



# Caspar Community News

7 April 2014

## Upcoming Events at the Community Center

As well as the regular monthly Second Friday Pub Nights and Fourth Sunday Breakfasts, there are some fun gatherings at the community center in the next couple of months. This Saturday, April 12th, will be third annual Caspar UkeFest. Starting at 10:00 am with workshops and jamming, the day will conclude with a 7:00 pm performance featuring Dan Scanlon, The Ukeholics, Hui Arago and more. Tickets, a schedule and more information are available at [the UkeFest website](#) or by calling 937-1732. Great food will be offered throughout the day including an enchilada dinner starting at 5:30.

Last year I happened upon a magnificent collection of antique tea cups and saucers. This got me to thinking.... it would be fun to host a Tea at the center... and what better day than Mother's Day, which falls on May 11? So, from 1:00pm till 4:00pm, we will be serving up a grand buffet of tea-time morsels, including: sandwiches, quiches, savories, scones, salads, pastries and sweets., as well as teas, spritzer and coffee. There will be plenty of gluten free and vegan options. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$6 for children twelve and under, and will be available at Harvest Market in Fort Bragg, The Attic of Mendocino, or by calling the Community Center, 964-4997.

On Sunday, May 25 we will be having our outdoor flea market in conjunction with the Fourth Sunday Breakfast. If you are interested in vending, [email Jima](#).

– Dalen

## UkeFest! April 12th All Day

### Board Meetings

April 11

May 9

Everyone welcome at  
Caspar Board

Meetings: 9:00am

### Pub Nights

April 11

May 9

### Breakfasts

April 27

May 25

Winter Market: April Wednesdays 12-2pm  
Bookmobile: Wednesdays Apr 16 & 30, May 14 & 28  
more info: [CasparCommons.org/calendar](#)



## Canning Classes

This year Marty Johnson will be offering monthly canning workshops at the Caspar Community Center. The first one will be held on Sunday, April 13th, from 10-2. These workshop offer a hands on experience with the different ways of preserving local food. (Pressure canner, water bath, refrigerator pickles and fermented foods) In April Marty is going to focus on what one would preserve in late winter and early spring... Black bean soup, canned beans, vegetable stock, possibly a root vegetable salsa. Because she also has frozen peaches from last year and part of spring cleaning is clearing out fruits from the prior year, we will make a wonderful peach chutney. Fermented foods are part of every workshop and we will start with a simple sauerkraut. Spices are an important part of creating delicious canning flavor so in April we will make our own spice mixtures for the coming year (pickling spice, curry spice, garum masala). One of the most important aspects this workshop is re-creating the community feeling that was part of rural life as people came together to put up the summer abundance. The cost of the workshop is \$20 and you are asked to bring a good knife, cutting board, apron, and vegetable peeler. Marty will provide all the ingredients and supplies. If you have any questions you can contact Marty at 961-1066.

### Also in this edition:

President's Message, Community Meeting Summary, & articles about Water, Emergency Preparedness, and Rubber Boots





## President's Message

Things are blooming in Caspar. It's hard to know where to start talking about the variety of things happening. First of all our finances continue on a sound track. We have a budget of \$120,000 and projected an income of 130,000. We have money set aside for emergencies and anticipated expenses. Many, many thanks to the people who work, donate, organize and enjoy so that we all might benefit. This community is extraordinary

The north room at the Center has undergone several improvements this winter; double pane windows, a new forced air heating system, new stage and curtains and to crown it all, so to speak, and newly refinished floor. A generous donation from The Tarbell Family Foundation made possible the new windows and the new furnace. They also provided funding for a proposed solar electric system for the center. Those of you who have visited the kitchen will see the new undercounter refrigerator also paid for by the Tarbell Family Foundation.

Board members Oscar Stedman and Jesse VanSant retired this winter. Many thanks to both of them for the uncountable hours of work over many years they both have contributed to the Caspar Community.

We are looking for new board members and have several interested, and interesting, new people attending our meetings. If you would like to know more about the Board and what being a member would entail please contact me, or simply come to a board meeting.

It is exciting to see the resurgence of interest in the greater Caspar vision. I hope that the board can now focus more of its attention on the issues that Sustainable Caspar outlined. Looking at how much the community has accomplished in making the Community Center a thriving and stable institution I have great hopes for what we can accomplish toward making these visions real.

– Paul Reiber

President, Caspar Community Board

***In the June edition:  
Jim Tarbell outlines the  
effort to buy the rest of Caspar***

## Community Meeting

The Caspar Community meeting held on Sunday March 30 brought out about 40 community members.

Mike Dell'ara was first presenter and updated the meeting on the status of efforts to purchase the land around Caspar for sale by the Caspar Cattle Company. A group of Casparados continues to explore ways the community could purchase this land. While a variety of approaches and funding have been discussed, it is clear that to make this happen we need the leadership of a community member willing to manage the effort. If you are interested in helping the community make this long time dream become a reality please contact Mike or any Board member.

The highly successful Sustainable Caspar event held in February was the subject of the next part of the meeting. Michael Potts, organizer of the event, led the conversation that included reports on many aspects of Caspar's future. The Findings and Goals of the conference can be found at the [CasparCommons.org](http://CasparCommons.org) website.

Christy Bergman reported on her efforts to have the utility lines undergrounded in downtown Caspar. Christy who, with her husband, recently purchased the old Company store on the south end of Caspar has been spurring Caltrans to get this project underway. Reportedly we are high on the list to have the utility poles removed from the downtown area.

The meeting adjourned after two hours, and many of the participants stayed to enjoy a potluck dinner together.

– Paul Reiber

Please Help the Caspar Board  
**COMPLETE THE  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
PROJECT**

**Caspar 2014 Questionnaires will  
be available at Pub Night, 4th  
Sunday Breakfast, at the  
Community Center office or  
downloadable from  
[CasparCommons.org](http://CasparCommons.org)**



# WATER!

Our recent survey showed that 20% of respondents in Caspar experienced issues with water supply during this past year. All of our households rely on groundwater pumping from wells to water our gardens, bathe, do our dishes and wash our clothes. We all share the aquifer with our neighbors. Using water responsibly in this time of drought will help you and your neighbors adjust to what is an indeterminate long term drought condition.

- ✦ Onsite water storage can make a significant impact on your home's water availability by providing a much needed buffer for a well whose on-demand production has slowed.
- ✦ Conserve, conserve, conserve. Flush less, shower for shorter periods and perhaps less often. Make an effort to not soil your clothes. Keep a pair of gardening overalls that can stay mildly soiled and wash only when necessary. Use drip irrigation for your garden. Be vigilant in monitoring your water systems usage and repair leaks and malfunctions upon discovery. Reconsider your need to run the hot water tap until the water comes out hot; many simple cleaning uses do not require hot water. Wash your car someplace else :).
- ✦ Maintain an ongoing dialogue with your close neighbors as to their water situation. **We're all in this drought together** and many survey respondents replied that they would share their water resources with others.
- ✦ Consider a rainfall catchment system for your garden needs. When (and if) it does rain significant water can be harvested from your house roof and other structures. Bladder storage units can even be located under decks. Rainwater due to its' low salinity/balanced pH is actually better for your garden plants than well water.

At the Caspar Community Center we're working on getting the old well back in production, incorporating it into the storage tank, and using it as an irrigation source for the garden.

Longer term plans look to expanding use of the Caspar Cattle Company wells to serve a larger portion of the community.

– Bob Frey

# Emergency Preparedness

Caspar's new Emergency Preparedness Working Group has not met yet, but efforts have gone forward to further establish Caspar Community Center as a shelter in event of a disaster. The initial application document is being updated, and contact has been made with County Emergency Services, and Health and Human Services to learn ways of acquiring and storing supplies for community disaster preparedness. The Caspar Commons web site now includes the **"Escape Map"** for exiting Caspar in event bridges are down, and improved information, including phone numbers and actions to be taken in event of disaster are being prepared for the website. Other small communities have been able to obtain grant funds for preparedness, and this item will be explored. Persons interested in planning for disaster may contact Ray Duff at 964-3757 or [by email](#).

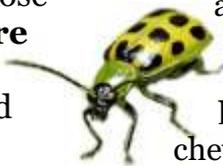
## RUBBER BOOTS WEATHER

Spring rains have blessed us and the garden is soaking wet. Fortunately the water will recede in a few days and we can start planting again. The garden is beautifully blooming with kale flowers, calendula, and honeywort. On a warm day you can hear the bees buzzing around the giant

flowering cabbages. The slugs and snails are out and about of course, and also the diabolical beetles (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*).

These greenish yellow bugs are also known as spotted cucumber beetles. They chew holes in the leaves of many different crops and seem especially fond of my spinach and chard. In their larval form they tunnel through the roots of young plants stunting or killing them! Unfortunately I am not aware of any organic controls for this pest. If you have any tricks please let me know! The next garden workshop will be Sunday April 27th after Breakfast at 11:00. We will plant an experimental four sisters mound of corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. Free.

– Sakina



This edition of

## Caspar Community News

was edited & designed by Michael Potts

The next edition will appear on or about June 1<sup>st</sup>. Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to

[lists@casparcommons.org](mailto:lists@casparcommons.org)