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Caspar News
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August 2008

News and Events from the Caspar Community

Volume XI, No. 2

Around Town

Violet Green Swallows are fledging from the nest above the mailboxes at the Center. If you were looking and lucky, you would have seen something like this and heard the little chirps as they waited for the literally thousands of insects their parents are scooping out of the air.



European Starlings are also fledging and their raucous screeching heard—begging for food, which includes eggs and nestlings of Barn Swallows. Screen the Shul tower!

Shorebird migrations, the “winter” ones, actually begin this month as birds from the arctic regions begin their long journeys. More than ever, I urge the use of a leash on dogs and caution around the estuaries.

The Caspar Community Garden is going great, but there's a lot of waste because people aren't harvesting enough of what needs constant picking: peas, squash, etc. These plants need harvesting or they will stop producing. [Ed. note: A list of vegetables that can be picked is posted on the garden gate. If you are a gardener, the food is in trade for your efforts; otherwise, please make a donation to Caspar Community, the non-profit which supports this garden.]

Mabel, the Rhode Island Red hen whose rescue was discussed in the last newsletter, is doing well. — Lila McMurtry

August 17 movie, 7 p.m.

Zeitgeist exposes the myth of religion, 9/11, Federal Reserve, IRS, North American Alliance, and RFID chips. “Fascinating and thought provoking,” say Star and Gene Parsons. It's two hours long with a ten-minute intermission. By donation.

The MTC-Caspar Connection

See a good play and benefit Caspar at the same time. The Mendocino Theatre Company's performance of *Rabbit Hole* on Friday, August 29 at 8 p.m., will benefit the Caspar Community Center. Winner of last year's Pulitzer Prize for Best Play, *Rabbit Hole* is thoughtful, often funny, and moving. A reception will precede the performance. Tickets are \$25 and will help the community of Caspar continue to provide a place for people to meet, eat, learn, and play.

You can purchase tickets by calling the MTC Box Office (937-4477) or the Caspar Community Center (964-4997) or asking a board member. Come with your neighbors, enjoy a stunning night at the theatre, and celebrate Caspar. — Susan Juhl

Manager's Report
August 2008

Exciting news at the Community Center is that we have a full wall of mirrors in the south room. This will make it easy for dance students to see how they are doing. Many thanks to Randy's Custom Glass, Annie Lee, and Sally Stewart for making this long-thought-of dream a reality.

When you are at the Center for breakfast, meeting, class or event, please be sure to check out our great new lending library, open whenever the CC is open. There are books, movies and CDs, and people can just sign them out. Donations of books, movies and CDs can be left inside the library room when the CC is open (no more than one box at a time please).

Donations of food for the Fort Bragg Food Bank can be left in the barrel in the hallway; donations are delivered to the Food Bank every Thursday.

As well as the upcoming Caspar Lu'au on August 9 (see page 3), we have more exciting events in the next couple of months.

Breakfast and Flea Market: In conjunction with the Fourth Sunday Breakfast on August 24, we will be having the second and last flea market of the summer. Booth spaces are \$30. If you would like a vendor application, contact Jima at jima@mcn.org or call the Center.

Cob Oven Workshop: On Saturday and Sunday, August 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., there will be a hands-on cob oven workshop led by Michael G. Smith. Michael is an experienced cob builder and author of many books, including *The Cobbers Companion*. Learn how to build an earth oven in your own backyard for less than \$100 using simple, healthy materials including clay, sand, straw and bricks. The oven that we build here at the Community Center will be used for baking for our breakfasts and other events, and hopefully for community baking days, and we look forward to testing it out with pizzas at CasparFest. The cost of the two-day workshop is \$75 when you register and pay by August 11; \$100 after that. Children under 16 are \$50. Call or e-mail me at the Center to reserve a space. 964-4997, [caspar@mcn.org](mailto:casper@mcn.org). — Dalen Anderson, Center Manager



Casper Headlands' Eucalyptus groves

Two views from the same family!

Casperados will discuss Parks' proposal to remove Eucalyptus from the Casper Headlands at the Casper Community meeting on Sunday, August 3. Jim and I live in a house divided over this issue: I'm ready to have all the Eucalyptus south of our downtown Casper home removed and Jim, well he is not so sure.

Here's the situation: There are upwards of 300 Eucalyptus trees running down the northern border of the Casper Headlands State Park. In the old days, Frank Johnson, who helped manage the Casper Cattle Company property before he passed away, ran cattle on the Headlands and cut Eucalyptus saplings. This kept the trees in control—sort of. Since Frank's passing, the Eucalyptus trees have spread west of their original grove and have filled in. The adjacent maps show the spread of Eucalyptus.

Now State Parks and CalFire have a plan to cut these trees in a training exercise this fall. Being a good neighbor, Parks wants to hear that the people of Casper support the removal of the Eucalyptus. If you'd like to review Parks' Project Evaluation (PEF) for "Non-native Invasive Tree Removal," go to casparcommons.org and click on Eucalyptus Plan. If you'd like to read about Casper's history in considering how to deal with Eucalyptus on the Headlands, go to <http://casparcommons.org/Press/News0305.php>.

Those who want the trees removed cite the following reasons:

- They are an invasive alien species that poisons native wildlife habitat, displacing native vegetation. The blossoms poison hummingbirds; the oil residue from fallen leaves and branches has wiped out the once-healthy amphibian (frog) population.
- They are a serious fire hazard in an area where walkers are known to smoke and camp.
- Their limbs are known to kill passers-by.
- They diminish coastal viewsheds.
- They block sunlight in winter, shading gardens, solar hot water panels, and photovoltaic panels when sunlight is most precious.

Those who question their removal point out that:

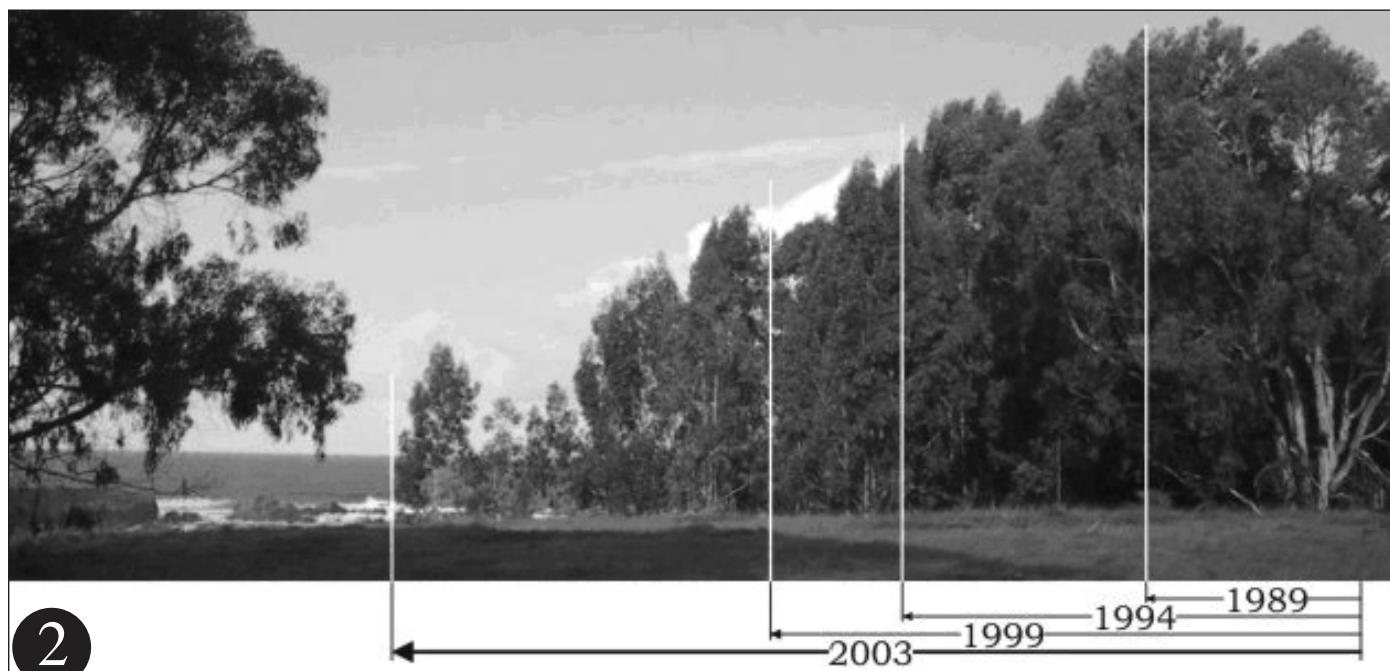
- They create a visual barrier between the park and neighboring properties, endowing the headlands with a sense of wild lands.
- They provide privacy for the neighbors north of the park.
- They form a wind barrier against the persistent northern winds for people enjoying the park.
- They are carbon sinks in this age of global warming.
- They are majestic and beautiful.

Some matters to consider:

- Parks and community volunteers are committed to plant native trees to restore the windbreak.
- State Parks agrees not to use herbicides to stop regrowth, and community volunteers are committed to removing sprouts mechanically to control the invasive nature of Eucalyptus, Broom and Gorse.

• Parks will let Casper Community split the bucked wood and sell the resulting firewood as a fundraiser.

Come and share your views on the future of these Eucalyptus trees. — Judy Tarbell



Maps: Michael Potts



CASPAR LU'AU

an evening of traditional Hawaiian food, music, and dance

with Kevin Brown, slack-key hero
Hui Arago and Robyn Mahealani Kneubuhl,
dancing with members of O Lei Palaoa

Saturday, August 9th

\$28 tickets at Harvest Market or the Community Center
Benefits the Caspar Kitchen Fund

\$35 at door

On Saturday, August 9, Caspar Community Center will present the First Annual Caspar Lu'au. Slack key guitar master Kevin Brown, from Maui, Mark Kailana Nelson, and local favorites Hui Arago will be joined by vocalist, musician and hula sensation Robin Mahealani Kneubuhl, also of Maui, and members of local hula group O Lei Palaoa.

Ki ho'alu (slack key) is the name for the finger-style guitar tradition unique to Hawaii. First introduced to the island culture by Hawaiian cowboys in the early 1800s, this evocative music is characterized by a variety of tunings and the wealth of deep feelings each individual artist brings to the music. Once a secret technique closely guarded by family tradition, slack key is now well known throughout the world.

A traditional Hawaiian dinner with a Caspar twist will include teriyaki chicken, kalua pork, pineapple tofu, laulau, poi, lomi lomi fish, salads and more with haupia and banana-pineapple cake for dessert. Wine, beer, and soft drinks will be available.

Dinner starts at 6; entertainment at 8. Tickets are \$28 advance, \$35 at the door for the dinner and show; show only \$15; kids half price. Advance tickets available at Harvest Market in Fort Bragg. All proceeds benefit the Caspar Community Center.

KEVIN BROWN was born on November 17, 1955, but his beautiful slack key guitar style dates back a generation or two earlier. Like most other slack key masters, Kevin learned to play from previous generations of his family. His father Harry was a well-known Hawaiian musician, and it was natural for Kevin and his brother Sheldon to learn to play 'ukulele, steel guitar and slack key guitar.

The two brothers, who grew up on Maui, trained as paramedics; their schedule gave them free time to practice and play music together. Encouraged by the many police and fire department personnel who heard them, they became professional musicians, forming the Waiehu Sons in 1970. Their fame spread to other islands, and for a number of years they played music in Honolulu for the opening session of the Hawaii State Legislature along with such famous groups as Hui Ohana. Kevin performed most recently in The Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key

Guitar Concert Series at the Napili Kai Beach Resort, Maui.

The Brown Family has been helping to perpetuate the 160-year-old art form of ki ho'alu for three generations. Kevin's son Ikaika, who learned slack key from his dad, has been performing since he was ten years old and has recorded three CDs, including the cherished "Generations," which features his sister Ka'ena, his father Kevin, and his grandfather Harry.

A warm and caring teacher, Kevin leads a long-running weekly kani kapila (jam session) on Maui. He delights in teaching and mentoring slack key guitar students and can be found giving workshops with other greats such as George Kahumoku and Keola Beamer and at Lark Camp in Mendocino.

HUI ARAGO, Michael and Marybeth Arago moved to Fort Bragg after many years in Kaua'i, bringing their cats and music with them. You may know Michael from his Hawaiian music show on KZYX&Z or his work at Harvest Market, but some may not know that his passion is playing slack key guitar. Marybeth plays ukulele and adds her beautiful voice to create heart-melting harmonies. Ukulele wizard Dennis Hudson, founding member of that semi-legendary Anderson Valley band the Ukeholics completes the group. Adding hula to Hui will be Michael's sister Phyllis O'Dea, from Kumu Shawna Alapa'i's Hula Hälau Nä Pua O Ka La'akea in Marin County.

ROBYN MAHEALANI KNEUBUHL lives and teaches on Maui and has performed widely, occasionally with her mother, the fabled Emma Veary, a living legend and the recipient of Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Award.

Robyn and Ginger Johnson are The Hula Honey's, known primarily for performing the enchanting music from Waikiki's golden era, plus original compositions and everything from traditional Hawaiian to Tin Pan Alley, charmingly updated with a light air of contemporary Hawaiian jazz. Robyn's singing, ukulele playing, and hula are performed with elegance, spirit and aloha.

O LEI PALAOA dancers Annie Lee, Sally Stewart and Ann Yount will join Robyn in performing a few of the pieces she has choreographed. — Annie Lee



time to practice and play music together. Encouraged by the many police and fire department personnel who heard them, they became professional musicians, forming the Waiehu Sons in 1970. Their fame spread to other islands, and for a number of years they played music in Honolulu for the opening session of the Hawaii State Legislature along with such famous groups as Hui Ohana. Kevin performed most recently in The Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key

Herbicides and Gorse

At the last Caspar Community Meeting, people were alerted to the fact that State Parks plans to use the herbicide Garlon (triclopyr) to eradicate gorse at Jughandle State Reserve; they will spray new sprouts following the already completed mechanical removal of the gorse.

Because of the need to remove gorse, a very invasive fire hazard, and the commitment of some people not to use herbicides, Caspar Community is initiating a trial project to eradicate gorse by mechanical means on the Caspar Headlands State Park, to see if this is a viable alternative to the use of chemicals. Many people believe herbicides are harmful to human health, animals, and the environment.

The program is in the planning stages. We are working with Bill Maslach, State Parks environmental scientist. Park aides have manually removed most of the large gorse plants on the Headlands. Volunteers will pull new gorse sprouts as they emerge.

If you want to be involved in this experiment on the Caspar Headlands, get out your leather gloves and join us. Call Bette at 961-1683 to add your name to the list of volunteers. — Bette Goldfarb

President's Report

The two building projects for the Caspar Community Center are slowly but surely moving forward. The plans for the postal pavilion are completed, and we are now talking to prospective local contractors with the intention of completion before the first rains.

The status of the kitchen addition and sunny meeting room project is also favorable. The loan has been pre-approved and is in the final stage of processing. Thanks to Sonia Jacques, Susan Juhl and Judy Tarbell for wading through the arduous task of preparing all the paperwork. So far, the permitting process has gone smoothly. The Coastal Development Permit has been issued, and the plans are now in front of the building department. Once the drawings are finalized, we can formally open the bidding to contractors.

Caspar Community is in communication with post office persons regarding the confusion over how mail to box holders in Caspar is

Herbicides and Power Poles

Herbicides will no longer be used by PG&E on power poles on County-maintained roads in the Big River and Fort Bragg circuits, which include Caspar.

Some Caspar residents for a long time have been committed to no herbicide use in our community. When some Caspar residents realized that PG&E was still using glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, around power poles on the county roads near their homes, gardens and wells, they contacted PG&E and requested a change to manual means only, citing the 1997 Mendocino Department of Transportation policy of no herbicide use on any county roads.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Public Resource Code 4292) requires PG&E to clear a firebreak around any poles with equipment that might pose a potential fire hazard. PG&E can choose the method of clearing and in the past has used herbicides. After lengthy negotiations with County Counsel, Supervisor Kendall Smith, and the County Department of Transportation, PG&E has agreed to stop using herbicides and convert from Clear and Treat to Clear Only on all poles requiring clearance. This will affect approximately 151 poles in Caspar, Mendocino, Little River, Fort Bragg, Noyo, Westport and Rockport.

This agreement, combined with the no-herbicide policies of CalTrans and the Department of Transportation, seems a move in the right direction: ending herbicide use on all public land and creating a healthier environment.

Private property owners who do not want herbicides used on power poles on their property should call 1-800-PGE-5000 and give PG&E the 6 digit number found on the small metal tag on the power pole. If the pole has no tag, it is not on the list for clearing. — Bette Goldfarb

to be addressed. We'll report on this as soon as possible.

As always, the Caspar Community Center is pleased to receive any donations towards either of these projects.

Thanks for your support,
Paul Schulman, President of the Board

Here's My Contribution to Caspar Community

- I am making a donation of \$ _____ to the work of Caspar Community.
- I am making a donation of \$ _____ in memory of _____. A card will be sent to the family
- I am pledging an ongoing donation of \$ _____ monthly quarterly

Caspar Community will send you an annual statement of your tax-deductible pledge.

I agree to pay this pledge until I notify Caspar Community to cancel my pledge.

Credit Card: VISA or MasterCard _____ expires _____

PayPal: Please sign up online at <http://casparcommons.org/pledge.htm>. Need help? Call Dalen at 964-4997.

Check (please make check payable to Caspar Community)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail to Caspar Community, Box 84, Caspar, CA 95420

Donations are tax deductible. Caspar Community is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation EIN 94-3321996

Trees for Disaster (phone trees, that is)

This not an article about growing trees for a disaster, unless you think—phone trees! A phone tree allows groups to communicate with each other quickly and efficiently. One person phones five, those five phone five. It is like a chain letter, but for a better purpose.

There are a few folks along the coast who meet regularly and discuss disaster-related topics. Some are with Red Cross; others are CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trained. All are staying current on disaster actions. While only a handful meet regularly, we represent a base of over fifty trained volunteers living in coastal communities. We were recently called upon to assist with the disaster shelter at Fort Bragg High School for people evacuated because of the fires near towns along the coast. Our group has a phone tree, so when Red Cross needed to set up and staff the shelter, the call went to a lead person, who in turn was able to reach the remainder of the group with only a few phone calls.

The same circumstance can apply in your neighborhood. For example, when there is a power failure, have you called neighbors to see if they have power, or to let them know that you do not? And if the power is out for a longer time, do you know if your neighbors are OK? These are early steps you can take to assure Caspar remains a community. The Caspar Community Center has a map of our area showing all the parcels, and anyone can find out who their neighbors are if they don't know. Home and neighborhood preparation has been mentioned before. Make sure home and family are safe first, and then check on neighbors.

Caspar Community plans to use the Community Center as a mass shelter and service point in event of a major disaster, with the new kitchen, space for housing, and other necessities. Some Caspar residents have been trained in CERT, a short course in preparedness for home and neighborhood. If you are interested in the training or want to form a phone tree in your area, contact Dalen at 964-4997.

— Ray Duff

PastPerfect Museum Software Brings Kelley House to Your House

The Kelley House Museum is proud to announce the launch of our new on-line research catalogue. From the convenience of your own computer, you can now view more than 600 images of people, towns, schools, ships and logging, as well as browse photographs of, and information about, the many artifacts in the Kelley House collection. Research your family history, find out more about the historic houses in the town of Mendocino, or read about the people who created our unique Mendocino community. Through the work of Kelley House archivist Carolyn Zeitler and volunteer Ray Duff, photographs and history of the town of Caspar are also accessible.

The Kelley House Archives represents more than 150 years of Mendocino coastal history with one of the most comprehensive collections for researching and understanding its past and its people. Our on-line database covers approximately 3,000 entries of maps, documents, books, photographs, oral histories and artifacts that make up our collection. This is the first phase of a long-term project enabling visitors to search and explore our collection on-line.

While the museum has been collecting since 1973, at present only a quarter of the collection is available through our database. So, if you are unable to find information on your topic, contact the Kelley House. We will continue to add items to the extent of our resources. And, of course, further research can be done at the Kelley House Museum by appointment.

To view our collection, log on to the Kelley House Web site at www.mendocinohistory.org and follow the links to the on-line catalogue.

Demonstrations are now available to schools, libraries and community groups. Please contact Nancy Freeze at the Kelley House Museum (937-5791) to learn more about this project or to schedule a demonstration.

Caspar Community Garden

The gardeners are looking for a rototiller. If you can donate a tiller (tax deductible), please call Paul Garvin at 964-2497.

Bounty is upon us in the Garden. At this writing the cabbages are ready to pick, there is lettuce, peas, broccoli, squash, and basil – and the greenhouse tomatoes are just beginning to ripen. And there are starts ready to plant for the winter garden.

A core group of volunteers keeps the grass mowed, beds planted, fertilized and weeded, and the compost pile filled up and turned.

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the garden has a state-of-the-art compost system, with bins to keep the food scraps tidy and buckets to pick up scraps from Living Light Institute. This grant also upgraded the irrigation system from hose to PVC pipe, a great relief to all who ever inadvertently ran over the hose with the mower!

A sign on the gate says what needs doing and what needs picking. Garden workers eat from the garden, and everyone is welcome to join in. If you're yearning to dig in and don't know quite how to do so, call one of these gardeners: Paul Garvin, Kim Morgan and Abel 964-2497; Rebecca Aum 937-1696; Alexandria Alexander 964-5512. They'll meet you in the garden and get you started.

— Judy Tarbell

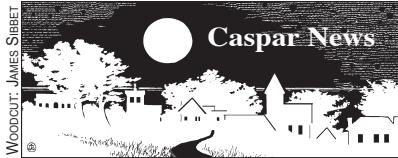
The Fate of the Little House

"The Little House," as it is fondly called, is about to be mothballed by State Parks. Located on Frontage Road in downtown Caspar, this house and the surrounding outbuildings are probably Caspar's oldest structures, dating back to the earliest days of the Caspar Lumber Company and the time of company-built "single man's housing."

In the late 1990s Caspar Community sought from Parks a long-term lease to remodel the house. Ten years later, the house has fallen on hard times, with broken windows, sagging outbuildings and, as reported in the last issue of this Caspar Newsletter, occasional homeless occupants.

Caspar Community encourages everyone to consider creative ways to bring this house back to the fold of daily life in downtown Caspar.

— Judy Tarbell



Caspar Community
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Coming Attractions

- August 9 Caspar Lu`au 6 p.m.
August 17 Caspar Movie Night, *Zeitgeist*, 7 p.m.
August 24 Fourth Sunday Breakfast and Flea Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
August 29 MTC's *Rabbit Hole*, a benefit for Caspar Community 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
August 30–31 Cob Oven Workshop 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
September 14 Caspar Community Meeting & Potluck 4 p.m.
September 27–28 CasparFest
October 26 Fourth Sunday Breakfast and Book Sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
October 31 Halloween parade and evening costume dance party with Kevin and the Coconuts

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.

CasparFest 2008

The Sixth Annual CasparFest will be Saturday and Sunday, September 27–28 at the Caspar Community Center. Noyo Food Forest and the Coast Economic Localization Link (CELL) will co-host this two-day event.

Sustainability will be the theme of the workshops, speakers, and information. Contact Dalen at the Community Center (964-4997) with ideas.

There will be special activities for children, including the famed Gorse Monster Parade, the petting zoo, face painting, and general all-around fun.

CasparFest entertainment highlights include renowned African Highlife band from Ghana, Hedzoleh Soundz, Kerosene Kondors, Blushin' Roulettes, Kevin and the Coconuts, Foxglove, and many more. Multi-instrumentalist Joe Craven, who loves Caspar as much as we love him, will again be on hand to lead the parade, perform outside, and present a sit-down Saturday evening concert with bassist Sam Bevin, introducing material from their most recent CD.

Delicious food will be served throughout the day, and the Center grounds will be filled with vendors offering a treasure trove of worldly wares. To reserve a booth space, contact jima@mcn.org.

Everyone is encouraged to help out and join in the fun with set-up or tear-down, food prep and serving, and at the gate. To volunteer, contact Dalen at the Community Center.

— Dalen Anderson

Caspar Community Meeting

Sunday, September 14, Casparados will gather for a community meeting and potluck at 4 p.m. at the Caspar Community Center. The agenda will include discussing the Eucalyptus trees on the Caspar Headlands, creating phone trees as part of a Caspar disaster plan, and discussing a plan for manual control of gorse on the Caspar Headlands. We'll discuss and comment on Caspar Community's application for a USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities Loan (the same lender who holds the mortgage on the Community Center) of \$200,000 to remodel the Caspar Community Center, including a new kitchen and addition to the south room.

We look forward to meeting and eating with you all.



CasparFest 2007