

Time To Harvest, Time To Renew

Steve Brigham, Editor

With the Equinox on September 22nd, we begin our fall season in Westport, when things get just a little quieter and real weather returns. Fall is a time of harvest and renewal, especially in the “home and hearth” sense, and so that is the theme of this month’s issue of *The Wave*.

There are, of course, many things to renew at this time of year. And one of the most important things to renew is your membership in the Westport Village Society! For 20 years now, the non-profit WVS has been our community vehicle for the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural environment in and around Westport. Everything we do is done by volunteers and supported by your dues and donations, including publishing this monthly newsletter. So please take a minute to renew or begin your WVS membership by filling out the form on page 6 and mailing it with your donation to P.O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488. Thank you so much – we can see those halos over your heads already!



Harvest Photo by Pam Brown

35th Annual WVFD Summer Festival and Barbecue a Community Success!

Bill Knapp, President, WVFD

For the 35th year, the Westport Volunteer Fire Department’s Summer Festival and Barbecue was full of activity from noon to sunset (actually sun disappearing in the fog). Fundraising was aimed at supporting the Fire Department’s needs for training, vehicles, equipment, and building maintenance.

The BBQ featured barrel-roasted tri-tip, barrel-smoked chicken, Purple Rose veggie lasagna, corn on the cob, freshly made salads, and locally home-made desserts. Beverages included Thanksgiving coffee, water, wine, and local micro-brewed beers. Freshly made fruit smoothies were also available. The WVFD BBQ has the reputation for the best food of all the local summer events. A big part of the culinary experience comes from the interaction with the friendly food servers, all local residents, organized by Pam Brown.

Food preparation was overseen by Toby Hickman, with help from Chef Barrel John and several of WVFD’s finest. Corn production was handled by Dave Morgan. Carolyn Fox ran the Smoothie Booth and sold the many desserts donated by local residents. Gary Quinton organized the Beer & Wine booth. Susan Coy delivers and returns the coffee, cups, coffee maker & thermos jugs from Thanksgiving Coffee. Last, but certainly not least, on the food front was the KP effort by Val Hale.

Festivities included many local bands, a local handmade quilt raffle, basket raffle, craft booths, games, and face-painting for children (and a few adults). Performances this year were highlighted by The Mighty T-Bones, The Dunes Boys, Steven Bates, and Lost Johnson, all organized by Logan Smith. Aimee Maxey provided the quilt and Bobbie Knapp

organized the basket raffle with help from Frank Maurice and others to collect the goodies from local merchants. This year, about 400 meals were served. Gross proceeds, including meals, beverages, games, WVFD clothing sales, and donations, were over \$12,000. Barbara Anderson, a newly minted Westportian, handled the clothing sales.

The BBQ hosted many vendors with a variety of products. There was a reported sighting of a WVFD member in a Tutu at one of the booths. The vendors reported good sales for the day. Their presence contributes to event atmosphere and enjoyment.

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department wishes to express its appreciation to those businesses supporting the WVFD Summer Festival and BBQ. Major Sponsors were Frey Winery, Howard Creek Ranch, Mendo-Lake Credit Union, North Coast Brewing Co., Pacific Star Winery, The Purple Rose Restaurant, Thanksgiving Coffee, Willits Power, The Westport Hotel, and the Westport Community Store. Also, special thanks to Otto for letting us use the Westport Inn & Deli for food prep and storage.

Raffle Donors were; All Aboard Adventures, All Point Realty, Bamboo Garden's Spa, Big River Trading Co., Coast Hardware, Compass Rose, Cooking Up Ideas, Cowlick's Ice Cream, Deni's Pottery, Andy & Roberta Dyakon, E.R. Energy, Family Hands, Ft Bragg Outlet Store, Gallery Book Store, Harvest Market, Hot Pepper Jelly Co., Howard Creek Ranch B&B, Bobbie & Bill Knapp, Liquid Fusion, Matson's, MCDH Gift Shop, Out of this World, Outdoor Store, Pippi's Longstockings, Racines, Relish, Rhodes Napa, Rossi's, Round Man Smokehouse, Safeway, Spunky Skunk, Teamwork, Twist, Whistle Stop Antiques, Wind Song, and Zappas – Mendocino Cookie Co.

Perhaps you noticed how well-groomed the Headlands field was this year. A special thank you goes out to Jim Korhummel, who spent a lot of volunteer time expertly mowing and trimming the field for his friends and clients in Westport, as a tribute to Brian Dalton, aka "The Lawn Mower Man".

WVFD also wishes to thank the tireless volunteers and participants who made the 34th Westport Summer Festival and BBQ such a success. Special mention for set up and last minute crisis management to Beck, Josh, Cliff (aka Scooter), and Frank.

Perhaps this last thank you should have been earlier in this article, but if you read through, you now have an idea of the magnitude of the task. And so, a very special THANK YOU Bruce Berry, who was there at the beginning, middle and end of the whole project, coordinating it all. See you all next summer!

Plan On Attending The Westport Village Society 20th Annual Members' Meeting On October 5th!

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Westport Village Society will take place on October 5th. The public and our supporting members are invited to attend. A membership form is attached to this newsletter. There will be a social mixer starting at 6:30 PM at the Westport Community Church with snacks, coffee and juice available. Memberships can be also renewed at that time, and the new community history book published jointly with the Kelley House Museum should be available for purchase. A binder containing some of the images acquired during the history project will be available for viewing.

At 7:00 PM the annual members meeting will commence. It usually lasts about a half hour and includes the introduction of the current Board of Directors, a summary of WVS activities during the past year, presentation of a financial report, election of Directors to fill expiring terms, and a member forum to receive input on desirable activities and projects. Our recent activities have included publishing this newsletter, a local history book, creating a web site, managing the Headlands Park in Westport, and others you will learn about if you join us on October 5th. Members interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to attend and indicate their interest in running for the expiring Board positions. You must be an active member living or owning property in the WVS area between ten Mile and Rockport to serve as a Director. See the WVS website for more details.

Around 7:30 PM there will be a half hour slide show sharing information about the WVS history project and images found during the preparation of the new community history book. Resources that can be used to trace local genealogy and history will be discussed. Some of those tools are already available on the local history page of the WVS web site at: <http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>

The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

In the Chinese lunar-solar chronology, this is the year of the water dragon. It runs from January 23, 2012 to February 9, 2013. February 10, 2013 will be the start of a new year linked to a new moon. That system of time reckoning initially began in China as a lunar calendar with 12 months. However, it rapidly went out of alignment with the solar year. The reason, obvious to us now, was that there are more than 12 lunar months in a year. A radical revision of the Chinese calendar was thus necessary to realign it with the solar year. That took place by imperial decree. To keep the system in better alignment, a 13th (intercalary) lunar month is now added on a regular basis to the Chinese calendar to maintain harmony between the lunar and solar systems.

Most of you are familiar with the 12 year cycle of celestial Chinese animals, while the larger 60 year cycle identifies each repeating sequence of animals with five successive elements that consist of wood, fire, earth, metal, water. The water dragon is auspicious for those of us riding the leading edge of the North American tectonic plate because we live near the ocean. Next time you drive north from Chadbourne Gulch take a look north at that hairpin

turn. Observe the shape of the mountainside ahead of you. It is the dragon's nose. He is looking out toward the sea.

Another water dragon has recently emerged in my own neighborhood. It may have been that earthquake earlier this year. In any case, the timing was not lost on us and we are doing our best to honor his presence. His winged midsection may afford a nice place to sit, assuming he is agreeable. The thing I find particularly interesting about dragons is the way they encompass all of the elements. They fly, burrow, swim, spurt fire, guard hoards of precious metal, and alight in trees whenever they care to do so. Among the celestial animals, they are the most fabulous. The word fabulous is rooted in fable. It captures our imagination, reminding us there is a lot we do not know.

Although science and rationality may seem to rule the day, it never pays to underestimate the power of mystery and uncertainty. There are a lot of things beyond our control. Things we do not fully understand. Dragons symbolize that greater unknown. It is a source of creativity in a world of foregone conclusions. While there is value in pursuing knowledge, it always pays to temper those inquiries with respect for the great mysteries. Has anyone else encountered a dragon recently?



Coastal Commission Meeting

The California Coastal Commission will meet for the first time ever in Mendocino County close to the anniversary of the passage of the California Coastal Act 40 years ago. The meeting will take place at the Caspar Community Center Sept. 12-14. Get an agenda at: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html>. The Agenda for September 12 begins with a 30-minute public comment period at 9:00 AM, followed by a special 40th anniversary report of accomplishments focusing on Mendocino County. North Coast hearings are at the end of the agenda on September 13th and include as Item 20 Mendocino County's Local Coastal Program. That LCP has not been updated since it was first approved in the 1980s.

You can also understand the reasons for creating the Coastal Act by checking out the law at: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/coastact.pdf>. The Coastal Act not only protects coastal resources, but requires reasonable opportunities for public access. Balancing such mandates is often difficult. This meeting is a good chance to express your support for maintaining and improving coastal access, given the proposed removal of the northern haul road in MacKerricher State Park. Many are asking whether it would be desirable to create an alternative bike and hike trail that preserves the sensitive dune environment. What do you think?

Community Garden News

As opposed to the many "modern" vegetable varieties that have been bred for mass production, much talk these days is made of "heirloom vegetables", usually in reference to older varieties that have superior flavor and other characteristics that make them perfectly suited to the home garden. And when you look at it, it's really amazing how many great varieties of vegetables are still as popular today as they were a century ago or even more. This month at the Westport Community Garden, I'm going to be planting some young plants of 'Calabrese' Broccoli, which is a variety introduced to our country by Italian immigrants over a century ago. With superior flavor and a long harvest season, this popular home garden broccoli is perfectly suited to our fall weather in Westport. I've got plenty of extra seedlings, so I'll put them on the table in the greenhouse at the Garden,

and please feel free to help yourselves to them when you visit to pick your vegetables this month!

September at The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Late summer is its own season. Fall is definitely approaching: sunsets are coming earlier. But our menu is featuring summer produce in dishes such as blackberry ice cream and caprese salad with heirloom tomatoes (and avocado). It's a little slower and quieter, especially on Neighborhood Nights (Sunday and Monday). If you like having the place to yourself, stop in on one of those nights and linger over one of Caitlin's special appetizers. Have you tried the game "Set" yet?

September 2012 Westport Calendar

September 3rd – Labor Day

September 4th – WMAC Meeting CANCELLED

September 6th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

September 12th to 14th – Coastal Commission Meeting, Caspar Community Center

September 15th – New Moon, 7:11PM

September 16th – Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset

September 20th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

September 22nd – Fall Equinox, 7:49AM

September 25th – Yom Kippur begins at sunset

September 29th – FOOD AS ART Show, Last Saturday Reception, Westport Hotel, 5:30-8PM

September 29th – Full Moon, 8:19PM

October 2nd – WMAC meeting, 7PM at Church

October 5th – Westport Village Society Annual Members' Meeting, 6:30 PM at the Westport Church

You are reading *The Westport Wave*, a free monthly community newsletter published on the first day of every month by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit organization. Contributions for the October 1, 2012 edition of *The Westport Wave* are due by September 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.

FOOD AS ART

Liza Bernard

“Your proper concern is alone the action of duty not the fruits of the action. Cast then away all desire and fear for the fruits, and perform your duty.”

-- The Bhagavad Gita

The sun has been so hot that the lettuce may start bolting! This was my worry the other day, so I covered the lettuce bed with the sweet black mesh some genius amongst us invented years ago. Then the wind kept blowing the mesh off my Mickey Mouse bamboo stacks, hooks/close pin tent. This is not what gardening is about! I want it easy in my golden years. The quote above helped me ‘let it go’ and accept the fact that, yes it will be time to harvest all the lettuce and have a big huge gigantic salad. Last months Wave was full of botanical information from our editor, Steve Brigham, and with our next show being FOOD AS ART, it was only a matter of time before these 2 entities merged. My tomatoes are not ready and the Westport Community Garden is abundant with desirable veggies, to eat, paint, and photograph, so off to the village we went for an adventure.

The images on this page are from the **WESTPORT COMMUNITY GARDEN!** Spending time in this garden got me inspired to photograph the harvest box and plan a photo shoot for when the tomatoes come in, for our next **FOOD AS ART SHOW**. We had fun playing with the zucchini squash flower (photo at right) and making a pretend blooming lettuce! I was told to dip the flower in beer batter & fry, but the S.F. Sunday paper saved the day once again.



Go to www.jacquelinehigueramcmahan.com for her squash blossom pizza. She has some great ways to cook your squash blossoms, and how to preserve them until cooking time. Treat the blossoms as you would the basil that’s in your refrigerator, waiting to be made into a fresh salad, by putting the stems in water and covering with a wet paper towel. Robert McMahan, her husband, took a beautiful photo of the pizza! E mail: food@sfchronicle.com for recipes using squash blossoms.

This information on still life is from googling “food in the arts”: “The story of still-life painting started in Ancient Greece when Zeuxis painted raisins, which were so realistically reproduced that birds would try to pilfer them. The term “still-life” only appeared



during the middle of the 17th Century. Before 1650, people spoke of fruit, banquet or luncheon paintings. It is evident these works were much appreciated as Dutch artist Ambrosius Bosschaert received 1000 guilders for a painting of flowers whereas the price of a portrait in Holland around 1625 was fixed at about 60 guilders. From then on, the representation of flowers, dead animals or objects became more symbolic as each thing had a religious meaning according to the Bible. For example, still-lives with raisins, apples or pears represented the blood of Christ.”

No blood here but a lot of sweat & tears. Hope you all have fun creating food ideas for the holidays. See you in the garden, and remember, the **FOOD AS ART SHOW** Last Saturday Reception is September 29th, so please call (962-9234) to meet me at the **WESTPORT HOTEL** to submit your work!



WESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY

P. O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488
<http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>



supporting local charitable and educational projects and
fostering the preservation and interpretation of the environment since 1992

(707) 964-7272

Directors

Thad Van Bueren
(President)

Dorine Real
(Vice President)

Bill Knapp
(Treasurer)

Steve Brigham

Liza Saenz

Lois Senger

Jeff Whitehouse

Membership Application

Annual dues cover the period from October 1 through September 30. Renewal notices for the next membership year are mailed with the notice for the Annual Member Meeting held the first Friday in October. Renewal dues paid after July 1 are applied to the upcoming membership year. Members who live in the membership area shown on the attached map are qualified to vote for Directors at the Annual Meeting.

A monthly community newsletter is distributed to members by email, or by request to your mailing address. Copies are also made available at the Westport Store. The WVS does not share its membership or email lists.

(Please print neatly)

Name(s): _____

Address (mailing): _____

Phone (optional): _____

Email (optional): _____

I/we live or own property in the WVS area (see map on reverse): YES NO

Individual Memberships (\$15 each) = \$ _____

Family Membership (\$25) = \$ _____

Additional Donations: a) Headlands Fund = \$ _____

b) Community Center Fund = \$ _____

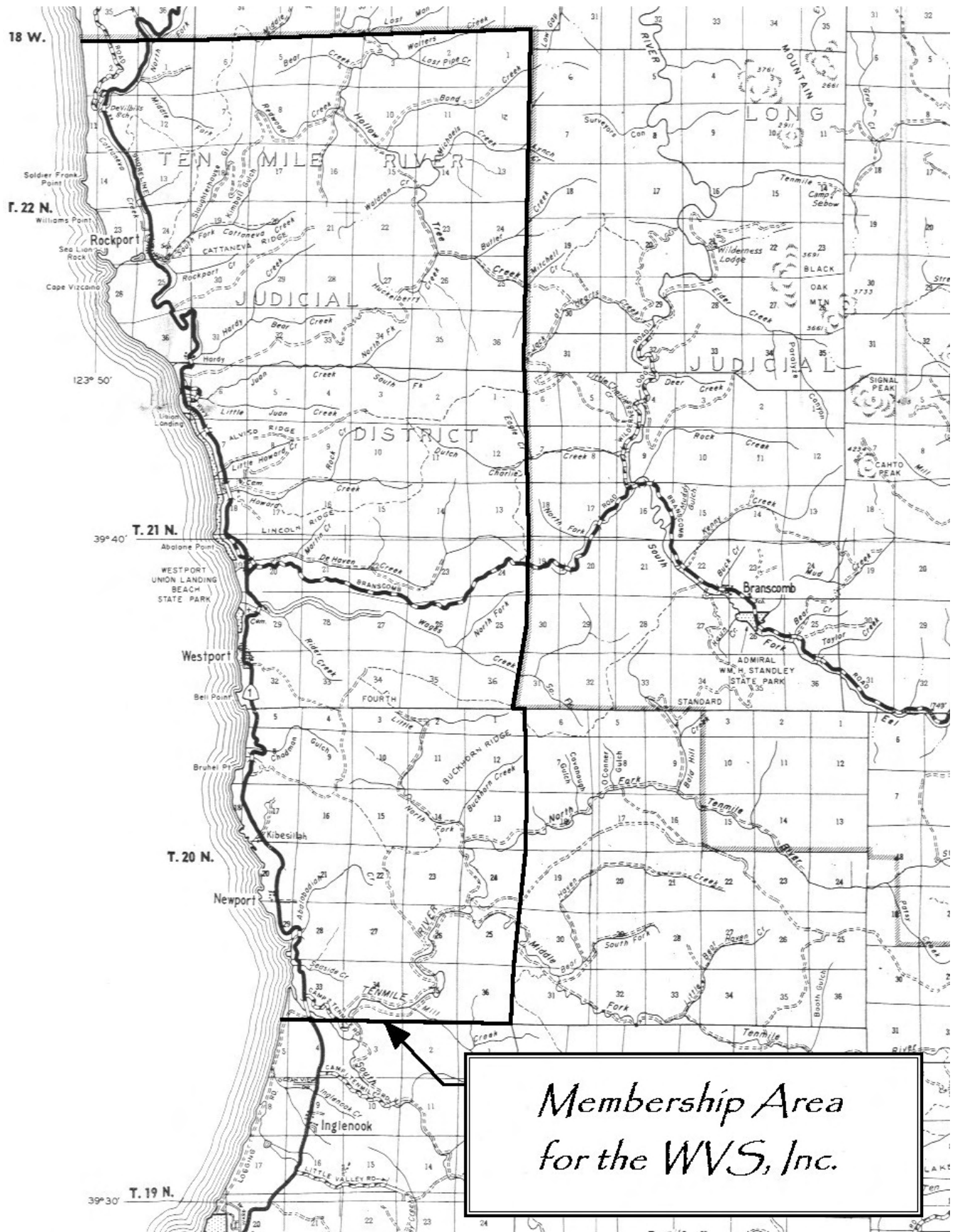
c) General Fund (unrestricted) = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

The Westport Village Society, Inc. is a nonprofit public benefit 501(c)(3) corporation that was organized in 1992 to foster the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural environment in and around the village of Westport for the benefit of residents and visitors and to support local charitable and educational projects. Your membership dues are used to provide services such as mailings and newsletter production. Payment of dues also give you voting privileges if you live or own land in the membership area shown on the attached map. Any additional donations may be tax deductible as charitable contributions. Acknowledgements are supplied for donations over \$50.00, or by request. Please contact us if you are considering a charitable bequest or would like to donate a conservation easement.

Secretary

Lee Tepper



*Membership Area
for the WVS, Inc.*