

PELORUS



Pelorus: a fixed compass used to take bearings relative to a ship's heading.

The Quarterly Newsletter of

Central Coast Women For Fisheries, Inc.

Incorporated May 4, 2006

Spring 2022

A Message from CCWF President

Hello Friends.

Just a quick note to highlight what is happening with CCWF. The board continues to meet regularly. If you'd like to drop in on a Zoom meeting with us, let me know and I will send you the link. Email me at lenoredw@gmail.com. In December we were able to have a booth at the Morro Bay lighted boat parade. It was a busy night for us but we had a good time. In other news, we had to postpone our annual Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser because of Covid. We haven't set a new date at this time, but keep your ears open for when we do. We'll need your help.

Our primary focus the past months has been on the interpretive signs that we plan to have installed on the Morro Bay waterfront next year. We thank many people who have helped with this project. A special thank you to Sheri Hafer who has been working closely with Sea Grant to get the information and pictures for the artist. Sheri has put in many hours! These signs will provide information about the local fish and industry for locals and tourists. CCWF's goal is to begin a project for signs like these in Port San Luis harbor next year.

I also want to invite anyone who would like to be involved in CCWF to contact us. Our contact information is below.

The board of directors elections are coming up soon. Please notify a director if you would like to volunteer or to nominate someone.

Lenore Ward, CCWF president

CCWF Board of Directors

President:

Lenore Ward lenoredw@gmail.com

Vice President, Secretary:

Sheri Hafer somethingsfishy@charter.net

Treasurer:

Tacy Lee 4tacyl@gmail.com

Becka Kelly bkelly@morrobayca.gov

Sharon Rowley srowley303@gmail.com

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Central Coast Women
for Fisheries
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Inside this issue:

General Membership Meeting 2

Aloha 3

Bill James 3

Cooking with Friends 3

Crab Pot Christmas Tree 4

Scholarship Announcement 4

Travis Evans New Book 4

Pages from the Past 5

Travis Evans Recollections 6

Email:
ccwf@womenforfish.org

2021 General Membership Meeting *by Sheri Hafer*



The annual CCWF General Membership Meeting was held on Saturday October 16, 2021. The venue was fantastic! We were upstairs at the Morro Bay Yacht Club with a nice view of the bay with lots of room all to ourselves. We had a nice brunch prepared including egg casserole, quiche, zucchini bread, muffins, and fruit as well as juice and coffee. We were excited to have one new person show up. She found out about it thru our new website. She is newly married (2 months ago) to a fisherman. Her name is Elizabeth Tordriff. She was very sweet and we enjoyed having her. She filled out a form to become a member. We also enjoyed seeing Sharon Moore. She was very eager to tell us about her project to display local "Women in Fishing". We told her about the women in the group that fish with their husbands. We mentioned our display board that is sitting in the office and that perhaps it could be mounted somewhere with her pictures and articles.



The other participants included Marlyse Battistella, Agnes Sylvester, Tacy Lee, Becka Kelly, Lori French, Lenore Ward, and I. Lenore gave a summary of CCWF's activities over the last year, Tacy gave a summary of the finances, and I discussed the Display Board of the Scholarship profiles and the Fishery Signs Project and our progress with it.





ALOHA: (In Hawaiian, “Aloha “ means love: CCWF uses it to say both “hello” and “farewell” with love.)

Our Aloha committee is there for you. The committee sends cards and flowers, but we need you to make the call and let us know of the need and the address. Members are encouraged to contact the committee and help CCWF observe occurrences throughout our community, whether happy or sad.

For Aloha announcements
Contact:
srowley303@gmail.com
805-674-4854

CCWF sent cards to
Dorothy Torres, Terry Tummerman, Lori French
and Lenore Ward. A donation was made for a wreath for
commercial fisherman Michael McHenry.



Bill James

Submitted by Sheri Hafer

Bill James, despite a significant case of polio as a child and being told he would never make it past 40, commercially fished out of Avila for years and then moved to Oregon where he fished deeper nearshore with Kenyon Hensel for several years. After many more than 40 years, Bill passed away on January 7, 2022 of cardiac arrest.

He was very passionate about fighting for the fishermen, especially with regards to the Deeper and Shallow Nearshore fisheries. Bill began his lobbying career with the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan that started in the late 1990’s. He advocated for the small boat fishermen to be sure they were included with restricted access measures. He went to multiple CDFW commission meetings over several years fighting for the Nearshore fishermen.

Then the Marine Life Protection Act came about. He went to several meetings in support of fishermen on the design and siting of the MPAs.

Most recently he had spent multiple hours at Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings listening to the proposed policies that would impact our local fisheries and letting the fishermen know when they needed to speak up. He was a fighter, always doing his research, always speaking up, and constantly trying to do what was best in the fishermen’s interest.

I think Marci Remco (the chairwomen of the PFMC) said it right: "Bill always kept us on our toes and never let us forget about the little guy that just wanted to wet a line and put a few bucks in his pocket. Very sad day, he will be missed."

COOKING WITH CCWF and FRIENDS

Honey Glazed Salmon

This recipe is from letthebakingbegin.com. CCWF member Sharon Rowley tried it and reports that is was very easy and the whole family loved it. A pot of rice and fresh vegetables went great with it.

The Garlic Ginger Honey Glaze

- 1 Tblsp Sesame oil
- 3 Tblsp honey
- 4 Tblsp soy sauce
- 4 Tblsp rice vinegar
- 3 to 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 tsp ginger powder, or 1/2” cube ginger, grated
- 1 to 1 and 1/2 pounds salmon fillet.
- If salmon is thick you can split-slice in 2.

Put all the glaze ingredients in a small pot and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently for about 10 minutes. The recipe didn’t call for it, but Sharon mixed a small amount of cornstarch and cold water and after the glaze cooks you can add a teaspoon at a time of the cornstarch liquid to thicken. Sprinkle the skinless salmon fillet on both sides with cracked pepper, or pepper if you don’t have cracked. Heat skillet with 2 or 3 Tblsp of oil. Cook salmon on high heat and covered about 5 to 6 minutes a side, more if thick. (aim for center to be 145 degrees.) Transfer to dish and drizzle with the warm glaze.

2021 Boat Parade

CCWF sold homemade hot chocolate with marshmallows, cookies and other sweets at the 2021 boat parade in Morro Bay. It was a big success and big crowds along the waterfront turned out to view the Christmas themed decorated boats. CCWF set up their booth at the base of the south T-pier. The marshmallows were also homemade by CCWF member Siobhan Loiseau. CCWF plans to do this again for the 2022 boat parade.



The boat parade spectators are eyeing some of the homemade delights as Becka Kelly serves up hot chocolate.



Crab pot Christmas trees have become a tradition on Morro Bay's waterfront. This photo of the 2021 tree is by Danna Dykstra-Coy. Many of her beautiful and unique photos can be found on Danna Joy Images Facebook page.

Scholarship Announcement

Now is the time to apply for a scholarship from our Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program. The deadline is;

May 31

An application and recommendation form is available to print from our website at www.womenforfish.org

For any questions or help getting an application contact Sharon Rowley: srowley303@gmail.com



New Book by local Fisherman

Long time local fisherman, Travis Evans, has a book out about his life and experiences by author Louise Carroll. If you missed his book signing in November 2021, it's available on Amazon.com or at Barnes & Noble, and it's on kindle. Travis is a regular contributor to this newsletter and has written stories and poems based on his life, family, fishing and history. See Travis' recollections of being a fisherman in Avila in the 1940's and 50's on page 6.

Also, the name of the book:

The Remarkable Plans for Captain Travis Evans

Missed Photo Credit

In the last Pelorus, Fall 2021 issue, there was an article about the 1979 Disney film "Sultan and the Rock Star" at San Simeon cove. It was a major production and some of the stars were tigers.

We neglected to mention that the photos for that article were by Patty Strauss who was a deckhand on Virg' Landing boats, which were used for the filming and support boats, along with the "Dirty Dozen"

Pages From the Past

In the early 1970's Cathy Cordero began harvesting ghost shrimp on the Morro Bay sand spit's intertidal areas, which were typically covered during high tides. Using a hydraulic pump and lots of hose, seawater was pumped into holes and floated up the shrimp which were scooped up with a hand net before the crustaceans dug back down into the sand. Most were sold to bait shops in San Pedro and Seal Beach in Southern California and some were sold in San Francisco to bait shops where fishermen could buy them for Sturgeon fishing on the Sacramento River. A few days a week Cathy would haul all the equipment in a skiff to the sand spit, pump several dozen of the shrimp, then get them ready for shipping. The bait had to arrive to the bait shops alive. Cathy would drive twice a week from Morro Bay to deliver to the southern California buyers, but eventually she set things up so the ghost shrimp could ship by Greyhound Bus. Cathy harvested the ghost shrimp for several years and put herself through college as well as helping to support her family. In the 1980's more people got into the ghost shrimp business and Cathy knew the resource couldn't support more pressure so she turned to other endeavors.

With the approach of the mid 1980's Cathy leased Qualmans Oyster Company on Morro Bay's waterfront, which is the next business south of what is Roses Bar & Grill today. As well as oysters, the business eventually expanded to a fish market, including retail. With more boats wanting to unload their catch at her facility, Cathy expanded by starting up Cordero/Winston Fish Company with Sandy Winston. With the growth they were experiencing they eventually gave up the Qualmans business and all their efforts went to Cordero/Winston located at the base of the north T-pier, where Tognazzini's Dockside II is today. Up to 45 people were employed filleting, processing and unloading the tons of fish that came in over the years until 1996. Because of her years of work and her family and friends involvement in fishing, she saw the business from the fisherman's point of view, as well as the fish buyer's.

Her life then took her to the east coast where she worked for Slade Gorton, which was founded by the family that started Gorton's of Gloucester. Cathy put together seafood programs for large retail chains and club stores. Cathy Cordero was a big part of the Morro Bay waterfront from a young lady in her 20's until into her 40's.



The photo above is Cathy Cordero's fish display for a Harbor festival in the past near her business at the base of the north T-pier in Morro Bay.





Central Coast Women
For Fisheries, Inc.

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Please Note: The Quintana Road
address for mail is a postal box
only.

www.womenforfish.org

Recollections...by Capt. Travis O. Evans

Back in the 1940's, the Hartford Pier at Avila (now Port San Luis) was very needful of repairs, especially the seaward end. There were several boats from other ports that would deliver their albacore catch in our port, especially the smaller boats. San Simeon to the north usually had a refrigerated buying barge from San Pedro, buying for the Franco-Italian Cannery on Terminal Island. Smaller boats could leave early from where they were anchored in San Simeon or tied to a pier in Avila, then fish their way to the barge and sell after a day's catch.

Avila Grocery was handy for boat groceries. Pete's Tackle Shop, also on Front Street, sold tuna jigs, stainless steel hooks, etc. The Union Oil pier at Avila was handy for oil, gasoline and diesel. Yes, Union Oil sold gasoline from their pier until the early 1950's when a Monterey purse seiner taking gasoline for their auxiliary had a tragic explosion. After that, Union Oil quit dispensing anything to fishermen from their facility, which is the center pier in the bay.

Mac's Bar, which was right in the center of town on Front Street, was also very handy for a beer or more. The bar closed at 2:00 AM, but if you could find the local sheriff, occasionally inside, he would take you to the 3rd pier (Hartford) on the little narrow gauge rail car. It used to be powered by pumping up and down, but was now modernized by power from a small Briggs & Stratton air-cooled engine. There was no road to the 3rd pier, just the narrow gauge, or you could walk the mile or so from the village of Avila, across the railroad trestle, then a long walk over a neglected, shabby pier to your boat. One early morning, I had been sleeping on my 28 ft. Monterey, the San Giuseppe. I was tied out near the seaward end of Hartford pier, near where the old pier Post Office was. A 35 ft. former government boat was tied probably 50 ft. further out. Beyond that, the pier was not equipped with decking, nor with a ladder for access. About 3:00 AM I was awakened with the roar of a diesel engine starting up. I looked out and it was George on the ex-military boat and he was on the bow pulling his anchor. We always stern-tied to the piers at Avila and San Simeon by first anchoring because the surge in both places were too much to side-tie.