

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS

inspirations from The Mattole Council & Mattole Camp & Retreat Center
Autumn 2017



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE...

VOLUNTEERS!!!

I truly believe that volunteers are the GREATEST people and TRUE THAT they make the world a better place! I certainly know they help to make Mattole Camp the wonderful place that it is!

This year we had a couple of NEW volunteers join in the fun of "Mattole Camp work week". Thank you Christie & Dan, for joining David G, Dave B, Lee, Kathy, Pam, for all the hard work! I mean really! This year, working together we; cleaned all the cabins, replaced a washing machine, weed whacked, repaired broken screens in the Ping Pong Palace, built & installed 4 screen doors for the Sun-Cabins, repaired the ramp to the shop, repaired the steps to the shed, installed a new fascia board on the Seldom Inn, re-tarped the Old Lodge, replaced a toaster, caulked bathrooms and replaced a shower head, fixed a couple of toilets, repaired rain gutters, repaired the pagoda bench, landscaped around the lodge, TRENCHED and replaced water pipe from Seldom Inn out to the drinking fountain (which works again!), repaired the horseshoe pit backboards, organized the shed AND the shop, cleaned the BBQ, washed windows, cleaned out the storage closet in the Main Lodge, repaired the Seldom Inn handrail and during all this hard work in some pretty high temps, we managed to share in the spirit of what the camp is all about;

fellowship, good eats, river romps, star gazing, laughter, meaningful dialogue, music & camp stewardship...

We feel so blessed and grateful for those who are willing to leave the comfort of their homes with families & technical devices & routines, to drive the rugged Wildcat, just to offer their talents and services for the camp's benefit!!! But like I always say... **"WE THRIVE ON HARD WORK AND CELEBRATE HARDER"**

by Jennifer Callen



The Mattole Council wishes to thank the Lacy Family for their tenure at the camp! We wish them all good things for their future in continuing their life in the valley and raising their lovely children! Thank you Curtis, Cindy, Dominick, Braden, Abigail & Finn!

My experience at Mattole Camp & Retreat Center
Reflections from Dan Bixler

I first heard about Mattole Camp from a friend Dan Tanney, who had volunteered to work at the camp many years ago. I was surprised when he mentioned the Presbytery of the Redwoods owned this really great camp out near Petrolia. I am not sure what I expected upon initially arriving last spring, I am sure my expectations were reasonably high. However, the weekend I spent in spring of 2017 at Mattole Camp far exceeded any preconceptions I held.

First, the camp has fantastic facilities; there are cute modernized rustic cabins, each with heat and full a bathroom. Then this incredible main lodge with an industrial kitchen, wrap-around porch, and several dorm style bunkrooms; everything well maintained while cute, iconic, and modern.

The camp setting is open and vast, the landscape green and spacious while surrounded by a beautiful forest. Here I was in the Mattole Valley, a beautiful river with picture perfect swimming holes, picturesque cabins set in a sweeping green lawn surrounded by dense forest, there is a ping pong rec room, horse shoes, and an awesome fire pit, I was super stoked.

Well, it turns out I can get a lot of work done while having a lot of fun at Mattole Camp. I really enjoyed the folks that came together that weekend; they were from all over, of different faiths and spiritual traditions, a real pleasure to be around. We had incredible conversations, we tried out the swimming holes and explored the grounds, we played music at night together, shared delicious meals, while working really hard and getting a lot done. There was an inherent appreciation present in the camp itself and respect from each of us for the camp as we worked and played.

If I had to sum up my impression of Mattole Camp, I'd simply say the camp itself is welcoming to everyone, and I can't wait to get back.

Reflections from the Mattole Council Chair
BY David Goodman

I am most pleased to introduce Dan Bixler as a new member to our council. Dan is no stranger to our area and his roots are well established here. His skills and abilities are a wonderful asset and we are grateful to have him as part of our leadership!

We have been blessed with another good year of camp usage. This helps us to be in a good position financially as we enter our "winter season".

As we say goodbye to the Lacy Family, please welcome our new caretakers, Christine Braun & Peter Oakland who will be coming on board in December. They have some tenure in our county and are looking forward to a new opportunity which they feel will be more in line with some of their life goals.

In a final word I wish to thank all the people who so willingly volunteer their time and talents, fiscal support & contributions to the work of the camp. You truly are the "Friends of the Mattole" and without your strong spirit, we would not be able to be who we are!

THANK YOU, with best wishes for the upcoming holiday season!



\$\$ Treasurer Reflects on Money Matters \$\$
by Jennifer Callen

I'm thrilled to report that 2017 was a strong year for Mattole Camp! We saw many happy campers, some new, & many returns...

Life is good at the ol "OK Corral". The Council approved the motion to increase our investment in our Endowment fund with HAF, bringing it over the \$10k mark! This supports our community in so many blessed ways! For the time being we will be reinvesting dividends while the market continues to grow stronger! Many campers have already reserved their dates for 2018 (might be a record year) and yes, we are already planning our summer projects and oh boy do we have some big projects on the horizon! As WE grow older, we require a little extra maintenance... That's a fact! Well, the camp cabins date back to the 1930's... That's about 84 years old in human years. In "well-used camp years" it's about a gazillion years! So, we plan, we organize, we pray, and then we ask for money. That's the hardest part. You will be receiving our yearly "Friends of the Mattole" letter and I gently ask to help us out with your support, both emotionally & financially... We will be replacing our entire water system! We feel it is MOST important to continue to provide the safest & securest water possible to our campers!



The following is a piece of history of the Mattole Valley. This information is taken from the book "Heydays in Humboldt", by Ken Roscoe. It caught my interest because of the close proximity to our camp.

Milton Dudley built a sawmill and gristmill near the mouth of Squaw Creek in the 1880's. (Squaw Creek enters the Mattole River just downstream from the bridge at the entrance of our camp.) This area from the bridge, toward Petrolia for several miles, was called Union Mattole.

The mills were powered by water, delivered from a lake behind a dam across the creek. The dam was 25 feet high and backed water up Squaw Creek for more than a mile.

The logs were cut on the hillsides of the creek and then floated down the lake, before being pulled out and sawed for lumber. The lumber was used locally up and down the valley. With the bad roads at the time, hauling lumber out of the valley would have been prohibitive.

The gristmill would sometimes mill other farmers' oats, wheat, rye, or other grains for a share of the flour. The gristmill was sold around 1911 and was moved to Upper Mattole. Many families in the upper valley had all the flour they needed during the war, as commercial flour was rationed. Even today, there is Laurence Hindley, a native from Honeydew, who is harvesting some grain in the Mattole valley for the local Beck's Bakery bread. More local Mattole history will be in the next newsletter.

Reflections by Lee Dedini... Newly appointed Mattole Camp Historian



The Centering Prayer Group from The First Presbyterian Church in Eureka offered two inspiring retreats again this year. We are so grateful to be able to come to Mattole camp. Everyone just loves it. There is no other place like Mattole camp in this area where we can go. It always feels like we're coming home when we arrive. One of our campers put it this way: "I don't know if we hold the silence or if the silence holds us." No matter what a group's activity is, just getting away from the cares and stress of everyday life in a beautiful, comforting place can bring new inspiration to life. We particularly enjoy our free time when we can walk. We're looking forward to the new steps down to our beautiful river. We give huge thanks to our "busy beavers" of the Mattole Camp Council, who are always fixing things for us. I also like the aerobic walk up the forest steps to the water system. I lived for seven years in Oregon with a similar water system, coming out of a spring on a hill. That water system worked well, but I'm glad to see that our system at Mattole Camp is much more carefully protected and the drainage basin seems to be very safe. Our Centering Prayer Retreat dates in 2018 are May 18-21 and September 28-October 1. We start Friday night and go to Monday afternoon, but most people go home Sunday afternoon. We are also doing one day retreats at the Trinidad Renewal Center on February 3 and in July. For continuity, we have a weekly meeting from 5-6 pm in the Meditation Room upstairs at The First Presbyterian Church of Eureka. Call the church office 443-4897 for further information.

by Cat McAdams

Hello, from Christine and Peter, the new caretakers for the Mattole Camp & Retreat Center. We are very excited to start living and working at the camp. We love being in nature with our favorite activities being hiking, identifying plant life and backpacking, so this is the perfect place for us! Christine brings over 10 years of experience in customer service and business analysis but also enjoys gardening and painting.

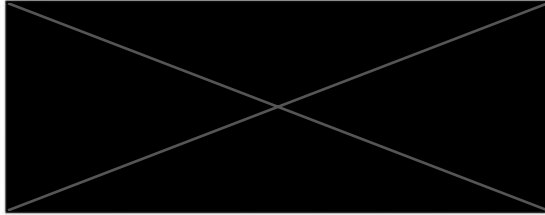
Peter has spent many years living in the countryside mountains of Northern California, worked nearly 20 years as a computer analyst and also enjoys meditation, permaculture design, natural history and playing music. We look forward to spending time doing things we enjoy and learning together while living on the beautiful Mattole River. We hope to see you soon when you visit the Mattole Camp & Retreat Center!



THE MATTOLE
COUNCIL
WELCOMES
CHRISTINE &
PETER TO THE
FOLD

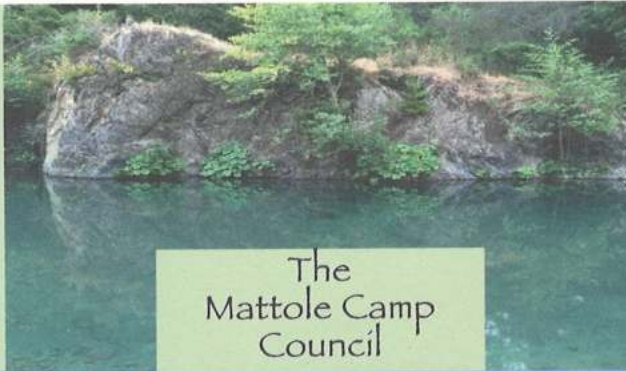


MATTOLE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
36841 MATTOLE ROAD, PETROLIA, CA 95558



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 questions or 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:

info@mattolecamp.com

David Goodman, Lee Dedini, Jennifer Callen, Pastor Dan Link, Kathy Schmidt, Carrie O'Neill, Cat McAdams,

Dan Bixler

Christine Braun &
Peter Oakland

