

Mattole Meanderings

News and inspirations from The Mattole Council-Mattole Camp and Retreat Center

Autumn 2011



There is nothing more lovely than to see a rainbow of young women sharing sweet moments in the Mattole River...

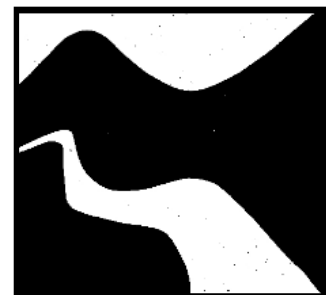


If YOUR camping group has stories to tell and/or photos to share, please e-mail them to:
jently@humboldt1.com

The theme of this season's newsletter is:
"Memorable Magic Mattole Moments"!

It has been a challenging year for us with the camping season being somewhat quieter than normal. We are really feeling the effects of the economic strains with increased costs and decreased income. And yet, we're still plugging along with hopeful spirits and positive outlooks for the upcoming new year! It is important, during times of struggle, to remind each other of the WONDER that is all around us so I've asked each council member to reflect on cherished moments and share them with you, our fine **Friends of the Mattole...**

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, you will be receiving our solicitation letter. We ask that you take a moment to consider our request for your support in any way shape or form - whether financially, or through volunteering your time. We are always in need of help around the camp. We have a volunteer group that gathers in June that really makes a difference for the camp! We work hard, achieving great goals through teamwork while having a walloping good time! This last summer we painted the outside of the Tan Oak Lodge (the inside was painted in the spring!), we refitted new curtains for all the cabins, we landscaped, washed windows, replaced some deck boards and generally spruced up the place. I can't describe the sense of accomplishment everyone feels at the end of the day, while we're all sharing the evening meal together, laughing, celebrating and planning the next days task list. We welcome anyone to join in our merriment! Feel free to call the camp phone for more information: 707 629-3308!





Thank you to Madeline and Bonnie for their sewing skills and willingness to make magic out of may"hem"!



Thank you to ALL who helped with the painting of the Tan Oak Lodge!. And a BIG thanks to Rick who rallied and guided us along the journey.



Thank you to Allan & Mimi for showing up when they did, RE-ENERGIZING the labor of love!



Today is Wednesday September 28th. 2011. Summer is on the outs, but the mushrooms are still sleeping. Won't be long though. September has been very nice, with temps 75-85 almost every day, and a few low 90's in mid month. No rain except for 1/2 in. late last Saturday night. Just enough to wash the dust off of everything and begin to show a few spots of green amongst the brown of about 110 days of no rainfall. So the season is changing already. This was the shortest and quickest camp season since I arrived in 2007. It's difficult to get some chores

done in the rush of camp season, but we did have a successful work trade/party in June, which helped to ready things for the busy time. The work trade/parties, as I call them, are very worth while for the camp, and the volunteers also have a great time. There is much to be done here all year long. So if your group, or just a few friends that are familiar with the camp want to 'get away' for a while, think about a few days here doing something that will give you a good feeling of accomplishment while having fun and relaxing also. There are some things that need people up ladders, using shovels etc. that not all can do, so if you have any special talents, and or tools, we need YOU. Does building a labyrinth sound like fun?

WE can do it!! Kids can help too!

Give me a call, and we'll arrange something, rain or shine.
629-3308

Richard ~ Caretaker/Director
Mattole Camp and Retreat Center



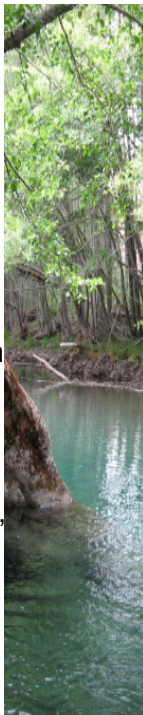


Council Member Lee Dedini shares his
"Magic Mattole Moment" ...

I wish I could find the picture taken of the work group, after we finished setting the two 2800 gallon poly water tanks on the old redwood tank site. We were all grinning from ear to ear, because we felt such an accomplishment.

Our goal was to upgrade the Camp's water system. We had dismantled the old 5000 gallon redwood tank and prepared the site for the new tanks, before this day. Then this day we used an electric winch and long rope looped around a tank. We rolled each tank up the hill and set on the prepared gravel. We had done it! Now the new water system just needed plumbing and testing. That is history now at over 10 years ago, but one of my favorite memories at Camp Mattole.

Lee Dedini



Magic happens for Kathy too...

I think one of the most wonderful things I really love about Mattole is being there in the summer time. The weather is warm and the sky is so blue.

The thing I really love is the river. There was always a group of people ready to go swimming at the swimming hole up the river a bit. The river is usually very clean and the sand is hot and the river is cool. There is a big rock just made for jumping off of. The sun is perfect for baking and the river is great for cooling. Sometimes there are a few scattered clouds and it's delightful to lie in the sand and watch the clouds and imagine what wonderful dragons, birds, and other imaginative creatures skitter across the sky. It is always hard to wander back down the river to camp as reality sets in. Another thing I love is the sound of the Great Horned Owl talking early in the morning. I can never see him, but I can hear him. He greets me morning after morning, year after year.

Kathy Goodman



My first visit to Mattole Camp was in January 1965, just after the '64 flood. I believe it was a college group semester break retreat-a memorable time!

From then on I have been involved with the camp to some degree but in the last 12 years I've been in the "thick of it all".

My fondest memories of camp, I must admit, have come with the changes that have occurred and the relationships that I've shared with others helping make those changes.

Some of the memories include logging the property to generate some funds for improvement projects as well as to open the area for the new lodge and other planning ideas; we developed and installed a brand new water system and the sprinkler system, the building of the new entrance to the new lodge complete with new steps and arbor.

We built the volleyball court and other outdoor activity equipment areas, planted new trees and built the utility shed. I could go on and on! What I find I treasure most about these events is remembering the people I worked with, striving together, sharing ideas,

knowledge and experience while developing a camaraderie so valuable then and remains so to this day! It is my hope that you too can create memories of Mattole Camp and Retreat Center that can be as rich as mine!

David Goodman



Words Can't Express MY Mattole Magic...I'll let pictures tell the stories... jennifer callen



The Mattole Camp Council created this newsletter to inform the community of current events, projects and future plans for Mattole Camp. The Mattole Meanderings is published semi-annually and is available free of charge.

Mattole Camp and Retreat Center is a non-profit organization owned by the Presbytery of the Redwoods, Presbyterian Church and managed by the Mattole Council in Bayside, CA



If you would like any information about the camp, or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please feel free to call:

707 629-3308
or e-mail:

jently@humboldt.com

The Mattole Camp Council

(back) Wayne Johnson, Lee Dedini, David Goodman (middle) Pat Johnson, Kathy Goodman, June Kesterson, Richard Gillespie/ caretaker-director (front) Jennifer Callen



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