



# NEWSLETTER

Education for Environmental Action

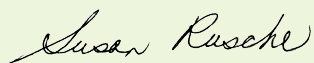
SPRING 2020

## President's Message

It's important to remember that the Coronavirus crisis we are experiencing together is really all about humanity and the value of every human life. Every day we see the kindness and selfless acts that are all around us. What a wonderful community we live in where there are countless people helping others. Our thanks go out to the healthcare professionals, grocery store workers, first responders, delivery people, drivers and many others that are providing necessary services so we can all shelter in place.

All of us at Environmental Forum continue to work from home on EFM business and have been using this time to plan new programs and find a way to present Master Class 47 in flexible and innovative ways. We don't know what the next few months will bring, but we will be ready to meet the challenges.

We are deeply grateful to the continued support of EFM members and friends. Please stay in touch: follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



**Susan Rusche**, *President*



## Recap: Spring Series on Climate Resilience

### February 4, 2020: Community Microgrids: Renewable Energy and Resilience

EFM's February Community Education Event on community microgrids was a huge success! Over 200 people joined EFM and its five partners to better understand the problems with our current electrical grid. The speakers shared how additional distributed energy resources, such as solar, and linkage of energy sources and batteries can increase the use of renewable energy, provide greater energy resilience, and reduce fire danger. Microgrids offer a safer, more reliable, less-expensive and lower-emission approach to delivering electricity to homes and businesses.

Five organizations working on energy and resilience issues partnered with EFM for this event:

- 350 Bay Area
- County of Marin Sustainability Program
- Drive Clean Marin
- Marin Conservation League
- Sierra Club.

Each organization had a table at the event and provided [information on actions](#) you can take to enhance energy resilience. EFM also produced a list of local companies providing [residential solar+storage options](#).

*by Helene Marsh and Sarah Loughran*

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## Coming EFM Events

### Impacts of Sea-level Rise: How can Nature Help?

**June 18, 7:00pm**

Due to social distancing and evolving shelter-in-place guidelines, we hope to hold this event online. Please [register](#) and we will provide you a link to participate prior to June 18.

**Speakers:**

**Kristina Hill**, Associate Professor, UC Berkeley  
**Katharyn Boyer**, Professor, San Francisco State University, Estuary and Ocean Science Center

**Annual Meeting via Zoom**

**June 3, 7:00–8:00 pm**

Join us for a year-in-review, election of Board members and virtual hellos to your fellow EFM-ers. More details will follow.

**Healthy Soils: Growing Climate Resilience** will be re-scheduled for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

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**Environmental Organizations in Our Community**  
*check updates on-line for cancellations and postponements*

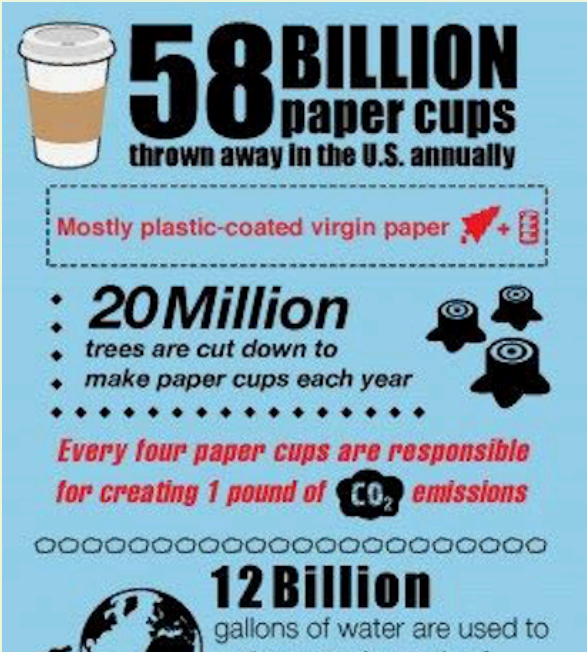
**One Tam**

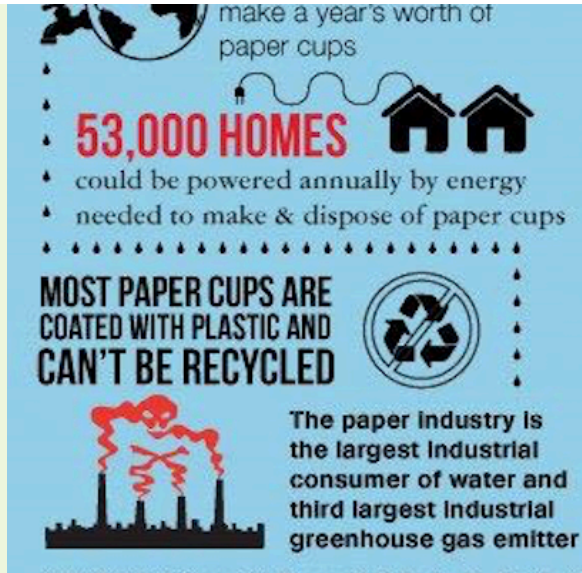
One Tam transcends boundaries to inspire deep connections to Mt. Tam and to mobilize the skills and resources of its five partners and the community to care for the long-term health of Mt. Tam.

**Marin Conservation League**

MCL hosts monthly issue committees focusing on preserving, protecting and enhancing Marin's natural assets. Refer to [MCL's website calendar](#) for additional upcoming events.

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## Master Class 46 Graduation Presentations Go Virtual

Nothing stopped the members of MC 46 from graduating on April 4, including COVID-19 shelter in place and social distancing mandates. EFM board members Norma Fragoso and Tamela Fish put their heads together and used the Zoom platform for virtual presentations. A virtual audience of EFM members "attended." The presentations are available at on our [website](#), but here's a high-level view:

Maggie Fillmore led off with a look at the global effect of the virus. She will be joining EFM staff, helping with the newsletters.

Suzanne Harris and Susan Holloway will launch a podcast on plastics, discussing the problems and solutions.

Bridget Clark and Julie Munro investigated single-use foodware and propose a ban on single-use coffee cups as a start. (note graphic above)

Wendy Tobiasson reported on food waste in Marin County, where 20% of the population goes hungry while up to 40% of food is wasted. She urges us to support food banks, use green bins to compost, and buy local.

Anjie Ro-Trock and Laurie Gottlieb looked at the effect of 5G networks on human health, and how to protect our bodies from our cellphones. Their recommended actions include one you can do right now: take your phone out of your pocket!

Betsey Crawford investigated teaching the rights of nature, as a means for communities to protect the legal rights of a natural resource.

Leslie Gerstenfeld reached out to teachers in several middle schools to facilitate field trips for their underprivileged students, in order to increase their curiosity about science and stimulate interest in preserving the environment. She found the teachers were open to it, but cost of transportation is a barrier.

Doug Olds is developing the curriculum for a community course, "Hasty Combustion", that will explore the root causes of global heating, along with social justice issues.

Anne-Christine Strugnell is joining EFM as Communications Director and organizing two community events linked by the theme of "Making our Money Talk." The first, Invest and Divest for Climate Change, is slated for fall 2020, and the second, on consumption, is planned for spring 2021.

Rachael Farac investigated establishing a Sustainability Commission for Novato, contacting city council members in 11 adjacent Marin communities to identify areas of importance and their accomplishments.

Carolyn Losee described her involvement with projects to restore biodiversity at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

Russ Greenfield will be working with motorized dirt bike riders on "Shared Values" for conservation and responsible use.

Annika Osborne (MC 45/46) described her role as the volunteer chairperson with Drawdown: Marin.

Jean Fraschina has been studying the Styrofoam-digesting larvae of the "stink" beetle and plans to provide displays to the Marin Sanitary Service classroom, Bay Model Visitor Center, and Exploratorium.

Congratulations to all of the MC 46 participants! Stay tuned for updates on all of these projects in upcoming newsletters.

*by Maggie Fillmore (MC 46)*

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## **Shout out to one of our business partners: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy**

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is the one non-profit organization that supports the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Fort Point National Historic Site. Familiar sites such as Crissy Field, Alcatraz, Marin Headlands, Stinson Beach, Lands End, and The Presidio are a part of this. Together, these attract over 19 million visitors each year—more than the visitation to Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Olympic national parks combined.

Since 1981, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy--in partnership with the National Park Service and Presidio Trust--has provided over \$550 million in support, rallied more than 275,000 volunteers, and pioneered innovative park stewardship and education programs.

We are grateful for the the Conservancy's support of EFM as a business partner.

**Honor  
the 50th anniversary of Earth Day  
by becoming an  
environmental change-maker**

**Join  
Environmental Forum of Marin  
Master Class 47  
Beginning Fall 2020**



## **EFM Honored Earth Day with an ad in the IJ**

The first Earth Day (called May Day at the time) was held in 1970 in the US and it's often considered the start of the modern environmental movement.

Since that initial march against environmental destruction, Earth Day has evolved into a globally celebrated event with festivities occurring in more than 200 countries.

In its simplest form, it's a day for people to step back, take a deep breath and appreciate Earth in all its splendor. But for many people Earth Day holds the potential to ignite broad environmental action.

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## Join Us or Renew Your Membership for 2020

Your support allows EFM to host engaging public education programs that provide you with information you need to become a more effective environmental advocate. Dues from our members fund these programs that keep you informed about current environmental issues, especially the alarming impacts of climate change.

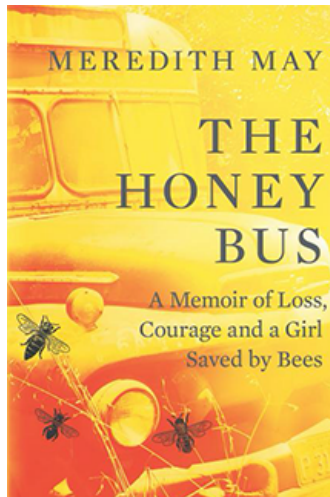
### Not sure if your annual membership is current?

Contact [Kim@marinefm.org](mailto:Kim@marinefm.org) or **LOG IN** to our database from the EFM Home Page. You will have access to your profile, which lists your membership status. Please consider upgrading your membership to the next level when you renew.

### Want to stay in touch with other members?

Current members have access to our [Members Only page](#).

## Read a Good Book Lately?



Meredith May is a fifth-generation beekeeper. She also was a reporter and feature writer for the SF Chronicle, occupying her time with telling other people's stories. She kept bees on the roof at the Chronicle and authored tales of early urban beekeepers.

She describes her affable grandfather teaching her life lessons, using bees as examples of the proper way to behave. During her book tours, she often brings educational hives to show bee and hosts honey tastings. When asked how individuals can help a declining bee population, Meredith suggests: "Bees need more forage because we've paved over everything or we've built mono crops, so they don't have diverse flowers. Planting wildflowers—in between crop rows, on freeway medians, on rooftops, not just in gardens—guerrilla seeding would be one of the easiest and most beneficial things we can do".

At this time of spring and the hope that comes from planting seeds, add Honey Bus to your reading list.

*Thanks to Wendy Tobiasson (MC 46) for suggesting this book.*

*Do you have a book to share with other members of EFM? We'd love to have your recommendation, and better yet, write a review. Contact [membership@efm.org](mailto:membership@efm.org) with your suggestions.*

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## [Sharing a Letter from the Corona Virus](#)

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### Board Members and Staff



### Director of Ecology

Terri Thomas earned her Masters' degree from the University of Washington in Forest Ecology and has a 36 year career with the National Park Service, as a natural resources manager, ecologist, and planner. She assisted Founders Kathy Cuneo and Nona Dennis with the Master Class 46 ecology field trips. As a representative for EFM, she attends meetings with other agencies. Here are some key takeaways she wants to share with EFM members:

- At a **Zero Waste Marin** meeting, she heard that fiber (paper) is no longer being recycled at all. Paper is sitting in the collection areas because it is usually shipped to China, and the coronavirus is not allowing shipping.
- As part of a **Marin County Parks and Open Space Environmental Round Table**, she took a field trip to Ring Mountain to look at the proposed trail planning. The County Parks are developing ideas for a public meeting in May. The goal is to protect this sensitive habitat by designating trails, reducing social trails, and improving trail safety, visitor experience, and access.
- At a **OneTam** stakeholders meeting, she heard Yolanda Mollette is the new Director of Stewardship (new hire and new position) and Sonoma County is looking at

creating *One Water*, like One Tam but for water resources. The goal is to leverage philanthropy.

EFM thanks our new staff member **Maggie Fillmore** (MC 46) who will be assisting EFM with communications and our newsletter. Maggie is a retired physical therapist, graduate from the University of Washington, BA in Forest Resources 1971; Stanford University MA in Physical Therapy 1984; DPT Creighton University.



## **EFM Board and Staff**

**Kim Rago**, *Executive Director*

**Susan Rusche**, *President*

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

**Karen Mendelow Nelson**, *Vice President of Education*

**Carolyn Losee**, *Secretary*

**Barbara Ball**, *Treasurer*

**Sarah Loughran**, *Director-at-Large*

**Norma Fragoso**, *Master Class Director*

**Kirsten Nolan**, *Communications*

**Tamela Fish**, *Social Media Director*

**EFM Welcomes new Board Members:**

**Leslie Gerstenfeld**, *Program Director*

**Susan Holloway**, *Program Director*

**Anne-Christine Strugnell**, *Director of Communications*

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[www.MarinEFM.org](http://www.MarinEFM.org)

**415-484-8336**

**#Education4Action**

