



NEWSLETTER

Education for Environmental Action

Late summer 2020

President's message

Back-to-school time

Here it is mid-August, and in years past, the time to prepare for the school year — buying supplies, books, and preparing for the first day back. Not this year. COVID has changed everything, including our flagship Master Class program. This year we've put that on hold, rising to the challenge with a new program, Forum 2020.

Here's what is really special about [Forum 2020](#): the program offers something for everyone, including members who graduated from the Master Class. We are presenting live classes online, with recordings available on video. This new format enables us to reach a wider audience — people of all ages and from all places — and also to create smaller cohorts of individuals focused on their community interests. Terrie Green, MC 43, proposed and will be leading a Forum 2020 cohort from Marin City to work on advocacy skills, create change, and protect their community from sea level rise. Inspired by her example, we are hoping to develop other potential cohorts, such as one for high school students and teachers who are eager for environmental

high school students and teachers who are eager for environmental education. If you have an idea for a cohort that you'd like to lead, we'd love to hear about it!

Read on for more details about Forum 2020, as well as an update about all that is happening at EFM. Join me in thanking our volunteers for everything they do to make EFM successful.

Susan Rusche, *President*

Susan Rusche



FORUM 2020

Ready to make a difference on environmental issues?

Forum 2020 is a virtual series of conversations with environmental experts in their fields, including presentations focused on building equitable community resilience to the impacts of climate disruption.

EFM does more than educate you about the environment. Our goal is to develop an informed and engaged citizenry and train them to advocate for policies that enhance the natural and built environments (#educate4action).

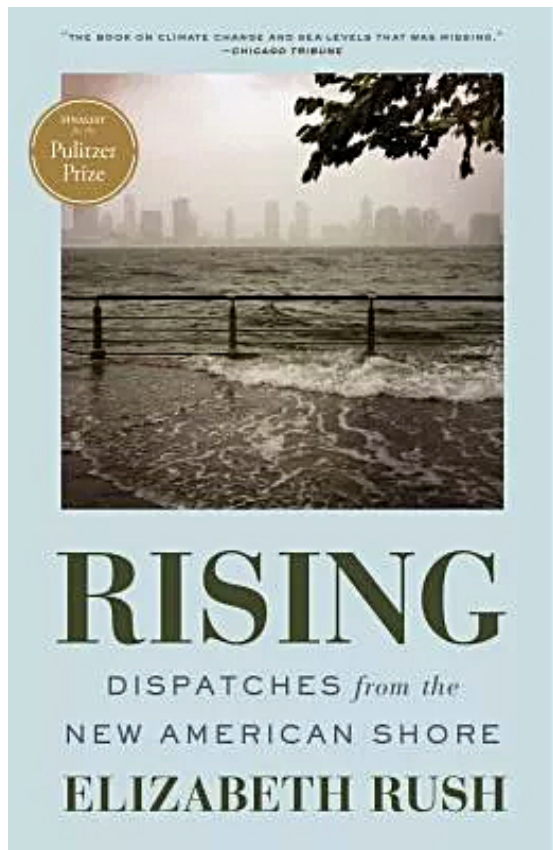
FORUM 2020

REGISTRATION

Class #2 in the FORUM 2020 on September 22

Rising seas, resilience, and retreat

We are building on the webinar we offered on sea-level rise (see recap below) with this special event, which covers both the science and the emotional experience of what it means “to lose a world in slow motion.”



Elizabeth Rush, Pulitzer-Nominated author of *Rising — Dispatches from the new American Shore*, will share her insights on the social justice complications of sea level rise, the fragility of marshes and coastal property, and the many costs of retreat.

She will be joined by Bob Battalio of the Environmental Sciences Associates and Christina Toms from the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board for a robust discussion.

This class is included in the Forum 2020 series, but you can also register for it as a standalone event [here](#).



Recap: EFM's inaugural ZOOM event on June 18th

Impacts of Bay Area Sea-level Rise: Can Nature Help?

Almost 200 attendees gathered virtually to listen to expert speakers Dr. Kristina Hill and Dr. Katharine Boyer discuss:

- how sea-level rise is affecting and will affect Marin County
- the less well-known threat of groundwater rise here
- nature-based adaptations that might work in Marin.

Terrie Green, an activist and member of EFM Master Class 43 also spoke, on behalf of the nonprofit [ShoreUp Marin City](#) to give us her perspective on how sea level rise, geography, and longstanding racial discrimination converge to impact Marin City.

The [webinar recording is available](#): Listen and you'll find yourself looking at familiar parts of Marin — especially Marin City — with new eyes and a deeper understanding.

Attendees asked questions, and there were some unaddressed at the evening's end. Our speakers generously took a little more time and sent

evening's end. Our speakers generously took a little more time and sent written [answers to many of the questions](#), plus some additional resources:

- a paper about Bay Area groundwater, [A Rapid Assessment Method to Identify Potential Groundwater Flooding Hotspots as Driven by Sea Levels Rise in Coastal Cities](#).
- Web resources on [Living Shorelines](#).
- a new [technical report on bay beaches](#).

Our moderator, Dr. Stuart Siegel, addressed SLR issues for coastal Marin a few days before the event, on KWMR. Listen to [this archived show](#). Stuart's interview starts at 30:30.

Submitted by Anne Christine Strugnell, EFM Communications Director

The EFM Notebook: A biweekly commentary on what's new and newsworthy

Read the latest Notebook [installment](#) to learn how citizen activists obtained bipartisan support in the 1970s for the GGNRA, a treasured "park for the people", in just 2 years.



Amy Meyer and the Creation of the GGNRA

New Post on EFM Notebook!

www.MarinEFM.org

If you are becoming a fan of EFM Notebook author Susan Holloway, she will be presenting a class in the Forum 2020 on October 6 (another reason to sign up for the series!). Her topic? **Spotting fake news: How to analyze the validity of claims about the environment.**

Who are the masterminds of Forum 2020?

Meet Norma Fragoso, MC Director and Leslie Gerstenfeld, Program Director. Contact them at Forum2020@marinefm.org



Norma Fragoso is Planning Commissioner for the Town of Fairfax and a Master Class graduate. Her current interests include building community resilience to climate impacts and facilitating meaningful actions to preserve and enhance our environment.

*"I'm excited to have **Ellie Cohen** be our keynote speaker for the series. She's so inspiring and will discuss ambitious but doable at scale solutions to mitigate climate impacts."*



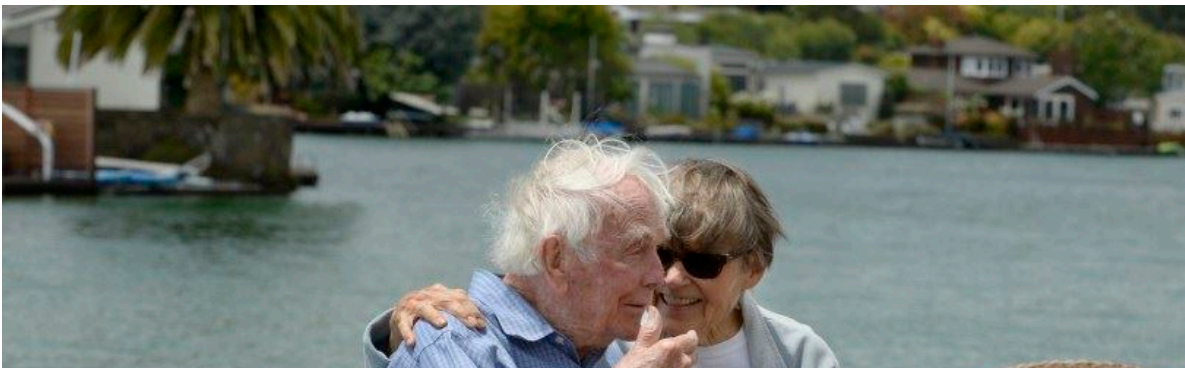
Leslie Gerstenfeld is an educator, a scientist, and a Master Class graduate. She has worked in environmental consulting, public health, and education in public and private organizations throughout the US.

*"I'm looking forward to hearing **Elizabeth Rush's** approach to social justice in the face of sea level rise, following our recent SLR presentation.*

Marty Griffin celebrated his 100th birthday in July

Marty is known for his conservation work in Marin County, well-chronicled by Anne-Christine Strugnell in the [Marin Magazine](#). He and his wife Joyce live in Belvedere, and he continues his environmental activism. *"I don't think there is any health unless your environment is healthy"*, from [an interview in the Marin IJ](#)

Photo by Sheri LaVars from the Marin IJ





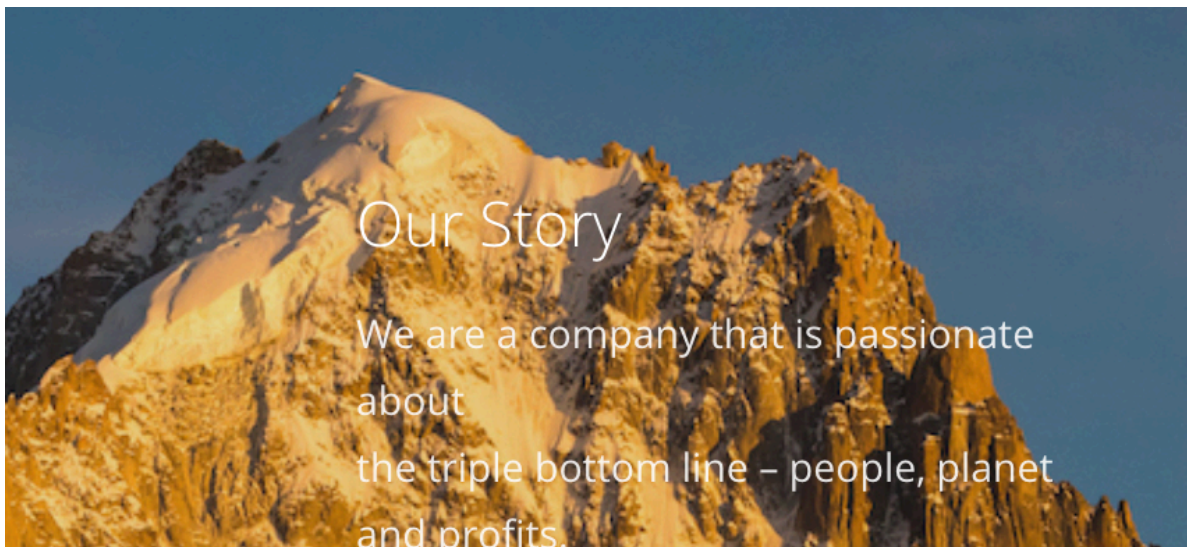
Shout out to our business partner!

We asked: Why is Vert Asset an EFM business partner?

"We support EFM because the organization brings in timely and forward-thinking speakers working at the leading edge of environmental issues across sectors."

Sarah Adams, Chief Sustainability Officer

EFM values the support from its business partners, such as [Vert Asset](#) with its mission to make sustainable investing easier. In a perfect world, investors would have good sustainable fund choices for all of the asset classes in their portfolio. The choices investors make can shape our world. The more sustainable choices investors make, the more sustainable our world will become.





More ways to support Environmental Forum of Marin

We are looking for help with scholarships

Generous donors to EFM have contributed five scholarships to fund individuals who want to participate in Forum 2020 but are financially challenged. If you are interested, please contact kim@marinefm.org.

If you shop using Amazon, why not make it Amazon.Smile?

We understand that some of our members do not support shopping at Amazon, but for those who do, consider turning a percentage of your purchases into a donation to EFM. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to your chosen charity. Please choose EFM!

1. Go to "smile.amazon.com" and sign in with your existing Amazon user ID and password.
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Every time you shop, login to smile.amazon.com and not amazon.com in order to earn donations for EFM.

Environmental partner organizations in our community

Check updates online for current events, cancellations, and postponements

One Tam

One Tam transcends boundaries to inspire deep connections to Mt. Tam and

One Tam transcends boundaries to inspire deep connections to Mt. Tam and mobilize the skills and resources of its five partners and the community to care for the long-term health of Mt. Tam.

[Marin Conservation League](#) MCL hosts monthly issue committees focusing on preserving, protecting and enhancing Marin's natural assets.

You've read this far! Enjoy a couple of "tasty bites" to take your mind away from the pandemic, the economic concerns, our climate issues, to enjoy a bit of nature!



Following the 2018 acquisition of Bowman Canyon adjacent to the Mount Burdell Preserve, Marin County Parks conducted burrow surveys across the grasslands. Natural resources surveys help determine what resources are present in order to establish baseline data and inform future land management decisions. The focal species of the surveys were two California Species of Special Concern: the American badger and western burrowing owl.

Although no signs of burrowing owls were detected during the survey, 46 badger burrows were found.

Due to their nocturnal nature, it's rare to ever see a badger. This year, Marin County Parks set up wildlife cameras at Bowman Canyon. In May, a series of images show a badger shuffling past the camera!

Contributed by Serena Hubert, Wildlife Biologist, Marin County Parks

If you need another reason to be signing up for the **Forum 2020, Class #3**

is Managing Natural Resources in Marin County. You will hear from those responsible for management of Marin County's natural resources and how they balance nature with the human issues.

Recognize the comet NEOWISE? These "cosmic snowballs," are icy, rocky objects made up of ice, rock and dust. These objects orbit the sun, and as they slip closer to the sun most comets heat up and start streaming two tails, one made of dust and gas and an ion tail made of electrically-charged gas molecules, or ions.

NEOWISE was visible In Marin skies during July, and could be seen with binoculars or the naked eye. It is no longer visible in our skies, and won't re-appear for 6800 years, but it was a magnificent visitor while it was here.



Photograph by Mark Huffman taken from the Mission Path near Terra Linda Preserve

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#Education4Action

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