and a grin of satisfaction, you stride the cabin grounds, delighted by the result of your efforts. Ahhh...but there's one more task which needs completing- the ultimate decision; grilled prime Rib-Eye or slowly smoked hickory chicken...poetic, isn't it?



Taking Care of Your Cabin

Understanding the Operations and Maintenance Manual by Ken Hoiland

All cabin owners should be aware of the Operations and Maintenance Manual. The manual was mailed to each cabin owner along with their new permit that was sent in early 2010. It is an excellent resource to answer a majority of questions you may have regarding the rules and regulations of owning a cabin on Forest Service land. It is a basic guide of the do's and don'ts for all outdoor and exterior aspects of your cabin.

If you are considering doing a project, either structurally or to the grounds, a good place to start is with this manual. The manual is broken down into 10 sections. It deals with whom to contact, where to obtain forms for written requests and general standards for improvements. It defines what is acceptable for building size, outbuildings (i.e. storage shed, woodshed etc.), to decks, porches, hot tubs and saunas. There is a section that defines paint colors and acceptable roof materials along with a section that describe the Natural Resource Standards in regards to native plants and how to properly care for your cabin lot.

Another key is to be observant of the trees surrounding your cabin. Mt. Hood is an old growth forest and trees do die and become a hazard. If you suspect one to be dangerous or dying let the Forest Service know right away. Permission is required and section IX explains the proper process.

Cabin owners are also required to do a "Self Inspection" of your cabin and grounds yearly. The self inspection form may be found on our website <http://www.mhfha.com> under the **USDA Forest Service Tab**.

As good stewards of the forest and our cabins we are obligated to follow the guidelines as outlined in the Operation and Maintenance Manual. It can be found on our website under the same **Forest Service Tab**.

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

Thank you!



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



Notes from the Treasurer:

This past year we saw the highest participation of financial support for this organization since its inception. We had a participation rate of 67%. This means that 369 cabin owners carry the financial burden for the remaining 33% of the total 552 cabins.

Last year the board made the decision that we would no longer provide the same level of support to those cabins that do not provide support or have any communication with MHFHA. We also will discontinue sending newsletters to any cabin that we have not heard from since 2009. This means that these cabin owners, along with their families, will not be kept aware of problems and important happenings within the cabin tracts as well in the surrounding area.

We will continue to send out vital news and information to all members via email so please make sure we have your current email address. Remember that we will send email alerts to as many friends and family as you would like to put on our list. Current snow reports were sent out this winter and we heard from our members how valuable and appreciated this information was. Non-members will not be sent these updates.

The Fall newsletter will be sent out to all email addresses of any cabin that has sent their financial support during our spring mailing.

Our website www.mhfha.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.



Are You Prepared for an Emergency Evacuation?

If you were at your cabin last September, you'll remember the Dollar Lake Forest Fire and the resultant heavy smoke. There were several days when a thick veil of smoke covered the area and the top of Mt. Hood was barely visible through the haze. It was more comfortable to stay indoors to avoid watery eyes, congestion and the taste and smell of the air. The nearness of the fire made me wonder how we would be notified if an evacuation order were issued for our area.

The Hoodland Fire Department only fights forest fires if requested by the Forest Service. Otherwise, they only put out structure fires. Conversely, the Forest Service only puts out vegetation fires, no structures.

It is suggested that you have a plan in place on how

to round up family members and pets and important things you can't afford or want to lose.

Clackamas County has a reverse 911 system whereby they can send a blast evacuation order on any land phone listed in the County, regardless if it's listed or unlisted. If one doesn't have a land line, an alternative number can be registered on the Clackamas County Emergency Notification System at: www.clackamas.us/emergency

Once on this site, find the following icon to register additional phone numbers so you would be notified should such an evacuation be called for on Mt Hood.

For more information you can also contact Hoodland Fire Department at 503-622-3256

