

Caspar Community News

April 2015

photo: Sienna M Potts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 10, 6:30 - 9 pm
Caspar Pub Night

Fridays, 9:30am
April 17, May 1 & 15
Caspar Community Board
All Welcome

Sunday, April 19, 4-6 pm
Community Meeting

Saturday, April 25th 10AM-2PM
HEADLANDS WORK DAY

Sunday, April 26, 9 - 11 am
Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast

A complete schedule can be found at our website.



Canning Class Update

Marty's Sunday April 12th canning class has been postponed. Monthly canning classes will resume at the Caspar Community Center on Sunday, May 3rd. The class covers all aspects for preserving food: pressure canner, water bath, fermentation and asian style pickles. The only thing you need to bring is a good knife, cutting board, apron, and something to share for lunch. Marty provides the jars and ingredients. The class begins at 10 and finishes around 2. Cost is \$20. Mark your calendars for the following dates: May 3, June 7, July 5, August 16, Sept. 6, and Oct. 4.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA

CASPAR COMMUNITY CENTER

A FULL BUFFET OF SAVORIES, SWEETS & ENTICING TIDBITS ALONG WITH A FINE ASSORTMENT OF TEAS

SANDWICHES
TEABREADS
PASTRIES
QUICHES
SALADS
SCONES
SWEETS

TRADITIONAL, GF & VEGAN OPTIONS

ENTERTAINMENT BY
PIANIST
LYNN KIESEWETTER

\$20 ADULTS
CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$10

SUNDAY
MAY 10
1 PM - 3 PM

TICKETS AT THE DOOR
OR CALL 964-4997 FOR
RESERVATIONS

in this issue...
click to get there quick!

Neighborhood Gatherings

Disaster Barrel

Garden News

Headlands Work Day

4th Annual Uke Fest



Gone Goose!

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS

Sunday, April 12, 4–6pm

Road 409 neighbors

at Barbara Rice & Grant Miller's

After attending 5 neighborhood gatherings I know my neighborhood much better than I did a month ago. I'm even more grateful than I was to live where I do. Organizing the meetings was challenging, frustrating, awkward, magical, inspiring... absolutely worth it.

The gathering at the Freeman home was so pleasant it made us think that neighborhood parties (without formal discussion) would be welcome & fun. We discussed road maintenance & the confusion of addresses in the neighborhood, making it hard for emergency services to find people in need.

There were only 4 of us at Lisa Weg's which brought us back to the idea of a block party. Johnson Park Road would be perfect for a block party. Although many of us came to Caspar to be left alone, our experience over the last two decades is that getting together builds friendships as well as more resilient neighborhoods. Just knowing where our neighbors live adds to the richness of our community. Block parties could be fun community even if we don't "do" anything. Each neighborhood's issues & concerns (all different) would naturally come up in some conversations. Action might follow.

At Fortunate Farm the conversation focused on emergency planning. Ellen's very excited about the emergency barrel idea (a pickle barrel full of supplies to be kept outside). We would like to have a sample barrel to display at the Community Center & to hold a workshop to help people put their own barrels together.

I was very inspired by the crowd of 19 that gathered in downtown Caspar. We even had young people! It seemed proof that when a whole neighborhood pulls together organization is easy. We enjoyed mingling so much it took a while to sit in a circle but once we did we had a lively conversation. We decided that a ham radio or two & a few CB's would give us an excellent communication network for when the usual methods fail. We came back to the idea of a community inventory of skills & resources, not

just for emergencies but for everyday life. We'd love a tool library & ride sharing would be wonderful. Last year it seemed that people were reluctant to share their information "publicly" but perhaps we'd like to try it again. Your ideas are welcome.

At the West Caspar meeting the main issues were dead trees & water. Mike explained that there is an Architectural Review Board in West Caspar that administers CC&R's. This neighborhood organization is a good start toward emergency preparedness & gives neighbors a way to address problems. We talked about greywater systems, storm water control & putting meters on our wells. We are all nervous about the drought & some monitor rainfall closely.

At the Community Meeting on Sunday, April 19th, 4-6 pm, we will sit in a circle to discuss ideas from the neighborhood gatherings for an hour. At 5 we'll move to the pot luck but the conversation likely will continue. I hope to see you there.

your neighbor,

Sienna

One of the best things that came out of this round of Neighborhood Gatherings was ... two more neighborhoods! If you didn't make it to one of the five that recently took place, there's one more chance. The Road 409 Community is gathering on Sunday, April 12th. This meeting is meant for "All People That Live On Or Near Road 409." They have some weighty issues to discuss, particularly the Transfer Site. In case you haven't noticed all the garbage trucks whizzing back and forth on Highway One right through the center of Caspar ... our 409 Neighbors have! This is not just their problem: it's an all-Caspar problem. Let your 409 friends know about the meeting, and let them know we support their efforts any way we can.

The other "new neighborhood", North Caspar, held a lively and businesslike gathering at Fortunate Farm. More about that meeting in Sienna's article ... and a contribution from Ellen Buechner on Resiliency Barrels starts on the next page.

– **Michael**

Life at the Pond

One bright sunny Saturday in March, the last two geese at the duck pond in Caspar disappeared. Gone! No signs of a struggle or predator hit, no holes in the fence. Where is Henry, the talkative, elegant, large white goose? Where's his mate Goosey Goose? Broad daylight? Fowl play!

The pond on Fern Creek Road just off Highway 1 is haven for all sorts of water fowl: domestic, wild, and migrating. Man-made, originally for the use of grazing cattle, over the years its berm and surroundings have naturalized to the point you might think it completely natural. The cattle are gone but the predators are there. It's also home for coyotes, fox, weasel, the passing mountain lion, turkey buzzard, osprey, and hawk.

You will often find children with parents or grandparents feeding ducks over the haphazardly maintained barbed wire fence. People toss all sorts of things over the fence – some excellent eating,, some rather useless, even dangerous. Binoculared bird watchers peer and bikers stop to rest before tackling nearby Jackson State Forest.

In the surrounding reeds birds nest or hide. During pauses in highway traffic you can hear a sweet symphony that always seems in perfect tune. It's a special place.

In the summer of 2013 geese and ducks began to disappear. Some web-footed adventurers were squashed at 60 mph on the highway. Predators came for the drinking water and stayed for the birds. The duck and geese population went from well over a dozen down to just a few. Something had to be done.

Families who stopped by to "feed the ducks" asked, "Where have all the geese and ducks gone?"

So I closed off holes in the fence. The result was fewer traffic hits, but a smaller feeding territory. To support the survivors I began regular feedings for the last few ducks and the last goose, a gray barnyard female I named "Goosey Goose."

The float

Water birds need a place offshore safe from predators. I visualized a raft, or float, in the middle of the pond. Property owner Oscar Smith gave his permission. Neighbor Chris

concludes on page 4

After the Fall, In a Barrel

It's 3:00 AM and you have just entered that zone where you are closer to the next world than this one. Suddenly, the house begins to rumble and shake! Your survival instinct launches you from your bed and straight out the door into the clear area of your front yard where there are no power poles, and you ride out one of the biggest scares of your life. Once the shaking stops and you are quite awake, you take stock, count your housemates, and find yourself with no shoes, no coat, no flashlight, and entirely unsure whether your home is safe to re-enter. What do you do?

Go for your emergency barrel.

For the past year or so, Casparados have been coming together to discuss disaster and emergency preparedness as part of our initiative to build a more resilient community. You might have received invitations to neighborhood gatherings for the purpose of group discussions on the topic – hopefully you even attended one or two. The premise of the meetings is that checking on one's neighbors after a disaster is easier when we all know each other a bit better, but we cannot begin to help others until we have secured our own persons and addressed our immediate needs for safety, shelter, and well-being.

An emergency barrel can offer from three to five days of independent survival potential

concludes on page 5

How to Feed a Duck or a Goose...

If you want to feed the ducks – and doing so can be an enchanting experience – there are many alternatives healthier than the usual stale bread. Never feed moldy bread - different types of mold can be fatal to waterfowl. Fortunately, there are many other types of food that can be offered. I prefer to give them Flock Raiser Crumble with a bowl of water which helps the powder go down. Also:

- Cracked corn, barley, oats (uncooked), milo, birdseed or other grains
- Frozen peas or corn - defrosted
- Rice (cooked or uncooked)Grapes (cut in half)
- Earthworms
- Mealworms (fresh or dried)
- Lettuce or other greens or salad mixes (cut or torn)

Life at the Pond concludes

Knoerdel designed and constructed a float using a pallette and styrofoam. He fashioned wire to form a canopy and I attached a green shade cloth. Tony Miksak made a sturdy ramp to help ducks walk up onto the deck. Initial anchors couldn't hold against the constant breeze. After two very wet fixes we got the float anchored...

The very next morning some ducks were exploring the float. Visiting flyers also enjoy it. Cormorants dry off on top. Herons spy from it.

"Henry's story"

Henry grew up in Inglenook, north of Fort Bragg, and had a wading pool to swim in. He was raised with a female mallard duck who followed him everywhere. Henry would honk excitedly when his 16 years-old owner came home from school.

The parents got tired of the mess and decided to drop off Goose and Duck at the pond. This was Spring, 2014. Duck was chased relentlessly by two male ducks, so she ran away a lot and disappeared after a week. Somehow, almost magically, a new white male duck arrived at the pond. Now there were three male ducks and two geese...

Henry and Goosey Goose bonded, but Henry was always even more interested in visits from humans. If Henry saw my car he would run up to the fence wings spread, squawking. He loved people. He let me pet his chest from neck to feet and never bit me!

At the moment there is room for more ducks and geese at the pond. It is a lovely haven for those in need of an appropriate home. **And if you know the whereabouts of Henry or Goosey Goose PLEASE contact me or return them to the pond.**

- *Joselyn*
Pond-keeper

From the Community Garden



photos: Rochelle Elkan

The garden is finished resting from the winter and is now getting ready to burst into bloom. The gardeners and volunteers had a very productive workday on March 12th. The broken pipe in the garden was repaired and the kitchen beds were prepped and ready for planting. There was some cleanup and weed whacking in the garden and then the gardeners worked on their own beds. All the beds have been adopted, and the whole garden really looks beautiful.

The next garden meeting is Thursday, May 7th at 2pm. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the kitchen beds. Call Dalen at 964-4997.

- *Rochelle*



If you'd like to help...

Currently several people enjoy feeding the ducks on a regular basis. We are in need of more duck feeders. Can you commit to a day a week? Or perhaps you'd like to supply some duck food from the feed store. Contact me if you would like to help or have questions: email joselynbk@gmail.com or 961-0230

After the Fall concludes

for each household member if packed with care and foresight. Our local goal is for each Caspar household to acquire its own emergency barrel by July 2016. You can use a 33-gallon trash can with a tight-fitting lid, or else consider a pickle barrel from a local merchant such as Dirt Cheap. Choose an accessible place away from your dwelling where your barrel cannot tip over, spill, or be ruined by rain or flood waters – a storage shed is ideal, but it might even work for you to bungee-cord your barrel to a tree.

Once you have acquired the barrel and chosen its designated place, pack it like this (shamelessly lifted from manchestermo.gov):

Bottom of the barrel:

Bedding: plastic sheets/tarp, sleeping bags, blankets (consider "vacuum packing" these to save space and keep out damp and pests)

Cooking/eating equipment: manual can opener, dishpan, disposable or durable dishes, utensils

Clothing: one change of clothing per person - weather appropriate (rain, cold weather gear) - sturdy shoes

Special/Infant needs

Personal Supplies: books, pencil/paper, toiletries, towels, bandannas, deck of cards

Equipment: axe or hatchet, shovel, bucket, plastic bag liners, duct tape

Fuel and light: candles, matches, Sterno

Other: eye dropper, liquid chlorine bleach or water purification tablets, \$ in small bills

[Note: Many of these items are available second hand from rummage sales and thrift shops]

Middle of the barrel:

Food: three to five-day supply requiring no refrigeration (be sure to date and rotate regularly!)

Consider creating menus (canned fruit, meats, peanut butter, vitamins, energy bars) - try to maintain 2100 calories per person per day and essential nutrients. Pet items should be stored in a separately sealed container that will not freeze

Water: one gallon per day per person

Be sure to rotate your food and water.

Top of the barrel:

Essentials: flashlights, knife, radio (crank and/or battery operated), Rx and testing kits

First Aid Kit: medications, antibiotic ointment, pain reliever, anti-diarrhea, bandages, ace wraps, band aids, triangular and butterfly bandages, gauze bandages and pads or sanitary napkins for use as bandages, adhesive tape, scissors, tissues, tweezers, rubbing alcohol, First Aid book and survival blankets (found in hunting departments), extra eye glasses

Copies: of important papers, prescriptions, phone numbers (consider a thumb drive in a waterproof bag)

"Other" items: single burner camping stove, nested cooking pots, coffee, tea

The size of your family may require that more than one barrel be used to store your survival pack. Compact, durable camping supplies are a good choice. Think about including items that will comfort and entertain children (stuffed animals, books). If you have a tent, store it near your survival pack - it may be your only shelter. Several types of "survival backpacks" or other kits available online might make packing easier, and many other items listed here might already be surplus in your home, waiting to be organized.

We promise to remind you semi-annually to check your smoke alarm batteries and rotate the food, water, and medicines in your barrel. Rotated items can be used in your household so they will not be wasted. Most medical insurance plans will allow a one-time extra prescription fill to allow you to store away an emergency supply, and your eyeglasses that are "one prescription back" will probably do well in a pinch.

Please let us know when you have packed your barrel so we can count you as one more resilient Casparado toward our goal of 100% barrel-ready residents - and watch the Community Center and this newsletter for more opportunities to learn about disaster preparedness and community resilience.

- **Ellen Buechner**
Casparado & Fortunate Farmer

Wednesdays
Winter Farmers Market
BOOKMOBILE
March 20, April 13, 15, 29, May 13

**Headlands
Work
Day
Saturday
April 25
10-2**



photo: Rochelle Elkan

It's ALWAYS Stewardship Time in Gorseland!

A stalwart crew set out on a perfect work day in late March, and obliterated countless broom plants, a dozen Gorse monsters, a small field of invasive heather, and 113 Eucalyptus starts. Thank you Tom, Sienna, Judy, Rochelle, Art, Will, and Skye. Casparados imposed a substantial setback to the Exotic Aliens that threaten to take over our Headlands!

But there is much more to do. The crew decided that we will assemble on **Fourth Saturdays** until the end of time or the Gorse surrenders, whichever comes first. We hope to see you and your gloves, loppers, and weed wrenches on our Headlands on April 25th, 10am to 2pm, rain or shine.

- Michael

**Ukelele Fest Friday-Saturday
April 17-18**

**Friday 7:30pm
Kick-Off**

Performances, Jamming/Singalong
\$10 at the door
\$5 if you bring your uke

**Saturday 10am-9pm
4th Annual
Fest**

Instructors: Brook Adams,
Mike DaSilva, Denver Tuttle
6 workshops, Jamming, Q&A
Dinner & performances

more information: mendocinostories.com

This edition of
Caspar Community News
was laid out by Michael Potts

The next edition will appear in May. Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to lists@casparcommons.org



photos: Sienna M Potts