

San Diego County Fire Safe Council Day

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The San Diego County Board of Supervisors declared October 28, 2008 Fire Safe Council Day. Dick Dupree from Pine Valley Fire Safe Council received the declaration, standing alongside representatives from many of San Diego County's local Fire Safe Councils, Fire Safe Council of San Diego County and the US Forest Service. They may have declared one day special, but San Diego Supervisors are supportive of Fire Safe Council efforts every day!

A Picture Worth 1,000 Words

Streets winding along the hillsides of Santa Barbara, shaded by old eucalyptus and oak trees, contribute to the seaside city's beauty and charm. However, the members of the Mission Canyon Association recognized that the limbs overhanging the street could slow responses during wildfire conditions. They set out to find a way to minimize the risk.

One Canyon resident offered up his motor home to fill in as a stunt double for fire engines. Association members affixed an "engine cam" onto the motor home and they took their show on the road. As they traveled the streets of Mission Canyon, the team noted low-hanging branches. At one point, the motor home was snagged by a limb, damaging the rooftop air conditioning unit. It was all too easy to see how firefighters would be delayed if they had to stop to remove this branch.

Mission Canyon residents worked with the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, and Santa Barbara Fire and Public Works Departments to remove the limbs and make their community more fire safe!



From the Desk of Bruce Turbeville

We have enjoyed bringing this newsletter to you thanks to a grant from State Farm Insurance. Sharing the great ideas that Fire Safe Councils have come up with is a great way to inspire even more great ideas. I'm looking forward to hearing about your successes in 2009.

You and your fellow Fire Safe Council members are to be commended for all your efforts that have made this a successful year in reducing the losses caused by wildfire. Partnerships and teamwork have once again proved their value. Keep up the good work, and together we can make California fire safe!

BRUCE



Personalized Guidance in Orange Co. Canyons

In 2007 Inter-Canyon League FSC, which covers the Orange County canyons of Silverado, Modjeska, Santiago, Trabuco, Williams, Harding and Live Oaks was devastated by the Santiago Fire. The fire eventually burned over 28,000 acres, 14 homes and damaged 15 additional structures. As a result of the fire, the canyons are now dealing with mud and debris flow issues. In spite of this horrific misfortune, they keep moving forward.

Tom Smizik, a resident of Silverado Canyon, developed a 12 page brochure called "Fire Prevention in the Canyons" which features beneficial and undesirable plants specific to their environment. In this brochure are canyon-appropriate clearance diagrams and a user-friendly information guide for improving the fire safety of home and property. This brochure can be found on the Orange County Fire Authority website at www.OCFA.org

The ICL Fire Safe Council helped sponsor the Canyons Emergency Preparedness Academy, which is put on by the Orange County Fire Authority. This training follows the guidelines of CERT, but is designed specifically for canyon residents and their unique way of living. They have been successful in training over 60 canyon residents to date.

The ICL Fire Safe Council's most recent work is with helping victims from the recent Freeway Complex Fires. The Council is reaching out and providing Yorba Linda evacuees with information to assist them during this devastating time and speaking with homeowners about starting their own FSC. ICL Fire Safe Council will also be participating in a panel discussion on "Rebuilding after the Fire".

Peer-to-peer energy is an awesome force to reckon with.



**Inter-Canyon League
Fire Safe Council**

Mount Laguna FSC Wins Jingle-Off

The creative juices were flowing as Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council facilitator Pat Spinetta strolled through the hallway of the San Diego County Supervisors’ Chambers following October’s FSC Day pronouncement. In response to a reminder from Wende Cornelius about CFSC’s jingle contest, she said, “Oh, my husband and I love jingles. We could sit around all night with a glass of wine and make up little ditties. We’d come up with something fun, like ‘Clean Up or Burn Up.’”

Pat certainly did “clean up.” She submitted her flash of inspiration, and it was chosen from the stack of entries that CFSC received. Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council cleans up as well: Pat’s winning jingle will be printed on giveaway notepads with pens for the Council to use when getting the word out in their forest community.



Mt. Laguna’s facilitator Pat Spinetta is tickled pink to have won the CFSC jingle contest.

Grant Writing Workshops Underway

California Fire Safe Council administers the Grants Clearinghouse, a one-stop shop for federal funding available to Fire Safe Councils. This simplified approach allows local Fire Safe Councils to fill out one application to compete for dollars from US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Parks Service. Additional funding is occasionally available from corporate funders such as insurance company foundations.

Although simpler than the federal application process, the Clearinghouse process has requirements and nuances that can stymie new grantees. Throughout California, grant managers are walking applicants through the grants clearinghouse process, outlining deadlines and requirements, giving practical tips, and insights into successful proposal writing.

The deadline for grant proposals is February 20, and the workshops are mandatory for new grantees. Previous grantees are STRONGLY urged to attend as some portions of the process have changed. If your local Fire Safe Council has a project that needs additional funding, log onto www.grants.firesafecouncil.org to sign up for a workshop near you!



Cathy Brooke teaches Santa Barbara Fire Safe Councils to apply for funds.

2009 Grant Writing Workshop Schedule

Date	Location	Time
1/6/09	Fresno	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
1/9/09	Douglas, NV	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
1/13/09	Shasta	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
1/10/09	San Diego	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
1/14/09	Humboldt	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
1/15/09	Los Angeles	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



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Manzanita Heaven in Angeles National Forest

The Angeles Forest Valleys and Lakes Fire Safe Council (AFV&LFSC) developed a unique way to create products from manzanita branches collected during their brush clearance program. The “green-friendly” products are sold locally and on their website, www.ManzanitaHeaven.net. The AFV&LFSC serves communities located in the mountains of the very north-east Los Angeles County, surrounded by USDA National Forest. The AFV&LFSC was formed in July 2002 after the Copper Fire that devastated over 23,000 acres in and around the communities.

“Mazanita Heaven” was the brainstorm of one of the original founding members and creator, Micki Geyer. The AFV&LFSC lost Micki in 2004 when she passed suddenly, but her work lives on through the members of the communities. 100% of the manzanita harvested is used for this project. The first products were bird toys, perches and trees. As the group continued brainstorming, they designed key chains, small animals, manzanita chips and coasters. Products on the drawing board include walking sticks, birdhouses and even a mini train set.

Not only does the program utilize the manzanita wood collected, it also provides yet another opportunity to get the word out about California’s Fire Safe Councils, in an exciting new way!



Angeles ForestValleys and Lakes Fire Safe Council reuses manzanita branches collected during fuels treatment projects for birdfeeders like this one.