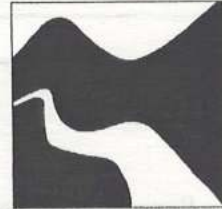


The Mattole Messenger

The newsletter of Mattole Camp and Retreat Center



Issue 4

2003



Another Successful Year By Steve Lovett

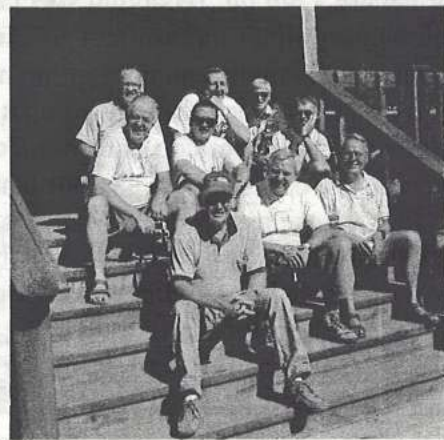
Looking back at the accomplishments Mattole Camp has achieved over the past years is extremely gratifying. There are so many ways in which we have improved the grounds and administration. The camp has continued to expand our outreach and has doubled our marketing efforts to ensure our success in the future. In addition, we have made dramatic improvements to the camp options and aesthetics by creating a new trail, placing benches throughout the camp, painting, adding landscape beds, and expanding our ropes course, much of which was made possible by a mission group of 47 teenagers and 6 adults from First Presbyterian of Fort Lauderdale and later with the help from Stone Church of Willow Glen. Stone Church has had annual work trips at the camp for many years.

On April 26 the Camp held a Friends and Volunteer Appreciation Day. Volunteers who have been critical to the Camp's success over the years were recognized including: Andy Montgomery, Carlotta and Pete Vallerga, Hugh and Suellen Stewart, Ollen Fowler, Phil Nasset, Bob Crichton, George Egan and Doug Lane. We are grateful to these folks and the many other volunteers who have made the Camp what it is today. We would be in a very different situation today if we didn't have such dedicated volunteers.

The Mattole Camp Site Plan continues to develop as we expand our vision for the future of the Camp. In the upcoming years we plan to install new flowering deciduous trees and landscape plants around Tan Oak Lodge and Seldom Inn, install irrigation, expand our ropes course, place a patio and an arbor at the entrance to the Lodge, develop an interpretive trail and create a labyrinth and a landscape pond where the Sky Room/Infirmary once stood.

The Camp plans to develop its own environmental camp focusing on ecological studies and offer some of the specific programs and activities to other groups and organizations that use our facilities. Topics available for programming include orienteering (map and compass), forestry, water monitoring and river ecology, tide pool activities, orienthology, astronomy, forest mammals, music, new games and the ropes course.

The upcoming year of 2004 still has many openings in the spring and fall, however the summer has almost filled up. Let Mattole Camp serve as a gathering place for your special event. If you or anyone you know is interested in having a camp or workshop, please contact us soon!



Life at Cool Kids Camp

By Tim Cochrane



Children who have experienced sexual abuse or family violence have been put at additional risk for depression, anxiety, suicidal feelings and future substance abuse. More than 90 percent of incarcerated criminals were exposed to family violence as children. Within Humboldt County there are few recreational programs that are targeted specifically for children who have experienced abuse, assault, or neglect. The Rotary Clubs of Humboldt County recognized the need to create a program to aid in the healing of these children and in July 2002, Cool Kids Camp was held

at Mattole Camp and Retreat Center.

Cool Kids Camp is a 5-day residence camp for youths age 8 to 13 from abused backgrounds. The program was developed in partnership with Westminster Woods and the Sebastopol Rotary Club, based on their success with a similar Sonoma County camp established four years ago. Children are referred by local non-profit agencies who offer recovery and therapy programs for families who have experienced abuse and violence. The camp is intentionally not a camp offering therapy or counseling. Rather, it is intended to provide children a break from a stressful family life, where they can just be kids who play and have fun in a healthy environment with positive role models.

On July 21st, 20 Cool Kids campers arrived at Mattole Camp via bus from Eureka. They were treated to a picnic upon their arrival, featuring barbecued hamburgers and all the trimmings dished up by camp cook David Goodman. Afterwards, they enjoyed a night swim and capped that off with a roaring campfire. Campers participated in craft projects, swimming, ropes course and archery throughout the week. In addition to swimming, the kids participated in a river hike followed by a leisurely downstream ride on their inner tubes. One day, there was a field trip to the nearby tide pools and on another, a special presentation by Wildlife Center volunteers who brought two wild owls that had been injured and rehabilitated. Other activities included evening campfires with singing, skits and story telling; traditional games like Capture the Flag; and team competitions with "Fear Factor"-like contests that kept the kids' undivided attention. Six baby goats, provided for the week by Petrolia ranchers Kelton & Dottie Chambers, were a big hit, receiving special care and attention by the campers. Wednesday evening, members of the Ferndale Rotary Club visited and cooked a much appreciated tri-tip dinner for the kids and allowed our cooks the night off.

Cool Kids Camp was staffed by volunteer camp program directors Tim & Marie Cochrane, volunteer cooks David Goodman and Joe Collins, and 5 counselors, a nurse, a life-guard and a craftsperson. Special thanks are due to the following organizations and businesses, without whose assistance Cool Kids Camp would not have been possible: Mattole Camp and Retreat Center; the Schulze-Kronenberg Memorial Fund, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation; Staples; T P Tire Service; Green's Fortuna Pharmacy; Cloney's Red Cross Pharmacy; Mission Industries; Red Lion Hotel; Ken Singleton DDS; Fortuna Holiday Inn Express; DelReka Distributing; and the Rotary Clubs of Arcata, Arcata Sunrise, Mad River, Eureka, Southwest Eureka, Old Town Eureka, Fortuna and Fortuna Sunrise.

Notes from the Chair

Wayne Johnson

As we close out the year at Mattole, it is a real joy to reflect on the year 2003 as well as to look to the time ahead. Even with some reservations cancelled, the Camp is in great financial shape. Already reservations are being made for 2004 which indicate it will be an even better year. In fact, most dates in the summer are completely reserved!

What is exciting is to just list the tasks, additions and projects that have been accomplished above and beyond routine maintenance and those unexpected repairs. With a new freezer in the kitchen and a new clothes washing machine in the laundry room we are not concerned about freezer capacity or the reliability of the washer. Several new storage drawers in the kitchen facilitate storage as well as dispensing silverware, kitchen tools and other miscellaneous equipment. Work has begun on creating a patio in front of the Tan Oak Lodge. Seldom Inn is being remodeled to be a small lodge with sleeping, toilet, shower, new kitchen cabinets and sinks and meeting facilities for small groups of 10 to 12. This project is about 75% complete and has been available to campers during the remodeling. Through a grant funded by Humboldt Area Foundation, there is now a low level ropes course with six elements between the volleyball court and the playing field. Work parties have repainted the Tan Oak Lodge and built a major trail up the hill behind the lodge to the spring area.

For the future we have several projects in mind: a new home for the director and his family, two new cabins, a sprinkler and drip system for the meadow grass, trees and bushes. You may wonder where all our optimism comes from here in a very negative economic time in Humboldt County and Presbytery. Our council consists of Alex and Javan Reid, Kathy Goodman, Lee Dedini, David Goodman, Meredyth Phillips, Barbara Burke, Pat Johnson and Marlene McGrath. These folks are great believers in Paul's understanding of hope being 'beyond what we can see today'. We have experienced too many miracles for the glory of God through this Camp to let up on our hope and vision for Camp Mattole. We know that there are many others who support us and the Camp to keep going and continue to expand this facility and its program. We have many more dreams and will continue to allow the miracles to occur with a faith that tells us we are on the right track. Thanks to the many Friends who support us with your enthusiasm, prayers and contributions. God bless you all as He has indeed blessed us as individuals and the Camp.

Wish List

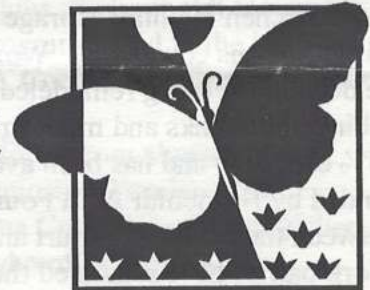
Shovels
Mattocks
Fire Rake
Loppers
Bow Saw
Hand Saw
Post Hole Diggers
Garden Cart
Wheelbarrow
Bolt cutters
Mulch
New Paint Brushes
Tarps
Landscaping Plants
House Plants
Hammers
Screw Drivers
Other Working Tools
Chipper/Shredder
First Aid Supplies
Golf cart/ATV Four Wheeler

If you have something you would like to donate to the camp that is not on the list, please call us at (707) 629-3308.

Greetings from the Kitchen of the Lodge at Camp Mattole!

This was the second year that I, Meredyth Phillips, had the wonderful experience of working with Chef Extraordinaire, David Goodman. Last year, July 2002, there were four of us working together in support of 18 kids and 8 adults. It had been my second time in the kitchen at Mattole (the first time was two years prior when two other parents and myself cooked from Sunday dinner through Tuesday lunch), and the experience was so enjoyable I signed on for another go 'round this past summer. I'm glad I did! Due to unforeseen circumstances, there were only the two of us in the kitchen this summer! But, we also had smaller numbers to cook for, so it all worked out.

NCPP Camp 2003 served 13 children between grades 3 and 6, and we even had the added pleasure of two sweet and wonderful children, ages 4 and 6, who were staying the summer with their grandmother, Lydia, who was also NCPP Camp director. Rev. Dan Price served as Pastor for the camp, though he was only able to stay through Wednesday evening. Youth Pastor Nathan Calvert, from Eureka First, came in on Wednesday and stayed through Friday evening. Dan and Nathan served as Boys counselor. Though the camp was smaller this year, we were no less busy in the kitchen. We had several guests and visitors including Reverend Wayne Johnson, Reverend Phil Nessel and his wife Nancy and camp director, Steve Lovett.



Being a teacher in my 'real life', it was kind of different watching the campers as they move from cabins to meals to activities. Lydia is a very theatrical person, and her work with the campers reminded me of the team building activities that we did when I was part of a children's theater group once-upon-a-time. As the week progressed, friendships were built and trust began to be established, especially amongst the girls. There were only 3 boys, but they made quite a cohesive group all by themselves!

It was easy to see what the kids liked best about camp- THE RIVER!!! The Mattole is a beautiful river, and the heat in the first two days (it got to be 102 degrees- NO JOKE-on the deck by the kitchen door!) made River Time very special. Probably the campfire time was next most popular, though it may have vied with meals for second place. I have no doubt that others would disagree, but watching the excitement and the animation at these times made it obvious what memories were being made this summer.

I enjoy watching the kids grow spiritually, as well as socially. Being 'behind the scenes' is very different from being with the kids 24/7, but one can still gain some insight into what makes each child unique. I think that this is why I look forward to working at NCPP camp (and having the best 'boss' -David- in the world doesn't hurt, either) next year. Hey, where else can I get recognition for doing anything even remotely well in the kitchen? God Bless those who make NCPP Camp a possibility!



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