



W i n t e r 2 0 2 0

## President's Message

Happy New Year! As we kick off a new year and a new decade, Environmental Forum of Marin is offering a new series on Climate Resilience. It's a three-part series covering Sun, Water, and Earth. It will include information on microgrids, sea-level rise adaptation, and healthy agriculture for a climate-resilient planet. Please check our [website](#) and this issue of the Newsletter for more information.

Since this is the start of a new decade, EFM has decided to take some time to reflect on our past successes and build on what we have learned about delivering public environmental programs for nearly 50 years. We look forward to unveiling a new approach to our Master Class and Community Education programs that best match the needs of the public and more efficiently utilize the time and energy of our volunteers and staff. Stay tuned as there is more to come.

And, speaking of new beginnings – we are sorry to say goodbye to Bruce Richard and Nancy Benjamin. Bruce is leaving the Bay Area to return to Portland, OR and Nancy has taken a new position at Marin Art & Garden Center. Bruce and Nancy have made wonderful contributions to the EFM Board and they will be sorely missed.

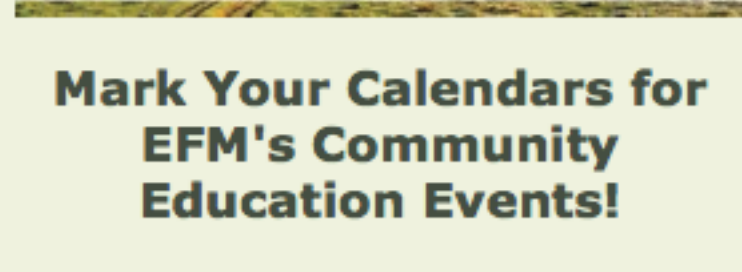
On a sad note, Marie Kerpan (Class 28) passed away on December 25. Many of you may remember her from Dominican University's Green MBA program or through her Green Careers consulting practice. Here is the [link to her obituary](#).

One final note: if you have not yet done so, please renew your [membership](#) and if you already have, thank you for your continued support!

Best wishes to all for a great year ahead,

*Susan Rusche*

**Susan Rusche, President**



## Mark Your Calendars for EFM's Community Education Events!

On November 6, EFM provided another perspective on climate protection with a Community Education Event, "Funding Climate Restoration via Philanthropy and Carbon Offsets." This program highlighted the role of large philanthropic organizations and climate offsets in paying for climate change mitigation and restoration.

Jan Mazurek, Director, Carbon Dioxide Removal Fund at ClimateWorks, spoke about large philanthropic funding of policy change initiatives, technological innovation, and research to reduce atmospheric GHGs via mitigation and sequestration (carbon dioxide removal).

Cool Effect's Director of Marketing, Jody Manning, provided an excellent overview of carbon offsets – how they work, who buys them, how their impact is measured – and introduced numerous projects sponsored by Cool Effect around the globe.

[EFM's Carbon Offset Buying Guide and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint!](#)

### Upcoming Community Education Events

EFM will kick-off its 3-part spring 2020 series on Climate Resilience on **February 4**. Our first event in this series, "Community MicroGrids: Renewable Energy and Resilience," will address one solution to transition quickly to a future where communities can generate all, or most, of their own power and 'island' from the larger grid in the case of emergency to be entirely self-sufficient.

We are thrilled that the following experts will be speaking at this event: Peter Asmus, Research Director, Guidehouse; Dr. Ellie Cohen, CEO, The Climate Center; and John Sarter, Program Director, Clean Coalition.

EFM is partnering with five organizations on this event to provide attendees with related actions they can take to help with climate protection. These organizations: 350 Marin, County of Marin Sustainability Team, Drive Clean Marin, Marin Conservation League, and Sierra Club, will be at the event with ample time for attendees to talk with them about opportunities for action, from energy efficiency improvements to advocacy! If you are interested in attending this event, please [register](#) as soon as possible as tickets are limited and going fast!

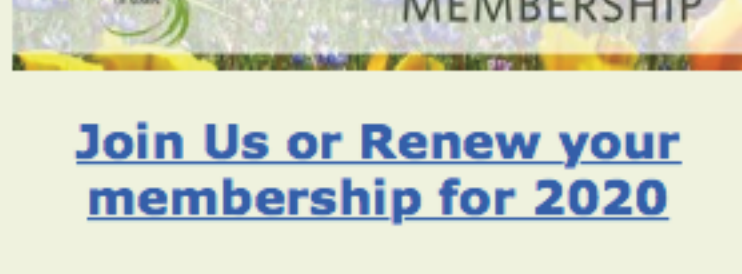
Save the Dates!

**Part I-Sun: Community Microgrids: Renewable Energy and Resilience**  
February 4 [Register here](#)

**Part II-Water: Sea Level Rise and Nature-Based Adaptation**  
March 17 [More information](#)

**Part III-Earth: Healthy Agricultural Soils for a Climate Resilient Planet**  
May 5 [More information](#)

by Helene Marsh & Sarah Loughran



## Join Us or Renew your membership for 2020

Your support allows EFM to host public education programs that engage and provide you with the information you'll need to become a more effective advocate. In this time where we now see the alarming impacts of climate change, your participation is critical if we are to continue developing programs with richer content and relevance.

### Not sure if your membership is current?

Contact [Kim@marinefm.org](mailto:Kim@marinefm.org) or **LOG IN** to our database from the Home Page of our website. Once you login, you will have access to your profile which lists your membership status.

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

Current members have access to our [Members Only page](#) which houses our membership directories.

## Master Class 46 Advocacy Speeches: Power from the Podium

In December of 2019, Master Class 46 students stepped into the San Rafael City Council chambers and took their individual places behind the lectern to practice the power of advocating from the podium. It was apparent these students took the advice of their instructors and mentors to heart as they presented with conviction, passion, and even a few props.

Waste was a hot topic of the day. Leslie Gerstenfeld highlighted the complicated process of plastic recycling at the local and global level. Bridget Clark supported a single-use cup ban in order to reduce waste and green bin contamination with "wishful composting." Similarly, Julie Monroe requested Larkspur take a stand on plastic pollution and adopt a town ordinance banning single-use plastic food ware. Wendy Tobiasson championed a program to identify and highlight local businesses who participate in food to energy programs to divert food waste from landfills and other climate positive actions. Susan Holloway offered a solution to Marin's dog waste problem -- an anerobic digester, adopted from similar models used in the dairy industry. And Jean Frascina brought a container of Styrofoam-eating king mealworms and shared the biomimicry lessons that can be gleaned and applied to this type of troublesome waste.

Healthy communities and ecosystems were other prevalent themes of the Master Class speeches: Lena Zentall proposed the development of key health, social, and community indicators of Point Reyes National Seashore in order to prioritize funding and support for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. Carolyn Losee advocated for increased oversight and accountability of the water quality in Richardson Bay. Rachel Farac celebrated Novato's strong sense of community and encouraged the city to establish a sustainability commission to continue to promote the city's values. Anne-Christine Strugnell suggested Marin nonprofits organize under a collaborative and synergistic agency to streamline effective climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Dr. Anjie Ro-Trock illuminated the harmful health concerns of 5G cellular microwave radiation; her colleague and project partner, Laurie Gottlieb, educated the audience on actions elected officials and concerned citizens can take to direct how cell antennas are planned for communities. Suzanne Harris presented on social sustainability and the inextricable link to climate change. Betsey Crawford described what the world might look like if the rights of nature were included in land preservation policies. And Eugene Porter invited us to "save shell to build a beach" by diverting shells from the waste stream to fortify living shorelines.

Students will present their final projects on Saturday, April 4, 2020. Current EFM members at the Advocate level and above will receive an invitation to attend.

by Kirsten Nolan

## Master Class 46: An Insider's Report



Master Class students at Tomales Bay Foods

Photo by Lena Zentall

"Yikes! What did I get myself into?" My goal, being a transplant from the East Bay to Marin, was to understand my new environment better and to be a more informed supporter of the issues that might be the most pressing. From EFM's Master Class, I learned a whole new vocabulary: sustainability, carbon sequestration, sea level rise, methane digesters, neighborhood resiliency...the list is extensive. Daylong-field trips included an introduction to West Marin agriculture (Straus Family Creamery, Little Wing Farm, Cowgirl Creamery, Hog Island Oyster Farm) and visits to Bayland plant communities and Marin Headlands for lessons in geology, raptors, and wildlife monitoring. A day in the classroom included presentations from several of the agencies who regulate our lands. At this point, I am learning how much I do not know, but my well-versed classmates and numerous expert speakers are eager to share their knowledge.

Our final classes were interactive sessions on advocacy training: what is your project proposal and how can you make change? I am feeling a bit uneasy at this point because I don't know what my passion is and turning it into a project presents a challenge. Mentoring from the EFM staff suggested a need from EFM for communication assistance: assist with the bulletin, evaluate MC 46 outcomes and get the message out about the upcoming MC 47 to begin in the fall of 2020.

Has this class series been on your "to do" list? I encourage you to consider it if you want to be part of the solution. You CAN take action that will make a difference.

by Maggie Fillmore (MC 46)



## Ode to the Bartlett Pear Tree

The Bartlett pear tree was planted long before the 18 years that my family cared for it. The tree has chapped bark and woodpecker holes and still provides. Behind our once dilapidated house with its overgrown garden, this backyard tree was found with Fire Blight, a fungal disease that can rapidly destroy an orchard. An arborist advised us to remove this 25-foot tree which shaded our backyard on hot days. Instead, we remained optimistic and aggressively pruned off the black, lifeless branches. We took care of this tree and it slowly recovered.

Last fall the Bartlett tree produced an abundance of pears. It shares produce with our neighbors and EFM Master Classes, as well as the creatures that live in our yard. Yet this season the pear pies, canned pears, and sauces would not make a dent in its yield, so we contacted a family-run nonprofit named, "Share the Bounty Marin." Three members of the Van Hooser family arrived on a Sunday morning – pickers in hand. After an hour, we removed 323 lbs of pears which they delivered to the SF-Marin Food Bank. Despite our pickings, the top branches were still in fruit and only accessible and enjoyed by the birds.

Food waste is also a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. If you have extra produce, contact: [Share The Bounty Marin](#).

by Kim Rago

## What we're reading ...



If you run out and purchase this book, be sure to share it! Read this [review](#) written by NPR's Gabino Iglesias of Adam Minter's latest book, [Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale](#). Enjoy!

## Environmental Events in Our Community

### Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy | [One Tam](#)

### [Volunteer on MLK Day of Service - Monday, January 20](#)

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 its long-term health. Help ensure a vibrant and healthy future for Mt. Tam.

*Volunteer opportunities, community hikes, naturalist talks and more!*

Visit [OneTam.org](#) to view the full calendar.

### [Marin Conservation League](#)

### [Home Landscaping in a Changing Climate: Fire Smart, Water Wise, Biodiverse Symposium](#)

(Hosted by Marin Art & Garden Center and co-hosted by Bee Audacious, Marin Conservation League, and California Native Plant Society) on Saturday, February 29

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.

### [Resilient Neighborhoods](#)

The time is NOW to commit to climate action with Resilient Neighborhoods. Get prepared for emergencies and lower your carbon footprint. You will get support to personalize your climate action plan and achieve measurable results over 5 team meetings. Sign up for a team or register for a class [here](#).

## Board Members & Staff

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**Kirsten Nolan, Communications & Marketing Director**

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

Environmental Forum of Marin | P.O. Box 151546, San Rafael, CA 94915

415-484-8336

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