

logo: John Chamberlin

# Caspar Community News

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

website: CasparCommons.org

## Caspar Winter Farmers Market

every Wednesday Noon to 2pm

Bookmobile every other Wednesday

### NEW YEARS EVE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Hard to believe that 2013 is almost gone! The holidays are already upon us. I hope yours will be happy.

Caspar Community will be celebrating **New Years Eve** with a **Dance Party** at our Community Center on Tuesday, December 31 starting at 8pm.

This gala event is open to all ages and features scrumptious "Caspar made" appetizers, beer, wine, champagne and dancing to **The Mixed Nuts** with special guest **Michael Hubbert**. The music will cover many genres including swing, calypso, latin and rock and roll.

Advance tickets will be on sale for \$20 at Community Center events such as the Fourth Sunday Breakfast and Pub Night, Harvest Market and Tangents in Fort Bragg, and The Attic of Mendocino. At the door, tickets will be \$25. Doors open at 8:00 pm. All proceeds benefit the Caspar Community.

If you would like to volunteer or make an appetizer, please contact Dalen at 964-4997 or caspar@mcn.org.

- Dalen Anderson  
Community Center Manager

### U P C O M I N G !

#### Board Meetings

December 13  
December 27

Everyone welcome at  
Caspar Board Meetings:  
9:00am

#### Pub Nights

December 13  
January 10, 2014

#### Breakfasts

December 22  
January 26, 2014

more info: [CasparCommons.org/calendar](http://CasparCommons.org/calendar)

### This is the Last Paper Newsletter

#### We're Going Electronic

We want to keep in touch, but it's costly and wasteful to mail newsletters, either bi-monthly (as we would like to do) or a couple of times a year. Plus we want to be able to show you colored pictures and give you links to things that matter to Caspar. That all leads to the conclusion that we should publish a bi-monthly newsletter at the Caspar website.

This edition of the newsletter is already posted, so if you want to see the pictures in color and follow the hyperlinks, go to [casparcommons.org](http://casparcommons.org).

If you want to be notified when a new newsletter is posted, please let us know: send your name and email address to [lists@casparcommons.org](mailto:lists@casparcommons.org).

We understand that some of you may still want a printed newsletter, and we want you to have it. Send us a postcard or note telling us your address, and we will figure out what to do. We know it can't be free; the cost of a subscription to the printed edition will depend on how many we must print and mail.

### Bird Baths

by Lila McMurtry

After seeing a song sparrow nearly drown in my half wine barrel "pond," I borrowed several terra cotta saucers from under potted plants and placed them, full of water, around my yard. I was rewarded with seeing tiny bids of several species, practically lining up to bathe. Birds, seldom, if ever, seen at seed feeders (like Yellow-rumped Warblers) joined the queue. Resident birds and migrants too, all appreciate a safe place to take a bath.



Yellow-rumped Warbler  
photo: Dan Pancamo

# Our Sacred Sky

by Sienna M Potts

I call them Milky Way nights: crystal clear with a thick sprinkling of stars. Growing up here in Caspar I took our starry nights for granted. Now I know how precious they are and how lucky we are. On our increasingly urbanized planet, a shockingly high percentage of the population has never seen the Milky Way. Our Milky Way nights never fail to make me feel like a child, gazing up at a limitless universe, feeling small and at peace.

Our community mission is “to preserve and enhance the quality of all life in Caspar.” Our dark sky has been mentioned again and again as one of our sacred places. Even if we don’t recognize the importance of dark to our own health and quality of life, we know that nocturnal and migrating animals and birds cannot live without it.

The beautiful thing about dark sky conservation is that it’s win-win: we can have our light and our dark sky too. Advances in lighting choices enable us to put light only where we need it, saving us money, leaving the dark for the night creatures and preserving our connection to our sky full of stars. If you’d like to learn more, I have a movie I’d like you to see: [www.theCityDark.com](http://www.theCityDark.com) (I’ll loan you my copy). And for advice about how to reduce your light spill: [www.DarkSky.org](http://www.DarkSky.org).



photo: Rochelle Elkan

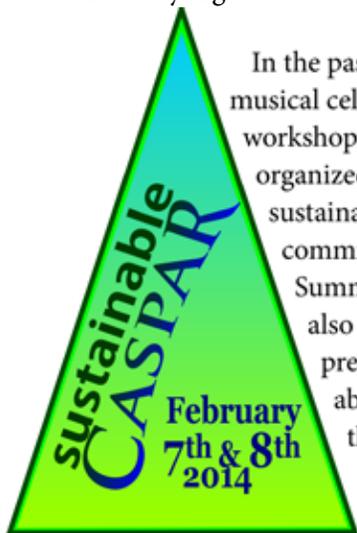
## Winter News from the Garden

by Sakina Bush

The Caspar Community garden is abundant and thriving. The new perennial plantings are settling in and will grow into a lovely and diverse windbreak along the west fence. After regular watering and some compost tea the blueberry bushes growing there rewarded us with tasty nibbles. The three Caspar Kitchen beds are under development and the cooks received a variety of veggies from the garden this summer including potatoes, garlic, lettuce, scallions, carrots, beets, kale, and tomatoes and basil from the greenhouse. We have put in some garlic and are putting in onions. There is also a box of young asparagus planted for future harvests.

The gardeners have been building the soil, making compost, and reclaiming the more feral parts of the garden. A wonderful legacy from previous gardeners are all the herbs and flowers volunteering throughout the garden adding diversity and providing food and habitat for valuable pollinators and beneficial insects. A weasel had been helping control the gophers and little garden snakes are helping with the slugs and bugs.

It is sad but true that due to repeated thefts from the garden we have had to put a lock on the gate. It is very frustrating to put effort into the garden and then have people come and take our plants and produce! We want to honor community access to the garden and will be open for visiting every Thursday afternoon and often before Pub Night and after Sunday breakfast. For other times to visit or a tour you may call Sakina at 964-9232. There are two beds still available for new gardeners.



In the past, CasparFest has blended a musical celebration with a collection of workshops and presentations loosely organized around the topic "local sustainability." When the CasparFest committee decided to let the Summer festival take a vacation, we also thought it would be good to present a more serious gathering about sustainable community in the Winter ... and this is it.

There will be more information in our next newsletter, but for now, save

the dates. Asher Miller, a bright light in the world of conscious communities based in Santa Rosa where he directs the Post Carbon Institute, has promised to deliver our Friday evening keynote, and Saturday will be devoted to things we can do now to make our village more sustainable. For more information, visit [CasparFest.org](http://CasparFest.org)

Newsletter layout and editorial  
Rochelle Elkan and Michael Potts

Caspar-centric articles of interest to the Caspar Community are welcomed and invited. Send your text and pictures to [lists@casparcommons.org](mailto:lists@casparcommons.org)

- Caspar Community Board**
- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Paul Reiber, President                                     | Annie Lee, Secretary   |
| Susan Juhl, Vice-president                                 | David Alden, Treasurer |
| Rochelle Elkan, Bob Frey, Paul Schulman,<br>Jessie VanSant |                        |
| Dalen Anderson, Executive Director                         |                        |