



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

Help Prevent the Spread of New Zealand Mudsnaails

Now that winter is upon us and the rainy season is near, people are heading into the hills to enjoy the mild weather and hike, mountain bike, ride horses, and explore. Unfortunately, anyone who treks through the Santa Monica Mountains runs the risk of spreading the highly invasive New Zealand mudsnail. This snail is an exotic invasive species that threatens native wildlife, including threatened and endangered species like steelhead trout and the California red-legged frog.

Heal the Bay and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission recently completed a survey of the Santa Monica Mountains assessing the extent of the New Zealand mudsnail invasion. This survey confirms the presence of mudsnails in several creeks throughout the Malibu Creek watershed, including Malibu Creek, Medea Creek, and Las Virgenes Creek. Although the mudsnail has been found throughout California's Eastern Sierra, this is the first time it has been discovered in the Santa Monica Mountains. New Zealand mudsnails have not yet been detected in areas of the Santa Monica Mountains beyond the Malibu Creek watershed.

The presence of mudsnails in the Malibu Creek watershed is alarming and of grave concern. At only 5 mm in length, these brown invaders spread by attaching themselves as hitchhikers and moving to new locations. Mudsnails can persist in densities of 500,000 individuals per square yard, they reproduce asexually (it only takes one snail), and can survive out of water for weeks. New Zealand mudsnails can take over an entire creek. A single mudsnail can produce a colony of over 40

million snails in just one year. Mudsnails are of particular concern because they drastically reduce the food supply for native amphibians and fish by crowding out native aquatic insects.

Alarmingly, impacts from the New Zealand mudsnail are already being seen in the Malibu Creek watershed. Aquatic insect surveys in mudsnail infested areas showed record low numbers of native aquatic insects. More studies are needed to determine the ultimate impact that these invaders will have on the wildlife in the Malibu Creek watershed.

Unfortunately, there is no known method to eradicate New Zealand mudsnails. But, the good news is, you can help prevent their spread. Here are some simple steps you can take to protect the Santa Monica Mountains from further spread of mudsnails:

1. Avoid Water Contact – The easiest way to prevent mudsnails from spreading is to stay out of creeks and keep your pets out of creeks. Even wading in shallow water can spread mudsnails.

2. Don't be a Carrier – If you do come in contact with the water, avoid transferring anything wet (boots, waders, gear, bike tires, horses, and pets) from creek to creek.

3. Keep it Dry – After hiking, biking, or exploring near a creek or lake, thoroughly inspect your belongings. Remove anything clinging to your gear, like mud and debris, and completely dry your belongings. If possible, put your wet gear in the dryer on high for a minimum of 2 hours. Air drying your belongings at temperatures greater than 85° F for 48 hours will also kill mudsnails.

The Santa Monica Mountains are highly frequented by recreational users, so it is particularly important that everyone do their part to stop the

mudsnail invasion. By following these three general rules and sharing this information with family and friends, you can help prevent the spread of New Zealand Mudsnails.

-Contributed by Sarah Abramson; Heal the Bay

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting November 14, 2006

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:10 pm in the home of Heidi Stompe. In attendance were Marianne Cilluffo, Joan Kay, Lisa Lehman, John Low, Jocelyn Mackay, Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe along with other members of the community.

Federation Report: Guest speaker: Lee Renger discussed his future plans as a recently elected member to the Water Board.

Old Business: County LCP – Another public hearing was conducted this past week. A balanced group of environmental groups, home owners/individuals, and developers all provided their views on the Draft plan. The revised Draft will reflect responses to comments provided during hearings; copy to be available for viewing toward the end of December. Next hearing to be held on Jan. 24, 2007.

Recent Community Events: Square Dance 2006 – Approximately 70 people attended; committee will re-evaluate format for next year to help increase attendance while minimizing the associated costs. Disaster Preparedness Forum – This event, held at the local fire station, was well attended including approximately 50% new resident attendees. Road Clean Up Crew – Good turn out for this year. Many young people came out to help.

Newsletter: The notice that went out in the recent Newsletter, asking for comments on whether or not to discontinue the bulk mailing, yielded mixed results. The Board decided to continue soliciting input on this issue for now but will conduct a trial run with an electronic version along with some printed copies available for pick-up at the local fire station. The goal is to reduce the amount of time (Volunteer for 2 hours/month, to 3 locations), money (about \$5000/year) and

environmental stress (paper, fuel, exhaust output) that go into this endeavor.

Trash Hauler – The County is planning to contract with a trash collection company to provide service that meets the new, more stringent, local, state and federal laws related to refuse and recycling. Information on this issue will go out to individual households in December.

Disaster Survival Guide – The County is planning the creation of a Disaster Survival Guide for the unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County.

New Business: Annual MNVCA Board of Directors Elections – A nominating committee was formed to include Joan Kay and Lynn Benjamin nominations will be submitted to the Board at the December meeting. Les Hardie, Yehuda Netanel, Heidi Stompe, Rosemary Alden and Cynthia Hodes positions are open for the coming term, 1/07-12/09.

Coastal Commission (CC) Hearing/Malibu Valley Farms (MVF) – The Board voted to approve a position letter addressed to the CC recommending denial of a claim by MVF to “grandfather-in” existing horse keeping facilities, adjacent to an existing waterway, unless mitigating measures are taken to protect that waterway. Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention. **Water Leadership Forum** – The Las Virgenes Municipal Water Board will hold a forum, and provide a meal, on Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss water and waste water services.

-Lisa Lehman

MNVCA Board Election Results

Elections for the MNVCA Board were held at the last board meeting. The board members who were up for re-election were nominated and have agreed to serve for another 2 year term. The current board members are:

	Heidi Stompe
Marianne Cilluffo	Joan Kay
John Low	Lisa Lehman
Jocelyn McKay	Joan Slimocosky
Les Hardie	Rosemary Alden
Yehuda Netanel	

Once vacancy still exists on the board. If you would like to serve, please attend the next board meeting. Officers will be elected at the January meeting.

Calendar of Events

MNVCA Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 7 PM
At the home of Lisa Lehman
805 Malibu Meadows Dr.
591-1569

As always, the meeting is open to all!

ETI Corral 36
Tuesday, January 9, 7 PM
At the home of Holly & Steve Kessler
2121 McKain Rd., Calabasas
(818) 225 0569

County LCP
Wednesday January 24
See the Dept of Regional Planning Website:
<http://planning.co.la.ca.us/sp5mmCoastSch.htm>

Zen Meditation
Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Rosemary Taylor Alden
222-2936

Universal Worship Service:
First Sunday of each month, 10:00AM
Marilyn Browning
222-6363

A Course in Miracles Study Group.
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM
Marilyn Browning
222-6362

How to reach us:

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082
Vice Pres. John Low 224-8062
Treasurer: Cynthia Hodes 591-1026
Secretary: Lisa Lehman 837-7600

Send your email address to Lisa Lehman, the devoted MNVCA secretary at mnvca@charter.net, to receive announcements of meetings, community activities and the time and location of our Board meetings.

Contributions to the newsletter including nonprofit events to be listed in the calendar can be made by the 5th of the month to me (the editor) at 856 Wonder View Dr. or by email to mnvcanews@charter.net. *–Marianne Cilluffo*



MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

DECEMBER 2006

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