



NEWSLETTER

Advocates for the Natural World

August 2017

Master Class 44 - Orientation is on August 26

Don't miss the experience, register now!

Learn how to take Action with Environmental Forum of Marin

Questions? Contact: MasterClass@marinefm.org

President's Message

Here it is the middle of August and Environmental Forum members know what that means — the next Master Class is right around the corner! Master Class 44 begins with its Orientation class on August 26. Master Class Program Director Norma Fragoso and Assistant Master Class Program Director Tom Arthur are the coordinators for the day which will include an overview of the Forum's history with the founders Marty Griffin, Phyllis Faber, Kathy Cuneo, and Nona Dennis, and a discussion of Climate Change and its impact on Marin County.

Gini Havel, a pioneer of Marin County's early land use battles, passed away on July 28. Gini was an Honorary Life Member of the Forum, and served as one

Our Members Make a Difference: Ann Bauer



For the last two years Ann Bauer graciously served our Environmental Forum of Marin community by directing our EFM Lecture Series. With gratitude for Ann's energetic work, we wanted to highlight her accomplishments.

Interviewing Ann over a mojito, Ann

of the original teachers of the program back in 1972. Gini also served as a Forum board member in various capacities and was President in 1980/81. Gini was an artist, a ceramicist, an avid gardener, mushroom hunter, birder, and she helped to found Natural Science Education Resources. A true Renaissance woman, who will be missed by us all.

Just in case you were wondering what to do with the remains of the summer, may I suggest that you go to the movies. Please go and see Al Gore's new film, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* while it is still in the local movie theaters. You may be angry that not much progress has been made, but I hope you will find inspiration as well.

by Susan Rusche



Mr. "K" Goes to Washington

Though I've been affiliated with Citizens Climate Lobby since 2013, this June was my first Washington Conference and Lobby Day with them. I am very glad I went.

CCL's motto, "creating political will for a livable world" is rendered by two approaches, analogous to EFM's: science leading to advocacy. First, there were two days of in-depth sessions on policy progress, on environmental science (Oceans was my favorite), on the evolution of attitudes (Yale Center on Climate Communications), on collateral efforts like the "Our Children's Trust" lawsuit, and the Climate Solutions Caucus in the House, and inspirational talks to 1,300 of us from several countries. Then

described growing up in San Rafael and Saratoga, around creeks and oak trees. In 4th grade she attended the Redwood Glen EE experience in the Santa Cruz Mountains, where she was turned on to loving the natural environment. She later attended fascinating Nature Study Classes at College of Marin with Al Molino and graduated from Humboldt State in Natural Resources Interpretation. After college, with the Peace Corps in Honduras and Paraguay, she continued her passion as a teacher trainer and wildlands management instructor in two rural environments and cultures.

Moving into her next phase, Ann worked as an educator at The Marine Mammal Center from 1989, leaving in 2013 after 19 years as the Director of Education, The Center located in the Marin Headlands is devoted to rescue and rehabilitation of wild marine mammals. She taught educational programs beginning with the arrival of the California Sea Lions at Pier 39 in 1990 to working as a member of the development team's vision for The Marine Mammal Center's new facility (opening in 2009) and strategic planning for education, doing visitor graphic interpretation leading field trips, on-site programs, media interviews, teacher training, and outreach. Ann had a personal connection to the Forum because the Master Class toured The Center regularly in the 90s and in her last years there, she hosted sessions in the new classroom.

Currently Ann is excited to be working in her home community coordinating the San Rafael Volunteers <http://sanrafaelvolunteers.org/>, and she can walk to work. She loves connecting people to resources and staffing events like the Coastal Cleanup, Make a Difference Day, and community service projects. Currently, she is revitalizing San Rafael's Clean Business Program. Ann encourages you to check out the website if you want to learn more or volunteer!

Back to the Forum, Ann thanks the Kohn family, as she was the recipient of the Joe Kohn Scholarship which supported her graduation from the Master Class in 2015. Prior to the Master Class, Ann was mostly an educator, not an advocate, but learned advocacy skills in Master Class.

950 of us attended face-to-face meetings on the Hill with over 500 offices of Representatives and Senators. Each meeting had a carefully prepared volunteer lobby team with the aim of connecting, listening, thanking, engaging, then making a specific "Ask" involving putting a price on carbon, noting responses, and designing a follow-on plan. The results are held in confidence, but I can assure you that the policy conversation is advancing.

It was refreshing and empowering to be part of a respectful bi-partisan approach, involving tremendous coverage of the Hill, and having civil discourse that is moving the needle. I'd be happy to engage further with any EFM Member who wants to learn more.

by David Kunhardt

Our Community is Environmentally Active:

Become a part of One Tam, the community campaign of the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative, and help insure a healthy future for the mountain we all cherish.

Volunteer / Hiking / Educational + Interpretive Event Calendar:
<http://www.onetam.org/calendar>

Stay connected with Marin Conservation League, Protecting Marin since 1934

2017-2018 Board Members & Staff

Susan Rusche, President

Helene Marsh, Vice President

Karen Mendelow Nelson, Secretary

Sarah Loughran, Treasurer

Ann's hope is that we can now move beyond practices that are mainstream, like reusable bags, recycling and composting and find new practices and behavior changes for a more sustainable life. Ann says she is encouraged by programs for youth that keep educating, even when there is a loss of momentum or funding. Regarding her Forum experience, "The Forum has a unique vision in educating adults locally and redirecting people who have the energy and momentum to make amazing and innovative changes."

Thank you Ann for your important and lasting contribution to EFM!

by Karen Mendelow-Nelson

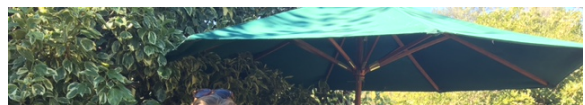
Master Class Project Updates!

Betsy Clark, Alan Jones and Kathi deFremery launched their first work day at the Piper Park Marsh in Larkspur (photo collage below). Folks ages 8 to 80 engaged and together they removed 420 lbs of invasive Salsola soda from the site. If you would like to be involved with their [resiliency project](#), please contact [Betsy](#).

Melinda Stone, MC 41 writes: "I wanted folks at Environmental Forum to know that University of San Francisco bought Star Route Farm in Bolinas, escrow closed a week ago. This was my project in our master class three years ago. The class was instrumental in shaping my proposal and connecting with people that made the project come to fruition."

Congratulations to Melinda. Read more about the USF purchase in the [SF Chronicle](#) and the [Marin IJ](#).

Helene Marsh and Sarah Loughran were voted 2017 Sustainability Heroes by Sustainable San Rafael for the success of their Master Class Project on getting the County and six other Marin municipalities to go to 100% renewable energy for their electrical needs.



Kim Rago, Executive Director

Norma Fragoso, Master Class Director

Tom Arthur, Master Class Assistant Director

David Kunhardt, Program Director

Nancy Benjamin, Communications Director

Tamela Fish, Social Media Director

Welcome Veda Florez as our new Membership Director!



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