

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS



News and inspirations from the Mattole Council and the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center.....Autumn 2022

There's no better way to share the love at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center than to host a wedding. I was blessed with hosting the wedding of dear friends Mary Beth and Kevin Stokes in the peak of summer. Mary Beth had fallen in love with the camp while working with me in the kitchen crew of NSQ camp. She got to see the magic of camp first hand and decided she wanted to share that with all of her closest friends and family.

With the help of talented friends and local businesses South Side Mike's catering and the Pony Keg, this wedding was a smash hit! Guests enjoyed the landscape by playing horseshoes, roasting marshmallows around the campfire, dancing in the newly rebuilt Tree Deck, swimming in the river, and star gazing in the field. There was even a robust game of glow-in-the-dark capture the flag. Everyone left the four day adventure feeling refreshed, happy, and blessed to have experienced Mattole Camp and all of it's offerings. There was truly something, for each family that came, to connect with and share in the beauty and love that we all know and cherish.

Carrie O'Neill, MCRC Secretary



The Lutheran Church of Arcata held its second annual Family Camp weekend at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center at the end of June, 2022. Blessed by great weather and a high river, this intergenerational camp was fun for all ages. People from the Lutheran Church of Arcata enjoyed meals together, campfire sing-alongs, morning devotional time, nature walks, star-gazing, frog-catching, tie-dye, and puppet shows. Several families with young children were able to attend, bringing the joy and excitement (and frenzy!) of multiple toddlers.

More than anything, members and friends of the Lutheran Church of Arcata enjoyed time away together at Mattole Camp. It feels close to home, yet far away at the same time. The plentiful sunshine and clear skies of the Mattole River Valley are a treat for those of us living in the coastal fog of Humboldt Bay, and there's something special about the camp's river spot that feels restorative for the soul. We look forward to returning for Family Camp again in early July, 2023!

Pastor Taylor Hagbo, Lutheran Church of Arcata

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS



David Goodman giving the hood fan a deep clean before the summer season begins.

A Note from the Chair,

Each year seems to present new and often different challenges for us. This year was no exception. Operation of the camp without the help of a caretaker/director was not easy to say the least. However, through the extended efforts of council members we were able to meet the needs of our guests again this year. Our calendar was fairly full for the season.

This past year the council has been working with the Presbytery of the Redwoods (they have ownership and oversight of the camp) and a camp consultation firm to work out plans for the future operation of the camp. We will know the results of this consultation by the end of the year.

Currently there are plans to remove the old caretaker's garage and residence. Exactly when and how that will take place has not been established.

On the positive side of things we have added three new members to our council. We welcome Meredyth Phillips of the Eureka Presbyterian Church, Taylor Hagbo of the Lutheran Church in Arcata and Kathy Finlay of the Arcata Presbyterian Church.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks for all the hard work done by our council members this year. Without all of your extended help and work we would not have had the accomplishments that we did this season. As the year begins to close I wish all the best for the holiday season. Let us look to the new year with hope. Thank you all. **David Goodman, MCRC Board Chairman**

By Flora Brain "A Place to Connect with Each Other" Mattole Field Institute students LOVE Mattole Camp!

On May 16, 2022, thirteen university students in the Mattole Field Institute's watershed restoration field course gathered at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center. Pretty instantly, they each began to perceive the magic of the place: the glittering river, the green grass dappled in shade from the maple and oak trees. The quiet.

This was the start of an uncannily magical week of bonding and mutual support between 13 Cal Poly Humboldt students who, at the end, spoke candidly about how close to utterly burned out on virtual school they were just prior to this field course, and how being here in the Mattole for just five days totally re-inspired them. During those five days, the student group met with Mattole Restoration Council and partner nonprofit staff, tribal staff from the Bear River Band's Cultural Department, federal agency biologists, and local Mattole community members. Together, they explored and learned about watershed and salmon restoration: from how to build beaver dam analogs in the Mattole headwaters with Sanctuary Forest, to estuary slough restoration down by the river mouth. Folded in throughout the week was emphasis on one of the Mattole Field Institute's primary foci: the restoration of human relationships in this river valley.

At the end of the 5-day field course, students are asked by the Mattole Restoration Council to fill out written evaluations. When asked to share reflections on the facility where this field course was held, students wrote:

"The Retreat Center had magical energy! I had beautiful interactions with wildlife, with my peers, with the river! I appreciated being able to shower and use the kitchen."

"A place to connect with each other was incredible. River, stars, delicious meals. Amazing!"

"It was awesome – what a special place to be: little cabins on the river, big open grassy areas, campfire, showers/bathrooms AND a kitchen! It is one of a kind!"

"It creates a safe and comfortable space for everyone to share – perfect location!"



MATTOLE MEANDERINGS



As one travels from Ferndale on the Wildcat, about half way to Petrolia is an interesting landmark at Capetown. The Capetown school was built in 1878. The eucalyptus trees near the school were planted about the same time. A large family had increased the number of children in the district to 17, to where it was possible to establish a school. The school land was deeded to the district by the owner of the hotel which was about in the same place as the Branstetter home now stands. Since the Wildcat road was not built yet, lumber for the building had to be hauled down from Centerville beach. At one time in 1896, there were 38 pupils in 10 grades. The school was in use until 1951. The school building is now a B&B owned by the great-great-grandchildren of Capetown pioneer L.P. Branstetter.



Article from Our Story magazine, The Ferndale Museum, Fall 2022

After two years of finding creative ways to meet with middle school aged campers during Covid, North Star Quest Camp welcomed the opportunity to return to the camp. Our first summer away we tried our hand at "Camp-in-a-Box." Our committed staff worked creatively to assemble arts and crafts, Blue Fairy gifts, and enriching lessons for our at-home campers. Summer 2021 we offered a 2-Day hybrid camp. One day in-person in Eureka's Halvorsen Park, followed by a day on Zoom together, expanding friendships and workshops with inspiring teachers.



This year we were back in full swing. Our first week of campers were 6th-7th graders. Each day was action packed with fun workshops, campfires, hikes to the river and community building. Session Two we offered camp to kids in 8th-9th grade. It was our first year expanding the age limit to include 9th graders, and it was definitely worth it. Those kids missed out on camp opportunities for 2 years and we didn't want to let them slip through the cracks. This group enjoyed the same activities as much as the first and we were so happy to reconnect with friends from years passed!

NSQ is always looking for bold, brave women to work as counselors, workshop leaders, and lifeguards. If you are interested in joining the team, please visit northstarquest.org

Carrie O'Neill, NSQ Camp Chef

FARE THEE WELL...



HELLO...



TO OUR DEAR "FRIENDS OF THE MATTOLE"

In an effort to jump into the land of modern technology (and to save a little money on the side) we will now offer our newsletter and other correspondence by EMAIL! All we need is your email address. PLEASE send an email to:

email@mattolecamp.com

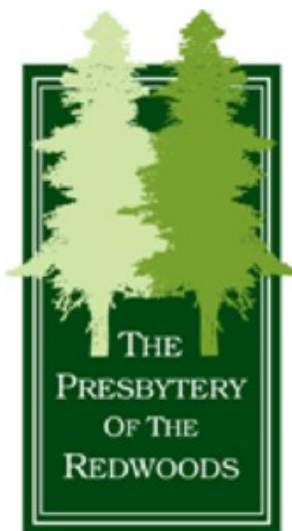
with your name and address to confirm. We will reply with a thumbs up to

let you know we have you in our system. Then, please add

email@mattolecamp.com

to your address book to avoid the junk mail thief!

PLEASE NOTE: If we don't receive your email address, we will continue to send you Mattole Camp info via snail mail!



Mattole Camp and Retreat Center Annual Newsletter



Mattole Camp & Retreat Center
P.O. Box 675
Bayside, CA 95524

*Mattole Camp and Retreat Center is owned by the
Presbytery of the Redwoods, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
Our camp is open to everyone, regardless of race, gender,
disability, class or religious persuasion.*

