

Festival of Trees Marketplace

A fundraising event for Gualala Arts
Friday & Saturday, November 28 - 29, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Gualala Arts Center

Gualala Arts' Festival of Trees Marketplace kicks off the "Christmas on the Coast" Holiday Season on Thanksgiving weekend for the Mendonoma Coast community. A fundraising event for Gualala Arts and a community celebration, the two-day Festival steps back in time to when Gualala was founded as a mid-century mill town. Gualala Arts Center will be transformed into 1850's Gualala Holiday Season. Festival-goers will be greeted in the foyer by the Old Gualala Mill Cookhouse serving hearty 'vittles,' fresh coffee, homemade chili and cornbread, clam chowder and real sourdough just like the old days, along with libations from The Stage Road Saloon.

The Burnett Gallery will feature some of our Gualala Arts Interest Groups including Pacific Piecemakers Quilt Guild's display of Holiday Quilts, many available for sale. The Quilts & Kaboodles booth will feature the Basket Weavers Group with fine hand-crafted baskets, felted creations, gourds and other unique gifts; the Beads n' Beyond Group booth will have hand beaded jewelry, ornaments and more; and Gualala Arts "Company Store" will have merchandise with the Gualala Arts logo for sale.

Kringle's Craft Village, an array of shops in the Coleman Hall, will be festively decked for the holidays. Local vendors in period costume will be hawking their wares... handmade crafts of the kind available during the 1800's... woodcraft, folk art, pottery, weaving, knitting, soap making, jewelry of metal and beadwork, fabricated into marvelous gifts for all. Some artisans will demonstrate making their crafts. Mrs. Claus' Bake Shoppe & Confectionery will sell cookies, candies, holiday breads, puddings and fruitcake to munch on site, or in festive wrappings to take home or give as gifts.

In the Fantasy Forest, decorated "theme" trees are for sale at Silent Auction or "Buy it Now" prices, and are perfect for a vacation home, guesthouse, child's room,

or as a thoughtful gift. Some trees are decorated and donated by local businesses; others are sponsored by merchants and decorated by our own Mother Christmas and her talented crew of Elves. After the holidays, trees donated back to the Festival will qualify for a tax donation.

Entries in the annual Gingerbread House Contest will be on display. The materials used and style of the creations run the gamut of the imaginations of our local artisan bakers and crafters. The Gingerbread Houses, like the trees, are for Silent Auction or "Buy it Now" prices.

The Silent Auctions will end promptly at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Winners will be allowed to pick up their Decorated Trees or Gingerbread Houses on Sunday

The Shopper's Extravaganza Raffle will be a festively decorated tree will be covered with "ornaments," on the back of which will be the description of a prize donated by a local business or Festival vendor. Prizes will be drawn every hour both Friday and Saturday, winners need not be present. Tickets are \$2 each, 7 for \$10, and 15 for \$20, and are available at Gualala Arts Center.



Up the stairs to the Mezzanine is the Magical Gingerbread House, a special place for pre-schoolers through 6th grade to be entertained with creative craft projects, story time with Mother Christmas and sing-a-long caroling while parents browse the festival. Santa's elves will be on hand to supervise the art projects and other age appropriate activities. Each day at high noon, Santa Claus himself will arrive to hear children's Christmas wishes and pose for pictures. Bring your cameras!

Family fun entertainment with live entertainment each day while shopping for that perfect gift, this is the perfect way to get everyone in that Holiday spirit.