

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS

inspirations from The Mattole Council & Mattole Camp & Retreat Center
Autumn 2018

created by Jennifer Callen ~ Photo credits by Jennifer Callen & Peter Oakland



Our Caretakers speak of "the plentiful peace that springs forth"

Hard to believe it has been a year! Living in this isolated place and caring for the camp certainly has both its rewards and challenges. When we first arrived here back in December of 2017, this mixture of blessings and challenges while obvious in many ways, was obscured by layers of expectation and an unseen future along the Mattole. Now after a year we would say that most of the surprises are like this: We never could have known how special and healing this place is without experiencing it first hand and over the course of the changing seasons!

As the ambassadors to campers and town folk who come for brief visits to the camp, we enjoy relating just how much we love it here. All the moments of magic collected are impossible to relate to those who come, but we still love to try and I get the impression others enjoy hearing it. Even though it

can sometimes be difficult to share the camp with others after being alone for weeks at a time, we see it as making a positive difference in people's lives that they can come back year after year, adding to the memories which help carry them forward when things get tough. We help remind people of the natural beauty and peace that exists still in the world and encourage them to seek it out as much as they can. Our gardens also feel like a signpost of what can be possible given the opportunity.

Some might think it gets lonely out here, and it does a little, but the rewarding work we get to do more than makes up for it.

There were lots of leaks plugged, drips stopped, mice trapped, grass cut, water tanks filled and yellow jackets terminated. We were both blessed and humbled by the plentiful wildlife here at the camp. There were new roofs, new sheds, a new water line, a splitter and a little trailer that could. Trees were trimmed up and trees were trimmed down. They were chipped, rolled, sawed...and always there was firewood on our minds (except maybe in July for a week or two). The circle of life was told by cats and the the best mousetrap rediscovered. We watched otters, coyotes, snakes, cougars, bobcats, owls, frogs, hawks, fish and scorpions all carve out their niches. There is so much more to care taking this place than cleaning cabins and mowing!

The camp council helped us tremendously and we are grateful for all they have done to support our work here. We look forward to another year here at the camp on the Mattole and are eager for the growth and blessings that we now know it provides. Come out and stay with us next chance you get and rejuvenate in the plentiful peace that springs forth here. Christine Braun & Peter Oakland

Jennifer Callen, Mattole Camp Treasurer speaks of dollars & senses!

Yes, we have dollars a plenty and so much to be thankful for! Our year-old caretakers have made such a difference in the management of the camp, by their stewardship of the property and their attention to the camper's needs and comments! Many thanks to Christine and Peter!!! And although the camping season had a slow start, it has surely ended with a group sigh of relief and satisfaction! HOWEVER... From a treasurer's point of view, as easy as it would be to let our guard down, we mustn't... Our "cushion" can be a mere false sense of security. We have HUGE projects on the horizon... EXPENSIVE projects at that! So I continue to manage wisely... Shopping for deals, comparing costs; an expense here, a fixed asset there, all the while achieving balance and reconciliation!

I remain passionate for Mattole Camp. It is a purely magical place for me, where I can unplug, unwind, feel safe and free from intrusion. Where I can swim for hours in the river & play ping pong. Where I can laugh & cry & play music and cook in the GREATEST kitchen in the world!

I especially love being a part of the volunteers that work so hard to make the camp a safer & better place!

To all, I wish a glorious 2019 and look forward to another blessed year at Mattole!

Mattole Council chair David Goodman, speaks of “progressiveness”

As we approach the end of another year it is time to reflect upon the past twelve months.

In a single word, from my perspective, I can summarize our position... Progressive!

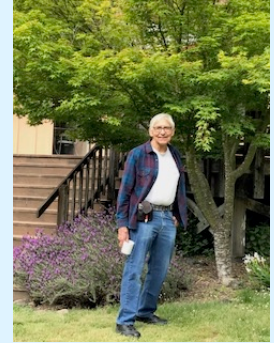
Our new team of caretakers have done a wonderful job of tending to the business of Mattole Camp by tending to reservations and the paperwork that goes with it, managing our visitors, keeping council well informed along with the ongoing care of the facility in all it's many facets. They have done so much to help improve the camp and have invested countless hours to make it “their home” as well.

Their skills and dedication have truly been one of a progressive nature.

This year we were able to put a layer of new shingles on both Sun-Up/Down cabins ensuring that they will be free from leaks. We put in place a new secondary water supply line to the caretaker's residence, repaired portions of our roadways, and cutback encroaching and unwanted vegetation for fire abatement. Most recently we completed a new storage shed for the caretaker's residence and replaced some much needed plumbing fixtures there as well.

We have accomplished this and a number of other projects this past year. I extend my sincere thanks to all the council members and other volunteers who contribute so much to making this facility what it is today. Without you, and the campers, we would not have this resource to share with others and enjoy ourselves.

In short, progressive is what best describes our 2018 year. It is our hope to keep moving into the future in this fashion! Blessings to all!



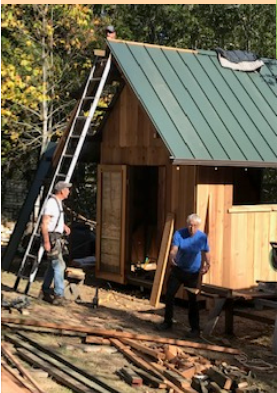
A GREAT BIG Thank you to Gene Callahan for the new shed design & contracting & to all who helped; Rev. Dan Link, Lee Dedini, Peter Oakland, Christine Braun, David Goodman!

Thank you to the Mattole Valley Nursery for digging the trench for our new PVC water line to the residence! Our goal next year is to replace ALL our underground water lines with PVC!! A grueling & costly task!

Thank you to Gene Callahan, Dan Bixler, Dave Bruzone, & Rev. Dan Link for building NEW & IMPROVED steps down to the river!!! NEXT... A solar powered escalator from the lodge deck... Ahh well... A girl can dream!



CHRISTIE POWER!
Can reset bricks with the best of 'm!! We thank Christie for HER service to the camp and wish her all the best for the next chapter in her life!



CAT MCADAMS
SIGN PAINTER
EXTRAORDINAIRE!!

Thank you to Cat for her service to the Council and her ongoing dedication to Mattole Camp! We wish her the best of luck in fulfilling her dreams and aspirations!



THANK YOU

WE LOVE OUR MATTOLE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER!!!



Diana Heberger, an attendee with The Lost Coast Writer's Retreat speaks of "Returning in 2019"

Last July I attended a writer's retreat at Mattole Camp & Retreat Center! Former attendees had raved to me about the location on a bluff above the Mattole River. The camp exceeded my expectations. The grounds allow for both gatherings and solitude. We cooked marvelous meals in the well-equipped kitchen. The rustic cabins are both comfortable and charming. The sounds of the river and birds in the trees surrounding the main meadow inspire and calm the spirit. The high point of each afternoon was the walk along the river bar to deep, clear swimming holes and the large fire pit, the gathering place for evening activities. You will be fortunate to spend time in this perfect outdoor camp. And, yes, I am returning to the writer's camp in 2019!

Former Council member Cat McAdams speaks of her camping group "Centering Prayer"

Because we do most of our retreat in silence, during our breaks we get to experience the essence of Mattole Camp with no distractions. The river experience this year was better than ever with the help of our new stairs down to the river, thanks to Chris Callahan and the Mattole Council work week. Some of us brought chairs down to the gravel bar and just sat there and meditated. We love the sound of the river as it gently ripples by. The merganser family flapped and quacked down the river flyway. Mergansers shoot rapids for fun. We love our ducks-in-residence. Some of our meditators take long hikes up the river. We have such a great place on the river, with the endless succession of deep pools, gravel bars and varied riverbanks. No one else is there. We get a Wilderness experience while in a state of heightened meditative awareness. It's truly magical. We come to Mattole

Camp twice a year, April/ May and Sept/Oct. Our weekly group meets at 1st Pres in Eureka on Wednesdays. We start at 5 but you can come at 5:30, that's when we start meditating. Contact Susie Laraine at slaraine@suddenlink.net or call the Church at 443-4897 and ask them to give your message to Cat McAdams.



Reverend Dan speaks of hills & harmony!

The Pedal for Protein ride came to the North Coast this year and spent their first night of the ride at Mattole Camp. We road from Bayside, through Ferndale and over! We had perfect weather with NO headwind on the coast!! All riders were amazed at the great scenery!. The food was fantastic, thanks to the kitchen crew, Pam Sommer, and Jennifer Callen. Day two took us over Panther Gap and into Rockefeller Grove. The rides both days saw very little road traffic along the Mattole Road until we left the Avenue of the Giants. More spectacular views on day 2. None of the other riders had been on this reversed "Tour of the Unknown Coast" route before. The climbs gave meaning to the Navy SEAL training saying of "the only easy day was yesterday." The cool river and hot showers were a welcome end to our first day. This year the ride reached it's fund raising goal of \$50,000! Truly due to the support of a great cast of sag drivers and camp hosts!

Lee Dedini, Mattole Council Vice Chair & Historian speaks of Mattole Valley FRUIT!

Early settlers in the Mattole Valley started family apple orchards in the 1860's. Pears, peaches, and plums were planted as well. Several of these original plantings, while in poor shape, still produce fruit today, mostly apples. Tommy Shields once used apples for pig feed. He became incensed at school children climbing his fence and stealing apples in his orchard, so he planted rose bushes along the fence line as a barrier. Sheep along with control burns reduce the spread of the thorny bushes. Now the sheep business is gone and burning is seldom approved. (1)

A comment from a member of the Roscoe family, years ago, said that they had to keep the sheep out of the apple orchards, because too many apples were bad for the teeth of the sheep.

Albert Etter, a well-known apple breeder in the Valley, developed the Waltana in the early 1900s in Humboldt County, California. Etter developed a number of apples, although the Waltana is considered by many to be his best. Waltana apples are a medium to large, variable sized green apple with thin red striping and crisp, firm juicy flesh. He also produced Crimson Gold, Pink Pearl, Katherine, and Wickson. Etter's original Waltana trees are still producing today. The Waltana apple tree requires a very long growing season to attain it's best flavor. The name Waltana comes from a combination of the names Walter and Ana, the brother and sister-in-law of the apple's grower, Albert Etter. (2)

(1) "Heydays in Humboldt" by Ken Roscoe

(2) Specialtyproduce.com



THE SORELY HAPPY PEDAL FOR PROTEIN RIDERS ARRIVE AT MATTOLE CAMP !!



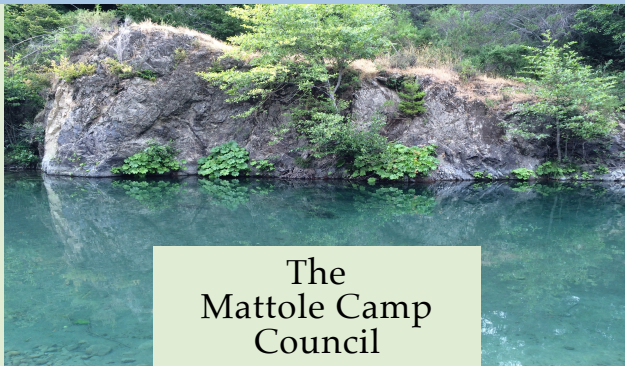


MATTOLE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
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The Mattole Camp Council created this newsletter to inform the community of current events, projects and future plans for Mattole Camp. The Mattole Meanderings is published annually and is available free of charge.

Mattole Camp & Retreat Center is a non-profit organization owned by the Presbytery of the Redwoods and managed by the Mattole Council in Bayside, CA. Please check out our website!

www.mattolecamp.com



The
Mattole Camp
Council

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

707 629-3308

or e-mail:

info@mattolecamp.com

David Goodman, Lee Dedini, Jennifer Callen, Dan Link, Kathy Schmidt, Carrie O'Neill, Dan Bixler,

With team
"Christine & Peter!"

