

eacNews

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

INFORMATION, UPDATES, INVOLVEMENT • SPRING 2006 • EAC, BOX 609, PT REYES STATION 94956

Things are looking up!

Coastal Commission takes action on Dunes



TERRY NORDBYE

The long-delayed draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Lawson's Landing proposed Master Plan was released last fall. EAC had eagerly anticipated the EIR, hoping it would provide the information needed to make important decisions about how this popular vacation destination, home to the largest RV park on California's coast, can continue to serve the public's recreational needs, while protecting the sensitive coastal environment and public health and safety.

Unfortunately, the draft EIR was a monumental let-down. It failed to provide essential information. Among the missing items were the location of 1000 campsites; surveys of wetlands, sensitive habitats and cultural resources; identification of permitted and unpermitted development; and detailed information about the design and location of the waste water disposal systems for the campground and 12 homes on the property.

The EIR attracted overwhelmingly negative comments, from environmental organizations and many public agencies, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Coastal Commission. The Water Board criticized the report's "failure to provide clear and accurate descriptions of the facilities that are part of the project and where they are located."

EAC argued that the draft EIR was so flawed that it should be withdrawn and thoroughly revised to provide the information needed. Such a step, though costly and time-consuming, would ultimately *save* time and money by resulting in an EIR which contains essential data and meets the obligations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). However, the Planning Commission, despite expressing serious reservations about the draft EIR, directed staff to prepare a Final EIR, which will reflect whatever comments and criticisms the consultants and planners accept.

Lawson's Landing requires not only a County Use Permit, but also a Coastal Permit from the Coastal Commission, which intended to defer action until the County process was complete. But in December, EAC and the Sierra Club, alarmed by the inadequate EIR and lack of progress, warned the Commission that without action now there would be sustained and possibly irreversible deterioration of this important coastal resource and continued threats to public health and safety (one-third of the weekly water quality tests conducted by the County at Lawson's in 2005 failed to meet water quality standards). We also presented the Commission with 1200 letters calling for protection of Tomales Dunes.

continued on last page

No dredging for Bolinas Lagoon

Two new reports confirm that EAC, the Sierra Club, and American Rivers were right to insist that decisions about Bolinas Lagoon be based on sound science. Both reports provide extensive evidence that the lagoon is unlikely to close and that dredging is not justified.

A key finding is that much of the silt entering the Lagoon comes not from the watershed but from the ocean. As EAC and others warned, dredging could actually have increased the amount of silt entering Bolinas Lagoon from the Pacific. An independent technical review concluded that "The data from both reports indicate that two major conclusions can be drawn: the lagoon mouth is unlikely to close and the overall ecology of the lagoon is unlikely to change in significant ways during the foreseeable future." As a result, say the technical reviewers, "We find quite reasonable the consultants' conclusion that, since the lagoon is unlikely to close in the foreseeable future, no intercession in the evolution of the lagoon to prevent its closure is warranted."

The Army Corps of Engineers' plan to spend \$135 million dredging 1.4 million cubic yards out of this ecological treasure was based on a misconception that the lagoon was filling in and was in imminent danger of closing. The basis of the misconception is explained in the Technical Review "The most visible recent changes in lagoon condition are the increases in tidal marshes and tidal flats on the west side of the fault line, near the town of Bolinas, its harbor, and its access road. These changes are locally important, but have had no measurable effect on the lagoon mouth or the tidal range inside the lagoon. . . . However, the high visibility of these changes can nurture a public concern that exceeds what is warranted by their actual effect on the lagoon ecosystem as a whole."

While emphasizing that "no intercession in the evolution of the lagoon to prevent its closure is warranted," the



© 2002-03 KENNETH ADELMAN, CALIFORNIA COASTAL RECORDS PROJECT, WWW.CALIFORNIACOASTLINE.ORG

Technical Review Group suggests that "other actions might be considered to improve or maintain the conditions of local creeks, roadways, boat moorings, etc. EAC would support scientifically sound projects that would restore portions of the Lagoon that have become ecologically degraded. If these ecologically-driven projects also improve access to the Lagoon for local fishermen, so much the better, but we believe that large-scale plans to interfere with Bolinas Lagoon should be shelved forever.

— by Gordon Bennett, EAC board member

TAKE ACTION:

The report can be downloaded from www.marinopen-space.org or read at local libraries. Comments on the report should be sent by March 31, 2006 to:

Marin County Open Space District
Attn: William Carmen, Bolinas Lagoon Project Manager
3501 Civic Center Drive, #415, San Rafael, CA 94903.

Urge the District to adopt a clear statement, to be prominently featured at the front of the Administrative Record, that reflects the report's conclusion that no intercession in the evolution of the lagoon to prevent its closure is warranted.

EAC's 35th annual Potluck, nature walks

EAC's 35th annual Potluck is set for **Friday June 16** at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station. This is the social event of the West Marin season and reservations are essential if you wish to taste the delicious home-cooked food, knock back the high-class wine and beer, hobnob with the ageless elite of West Marin, and be spellbound by

the amazing tales of eco-heroism by local heroes and by the astonishing report from the field by our keynote speaker, intrepid wildlife biologist Peter Pyle. To ensure that you have a space this year, please call 663-9312 or email eac@svn.net with the number of people in your party and whether you will bring a salad, main course, or dessert.

Be sure to see the last page of this newsletter for news of Jules Evens & Rick Johnson's **April 7 Birdsong Walk**.

On **August 6**, EAC members can walk **In the Footsteps of the Prince** (see article, p. 3), as Peter Martinelli takes us on an enlightening and enjoyable tour of his Bolinas organic farm. Space limited. Early

birds get the worm. \$40 donation to EAC.

Other tours coming up include a tidepooling excursion during a winter low tide with David Press and Rick Johnson; botanizing with Doreen Smith; and a talk on green building to coincide with the Green Home tour by architect Bill Wolpert.

All these events will be announced by email and listed on our website: www.eacmarin.org

Stalking the wild organic broccoli with Prince Charles

While much of California continues to urbanize and industrialize, Marin County is one region where both family farms and wild ecosystems are actively protected from the recurring gold rush of real estate development. These strong traditions of preservation in the County grow closer together as organic/sustainable farming practices increasingly take responsibility for the welfare of wildlife on the farm. The success of Marin's eco-agriculture was highlighted and celebrated by the visit last November of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

As the caravan of armored limousines carrying the Royal Couple and entourage snaked it's way around West Marin that weekend, some residents wondered, "why West Marin? Why not Napa with its grand wineries and picturesque acres of grapes? Why the Point Reyes Farmers Market rather than one of the large urban markets?" The answer lies in the Prince's twenty-odd years of practicing sustainable food production and wildlife protection on his own estates in England. His farms, like so many in West Marin, are very diverse, combining crops and animal husbandry. He is committed to leaving riparian areas and woodlands in a wild state. As for the market, the Prince was intrigued to visit a farmers market that was all local, featuring seasonal foods, and nearly all organic. Though they were scheduled to spend only forty-five minutes at the Point Reyes Market, Charles and Camilla lingered for more than an hour and a half.

Heading south, the Royal Couple spent the rest of the afternoon touring the rich row crop-bottom lands of the Pine Gulch watershed in Bolinas. First stop was my own Fresh Run Farm. While the large security detail took a break, our royal visitors strolled the fields, asking detailed and knowledgeable questions about my composting techniques, among other things. As we walked, they sampled strawberries and an "heirloom" broccoli while discussing the value of saving seed and building genetic strains specific to the farm. Next door at Dennis and Sandy Dierks' Paradise Valley Produce, the Prince was fascinated by Dennis' brewing of compost teas with indigenous plants and materials as a means of spreading beneficial microbes into the growing grounds. Finally, after touring Warren Weber's Star Route Farm, the royal couple sat down to a lunch/meeting with other West Marin farmers and ranchers.

Every farmer I spoke to who met Prince Charles was impressed by how much of the "nuts and bolts" of farming he understands. As a promoter of sustainable agriculture in the fight to combat world hunger, he is perhaps the most significant international advocate for local, ecologically sound farming. In addition, the Prince is very much allied with the struggle to save the "heart and soul" of the organic movement as major food corporations continue to gobble-up much of what was a long-haired, grass roots-people's movement of the 1960s and 70s. In West Marin that heart and



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKI NEWCOMB

Vegetable love: Peter Martinelli's luscious West Marin vegies make a royal display for his pals from across the pond.

soul of the original organic movement is alive and well. The thirty-odd small-scale producers who comprise Marin Organic promote and follow principles of stewardship concerning wildlife, soil erosion/health, water conservation, and social justice which far exceed the federal organic standard which is more input and process based.

The royal visit no doubt did much to boost the important role of local organic agriculture in Marin's and the planet's future. But West Marin's connection with the Prince did not end when he returned to his own farm. Since November Marin Organic Executive Director Helge Hellberg has continued to work with Prince Charles' staff to maintain the connection and exchange of ideas between Britain and West Marin that was generated by the Royal Visit.

— *Peter Martinelli is an organic farmer in Bolinas. He is also a board member of EAC and of Marin Organic. He will lead a tour of his farm on August 6. See page 2 for details.*

EAC joins Wild Farm Alliance

The Wild Farm Alliance promotes a healthy viable agriculture that helps protect and restore wild Nature. This vision is in line with EAC's mission to protect West Marin's natural environment and rural character. We look forward to working with WFA and our local farmers to make this vision a reality. For more information go to wildfarmalliance.org.

Thanks to all our supporters

(Donations received between May 1, 2005 and February 28, 2006)

\$1000 or more

Anonymous (3)
Frank Caufield
Virginia & Richard Davis
Ken Drexler & Sarah Leach
John Harrington
Jerry & Barbara Meral
Mia Monroe & Stephan Meyer
Ken & Doris Roe

\$500 to \$999

Anne Baxter
Gordon Bennett & Kate Carolan
Bob Blitzer & Xeny Small
Jules and Meryl Evens
Nan and Steve Grand-Jean
Clarence Kent & Mary Kent
Schardt
Carol and Bill Press
Carlo Rocca & Sue Flagg
Susan and Nicholas Pritzker
Dennis and Judy Rodoni
Bob and Jean Soost
Richard Taylor & Tracy Grubbs
Tom Thornley & Robin Nelson
Effie Westervelt

\$250 to \$499

Anonymous (2)
Kris Brown & Scoby Zook
Chris and Celia Burdick
Christa Burgoyne
Catherine Caufield
Susan and Joseph Cerny
Paul Chuljian
David and Vicki Cox
Timothy and Melissa Draper
Alice and Chuck Eckart
Nancy Golden
Alfred Holck
Victor and Lorraine Honig
Mark and Jane Kriss
Timothy McCarthy
Jack McLaughlin
Dan McNear
Nancy Milne
Bill and Laura Moseley
Don and Patty Neubacher
Conn and Susan Rusche
Mark Squire
Donald and Carolyn Stewart
Maria Straatmann & Rick Johnson
Michael and Barbara Whitt
Kathleen and Louis Williams
Hilary Winslow
Elizabeth Zarlengo & Gary Ireland

\$100 to \$249

Anonymous (2)
Dawn Adams & Dave Schinkaner
Jane Anderson & Tess Ayers
Lillie and James Anderson

Tom Anderson
Gordon and Norma Ashby
Lawrence and Jane Baack
Hathaway Barry
Janice Barry
Peter Barta
Kate Baxter
Alice Beall & Rob Hockenos
Bill Beck
Lee Benzinger
Nancy Bertelsen
Donna Blakemore & Erik
Sueberkrop
Scott and Susan Borski
Gordon and Wanda Bronson
Bradley and Carla Buchanan
Mark Butler & Mary Anne Rotella
Richard Buxbaum & Kay Hartshorn
Wiebke Buxbaum
Alexander and Cornelia Calhoun
Robert Cantua
Susan and Joseph Cerny
Dave and Cynthia Clarkson
Berneice and Norman Clayton
George and Sheri Clyde
Paul Coopersmith & Suzanne
Parker
Chuck Cramer
Rigdon Currie & Trish Johnson
Jon and Carole D'Alessio
Mrs Patricia Daly
Ron de Stefano & Heidi
Hillenbrand
David Dee & Patricia Callahan
Nona and John Dennis
Peter Donat
Catherine Dunbar
Don and Barbara Eastman
Claire John Eschelbach
Robert J. Evans
Phyllis Faber
Gloria and Saul Feldman
Susan Fisher
Mary Anne Flett
Heidi Flori
Louise Franklin
Michael Franks & Jette Gowin
Blair Fuller
Tom and Barbara Gaman
Jim and Margaret Gault
Ann Gessert & Raul Gallyot
Chris Giacomini
Tony and Laurel Gilbert
Stan Gillmar
John and Carol Glanville
Shuli Goodman & Lucy Fine
Jim and Sharon Grant
Terry and David Griffiths
Patricia Hale
Kevin and Jane Hart
Robert and Elizabeth Hart
Dee and Joe Hartzog
Pat Healy

Tot and Joanne Heffelfinger
M. Peter and Robyn Heilbrun
Margie Helm & Chip Atkin
Sandra and Wade Holland
Millie and Mac Holliday
Martha Howard
Kristine Johnson & Timothy Dattels
Stanley Johnson
Ted and Diane Johnson
Tracy Johnston & Jon Carroll
Bob and Lynnette Kahn
David and Carrie Kane
Mary Kent
Remmy and Paul Kingsley
Matt Kondolf
Michael A. Kraus & Nancy Sasser
Erika and Wulf Kunkel
Rebecca Kurland & Patrick Mason
Elmira Lake
Barbara Leigh & Roger Harshaw
Dotty Lemieux & Raymond Moritz
Philip Lenna
Marshall and Jennifer Livingston
Stanley and Judith Lubman
Gabrielle Mann
John Manning
Steven and Gail Martin
Allan and Eleanor Martini
Michael McClaskey
Michael and Trish McEaney
Kay McMahan
Deborah Sarvis McNeil
Michael and Connie Mery
Charles Miller & Nancy Stetson
Jane Miller
Sarah and Dudley Miller
Nancy Milne
Bridger and Katherine Mitchell
Julie and Jim Monson
Dan and Connie Morse
J. Fraser and Helen Muirhead
Don and Patty Neubacher
Jennifer Nichols
William Nisbet
Terry Nordbye
Ed and Marcia Nute
James and Kayo O'Hara
Fred Pedersen
Bob Powsner
David Press
Bill and Joanne Prieur
William Prince & Suzanne Hart
Anthony and Mary Prud'Homme
Louis Ptak
Margaret and Russell Ridge
Ron Rosano & Susan Morrow
Philip Rosenthal & Kandice Strako
Carl Sandrock & Bright Smith
Ellen Sanford
Frank and Lee Seidner
Gail Seneca & Hal Nathan
Susan Severin
Jeffrey and Nanci Shapiro

David Sheff & Karen Barbour
Stanley and Joan Siddle
Lloyd and Margaret Smith
Robert Streich & Ellen Rehmet
Streich
Anne Strugnell
Barry and Marjorie Traub
France Viana
Francesca Vietor & Mark
Hertsgaard
Tanis Walters
Idie and David Weinsoff
Tiana Wimmer & Warren Leiden
David Wimpfheimer
Betty Woolfolk & Nick Corcoran

\$50 to \$99

Anonymous
Christopher and Jane Adams
Doris Allen & Nancy Sakellar
Howard and Ann Allen
Karen Anderson & Frank Borodic
Dennis Antenore
Bill Bailey & Julie Tisch
Donald and Nancy Barbour
Jim Barkovich & Karen Jernstedt
Julia Bartlett
Tom and Sherry Baty
Bruce Baum & Sue Brown
Bob Berner & Barbara Garfein
Richard and Camilla Biller
Frank Binney
Mark and Beverly Birnbaum
Gerald and Carol Block
Joan C. Bossart
Bruce Bowser & Marlie de Swart
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Brown
Juanita Brown
Royal and Margery Brown
Harold and Ava Brumbaum
Priscilla and Michael Bull
Henry and Olga Carlisle
Barbara Carlitz
Neils Carlsen
John and Catherine Chiosso
Mimi Cleary
Jonathan Cohen
Laura Culver
Idgi D'Andrea
Jan and Joe Dietzgen
Marjorie Dobkin
James and Cecelia Donahue
Joseph Donohoe
Mark Dowie & Wendy Schwartz
Timothy and Melissa Draper
Bill J Duddleson
Patricia Eckhardt
David and Ellen Elliott
Steve and Marilyn Enos
Renee and David Erle
Mary Eubank & John Anderson
Robert Evans
Caroline Everts

Pam Fabry & Ed Chiera
 Patsy Faulkner & Phil Jonik
 Jeff Felix & Bonnie Rottier
 Richard Fine & Kathleen Campbell
 Dick Fitzgerald
 Deborah Fitzpatrick
 Marty Frankel & Michael Harrington
 Carol Friedman
 Wendy Friefeld
 Diane and Craig Fruin
 Charles Gay & Pam Ross
 Timothy C. Gee
 Bob and Dean Giacomini
 Jennie and John Gill
 Don and Lynn Glaser
 Michael Goodall
 Thomas Gruhn
 Steve Hadland & Anneke Van Der Veen
 Hansi Hagemeister
 Susan Hall
 Richard and Virginia Havel
 Rob Hayden
 Cheryl Higgins & Norman Solomon
 Ella Hirst
 Milton Hollenberg
 Connie Holton
 Rachel Hooper & Peter Zingg
 Charles Horowitz & Gary Allen
 Bill Howe
 Thomas James & Olga Schmidlin
 Christina Jaqua
 Ellis and Deborah Jones
 Peter and Ann Jones
 Brannon Ketcham & Kathleen Abbott
 Bobbi and David Kimball
 Gary Knoblock
 Charlene Kreps
 David Kroll
 Bob and Mary Kroninger
 Herb Kutichins & Gina Siciliano
 David Lakes & Stephanie Fein
 Robert and Beatrice Laws
 Sandy Leicester
 David Leivick & Linda Gibbs
 Don and Susan Leonard
 Ken Levin
 Jim and Kathy Lino
 John Littleton & Maria Rosa Kaufman
 Kathleen and Frederick Lowrey
 Melissa and Bruce Lyckberg
 Rick and Jean Lyttle
 Robert P. MacDonald
 Barbara Madore
 Dr. Jan Maisel
 Juliette Majot & Ian McWilliams
 Ron and Amanda Mallory
 Sandy and Malcolm Manson
 Daniel and Virginia Mardesich

Katherine and Erwin Martinez
 Sarah and Peter McAndrew
 Isabel McCudden & Garen Fechter
 Tim and Paula McGowan
 Martha McKenna
 Grace and Mort McMichael
 Albert William Meyer
 Amy Meyer
 Leland and Betty Murphy
 Geraldine and James Nardi
 Stephen Odell Nicol
 Margaret Nobmann
 Dave and Pam Osborn
 Anne and Jeffrey Pearl
 Kathleen Peters
 Paul and Lu Phelps
 Sara and Guy Phillips
 Claude and Noelle Poncelet
 Carlos and Rebecca Porrata
 Jerry Powell & Liz Randal
 Jeri and Tom Quinn
 Mark and Andrea Riesenfeld
 John Riley
 Fred and Karen Rodoni
 Claudia and Mark Ropers
 Neil Russack
 Robert Ryder
 Janice and Jaak Saame
 Anne Sands & Russ Faure-Brac
 Norman and Gladys Sanguinetti
 Ellen Serber & Jim Ottobre
 Ellen Shehadeh
 Carrie Sherriff
 Vernon and Doreen Smith
 Joe Soule & Sue Dunlop
 Alan and Page Spain
 Suzanne and John Speh
 Judith Spelman & Rich Schiller
 Greg Srednicki
 Chris and Lori Stanton
 Tim and Sherry Stanton
 Molly Merrill Sterling
 Col. Pat M. Stevens III
 Susan Stompe
 Betty and Donald Stone
 Inez Storer & Andrew Romanoff
 Dwight and Elaine Straub
 George and Helene Strauss
 John Sundberg & Lilian Tereszkievicz
 Michael Taylor
 Paul Tergis
 Adrienne Terrass & Aldo Tarigo
 Carolyn Timmins
 Paula and Tom Tompkins
 Anne Vitale
 David Weinstein
 Betty and John Wheelwright
 Nick and Elan Whitney
 Michael and Barbara Whitt
 Gary and Karen Whitten
 Nancy Young
 Karin Zahorik

Thanks to the volunteers who do so much of EAC's work.

Dawn Adams
 Chris Adessa
 Doree Allen
 Mariah Altrocchi
 Sherry Andersen
 Norma Ashby
 Tom Baty
 Katie Baxter
 Anne Baxter
 Nancy Beck
 Gordon Bennett
 Bruce Bowser
 Seth Bunnel
 Christa Burgoyne
 Kate Carolan
 Sheri Clyde
 Christin Coy
 Rigdon Currie
 Megan Donner
 Jules Evens
 Meryl Evens
 Scott Feierabend
 Mary Anne Flett
 Barbara Gaman
 Tom Gaman
 Laurel Gilbert
 Tony Gilbert
 Stan Gillmar
 Margaret Graham
 David Herbst
 Cheryl Higgins
 Dick & Connie Holton
 Jeri Jacobson
 Rick Johnson
 Lynnette Kahn
 Michael Kraus
 Jane Kriss
 Mark Kriss
 Barry Linder
 Rick Lyttle
 Peter Martinelli
 Kay McMahon
 Barbara & Jerry Meral
 Connie Mery
 Joyce Moldovan
 Mia Monroe
 Terry Nordbye
 Kayo O'Hara
 Mairi Pileggi
 Dave Press
 Elena Presser
 Jorge Presser
 Lila Purinton
 Laurel Rezeau
 Dominique Richard
 Marge Ridge
 Russell Ridge
 Eliza Riley
 Judy Rodoni
 Dennis Rodoni

Ane Carla Rovetta
 Nancy Sasser
 Wendy Schwartz
 Gary Smith
 Bob Soost
 Nancy Stein
 Bob Stewart
 Maria Straatmann
 Elaine Straub
 Tina Taylor
 Sally Torrance
 Anneke van der Veen
 Sue van der Wal
 Alice Wallace
 Carol Waxman
 Bill Wolpert
 Tom Wood
 Scoby Zook

Thanks also to the generous businesses who donated goods and services to EAC in 2005

Alphonso Ramirez
 Bank of Petaluma
 Bonnie Fisk-Hayden Design
 Bovine Bakery
 Brickmaiden Bread
 Chamois Moon Photography
 Claire Peaslee Graphic Design
 Coastal Marin Real Estate
 Cowgirl Creamery
 Dan Morse Real Estate
 DuckDog Design
 Dujac Pere & Fils
 Ferarri Catering
 Fresh Run Farm
 Good Earth Natural Foods
 JBS Event Services
 Lononis Wines
 Keith Matthews, the Mac Guru
 Marin Sun Farms
 Marty Knapp Photography
 Terry Nordbye Construction
 Cindy Ohama Accounting
 Page Mill Winery
 Palace Market
 Point Reyes Books
 Pt. Reyes Farmstead Cheese
 Point Reyes Livery Stable
 Rodoni Construction
 Saintsbury Wine
 Star Route Farms
 Station House Cafe
 Sunnyside Nursery
 Swanson Vineyards
 Telescience Network
 Toby's Feed Barn
 Tomales Coast Roast Coffee
 Turley Wines
 Cara Wasilewski Grantwriting

Although we cannot list all our donors, we are grateful to everyone who has donated to EAC. Without your support, our work would not be possible. Thank you!

Septic DO's and DON'T's

- ✓ **Do** conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Repair leaky faucets and toilets. Divert water from outside drains and sump pumps away from the septic system.
- ✓ **Do** use “green” household cleansers and laundry products because they are less damaging to the septic system and the environment.
- ✓ **Do** use liquid laundry detergents rather than powders, which contain fillers that accumulate as sludge and have to be pumped from the tank.
- ✓ **Do** attach a filter to the outflow hose of washing machines. Fibers from synthetic clothing don't break down like natural fibers do. Lint from washing machines is the leading cause of clogged drainfields.
- ✓ **Don't** use a garbage disposal. Much of the material that gets sent down the drain doesn't break down readily. These slow-decomposing solids can be carried over into the drainfield, causing early system failure.
- ✓ **Don't** allow backwash from home water softeners to enter the septic system, as it contains a concentrated salt brine that can affect the biological process in the tank.
- ✓ **Don't** use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake instead.
- ✓ **Don't** use septic tank additives, commercial septic tank cleansers, yeast, sugar, etc. These products usually do not help and some may even be harmful to your system.

For more information, go to

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse's website:

http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc/nsfc_septicnews.htm

and Marin County's septic website: www.SepticMatters.org

How to flush with success

Never flush these items down the drain or toilet. They can clog pumps and pipes and overtax or destroy the biological digestion the system depends upon.

<i>Cigarette butts</i>	<i>Fat, grease, or oil</i>
<i>Coffee grounds</i>	<i>Gauze bandages</i>
<i>Condoms</i>	<i>Hair</i>
<i>Dental floss</i>	<i>Kitty Litter</i>
<i>Disposable diapers, Sanitary napkins or Tampons</i>	
<i>“Wet wipes” (even if labeled ‘septic safe’)</i>	

Never flush pharmaceutical materials or chemicals that could contaminate surface and groundwater, such as:

<i>Paints</i>	<i>Thinners</i>
<i>Pesticides</i>	<i>Varnishes</i>
<i>Photographic solutions</i>	<i>Waste oils</i>

Marin next for Marine Protection

A few years ago we reported that the state of California had postponed decisions on marine protected areas (MPAs) in Northern California until at least 2010. However, the state has now accelerated its timetable. The California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) is currently working with stakeholder groups in the Monterey Bay region and plans to have MPA recommendations for that area within the next year. The next region chosen by DFG is likely to be the “North-Central region”, which would include the coasts of San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma counties.

To date, the West Marin working group, which is coordinated by EAC, has identified two regions as potential sites for consideration as Marine Protected Areas—the Point Reyes Headlands



Feeling blue: This blue rockfish (Sebastes mystinus) is waiting for protection.

and portions of the nearshore areas of Drakes Bay between Arch Rock and Duxbury reef. The National Park Service has funded the development of high-resolution habitat maps of both

regions. However, with the likelihood that the next region considered by the State will include the Marin coastline, we would like to get high quality mapping data that is even more detailed than we currently have and that covers a wider range of Marin coastal habitats. Our goal is to ensure that as much of the Marin coastline as possible is mapped by the time the state begins the stakeholder working group process for this area.

Fortunately, the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency, has just made available \$1.2 million for additional mapping of state waters (up to 3 miles off shore). The West Marin working group is joining with marine scientists at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories to apply for these Coastal Conservancy funds so that we can produce maps with much more detailed habitat information than currently available. These maps will improve our ability to identify the areas that, if protected, will actually enable our dwindling fisheries to recover.

The West Marin MPA Working group include representatives from the Bolinas Rod and Boat Club, Tomales Bay Association, EAC, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the National Park Service, Environmental Defense, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, as well as local fisherpersons.

—by Ben Becker, Director, Pacific Coast Science and Learning Center, Point Reyes National Seashore

West Marin Wild a wild success

West Marin Wild – Images of Place: Wildlife, Wild Water, and Wild Beauty – occurred over Labor Day Weekend. It was EAC's second biennial art show and benefit sale, held at the Red Barn at Point Reyes National Seashore.

On Friday, opening night, we were nervous. Hurricane Katrina had just wreaked havoc, and people were concerned about the survivors. Would people come to the artists' reception and would they support EAC when there are so many other urgent needs? The answer came that evening. Two hundred people attended the preview; it was a community event where we drew strength from each other and from the beauty of the art, perhaps helping us deal with the other crises of the world.

Interest continued throughout the weekend with 1300 people visiting the show. Visitors made many positive comments about the art, and we felt we had fulfilled our objective of connecting people with nature through art. Sales were excellent as well. Seventy nine works of art, over half the pieces, were sold.

Thirty-five artists provided creations for West Marin Wild. They used a range of media to portray and evoke the beauty of Marin's wild natural side. The artists donated 50% of the price of their works to EAC, and the show raised more than \$22,000 to help fund EAC's work to protect coastal and rural Marin. EAC deeply appreciates the generosity of the participating artists.

Huge vases of sunflowers set the scene for the preview reception. Ferrari Catering presented a stunning buffet of local produce and food donated by Bovine Bakery, Brick- maiden Bread, Cowgirl Creamery, Fresh Run Farms, JBS Event Services, Marin Sun Farms, Palace Market, Sunnyside Nursery, Pt. Reyes Farmstead Cheese, Star Route Farms, and Toby's Feed Barn. We were lucky also to have great



West Marin Wild artist Nancy Stein tells art lover Rob Hayden which piece she'd like for a birthday present.

PHOTOS BY ARMELLE RICHARD

wines donated by Dujac Fils & Pere, Lolonis Wines, Page Mill Winery, Saintsbury Wine, Swanson Vineyards, and Turley Wines.

Thirty-eight EAC members volunteered to help prepare for and run the art show—and did it with professional aplomb. Without our generous and skillful volunteers, the event would not have been possible. The volunteer effort was run by art show committee members Anne Baxter, Jane Kriss, and Mary Pileggi who worked for months in advance of the show. Kayo O'Hara and Christa Burgoyne were the guiding geniuses behind the hanging of the artwork, a difficult and very important element of the show.

West Marin Wild helped EAC communicate about our disappearing, valuable, and beautiful coastal dunes, a major theme for EAC. Many of the participating artists presented works of art that featured images of Tomales Dunes, and we are grateful for their creative support. We donated a portion of the proceeds from the show to the National Seashore's dunes restoration project, which is removing non-native vegetation from the dunes at Abbott's Lagoon, allowing native vegetation to return and creating habitat for young Western Snowy Plovers. These plovers are endangered, and a significant part of the Marin breeding population nests on the ocean beaches near Abbott's Lagoon.

West Marin Wild was supported generously by a grant from the Marin Community Foundation and by local sponsors: Bank of Petaluma, Dan Morse Real Estate, Coastal Marin Real Estate, Dick and Connie Holton, Duck Dog Design, Good Earth Natural Foods, and Rodoni Construction.

EAC is pleased to be able to present West Marin Wild. It is a fulfilling partnership between artists who portray the beauty of West Marin in its many forms and EAC working to protect that beauty for future generations.

—by Rick Johnson, Chairman, West Marin Wild



Big Cheeses at play: Seashore Superintendent Don Neubacher, EAC board member Jules Evens, artist Stan Siddle, and Roadside Clean-up Czar Rigdon Currie, stand around quaffing and chatting, just like regular folk.

Tomales Dunes, continued from page 1

Persuaded by our arguments, the poor quality of the draft EIR, and its own research, which found numerous instances of unpermitted development at Lawson's Landing, the Coastal Commission decided to take action. In February, the Commission began a "resolution process" designed to bring Lawson's Landing into compliance with the Coastal Act. The owners must apply for a Coastal Permit for after-the-fact authorization of existing unpermitted development. The owners must provide full information about existing uses and structures and evidence of any permits already issued. Development that predates the Coastal Act 1973, has not substantially changed, and had all necessary permits at the time, would be grandfathered in.

EAC welcomes the Coastal Commission's intervention. By requiring basic scientific, technical, and legal information, the Commission has already improved the process: the County has now agreed to conduct surveys of wetlands and environmentally sensitive habitats. Having a factual basis for decisions will speed up the process, avoid costly and time-consuming lawsuits, and result in better protection of this invaluable coastal habitat. EAC's goal is to keep this beautiful place healthy and open to public use for generations to come.

A designing woman

Since joining EAC's board in early 2005, Jane Kriss has been using her design talents and incredible organizational skills to help EAC in many ways, from overseeing the publicity for West Marin Wild to working on our new and improved website (soon to be unveiled to an awestruck public). When Jane says she'll do something, you can count on it being done well and quickly!

Jane is an ardent conservationist with a deep family connection to West Marin. The daughter of Connie Holton and her late husband Dick, she is the second generation of Holtons to be active in protecting the natural resources of Tomales Bay. Jane has been coming to Inverness since 1965. She and her husband, Mark, a man of many talents and interests, settled here full time in 2003.

In her professional life, Jane is a fabric designer who runs her far-flung fabric empire from her studio in Inverness. Jane and Mark have two grown sons, Jesse, who works for IBM's Watson Research Center, and Peter, who attends Swarthmore College, the alma mater of EAC's executive director Catherine Caufield, Potluck speaker Peter Pyle, and scores of other notables across the county, around the planet, and throughout the galaxy.



EAC Board

Anne Baxter, *President*

Rick Johnson,
Vice-President

Tom Gaman, *Treasurer*

Jerry Meral, *Secretary*

Dawn Adams

Gordon Bennett

Bruce Bowser

Jules Evens

Jane Kriss

Peter Martinelli

David Press

Mia Monroe, *emeritus*

EAC Staff

Catherine Caufield,
Executive Director

Tina Taylor,
Office Manager

Sunday Service: Church of the Native Species

Join Jules Evens and Rick Johnson on a birdsong walk on Sunday, May 7. This is a great time of year for quality and abundance of song, and a wonderful opportunity to listen to and learn about birds with two people who really know birdsongs. Jules Evens is a popular guide and author of *Introduction to California Birdlife*; Rick Johnson's website, www.hearbirds.com, offers a highly praised introduction to birdsongs, which helps people get started birding by ear. It's an easy one- or two-mile walk, from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Limited to the first 15 people who sign up. \$40 donation benefits EAC. To sign up, call EAC at 663-9312 or email eac@svn.net.

For the latest on EAC activities & West Marin issues go to www.eacmarin.org

eac

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

P.O. Box 609 • Pt Reyes Station, CA 94956

phone 415-663-9312 • fax 415-663-8014

e-mail: eac@svn.net www.eacmarin.org

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2
Point Reyes