

Meanwhile in Graton...

By Hollynn D'Lil

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Gratonites proper and Grateronians everywhere have many ways to celebrate spring in our Graton community. In April, it's the Graton Community Club Flower Show and Plant Sale. In May a new event - La Fiesta de las Americas, a fund-raiser for the new Graton Park Plaza and in June is the annual Hallberg Butterfly Garden Tour.

"It's Movie Time!" at the Graton Community Club Flower Show and Plant Sale, April 16th and 17th, at the historic club house at the corner of Graton Road and Edison Street. The red carpet will be rolled out both days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the community to join in this free yearly event that has been making an appearance in the Graton community since 1924.

With a movie theme, the show will be presenting a premiere home-made lunch for \$10. Lunch for stars and local celebrities starts at 11 a.m., with a finale planned for 2:00 p.m. Dessert and popcorn are available at the concession stand all day.

Major attractions are the fabulous plants for sale, which include unusual natives. Making their show debut this year will be some bonsai crab apple trees. Home-made crafts and the unusual rummage sale items provide strong supporting roles in the big show in the theater of flowers.

By special invitation, local students will attend a sneak preview Thursday, April 15th. Souvenirs and plants will be available for this younger set priced accordingly, from 5 cents to 50 cents.

The show is a benefit performance for the club's scholarship and building repair funds.

Christina Zapata, Executive Director of the Graton Labor Center reports that though work has slowed down for the center's day laborers, they plan to stay busy. In February, GLC day laborers cleared an overgrown, un-walkable trail below Oak Grove Elementary School. "Volunteering is an upbeat way to spend their time while they wait for their turn to go to work," she says.

Centro Laboral de Graton is also meeting their mandate as affiliates of the National Day Laborer Organizer Network (NDLON). The advocacy group, NDLON, requires members to participate in projects that benefit

communities. "What's important is that by clearing the trail and sidewalk access, local families will be able to use the trail and children will be able to walk safely to school" said **Juan Cuandon**, a day laborer and member of the Graton Day Labor Center Board of Directors. El Coronel Mexican Restaurant of Sebastopol supported this volunteer effort by providing lunch.

Congratulations to Graton Ridge Winery! Owner, Barbara Paul was the winner of the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition for the winery's Pinot Noir in the red wine category. Graton Ridge Winery competed among 4,913 entries. And, put Graton on the map!

The Sonoma Air Quality Resource Team, made up of about ten member organizations, including **Climate Protection Campaign, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition/Safe Routes to School, 511 Rideshare** and others have been working with **Oak Grove School District** to address the school traffic problem. Because school bus service is going to be discontinued next year, the impact on traffic will increase.

A parents meeting held in February began what is to be a series of discussions for solutions like carpooling networks, walking school buses, safety education and training. **Noel Buehler, District Superintendent** stated the District is also committed to addressing some of the common concerns around air quality and greenhouse gas reduction from school communities, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Here's a message from **Jack Withington**: In the middle of the 1930's depression a young migrant family came to Graton to work in the "Apple Harvest". While residing at the **Handy's Corners Auto Camp** their sixth month old daughter, Arlene, became seriously ill. Her parents rushed her to the County Hospital in Santa Rosa where she subsequently died. Her body rests in an unmarked grave in Santa Rosa. The family of Arlene is seeking any information and hopefully photos of Handy's Auto Camp in 1935." Please send any information to: ccpen@sonic.net.

North Coast News

By Brian Trombley

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I hope everyone had a great valentines day, and have been enjoying the spring- like weather this month. Its been a nice break from the much needed rain. With Spring just around the corner its a great time to enjoy our beautiful coast.

Timber Cove

Kurt Picillo, General Manger of The Timber Cove Inn and Alexander's Restaurant announces its winemaker dinner of 2010 series which began with the Williams Selyem Vintners on Feb. 26th, Local residents save 20% off dinner. For info call 707-847-3231

Fort Ross

Learn about Fort Ross and join the planning efforts underway to commemorate the bicentennial of Fort Ross, the early 19th century Russian American Company outpost on the Sonoma coast. For more information call 707- 847-4777

A Long-Term Substitute Teacher is needed at Fort Ross School from April 12 though June 8. This is for Grades 3-5 (single classroom), Multiple Subject/CBEST. **Deadline for application is March 19, 2010.** Call 847-3390.

Jenner

Ruby Herrick, Programs Manager for the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods announces volunteer and Seminar opportunities. All programs will be held at Sonoma Coast State Park Visitor Center in Jenner.

Docent Training: Willow Creek Watershed Education Program - March 6, 2010, 9 AM to 11:30 AM. Docents participate in classroom visits and lead students on field studies in the Willow Creek Watershed.

Seminar: Natural and Cultural History of Willow Creek - March 6, 2010, 12 PM to 4 PM. Learn about the natural and cultural history of this important watershed and the steps being taken to restore it as a viable salmon habitat. Instructors are Brendan O'Neil, and Marianne Hurley,

Seminar: Archeology & History of Sonoma Coast - March 27, 2010, 9 AM to 2 AM Learn about the changes that have taken place from an archeological and historic perspective along the Sonoma Coast with instructor is Breck Parkman

Training: Sonoma Coast State Park Visitor Center Program - March 27, 2010, 2:30 PM to 4 PM Interact with and inspire visitors from all over the world by volunteering at the Visitor Center on the estuary in Jenner. A \$15.00 donation (\$5.00 for members and volunteers) per seminar is requested but no one is turned away. Take the time to be a part of our beautiful coast.

Monte Rio

The Students at Monte Rio school are about halfway through their annual reading marathon "Books and Beyond" This is a great program that gets kids K-8 excited about reading. This years theme is Egyptian- Search for the Golden Princess. To tie in with that, the middle school students get to visit the King Tut exhibit, as well as the Botanical Gardens, in San Francisco next week. Baseball season is about to start so watch for those pop files going over the fence as you travel on RT 116

Duncans Mills

Weavers and Dreamers is changing locations...moving back to their old location in the village behind Worldy Goods. The shop looks great with all of their great items along with a few new ones. While you're there check out the new "10-20-30" exhibit at **Quercia Gallery**. There will be a reception with the artists on Feb 28th from 3 to 6 Pm. Be sure to ask about their New Event each month called "Soup and Song". **Christopher Queen Galleries** will host a Champagne Reception, with music by Jerry Thompson on March 7th 1 to 3 PM for their new show **The Frugal Collector**. Look for **Mr Trombly's Teas** official Grand Opening to happen soon.

Enjoy the coming Spring, if you have any information you would like to share please contact me at 707-865-9979 or mrtromblystea@yahoo.com