

MAY 2010  
ISSUE 6

# FRIENDS *of* VILLA GRANDE NEWSLETTER

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## OUR MISSION

- ▶ PRESERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCE, THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE BEACH
- ▶ BE FINANCIALLY PRUDENT IN THE BEACH ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT
- ▶ KEEP THE BEACH OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE VILLA GRANDE COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone. I wanted to give you a few highlights since our last newsletter.

First, I want to stress the importance of continuing our successful fund raising efforts. We need to repay our kind benefactors who helped with the purchase of the beach – now Patterson Point Preserve – by providing personal loans. We also need to fund our maintenance and restoration efforts. One of our most important fund raising activities is dues from all of you. The membership year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and I encourage everyone to renew their Friends of Villa Grande membership and stay active.

We also have the upcoming Memorial Day event. This will be a lot of fun and is a unique opportunity to see the outstanding Geary residence. There's more information below and I invite you all to attend.

Finally, I want to thank the Friends of Villa Grande volunteers and particularly Victoria Wikle who heads the Restoration Committee. We have removed most of the ivy from the trees and have hauled out 40 cubic yards of dead ivy. This is truly an amazing accomplishment and has greatly increased the beauty of the Preserve. Our next goal is to complete the master plan which will allow us to start removing ivy from the ground and replanting with native plants. We hope to have the master plan available for community review at the town meeting on July 3.

Thanks.

Rich Holmer

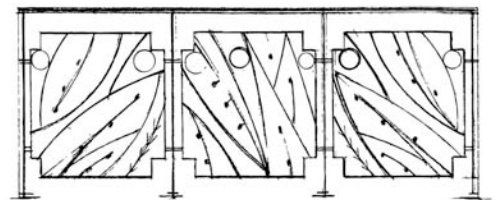
President of the Board of Directors  
Friends of Villa Grande

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## ARTS & CRAFTS SHOWCASE: A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY HOUSE PARTY

Come join us on Saturday May 29th during the Memorial Day Weekend to tour the newest house in town, the Geary Cottage. From 4:00-7:30 p.m. you will enjoy food provided by the chefs of Villa Grande and libations available at the cash bar. In addition, a silent auction will present unique goods and services with all proceeds going to FoVG.

The Geary Cottage is located at 21906 Russian River Avenue and is an incredible example of green construction coupled with a 21<sup>st</sup> century Arts and Crafts sensibility. The designer, Eli Koutchis, and owner, Ruth Geary, will give tours of this two-story home which features a river view deck, a fully-equipped outdoor kitchen, artisan in-



teriors plus hand-made brass and copper chandeliers and light fixtures. Purchase tickets in advance for \$25 using PayPal at:

[www.villagrande.org/FOVG/ArtsCrafts](http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/ArtsCrafts)

To arrange other payment, email to:

[friends.villagrande@gmail.com](mailto:friends.villagrande@gmail.com)

or call: (415) 282-1800. Tickets at the door are \$35, and space is limited, so order now!

# FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND

The big Villa Grande Fourth of July weekend is right around the corner. First, on **Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 10:00 a.m., FoVG will host its annual Membership & Town Hall Meeting in the town square. FoVG members will vote for Board directors for two year terms.

Running for reelection are Katie Gibson, Medical Technician, EMT; Stephanie Felch, Architect, Praxis Architects; Tom Wackerman, MBA, Accounting Consultant; Ken Wikle, Attorney, Monte Rio Firefighter; and Greg Sampson, Graphic Designer. If you wish to run for the Board, please contact Kyla Brooke at (707) 865-1174 by June 1st.

For those FoVG members who cannot attend the meeting in person, voting is available online, from June 20<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup> at: [www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Vote](http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Vote)

Following the election, there will be a town hall meeting to update the community on Patterson Point activities, including the Master Plan. This is also the forum for raising any community issues or concerns.

On **Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July** the whole town is invited to a pot luck lunch at 12:30, also in the town square. FoVG will again be grillin' hotdogs with all the fixin's.

At 4:30 sharp, the Citizens of Villa Grande will once again put on their tricorneres and don the red white and blue as we assemble at the steps of the General Store. Proclamations will be proclaimed and huzzahs will be huzzahed as the annual parade, musical performance, cannon firing and overall extravaganza gets under way.

**Save the Date: The Historic Houses of Villa Grande Tour coming Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**



*Kyla Brooke, Erin McKinney, Mike McCabe and Jay Smith show off some of the treasures from the Pollard estate.*

## TREASURE CHEST SALE

The Black Bart Treasure Chest sale will be held on Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> behind the Blue Heron Restaurant in Duncans Mills. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and continues until 5:00 p.m. An FoVG members-only preview will be held the night before, on Friday July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Earlier this year the estate of artist John Pollard bequeathed the contents of Pollard's home on Starrett Hill to Friends of Villa Grande for sale at this annual event. We also welcome your own donations of furniture, art, household items, women's accessories and garden tools to make this sale a success.

Donations are tax deductible for the 2010 tax year. Call Kate at (707) 865-9108 for more information or if you need us to store your donations until the sale.

## BLACK & WHITE DINNER

Forty Friends and guests dined and danced the winter chill away at the Village Inn on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the second annual Black & White dinner. FoVG raised \$1,600 at this event, which will go towards restoration work at Patterson Point Preserve.

For more photos from the party, visit: [www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Events](http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Events)



*Jon Box and Gary Getchell dress the part.*

# FRIENDS OF VILLA GRANDE JOINS THE NO IVY LEAGUE

Long before FoVG purchased Patterson Point Preserve, English ivy had become the parcel's dominant plant. Removal of the ivy has become our top priority and you might be interested to know why.

English Ivy, or *Hedera helix*, is a perennial evergreen vine, introduced to North America in 1797. While the juvenile form has lobed leaves and is a ground cover, the adult form climbs trees, has oval leaves and produces berries which are toxic to most birds.

English ivy was once considered highly desirable in the horticultural trade because it is inexpensive, fast growing, stays green, and can conform to any shape. But now English ivy has escaped from yards and has become a botanic predator. The State of Oregon recently banned all sales of English ivy because of its invasive and adverse ecological dangers.

**Ivy kills trees.** It competes with trees for water and nutrients, covers their bark and reduces their contact with air. Its dense vines block light from the tree's foliage, and the weight of the vines causes premature toppling and increased storm damage. It smothers deciduous understory plants that normally recycle nutrients to the soil around the tree. Last year, one Patterson Point tree toppled over from the weight of the ivy, and we are now waiting to see if several trees that have been cleared of ivy will survive.

**Nothing eats it.** No native wildlife prefers ivy as a food, and few will eat it even under duress. We want Patterson Point to be a habitat for birds and need

*Work parties on April 16 and 17 filled this dumpster with more than 30 cubic yards of ivy from trees in the Preserve. Some of the ivy trunks were over 3" in diameter.*



to replace the ivy with plants that will provide nutrients for our native fauna.

**Nothing kills it.** Ivy is not significantly affected by any disease or pest. It grows bigger and faster than the natives it displaces. It is shade tolerant and outcompetes the native plants in almost every northwest ecosystem. We've seen how Patterson Point's native plants have been almost totally overwhelmed by the ivy.

**Ivy promotes erosion.** The native riparian vegetation that stabilizes the river's banks and shades smaller streams are replaced by ivy. The shallow ivy roots do not hold soil on slopes, so erosion into streams increases, endangering fish. The additional sediment increases the water temperature, while decreasing the water's capacity to hold oxygen. We need to replace the ivy with plants that will hold the sand and soil of Patterson Point and improve the river's water quality.

**Ivy does not provide good habitat.** Desirable wildlife such as song birds are not attracted; instead ivy harbors rats and mosquitoes.

**You can help.** Avoid planting ivy. Remove ivy from your property and help us remove it at Patterson Point on the third Saturday of every month, between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

Additional restoration work days may be scheduled during the summer and fall. For the latest information, check [www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Calendar](http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Calendar) or look for notices on the town fence outside the post office. Email any questions to Victoria Wikle at [victoriawikle@usa.net](mailto:victoriawikle@usa.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Arts & Crafts  
Showcase House

May 29<sup>th</sup>

4:00-7:30

FoVG Town Hall &  
Board Election

July 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 a.m.

Fourth of July Pot  
Luck & Parade

July 4<sup>th</sup>

Second Annual  
Treasure Chest

July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Restoration Work  
Parties

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
Every Month

9:00-Noon

Historic Villa  
Grande Tour

September 5<sup>th</sup>

ON THE WEB AT:

[WWW.VILLAGRANDE.ORG](http://WWW.VILLAGRANDE.ORG)

PO Box 28, Villa Grande, CA 95486  
friends.villagrande@gmail.com  
www.villagrande.org

**FRIENDS** of  
**VILLA GRANDE**



Friends of Villa Grande, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to the preservation of Patterson Point Preserve in Villa Grande for use by residents, neighbors and friends.

Your tax-deductible contribution will also enable Friends of Villa Grande to preserve the history and culture of this unique village.

Federal Tax ID No: 64-0964108

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

July 2010 through June 2011

**MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS (CIRCLE RATE)**

BENEFACTOR	\$1,000	TWO FREE TICKETS TO ALL EVENTS
PATRON	\$500	ONE FREE TICKET TO ALL EVENTS
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$100	LIST NAMES BELOW
CONTRIBUTING MEMBER	\$50	STANDARD MEMBERSHIP
LOW INCOME/ SENIOR	\$25	

ADDITIONAL PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names of family members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check and form to FoVG  
PO Box 28, Villa Grande, CA 95486  
or online through PayPal at

[www.villagrande.org/FOVG/membership](http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/membership)