



COUNTY OF LAKE

Marketing & Economic Development
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453-5406
707-263-2580 FAX 707-263-1012

www.lakecounty.com

**CONTACTS: Penny Dahl, (707) 274-8574
Frank McAtee, (707) 994-0958**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL FEATURES OLD-TIME ENTERTAINMENT, MUSICIAN WORKSHOPS, FOOD, CRAFTS, AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

LAKE COUNTY, CA — An Old Time Bluegrass Festival will be held at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in Lower Lake Saturday and Sunday, September 22 – 23, 2007.

The event will bring together local and regional musicians for performances on two stages, as well as a full schedule of musician workshops throughout the day on such topics as banjo, fiddle, flat-picking techniques for guitar, and old-time singing. Attendees are encouraged to bring their instruments for workshops and informal jam sessions behind the ranch house.

Headliners of the festival will be the Adobe Creek Bluegrass Band from Petaluma, and the Barefoot Nellies, Knuckle Knockers, Julay Brandenburg and the Nightbirds, and Crossroads Bluegrass Gospel — all from the Bay Area. Other entertainers include the local Elem Indian Tribe Dance Group, who will kick off the event, plus local groups Andy Skelton and the Konocti Fiddlers, Bluegrass Contraption, Pat Ickes and Born to Ride, the Clear Lake Clickers, Don Coffin and the AMIA Live Wire Choir, and Jim Williams. Evan Morgan from Cobb and Paul Gruen from Sebastopol also will perform together. Other local and regional bands are expected to join the lineup before the festival.

The Old Time Bluegrass Festival will feature demonstrations and vendors selling old-time handmade crafts, Art in the Barn, a wine garden featuring Lake County wines, and a beer garden, as well as food prepared by local service clubs and local schools' culinary programs.

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Vendors and organizers will be dressed in period attire, which includes rural farm clothing such as cotton shirts, pants, and suspenders. Attendees are encouraged to dress the part, and examples of period attire are available on the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association Web site, www.andersonmarsh.org.

The Kiwanis Club will be decorating and facilitating the beer and wine gardens, among other things. Event T-shirts will be available courtesy of the Rotary Club, and with the help of Porter Street Barbeque, the club will serve biscuits and gravy Sunday morning, in addition to providing other services.

“The most important thing about it is to bring local service clubs together to promote quality community events oriented toward families. Children and grandparents — all generations — can find something fun to do there,” says Frank McAtee, one of the four event coordinators. Other coordinators are Anna McAtee, Don Coffin, and Ellen Lundquist.

During the family-friendly festival, making tule dolls and panning for gold are just some of the many children’s activities.

“The kids loved it last year; there was real gold they could pan for,” says Anna McAtee.

The Old Time Bluegrass Festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Sunday’s emphasis will be on bluegrass gospel.

Advance tickets are \$20 for Saturday, \$15 for Sunday, or \$25 for both days. A limited number of advance tickets will be available for purchase beginning August 1 at various locations. At the gate, tickets are \$25 for Saturday, \$20 for Sunday, or \$35 for both days. Children 12 and under are free and must be accompanied by an adult.

Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association Bluegrass Memberships are available for \$100. With this, members get four two-day passes, an event T-shirt, and two newsletters per year, which outline how proceeds from the event are being spent.

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Purchase of a ticket includes admission to the event, all entertainment, workshops, wine and beer gardens, and Art in the Barn. The event will be held rain or shine.

The Old Time Bluegrass Festival is sponsored by the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association and the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds will finance camps and enhancement for the park so children all over the lake can use the facility. Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association will be hiring interpretive specialists to work with school groups that visit. These trained docents can give visitors the full educational experience in the areas of science, performing arts, and history. Native Americans began settling at the marsh 10,000 years ago. Today's visitors examine the village sites, artifacts, and the ecology of the marsh.

“The purpose of the event is to give students an opportunity to learn about local history and culture through curriculum and guest speakers and to provide them with pride and appreciation for where they live,” says Anna McAtee.

“The event itself is an excellent educational and cultural experience for attendees,” she adds.

For tickets or for more information about the Old Time Bluegrass Festival or the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association, call (707) 995-2658 or (707) 994-0688 or visit www.andersonmarsh.org.

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, headliner concerts, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities — from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com.

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