



NEWSLETTER

Advocates for the Natural World

June 2017

Master Class 44 - registration open!

Offered once per year, our Master Class registration is open. Please join us for a Preview of the class on August 12 and share this flyer with any interested parties.

Questions? Contact: MasterClass@marinefm.org

President's Message

from our new Board President
Susan Rusche

We are all disheartened by the President's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement on climate change. There is no doubt that this is a huge foreign policy blunder as we abandon our leadership role in the world and find ourselves aligned with just Syria and Nicaragua (who didn't sign on because they thought the agreement did not go far enough). It would seem this is a great victory for the fossil fuel industry. But is it really? There may be grounds for some optimism here.

There are many impressive efforts taking place at the state and municipal level. People have a renewed sense of purpose now. That is where we come in. As we ramp up to Master Class 44, there is an emphasis on climate change, including adaptation to sea level rise and the effects on the natural world. We plan to bring hope to our constituents in Marin and the Bay Area that they can be empowered with the advocacy tools to help push back against federal irresponsibility on climate change.

On May 21 the Environmental Forum celebrated its 45th anniversary at the Annual Meeting held at the Corte Madera Community Center. The founders, Marty Griffin, Phyllis Faber, Kathy Cuneo, and Nona Dennis were all present and after the business issues were completed, everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon of

MC 43 - Project Presentations



photo by Karen Mendelow Nelson

Graduating students of the Environmental Forum of Marin's Class 43 gave their project presentations on May 6, 2017.

Three of the projects involved lectures that were organized and presented by MC 43 students as part of the Environmental Forum of Marin's lecture series. Laurie Riley presented a lecture about food waste in Marin and "how to love ugly produce, save energy, fight climate change and help your community." Another lecture, presented by Cory Bytof, concerned climate goals established by Marin's local communities, whether those goals are being met and how residents can take action to help meet them. Linda Jackson presented a lecture on the environmental benefits of affordable housing in Marin. Through an interactive game called "Developer for a Day" participants learned how to plan affordable

Everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon of good wines, cheeses and camaraderie. The Forum has been around for 45 years and we plan to be around for many more.

by Susan Rusche

Photos of our Annual Meeting thanks to
Jocelyn Knight



Project Drawdown

On May 1st, the Forum was proud to co-sponsor with Book Passage an uncommonly special talk by Paul Hawken on Project Drawdown at Dominican University. The book, "Drawdown" edited by Paul, with 70 authors and over 110 advisors, was published in April and is already #9 on the NY Times best seller list. It maps out the 100 top solutions already underway globally to address the challenge of climate change, researched and evaluated for their effectiveness by the team. Paul was wonderfully optimistic about our chances of success in reducing the GHG content of the atmosphere...if we put our minds to it. You can order Drawdown, published by Penguin, from: <http://www.bookpassage.com/>

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>

Thanks to CVNL for including the

participants learned how to plan affordable housing at the right location, the right size and the right design.

Five of the projects involved stewardship of Marin's environment. Terri Thomas reported on the sedimentation of Redwood Creek and efforts to restore the creek to its natural condition. Alan Jones, Betsy Clark and Kathi deFremery teamed up to study Piper Park Marsh in Larkspur. After studying the marsh with experts and writing a detailed report of their findings, they are currently in the process of persuading the city of Larkspur to take stewardship of this valuable resource. Marabeth Grahame organized a wild-lands restoration project, which involved many hours of pulling Scotch Broom and other non-native plant species in her community so that native plants can thrive. Kristin Jakob, an accomplished illustrator and member of the California Native Plant Society, is compiling a plant identification guide that she hopes to make available on line. Finally, Mark Strauss and Tom Arthur assisted the Watershed Alliance of Marin in assessing the health of watersheds in Marin, focusing on San Rafael and Novato Creek watersheds.

Two of the projects involved pesticide use in Marin. Barbara Bogard has been working with the Pesticide Reduction Coalition to improve the awareness of Marin residents about feasible alternatives to the use of toxic chemicals and weed killers. The County authorized \$100,000 for an outreach campaign. Similarly, Mary Fraser and Barbara have been working with Pesticide Free Marin and have enjoyed success, including agreements by Marin County Parks and Open Space to reduce pesticide usage to 1% of treated areas in open space, and to eliminate the use of glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup) in the parks.

Other student projects involved a variety of subjects. Helene Marsh and Sarah Loughran applied their advocacy skills to encourage the County and seven cities and towns in Marin to purchase all of their electricity through the Deep Green program offered by Marin Clean Energy, which ensures that all electricity purchased is generated by renewable energy sources and is greenhouse gas free. They have been successful or are confident in persuading Larkspur, Corte Madera, Novato, San Rafael, Ross and most notably Marin County to commit to Deep Green. Through their efforts thus far, an estimated 4000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions will be taken out of the atmosphere annually, roughly equivalent to 9,500,000 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle.

Concerned about climate change and sea level rise, Terrie Green organized her community of Marin City to respond to disasters, which will likely become more common as the planet heats up. The purpose of the Marin City Community Services District Community-Wide Disaster Response Plan is to prepare for a local or community-wide disaster: suggesting steps

Forum in their Community Village at the end of the Human Race, May 13.



Executive Director Kim Rago with Adrianna Bender

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that will help during the first 72 hours or more of a major event; and establishing roles and responsibilities of Incident Command Team and First Responders. Similarly, Colleen Daly, working with Resilient Neighborhoods, formed a group of her neighbors, the Key Carbon Bailers, who collectively reduced their carbon emissions by 62,022 lbs, built a resilient neighborhood and became better prepared for emergencies and disruptions wrought by climate change.

Finally, recognizing that education is a key to understanding and dealing with climate change in the future, Sanna Thomas, John Thomas and Iris Saligman have embarked on a project to determine whether climate change is being appropriately taught in our schools. They have compiled a survey of middle and high school science teachers which has been sent to 30 public and private schools in Marin, and will be assessing the results.

by Tom Arthur, Assistant Director to MC44 & Norma Fragoso, Master Class Director

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