



NEWSLETTER

Advocates for the Natural World

November 2016

President's Message

It is over a week since the election as I write this message, and I am still feeling the shock of the results. While the Forum is an educational organization and does not take stands on political issues, I know we all agree that climate change is not "a hoax created by the Chinese".

My first ray of hope came from my niece, a millennial living in Western Michigan. The morning after the election she posted "The Peace of Wild Things", a poem by activist and farmer, Wendell Barry.

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives
might be.*

*I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great
heron feeds.*

I come into the peace of wild things....

This was an encouraging sign for me, a drop of blue in a sea of red, that the youth across our country know that our land, water and air must be protected. It was also a sign of the importance of the work of the Forum. Teaching students and program participants to sound the alarm, to right the wrongs, to advocate for the natural world.

Onward,

Kathryn Olson

Holiday Party - Please Join Us!

**December 11
4:00 - 6:00 PM**

Marin Art and Garden Center in The Studio
30 Sir Frances Drake Blvd.

Master Class 43 Advocacy Speech Day

Do you remember your advocacy speech?

Last week MC 43 completed their schedule by presenting advocacy speeches to Forum Board members, former coordinators, and a founding Master Class teacher. One after another, they impressed the audience with their descriptions of a concerning environmental issue, including: wetland assessment, preservation and restoration; reduction of green house gas emissions; reduction of food waste; integrated pest management; the need for sustainable housing policies; and development of an emergency response education program for communities most impacted by climate change.

Delivered in 2 minutes, their stories combined emotional persuasion with graphic and palpable data, framing the impacts of climate change in their own neighborhoods; and requesting specific actions to be taken by their elected officials or community members on behalf of the environment. The excitement in the room was tremendous and everyone seemed ready to step up and help them take on the challenges presented.

The level of stewardship being considered and the suggested solutions they presented, are the basis of their Master Class Projects to be implemented in the next five months. Stay tuned for updates.

Many thanks to Norma Fragoso and Kraemer Winslow, Class Director and Advocacy Education Leader, respectively, for preparing our

Join us for this **POT LUCK** event. Please bring finger food, savory or sweet, to share. Drinks will be provided!

[Click here to RSVP Yes!](#)

Time to Join or Renew Your Membership

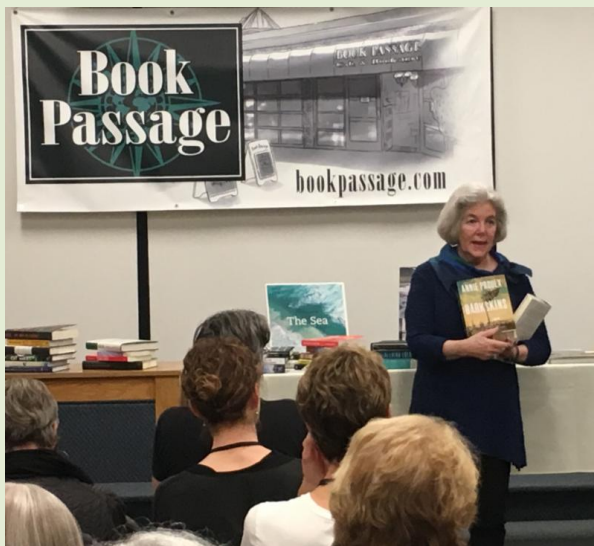
Please join us in 2017 as we continue to provide programs that educate on critical environmental issues.

[Click here](#) for more information, and/or to join/renew now.

Book Passage Member Event

On the evening of October 30th over 45 of our members gathered and enjoyed our first annual members event at Book Passage in Corte Madera. Snacks, wine and conversation were enjoyed while we indulged in our ecopassion for books and reading. Book Passage President Elaine Petrocelli presented and reviewed her favorite selection of books on the topic of climate change and preserving our natural world. Susan Kunhardt presented children's and youth selections. Thank you to all of you for joining us!

[Click here](#) to download Elaine's list!



participants with the skills needed to effectively advocate on behalf of the environment.

Save the Date! 2017 Lecture Series

Our Lecture Series kicks off on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 with a pre-lecture cocktail reception. More details to come.

Project Update

Mary Morgan, MC 40, understood the critical role of watersheds and had to learn how to communicate the need for creek restoration at Green Gulch Farm. In 2012, she developed a presentation to articulate the importance of creek restoration and presented it not only to her fellow Master Class participants but also to a variety of audiences including donors and government agencies.



Photo by Sara Tashker

The efforts of Mary, Prunuske Chatham, Inc., and many others at the Zen Center, bore fruit in 2014 when the creek was set free. Both wetland and riparian habitat were created, as well as improved creek habitat critical for the coho salmon and steelhead trout. Today the meandering waterway is once again a habitat that these fish can call home.

Mary credits the Forum and the rigor of the project process with helping her articulate her points so that she could persuade her audiences and gain support for this project.

www.MarinEFM.org

MEMBERS, PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

The purpose of the newsletter is to stay in touch with all of you, our members and graduates. We are especially interested in hearing any class project updates.

Contact: kim@marinefm.org

The Environmental Forum of Marin is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, and a United Way of the Bay Area Certified Agency.