



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

May/June 2009

FIRE PREVENTION UPDATE!!!

There is a new way to keep your house from burning in the event of a wildfire. You can now apply Phos-check to your home (the stuff the firefighters drop from helicopters to kill fires – only this is clear, not orange). It can be applied at the start of fire season and it will last all season, unless it rains. This is different from other gels and foams, which must be applied shortly before a fire comes, and only last a few hours. It is harmless to wildlife and structures and is totally biodegradable. You can apply it yourself or pay to have it applied.

After extensive research, longtime community resident Greg Aftergood presented his findings on this product at the last Board meeting. The Board was very impressed. There will be an information table and representatives from FireBreak (the vendor) at the 4th of July Picnic. Please plan to visit the table to learn more. If enough people are interested, we could get a price break. REMEMBER...ANY YEAR COULD BE THE YEAR WE BURN.

U-verse Is Coming

Julian Watkins reports that AT&T has been upgrading their local equipment to be able to support *U-verse* a product that is already available in many other areas and will be coming to Monte Nido in the future. Choices for internet service in Monte Nido have been limited to dial-up, satellite cable. With U-verse, AT&T will offer a very fast data pipe to our homes. Services will include high speed internet (up to 16 mbps), TV service including many HD channels and telephone service! We have never before been able to get high speed internet from AT&T because DSL service won't work this far from the central phone office (we are about 5 miles out). AT&T is in the process of running fiber optic cable and necessary equipment from the central office to Monte Nido to allow everyone to connect using the existing copper wires that run to individual homes. That makes the length of copper wiring much shorter and thus the speeds much faster. In time we will see if it actually is superior and more cost effective to our existing cable system. In any case, it will bring more competition and choice to our neighborhood.

Save the Date!

Saturday, October 17

The square dance/BBQ was such a success last fall at King Gillette ranch that a repeat performance has been scheduled for Saturday, October 17. Mark your calendars!

Please Support Our Trails

Trails are an integral part of our neighborhood. Many of us work hard on trails year after year for everyone's enjoyment. If you cannot donate time and effort to help maintain the trails, monetary donations to our local trails fund are greatly appreciated and help to pay for our hired trail clearing crew. Please support our ETI Corral 36 Trails Maintenance program and send your donation to Jeanne Wallace, 1710 N. Cold Canyon Road, Calabasas, 91302. For information call: (818) 222-2560.

Saddle Peak Lodge Update

Saddle Peak Lodge raised \$4500 for fire department 67 at their most recent dining fund-raiser. All of the equipment that the fire department requested has been ordered: a portable pump that allows them to be very mobile with hoses and can use any water source, two Garmin professional navigation systems for the trucks, a winch cover for the new truck, a set of side steps, and a washer and a dryer for the station.

Reminder:

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Community Meeting May 5

LVMWD is hosting a community meeting to discuss the water shortage and impacts it will have for the service area. Please plan to attend this important meeting on **Tuesday, May 5, 2009, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army's Camp Craggs in the Flick Meeting Hall. Entrance is through Tapia Park. If Tapia Park Gate is closed, the code is #1865 (Put #pound in first).**

Fourth of July

We are very happy to report that Tracy Bunetta and Lois Love have volunteered to chair the event this year. The theme will be "Share the Bounty". Volunteers to help with planning, setup, and execution are needed! If you'd like to get involved with this annual neighborhood tradition, please contact Suzanne Bailey at 818-222-7663.

Montenido.org

A reminder that our neighborhood organization has a website! It's www.montenido.org. Every month, this newsletter is posted on the site. Many thanks to Bob Fera for his dedicated efforts to maintain and update this site for all of us. Check it out!

WILDLAND FIRE — STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING OUR HOMES AND OUR NATIVE LANDSCAPE

Richard W. Halsey, Director of the California Chaparral Institute and "voice of the chaparral", intrigued and enlightened Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation delegates and guests at its annual banquet held April 3 at the Malibu Lake Mountain Club. The following is a summary of his presentation.

Halsey noted that, contrary to some popularly held beliefs and previously held brush clearance directives, the state and its fire fighting agencies are moving toward a new progressive approach to fighting wildland fire and brush clearance that is determined by science, not fire politics. The challenge comes in deciphering who is communicating knowledge based on science and who is merely expressing a carefully crafted opinion that promotes or protects particular vested interests.

Chaparral is California's most extensive, natural, native plant community and its characteristic wilderness dominates our foothills and mountain slopes. With over 50 different variations of plant associations, our native landscape is ecosystem to countless species of plants and animals, provides essential protection against erosion, allows the recharge of underground water supplies and offers unique opportunities to remain connected to nature on a local level. Take a drive into the hills surrounding nearly every southern California metropolitan area and you are immediately immersed in chaparral, just as we are here in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Typical stripping or improper clearing of chaparral all too often demonstrates the kind of environmental damage that occurs when government agencies overreact and/or motivated developers unnecessarily destroy native scrubland. Many of us flanking hillside/mountainous properties, have long suffered the horror of chain saws, disking and bulldozing of native chaparral, scrub oak & oak woodlands courtesy of developers only too eager to decimate a 200-foot clearance. Science confirms that stripped areas fill with non-native weeds that are much more flammable than the surrounding, native chaparral. This kind of mix actually increases the chance of a wildland fire. Invasive weeds play a major role in spreading fire. Weeds and embers are a dangerous combination that current "clearance" regulations have hereto failed to address. Properly placed and thinned trees/shrubs can actually hinder embers, and help to protect structures.

In addition, a common misconception is that since chaparral is a "fire-adapted" or "fire-dependent" plant community, it needs to burn because fire serves as a force of renewal. Nothing could be further from the truth. Chaparral is not a simple, homogenous ecosystem. Each type of chaparral responds differently to fire depending on species present, angle and direction of the slope on which it grows, and climatic conditions. The one factor all types of chaparral have in common is

that they are all sensitive to fire intervals shorter than 15-20 years. This is the time it takes for a burned stand to recover properly and set enough seed in the soil to be able to bounce back after the next fire. As fire frequencies increase, largely due to human caused ignition, the intervals between fires have been narrowing causing the complete elimination of chaparral in some areas and serious degradation in others. Non-native grasses quickly invade frequently burned areas helping to prevent chaparral from returning, increasing the likelihood and spread of wildfire.

A new defensible space law [took effect January 1, 2009](#), (SB 1595 by Senator Kehoe). California's new requirements for defensible space around structures according to Public Resources Code 4291 make it very clear that reducing fire risk is not just about eliminating native vegetation.

A key element of the new law for fuel management includes measures that decrease the chances of a building catching fire, through new building design and construction requirements that require the use of fire resistant building materials and provides standards for reducing fire risks on structure projections such as decks. These are important considerations for new projects within hillside/mountainous zones and the county's new LCP is leading the way with specific policies that put fire safety and environmental protection first.

To see the latest research on how to prepare for wildfire from the community outward instead of from the wildland inward, see the online wildfire risk assessment tool from UC Berkeley at <http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/toolkit>.

It is within the chaparral that California will find its best and perhaps last chance to reclaim its wilderness and preserve the quality of life made possible by the region's natural, open spaces.

For more information please visit:
www.californiachaparral.org

MNVCA Board of Directors

A friendly reminder:

All neighbors are welcome

and encouraged to attend Board meetings.

We welcome your interest and involvement!

How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com, to receive announcements of meetings, community activities, and the time and location of our Board meetings.

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 876-3019

Secretary: Jill Reiss 222-1995

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN BOARD**

<p align="center">DESIGN & BUILD Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p align="center">ROGER SAVATTERI Monte Nido Resident Custom furniture and cabinetry. Unique patinas on wood and metal. www.savatteridesigns.com 310-625-2887</p>
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<p align="center">MEDICAL & SURGICAL EYE CARE Susan S. Ransome, M.D. Attending Physician & Surgeon, Jules Stein Eye Institute 22225 Pacific Coast Hwy, Ste. 8, Malibu M*D* EYE CARE MALIBU 310.456.7477 mdeyecaremalibu.com</p>	<p align="center">GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES Born 02/20/08 Seeking Conscious, Loving homes. Natural, Progressive Care Raised, Raw Meat, Raw Dairy No Innoculations, No Medicine Please contact Melanie at 818 657-9502 or crystallinesanctuary@gmail.com</p>
<p align="center">ELECTRICIAN Licensed Contractor 20yr Monte Nido Resident Mike Wortham / North Bay Electric 222-3817</p>	<p align="center">SAVE \$\$\$ Great Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor etc. Interior-Exterior Decorator-Consultant Over 50 Yr Experience Please call Ilse (818) 222-6818</p>
<p align="center">SADDLE PEAK LODGE DINNER WE-SU 5-10pm, SUNDAY BRUNCH 11am-3pm New Special 91302 Menu for Monte Nido residents – 3 course meal for \$55 per person Market fresh 4 or 8 course tasting menus served every evening with or without wine pairing. Complimentary parking for our Monte Nido neighbors. Chef Adam Horton and I look forward to having you join us in the near future. Iain Walling General Manager. 222 3888 or Saddlepeaklodge.com</p>	

To place an ad contact Nicole Brown at macvoodoo@netpowered.com or 818-914-6138
Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month
Pay to: MNVCA. Mail to: Nicole Brown, PO Box 423, Malibu, CA 90265

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MNVCA Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 7PM
At the home of Jill & Rodger Reiss
1066 Meadows End Drive
818-222-1995
*All neighbors are always welcome
and encouraged to attend!*

ETI Corral 36
Seminar & Board Meeting
Monday, May 4, 7PM,
(PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)
At the home of
Holly & Steve Kessler
2121 McKain Street
Calabasas
818-225-0569

**LVMWD
Water Shortage
Community Meeting**
Tuesday, May 5, 2009
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
at the Salvation Army's Camp Craggs
in the Flick Meeting Hall.

**Community Wildfire
Protection Plan
Workshop**
(Currently in Planning Stage)
Time and Date TBD
Watch your Email and
Upcoming Newsletters
For additional information

**Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation
Meeting**
Thursday, May 21, 7:30PM
Diamond X Ranch
(Off Mulholland)

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

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

Monte Nido Valley Community Association
PO Box 8054
Calabasas, CA 91372

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