

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 2019

Executive Director's Note

In West Marin, we are already feeling the impacts of a changing climate. Our sea levels are rising, extreme storms are causing flooding, and extended dry seasons are increasing our risk of catastrophic wildfires. As a result, our communities are left with the difficult task of managing our response and adaptation efforts around this crisis.

We can't count on our federal administration to provide climate leadership; instead we witness the active dismantling and weakening of environmental protections and denial of the climate crisis. It is left to our local communities to proactively engage to shift policies, raise awareness, and connect with one another to ensure resilience in these uncertain times.

EAC's long-standing work to protect West Marin's lands, waters, and biodiversity through advocacy, engagement, and education has become even more critical, as we face the biggest social and environmental challenge of our time.

While our climate emergency is overwhelming and terrifying, we must remain hopeful and collaborative, ready to face the challenge instead of focusing on negativity and despair. We can act locally to advocate for meaningful changes in Marin County and California to mitigate the worst impacts, change behaviors, and address systemic problems.

In the next year, we will continue our advocacy for natural resource protection, uphold the California Coastal Act, partner in the development of local and regional climate policy solutions, combat marine debris, defend our public lands, and provide outdoor education opportunities to inspire the next generation of environmental leadership.

But we can't do it without your support. As a grassroots environmental organization, our advocacy depends on the generous support of our members and community. Please consider joining EAC and making a tax-deductible contribution today!

Let us not forget the conservation saying, "*All of our gains are temporary, all of our losses are permanent.*" Our environment and its regulations are under constant threat of human development and habitat degradation, making it essential for local environmental groups to provide checks and balances to safeguard the places we love.

Protection of West Marin's sensitive ecosystems from environmental threats including over-development requires our constant vigilance and tenacity, and you can make a difference today by making a tax-deductible donation in honor of our commitment to protect and sustain West Marin as we know it.

In gratitude,



Morgan Patton | Executive Director
(415) 663.9312 | morgan@eacmarin.org



P.S. I invite you to learn more about our work and visit our website for additional program details. I also have an open-door policy and encourage you to call or stop by the office to talk if you have any questions on our strategies or programs. Thank you for your support and commitment to EAC's mission.

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.

Working with EAC was a great experience that lent insight to how effective community advocacy should be done. Every single person at EAC is passionate about protecting Marin's unique ecosystems and resources for the good of the community. This became evident early on in my internship by the sheer number of community members that stopped by simply to say "Hi," or that wanted to check in about a particular issue or event.

— Lindsay DeRight Goldasich,
2019 Intern, UC Berkeley School of Law

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/internship-apply

THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION
COMMITTEE
OF WEST MARIN

eac

est. 1971

2019 Summer Interns | Lindsay DeRight Goldasich, Courtney Bloodgood, Ashley Wemp and JD Hennessey

On the Trail:
West Marin Wild Field Trip Gratitude From San Pedro Elementary School

My favorite things I saw was the banana slug, the mother tree and the deer tracks.
- Melissa

Thank you for receiving us with kindness. My favorite part was seeing the frog and lizard, and learning about the different plants and trees.
- Demsin

Thank you Juan Carlos for using Spanish and English to teach us.
- Iliana



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 unique land conservation legacy benefits wildlife, plant life, and human enjoyment and recreation. West Marin is shaped by tectonic plates, divided by the San Andreas Fault, and set along the Pacific Flyway and Pacific Ocean resulting in an extremely biologically diverse environment. However, the area continues to face environmental threats, including development pressure, pollution, tourism, and climate change, that all pose a unique set of challenges.

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

Reimagine San Geronimo

In 2017, the Trust for Public Land acquired 157-acres in the heart of the San Geronimo Valley near the villages of Woodacre, San Geronimo, Forest Knolls, and Lagunitas with the intention of transferring ownership to Marin County Parks and Open Space to create a new public land preserve.

Unfortunately, this process was upended by a group of individuals advocating for the property to remain a golf course. In addition, the golf advocates created a petition for a ballot measure to restrict the land-use to golf that was approved for the March 2020 ballot. The ballot measure involves all of Marin County voters in a local land-use decision for the San Geronimo Valley. The measure does restrict future land-uses to golf, but does not require the property owner to run a golf course. If successful, the ballot measure creates a high probability an unmaintained golf property will exist at the heart of the San Geronimo Valley. Ultimately, the ballot measure seeks to override the local community planning process to value golf over broad community uses and ecosystem services.

To set the stage, the golf course was built in the 1960s, following the release of the infamous Marin County-Wide Plan that awakened the local environmental movement and community planning efforts. Our local communities defeated that plan which proposed demolition of the environment

.....Continued on page 12

Protecting Our Seashore

Just one hour north of San Francisco, the Point Reyes National Seashore is a 78,000-acre backyard to the Bay Area providing public access to wilderness, beaches, dunes, wetlands, coastal grasslands, and forests. The Seashore also contains multi-generational commercial beef and dairy operations that were purchased by the federal government when the Seashore was created and leased back to the ranchers.

This mosaic of public land use requires careful management strategies to realize the Seashore's purpose to preserve and protect wilderness, natural ecosystems, and cultural resources along the diminishing undeveloped coastline of the western United States.

In the summer of 2019, the Seashore released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), as part of its General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) planning process to update management guidance for beef and dairy operations to determine if, how, and where beef and dairy ranching will occur and be managed.

Six proposed alternatives were presented in the DEIS for public review, ranging from retaining the current lease framework to elimination of all ranching leases. The Seashore's preferred plan, Alternative B, recommended designating a ranchland zone that would map different land-use zoning ultimately determining the type and intensity of specific ranching activities; extending commercial leases up to 20-years;

implementing a wide range of mitigation practices to reduce environmental impacts to air, water, and soil; developing new trails and public access opportunities; allowing new types of ranching activities including chickens, goats, sheep, and pigs; and actively managing the native tule elk away from commercial leases by culling a percentage of the herd annually.

To frame our perspective, since 2014, EAC has advocated and supported the transparent public process proposed by the Seashore's GMPA as an opportunity to protect, restore, and preserve park resources using ranch leases to ensure multi-generational, environmentally sustainable ranching that is complementary to the natural resources and visitor experiences in the Seashore.

Unfortunately, in our review of the DEIS, we found the National Park Service abused its discretion and authority by:

1. Moving far beyond recognizing the role of established families' continued beef and dairy ranching by allowing new agricultural uses, and failing to consider the impacts of these actions on other park resources.
2. Eroding multi-generational ranching by allowing for a future competitive bidding process open to all for future leases.

.....Continued on page 13

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 abundant biodiversity 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 West Marin's vibrant watersheds, including Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon. 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 watersheds. 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, protecting eelgrass habitat, and the designation of Tomales Bay as the 19th USA Ramsar site, or wetland of international importance.

Coastal Climate Action

Marin's iconic 100+ mile coastline is famous for its rural coastal villages, public lands including the Seashore, and important ecological conditions which support a biologically diverse abundance of plant and wildlife species. Unfortunately, our coastal communities and irreplaceable resources are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

EAC is actively engaged in fighting dirty energy and planning for coastal adaptation for our communities and wildlife including:

- Advocating for coastal resource protection within the environmental hazards section of Marin County's Local Coastal Program that will provide development guidance addressing sea-level rise.
- Opposing offshore oil and gas as part of the Protect the Pacific Coalition, to push back against federal offshore oil threats. This year, we have advocated for Marin County to update their policies concerning offshore oil and gas development and infrastructure and will report on our progress on this important effort in the coming months.
- Partnering on local planning efforts that focus on natural adaptation (like living shorelines) to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise while preserving public access.
- Participating in Drawdown Marin,

highlighting the importance of aquatic or blue carbon solutions (like wetland restoration) and local carbon sequestration opportunities.

As part of our climate change engagement, we are participating in two of Drawdown Marin's community stakeholder collaboratives in 2019-2020 focused on carbon sequestration and climate resilient communities. The mission of Drawdown Marin is to collaborate with the community to create and implement bold climate solutions.

This October, EAC presented to the Drawdown Marin steering committee about the importance of blue carbon sequestration. Blue carbon is the carbon captured by the world's coastal and ocean ecosystems, including mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses.

Locally, blue carbon provides an opportunity for hope and action to cope with the impacts of climate change. Coastal wetlands can amazingly sequester carbon at a rate 10x greater than tropical forests, and have multiple co-benefits, as they provide critical habitat and can assist with coastal resilience, protecting property and critical public infrastructure from storm surges and excessive flooding caused by sea-level rise.

Marin has many opportunities to apply blue carbon solutions through wetland restoration, recovery, and preservation projects.

Healthy West Marin Watersheds

EAC continues our nearly half a century of work to protect the coast, marine environments and local watersheds from habitat degradation, development, marine debris, the federal threat of offshore oil development, and changing climate conditions through our Healthy West Marin Watersheds campaign.

Through this campaign we remain dedicated to the long-term health of West Marin's watersheds, including Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon. This work is accomplished through a collaborative process with many stakeholders, including our active role in the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, and through our Waters Advisory Committee.

As part of this ongoing commitment, we kicked off 2019 in Sacramento by attending Ocean's Day with a clear goal to network and inspire decision makers to work toward effective solutions aimed at protecting and restoring California's iconic ocean and coastline. Key coastal issues included bills to reduce and prevent plastic pollution and use, prevent offshore oil drilling, and preserve marine protected areas.

We have been actively applying many of these proposed state-wide initiatives to our local advocacy work, including:

- Upholding the Coastal Act by

.....Continued on page 12

.....Continued on page 12



Single-Use Plastics Ban

Thanks in part to the advocacy of Viola Seda and Reese Patton, two West Marin ten-year olds concerned about plastic pollution, the Marin County Board of Supervisors has approved drafting an ordinance to ban several types of single-use plastic items including utensils, packaging, and straws. EAC is proud to sponsor the work of these young activists standing up for what they believe in and stopping plastic pollution at the source. We look forward to sharing more information in 2020 on the proposed ordinance. Pictured are youth activists Reese Patton, Jocelyn Feickert, and Viola Seda, with District Four Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni at the Western Weekend Parade.

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

Western monarchs that overwinter in coastal California have declined by over 95% since the 1980s, and current trends indicate a quasi-extinction risk of 72% in 20 years, and 86% in 50 years.

- Managing for Monarchs in the West, Xerces Society 2018



Protecting West Marin Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the general variety and variability of life on Earth. Variation is measured at the genetic, the species, and the ecosystem levels. 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 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. We work 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, nesting and migratory birds, and Marin's Western monarch, and through youth environmental education.

Marin's Monarch Movement - A Call to Action

The Western monarch butterfly population is in crisis and needs support to ensure these iconic and essential pollinators continue to survive and thrive in the future. There has been a 95% decline in Western monarch populations since the 1980s. These trends are indicators of a probable extinction risk in the next 20 to 50 years.

The presence of butterflies indicates a healthy environment as they are important pollinators and food sources for other species, and habitat conditions must be just right in order for them to thrive. They are sensitive to habitat loss and degradation, pesticide use, unavailability of milkweed and nectar plants, parasites, diseases, predators, and changing environmental conditions due to climate change.

In addition, butterflies are intrinsically valuable and worthy of conservation. As a species, they have been evolving for at least 50 million years to become a highly diverse group of more than 20,000 species. Butterflies have been part of human cultural heritage and scientifically studied for the last 300 years or more.

Marin County experiences a seasonal visitation of Western monarchs every fall, as the butterflies overwinter in forested groves along the Pacific Coast. Since 1997, Western monarchs have been counted by Xerces Society volunteers in an annual Monarch Thanksgiving Count in Marin. Sadly, the

volunteers began observing dramatic declines with a startling crash in early 2019.

A coordinated Call to Action is needed to support the monarchs through habitat conservation, planting of native milkweed in non-coastal areas, planting nectar plants, removal of harmful pesticides, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and sequestering carbon to ensure monarch's future survival.

We are currently evaluating our local and regional response to support Western monarch populations with a variety of stakeholders. This collaboration will result in a 2020 EAC report on Marin's Monarch Movement providing background on Marin's population numbers and decline, and an outline of how local organizations and individuals are responding to this crisis.

This work was supported through a special \$5,000 grant from an EAC member, whose gift needs to be matched by February 2020. To date, we have \$2,500 left to raise to complete the project. Please contact us if you are interested in donating a tax-deductible gift to help us reach our goal, or if you are currently taking action to support this species in Marin.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/western-monarch

Inspiring Future Advocates

Environmental education is one way we accomplish our mission. Uniquely positioned at the intersection of public lands and open space, we have an extraordinary opportunity to provide hands on environmental and policy-based educational experiences for youth and young adults.

By working with the next generation of environmental advocates, we hope to inspire lasting and meaningful relationships to our natural world through field trips, scholarships, internships, and events. This past year we have made many key connections to these future leaders through:

- Coordinating and collaborating with six Marin County elementary and high schools to provide ten free *West Marin Wild* field trips for 250 students in Marin County Parks (Roy's Redwoods, Bolinas Lagoon, and Duxbury Reef), including bus transportation. Students are guided through activities to help hone their observation, science, and technology skills, including recording their biological findings using iNaturalist. Since the program began in 2017, students have collected more than 1,200 observations, and identified 250 species. These findings contribute to biodiversity science, and are shared with scientific data repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to help scientists find and use data from around the world.

.....Continued on page 13

Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard this treasured and shared landscape, and to pass it on unharmed to those who come after us. EAC has been putting that responsibility into action for almost 50 years, and I hope my work here will help it continue for many years more. — Terence Carroll, EAC Board Treasurer



WAYS TO GIVE: JOIN, RENEW, SHOP & VOLUNTEER

Each year we begin the holiday season with immense 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 in 2020 - 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 2020)
- 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 overnight, so your long-term support and generosity are 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 in 2020.

RIDGE EDUCATION FUND

Make a difference for the next generation of environmental advocates by providing a special tax-deductible gift to support *West Marin Wild* field trips in Marin County Parks, and College of Marin scholarships for students enrolled in the Natural History Program.

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. Details are on our website.

VOLUNTEER

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

Contact Us (415) 663.9312 | www.eacmarin.org | giving@eacmarin.org

Reimagine San Geronimo

Continued

and rural community values by developing freeways, subdividing agricultural lands, and building thousands of homes throughout Marin County.

In the San Geronimo Valley alone, the plan proposed construction of 5,000 homes that would have increased the population to 20,000. Today's population in the Valley is around 4,000, and the Valley has retained its rural community character. Individuals can view the plan maps at the San Geronimo Community Center to see what could have become of the Valley. The golf course is a remaining vestige of the 1960s plan.

Since golf operations have ceased, hundreds of thousands of gallons of water have been saved and not diverted from our local creeks; and the application of toxic pesticides that poison our watershed, wildlife, and human health have stopped.

Today, the opportunity finally exists to create a public park in the heart of the Valley that could have many co-benefits and serve a broad set of environmental and community needs, such as:

- Restoring the land to reconnect the hydrology of the Valley's creeks to benefit watersheds supporting endangered Coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout; improve water quality; and protect migratory birds, wildlife, and threatened status species.
- Public safety, emergency, wildfire services to unincorporated Marin County could be improved by relocating the Marin County Fire Department headquarters outside of Woodacre to a centralized location near the old clubhouse.

Learn More

www.eacmarin.org/svgolfcourse

- Improved recreational and health opportunities including, walking and hiking paths, dog walking, and biking; picnicking; and outdoor education for the local schools and community center.

The environmental community and local community planning advocates need to push back against this ill-conceived ballot measure for the health of our watershed, wildlife, and community values. We encourage our members to vote *No* on this ballot measure.

A Yes vote restricts the land-use to only golf and overrides the long thought-out community plan. A No vote allows for the creation of a public park that serves a larger number of community members, benefits habitat, water quality, public safety, and upholds the integrity of local community planning by giving the choice to the local community itself.

Coastal Climate Action

Continued

Our interest in blue carbon builds on our past commitment to advocate for wetland and wilderness preservation including:

- The permanent designation of Drakes Estero as marine wilderness.
- Our advocacy to restore Giacomini Wetlands, and
- Our work to protect Tomales Bay, Bolinas Lagoon, and Estero Americano.

Stay tuned for more updates on this work in 2020.

Learn More

www.eacmarin.org/climatechange

Healthy West Marin Watersheds

Continued

reviewing proposed aquaculture permit amendments to ensure best management practices are in place to reduce loss of gear (i.e. plastics) that can litter Tomales Bay

- Advocating successfully for the removal of unpermitted commercial aquaculture gear from critical eelgrass habitat in Tomales Bay.
- Supporting sustainable local fisheries with comments on the California Pacific Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) focused on supporting a new recreational herring daily limit, and our opposition to the continuation of a commercial fishery and continued recreational take of herring roe in Tomales Bay due to concerns over eelgrass disturbance. Our comments were met with one winning outcome on the final FMP, where regulations were established for recreational bag limits for herring take.
- Managing Marin Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch volunteer program, providing education and engagement opportunities for the public to learn and support California's network of MPAs. Like parks protect wildlife and habitats on land, California's MPAs protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, and the integrity of marine ecosystems. MPAs are accessible for public enjoyment and a variety of recreational uses. MPA Watch trains community members to monitor MPAs located in Marin County on human activities. We then use that data to understand the ways people are interacting with habitat to ensure long-term protection of species and the ecosystem.

We look forward to sharing more on the Healthy West Marin Watersheds campaign in 2020, including ways for you to get involved.

Learn More

www.eacmarin.org/tomalesbay

Protect Our Seashore

Continued

3. Failing to consider the impacts of climate change.
 4. Proposing to kill native tule elk to benefit commercial lease holders.
 5. Recommending boat-in camping along the shoreline of Drakes Estero Marine Wilderness.
 6. Failing to prioritize holistic planning for resource protection buffers and native species, and
 7. Advising the development of ranch operating agreements that fail to incorporate improvements to the current unsustainable impacts to park resources.
2. Requested updated public maps, including resource and restoration sites.
 3. Cited insufficiencies in the ranchland zoning, because the Seashore must protect natural resources and ecosystem services over commercial interests.
 4. Noted National Park Service failure to analyze climate change as a cumulative impact in the entire programmatic planning area, which is inconsistent with past Seashore planning documents.
 5. Advocated for non-lethal management of tule elk, and
 6. Opposed any boat-in camping along the sensitive shorelines of Drakes Estero (the Bay Area's most pristine estuary) based on closures of other Seashore boat-in sites along Tomales Bay due to habitat degradation, trash disposal, and human feces.

We submitted extensive comments on the DEIS and proposed our support for limited aspects of Alternative B with significant modification.

In other words, we support certain aspects of Alternative B, like the inclusion of best management and mitigation practices, and the framework of ranchland zoning. However, we found in almost every other part of Alternative B, the National Park Service prioritized ranching economic interests over natural resource protection, and in all cases failed to adequately analyze environmental impacts, including climate change, that are required to be reviewed comprehensively as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Therefore, in our comments, we:

1. Requested the complete removal of diversification due to inadequate NEPA analysis.

We continue to uphold the importance of the public process, push back on the ongoing and nationwide threats to privatize and degrade our public lands, and strategically address back room dealings and coercion that threaten our public trust as we continue our fight to protect the irreplaceable natural resources of the Seashore.

Considering the complexities of this issue, please contact EAC's Executive Director, Morgan Patton directly if you have questions or concerns about our position.

Stay tuned for more information in 2020.

Learn More

www.eacmarin.org/gmpa2017

Inspiring Future Advocates

Continued

- Awarding our first two College of Marin scholarships for students enrolled in the Natural History Certification Program through donations made to the Ridge Education Fund, and made in honor of the late professor, and EAC member Russell Ridge.
- Providing four coastal advocacy internships, and two entry-level legal and policy internships resulting in some exciting announcements in 2020.
- Supporting two young advocates in their vision to reduce single-use plastics in West Marin by connecting them with local businesses, Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni's office, and providing them with a web page to advocate for stopping plastic pollution at the source.
- Educating 50+ teachers, naturalists and volunteers to learn more about the natural world through our Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival.
- Offering a free, Saturday youth and family program to over 200 participants at our Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival in partnership with Amigos Alados (Winged Friends), The Sonoma Bird Rescue Center, Point Reyes Library, and Point Blue Conservation Science.

We believe by providing these opportunities, we are fostering experiences that inspire and empower the environmental advocates of the future. However, these vital connections cannot be done without grants and individual donations.

Help support this work with a special contribution to the Ridge Education Fund, or by sponsoring the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, and make a difference to future advocates. Contact us directly for ways to get involved or visit us online.

Learn More

www.eacmarin.org/eacenvironmentaleducation

10th Anniversary of Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival a Great Success



EAC celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival April 25th-28th, 2019 with over 55 events across Marin and Sonoma counties, and raised just over \$96,000 through sponsorships, ticket and retail sales, in-kind contributions, and volunteer support.

West Marin and Point Reyes National Seashore provide the primary backdrop for our festival, where the Pacific Flyway, Pacific Ocean, and other influences provide an ideal location for birding and wildlife viewing. In fact, Point Reyes has been named the National Audubon's Society's #1 birding hotspot numerous times, where over 54% of all North American bird species have been recorded.



This annual event is our largest fundraising effort of the year, which showcases the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of Marin, and neighboring Sonoma County. Over the three day weekend, attendees chose from educational field outings and classroom-based events focused on birds, wildlife, plants and marine life, and recreational hiking, biking, kayaking, art and field photography.



The event is open to a variety of ages and experience levels, with many options to engage everyone from the novice to the more experienced birder or naturalist. Attendees primarily come from the Bay Area, but from each region of the United States, and internationally from Australia, England, the Netherlands, and Mexico.



While most of the individual outings included up to sixteen people per trip, on Friday and Saturday nights, we were able to gather as a whole community over food, drink and hear from prominent keynote speakers at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station (aka the bird nest hub). This year we heard from Ohio-based author and internationally

known birder Kenn Kaufman, and from author and award-winning San Francisco-based photographer Sharon Beals. During the Saturday evening keynote we honored the festival's key founding members, including graphic designer Barry Deutsch, former board chair Carolyn Longstreth, and current board members Jerry Meral and David Wimpfheimer for their significant contributions to the event since its inception in 2010.

This year's event featured a free Saturday youth program on the lawn outside the EAC office with The Sonoma Bird Rescue Center bird ambassadors, wildlife games, and nature walks. The youth program was co-sponsored by Amigos Alados (Winged Friends), a Marin-based nonprofit whose purpose is to connect children from Marin to Mexico through an international pen pal program to learn about sixteen birds that migrate between the two countries.

Key to the festival's success were the efforts of more than 100 volunteers, including some of most qualified nature and bird experts from California and beyond, and our Friends of the Festival sponsors, who matched a \$10k grant, which allowed the festival planning and coordination to take flight. A huge thank you to our planning committee, guides, volunteers, and over 500 attendees for making this one of the best festivals to date.

We are currently planning for the 11th annual festival. Sponsors, guides, and volunteers are needed for the event slated for April 2020. EAC members receive early bird registration one week in advance of the public. Individual membership starts at \$35, or \$50 for members living in the same household. Visit us at www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org to learn more about our unique area, our guides, offerings, and ways to get involved.

JOIN US

APRIL 23RD - 26TH, 2020

11TH ANNUAL

POINT REYES BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS JACK DUMBACHER & KATIE FALLON

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 2020**

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





Member Meeting, Potluck & Awards

EAC kicked off summer by welcoming our supporters to our Annual Member Meeting, Potluck & Awards at the Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center in Point Reyes Station.

This year's event started with a program on our current work and the election of new board members, Sarah Killingsworth and Claire Seda; and the re-election of Terence Carroll and David Weinsoff to three-year terms. The audience was entertained by a keynote presentation by Bay Area artist and author, Obi Kaufmann, on his recent work.

Our annual meeting provides an opportunity for our members to mingle with the board, staff, and partners in celebration of our mission. Annually, we recognize a local community member with the Peter Behr Steward of the Land award, who has demonstrated significant environmental leadership to protect lands, waters, and biodiversity in Marin County or beyond.

The 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. We have been honoring his memory and legacy by presenting leaders in our community with this award in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the land. Our first awardees, in 1987, were Peter Behr, Richard Plant, and Gary Giacomini. Visit us online to see a full list of awardees.

The year's award was presented to local environmental legend, Jean Berensmeier, for her legacy of stewardship and advocacy in West Marin. Jean settled with her family in 1963 and has a long legacy of serving the Valley community through her founding of the San Geronimo Valley Community Center and Planning Group, and Wilderness Way environmental educational center. She has served on the County Parks and Open Space Commission (1977 – 1997), and worked with the Lagunitas School District, and on local nonprofit boards. She has been instrumental in the preservation of Marin Open Space, which includes four magnificent open space preserves in the San Geronimo Valley.

I was deeply touched by EAC honoring me with the Peter Behr Steward of the Land Award. I have placed the stunning award on the window sill above my desk that overlooks our garden. The celebratory event at the Dance Palace was filled with some folks I haven't seen in decades! A truly special treat and I was so happy to share the event with my good friend, John Dell'Osso, who received your service award for 36 years of exemplary work at Pt. Reyes National Seashore.
– Jean Berensmeier

In addition, John Dell'Osso was the 2019 recipient of our new Public Service Steward award for his leadership role with the National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore. For nearly four decades, he helped educate the public about the Seashore through park education programs, social media, press, and interpretive materials.

I'm humbled to receive the Public Service Award. EAC is an organization I have always respected. - John Dell'Osso

We also recognized two outstanding volunteers, Dominique Richard and Alison Quoyesor, whose contributions have added significant value to our programs and events over the past couple of years.

What an honor! Thank you for the Volunteer of the Year award for my work on the children's bird festival on April 27th. Thank you to EAC staff Morgan Patton and Jessica Taylor for guiding me. – Alison Quoyesor

Thank you to everyone who attended, shared your wonderful potluck dishes, and helped make this a zero-waste event. We look forward to seeing you again next year, if not sooner!



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



Coastal Clean Up Day

Over 100 volunteers of all ages gathered in West Marin to remove more than 1,000 pounds of trash and recycling from the Tomales Bay watershed from September 16th-21st, 2019.

Our organization has been cleaning up West Marin roadsides and watersheds every fall for more than 20 years. Over the last three years, the partnership with Hog Island Oyster Co. has expanded the clean up around the bay. This annual event keeps our water clean by removing debris and waste that is harmful to our irreplaceable habitats in West Marin. We can't do it without the help of our committed volunteer crews, that included local community members and visitors who love Point Reyes and wanted to give back to the environment that serves as the Bay Area's backyard. Thank you to everyone who made this incredible event happen. - Morgan Patton, EAC Executive Director

The week long clean up efforts concluded on the official California Coastal Cleanup Day (21st), the state's largest annual volunteer day, coordinated locally by the EAC, Hog Island Oyster Co., and Marconi State Historic Park and Conference Center.

Hog Island Oyster Co., Tomales Bay Oyster Company, and other bay aquaculture growers took out 40 volunteers on 10 boats removing roughly 176 pounds of trash and 75 pounds of recycling from the shores of Tomales Bay, a

wetland of international importance.

This international day of clean up is an incredible opportunity for us all to strengthen these efforts, and build awareness in the greater Bay Area around the importance of healthy watersheds. - Terry Sawyer, Co-founder/ Vice President, Hog Island Oyster Co.

EAC coordinated roadside clean ups along Platform Bridge Road, in the heart of Point Reyes Station, and surrounding watershed including the Giacomini Wetlands and Marin County Parks removing 600 pounds of trash and 125 pounds of recycling.

Trash included micro-debris, toys, oil cans, cigarette buds, single-use plastics, metals, creosote pilings and wood, car brakes and stereo, 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.

Recology was proud to help volunteer to separate and divert recyclable material from landfill disposal. We are fortunate to service this beautiful area and appreciate the opportunity to give back! - Garen Kazanjian, Recology Zero Waste Specialist

The event hosts celebrated the volunteers 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, Clif Bar, Cowgirl Creamery, General Mills, Hog Island Oyster Co., Honey Bucket, Lagunitas Brewing Co., Marin Oyster Co., Marconi Historic State Park and Conference Center, Marin Sun Farms/ Mindful Meats, McEvoy Ranch, MinuteMan Press, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Point Reyes Building Supply, Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company, Recology, The Palace Market, Tomales Bay Oyster Company, World Centric, and through individual donations.

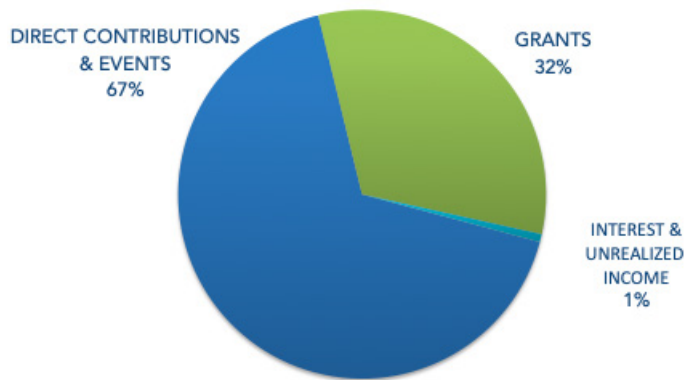
A big thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors and hosts for such a successful event. We look forward to seeing you again next September.



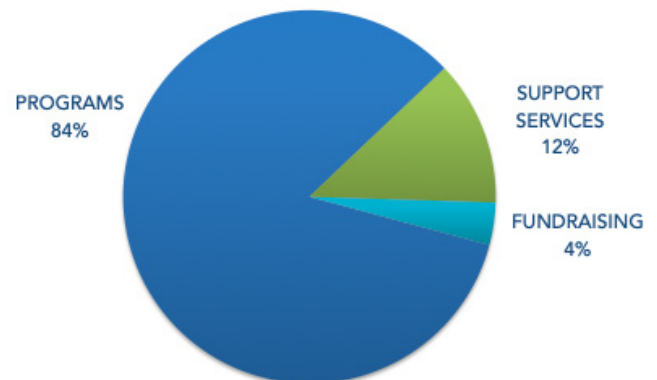
See Pictures & Learn More
[www.eacmarin.org/
 coastal-clean-up-day/](http://www.eacmarin.org/coastal-clean-up-day/)

2018 FINANCIALS & 2019 KEY SUCCESSES

INCOME 2018



EXPENSE 2018



Note: 2018 expenses exceed income due to receipt of directed funding in December 2017 for expenses incurred in January 2018.

INCOME

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	130,498	41%
PROGRAM & EVENTS	\$	77,988	25%
GRANTS	\$	101,080	32%
RETAIL SALES	\$	5,549	2%
INTEREST & UNREALIZED INCOME	\$	2,171	0.5%
COST OF GOODS	\$	(4,450)	-1%
TOTAL	\$	312,836	

EXPENSE

PROGRAMS	\$	268,430	84%
SUPPORT SERVICES	\$	40,293	12%
FUNDRAISING	\$	11,782	4%
TOTAL	\$	320,505	

ASSETS

CASH	\$	175,907	82%
RESERVE FUNDS	\$	85,332	17%
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$	-	
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$	3,215	1%
TOTAL	\$	264,454	

LIABILITIES

OTHER LIABILITIES	\$	3,705	100%
TOTAL	\$	3,705	

EQUITY

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$	190,597	73%
RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$	70,153	27%
TOTAL	\$	260,750	

TOTAL LIABILITY & EQUITY	\$	264,454	
-------------------------------------	-----------	----------------	--

KEY SUCCESSES

- **Protected** critical Tomales Bay habitat, preventing aquaculture development in eelgrass and advocating for the implementation of enforceable best management practices that will reduce marine debris.
- **Defended** our public lands, 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, and public access.
- **Combated** marine debris through our community partnerships for Coastal Clean Up Day, and our campaign supporting local youth advocating for a single-use plastic ban in Marin.
- **Protected** coastal resources, advocating for fisheries management, Marin County's Local Coastal Program amendments, and opposing new offshore oil leases in California and beyond.
- **Provided** outdoor education, bringing more than 250 students into Marin County Parks and Open Space, and to California's network of Marine Protected Areas to learn about habitats and community science through the use of iNaturalist.
- **Issued** environmental scholarships to two College of Marin students through our Ridge Education Fund to support the next generation of environmental stewards.
- **Mentored** high school, college, and law students through conservation and policy internships.
- **Engaged** our community through events like the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival, Annual Member Meeting, Potluck & Awards, Piper on the Beach, and West Marin Climate Conversations.
- **Advocated** for climate resilient solutions by participating in Drawdown Marin, highlighting the importance of aquatic carbon solutions (like wetland restoration), and by supporting local planning efforts that focus on natural adaptation (like living shorelines) to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and preserve public access.

SUPPORTER SNAPSHOTS



Board Profile: Sarah Killingsworth

I joined the EAC Board in 2019, because I wanted to help protect the lands and wildlife I love. We are part-time residents of Inverness, and it is such a special place at the convergence of the Point Reyes National Seashore and Tomales Bay State Park. As a wildlife photographer, I spend many hours in our wilderness areas, and every time I am in the parks, I see first-hand the negative impact of human activities. As a community, we can and should do better. Donating your time or money to EAC is a way to ensure the grandeur and beauty of West Marin is preserved for future generations, and we can continue to advocate for conservation and educate our future environmental leaders. - Sarah Killingsworth, Esq.

Bio: Sarah is a family law attorney, mediator and active community member. She has volunteered in the Wildcare bird room, was a member of the Steering Committee of MOMAS (Mothers of Marin Against the Spray), and served on the board of the Family and Children's Law Center for over a decade. Currently, she is a Wildlife Educator for Project Coyote, a member of the Youth Sailing committee of the Inverness Yacht Club, and a Trustee of the Kentfield School District. As a parent and frequent classroom volunteer, she is passionate about sharing the magic of our wilderness areas with children, both by bringing the wild into classrooms, and in getting youth outdoors, to learn about their environment. She utilizes the power of photography to raise awareness about environmental issues.



Donor Profile: L. Martin Griffin, Jr.

I have been deeply involved with the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin since its inception nearly fifty years ago.

As outlined in my book— "Saving the Marin Sonoma Coast, The Battles for Audubon Canyon Ranch, Point Reyes, & California's Russian River" — the EAC has been a valuable ally in the successful efforts to defend West Marin from massive development.

We should all offer strong financial support to the EAC and allow them to continue to effectively advocate for the protection of the precious and irreplaceable natural resources within the coastal corridor of west Marin, including the Point Reyes National Seashore.

- Marty Griffin, MD MPH

Bio: Marty is an American environmentalist and conservationist in Northern California and author of the book, *Saving the Marin-Sonoma Coast*. He has also been a doctor, director of the Sonoma Developmental Center, head of the Marin Audubon Society, and a board member of the Marin Municipal Water District.

Griffin has been widely honored for his decades of environmental work in helping to preserve numerous sensitive wildlife habitats in Sonoma and Marin County. He lives in Belvedere, California.



Board Profile: Claire Seda

West Marin's crashing waves, fog-dripping Douglas firs, coastal scrublands, and all the creatures that call these lands home, make my heart jump -- what luck that we can enjoy such intact ecosystems here, thanks to the hard work of small groups of people, like EAC, to get it protected. I feel it's my duty to give some of my attention and resources back to assure their continued health, so I joined the EAC Board in 2019. EAC's carefully thought out and executed programs and initiatives are really the best way for someone to engage locally and effectively. As a climate activist, I'm inspired by EAC's commitment to local action to build resilience in the face of environmental degradation and the climate crisis. I want to encourage anyone who loves this place (West Marin), to get involved with EAC's mission by volunteering, and contributing to the cause to help us expand our capacity and ability to protect and sustain this unique place. - Claire Seda

Bio: Claire is a writer, editor and naturalist living in Point Reyes Station with her family. She has written extensively and widely on health equity, migrant health, climate change, and the natural world. A native Californian, she has spent decades walking the coastal trails of the Bay Area and is dedicated to preserving Marin's wild lands. Claire's daughter, Viola, was instrumental in co-leading a West Marin campaign to encourage businesses to ditch plastic straws, and other single-use plastics.



ESTABLISHED 1971

65 Third Street, Suite 14 | PO Box 609
Point Reyes Station, California 94956

www.eacmarin.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bridger Mitchell, Ph.D. | President
Ken Drexler, Esq. | Vice President
Cynthia Lloyd, Ph.D. | Secretary
Terence Carroll | Treasurer
Sarah Killingsworth, Esq.
Gerald Meral, Ph.D.
Mairi Pileggi, Ph.D.
Claire Seda
David Weinsoff, Esq.
David Wimpfheimer

STAFF

Morgan Patton | Executive Director
Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq. | Conservation Director
Jessica Taylor | Development Director
Karen Campbell | Education Coordinator
Catherine Caufield | Tomales Dunes Consultant
Patricia Wimpfheimer | Bookkeeper

2019 INTERNS

Audrey Barth | Dominican University
Courtney Bloodgood | UC Davis School of Law
Lindsay DeRight Goldasich | UC Berkeley School of Law
James Hennessy | University of Washington
Julianna Silverstein | Drake High School
Ashley Wemp | Stony Brook University of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

PHOTO CREDITS

Robin Blaney and Carlos Porrata

JOIN THE MARIN MPA WATCH TEAM

Volunteers are trained to act as community scientists by conducting beach surveys on human-use activities in four site-specific marine protected areas (MPAs). The data is used to inform the management, enforcement, and science of California's MPAs and allow us to see how human uses are changing as a result of MPA implementation.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/mpa-watch

