



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – April/May 2013**

Los Trancos County Water District

LTCWD's Saving Water Program has organized a **California Native Plant Tour** of Sharon Ward's garden on Saturday, **April 13, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**. The tour will emphasize low water use natives. Sharon's garden is an example of 25 years of growing California natives in this microclimate. A limited number of seedlings and cuttings will be distributed to attendees.

Membership information about the California Native Society will also be available at the tour.

Hope to see you there and Happy Spring!

Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti, member of LTCWD Board

LTCWD Fire Safety Update

Spring is in the air and summer is just around the corner – a perfect time for a brief update.

1) Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) has created an Evacuation Manual for each community within the WFPD. See the end of the article to find out where to access the Manual and Appendix 4, our evacuation routes.

2) WFPD, Woodside and the Town of Portola Valley have purchased a rapid notify system that is in the process of being installed. This system will be linked to the Fire District and towns, and will include the home phone numbers (via the 911 system) of residents who live within WFPD. In the event of a major emergency situation, this system will automatically call WFPD affected residents with information. The Office of San Mateo Co. Emergency Services operates a similar system.

Note: if you're not already signed up for SMC alerts, sign up now at: WWW.SMCALERT.INFO

3) There is a section of Los Trancos Road starting just below Oak Forest Court for approximately 1 mile to the vineyard. This stretch of road belongs to the City of Palo Alto and is their responsibility to maintain. A recently approved P.A. Fire Management Plan calls for this section of road to be cleared for defensible space and evacuation route safety. LTCWD Fire Safety has been working diligently with various agencies within Palo Alto to get some traction on this project.

4) This is a good time of year to start considering your defensible space plans for the dry summer months. LTCWD Fire Safety will once again be offering incentives for defensible space clearing, SOD removal, SOD prevention, Eucalyptus removal, automatic gas shutoff valves, gutter clearing, and wood roof shingle replacement. Incentive monies will be available starting July 1, 2013.

The Evacuation Manual and Appendix 4 will be posted on the lrcwd.org web site

Submitted by Tracy Sherman, Los Trancos County Water District

Got Water?

After a serious earthquake there is a good chance that water supplies to your home will be cut off. You should have an emergency supply of water of one gallon per person per day for at least seven days. If you are like me, you received a number of 5-gallon drums from the LTCWD to store water. I stored this water in a place that has a good chance of not being damaged in an earthquake, and that is not exposed to light. I try to change mine at least every 3 years, at the same time adding 1/2 teaspoon of unscented bleach to the 5 gallons. (This water should be changed every 6 months to 5 years depending on whom you ask.) Have you changed your water recently?

Submitted by Bill Tagg, one of your local CERPP leaders.

Sudden Oak Death News

Now is the time to plan your spring attack against SOD!

Black, live and tan oak trees are susceptible to the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) pathogen. These species should be treated, sprayed or injected with AgriFos, to reduce the possibility of infection and subsequent death.

What is the hurry?

If you wait, it may be too late. The SOD pathogen thrives in moist, warm conditions, just like we may have this spring. So the time to act is **now**, before we get more rain.

What is the danger?

Once an oak is infected, there is no cure. Black, live and tan oak trees have been dying in our neighborhood from SOD infection. At highest risk are your oaks within 20 feet of California bay trees. (Bays are carriers but do not die from SOD) In the dry summers prune back your bays.

Should I have my oaks treated now?

If your oaks were treated for Sudden Oak Death only once or never, you should be treating now. If your last treatment was a year or more ago, it is time to treat your live oaks now.

Where can I find out more?

- The Vista Verde website: www.vistaverdepv.org (go to Home & Garden – then SOD) has good local information, including arborists who can treat your oaks, information for do-it-yourselfers, links to the California Oak Mortality website and more.
- Your **2012 Vista Verde and Los Trancos Woods Community Resource Guide** pgs. 54 & 55.
VV/LTW Sudden Oak Death Task Force

Neighborhood Notes

- **David Smernoff** wears many hats, and he is being honored for one of his hats: decades of work as Director, as Board member, as active volunteer, as consultant with Acterra, a local environmental nonprofit. On Friday, 19 April, in the evening there will be an Acterra Party for the Planet, with David presiding. Thank you for your activism, David! We all benefit.
- **Thistle be gone!** We have invaders gleefully marching on towards our beloved meadow that many of us hike to. Let's stop them in their tracks; in fact, let's obliterate them. On the right of Coal Mine Ridge Trail just before you get to the logs demarcating the PV Ranch property from the Blue Oaks property, and just before the meadow with the ancient oak, you will start to see thistles rearing their spiny leaves. My husband and I need help digging them out. An excellent tool for this is a Japanese hori hori garden tool found at either: duluthtrading.com/ or amazon.com. In fact, we invite all of you to pick 10 thistles each time you are out. Then we can make real progress. Recently thistles seem to be invading the open spaces with a vengeance in areas newly opened from dead trees.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

- **Rainfall data** is looking pretty puny for Feb. and March, but we will take what we can get. Gene Hunner reports: February - .9", March – 1.3", total for the season – 27.9"

2012 Community Resource Guide Changes

Please make the following change in your 2012 Guide:

Add: Heather Bleick, 1019 Los Trancos Rd., heather.bleick@gmail.com

If there are any changes for the Resource Guide, please let Linda, 851-1787, know and we will publish it in the next Newsletter.

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

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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