



Spring 2008

# NEWSLETTER

SERVING MARIN COUNTY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

## PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Newspaper articles chronicling EFM's beginnings in 1973.



Photo - John Nygren

EFM founders Nona Dennis, Marty Griffin and Kathy Cuneo share a laugh at SEF Orientation Day, September 2007.



my ticket to get involved in guiding environmental land use planning. In the beginning the focus was on governmental structure as well as the physical environmental issues.

### 2. Have your goals been achieved?

**Nona:** If our original 'goal' was seeing the Environmental Forum become an inspirational and educational force for environmental advocacy – I would say that goal has been achieved."

**Gini:** "I am especially amazed at the quality of the trainees, particularly in the last few years with their advanced educations and professional experiences in business, computer sciences and other fields."

**Marty:** "The EFM has grown to a prestigious and effective organization, helping to prevent the Los Angelization of Marin."

[We spoke with Remmy on the phone who stated the EFM was formed to train people to be politically active and regrets that it is now primarily an educational organization.]

### 3. What physical changes in Marin have surprised you?

**Marty:** "Through the actions of ACR, EFM and many other organizations, West Marin has remained free of

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## EFM - 35 Years and Counting

### Reflections from the Founders ELLEN OBSTLER (35)

To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the EFM, we posed eight questions to the surviving Founders about Marin and the EFM. We received responses from **Barbara Violich Boucke, Kathy Cuneo, Nona Dennis, Phyllis Faber, Dr. L. Martin Griffin Jr., Gini Havel, and Pam Lloyd.** Here are highlights from their answers:

#### 1. Why did you form EFM?

**Marty:** "Stan [Picher] and I saw the urgent need for training a cadre of supporters in 1969 [to oppose development in Western Marin]. [Audubon Canyon Ranch board members] encouraged us to apply for a grant in order to employ Remmy Kingsley and her Natural Science Education Resources team to teach nature education to volunteers for a period of three years. Then in 1972 we applied for a three-year

grant to train advocates who could speak knowledgeably about habitat protection before the board of supervisors, planning commission, and various agencies. Remmy suggested the name, Environmental Forum of Marin, which has stuck."

**Phyllis:** "The name 'Environmental Forum' was selected carefully as it connoted a marketplace for ideas on environmental issues."

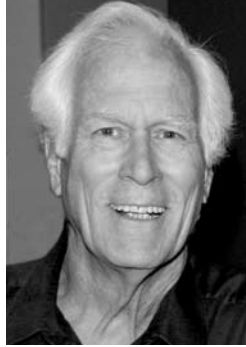
**Pam:** "So it really was a marriage of natural science/environmental expertise and political/governmental expertise that produced the first cadre of environmental advocates."

**Barbara:** "I was in the Junior League of San Francisco. I was living in Kent Woodlands and I saw the proposal from the ACR for basic environmental training as

## In This Issue

- The Founders Reflect
- President's Message

- Annual Meeting & Luncheon May 16
- The Next 35 Years
- Latest News From Our Members



## President's Message

This is my last message as President of the Environmental Forum of Marin. However I will continue to be very much involved in the affairs of the Forum. Vicki Rupp, who is the Nominating Committee's choice for President for the next term, and I have discussed the succession extensively and we think that we have come up with an arrangement that will be a win-win-win situation for Vicki, for me, and for the Environmental Forum. I want to tell you about that.

Both Vicki and I have had years of experience working in organizations, not-for-profit and otherwise. We would like to marshal this experience to make the efforts of our volunteers - particularly our Directors - more effective, rewarding, and sustainable. Vicki and I will be working together on this. We feel that we can each contribute to that effort while still leaving time for other interests that we both have and which, at this point in our lives, we feel we have earned the opportunity to pursue.

One project is to identify the functions that need to be accomplished reliably if the Board is to function smoothly. The Board will be having a retreat in early June during which we hope to make substantial headway in identifying those functions that are now either not being completed, or being done over and over on an ad hoc basis.

Another project is to encourage and inspire more participation from our general membership and others. A new Directorship was approved by the 2007-2008 Board - the position of Volunteer Coordinator - and we will be working together to ensure the effectiveness of that new position. Most of our Board members have done and are doing a great job with the Directorships, but those jobs are constantly being expanded beyond a sustainable level. If we are to keep the Director's positions comfortable and of reasonable scope, we need to involve more of our members, and even other volunteers committed to the goals of the Environmental Forum, in our important work.

In the survey our members returned with their annual renewal checks, many of you expressed interests and concerns, both in the organization and in the environment. Vicki and I hope to lead our Board to envision and develop additional ways for you to take advantage of the power and prestige of the Environmental Forum to make a difference in our community. Over the past 35 years we have shown that we can make a difference. We need to be able to continue to do that.

Finally, I want to thank those EFM Directors who are leaving the Board this year - the estimable Solvig Palm Nicholls who is returning to Europe; Dianne Fruin whose help has been invaluable in many ways; Barbara Thornton who led our amazing Class 35; Barbara O'Grady who has been one of my dependable 'go to' persons; Anne Faught who is also to be commended for the great Class 35 students; Wendy McPhee whose work you are all familiar with in just about every EFM document you see; and Joan Boessenecker who once again returned to service with the Forum and whose committee has produced a stellar slate of officers to be elected at our annual meeting.

# Lighting Up Controversial Issues: An Evolving Role for First Thursdays Events

DAVID WECKLER (31) / CHAIR, ISSUES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At First Thursday, we are coming up on two years of holding monthly conversations on a diverse range of environmental topics. The original intent of First Thursdays was to attract current and former Forum members, both to lead and participate in conversations. We would still love to bring out our graduates.

Some programs have been better attended than others. The Master Gardener, plastics, and Spanish government programs attracted capacity crowds. But median attendance is something like eight or ten people. This is a nice number for having a conversation, with plenty of give and take, but doesn't always feel like a roaring success.

For some months, I have been inclined to do something different with First Thursday. The Environmental Forum has established a reputation as the premier source of community-based environmental education in Marin. At the same time, the community faces many environmental challenges and, at any given moment, there are numerous issues on which members of the community hold varying views and governing bodies must decide. The Forum has an opportunity to take a more active role on topics of import to the community. I'm thinking of topics like community purchase of electricity, the Redwood Landfill expansion, zero waste, SMART and other transportation proposals, spraying herbicide to control broom infestation, MMWD's desalinization plant, banning plastic bags, affordable housing at Northgate, the potential collapse of the oil-based economy.

As chair of the Issues Development Committee, of which First Thursday is a project, I ask the membership's feedback on a proposal to evolve toward bringing together two or more spokespeople, ideally with differing points of view, on controversial topics of the day.

To be most enlightening, these encounters will need to be actively moderated. I am prepared to provide that facilitation, and welcome other Forum graduates, and perhaps members of the wider community, to join me. We will have to identify hot topics and effective advocates, meet to substantially understand the different viewpoints, reach agreement about a process for the dialogue, develop questions to pose to participants, and maintain a nonpartisan stance toward the issue under discussion. It will be considerably more work than what we have been doing thus far.

I would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in working on any aspect of this approach to First Thursday Conversations, or who may have other ideas for how to make First Thursday an exciting and informative draw. Please contact David Weckler at: [idc@marinefm.org](mailto:idc@marinefm.org).

## Welcome New Board Officers 2008

Vicki Rupp (33), **President**  
[vicki.rupp@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.rupp@gmail.com)  
415-461-0790

Kim Sauve (34), **Vice Pres.**  
[ksauve76@gmail.com](mailto:ksauve76@gmail.com)  
415-828-3717

Leonard Hand (35), **Treasurer**  
[Leonard\\_Hand@comcast.net](mailto:Leonard_Hand@comcast.net)  
(415) 388-5318

Bruce Richard (35), **Secretary**  
[bruce-richard@excite.com](mailto:bruce-richard@excite.com)  
(415) 762-0167



## Next 35 Years ...CONT. FROM PAGE 1

EFM has been enormously successful in this regard. Here is a selected yet mind-boggling sampling of projects and efforts that EFM organizers, teachers, programs, and graduates have been involved with (there are too many to mention them all, so please forgive me if I've left out any that readers regard as more essential than those included; you can peruse a more complete listing in the History section of our website): worked to add 38,000 acres to Point Reyes National Seashore; designed a Water Conserving Garden installed at the Civic Center, started a Sonoma Forum, worked to incorporate an energy element in the Marin Countywide Plan co-sponsored the first and subsequent Focus on Family Farms Day, co-sponsored the first and subsequent SUN DAY on energy planning, served on Marin's Energy Conservation Advisory and Economic Development Committee, formed the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), co-sponsored the Coast Mediation Project to ensure public participation in offshore oil drilling decisions, helped form and develop programs for Save the Bay and Baykeeper, , organized Marin's celebration of the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, established the Living Environmental Education Fund (LEEF) to support local teachers, co-sponsored Baylands Projection Corridor addition to Countywide Plan, created a 2nd regular program targeting community leaders and decision makers, initiated monthly member-oriented conversations on the environment, published a booklet Inspiring Environmental Advocacy, produced the Marin Environmental Film Festival.

As we move on to the next 35 years, EFM's challenge is to draw on all the wisdom we can muster, to learn how to live well with others on one planet. That is why we continue to refine our programs, to attract new generations of participants who will assume the mantle in finding new ways to protect environmental quality, and to engage 35 years of graduates in sharing their accumulated knowledge, experience and wisdom as a launching platform for the next 35 years of expanding understanding and developing solutions. The Forum's mission, so successful so far, has become ever more urgent.

freeways, imported water, urban sprawl, and most of the coast has been preserved as national and state parks, county parks, and ACR preserves.”

**Barbara:** “In 1972, in Kent Woodlands, a really fancy house with a view was \$72,500! In addition, back in the day, not much priority was put on the environment. I’m happily surprised that so much open space has been secured in Marin.”

**Nona:** “I live in the same house that I have lived in for 48 years... In many respects, Mill Valley has not changed profoundly... However, one observable change is the extent of landscape vegetation... Otherwise, of course, in Marin there is traffic, traffic, traffic, as we have allowed commercial development to far outpace residential development.”

**Phyllis:** “I have lived in my house for 38 years and my garden is much better than 38 years ago. . . . One of the principal changes to the County since the early 1970s, beyond the huge increase in traffic, is the wild expansion of shopping malls and box stores.”

#### 4. What effect has EFM had on Marin and/or the Bay Area?

**Nona:** “One has only to look down the roster of graduates to find the many members who have gone on to become active participants in a wide array of environmental organizations.”

**Kathy:** “EFM has succeeded in creating a community of people who are not intimidated by the systems of government and are willing to go to meetings and to testify to their beliefs regarding the environment.”

**Pam:** “I think EFM has been, and continues to be, successfully woven into the fabric of the Marin environment [and] has been a stalwart contributor to the environmental health, awareness and education of our community.”

**Barbara:** “The EFM has empowered its members. We would get on agencies, commissions, and boards, and take part in crucial votes to help the environment. We were the beginning of the juice.”

#### 5. What is your proudest achievement regarding EFM?

**Marty:** “Being a co-founder of EFM and seeing it produce a large number of influential environmental leaders in the bay area and the nation.”

**Phyllis:** “I am very proud to have taught in the Forum every year but one.”

**Nona:** “I was particularly pleased that a group of trainees (in about 1974) felt the absence in the training program of an opportunity to discuss the philosophy of environmentalism and acted on this by promoting a separate day for that topic with the curriculum. I was asked to participate and did so with enthusiasm...”

#### 6. What do you see as our greatest challenge in the future?

**Marty:** “Changing the wasteful life style of Marin residents. Our ecological footprint is one of the largest in the state.”

**Gini:** “I think our greatest challenge in the distant future will be to face the consequences of uncontrolled population increase, locally and worldwide. I believe that ultimately sustainability is impossible without addressing population issues.”

**Phyllis:** “I think it is hard to engage all of the public, which

is necessary to successfully address many of the acute environmental issues we face. For the Forum, a challenge is to review the program as a whole regularly to make sure it is indeed addressing the most important issues and the needs of the community and to keep past members engaged.”

**Kathy:** “Keeping the wonderful, creative people who are running the two [EFM] programs and the electronic outreach – Enews, etc. – happy and emotionally rewarded so that they continue the good work.”

#### 7. What, if anything, makes you optimistic?

**Marty:** “Our county wide master plan of 1973 and our current [master plan] are models for the nation. . . . We have a majority of environmentalists in county and city government.”

**Nona:** “I alternate between optimism and pessimism. . . . It is a question of time – the time needed for a major social and political turn-around . . . . On the timing issue, I am pessimistic. However, it’s spring right now – a time for natural rebirth, so I am at the moment optimistic!”

**Pam:** “I am optimistic about the Forum – over the years it meshed well with other environmental groups – MCL and Audubon – joining causes and efforts as appropriate – while retaining its special niche.”

**Gini:** “I am not very optimistic. Even though Marin County is still a paradise, the problems of our country and world seem to be getting more unmanageable in the long run. EFM still gives me some hope.”

#### 8. Are you currently active in any environmental projects?

**Kathy:** “I am enjoying my retirement but still teach Plant Communities Day and Marin Baylands Day each year with Nona.”

**Barbara:** “I’m currently on the board of the Stinson Beach County Water District, which allows me to help maintain the environmental quality of West Marin.”

**Nona:** “I have found a number of ways to exercise my abiding interest in the natural world and all it means to me – and at the same time carry this into various social and political arenas. I continue to enjoy teaching some sessions for EFM.”

**Phyllis:** “Yes, through the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, the Point Reyes National Seashore Assoc., through wetland monitoring, and through an effort to support better governance for environmental issues through the work of the Planning and Conservation League.”

**Marty:** “Though nearly 88, I’m still active to stop gravel mining on the Russian River, and to protect the rivers of the north coast, help restore the salmonid fisheries. I’m active with ACR and EFM. I consult for/with several organizations. I lobby on environmental problems such as Bolinas Lagoon Restoration, Lawson’s Landing challenges, and water quality issues.”

**Gini:** “I am active locally in West Marin where we now live most of the time. I am a member of the Environmental Action Committee and the Inverness Garden Club. Also I am active in the California Native Plant Society. I am a member of the Marin Mater Gardeners and write garden related articles for the Inverness Garden Club and for the Point Reyes Light.”

Thank you, Founders, for your inspirational leadership.

# SEF Graduation & Luncheon

## February 2008

# EFM PROGRAMS

## Sustainable Earth Forum (18 weeks)

EFM Grads - We know how much we learned from attending the Sustainable Earth Forum. So please help get the word out about the next series, beginning September 9. As always, the Forum will focus on sustainability, ecology, human impacts on the environment, resource management, and citizen and community action, with the goal to provide knowledge to individuals who are, or who would like to be, involved in making decisions affecting their community. The \$380 fee covers all costs and includes a one-year EFM membership. The registration period is now open; enrollment is limited. Contact info: [admissions@marinefm.org](mailto:admissions@marinefm.org) or 479-7814. For more info and registration instructions: [www.marinefm.org](http://www.marinefm.org)

If you have not been through the comprehensive 18-week program, do not miss your opportunity this year. The environmental advocacy exposure and experiences offered are one of a kind, leading the participants to an increased understanding of the scientific, social and economic aspects of the complex environmental issues facing our society.

Past class members have found their new knowledge to be life changing as they try to live more responsibly in the limited space of earth. We hope you will join us in this ongoing effort to assist our community in making informed decisions on issues affecting the environment in which we live. The program is held on Tuesdays each week (except holiday weeks), beginning September 9 and ending with graduation in February 2009.



EFM Vice President Dianne Fruin (30), SEF Director Barbara Thornton (2A/34), and SEF Assistant Director Kim Sauve (34) accept their well-deserved gifts of appreciation.



Phyllic Faber (o) addresses the SEF graduates at the luncheon.

Photos courtesy of Bob Spofford



Dianne Fruin leads the 2008 graduating class in a round of applause for their achievements.

# In Review: SCS 2008

VALERIE MERRIN (34) / DIRECTOR 2008 SCS PROGRAM

The 2008 **Sustainable Communities Seminar** got off to a great start in February with Introduction to Sustainability, setting the groundwork for the remaining sessions. Starting with the now-popular Global Footprint concept, the speakers discussed the development of the footprint and how we can work towards reducing our personal contribution to global warming.

The next two sessions focused on Fossil Fuels/Climate Change and Clean Energy Resources. With great speakers ranging from academics to entrepreneurs in clean energy, the topics included the concept of "peak oil" and how we can live without carbon in the world, to the various efforts underway by public utilities and private corporations to begin reducing and providing incentives for reducing our oil dependency. The speakers offered practical personal energy-saving ideas along with some samples of projects already accomplished locally.

The subsequent session focused on our most valuable natural resource: water. The speakers offered innovative ideas as well as discussed some of the local public initiatives underway to protect and sustain our water supply.

Following Water, we had a session devoted to some of the issues around toxics in the environment and how we can eliminate the use of these substances to provide a safe and sustainable world.

On Toxics day the comprehensive topic of waste and recycling delved into issues of how we can manage our waste stream more efficiently, understanding that there is no path to total elimination but only diversion and reuse.



Wendy Kallins of Safe Routes to Schools speaks.

Next we addressed another essential issue for Marin and the Bay Area: transportation. We learned that the only way to reduce our use of oil and reduce our carbon footprint is by eliminating the massive numbers of cars on roads and highways. Speakers from several local transportation groups and public officials discussed several alternatives now in the planning stages or process and led a lively discussion on the current status and outlook for alternatives for Marin/North Bay.

The sessions were stimulating and thought provoking. While some issues are controversial and even frightening, the discussion of practical and positive solutions left the class with thoughtful ideas and a better understanding of how we can become more responsible and sustainable members of the community. (Note - Registration is not yet open for the 2009 session.)

John Nygren

## Cooking Series

### EFM Grads & MALT

Helene Holl / Beki Simon / Marcia Sitcoske / Leigh Kenny (35)

Get your taste buds ready for this delicious way to support Marin agriculture. Class 35 grads, in partnership with the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, will hold the second class in their popular seasonal cooking series. Focusing on grass-fed beef, the class takes place in Pt. Reyes in early July and features Marin Sun Farms meat, with Christian Caiazzo of Toby's Feed Barn as the chef. For registration (20 spots open) and info, call Hope Radner at the MALT office: (415) 663-1158 x307 starting in mid-May.

**News Flash!** There is still limited space available in this series' inaugural class on May 31. Focusing on local ingredients prepared by Thai chef Usanee (Maikham Catering), this session will be held at Cow Track Ranch in Nicasio, and promises to be both educational and mouth-watering!

## EFM Members in Action

The San Rafael City Council has tapped 17 citizens to serve on its Green Ribbon Committee. Five EFM graduates are among those appointed: **Chrise de Tournay Birkhahn** (35), **Paul Ferreri** (A4), **Kay Karchevski** (35), **Kiki La Porta** (32), and **Pam Reaves** (30).

Assisting the committee will be four teams - energy, purchasing/recycling, land use/transportation/urban forest/green building, and adaptation/sea-level rise. **Sue Spofford** (32) will serve on the Energy Green Team; **Ellen Obstler** (35) on the Adaptation/Sea Level-Rise Team.

**Nona Dennis** (o), environmental consultant and educator (retired), is the new president of the Marin Conservation League.

**Tamara Hull** (35) and **Trip Allen** (2A) were appointed to two of the three environmental representative seats on the Marin County Hazardous & Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (AB 939) Local Task Force.

The March-June edition of *TERRA MARIN*, Marin County Green Living Guide features the story of EFM's beginnings with quotes from **Dr. Marty Griffin** (o) & **Wendy McPhee** (32). Three articles feature EFM graduates:

**Ginger Souders-Mason** (9) on a pesticide-free Marin; **Jordan Harris** (31) on OZOcar; and **Phyllis Faber** (o) on MALT. **Joe Kohn** (34), **Kimberly Danek Pinkson** (A4) and **Kimberly Rider** (32) are also featured. **Wade Stevenson** (31) is a contributing writer.

**Ellen Obstler** (35) and her home were featured in the KQED high-def TV program *FAQ: GOING GREEN*. The program examines the ways consumers can make small changes in their lives that can have big impact on the environment. Along with designer **Kimberly Rider** (32) who collaborated on the project, Ellen put in plugs for EFM, solar panels, no-VOC paint, composting, and non-plastic water bottles. Watch for a repeat airing on regular KQED soon.

The May issue of *Marin Magazine* features **Kimberly Danek Pinkson** (4A) and **Chrise de Tournay Birkhahn** (35) in a profile of the Marin-based Ecomom Alliance. Kimberly, president/founder, along with board member/program director Chrise, discusses this grass roots non-profit's education and outreach efforts, which serve mothers striving to integrate sustainability practices into their lives and homes.

# What We Learned SEF Class of 35

MARCIA SITCOSKE (35)

On our first day - Orientation - we learned about EFM's history, as well as about each other. The next several Tuesdays combined lecture and fieldtrip. This was highly effective, as the "in-field" experience of direct observation complemented the lecture we had just completed. One week, we walked through different plant communities, astounded by Kathy and Nona's seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of plants and their Latin names. We learned about 'multi-tiered canopies' and 'colonizers' and serpentine rock. We tasted pickle weed at China Camp, and formed two circles joined by hands. When one group jumped in unison, the rest of us felt it. During other weeks, we learned about the bays and estuaries, and were treated to a boat ride on the bay. Sobering fact: SF Bay used to have 25 commercial, year-round fisheries; it now has one and it's seasonal (herring).

Other weeks were more heady. Thanks to David Nicholls, we learned the 'real deal' about alternative fuels, especially the hype about ethanol and the top five reasons why coal is bad ("yes, even clean coal!"). We learned about CEQA and AB32. David Schearer taught us that there are three responses to the pending catastrophe: mitigate; adapt; and limit suffering. And from Barry Vesser, we learned a potent piece of wisdom (paraphrased) that: 'GCC is a spiritual thing... it's almost required in order to provoke the consciousness change we need.' And his simplified but powerful approach to responding to critics: ask their opinion so it's a discussion, not a lecture; refer them to the IPCC; and ask where they're getting their information.

We learned of the seemingly-impossible-to-believe story of the "plastics soup" in the Pacific Ocean. In response to the question: "Why

should the Bay Area be optimistic?" we heard the response "We have to deal, we're wealthy, we're innovative and we're politically courageous."

We explored the difference between advocacy (politically involved) and activism (physically involved, like tree-sitters). We learned about the county plan and the corridors; how policy is formulated and laws are passed; and how to influence decision makers. From one speaker, we learned lessons from 30 years of advocacy: elect the right people and keep in contact with them; form coalitions and remain united; focus your message; recruit new volunteers; leave the lawyers at home - it implies a threat; and don't start from a compromise position - always go in asking for what you want. Kraemer Winslow generously shared her years of experience and coaching leading up to Advocacy Day. We were all nervous, but the support level surpassed the stress - just don't make us watch the video playback again!

We were encouraged to ponder our own personal environmental philosophy ("define it, live it, own it"). We learned about California's population levels ("we cannot support another 22 million people in the next 40 years"); the "ecological balance sheet"; and how many earths would take to support us all. "Is it the fat cats or the teeming hoards? It's both: population growth and consumption growth." And that carbon footprint is just one part of the ecological footprint ("don't forget about nitrogen!").

We learned about some of the economic issues associated with

sustainability from the perspective of Global Exchange ("Enough protesting. It's time to build the next system!") and New Leaf Paper ("40% of landfill is paper and packaging"). We watched moving videos of the Penobscot Nation and Native Action and ENDAUM. We learned about land use and planning. And that transportation is 62% of Marin's GHG emissions. That there are six different types of EIRs, and the six different criteria used. And we visited a recycling center, amazed at its efficiency, while gagging at the stench and shaking our heads at the wastefulness.

In the last class - Environmental Philosophy - we contemplated "What is our relationship to nature?" Being intellectual regarding the environment is one important perspective, but as Michel Soule says "facts don't convert." Meaning that everyone has a hook - whether it be beauty, fishing, or their grandchildren - but it's rarely, if ever, the facts. "Everyone has a hook - just don't presume it's the same as yours." (Nona Dennis)

Projects day reinforced our sense of community. Having gotten to know each other, we could easily appreciate the effort and passion that went into both the presentations and the concepts. I think we found reassurance in feedback from the class about our "next steps."

My biggest learning: EFM made me question the way I live. Have I lived frivolously? And why, if I am so passionate about the environment? Thanks to EFM, I have a good basis from which to make necessary change happen.

Photo - Bob Spofford





[www.MarinEFM.org](http://www.MarinEFM.org)

P. O. Box 150459  
San Rafael, CA 94915

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The Environmental Forum of Marin is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the environment by educating its Members and the Marin citizenry about environmental issues. In furtherance of this purpose, the goal of EFM is to conduct training programs on environmental issues, provide continuing education for its Members and the public, and influence decision-making.

## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## NEWSWORTHY: Upcoming Lecture

### Phyllis Faber/Albert Straus on “How We Eat”

Great news on the environmental education front: Phyllis Faber and Albert Straus will be presenting to the Commonwealth Club of California's (CWC) “How We Eat” lecture series this August.

Marcia Sitcoske, the coordinator for the event, says: “I met Phyllis and Albert through EFM this past year. When another group I volunteer with (the CWC) decided on “How We Eat” as their month-long topic, I immediately thought of some of the people I met on Agriculture Day, including Phyllis and Albert.”

Due to the increasing awareness of the environmental impact of what's on our plates, the CWC is sponsoring a month-long series of lectures and activities to further raise awareness. Phyllis will be discussing MALT's success on August 26, and Albert will elaborate on his trailblazing sustainable dairy approach on August 28. Check [www.commonwealthclub.org](http://www.commonwealthclub.org) for more details.

**Scoops We need yours!** We are always interested in your thoughts, actions and articles. For submission consideration, please contact the editor at [efmpublications@comcast.net](mailto:efmpublications@comcast.net).

### Newsletter Staff:

Editor & Graphic Design / Chrise de Tournay Birkhahn; Assistant Editor & Lead Writer / Ellen Obstler. Printed by ACE Printing in San Rafael.

If you would prefer reading the newsletter on-line rather than receiving a hard copy, please contact us at [efmpublications@comcast.net](mailto:efmpublications@comcast.net).

## Calendar

### EFM Annual Meeting & Luncheon - May 16th

The Club Restaurant / McGinnis Park - \$35 person

Featured Speaker: State Assemblyman Jared Huffman

**Board Meetings** - Third Thursday of each month

**First Thursday Conversations on the Environment** -

First Thursday of each month

**2008-9 Sustainable Earth Forum** (begins Fall 2008) -

Registration now open

**Sustainable Communities Seminar** (Feb 2009) - TBA

Visit [www.MarinEFM.org](http://www.MarinEFM.org) for times, locations and information

[www.MarinEFM.org](http://www.MarinEFM.org)