



## LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE Newsletter – February/March 2015

### CAReFUL

We may have our houses ready for an emergency, but what about our cars? Many of us are away from our homes as much as we are at our homes, so do we have the supplies we need in our cars? It is not just about the prerequisite first aid kit, jumper cables and flares. Is there extra water and food in your car? What about an old pair of sturdy shoes? Flip-flops or goin'-to-meetin' shoes are not going to cut it, or rather, would get all cut up in debris that could be strewn around. In 10 min. you could probably gather together the list below, throw it in one of your reusable shopping bags, which we all have plenty of now, and store it in your car trunk. Now we just need to remember that we have it there in an emergency, and periodically refresh the perishable supplies.

1. Flashlight with fresh batteries
2. Water
3. Packaged food
4. Sturdy shoes
5. Work gloves
6. Shovel
7. Warm blanket
8. Cell phone programmed with emergency contacts under ICE (In Case of Emergency)
9. Car charger for cell phone

Let us all work on being prepared at home and in our cars. We can meet the challenge fully prepared, or we can just cross our fingers and hope it never happens. It is our choice.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale, member of LTW Emergency Preparedness Team*

### Los Trancos County Water District News

The new President and Vice President of the Board of Directors are Bill Coats and Stan Gage, respectively. Water Board meetings, which are open to the public, are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Buckeye Room at Portola Valley Town Center.

### Tick Basics

We have several ticks that are found in the woods here – Western Black Legged Tick, *Ixodes pacificus*, American Dog Tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*, and Pacific Coast Tick, *Dermacentor occidentalis*.



Western Black Legged tick, nymph & adults, female on right



I apologize that I could not find a decent depiction of the Dog Tick. It is basically brown and larger than the

Black Legged, and yes, our dogs tend to pick them up. Ticks go through three life stages, but the stages that we need to be concerned with for blood meals on humans and pets are nymphs and female adults. Be aware that the nymphs can be as small as a poppy seed. When ticks are ready to feed they wait in a position called, questing, which is holding on to leaves or grass with just a couple legs and the rest of the legs are outstretched to latch onto a host. To avoid tick bites, stay to the middle of the trail away from brush, keep dogs on leash and on the trail, wear light colored clothing, check for ticks after hiking or working around brush. Note that our local Western Black Legged Ticks have been documented with Lyme Disease by San Mateo County Vector Control.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale*

### **From the Very Beginning**

W. D. Wasson was the developer that subdivided the land up here for summer vacation lots in the 1920s. Tom Uridel supplied the Newsletter with a copy of one of the ads from Wasson for “Los Trancos Woods.” Some of the verbiage will make you smile, and some will make you nod your head. “Elevation is from 900 to 1400 feet, with balmy, sunny climate, mountain scenery. Sites range from \$275 to \$495...with very easy terms to responsible buyers.” “Los Trancos Woods is the place for your summer home or week-end cabin site. Less than an hour and a half easy driving from San Francisco.” In a box with a title – “An Invitation”, “is earnestly extended to you to visit Los Trancos Woods and inspect some of the cabins being constructed. You may get ideas for your own. If you build in Los Trancos Woods you will have agreeable neighbors. Many of the home owners there are professional people lured to the tract by the restful climate and the magnificent scenery.”

### **Neighborhood Notes**

- **Scott and Lisa Smith** have Sarah (8) and David (almost 7 on 2/24). We moved at Thanksgiving from another ‘unincorporated’ San Mateo county part of Redwood City. We are so excited to be up here with such beautiful views. We purchased the caretaker property to the Littlefield estate back in the day, also known as 3 Vista Verde Way. On the property there is a vineyard we are learning about (Nancy next door taught us how to prune, but we don’t know how to make wine, so any hobbyists that would like to take on a vineyard?) We have deer that require us to ‘deer proof’ our fence (if anyone has a good fence contact?) We have a house that will need remodeling (any good contractors out there?)

*Submitted by Lisa Smith (for contact information see the last Newsletter on the LTW web site)*

- **Styrofoam recycling** seems to be a big hit around here, much better than the landfill. The Town of Portola Valley is now collecting block Styrofoam at Town Hall during their open hours. A member of our community reported that it is easy, and they would recommend it. Remember real Styrofoam breaks but does not bend. Your peanuts can go to the UPS Store in Ladera Shopping Center.
- Here’s hoping-for-more rain and the latest on **rainfall data** from Gene Hunner: December - 15.6”, January – 0”, and season-to-date – 20.4”.

### **Community Associations’ Web Sites**

The web site addresses are:  
<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>  
<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:  
[VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com)  
[VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

*Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites*