



Caspar News
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December 2008

News and Events from the Caspar Community

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Bored in Caspar?

Find meaning in your life by joining the Caspar Board. Meetings are every other Friday at 9 a.m. and generally go till 11 a.m. They are open and all are welcome to attend anytime. If there is something you would like to put on the agenda, contact me at 962-0164 or dapazomo@mcn.org by Monday evening of a meeting week. The next meeting will take place on December 5. We are always seeking new board members. Brownie points, gold stars, places in heaven, and good karma chits are available on request. Inquire within. — Paul Schulman, President

Community Garden

The winter garden has settled in—rows of kale, broccoli, collard greens, cabbages to harvest; rows of onions and garlic to anticipate (summer '09 harvesting); and rows of fava beans to enrich the soil. The greenhouse is still producing basil and tomatoes and awaiting spring seedling planting.

There's lots of weeding to do, so stop by and pull weeds. Produce is free to those who contribute work in the garden, and by contribution to the garden for those who just want to pick. There's a contribution box in the greenhouse. —Paul Garvin

Free Events at the Community Center

In keeping with the spirit of the "Meet Your Neighbor" evenings, movie events, and the old ping-pong and game nights, the Caspar Community Center is available, for free, once a month to anyone who would like to sponsor an event. The criteria for such events are that they are open to the public for free and are of community nature and interest. A couple of fun events for January and beyond are a clothing swap, planned by Rhoda Teplow, and a Hootenanny, being planned by David Alden. If you have any ideas, give Dalen a call at 964-4997 to schedule your date.

Eucalyptus Resolved

All gathered at the September Community Meeting agreed to have State Parks and the California Department of Forestry (CDF) go forward with removing the Eucalyptus trees along the north side of the Caspar Headlands. Beginning this fall, or in the early spring before nesting birds become a concern, CDF will begin cutting the trees. Caspar Community volunteers will prepare to sell the bucked trees as firewood. Care will be used to mitigate impacts on any archeological and historical resources when moving the firewood. An ongoing effort, entailing manual removal of new sprouts, will ensue that the Eucalyptus will not grow from the stumps. No herbicides will be used

Community Center Library

The Caspar Community Center Library has lots of new books and movies (also free magazines). Please come by and read or check something out. It's open whenever the Center is open. We are planning to establish a return slot.

Gorse Report

Congratulations to all the Caspar volunteers who cut gorse at the Caspar Headlands State Park. Our work for this year is over. We've cut and piled all the gorse, and State Parks has agreed to burn the piles. We plan to return in the spring and manually remove the sprouts without the use of any herbicides. This manual-no herbicide project is working well for Caspar residents, Parks, and the environment. Hope you enjoy your walks, bike rides and picnics on the headlands.

Zac Zachary and I met with California State Parks Regional District Superintendent Marilyn Murphy and Bill Maslach, project manager, to deliver a petition with 237 signatures against the use of herbicides at Jughandle State Park and to discuss alternative methods of gorse removal. According to Ms. Murphy, Parks has already contracted a company to use Garlon on the sprouting gorse and Scotch Broom plants at Jughandle. The company sprayed some areas about a year ago and will spray again when the sprouts come up after recent machine removal and burning. The contract, which runs through the end of June, cannot be broken without losing the agreed payment. Spraying 27 acres of European Beachgrass at Inglenook Fen/Ten Mile Dunes is also in the contract.

Murphy has agreed that volunteers could take responsibility for a portion of Jughandle that they think they could handle; this area would not be sprayed. Volunteers would manually remove sprouting gorse plants in that area on an ongoing basis. Parks would continue to use Garlon on the rest of Jughandle (at least for the term of this contract.)

We are hoping that there may still be a way to terminate this contract and use the money to hire workers to remove sprouts manually. A reading of the contract indicates that the "State reserves the right to terminate this agreement subject to 30 days' written notice to the Contractor."

Zac will continue work on this project and has the backing of the Mendocino Environmental Center. Anyone interested in becoming involved is invited to talk with him at the Caspar Community Meeting or contact him at 964-3621.

Since Jughandle is adjacent to Caspar, many local people, as well as Park visitors, will be affected by the amount of herbicide to be sprayed repeatedly over many years, on the 15 or more acres until the gorse is eliminated. That's a lot of land to be covered with Garlon. Scary. —Bette Goldfarb

Food Bank Barrel

It's holiday season. Please don't forget that there is a Fort Bragg Food Bank barrel in the entrance hall of the Caspar Community Center. Food goes to individuals and families who are struggling in these hard times, as well as supplying some of the food for the local soup kitchens. Canned or packaged food, household cleaning and paper products, and toiletries are all appreciated.



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CCC Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. Community Meeting

- Postal Pavilion and photo
- Meeting - Tamira Jones, MLT Coastal Trails Coordinator, and Marilyn Murphy, CA State Parks Mendocino District Superintendent, discuss the Coastal Trail
- Potluck

Sunday, Dec. 28, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday Breakfast

In the interest of economy and wise use of resource, we're also sending out a digital copy of this newsletter. If you would prefer the electronic version, call 964-4997 or email (caspar@mcn.org) the Center with your email address.

Be part of the next historic photo

Celebrate the new postal pavilion on Sunday, December 7 at 4 p.m. Hear the story of how it came to be and join together for a sure-to-be historic photo of Casparados!



Postmistress Georgia Johnson, on her last day of postal service, poses with box holders.
Photo: Paul Kish

Caspar Uplands Trail on MLT property

Mendocino Land Trust (MLT) and State Parks will be sharing their progress on planning for the segment of the California Coastal Trail that will be located on MLT's 76-acre property, which extends from Caspar Beach to east of Point Cabrillo Light Station. The trail will link the Caspar Headlands and the Light Station. The Caspar Headlands was conveyed from MLT to State Parks in 2002, and it is anticipated that the South Parcel will be conveyed to State Parks in 2009 with a completed trail plan and updated Management Plan. MLT and State Parks would like community input into the trail design and management plan updates and will be discussing the trail layout, construction, resource protection, management and stewardship at the Caspar Community Meeting.

Another possible topic for discussion the Community Meeting is the creation of a Caspar Headlands and Beach Advisory Group, which would establish communication among Caspar and Caspar South residents and State Parks, and address matters such as a bridge over Caspar Creek, fires on Caspar Beach, and a dog-romping area. For more information on trails contact Tamira Jones, Coastal Trail Coordinator, at 707-962-0470 or tjones@mendocinolandtrust.org.