



NEWSLETTER

Education for Environmental Action

August 2018

Master Class 45 Preview
August 18
marinefm.org



[View Northern California's Public Media PSA](#)

If you missed our Preview Event in June, JOIN US!

Bring a friend (or send a friend!) on August 18 @ BioMarin

[RSVP here](#)

President's Message

At the Annual Meeting in May, I announced the creation of the Founders Fund. This is a special fund set up to honor the legacy of our four founders and teachers -- Dr. Marty Griffin, Phyllis Faber, Nona Dennis, and Kathy Cuneo. The Founders Fund is designed to sustain the Forum's landmark Master Class in perpetuity. Its purpose is to provide scholarship funding for students in need, encourage enrollment by students from underserved communities, create a subsidy for program costs to keep tuition affordable, and provide a means to attract and leverage additional grants and contributors for the Master Class.

To get things started, we received two challenge gifts of \$5000 each: one from an anonymous donor and one from Phyllis Faber. To date, we have raised \$7,420. We have until September 8, when Master Class 45 begins, to raise the remaining \$2,580. Every contribution made to the Founders Fund before September 8 will be matched, so please donate any amount you can today!

I wish to thank Mia Monroe, keynote speaker at our annual meeting. Mia's career with the National Park Service has spanned nearly 40 years; and she is a frequent Master Class presenter in Muir Woods. Mia recalled historical debates and successful campaigns: she encouraged collaborative problem solving to address today's environmental challenges. Mia reminded us how important it is "to be educated, find a voice, and continue in the activist traditions of the Environmental Forum to promote civic responsibility."

And, on that note, Master Class 45 is in the final planning stages and will begin this year with Orientation on Saturday, September 8. Once again, Master Class 45 Directors Norma Fragoso and Tom Arthur have created a curriculum to equip environmental advocates with a focus on issues analyses, actionable strategies, and effective communications. We will host a Master Class Preview at BioMarin on August 18 – click the link in the banner to reserve a seat. If you are a MC graduate,

MC 41 Alums' Impact

Master Class 41 alums, Heather Itzla and Michelle Cox, set up their final project as a way to address plastic pollution, with a specific focus on plastic straws. After making little headway convincing local restaurants to eliminate their use of single-use-disposable plastic straws themselves, Heather and Michelle sought the help of 16 students in the Global Student Embassy Club at Drake High School. Together they crafted a plan where each student approached the manager of a restaurant in San Anselmo, and explained the problem with plastic straws, and how by simply not serving a straw unless a customer requested one, the restaurant would not only be preventing plastic from entering the waste stream, but they would also save money by not wasting disposable merchandise on customers that had not asked for it in the first place. The program was a great success, with all but one restaurant adopting the waste-less practice on the spot. The project was featured on the front page of the Marin IJ and more recently in Marin Magazine. Working on a local level, Heather and Michelle have prompted positive change to protect our natural environment. You may have heard Starbucks announcement of plans to eliminate all plastic straws globally by 2020 – *well, it's about time!*

Heather has since launched Wisdom Supply Co., a company dedicated to reducing plastic waste in schools and offices. Her company has partnered with San Domenico School in San Anselmo, and Cascade Canyon School in Fairfax, and together they have prevented 1/2 a ton of plastic school supplies from entering the waste stream. Wisdom Supply Co. is B-Corp pending, a member of 1% for the Planet, and endorsed by Surfrider Foundation, 5 Gyres Institute, and Plastic Pollution Coalition.

by Kim Rago

Thank You, Ellie Cohen

recommend the Class to at least one person. If you've never taken the Class, this is your year to make a difference!

With appreciation to all the wonderful Forum supporters,

Susan Rusche, President



Unique First-Time Member Benefit!

Join the MC 45 Geology Field Trip on Sat, Sept 15. Sign into your online Forum Member Account to [RSVP](#) (limited to 15 members)

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**Our Community is Environmentally Active:**

**Marin Conservation League  
Sat, Aug 18**

Willow Care Day at Chileno Valley Ranch  
Issue Committees meet monthly. Refer to the website for upcoming events and meetings.

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**Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS)
Marin County Affiliate Event
Highlights:**

Tues, Sept 11

West Marin with EFM's Master Class 45!
Open to the public, space is limited. View the Press Release | \$100 pp [RSVP](#)

Sat, Sept 15

Time to Lead on Climate at College of Marin

Over the past 19 years, [Point Blue Conservation Science](#) (PBCS) has become a national leader in conservation science. Led by Ellie Cohen, PBCS has excelled during a period of profound environmental change, growing six-fold and expanding its scope to conserve not only birds, but other wildlife and ecosystems through science, partnerships, and outreach. Point Blue's 160 scientists work to reduce the impacts of climate change, habitat loss, and other environmental threats while developing nature-based solutions to benefit both wildlife and people.

Ellie Cohen recently stepped down from her role as CEO of PBCS. It is with tremendous respect and admiration that Environmental Forum of Marin thanks Ellie for her vision, leadership, energy, and sense of humor as she worked tirelessly on behalf of our planet. We also want to thank Ellie for her inspirational April 2018 keynote address for Environmental Forum's evening program on Oceans: Pollutions and Solutions. Ellie wrote after the event:

"Thanks again for including me in such a special evening together and for all the great work you (Environmental Forum of Marin) are doing!"

On behalf of the Forum, we thank Ellie for her extraordinary work and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

by Helene Marsh and Sarah Loughran

In Memoriam



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## **One Tam**

**Weds, Sept 5 | Sun, Sept 9 |  
Sat, Sept 22**

Shoreline Shift at Bothin Marsh - Parts 1, 2  
and 3

**Fri, Oct 5**

One Tam Science Summit - *Into the  
Woods*: Mt. Tam's Forests in a Changing  
Environment at Mill Valley Community  
Center

**Fri, Oct 12 - Sun, Oct 14**

Between Bay & Sky: Baywood Artists Paint  
Mt. Tam at Marin Art & Garden Center

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**Helene Marsh, *Vice President and Programs
Director***

Sarah Loughran, *Membership Director*

Karen Mendelow Nelson, *Secretary*

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Tom Arthur, *Master Class Assistant Director*

Nancy Benjamin, *Communications Director*

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www.MarinEFM.org



Paul Rader Miller 1935 - 2018

Paul Rader Miller passed away on June 18, 2018, at home in San Anselmo, from lung cancer. Paul was a graduate of Master Class 33 and is survived by his wife Donna Miller, a graduate of Master Class 32 who also served on EFM's Board and was Workshop Series Director 2006-2007. Paul is also survived by his son, daughter, and two grandsons.

Many Forum members may know that Paul was a close friend of Professor Joe Mueller of College of Marin, where Paul was a faculty member for 42 years. A former Marine, and graduate of UCLA, Paul was a passionate artist of many media and styles, and was well known for his caricatures; he produced editorial and sports cartoons for the Marin IJ, Pacific Sun, Novato Advance, and San Francisco Chronicle.

We are most grateful to Paul and his family for including Environmental Forum of Marin for gifts given in his memory.

A link to Paul's complete obituary from the Marin IJ can be found [here](#).

