



Caspar Community News

1 February 2014

On Friday and Saturday, February 7th and 8th, Caspar Community is convening a conference at their Community Center to consider the future, with particular focus on the next twelve months. The conference is free and open to all.

Conference convener Michael Potts says, "Caspar's success grows out of adherence to a few simple, powerful ideas: consensus, inclusion, patience. In 20 years we have protected our Headlands, purchased our Community Center, built our beautiful kitchen, while 'preserving and enhancing the quality of all life in Caspar,' our mission. In 2014, the time has come to refine our plans and initiate the next steps."

A primary concern for Caspar is water and the shortages that likely lie ahead. Caspar Board member Bob Frey notes, "California has experienced hundred-year droughts in the past. Is it time to accept drought as the new normal? How do we adapt our lives to this dry new reality? Can technology help?" Drought is exactly the kind of

UPCOMING!
Community Meeting
March 30th 4pm

Board Meetings

February 14
March 14
Everyone welcome at
Caspar Board
Meetings: 9:00am

Pub Nights

February 14
March 14
Breakfasts
February 23
March 23

Winter Market: Wednesdays from noon to 2pm
Bookmobile: Wednesdays Feb 5 & 19, Mar 12 & 19
more info: CasparCommons.org/calendar

Sustainable CASPAR
February 7th & 8th

challenge facing California coastal communities, and provides Caspar's communitarian method with a tough challenge. Michael adds, "Caspar's inclusive planning has brought benefits to the Coast in the past through working partnerships with others concerned with preserving coastal village qualities. Casparados led the effort to secure new parklands along the Coast, including Navarro Headlands and Westport's headlands park. At this conference, we're going to be considering common challenges facing us all."

Michael and Mike Dell'Ara will lead a one o'clock Friday pre-conference session to review plans presented to the community by a team of UC Berkeley planners led by Professor Randy Hester, and a possible field trip to some of Caspar's important features. There will be a pot-luck get-together at 5:30. **At 7:30pm Friday, Asher Miller, a futurist and Executive Director of the Post Carbon Institute, will present the keynote.**

Miller's specialty is helping people reduce their impacts on the climate by focusing on achievable actions available to everyone. His recent paper, *Climate After Growth*, written with Rob Hopkins, a founder of the Transition movement, reports that "innovations that build community resilience are cropping up everywhere ... Relatively small and inherently local, these projects are spreading rapidly and creating tangible impacts." Asher's message to Caspar is likely to echo Bob's "new normal" idea, extending it to energy, climate, and the local economy, then move on to ways that astute villagers can adapt for the coming changes. Miller's address is expected to provide tools for Saturday's sessions. **The keynote is free.**

7:30pm Friday
Keynote:
Asher Miller
Executive Director
Post Carbon Institute
10am-5pm Saturday
Conference

continues →

Sustainable Caspar continues from page 1

On Saturday, starting at 10am, a panel of local experts and Casparados who have educated themselves on the issues will plot out the puzzles and sketch some possible remedies. Topics for the panelists include water, energy, economics and livelihood (Jim Tarbell), food (Gowan Batist), waste (Zero Waste Institute Director Paul Palmer), land use (Amy Wynn), and emergency preparedness. In the afternoon, the panelists will facilitate smaller breakout groups in planning Caspar's immediate responses and action items for the next twelve months.

Miller's paper, study material prepared by Zero Waste Institute director Paul Palmer, and other readings can be found, together with an annotated conference agenda and more information, at CasparFest.org. Michael recalls, "One of the most enjoyable sharings we find in Caspar is proactively anticipating problems and solving them before they become acute. This wintertime 'festival' of planning for a happy future fits right into Caspar's fun-raising mission."

Sustainable Caspar is being funded by the Caspar Community, working with a grant from the Tarbell Foundation, and is sponsored in part by Mendocino Solar Service and the Stanford Inn. — ed.



Saving Water

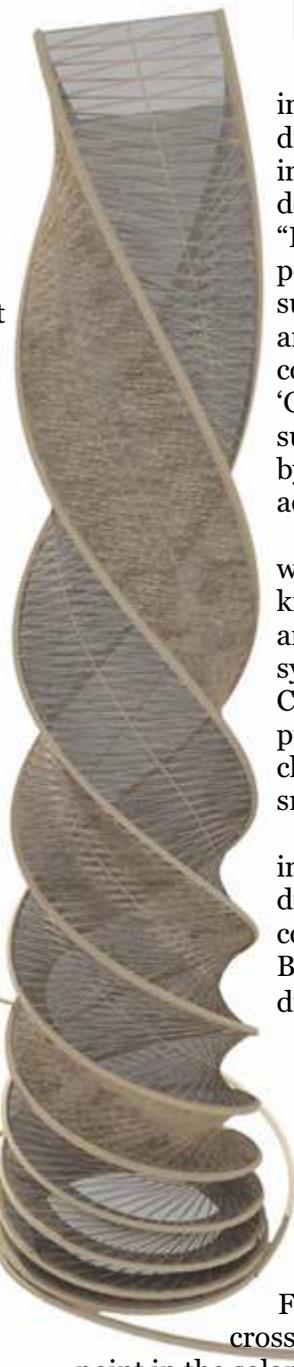
Old water systems have a way of developing disastrous leaks, and preventive care is, on the verge of a drought, worth plenty. And you know the ones about fixing dripping faucets.

Here's one we all struggle with: we come in from outside with dirty hands and head for the sink to wash. We turn on the hot water... and proceed to wash our hands in cold water. By the time the hot water arrives, we're done ... but we wasted energy heating water.

Sienna keeps old plastic jugs near the sink and harvests the cold water that precedes the hot. The same strategy works in the shower. The water saved can be used to guiltlessly water favorite ornamentals.

Possibly the best solution: a small instantaneous water heater at every point of use saves water and energy. — ed.

Community Meeting
Sunday
March 30th 4pm



Harvesting Fog

As this is written, a pitifully inadequate drizzle falls outside, and drought, at least for 2014, seems inevitable. Already, our Governor has declared a disaster emergency, and "Easy Water-Saving Tips" websites are popping up all over. Caspar's Bob Frey suspects that this is 'the New Normal' and a natural result, along with our cold November and December, of 'Global Weirding.' "Doesn't matter," submits Bob, "whether this is caused by us humans or not. We need to adapt."

Bob is intrigued by one of our best water sources: summer fog. "The trees know how to harvest it. Can we learn anything from them?" Pointing to systems already in use in Israel and Chile – one of the more far-fetched is pictured at left – Bob suggests we check this out further, and consider a small pilot project or two.

This and other water topics of local importance are on the agenda for discussion at the Sustainable Caspar conference, February 7th & 8th, where Bob will be leading the Water discussion. — ed.

Green Shoots

The first asparagus spear appeared in the garden last week, a sure sign that spring is upon us.

February 1st is one of the traditional cross quarter days (Imbolc) that marks the point in the solar year half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Days will be getting noticeably longer and plants will really start growing again. This is a good time to sow peas. **Sakina's Spring Gardening Class** begins after the fourth Sunday breakfast, February 23rd, at 11am.

For more information, email sakina@mcn.org.

— **Sakina**

This edition of
Caspar Community News
was edited & designed by Michael Potts

... and is entirely too serious.

The next edition will appear on April 1st (No Foolin') and submissions are earnestly ... no, desperately ... invited. Send your funny (or serious) Caspar stories to list@casparcommons.org