



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter - August/September 2011**

New News on the SOD Front

A new publication is out on the summary of Sudden Oak Death literature. This USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PSW-GTR-234 has some great “bedtime reading” on the history, disease cycle, management, and control of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of SOD. You can go online and order a copy or you can download it from http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr234/.

Below is some of the pertinent information gleaned from the Report:

- 1) Do not transport any *P. ramorum* infected wood or soil outside of the infected areas of the 7 Bay Area counties.
- 2) You can effectively slow the spread of *P. ramorum* by removing or significantly trimming back host plants, primarily California Bay Laurel in our area. (See News Release at the end about MROSD actions.)
- 3) Treating uninfected trees with Agrifos has proven to be effective in preventing infection.
- 4) *P. ramorum* infection can be controlled with Agrifos if started early on. Once infection is established, there is no effective treatment for the trees.
- 5) Susceptible Oak trees should be treated every year alternating between injection and topical application of Agrifos.
- 6) Various soil amendments have been tested and the results have shown no efficacy in protecting the trees.
- 7) Treatment of foliar host plants with various chemicals has had mixed results in preventing infection. The Bay Laurel host currently does not have an effective chemical treatment.
- 8) Foliar applications are being tested in Oregon with an eye to possible aerial spraying of forests.
- 9) Some oaks and bays do show resistance to *P. ramorum* with heritability. However a breeding program is expensive and a very long haul. None is presently on the horizon.

News Release - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) has removed approximately 250 bay trees growing within 15 feet of 49 large, healthy oak trees in 5 different Preserves in their fight to combat SOD's devastating effects on heritage oaks.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale, SOD Task Force

CERPP Potluck Picnic and Emergency Preparedness Drill

A date to get on your calendar: Saturday, **October 29, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

We will be conducting a local Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde Emergency Prep Drill followed by a potluck picnic to be held at Portola Valley Town Center. Further details will be forthcoming.

CERPP is the Citizens' Emergency Response and Preparedness Program serving the Woodside Fire Protection District, which includes the Towns of Portola Valley and Woodside and some adjacent unincorporated areas. CERPP's primary goal is to promote emergency preparedness and response capability at the citizen and neighborhood level in the event of a disaster that overwhelms traditional emergency response resources.

Check out the CERPP website which is filled with great resource information: www.cerpp.org. For more details contact Steve.

Submitted by Steve Friedman, LTW Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Save the Date, 24 September, for Community Fall Picnic

Once again the Fall Picnic will be held at Pony Tracks Ranch on Saturday, 24 September. The trains will be running, and the barbecue will be heating. Bring a potluck dish for 8 to share. Burgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided. Further information will be coming
Submitted by VVCA Board

Remodel or Remove, Reuse, and Refund

Anyone considering a remodeling project might also want to consider using "The Reuse People." This non-profit organization will come out to your home for a fee and deconstruct bathrooms, kitchens or any other rooms you may be remodeling. They do so in such a way that most of the materials that can be reused are resold and do not end up in our landfills. As an added plus, homeowners can claim up to \$5000 in tax deductions (materials and labor) without an appraisal. If the materials/labor exceed \$5000, an appraiser - Property Pro's is a good choice - can provide you with the necessary paperwork required by the IRS. Please consult your tax professional to confirm the details and requirements. See the following web sites for more info: <http://thereusepeople.org>, <http://www.gotopropertypros.net>

Submitted by Tracy Sherman

Editor's note: Another source for this service is Whole House Building Supply and Salvage based in San Mateo. A house was deconstructed by them on Los Trancos Circle and the owner was very satisfied with the results. See the web site: <http://www.driftwoods salvage.com/deconstruction.html>

Neighborhood Notes

- Once again, let the editor know if you cannot **download the Newsletter**, dreynight@aol.com. I am working on finding a universal download which maintains the format and type font.
- **Rattlesnakes** are out and about at this time of year. Be sure to watch where you are putting your feet when you are hiking and chatting. Look before you put your hand on a rock, ledge, log, etc. Fully cover foot with a shoe. Check under cars, if you have sighted rattlesnakes in the area. Do not disturb a rattlesnake or try to kill it. Remember they help control our rodent populations.
- Be aware that fences and gates are not always a **deterrent to robbers**. A mountain bike was stolen in mid-July from behind a closed gate and solid fence on Old Spanish Trail. The sheriff's comment was, "Well, you, folks, up here commonly have unlocked houses and gates."
- Here is the last **rainfall data** for the year which runs July - June. Gene Hunner supplied these numbers: June 2.0", total for the year - 46.6"

Community Associations' Web Sites

The web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org> NEW

The group e-mail list is:

VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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

Community Bulletin Board

- There is a **Room for Rent** on October 1st in the Bonita Rd. area: \$550/mo, including utilities; no pets, no smoking. For information contact 851-1847.

If you wish to publish something on the Community Bulletin Board, get your announcement to dreynight@aol.com by 25 September 2011 for the next issue of the Newsletter.