

Silver Lake Homeowners Association

Newsletter SPRING 2022

May 23, 2022

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President's Report

By Barb Andrews

Dear SLHOA:

Thank you for your patience with our delayed release of the Spring Newsletter. I've been waiting to attend two events so to share the latest news and outcomes with you: a meeting with the US Forest Service, and the National Forest Homeowners meeting. Find a recap of the US Forest Service meeting here, and of the Forest Homeowners meeting in the Updates section below.

Meeting with US Forest Service

I expect many of you are eager to know how the winter may have impacted the burn areas around Silver Lake, and what kinds of Forest Service restrictions, if any, we can anticipate this coming season, and what we should be doing around our cabins, etc., regarding clean up.

On Tuesday, May 17, Jeff Cutler, lead on the SLHOA Fire Abatement Committee, and I met with our District Ranger Russell Nickerson, Silver Lake's new Special Use Permit Administrator Debbie Foote, Acting Resource Officer Colleen Heard, and Natural Resources Officer Janie Ackley. Here is what we learned:

- <u>Chain Saw Use</u>: Currently, you may use chain saws to clear trees felled on your lot by the fire fighters, and other fallen trees and debris due to weather or previous falls.
- <u>Firewood Permits</u>: You may use cleared and cut trees on your lot for firewood at your cabin (no permit necessary). Should you wish to take firewood out of the forest, please obtain a **firewood permit**. You may take **up to 6 cords for free**. You can obtain a free permit at the Almanor Ranger District Office in Chester, or by going online to https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/lassen/passes-permits/forestproducts. Please note the online page still states \$10 per cord, but that information will be updated.
- Hazard Tree Marking and Removal: If you still have standing hazard trees on your lot that need to be marked for removal, please email Debbie Foote and Colleen Heard at debra.foote@usda.gov and colleen.heard@usda.gov with the cabin permit holder's name, cabin number, and location of the trees. One of them will respond to you to schedule a time to get out to the lake to mark the trees.
- <u>Burn Permits</u>: Burn permits for Lassen County are currently issued for May 1 through June 30 and can be obtained online at https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/. You must have a signed permit in your possession while you are burning. You are responsible for always maintaining control of your fire. Please check the website for any changes in permit issuance and restrictions.
- <u>Campfire Permits</u>: You may also obtain a free campfire permit from the Almanor Ranger District Office, or online at https://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit/. You may currently burn small debris that you clear from around your lot under your campfire permit, but within the permit's guidelines and restrictions.
- <u>Amphitheater Benches</u>: We are permitted to utilize downed trees for new benches at the amphitheater. Scott Andrews will be working on this project. Please stop by the McNany's or Andrews' cabin to inquire about helping him out.

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President's Report (continued)

- <u>Wood Chipping</u>: Chipping is allowed, and the chipped wood must be removed offsite. You should not line your driveway or road(s) with it, as it poses a fire risk. Our roads act as a natural fire break. Any ground fire will creep across a road of wood chips. Please plan to attend the July 3, 4pm SLHOA general meeting to discuss possible removal of debris and any chipping. There is a possibility that the Forest Service may be able to provide some assistance with debris removal. This is all dependent upon their resources, and what other forest management/rehab priorities may occur over the summer.
- <u>Caribou Wilderness</u>: There are currently no restrictions for entering the Caribou Wilderness. However, large areas of the Caribou experienced extensive burn, so please use caution in those areas. The Forest Service will be assessing ongoing cleanup of control lines and will continue to work on hazard tree removal along roadways. They may have the opportunity to work on trail reconstruction and cleanup in the Caribou this summer. If you are interested in volunteering to help along the trails, please email me (<u>bandrews@calacademy.org</u>) and I'll keep you posted.
- <u>Campgrounds</u>: The Rocky Knoll Campground's gate will be locked, and the campground closed, for the summer due to lack of staffing and available camp hosts. The Silver Bowl Campground has no gate and will remain open, but with no services (no water, toilets, or garbage pickup). IF a camp host becomes available, the Forest Service may open services at this site. Campers will be required to "pack it in and out." The Forest Service understands we may find some campers utilizing the day use areas for overnight camping, similar to what occurred a couple years ago. There will be some surveillance by Forest Service law enforcement, however, should you observe any illegal activity or risk to the safety of the Silver Lake area, please call 911.

Appreciations

Jeff and I thanked Russell, Debbie, Colleen, and Janie for all their efforts, and that of the USFS, in helping to preserve Silver Lake. During the Dixie Fire, Janie shared with me accurate information I passed along to all of you. She also put me in touch with the right people to get our permits to re-enter Silver Lake to close.

Jeff and I invited the four of them and the entire team at Bogard Ranger Station, to our July 3 Social Event at Silver Lake. We're not sure if they will all be able to make it, but they really appreciated the invitation.

Some of you may or may not be aware, but Jeff Cutler has a degree in forestry management, is a fire fighter, and has over 20 years of experience in the profession. When the Dixie Fire was headed our way, Jeff spent days monitoring the impending fire. I can't thank him enough for his calm and knowledgeable analysis of the fire and the conditions at the lake. This not only helped to keep me calm, but also allowed me to share the best and most up to date information with you. I pulled information from several sources during the fire, but Jeff was the best. We owe him a great deal of thanks. Thank you, Jeff!

During the meeting, Jeff commented to Russell and the team that but for the thinning around Silver Lake by the Forest Service approximately 15 years ago - whether you agreed with it or not - we would have likely lost our cabins to Dixie. This past work aided the Cal Fire and USFS firefighters in their efforts to preserve our cabins. The team greatly appreciated this acknowledgment, as it had been a huge effort.

Please feel free to email me (<u>bandrews@calacademy.org</u>) with any questions. We will review ongoing clean-up efforts and what's happening in the Lassen National Forest/Caribou Wilderness Area at the July 3, 4:00 p.m. SLHOA General Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all this summer, in person, and on the water!!

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year 2022 (5/1/2021 through 4/30/2022)

Rever	านes
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Nevenues		
Permit Holder Dues	\$ 25,476.83	50 budgeted, 52 paid
Family and Associate Dues	2,689.59	65 budgeted, 76 paid
NFH Dues	480.00	11 budgeted, 16 paid
Bank Interest	0.52	
Donations	6.35	_
	\$ 28,653.29	
Expenses		
Caretaker Cabin Insurance Premium	\$ 2,761.00	
Caretaker Cabin Maintenance	1,633.26	
Waste Management	70.50	
Caretaker Net Pay	5,587.64	
Caretaker Communication Expenses/Other	520.00	
Employment Development Dept	290.32	
Franchise Tax Board	-	
IRS Quarterly Fed Tax	1,767.60	
Lassen County Prop Tax	695.77	
Misc Other, Stamps, Check, etc.	-	
NFH Dues	3,020.00	
Newsletter/Directory Web Expenses	828.01	
Secretary of State	20.00	
US Forest Service	2,340.00	
Silver Lake Water Testing	-	
SLHOA Events	-	
State Comp. Ins. Fund	1,251.66	
Road & Trail Maintenance/Other	-	
Utilities-Propane	152.67	
Wells Fargo/PayPal Fees (net)	124.50	-
Total	\$ 21,062.93	
Income	\$ 7,590.36	_
		-
Current Assets		
Checking Account Balance	\$ 29,425.79	
Savings Account Balance	5,218.53	
PayPal Account Balance	0.00	
Prepaids	4,136.00	_
Total	\$ 38,780.32	<u> </u>

Caretaker Cabin Committee

By Molly Brodie, Hap Heiberg, Stephanie DeGraff Hunt

Molly Brodie and Joan Brodie, Cabin 15, painted the Caretaker Cabin's bathroom and kitchen this past fall. It lit the rooms up immensely. Molly is currently making new curtains and is refinishing the kitchen cabinet facings, which were brought down to the Brodie/Heiberg garage. She is using materials and supplies they have on hand.

Caretaker Cabin projects we'd like to tackle this summer (we'd appreciate your help!) include:

- 1) Loft: The lost needs to be cleaned out. This will take just a few people to help hauling away the old bed springs and mouse-eaten mattresses.
- 2) Furniture: The cabin is in dire need of some functional furniture, particularly a couch and easy chair, and a bed for the loft. If you have something decent at home that is still in good condition and can take it to Silver Lake, please consider donating it. Please contact Gene to see if he can use it.
- 3) Bathroom: The cabin needs a new toilet and vanity. Stephanie DeGraff Hunt is working on price quotes for the toilet. Hap Heiberg has offered to help install.
- 4) Front Stairs & Landing: These need to be replaced. Hap will put together a materials list and prices this June.
- 5) Floors: The bathroom subfloor is in poor shape, and the linoleum in both the bath and living area needs to be replaced. Vinyl plank flooring may be the easiest way to go. The Committee will assess this summer.
- 6) Shutters: Hap will be looking into modifying several window shutters so that it is easier for one person to open/close them. And lastly,
- 7) Exterior Paint: The SLHOA board and Caretaker Cabin Committee will work with Gene to identify the paint color and quantity needed. Please consider volunteering an hour or two to get the cabin repainting completed could go quickly with a team.

Please remember that the Caretaker cabin is owned and maintained by the SLHOA. SLHOA pays for all supplies and new appliances for the cabin. However, we welcome your donations and volunteer time! Please contact Molly Brodie at LSOD.Dance@gmail.com, Hap Heiberg at hapheiberg@gmail.com, or Stephanie DeGraff Hunt at sdegraffhunt@gmail.com to offer your support. We appreciate your generosity and would love your help!



Updates

National Forest Homeowners Association

By Barb Andrews

On April 29 and 30th, I attended the National Forest Homeowners (NFH) meeting in Vancouver, Washington. It was a successful and informative meeting. A few important updates:

New Board Chair

The NFH has a new Board Chair, Meredith Randall. I've had the opportunity to become friends with Meredith over the past four years. She's very conscientious, has a great up-beat personality, and has served on the NFH Board for many years. I know that the organization will be in good hands under her leadership, and she will continue the important cabin advocacy work on our behalf on Capitol Hill.

Special Use Permit Language

One of the most important topics covered at the meeting was the review of the US Forest Service's (USFS) proposed changes to our Special Use Permits. As you may be aware, for most of us, our USFS Special Use Permits will be up for renewal in 2028.

On our behalf, the NFH has filed numerous objections to proposed changes to the permit language that would go into effect with the 2028 renewal. In addition, the NFH has objected to past changes that the NFH and others were not permitted to comment on, or object to. Of particular concern is the limitation of cabin ownership to a sole owner, which prevents co-ownership. I know that some SLHOA cabin permits are under a family trust, but right now, the USFS only recognizes one person as the owner. The NFH is asking the USFS to consider the burden this puts on families and recognize multiple ownership in the new permit language for 2028.

Recreation Residence Program Funding

Starting in 2025 as the result of the Cabin Fee Act, 85% of our permit and cabin transfer fees will go directly to the USFS to administer the Recreation Residence Program. An estimated \$23M will go toward the Program in 2025, or \$700 per cabin. The remaining 15% of our fees will go to the USFS's Washington DC office. Note these fees are not designated for use in fighting forest fires.

USFS Goals

The new Chief of Forest Service, Randy Moore, is implementing new goals for the Forest Service. First among these is to address threats from wildfire. To this end, the USFS is implementing a new 10-year strategy for protecting communities and improving resilience in America's forests. The USFS is also working both to develop a more uniform process for rebuilding cabins destroyed or damaged by fire or other weather-related events, and to better align cabin lot cleanup challenges and county building code requirements (these do not always coincide, or make sense, for cabin tracts, especially those that have historical significance).

LIONS AND TIGERS, AND FOXES AND BEARS! OH MY!!

By Barb Andrews

For the past few years, US Fish & Wildlife Service and US Forest Service biologists have been monitoring and sometimes radio tagging the Sierra Nevada red foxes in the Silver Lake, Mineral, and Manzanita Lake areas of Lassen.

The Sierra Nevada red fox was federally listed as an endangered species in 2021. They are the only red foxes that occur naturally in the high mountain habitats of the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade mountains of eastern California. You may have heard that one such female red fox successfully mated and gave birth to a small litter of pups in the Caribou Wilderness in 2021. Thankfully, she and her pups survived the Dixie Fire and have, at least from what I last heard, remained in the area.

Also in our area, no surprise, have been a bear or two. As early as last March, the USFWS had positioned some baited traps intended for tagging the red foxes around Swain Mountain. All those traps were taken out of commission, thanks to a rather large bear (see pics) who happily rolled the traps to get the food bait that had been placed inside. That is one big bear!

So, while I find these images cool (yeah, I like this stuff), it reminds me that with so much forest burned from the Dixie, these big guys (namely, the bears) will likely be on the hunt for food, and so we may have furry visitors with large noses this summer...just a reminder to stay vigilant and don't leave your hot porridge out on the breakfast table! ©





HELP TRACK PACIFIC MARTEN THIS SUMMER!

By Barb Andrews



Pacific marten (Martes caurina), Silver Lake, September 2020

This summer, the SLHOA community can assist USFS biologists monitor the Pacific Marten (I like to call them "pine marten") population impacted by the Dixie Fire. The fire evidently burned a lot of Pacific Marten habitat in the area around Mt. Lassen.

The USFS's previous conservation strategies for Marten had always included the "population core" represented by the Caribou Wilderness Area and the Lassen Volcanic National Park, as well as a few other known cores North and South of the Park. The Dixie Fire burned through much of these areas. This summer, Lassen's USFS biologists will likely be using trail cameras to see if Marten are persisting in areas within the Dixie Fire's boundaries.

One of the biologists out of the USFS Eagle Lake office, Tom Rickman, has asked me to encourage the SLHOA homeowners to report any Pacific Marten we may observe in the Silver Lake/Caribou Wilderness Area. The data they'll need is location, date, and time of day. You can record the location using a GPS unit. Alternatively, you can take a photo with your phone (iPhone or Android), which will automatically record the location, date and time.

Please contact either Tom or me with any sighting data you gather. You can email images and/or this information to me at bandrews@calacademy.org, or to Tom at tom.rickman@usda.gov.

You may also use the iNaturalist app to record your observations. Tom will access all marten observations through the app and you will never have to email either of us. See below for more information on the app.

Use the iNaturalist App to track Martens, and More!

By Barb Andrews

At this year's National Forest Homeowners conference, I had the opportunity to introduce the iNaturalist app. The following is a snippet of my presentation on how you can use the iNaturalist to help out with the marten surveys this summer, and benefit scientific research, environmental and wildlife management and conservation. It's also a lot of fun! **So what is iNaturalist!?**

iNaturalist is a free app, downloadable to your Android or Apple iPhone. You can scan the codes below to download the app:



iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, designed to let people share their observations of nature and create an official record of the species that they've observed at a particular location, date and time. This official record can also be referred to as "species occurrence data."

iNaturalist can also be considered a social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature. For example, Users can use iNaturalist to record their own observations in nature, get help with identifications, collaborate with others in a project to collect this kind of species occurrence data for a common purpose, or access the observational data collected by other iNaturalist Users, opening up the opportunity to learn more about a species and a region.

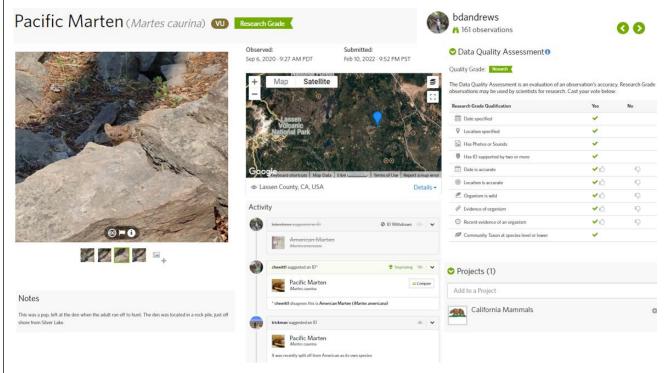
How does iNaturalist work?

- 1. To begin with, you take a clear, focused photo (or multiple photos) of an organism to turn it into an observation. Your phone knows where you are and what day and time it is when you take the photo, so that's part of the observation.
- 2. If you have a network connection, iNaturalist will suggest what it thinks the organism is when you tap "What did you see?"
- 3. You can pick from the suggested list (look for things that are *visually similar* & *seen nearby*) or you can type in your own suggestion. If you don't have a connection, your device will still record your location, date and time, and your observation will fully upload once you are back online.
- 4. When you hit "share," your observation is uploaded to the iNaturalist database where the iNaturalist community can confirm or refine the ID, such as suggesting a different species.

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iNaturalist App (continued)

Here are details of an observation I made at Silver Lake, pre-Dixie Fire, of a marten:



You can see that this observation has become categorized as a Research grade observation, which has made my image and other observational data official "species occurrence data." Research grade observations have:

- 1. Evidence of the organism (usually a photo, but you can upload sounds too);
- 2. A correct location where the organism was seen;
- 3. A date and time when the organism was seen; and
- 4. A consensus by the iNaturalist community about what species it is. Just like anyone can make observations on iNaturalist, anyone can help with identifications too. There are well over 200,000 iNaturalist members made up of scientists, amateur "experts," people just interested in nature, students, park rangers, etc.

So what began as just a photo is now official species occurrence data (a confirmed record that this species was seen at a particular location on a particular date at time).

A Note on Data Privacy

While all observations posted to iNaturalist are public, there are tools to restrict access to an observation's geographic information. For example, some of you may be concerned about recording an observation of a protected or endangered species and exposing its location or even your cabin's location within that observation. iNaturalist has taken into consideration with two types of restricted geographic information: **geoprivacy** and **taxon geoprivacy**.

For **geoprivacy**, the individual observer decides when information is restricted and when restricted information is shared. For example, a user might choose to add geoprivacy to an observation made in their backyard for personal privacy reasons and *the iNaturalist platform will never share this information without explicit permission from the observer*.

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iNaturalist App (continued)

Alternatively, **taxon geoprivacy** is a process through which the iNaturalist platform automatically restricts geographic information associated with observations of taxa, such as an endangered species, that may be threatened by location disclosure.

This is just a brief introduction to iNaturalist. If you're interested, including engaging your kids or grand children in making observations through this app, feel free to stop by my cabin this summer, #17 on the North Shore. I'll be happy to show you how it works and other fun aspects of it. I know those marten move quickly and it's often impossible to capture a photo, but good luck. I hope you have fun keeping an eye out for these sleek and cunning creatures.

Community

Welcome to Ave Grace McNany!

The Silver Lake HOA community continues to grow. Welcome to Ave Grace McNany, the newest member of the SLHOA!



Ave Grace McNancy (Cabin #56)

Community

Silver Lake Cabin for Sale

Cabin #43 on East Shore Road was built in the mid-1930s by my grandfather, Sydney M. Higgins. It is 20' x 30' and is a traditional log cabin with a generous loft and beautiful stone fireplace. The cabin is fully furnished with a propane stove and frig, double bed, large dining table with benches, and a couch. It is approx. 50' from the water and 2 kayaks are included. Contact Rob Yelland at ryelland@gmail.com or 510-289-2434 (cell).









Services

Caretaker Services

Silver Lake Caretaker, Gene Stewart, will officially start his season at the lake on June 1, 2022. As always, please keep Gene in mind this summer should you need help with clean-up around your cabin.

Aside from Gene Stewart's regular rounds and SLHOA services, he is available to assist with lot clean up (e.g., clearing fire space around structures), splitting, stacking and cutting wood, small paint work, housekeeping, opening and closing cabins, etc. and will consider any opportunity. Gene will also provide references from members he's worked for upon request. Cabin owners are responsible for certain material and equipment, such as stain, power washers, etc. Basic hourly rate is \$25 but may vary depending on the job. Service exclusions include carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

You can leave a note on the white board outside the backdoor of his cabin, or you can email him in advance at gene4261@yahoo.com, or by phone at (541) 954-7167.

Brush and Tree Removal

Jerret Lepage is a contractor out of Westwood who does a lot of tree and brush removal work - chipping, hauling, mulching, and felling. He is familiar with the lake and our setup.

Jerret is interested in working directly with cabin owners or groups of cabin owners. The direct relationship allows him to know your exact expectations. He has good insight and suggestions for distributing chipped material to reduce future dust issues.

RATES

Base Rate: \$100/hour for chipping and hauling, which includes Jerret's labor and the use of his tools - Bobcat, chipper, and dump trailer.

Additions:

- \$200/hour for the use of a masticator to create mulch;
- \$200/hour for an additional worker, a reliable local he routinely hires; and,
- Approximately \$200 flat fee for hauling waste materials to the dump.

Note that Jerret will not use the chipper if rocks are present; all materials must be clear of rocks.

Contact Jerret via text to his mobile number, (530) 260-1200. He will call you back.

Burn Permits and Emergency Preparedness

Burn permits can be obtained for late/early season burning from CalFire (https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/). And the Lassen Co. Fire Safe Council, Inc. (lassenfiresafecouncil.org) has useful emergency fire preparedness information through its website and emergency plans and forms that can be downloaded and posted in cabins. Additional emergency preparedness information and guidelines can also be found on the Silver Lake website at https://www.silverlakelassencounty.com.

Your SLHOA

2022 Silver Lake SLHOA Events

The Board of Directors sincerely thanks all hosts and attendees of the SLHOA social events for their generous donations of food, beverages and dollars that offset the cost of financing these events. Your continuing support helps to maintain our expenses at the lowest possible level.

Next SLHOA membership meeting

Sunday, July 3, 2022, 4:00 p.m. at Amphitheater

SOCIAL: 5:00 p.m., Caretaker's Cabin, Hosted by Jim and Sally Timperley (Jeskey Cabin No. 8)

Labor Day SLHOA membership meeting

Sunday, September 4, 2022, 4:00 p.m. at Amphitheater

SOCIAL: 5:00 p.m., Caretaker's Cabin, Host Needed

Silver Ware – Order Today!

The 2022 summer season is upon us! Consider Silver Lake apparel aka "Silver Wear" for yourself and the Silver Lake fans in your family. Order your Silver Ware products on the SLHOA website at:

www.SilverLakeLassenCounty.com



Gift Idea: Wildland Firefighter Foundation Blanket

Beautiful throw blanket by Pendleton that honors all the firefighters who worked on our wildland fires in 2021. A portion of sales from this wool blanket helps to support the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, in aid of injured firefighters and their families.

https://www.pendleton-usa.com/product/wildland-heroes-firefighters-blanket/77049.html?dwvar 77049 color=6552&cgid=H171#start=1&cgid=H171

SLHOA Website Access

If you have not already accessed the Silver Lake website as a member of the SLHOA, you may request access. Go to the website and create a login and password. The system will notify Kim Andrews, who can approve your access to the site.

Note that website has a PayPal button should you wish to pay your SLHOA dues online. There is a modest processing fee for this service.

Use the "Contact Us" button on the website to contact Kim with any access questions.

Your SLHOA

SLHOA Board of Directors

Barb Andrews, Cabin #17, President, bandrews@calacademy.org

Erik Foraker, Cabin #23, Outgoing Treasurer, eforaker@mindspring.com

Pete Bogardus, Cabin #42, Incoming Treasurer, bogardus61@comcast.net

Sally Jeskey Timperley, Cabin #8, Secretary, timpersj@charter.net

Tara Bedney, Cabin #50, bedneys@yahoo.com

Rob Yelland, Cabin #43, ryelland@gmail.com

Stephanie DeGraff Hunt, Cabin #52, sdegraffhunt@gmail.com

Hap Heiberg, Cabin #15, hapheiberg@gmail.com

Laurel Moulton, Cabin #20, lamoulto@yahoo.com

Alan Siemer, Cabin #30, Ex-Officio President, aesiemer@gmail.com

Caretaker

Gene Stewart, Cabin #57, Caretaker, gene4261@yahoo.com

Newsletter – Call for Content!

Please submit any contributions for upcoming newsletters to Ian Foraker via email (iforaker@gmail.com)

Examples of newsletter content include:

- Community: New family members, births, passings, family updates
- Culture: Photographs, artwork, poems, stories, history, geography, ecology, etc. related to the lake

In addition, please share your feedback to help us improve the newsletter: https://forms.gle/eL6aaYzUnohUz7MD6.

Dues

Permit Holder annual dues are \$490, which includes membership in the National Forest Homeowners (NFH).

Family/Associate dues are \$35, or \$70 if you want to add a NFH membership.

Dues can be paid in two ways:

- 1. Send payment to Kim Andrews (address on invoice) via USPS, or
- 2. Pay through the www.SilverLakeLassenCounty.com website. You must be a member on the website to do this. There is a small transaction fee, but it is fast and convenient.