

west
marin

C environmental
action
committee

ADVOCATE

PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING THE UNIQUE LANDS,
WATERS, AND BIODIVERSITY OF WEST MARIN SINCE 1971

ACTION ALERTS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, VOLUNTEERING & GIVING

WINTER 2018 | 2019

Executive Director's Note

Protecting and sustaining the lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin requires long-term dedication and often decades of work. Reflecting on my three years leading the EAC team, I am grateful of the efforts of our board, staff, membership, and volunteer community working to ensure EAC continues the legacy of advancing environmental protections in West Marin.



Since 1971, EAC has continually taken on the critical issues facing our environment and rural communities. Our work begins on the ground and within our community to empower our mission through education, outreach, stewardship, and participation in the public processes working to establish high conservation standards in West Marin.

West Marin is made up of many stories highlighting the power of local activism, stewardship, science, and dedication to the environment and sustainable communities that develop a sense of place. By collecting our stories and shared community experiences, the dynamic story of the significance of place comes into focus.

Take, for example, the recent celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Giacomini Wetlands restoration project by the National Park Service and their partners. For more than 40 years, local organizations, including EAC, advocated for conservation and international recognition of Tomales Bay and its watershed. The effort to protect Tomales Bay and the wetlands is an example of many working together to achieve something great. This was accomplished through protest, public participation at land-use hearings, funding biodiversity studies, and coordinated outreach and education. The result is a shining example of conservation and the international recognition for Tomales Bay.

We all have a West Marin story. My West Marin story began in my childhood, where I was fortunate to grow up near Bolinas spending time on the beaches and parks. Today, my story continues as I work for the long-term protection of our unique area, so that the next generation has a sense of place and inheritance for their future. I am inspired by the work of EAC's staff, board, volunteers and community partners working together to blend our stories to protect the environment.

**EAC provides an essential voice for this place, but we can't do it alone.
We need your support. We need your story.**

Become a member. Apply to our board or advisory posts. Help with our events and programming. Share your stories. We are a membership organization that thrives when our members and community engage in our work. I look forward to sharing more of our story and yours in 2019.

In gratitude,

Morgan Patton | Executive Director

MISSION

To protect and sustain the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin.

VISION

To provide long-term protection and conservation of the unique ecosystems and rural communities of West Marin to serve as a foundation for environmental protection for future generations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ADVOCACY

Use grassroots strategies to research and publicize local environmental issues facing our community to inform, empower, and educate stakeholders and our members.

APPRECIATION

Respect the complex ecology and intrinsic value of the natural world.

COLLABORATION

Partner with local communities, organizations, governments, businesses, and members to ensure maximum public participation around local environmental issues.

EDUCATION


Provide opportunities to learn about the environment through events, community workshops, outreach, and publications.

ENGAGEMENT

Engage our community in activities that promote a healthy environment, including stewardship through membership, events, community science and volunteer opportunities.

INTEGRITY

Use science, law, and policy to make ethical decisions around complex environmental issues in a dynamic environmental and political landscape.

A man in traditional Scottish bagpiper attire, including a white shirt, dark vest, and a red and green plaid kilt, is playing a bagpipe. He is standing outdoors in a natural setting with trees and foliage. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early evening. The bagpipe has three drones and a chanter. The man is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

"EAC's Piper On the Ridge is one of my favorite events. It is truly a unique West Marin experience. What could be better than enjoying the company of so many good friends and food while listening to evocative tunes being played by a bagpiper. The beauty of Point Reyes reminds me of the wild landscapes of Scotland where I have visited several times. To top that off, we all watch as the sun slowly sets to the west as a full, harvest moon rises in the other direction. " - David Wimpfheimer, Naturalist

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) is proud to host and sponsor this West Marin community tradition since the late 1990's celebrating the changing seasons, full Harvest moon and our beloved West Marin land, sea, sky and soundscapes. Proceeds benefit our mission. Join us next year on the Inverness Ridge.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/piper-on-the-ridge_post/



"The nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Protecting West Marin Lands

When Bay Area counties are ranked by the acres they have permanently protected in parks, wildlife refuges, and open space preserves, Marin County comes in first with 55.6% of its land protected. This creates a unique land conservation legacy benefiting wildlife, plant life, and human enjoyment. West Marin is shaped by tectonic plates, divided by the San Andreas Fault, and set along the Pacific Flyway and Pacific Ocean resulting in a species rich environment. However, West Marin faces continuing environmental threats including development pressure, pollution, tourism, and climate change that all pose a unique set of challenges.

Since 1971, EAC has been actively advocating for land protection in the villages from Dillon to Muir beaches. Our prior successes have included opposing a countywide plan that would have constructed a six-lane highway from the Golden Gate Bridge to Point Reyes, and created suburbs in West Marin, supporting the creation of the Point Reyes National Seashore, supporting environmentally responsible agriculture, stopping the West Marin landfill expansion, and protecting Drakes Estero Wilderness.

A Park for Everyone

The San Geronimo Golf Course is an 18-hole public course spanning 157-acres at the center of the San Geronimo Valley. Constructed as a private course in 1965, it eventually opened to the public. In December 2017, the property was acquired by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) who worked with Marin County Parks and Open Space (Parks) to execute a purchase agreement which would transfer the property to Marin County (County) as a public park, benefiting the land, species, and community.

Following the County's actions to authorize purchase of the property from TPL, a lawsuit was filed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that delayed public planning efforts and eliminated the County's ability to acquire grant funding for the purchase. The Marin County Superior Court reaffirmed a tentative ruling on October 26, 2018, and ordered the County to complete CEQA prior to authorizing purchase of the property. This ruling has prompted Marin County to reverse their resolution to purchase the property.

Following the ruling, Supervisor Rodoni explained to the Marin Independent Journal, "the court ruling...makes it impractical for the county to move forward with the purchase agreement with the

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Seashore Ranching

Point Reyes National Seashore officially launched their public process to determine the next two decades of land-use in the pastoral zone with a General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) in November 2018. The GMPA, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), must allow for a thoughtful and meaningful discussion and planning review that ultimately will increase public confidence in the management of the Seashore.

The GMPA is the result of the 2012 direction to the National Park Service (NPS) to "pursue extending permits for ranchers within those pastoral lands to 20-year terms" by former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. In 2014, the NPS initiated the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan process which was halted in 2016 due to a lawsuit that contended NPS needed to update the Seashore's General Management Plan prior to extending new leases to the ranchers within the Seashore. Last year, NPS received more than 3,500 comments on an early phase of the GMPA.

The NPS Proposed Action would authorize ranches and dairies for 20-years; provide operational flexibility and diversification; establish conservation frameworks to map the range, pasture, and ranch core against biological, cultural, hydrological, and topographical resources to provide

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Honor Thy Dunes

Located at the mouth of Tomales Bay is an exceptional complex of mobile dune habitats encompassing central dune scrub, prairie, and wetlands and surrounded by coastal prairies and scrub, salt marsh, tidal flats, bay and ocean communities. This extraordinary site supports at least nine special-status species. The dunes are also the primary location of a commercial business, Lawson's Landing, a long-established public resort.

Since 1971, EAC has worked to protect these environmentally sensitive habitats from unauthorized development. In the 1990's we launched the Honor Thy Dunes campaign to stop development activities that would have harmed these sensitive habitats.

After 20 years of advocacy, we succeeded in 2011 when the dunes were protected by a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) that limited camping in environmentally sensitive habitat, required removal of permanent privately-owned trailers, and required installation of a modern wastewater system. The CDP also established a protection and enhancement plan to restore the dunes-wetland complex. The exact details of the wastewater treatment system were to be decided through a later CDP amendment.

In 2017, a CDP amendment for a

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Protecting West Marin Waters

Marin County's water resources include a network of fresh and marine water systems that support globally significant and extraordinarily diverse onshore and offshore habitats. In rural West Marin, there are miles of county, state and federal trails and coastal public access points spanning from Dillon to Muir beaches where one can explore Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay or the vast Pacific Ocean. Off Marin's shores one can experience the diversity of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and the network of California's Marine Protected Areas.

Since 1971, EAC has protected and sustained our vibrant marine waters and Tomales Bay, Bolinas Lagoon, and their watersheds. We accomplish our work by protecting, preserving, and enhancing the unique and vulnerable marine and freshwater resources and habitats of these water bodies; restoring and maintaining water quality; and supporting policies and actions which employ precautionary principles to sustain the complex ecological functions of the watershed. Our prior successes include protection of the Estero Americano and Estero San Antonio from land use development and sewage waste, banning the use of jet skis in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and the designation of Tomales Bay as the 19th USA Ramsar site, or wetland of international importance.

A Healthy Tomales Bay

Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon are ecologically significant water bodies recognized by RAMSAR as international wetlands of importance, that support species, habitat and human recreation. Since 1971, the health of these watersheds has been a priority for EAC.

In 2018, we launched a Waters Advisory Committee that includes members of our board, staff, and local stakeholders to review and discuss issues including threats of ocean acidification, marine debris, fisheries management, and other environmental dangers.

Most recently our work has focused on aquaculture best management practices (BMPs) and a new aquaculture lease on Tomales Bay. BMPs can provide helpful guidance for commercial operations, like aquaculture or shellfish operators. In Tomales Bay, there are six aquaculture operations producing a variety of species utilizing different cultivation and harvest techniques.

In the last few years, in part due to EAC's advocacy, regulatory agencies have been made aware of unpermitted activities and species cultivation, marine debris issues from lost gear, and legacy debris left behind

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The Quest For A New LCP

County and state natural resource managers have an enormous impact in shaping the environment for current and future generations. At EAC, we understand the importance of public engagement at every step of the process and our members can count on us to be there reviewing thousands of pages of documents, submitting comments, and providing testimony at county and state meetings.

Since 2008, EAC has participated in the lengthy amendment process for Marin County's Local Coastal Program (LCP). Under California's landmark Coastal Act, LCPs are one of the main planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission.

Marin County's LCP is out of date, the last certified version was completed in 1981 and requires an update to include changes in our communities and a legal framework for climate change adaptations. Almost a decade later, we still don't have an updated LCP, leaving our coastal communities vulnerable.

Recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report highlighting a dire warning for the global

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No Straw, Please!

Since the 1960's, plastic has become the packaging material of choice for several industries, it's light, durable, and misleadingly cheap. Unfortunately, many of our everyday plastics are designed for a single use and are not recycled, upcycled, or even recyclable at all. The surge in compostable products is also under fire, as we are finding these items are not so easily composted after all. Instead, what we find is our plastic ends up in landfills and makes its way into our watersheds and oceans.

In less than 50 years, our short-sighted obsession with convenient use of plastic has created an environmental disaster, polluting our land and waters, harming wildlife, and devastating the food chain. To combat our plastic problem, we can work to clean up the beaches and roadsides multiple times a year, but unless we stop using plastics in an irresponsible manner, our problem will persist.

EAC is committed to raising awareness about plastic pollution, single-use plastics and alternatives, and advocating for new regulations to help Marin County meet their zero waste goals and California's climate change short-lived waste emissions reductions targets.

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No Drill, No Spill!

We love the coast, so let's make sure it isn't covered in oil. EAC is working to oppose federal plans for offshore oil drilling and fracking with a statewide coalition which has been incredibly successful. Local resolutions were passed throughout the state opposing offshore oil drilling, including Marin's Resolution. Two bills were signed by Governor Brown in 2018 to oppose offshore drilling. Our work continues as the federal administration continues to push for oil and fracking expansion. You can count on EAC to keep you informed and engaged.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/coastalprotection



"Perhaps the time has come to cease calling it the 'environmentalist' view, as though it were a lobbying effort outside the mainstream of human activity, and to start calling it the real-world view."

- E.O. Wilson

Protecting West Marin's Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the general variety and variability of life on Earth. Variation is measured at the genetic, the species, and the ecosystem level. No feature of Earth is more complex, dynamic, and varied than the layer of living organisms that occupy its surfaces and its seas, and no other feature is experiencing more dramatic change at the hands of humans. West Marin has been identified as being a part of the California Floristic Province, an internationally recognized botanical hotspot, with some of the most concentrated biological diversity and most severe threat of loss according to Conservation International. A snapshot of West Marin's biodiversity includes 490+ North American bird species, 80+ species of land and marine mammals, 85+ species of fresh and saltwater fish, 29+ species of reptiles and amphibians, 50+ rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife species, and thousands of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate species including sea anemones, starfish, butterflies, and insects.

Since 1971, EAC has been working to protect the incredible and irreplaceable biodiversity of West Marin. EAC works with agencies and partners who manage a wide range of parks, open space, and agricultural lands to provide long-term protection for the unique ecosystems supporting our species rich environment. We continue to advocate to protect habitat for endangered, threatened, and special status species, including our work to protect the Tomales Dunes, protecting nesting and migratory birds, and youth education.

Parks As Classrooms

EAC believes it is important to provide free local opportunities for youth to connect with the natural world to gain a broader view and appreciation for the environment. In order to foster the next generation of stewards, EAC partnered in 2018 with Marin County Parks and Open Space through the Measure A grant to launch our Youth Outside: Hike & Seek education program, where parks serve as classrooms.

The program is designed to take students out of the classroom and into one of three county park sites (Roy's Redwoods, Bolinas Lagoon, and Duxbury Reef) to explore and learn about riparian, wetland, and forest habitats through guided instruction, observation, species identification, and data collection using an online app called iNaturalist. The integration of iNaturalist provides new ways for educators to link science and technology from the field to the classroom, and findings are shared with scientific data repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, including Bay Area science and park managers.

Since April, we have offered seven field trips to over 200 Marin County youth, providing rewarding experiences and invaluable science observations. To date the program has collected 511 observations, identified

163 species, and has engaged more than 93 current iNaturalist users to help the students in species identification, including the Mount Tamalpais Biodiversity Survey and Duxbury Reef Intertidal Biodiversity Project which have benefited from the students observations.

Following the trip, we have been overjoyed with student thank you letters, and educator's reporting student's feel more connected and engaged with the environment. Additional trips are planned for spring and fall 2019, and applications are still being accepted. Teachers encouraged to contact us to get their classrooms sign up for spring 2019.

[Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/youth-education](http://www.eacmarin.org/youth-education)

Bird Resolution Passes

2018 marked the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act, foundational legislation that protects and conserves bird populations.

Protecting migratory and nesting birds is especially important in Marin County, as we are located along the Pacific Flyway, where some of the highest bird biodiversity can be found, including 54% of all North American birds. That's why EAC took action after

receiving complaints roadside vegetation management practices were possibly harming birds. Our research found broad inconsistencies in management practice. EAC coordinated a petition to the County in support of better bird protections, and staff accompanied by local youth, also spoke before the Marin County Supervisors on the issue. In response a formal meeting was coordinated by Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, EAC staff and our local and regional agency representatives to discuss the issue and possible solutions.

As a result of our advocacy, Marin County passed a Resolution recognizing International Bird Migratory Day in Marin as May 12, highlighting the importance of nesting and migratory birds, need and methods for protection, and encourages an update to agency management practices to avoid negative impacts for birds.

A successful outcome, but we are not done! Volunteer with us in the field this spring to help us understand if the promises made by our County agencies are being fulfilled and migratory and nesting birds are being protected. Contact us for details or to volunteer at (415) 663-9312.

[Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/bird-protection](http://www.eacmarin.org/bird-protection)

A Park For Everyone

Continued

TPL. Unfortunately, the communities of San Geronimo Valley, and the county will miss out on the opportunity for a planning process to determine the ultimate uses of this amazing property...TPL, as any private owner, will move forward as they see fit for the use and sale of the property."

In addition to the loss to residents of the San Geronimo Valley, the ruling by Marin County Superior Court is problematic as it could impact future conservation property acquisitions by setting a negative precedence by invalidating the frequently used CEQA exemption for land acquisitions for open space. This is inherently problematic as CEQA requires years of planning and is a financial investment. This is why conservation land acquisitions are able to apply for a CEQA exception.

It is unfortunate that the public acquisition of the property has been halted. This was an opportunity to restore habitat, save hundreds of thousands of gallons of water use, remove toxic pesticides from our watershed, and would have provided safe access pathways for residents and students to access the Lagunitas School and San Geronimo Valley Community Center without needing to travel along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

EAC continues to support the property's conversion to open space and a public park. We will remain engaged in the coming months working towards a future outcome for open space and habitat restoration to improve water quality and habitat.

Seashore Ranching

Continued

management guidance for operational practices and permitting; establish best management practices; improve trails and visitor access; minimize tule elk and cattle conflict; and manage historic districts and cultural resources.

EAC believes the GMPA must advance the protection, restoration, and preservation of park resources using ranch leases that ensure that multi-generational, environmentally sustainable ranching is complementary to the natural resources and visitor experiences within the Seashore.

We recommended to our membership and in our organization's formal comment letter for the NPS to act on the below items:

Protect and Preserve Natural Resources

- Long-term leases should be determined through a transparent process to ensure ranching practices are compatible with the Seashore's mission.
- Protect and manage natural resources, including tule elk, with conservation of those resources as the highest priority, as mandated by the Seashore's mission and NPS management policies.
- Long-term management strategies should strive to reduce conflicts and find non-lethal management to balance and accommodate the presence of elk and cattle.
- Base conservation framework and best management practices on the best available science with defined

goals and outcomes that demonstrate compatibility with the Seashore's mission.

- Operational flexibility should allow for environmental improvements for operators by simplifying processes; however, it must be limited to current activities and maintenance.
- EAC is not supportive of diversification, which EAC defines as new land uses outside of cattle and dairying that impact park resources or visitor experiences. If diversification is considered it should be limited to the ranch core and a separate transparent NEPA evaluation to identify any environmental conflicts.

Restoration of Habitats and Water Quality

- Enhance habitat restoration flexibility within the conservation framework to improve efficiency, funding, and third-party partnerships to complete projects within a year.
- Prioritize and increase resources for water quality sampling in all creeks and estuaries within the planning area boundaries to better inform management and water quality goals.

Public Access

- Ensure maximum allowable public access while reflecting the needs for privacy in defined ranch cores. Improve visitor interpretation and trail access to protect habitat and reduce interference with ranch operations.

EAC will remain engaged on this important issue. Read our full comment letter and get updates online.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/sgvgolfcourse

Learn More and Get Involved
www.eacmarin.org/eac-gmpa

Honor Thy Dunes

Continued

wastewater system, was brought before the Coastal Commission. Unfortunately, the amendment sought to put the wastewater system and other buildings in a location explicitly designated by the Commission as a protected Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). EAC advocated for the Commissioners to uphold the Coastal Act and reject the development proposal to protect ESHA. In an 8-4 vote the Commission voted to uphold the Coastal Act and gave specific instructions that Lawson's Landing not to come back with plans to develop in ESHA and any future development for wastewater must not interfere with habitat or species.

Because a new wastewater system is a requirement of the 2011 CDP, Lawson's Landing had to submit a new amendment proposal, which they have now done. Despite the Commission's clear instructions to stay out of ESHA, the new amendment seeks to build a truck shed and emergency operations center in the same ESHA location as the previous amendment. As proposed, this is not an amendment that EAC can support.

We are hopeful Lawson's Landing will agree to reconfigure this new proposal so that sensitive habitat is protected. We believe all sides want to bring this very long permit process to a fair and amicable resolution. We look forward to supporting an amendment that protects ESHA and meets the Coastal Act and Regional Water Quality Control Board standards. The Commission will likely hear this issue in April 2019, and EAC will be there to make sure that the sensitive habitats of the Tomales Dunes-wetland complex remain protected.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/tomales-dunes

The Quest For A New LCP

Continued

population that the severe impacts of climate change could be realized as soon as 2040. The National Park Service and California Ocean Science Trust point to severe impacts from storm surge along California's coast including West Marin, which has already witnessed intensified king tides and storm surge flooding.

Our communities need to be able to plan and implement solutions that will protect coastal resources, community character, scenic views, and public access. We need forward-thinking adaptive policies now so that our coastal communities can begin to plan for this impending crisis.

One way to accomplish this goal is by completing the LCP environmental hazards sections to include sea-level rise and flooding policies.

While the County has made commendable efforts to identify our specific vulnerabilities and propose potential adaptation strategies, those strategies lack any LCP policies to guide implementation.

As EAC moves into a new year, we remain steadfastly focused on this issue and will be pushing for the environmental hazards sections to be prioritized so that our communities can have the tools and resources they need to plan for sea-level rise, storm surges, and flooding that are just around the corner. Sea level rise will not wait for a new LCP.

We will continue to update you online as they become available.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/marin-lcp

A Healthy Tomales Bay

Continued

when operators shut down and fail to remove infrastructure.

EAC staff has met with Hog Island Oyster Company and other community stakeholders to better understand their management practices, existing challenges, and find solutions to promote the best environmental outcomes for the bay we all love. Recently, the Fish and Game Commission initiated a process to formally issue BMP regulations, which will help reduce overall marine debris, microplastics, and environmental disturbance in the bay.

We are also following the progress of a new aquaculture lease proposed by San Andreas Shellfish near the mouth of the bay, which is the first aquaculture lease application in more than 25 years. Since the application was introduced in 2016, EAC has been actively engaged in ensuring that our coastal resources are not harmed by this new lease proposal. For instance, geoducks are not currently harvested in the bay, and some cultivation and harvesting methods raise environmental concerns around pollution and disturbance of benthic habitat.

Before the application is final, review under the California Environmental Quality Act must take place. California Fish and Wildlife staff are waiting for updated application materials from San Andreas Shellfish.

We look forward to keeping you up to date on this issue as it becomes available.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/tomalesbay



Go *WILD* this holiday and show your *West Marin Wild* pride with selection of tees and hoodies in blue, purple, gray or black or go green with a purchase of a reusable pint cup and bamboo utensil set. Plus check out wildlife earrings, license plate holders, bumper stickers, our *Birding by Ear* 2-CD set and more. Sales benefit our mission and make perfect gifts for family and friends.

Shop Online | www.eacmarin.org



WAYS TO GIVE | JOIN, RENEW, SHOP & VOLUNTEER

Each year we begin the holiday season with intense gratitude for everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. As a small grassroots nonprofit, your involvement and contributions make a huge difference for what we can accomplish - thank you!

We are a membership organization that thrives when our community engages and supports our mission. Consider joining our member circle, renewing your support, or providing a generous year-end tax-deductible donation. **Plus, all donations made through December 31st will be matched up to \$20,000 by the EAC Board!**

JOIN

Join our community of dedicated supporters whose contributions help us to protect and sustain the unique lands, waters and biodiversity of West Marin through advocacy, engagement and education, so generations can experience the wild beauty of our coastal communities for years to come! Membership starts at \$35 for individuals and \$50 for households.

Member benefits include:

- Access to e-mail action alerts
- Printed biannual newsletter
- Early-bird access and registration to our annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival (April 2019)
- Invitations to our Annual Member Meeting, Awards & Potluck, Piper on the Ridge, Winter Gathering and more

BECOME A GUARDIAN

Join our Guardian Circle with a gift of \$1000+, and join a group of key supporters whose annual gifts provide critical funding for our mission.

RECURRING GIFTS

Go green, become a Sustaining member with a recurring annual, monthly or quarterly gift to help our mission throughout the year

RENEW

Often our efforts are not fought over night, so your long-term support and generosity is critical to our ongoing efforts to ensure environmental protection measures are in place and lasting. Renew your member support today.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Introduce a friend or family member to our community of supporters by giving a gift membership. For gifts \$100+ we will include a West Marin Wild pint cup and sticker.

GIFTS OF STOCK

A gift of stock, mutual funds, real estate or other appreciated assets can be an advantageous way to give. Get stock instructions online, or contact us directly.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Double or even triple your impact for our mission by asking your employer about their workplace giving options, including annual payroll deductions, employer donation matches, or volunteer support programs. You can even use our link online to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

YEAR-END GIVING

Provide a special year-end tax-deductible gift to help us reach our goals and expand our capacity.

SHOP WITH US

Shop our online store, including *West Marin Wild* swag, wildlife earrings, *Birding By Ear* 2-CD sets, books, discounted Point Reyes Bird & Nature Festival tees and more.

SHOP & GIVE PROGRAMS

Do you regularly shop online? Consider shopping through one or more of our Shop & Give Programs ([Giving Assistant](#), [eScrip](#) or [AmazonSmile](#)) by adding the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin as one of your charities.

Whether you're shopping for the holidays or throughout the year, this is an easy way to support our mission. Enjoy huge savings at 3,000+ popular online retailers, and exclusive coupons. Plus no cards required. Learn more online.

VOLUNTEER

We are looking for dedicated individuals or families who want to donate their time to the cause. Opportunities online, or contact us directly.

DONOR PROFILE:

AMY W. MEYER

ADVOCATE, ARTIST, & AUTHOR

Leadership Circle (\$250-\$999)



"I am counting on EAC.

The nonprofit organization provides an essential voice for this unique coastal area. They have gathered a board, staff, and membership that provides a major activist role focused on West Marin environmental advocacy and protections. EAC keeps people educated and engaged about the issues facing our public lands." -

Amy W. Meyer

BIO: Amy Meyer, park advocate, artist and author of the New Guardians for the Golden Gate: How America Got a Great National Park (UC Press, 2006), is widely regarded as the Mother of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for her significant role in the creation of this national park. She was born in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from Oberlin College. She was married to a doctor, the late George D. Meyer, and they came to San Francisco where Amy has lived for over 65 years, and they had two daughters who love these parks. In her free time, she makes drawings and collages.

EAC: Can you tell us a little about what conservation of the land means to you? How that intersects with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)?

Amy Meyer: My family had 50 acres of land and lakefront near Peekskill N.Y. on which they developed summer homes. My father called it "my park." There was a lot of uncultivated land, on which I spent my childhood. When I grew older, they sold the land without considering how my sister and I felt about it. So when I came to northern California, and saw how beautiful it is here, I felt determined to stay and help protect this area. In 1970, I learned about the campaign for the GGNRA and joined the effort.

Now I have the sweet satisfaction of knowing the park I've worked on establishing and protecting for nearly 50 years has 82,000+ acres of protected land next to one of the biggest urban centers in the country. When combined with Point Reyes and other public park lands in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties, the contiguous area of habitat and wildlife is 200,000 acres, with a break only at the Golden Gate. There is nothing equivalent in any other American urban area.

EAC: What work does EAC do that you care most about?

Amy: I count on EAC. The nonprofit organization provides an essential voice for this unique coastal area. They have gathered a board, staff, and membership that provides a major activist role focused on West Marin environmental advocacy and protections. EAC keeps people educated and engaged about issues facing our public lands.

EAC: Back in 2010, we awarded you the Peter Behr Land Steward Award for your work around the Drakes Estero Wilderness. Can you tell us a little about your involvement in the Wilderness campaign and what that project meant to you?

Amy: I mostly helped by reminding people why and how the plan for a big wilderness was a promise to the American people made years earlier, and that promise should not be broken. My involvement started back in 1975, when the size of the wilderness to be designated in Point Reyes came before the GGNRA/Point Reyes Advisory Commission, of which I was vice chair. The NPS wanted a 5,000 acre wilderness in Point Reyes, but Congressman Clem Miller's widow and his legislative aide Bill Duddleson thought that "a mere pittance." Congressman Phil Burton agreed, and sent a letter to the NPS Regional Director supporting "efforts to preserve vast and important sections of this land in its wilderness state," and cited broad citizen support for more wilderness to "achieve the truly magnificent Point Reyes National Seashore which was envisioned." The Advisory Commission agreed. In 1976, Congress designated a wilderness of over 33,000 acres. The Johnson Oyster Company was 'grandfathered in' until its lease would be up in 2012, and Drakes Estero would be restored. My personal investment when the wilderness was contested, was to support the extraordinary efforts of EAC and the National Parks Conservation Association in the preservation and promise of wilderness.

EAC: What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating or volunteering with EAC?

Amy: West Marin is one of the Bay Area's major recreational spots. We all have an investment in its future. Whether you are living along this stretch of coast, or in the larger Bay Area, it's important for us to know EAC is actively advocating for our resources. They keep people educated and engaged about the issues facing our shared public lands, and they can't do this work without contributions. So lend a hand or donate, but get involved.

Share Your Story
at giving@eacmarin.org

Russell Ridge Education Fund Launches

In June of 2018, EAC launched the Russell Ridge Education Fund to honor professor, former board member, and long-time contributor Russell Ridge.

“Environmental education is one important way we accomplish our mission to protect and sustain the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin,” says Morgan Patton, EAC Executive Director, *“and I am excited EAC and it’s members share this vision and are able to help foster the next generation of stewards.”*

The fund will support free nature-based youth education field trips in Marin County Parks for 4th through 12th grade students, and scholarships for College of Marin students enrolled in the Natural History Program. The goal is to raise \$5,000 for 2019, and \$6,500 for 2020.

“Like Russ, my time spent outside in nature is what inspired me to pursue a degree, and later a career in the outdoors. The exposure to nature was invaluable in shaping me, and now I get to develop programs like the Education Fund, which will help engage our community of supporters to keep Russ’s legacy of environmental education thriving,” says Jessica Taylor, Development Director

EAC is uniquely positioned at the intersections of West Marin’s county, state, and federal public lands and open space preserves and is able to provide hands on environmental education experiences that enrich students lives.

A portion of education funds will directly support a lead naturalist instructor for our youth field trips to one of three Marin County Parks (Roy’s Redwoods, Bolinas Lagoon, and Agate Beach). The field trips offer student’s opportunities for hands-on exploration of riparian, wetland, and

forest habitats through guided instruction, observation, species identification, and data collection using an online app called iNaturalist.

The fund will also provide scholarship funds for two College of Marin students enrolled in the Natural History Program, and eventually an internship for graduates of the program. Scholarships are intended to cover tuition costs for two classes per student each semester. Applications will be reviewed by committee and recipients will report on how the funds have helped them succeed at the annual member meeting in June.

Qualified students may apply once per calendar year before March 31st by completing an application. Participating students will get to extend their education through the youth field trips acting as naturalists, and helping to lead the programs.

“I remember how excited he was about biology and I’ll never forget the time he took me in the laboratory to show me all the bat ray jaws that he studied. I use many of the same jaws to this day. He reminded me of David Attenborough, the way he presented the wonders of life,” says Joe Mueller, a former student who now teaches biology at the College of Marin

We need to raise \$1,500 more to reach our \$5,000 goal for 2019. Please consider a special donation before the end of the year. Gifts can be made online, by mail, or by contacting us directly. A big thanks to the fund’s supporters who have made generous gifts to launch this vital new program. We look forward to keeping you informed on its progress.

Learn More
[www.eacmarin.org/
russellridgeeducationfund/](http://www.eacmarin.org/russellridgeeducationfund/)

IN HONOR OF RUSSELL RIDGE

PROFESSOR & ENVIRONMENTALIST

NOVEMBER 1927 - JANUARY 2018



Russell “Russ” Ridge was born on November 5, 1927 and grew up on the family’s fruit farm in Merced. He earned a baseball scholarship to the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his wife and soul mate, Margaret Ridge. They married on July 9, 1950 and had one daughter and two sons. In 1964, Russ received a grant from the National Science Foundation for research to complete his master’s degree, and the family landed in Marin County. In the same year, Russ joined the biology department at the College of Marin, where he spent 25 years inspiring students, and establishing a science museum on campus that continues today. Russ conducted research at the University of the Pacific marine lab in Dillon Beach, which was primarily focused on bat rays. Following his retirement in 1989, Russ became a Master Gardener, part of a program of U.C. Berkeley’s Cooperative Extension, and was named an honorary member of the Inverness Garden Club, where he contributed to the club’s Coastal Gardener column.



Member Meeting, Potluck & Awards

In June, EAC kicked off spring by welcoming over 100 of our members to our annual Member Meeting, Potluck & Awards at the Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center in Point Reyes Station.

This annual event provides an opportunity for members to mingle with the board, staff, and partners in celebration of our mission. Tradition includes a potluck, where attendees come to showcase their home made goods, and no one goes home hungry.

This year's event included a short program welcoming and thanking our supporters, a brief keynote from Congressman Jared Huffman on the most pressing environmental issues and some of his environmental work that impacts our local community, the reelection of Bridger Mitchell as Board Chair, and the presentation of the annual awards.

We presented the 2018 Peter Steward of the Land award to National Park Service Ranger and Marin Community Liaison, Mia Monroe for her legacy of environmental protection and education in Marin.

Mia began her career in 1976 as a Park Ranger at Fort Point, and later transferred to Muir Woods. She inspired thousands of people with her interpretive programs that created a sense of wonder and appreciation

of the old growth redwood forest, tide pools, coastal streams, butterflies, while fostering an deep connection to place and our connection to the land.

The Peter Behr Steward of the Land award is named after former California State Senator, Marin County Supervisor, Mill Valley councilman, lawyer and visionary leader, Peter H. Behr (1915 - 1997). During his lifetime, Peter helped create Point Reyes National Seashore and inspired generations of legislators to protect the environment. EAC has been honoring his memory and legacy since 1987 by presenting leaders in our community with this award in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the land. Visit us online to see a full list of awardees.

"I am so honored to have received the Peter Behr Steward of the Land award recognizing my lifetime of commitment to the environment, and those of us in public service," said Mia Monroe.

We also recognized our outstanding Marin MPA Watch volunteers, Frederic Leist, and mother and son volunteer team Lena and Aiden Zentall. These "community scientists" monitor marine protected areas (MPAs) and conduct surveys that help inform overall management of California's network of MPAs ensuring long-term health of our oceans.

Aiden and I are thrilled and proud to be named volunteers of the year. I'm really proud of my son Aiden for partnering with me in volunteering. We love our adventures at the beach. As a mom, I know I'll look back on this time together with fondness when he's grown. I value that he learns about the importance of community service and of protecting the environment through this first-hand experience. And sharing time in Point Reyes outdoors is our "happy place"! Thank you for recognizing our passion and commitment," said Lena Zentall.

A big thanks to everyone in attendance, who brought potluck dishes to share, and helped make this a zero-waste event. We look forward to see you again next year, if not sooner.



See Pictures & Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/annual-member-meeting-potluck-awards/



Litter Bugs Me & Coastal Clean Up Day

Over 115 volunteers of all ages gathered in West Marin to remove more than 2,500 pounds of trash from the Tomales Bay watershed from September 10th-15th, 2018.

“This annual community cleanup event helps keep our coastal and riparian areas safer for wildlife and human recreation, and engages our community to protect what we all love about West Marin,” said Morgan Patton, EAC Director.

The clean up efforts kicked off on September 10th with the annual EAC’s *Litter Bugs Me* event, a mid-week long effort to rally businesses, associations, and clubs to adopt one or more roadsides in West Marin communities. This year included participation from The Coastodian, East Shore Planning Group, Inverness Association, Olema Association, and Dennis Rodoni Construction who combined picked up more than 750 pounds of debris in Inverness, Marshall and Olema.

The week long clean up efforts concluded with the 34th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, the state’s largest annual volunteer day, coordinated locally by the EAC, Hog Island Oyster Company, and Marconi State Historic Park & Conference Center. The clean up efforts focused on the

Tomales Bay watershed.

Hog Island Oyster Co., Marin Oyster Co., Tomales Bay Oyster Co., Point Reyes National Seashore/NPS, Starbird Mariculture, and Tomales Bay Sailing took out 40 volunteers on 10 boats removing roughly 550 pounds of debris from the bay, and along the shores of Millerton State Park. EAC coordinated 60 volunteers for roadside clean up along the southern end of the watershed covering Bear Valley, Sir Francis Drake and Platform Bridge Roads, White House Pool, the town of Point Reyes Station, and the Giacomini Wetlands, removing 1,200 pounds of trash.

“The depth of volunteering and widespread community support behind this year’s Coastal Clean Day...is the truest measure of success,” said Terry Sawyer, Co-founder & VP Hog Island Oyster Co.

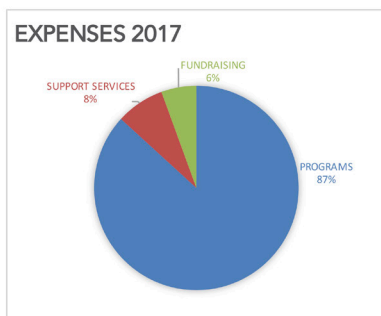
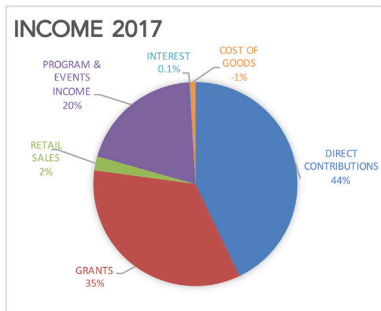
Together volunteers removed more than 2,500 pounds of debris from our watershed in one week! Trash included micro-debris, toys, oil cans, cigarette buds, single-use plastics, metals, creosote pilings and wood, a couch, and recyclables including glass and plastics. Representatives from Recology, the area’s waste disposal company, helped sort hundreds of recyclables diverting them from the landfill, and donated dumpsters for the event.

The event hosts celebrated the volunteer’s efforts with an appreciation BBQ and gathering at the Marconi State Park and Conference Center afterwards with food and beverages donated by West Marin and Bay Area producers. Event sponsors included: Acme Bread, Bovine Bakery, Caggiano Sausage Company, Cliff Bar, Cowgirl Creamery, Hog Island Oysters Co., Honey Bucket, Lagunitas Brewing Co., Marconi Historic State Park and Conference Center, Marin Sun Farms, McEvoy Wines, MinuteMan Press, Pacific Coast Shellfish Association, Point Reyes Building Supply, Recology, Rodoni Construction, The Palace Market, World Centric and through individual donations.

A big thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors and hosts for such a successful event.



See Pictures & Learn More
[www.eacmarin.org/
coastal-clean-up-day/](http://www.eacmarin.org/coastal-clean-up-day/)



INCOME		
DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 140,031	44%
GRANTS	\$ 111,687	35%
RETAIL SALES	\$ 7,268	2%
PROGRAM & EVENTS INCOM	\$ 64,119	20%
INTEREST	\$ 404	0.1%
COST OF GOODS	\$ (2,749)	
TOTAL	\$ 320,759	

EXPENSE		
PROGRAMS	\$ 255,200	87%
SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 22,484	8%
FUNDRAISING	\$ 16,364	6%
TOTAL	\$ 294,048	

ASSETS		
CASH	\$ 184,626	68%
RESERVE FUNDS	\$ 83,394	31%
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$ -	0%
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$ 2,031	
TOTAL	\$ 270,050	

LIABILITY		
OTHER LIABILITIES	\$ 1,612	
TOTAL	\$ 1,612	

EQUITY		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$ 211,316	79%
RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$ 57,123	21%
TOTAL	\$ 268,438	

TOTAL LIABILITY & EQUITY	\$ 270,050	
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- **Passed a resolution** recognizing the importance of nesting and migratory birds, and raised awareness for revised Marin County policies to avoid negative impacts to nests and habitats.
- **Upheld the Coastal Act** stopping a development proposal at the Tomales Dunes that would have harmed environmentally sensitive dune habitat.
- **Protected coastal resources** by advocating for best management practices for aquaculture, fisheries management, Marin County's Local Coastal Program, and opposing new offshore oil leases in California.
- **Combated marine debris** through community partnerships on Coastal Clean Up Day and Litter Bugs Me, and through our work to stop source pollution by empowering local fourth graders to work towards a ban on single use plastic straws and utensils.
- **Defended our public lands** by advocating for protection of our unique environmental resources, participating in the public process for safeguarding our parks, and supporting the acquisition of new public lands to expand and protect wildlife corridors, habitats, species, and public access.
- **Provided outdoor education programming** bringing more than 200 students into Marin County Parks and Open Space and California's network of Marine Protected Areas to learn about habitats and community science through the use of iNaturalist.
- **Launched our Russell Ridge Education Fund** providing College of Marin scholarships to the next generation of natural history students and stewards of the land.
- **Engaged our community** through events like the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, Annual Member Meeting, Potluck & Awards, Piper on the Ridge and our Winter Gathering.

In 2018, EAC was happy to partner with local youth, Viola Seda and Reese Patton, to launch a pilot campaign, No Straws, Please, highlighting the dangers of single-use plastics and asking the public and local businesses to join their efforts in ditching plastic straws.

April through August, the girls met with local business owners to talk about the use of straws and possible solutions, including no longer using plastic straws, providing alternatives, or straws on request only. They were happy to find most businesses were already employing one of these methods or agreed to take the pledge. In addition, the girls received invaluable experience in making long-lasting change by meeting with Marin County Supervisor, Dennis Rodoni, to advocate for a ban on certain types of single-use plastics.

Starting in 2019, a new California law will ban plastic straws in restaurants and straws will only be distributed on request in the state, the first in the United States to ban restaurants from voluntarily handing out plastic straws. Full-service restaurants will bare the brunt of this change, but hopefully reduce our use of single-use plastic.

In 2019, EAC will continue to foster these youth with a grant from Lonely Whale, an incubator for courageous ideas that drive impactful change on behalf of our ocean, to document their journey, and to kick off a green team to expand their efforts.

Follow the girls blog, sign the pledge, and get your reusable West Marin Wild pint cups or utensils online.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/no-straw-please

JOIN US

APRIL 26TH -28TH, 2019

10TH ANNIVERSARY

POINT REYES BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS KENN KAUFMAN & SHARON BEALS

Celebrating spring bird and wildlife migrations along the Pacific Flyway's #1 birding hotspot

50+ educational field outings and classroom-based events with the Bay Area's top birders and naturalists exploring the fauna and flora of Marin and Sonoma counties.

FREE Saturday youth program in partnership with Amigos Alados (Winged Friends) with rescued birds from The Sonoma Bird Rescue Center, owl pellet dissection, games, face painting and more.

TICKETS ON SALE FEBRUARY 2019

Join or Renew

Members receive early-bird access and registration one week before public sales.

Individual membership starts at \$35, or \$50 for a household of two.

Become a

Friend of the Festival

Sponsorship starts at \$250 and includes donor benefits

Register & Learn More

www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org
www.eacmarin.org



west marin



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www.eacmarin.org

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JOIN MARIN MPA WATCH

Volunteers act as "community scientists" by conducting beach surveys in four site-specific marine protected areas. In 2018, we had 37 volunteers who conducted over 170 surveys - thank you! Join this effort, and get outside.

Learn More

www.eacmarin.org/mpa-watch/

