



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**October 2009**

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## Quote of the Month

*Nature often holds up a mirror so we can see more clearly the ongoing processes of growth, renewal, and transformation in our lives.*

—Mary Ann Brussat



## Mayor's Message By Ron Brean, Mayor

I recently returned from an annual "mental health retreat." Ostensibly it was a fishing trip. My wife calls it "boy's camp." In reality, it is one of the more important self-help, centering, grounding, and renewing experiences of the year for me. I think the same is true for the friends I have met each year at this event for fifteen years or so. We all need those times of renewal, those experiences that take us out of the pressures, challenges and trials of everyday life. When we miss them we are the worse for it and so are those around us.

It isn't about the fishing. Although there is something therapeutic about casting a fly line onto a pristine lake and watching the feathery offering float to the water. There is something cleansing about standing waist deep in water as clear as gin and as cold as last winter's snow. There is something renewing about the solitude and beauty of a high mountain lake filled with dazzlingly beautiful wild trout. There is something purifying about breathing in high mountain air. But that's not where the real value lies.

Six good, longtime friends look forward to this gathering every year. We tease and goad each other by e-mail for months in advance bragging about our fishing prowess and vowing to win the annual competition. We call the gathering a fly fishing "rodeo." We each have earned silly (mostly cowboy related) nicknames as a result of the

happenings at the Rodeo. Mine's "Wrangler" (someday, perhaps, I'll tell you how I got it). We fish. We tell stories about fish. We contemplate the troubles of the country and the planet and our own lives. We play cards, we eat well, we drink an adult beverage known among the group as "a bucket," and we laugh and laugh and laugh. I don't remember a Rodeo during which I haven't been in tears from laughing so hard. It's the guys, the people at the event that give it its healing power. It's Rawhide, Birdman, the Kid, the Drifter, the Razor...and the Wrangler, in combination, that make it special.

Upon my return to Yachats I noticed that the crowds of tourists are diminishing. As the chill of the morning air hints of the fast coming changing of the season we are once again left to enjoy the wonders of our community without the enlarged population that tourist season brings. It occurred to me that many of those people with whom we share it in season come to Yachats for the same reason that I make my annual pilgrimage to a high mountain lake. There is therapy in standing on the shore and watching the waves crash upon it. There is cleansing in searching the endless horizon and scanning the dynamic sky above it. There is something renewing and purifying about the sweeping wind of the sea toying with our hair and caressing our face.

However, more than that, the real value, the "mental health retreat," is found in the people. It's those longtime friends that gather here each year for their renewal, but it's us too, those of us who live here. There is a spirit of place that surrounds Yachats that is remarkable and palpable. Of course the ambient beauty and the power of nature have a great deal to do with it, but the power of our citizens and our community is a huge part of it as well. There is healing and grounding and centering in your music, your art, your volunteering, your personalities, the conversations in the coffee

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house, the smiling...and the laughing. Being a part of this community is a blessing everyday for those of us that live here and an annual dose of mental medicine for our visitors.



### **Public Works Department** **By John McClintock, Director**

Last month I addressed our operations concerning water supply and demand, particularly during the dry part of the year. We have had some small amounts of rain since then, but not enough to help replenish our watersheds. We are still experiencing dry weather, but our demands for water have decreased somewhat now that Labor Day has come and gone.

I presented a raw water availability report to both the City Council and the Public Works and Streets Commission at their respective September meetings. In that report I tried to show how the dry weather effects raw water availability, so both bodies understand the importance of our existing water sources and the need to perfect other sources. The information helps ensure we are planning for the future as well as taking care of the present.

The Public Works Department is available Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (except holidays) to answer questions about this or related public works matters at (541) 547-3243 or (541) 547-3851.



### **Public Works & Streets Commission** **Walt Weyand, Chair**

Did everyone enjoy the summer? I certainly did. My impression is that it was one of the most pleasant I've experience since moving to Yachats in 2001. The weather has remained dry, and most days were without the usual strong and chilly north wind. But now, as winter approaches, we need to turn our thoughts to survival housekeeping and inspect our personal survival kits for completeness, as well as expired or outdated items, before the first of the winter storms arrives.

I enjoy storm watching and am thrilled by the display of ocean power exhibited by the waves crashing on shore. But I also know that each storm carries the potential for water and/or wind damage to my home, as well as prolonged periods without electricity to power lights and heat.

Each storm also carries the potential for isolation. Let's face it, Yachats relies on Highway 101 for nearly all access to and from the outside world. Highway 101 crosses several creeks and chasms on bridges north and south of Yachats, as well as several potential slide areas. The highway can easily be blocked for days or weeks. Yes, there are alternate forest roads, but most are unpaved mud bogs in winter, and subject to blockage by blown down trees.

Therefore, we need to provide for our own survival and comfort as much as possible, knowing outside aid could be delayed for several days. One way to prepare is to have our own survival kits, well-stocked with basic items. Therefore, my family survival kit includes each of the FEMA recommended items per person, plus a few items specific to coastal conditions.

#### **Basic Disaster Supplies Kit (FEMA +)**

The following items are recommended for inclusion in your basic disaster supplies kit:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Three-day supply of water—one gallon of water per person, per day
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Sanitation and hygiene items (pre-moistened wipes and toilet paper)
- Matches inside waterproof container
- Whistle
- Extra clothing
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a can opener
- Photocopies of credit and identification cards
- Cash and coins
- Special needs items, such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solutions, and hearing aid batteries
- Items for infants, such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers
- Other items to meet your unique family needs

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Since we live in a cool and wet climate, we must think about warmth, and above all, staying dry. It is possible that you will not have a roof over your head after the storm, so think about staying dry. Think about your clothing and bedding supplies. Be sure to include one complete change of clothing and shoes per person. Be aware that cotton clothing is not suitable for coastal winter emergencies. Cotton absorbs water and is slow to dry, promoting hypothermia. Better choices are synthetic or wool garments. We each should have:

- Jacket or coat
- Rainwear
- Long pants
- Long sleeve shirt
- Sturdy shoes
- Hat, mittens, and scarf
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket (per person)
- Tarp or small tent for shelter
- Length of rope or clothesline
- Pocket or hunting knife



### **Yachats Committee Trails Update**

**By Lauralee Svendsgaard,  
Chair**

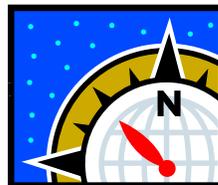
The Yachats Trails Committee continues to move ahead in the planning of new trails, the improvement of existing trails and simply making good information about our trails available to residents and visitors alike.

Joanne Kittel and others have begun discussions about some new trail opportunities east of Highway 101. Dave Rieseck constructed some steps to improve the access along the Prospect Trail. David Lavrinets has agreed to lead the Trails Crew Subcommittee and we're hoping to have our first regularly scheduled work day announced at our next Trails Committee meeting. The Overleaf Lodge very graciously made display space available to us where we now have a temporary trails display. Jerry Sand has very kindly offered to update the Yachats trails map which will include Gerdemann Gardens and Amanda's Trail to the State Park boundary. With the new map we hope to produce a simple brochure and develop a more permanent display for the Overleaf that can be easily duplicated for other hotel properties. I also had the

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pleasure of "talking trails" at the recent Yachats Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting.

The next Trails Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 6th at 3:00 p.m. in Room 3 at the Commons. Anyone interested in trails is invited. I expect to have an agenda and related materials sent to the Trails e-mail list by October 1st. If you'd like to receive meeting notices or notes or are interested in knowing more about our trail activities and what we're up to, please e-mail me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org) or call me at (541) 547-3640.



### **Yachats Public Library By Marie Green, Commission Chair**

Have you checked out the library's Northwest Collection?

Over the past year we have added a number of books by local authors as well as books about Oregon and its many small towns. "Calamity" by Joann Green arrived just this week. It is the story of the 1903 flash flood in Heppner, a small prosperous little town in Eastern Oregon's wheat country. On a Sunday afternoon, Willow Creek suddenly came roaring through, pushing debris, houses, fences, everything in its path. Over 200 people died, some were never identified. I lived in Heppner 50 years ago and worked in the building that became the temporary morgue. Author Green has sought out old pictures, diaries to bring the story to life.

The Friends of the Yachats Library was formed in August of 2004 to enable the library to apply for and receive grants, gifts and bequests. As a 501(c)(3) non profit organization it can receive tax deductible donations. Over the past five years the Library Friends has enabled improvements above and beyond the regular library budget, such as a new roof, new paint inside and out, new carpet and furniture, computer replacements and additions, and significant additions to the library collections. The Children's section received a major overhaul and upgrade as well. Friends are wonderful!

The library staff is making adjustments to the fall schedule, attempting to meet the needs of patrons: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Monday and Friday, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Please call us at (541) 547-3741 and let us know if this is

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helpful. Any suggestions or ideas our patrons may have to enhance the environment and the services of Yachats Library are always welcome.



**Little Log Church and Museum**  
**By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator**

Fall seems to have presented the Little Log Church and Museum with an opportunity for a potpourri of activities. In addition to hosting the regular parade of visitors and wedding guests, the church became a movie set September 18<sup>th</sup>. Yachats' own Milo Graamans shot a segment there for his latest video creation. The scene is to be a combination of live and animated characters attending a wedding. Extras in the "congregation" included locals plus two visitors from out of state who just happened to be exploring the museum. They were thrilled to be a part of a movie being made.

Other events included the all day plant sale and garden party on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a visit from 34 members of Peoples Church of Fresno, California. The church group wanted to visit the museum and hold their own "service." The walls are still vibrating from the gospel music belted out by enthusiastic singers. The Fresno visitors were most generous to the Little Log Church, donating several times the fee usually asked for event use.

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> will be the third annual Blessing of the Animals held at 3:00 p.m. in the garden near the statue of St. Francis. It will be hard to follow last year's menagerie of doggies, goats, bearded dragon, rats, and llama, but we'll try.



**In the Garden**  
**By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator**

I hope you were able to attend my little fund raiser at The Little Log Church and Museum on September 23. I am writing this article several days before the event has even occurred, so I can't tell you at this point how it turned out. I can tell you that I planned things to make it a really fun day for everyone, and hope you were able to come.

Yesterday Joan Johnson helped me dig up all the Siberian Iris "Caesar's Brother," which I intend to have available for a donation at the fund raiser. If there are any left and you didn't get one please stop by the Log Church as they will still be available there for a donation. The museum is open every day except Thursday from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

I must thank a few people who helped me make this event possible. First and foremost on my list is my husband who was so tolerant and supportive throughout the entire process. Then, right up there next to him is Joanne Kittel who really got the ball rolling and helped me in more ways than I can even remember. Thanks so much for everything you did Joanne.

Leon Sterner, Mary Crook, Julie Dutcher, Robbie Schoonover, Karl Christensen, Claire Good, the vendors and those that donated to the silent auction and sale. You are all so appreciated and without your help I would never have even considered trying to pull this off.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Yachats Ladies Club. They donated the use of their building for this event and even helped set it all up. You are so supportive of community events, and even though I am no longer a Yachats resident, I want to thank you for being there with your support. You are so amazing.



**Wanna Play, Anyone?**  
**By Lauralee Svendsgaard, Playground Committee**

You may recall that over the last year there have been numerous discussions and meetings related to adoption of building designs for a new youth and senior facility at the Commons. In the course of those discussions we also talked about the need to consider the play areas around the Commons including how they might be improved to provide recreational and play opportunities for children and adults of all ages. Thus, the Playground Committee was formed from volunteers who expressed interest in working with the community to explore options. Included in the Committee are: Debbie Jackson; Gerald Stanley; Leon Sterner; and me, lead by Blue Rife.

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Over the next several months we'll be looking to hear your ideas. What sorts of outdoor play or exercise interests you, your children and our visitors? What opportunities for play and exercise would you like to see within the Commons play areas? What creative ideas might you have that could utilize unique aspects of our history and the natural environment we share, into the play, exercise and design features?

More and more we're learning that play and exercise are important aspects of our mental, physical and spiritual health. While we may not always have the most conducive weather, amenities that provide safe opportunities for all of us to build and sustain our strength, stamina, and coordination will go a long way toward improving our quality of life and making for an even better community.

Look for our display at various public meetings in the near future. In the meantime, if you'd like to invite us to an upcoming meeting or share your ideas with us, please e-mail me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org).



**Yachats Village**  
**Mushroom Fest Opens**  
By Beverly Wilson, Yachats  
Visitors Center Director

The Yachats Village Mushroom Fest is a wonderful example of how this village works together. It includes the active participation of local businesses and nonprofits, the Cape Perpetua Visitors Center and more than 100 volunteers, including educators who come in from around the state to lead almost 30 guided mushroom walks, staff mushroom displays, present slideshows and give talks and workshops.

This year's festival opens on Friday, October 16, with an Enchanted Forest Fungi Feast, offering delightful entertainment and delectable mushroom dishes prepared by Yachats area restaurant chefs. The dinner is \$30. Advance reservations may be made at the Yachats Visitors Center, 241 Highway 101. You may also send us an e-mail to [info@yachats.org](mailto:info@yachats.org) or call (541) 547-3530 for reservations. The evening includes a tantalizing

dessert auction and a silent auction. This year's festival proceeds benefit the extraordinary [Gerdemann Botanical Preserve](#), which recently opened a public footpath and an accessible interpretive trail. The Fungi Feast is co-sponsored by the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce and Yachats area restaurants and is generously supported by many additional local businesses.

The festival weekend also includes a lasagna feed (with mushrooms) by the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program, an Oktoberfest dinner (without mushrooms) and beer/wine garden by the Yachats and Waldport Lions Clubs, a Saturday/Sunday Harvest Farmers Market, special wine tastings, and delicious forest and cultivated mushroom dishes offered by Yachats restaurants all weekend.

For a schedule of all of the weekend's activities, please visit [www.yachats.org/MFest2009.html](http://www.yachats.org/MFest2009.html). As the event nears, a printed program will be available.

So join us, all you fun-guys and fun-gals, for a weekend of fun and fabulous culinary and learning experiences that help us appreciate that we live at the edge of a magnificent temperate rainforest.



**Fisterra Gardens**  
**Apartments**  
**Dedication**  
By Gerald Stanley,  
Committee Member

In the fall of 2006, Mayor Sue Smith established the Yachats Affordable and Workforce Housing Committee. The following year Lincoln County adopted the Federal Government's 10-year plan to eliminate homelessness in the United States and the City of Yachats voted to approve the construction of 25 units of affordable housing within its city limits.

At 10:30 a.m. on October 7<sup>th</sup> the public is invited to view the result of those 25 units of affordable housing, named Fisterra Gardens Apartments, at a formal dedication. Refreshments will be served.

As of this publication, there are still six available apartments for occupancy. Those interested can obtain applications in person or by mail at the Housing Authority of Lincoln County located at 1039 NW Nye St, Newport OR 97365 or call (541) 265-

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5326 x300 for more information. The apartments are located on Highway 101 just north of Sea Aire Assisted Living.

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