



NEWSLETTER

Education for Environmental Action

March 2018

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President's Message

HAPPY SPRING TO EVERYONE!

Spring always offers us the promise of renewal and hope. Environmental Forum's approach to providing environmental education is to not just focus on the problems facing us, but to find hope for the future by providing solutions as well.

So far this year the Forum has provided several wonderful programs. If you have attended the *Happening* film in January, the Clean Energy lecture in February, or the Transportation event this month, you know how great these programs are. Please join us for the next program April 25 on Oceans.

Our Members in Action

Marin County is a leader in ecologically sound Integrated Pest Management (IPM). **Kraemer Winslow**, a Master Class graduate, is once again the appointed chair of the IPM Commission. Former Environmental Forum Master Class graduates were recognized for their efforts as members of the IPM Commission by the Board of Supervisor's at their March 13. The 2017 Integrated Pest Management Report was accepted. **Rika Gopinath**, **Barbara Bogard** and **Mary Fraser** undertook student projects including initial advocacy to the City of San Rafael and the County Board of Supervisors to establish an IPM Program for City and County Parks and

Coming up soon will be the Project presentations and graduation for the Master Class. And, last but not least – please save the date for the Forum’s Annual Meeting on May 20.

The Forum relies on the help of its members and supporters so it can continue to provide the excellent Master Class and individual programs. It’s not too late to renew your membership or join us – just go to the website and click [Join Us](#).

by Susan Rusche

Enjoy Lectures, Workshops and Films Year Round:



Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary, courtesy of NOAA

Upcoming: April 25

[Protecting our Oceans: Perils and Progress in California.](#)

Recollections and lessons from our past programs

America's "Car Culture" is pervasive, painfully inefficient, and terrible for the environment. Yet most people are unwilling to give up their cars because they provide relatively rapid, comfortable, and on-demand transportation. So how will we ever get to a clean transportation system?

Environmental Forum collaborated with Drawdown: Marin and DriveCleanMarin on March 14 to answer this question and more. Supervisor Damon Connolly welcomed attendees and Mill Valley Mayor

IPM Program for City and County Parks and Public Spaces and advocating for non-chemical IPM alternatives in local parks and elementary schools. Barbara Bogard, IPM Core Team Member, worked on the design and implementation of the Yard Smart Campaign, educating the community at large about alternatives to chemical pest management during the last two years. Mary Fraser targeted use of glyphosate advocating for chemical free management in Parks and Public Spaces.

In 2017 Marin County Parks successfully managed 126 sites without pesticides, and conventional pesticide use decreased 86% over the previous year. Marin County uses zero glyphosate and zero rodenticide across all 147 sites governed by the County's IPM Ordinance.

County Staff oversee a cadre of volunteers and community partners who collectively contribute almost 9,500 labor hours per year to the IPM Program.

Master Class 44 Mentoring Program and Graduation Ceremony

The Master Class 44 Student Project Presentations and Graduation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 28th. January to April is the time of year when students undertake independent advocacy activities in their respective communities. This year's Master Class consists of over twenty students undertaking environmental stewardship projects to satisfy their Class graduation requirements. The variety of topics and types of project activities is remarkable and a bit much for one person, or two people to really manage effectively and sustainably. Therefore, we have merged two ideas: effective recruitment of volunteers from our membership and student base for effective and constructive

and Transportation Authority of Marin Board Chair, Stephanie Moulton-Peters, spoke to the very high costs associated with personal automobiles including financial, greenhouse gas emissions, dangerous particulate emissions, accident fatalities, and land use. The program then focused on three overlapping solutions for passenger vehicle transportation: Electric Vehicles, Autonomous Vehicles, and Shared Mobility/Ride Sharing.

While approaching the topic from different angles and with varying predictions on how fast change will occur, all the speakers agreed that in order to reduce greenhouse gas emission and relieve congestion, future mobility programs must be **electrified, automated, and shared.**

by Sarah Loughran

Program speakers included:

Carleen Cullen, *Executive Director and Founder, DriveCleanMarin*

Jon Haveman, *Principal, Marin Economic Consulting Group*

Mollie D'Agostino, *Policy Director, 3Revolutions Future Mobility Program, UC Davis*

See [blogpost by Daisy Carlson](#), Cool Hive, informed and inspired by this Forum event.



Dan Reicher speaking about Clean Energy

On January 18, Environmental Forum partnered with the City of Novato, Sustainable Novato, and Resilient Neighborhoods to show **Happening: A**

support to student projects. These have been combined into a project mentorship program.

We have asked Forum members and former graduates to mentor a student, in a field of shared expertise and interest, for the three months prior to graduation. The Mentor and student check in for monthly status reports and to outline their Project Presentation, to be delivered on Graduation Day. We so appreciate the overwhelmingly positive response. Mentors indicate they are delighted to find a way to be involved, assisting with current climate change advocacy efforts. Students are partnered with experts in their field of interest, benefiting from that knowledge and guidance, moving their own projects to a successful outcome.

We are extremely grateful to our new mentors including; Councilwoman **Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Iris Saligman, Nancy Boyce, Phyllis Faber, Andrea Taylor, Pat Nelson, Sue Mace and Terri Thomas.**

by Norma Fragoso and Tom Arthur

Getting to 100% Clean Energy EFM Event

On Feb 27th, the Forum succeeded in bringing together Dan Reicher, Exec. Dir. of the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy & Finance at Stanford with J.R. Killigrew of MCE Clean Energy, Joe Herr, Manager of Microgrid Innovation from PG&E, and Robert Gould of SolarCraft for a very informative evening on overcoming the challenges of getting to 100% clean energy. Dan Reicher explored with authority — and humor — developments in technology, shifts in policy, and innovations in finance that intertwine as needed ingredients of the future of energy. He covered topics not often addressed in

Clean Energy Revolution by filmmaker, Jamie Redford. Josh Fryday, Novato Mayor, introduced the documentary film and Redford was there to answer questions when the film ended. The event was attended by 140 people and was a great success! If you missed the Novato screening, you can see it on HBO.

In *Happening*, Redford embarks on a colorful personal journey into the dawn of the clean energy era to learn how it creates jobs, turns profits, and makes communities stronger and healthier across the U.S. Unlikely entrepreneurs in communities from Georgetown, TX to Buffalo, NY reveal pioneering clean energy solutions while Jamie discovers how clean energy works and how it can help the planet. Reaching well beyond a great story of technology and innovation, *Happening* explores issues of human resilience, social justice, and the importance of embracing our energy future.

Following the screening a Novato resident posted the following on Nextdoor: *"A documentary that was worth seeing, produced by James Redford, the son of Robert Redford and a Fairfax resident. James Redford was there to discuss his film which was about sustainable and solar energy. He stressed the importance of alternatives to fossil fuel use for our environment. Please take a few minutes to go to the MCE website to become more informed about switching from PG&E to MCE Deep Green. The positive effects on our environment are substantial."*

by Helene Marsh

Business Membership

The Environmental Forum is known for building community through action. Our like-minded members help businesses become green and inspire students to become actively involved. Our goal is to create an inclusive list of Marin businesses

He covered topics not often addressed in Marin: the tremendous growth of various kinds of energy storage (hydro, thermal, and battery), and off-shore wind potential, as well as the need for still more action on conservation, saving energy through use of heat pumps, and the prodigious increase in investment needed to reach a clean energy future.

Several commented on the benefits of hearing about the innovations being pursued by PG&E, at the same time that MCE is pushing ever closer to its mission of providing clean green energy generation for its rapidly growing customer base. Robert Gould reminded us of the economic benefits of continuing investment in distributed renewable energy, not just to lessen our output of Greenhouse Gases, but also to spur local jobs, savings, and retention of dollars in the local economy vs sending funds to out-of-Marin and out-of-state sources of fuel and credit cards.

The essential role that utility and energy providers play in ensuring steady, uninterrupted power (which we take for granted) was highlighted as a concern that is driving storage and a diversified energy mix. The audience pitched an array of intelligent questions and comments, including a challenge for us to address 'the elephant in the room': how to reduce our dependence on GHG-producing natural Gas, and render more conversion to energy-efficient electrical energy.

Our moderator was EFM's David Kunhardt, who has been in solar energy for a decade. The event was video-taped, and at least portions will be available on the EFM website.

by David Kunhardt

Our Community is

create an inclusive list of Marin businesses to broaden our reach and ensure growth and value for the next 50 years.

We are pleased to welcome Marin Clean Energy (MCE) as a business member and partner organization. You may have talked to MCE leaders at our recent event or received a free emergency light.

We know many of you work for like-minded organizations. We invite you to become an Ambassador for the Forum and present the idea of Business Membership to *your* employer. There are two levels of support, \$250 and an affordable \$100. You can find more information on our website. MCE and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) are both business members at our highest level. We thank all of our business members and look forward to adding your business to our list.

For those of you who wish to make a more substantial gift to Environmental Forum, please write to veda@marinefm.org or susan@marinefm.org to learn about our legacy gifts.

by Veda Florez

2017-2018 Board Members & Staff

- Susan Rusche, *President***
- Helene Marsh, *Vice President***
- Sarah Loughran, *Treasurer***
- Karen Mendelow Nelson, *Secretary***
- 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***
- Veda Florez, *Membership Director***

Environmentally Active

Marin Conservation League

April 6, 2018 — 5:30 - 9:00 pm
Annual Dinner and Meeting:

Dinner and no-host bar as well as the election of directors and officers, the presentation of the awards for environmental achievement, raffle, and guest speaker Grant Davis, General Manager of Sonoma County Water Agency.

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### **One Tam: Naturalist's Corner with our own Marin County Parks Naturalist:**

**Thursday, March 22 — 7:00 pm**

Marin County Parks Naturalist David Herlocker is retiring in a couple of weeks, and he is set to deliver a "Naturalist's Corner" on Mt. Tam. He plans to overview what we've learned about the mountain over the last 20 years, what's changed, it's complex system of physical and biological elements and how we fit into it.

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www.MarinEFM.org

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