

JUNE, 2009
ISSUE 4

FRIENDS OF VILLA GRANDE NEWS

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OUR MISSION:

- ❖ PRESERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCE, THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE BEACH.
- ❖ BE FINANCIALLY PRUDENT IN THE BEACH'S ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT
- ❖ KEEP THE BEACH OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE VILLA GRANDE COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC.
- ❖ ENSURE OWNERSHIP OF THE BEACH STAYS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

JULY 5: TOWN HALL, MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The 2009 Friends of Villa Grande membership meeting will be held on Sunday, July 5 at noon by the General Store on the Villa Grande town square. Please bring a folding chair. Reports on the status of the purchase of Patterson Point, the Restoration and Land Management Master Plan and upcoming events will be presented. The meeting will conclude with the election of members of the Board of Directors.

Five members of the Board have finished a two-year term: Richard Holmer, President; Kyla Brooke, Vice President; Roberto Esteves, Executive Director; Leah Norwood, Secretary; and at-large member John Paxton. All will run for a second term. Linda Homen, a long time Villa Grande resident, has also filed to run for the Board. FoVG members will be allowed to cast their secret ballots for five of the six candidates.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

The Friends of Villa Grande is about to enter a new phase, as the proud owner of the two acre parcel of land we call "Patterson Point". In two short years, the organization has gone from birth to maturity. We have more than 200 members, most of whom support the organization at the contributor (\$50) or family (\$100) level. With funds from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS) and individual contributions, we have the funds in escrow to purchase the property and begin the process of planning and implementing the restoration of the land. It has taken a unique community to create the incredible energy and success of acquiring the beach, but we will continue to need the support of each of our members to retire our mortgage debt and help restore and maintain the land. We look forward to another successful year, and are assured of success as long as we have you as our members. *Roberto Esteves*



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

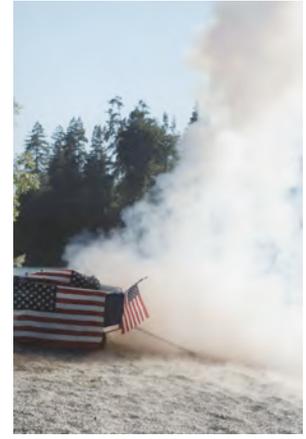
Yes, it's the beginning of our new fiscal year (July 1st) and time to renew your membership. We can't tell you how important it is for us to be able to tell potential funders that we have more than 200 members of the Friends of Villa Grande. Your contributions last year were matched on a 2:1 basis. We

hope you will consider renewing your membership this year. The membership form (which now takes PayPal payment) is on our website: <http://villagrande.org> (click on "Membership"). It is also included in this newsletter. Thanks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 Celebration & Parade Our 30th annual 4th of July celebration will be held on ... yep, you guessed it ... July 4th in the town square. A potluck picnic will begin at 1 o'clock, and the celebration and parade will start at 4:30 sharp on the steps of the General Store. After the

reading of excerpts of the Declaration of Independence, we will march through town and end up at the old Hotel where a band, cloggers, and the kid's kazoo chorus will entertain the crowd. A march to the beach will follow with the traditional "firing of the cannon".



Scenes from previous July 4th festivities. No citizens were injured. Photos by Paul C. Miller.

A Sunday in New Orleans On Sunday, September 6, join us at the Monte Rio Amphitheater for a lazy afternoon concert on the Russian River Bayou we call "A Sunday in New Orleans." Presented by Riverwoods, this concert is a pilot for a series of "Communities In Concert." The concert will benefit FoVG and features The Sun Dogs

(Cajun band) and the Tom Barneby Dixie Land Band. Down home authentic cajun cuisine will be prepared for your dining pleasure. Doors open at 2:00 PM, and music begins around 2:30. Ticket price \$20 at the door or will soon be available online at www.riverwoods.us VIP seating is available for \$40.

PAST FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Treasure Chest Sale The General Store was reborn on June 5th as members toasted the opening of the "First Annual Treasure Chest". Ok, it was a garage sale, but included some spectacular bargains (a 40's art-nouveau sofa & matching lounge chair sold for \$150!). The evening and one day sale on Saturday, June 6 netted almost

\$2,000 for the Friends of Villa Grande. Special thanks to Kate Goodman, Erin McKinney & Jay Smith, Suki & Natalie Robb-Wilder, and of course Susan Thomas and Greg Sampson, owners of the General Store. Thanks also to all of you who donated your treasures, and those of you who bought some as well.

Grande Trattoria Dinner January 31 was a "grande" evening as ladies in cocktail dresses and men in tuxedos imbibed delicate elixirs created by Rita and Dan Novak and ingested sumptuous food prepared by Sergio Guisti and the staff of the San Francisco restaurant, Firenze by Night. Almost \$3,000 was raised as the VG General Store was transformed into an elegant Italian bistro. Special thanks to the following donors: Wine & Country Rentals (tables/chairs/linens), Renegade

(wine), Sophie's Cellars (wine), Malcom Granger (live music), the Village Inn (rooms, dishware & glasses), Toad Hollow (rooms & wine), Ravenswood (wine), Dave and Jennifer Ready (wine), Bart & Jo Kort (wine), Russell Gaughen and the Russian River Historical Society (photos), Steve Cody/Woody's (wine), Dan & Rita Novak (booze & bar tending), and Lon Shapiro (flowers). And a special thanks to all of you who helped make this event such a success by attending!



PATTERSON POINT PURCHASE

As a result of the hard work of the negotiating team of Richard Holmer, Kyla Brooke, Ken Wikle and Roberto Esteves, the FoVG reached agreement with Regina Torr and her family for the community purchase of Patterson Point and its beaches. The FoVG will purchase the land for \$170,000.

As reported in Issue 3 of the FoVG News, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District tentatively approved a

\$140,000 matching grant for possible purchase of Patterson Point. The SCAPOSD final review and vote on the grant took place Thursday, June 18 in Santa Rosa.

Twelve FoVG members attended the meeting and spoke in support of the \$140,000 grant proposal, which was adopted unanimously by the SCAPOSD Board. The funding request now goes to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for approval.

FINANCE DETAILS

Only \$100,000 of the SCAPOSD matching funds will be applied toward the land purchase, with the other \$40,000 to be used for restoration and preservation. The remaining purchase money will come from the FoVG operations budget (\$10,000) and loans totaling \$60,000 from eleven individuals. The loans are made to FoVG, and are to be repaid over twenty years.

We would like to thank Marcy and Jim Beck, Linda Fisher, Sin Soracco and Andrew Ahn, Ronald Bosch, Sukie and Natalie Robb-Wilder, Robert and Ellin Firth, and Roberto Esteves for their support and generosity. Of course, we also need to thank each of you whose donations of dollars and time to the FoVG have made this acquisition possible.

MASTER PLAN

After FoVG acquires Patterson Point, we are required to create a Master Plan and a related Restoration and Land Management Plan that will define the use of the land, the restoration of the land to its native habitat and will be adopted as guidelines for protecting the land, the neighbors and the wildlife. Victoria Wikle is heading up the Preservation Committee, which is working with the Rules Committee to create this Master Plan.

The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship will design the Restoration Plan, based upon the Master Plan. A draft of the Master Plan will be on the FoVG website: www.villagrande.org. We are very interested in hearing your opinions on this plan as it develops. If interested in participating in the planning process, contact Victoria Wikle (Preservation Committee) at 707/865-2474 or Ken Wikle (Rules Committee) at 707/865-9000.

Treasurer's Report FoVG will end the July 2008- June 2009 year with an estimated \$21,000 fund balance! Contributions from members and fundraisers were \$31,000, and expenses only \$10,000. An auspicious beginning for a one year old organization. *Tom Wackerman*

BY THE NUMBERS:

Beach price:
\$170k

SCAPOSD purchase grant:
\$100k

FoVG fundraising:
\$10k

Member loans:
\$60k

SCAPOSD restoration grant:
\$40k

PLEASE SEND ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS TO
FOVGNEWS@GMAIL.COM

FOVG - PO BOX 28
VILLA GRANDE, CA 95486

ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.VILLAGRANDE.ORG

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

YOUR DONATION COUNTS! PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

FRIENDS OF VILLA GRANDE, A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF PATTERSON'S POINT IN VILLA GRANDE FOR USE BY RESIDENTS, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS. YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP FRIENDS OF VILLA GRANDE TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THIS UNIQUE VILLAGE.

FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2010:

\$1,000 BENEFACTOR		
\$ 500 PATRON		
\$ 100+ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: LIST BELOW*		
\$ 50 CONTRIBUTING MEMBER		
\$ 25 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER		
\$ ADDITIONAL BEACH ACQUISITION DONATION		CHECK IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE SENT UPDATES BY MAIL OR EMAIL
\$ TOTAL DONATION		CHECK IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE LIST OF FOVG MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE LIST NAMES OF VOTING MEMBERS INCLUDED WITH THIS DONATION:

* _____ + * _____

MAILING ADDRESS:

_____ CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

PLEASE RETURN WITH CHECK TO FOVG, PO Box 28, VILLA GRANDE, CA 95486



PATTERSON POINT - HISTORIC POSTCARD