



Artwork courtesy of Bernard Healy (1932-2021)

President's Message

A time to give thanks!

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because it is a time to reflect and express gratitude. As we go through these fractured times when there is so much polarization, it is important to remember that this is the season to give thanks.

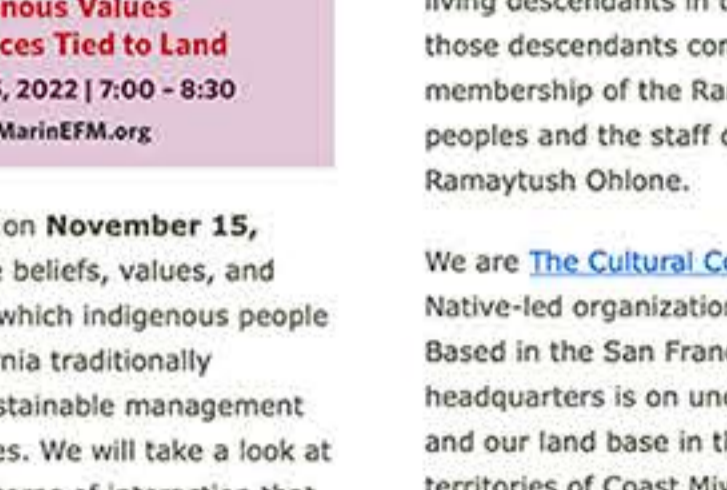
EFM celebrated its 50th anniversary this past year and we are so grateful to all our members and supporters who have helped make this year special. EFM depends on the support of its members, allowing us to put on programs at minimal cost to the attendees. When you [renew now](#), your membership extends until January 1, 2024.

Two members have stepped up to join the Board. We are happy to welcome Keenan Kelsey and Wendy Wyse, and look forward to their contributions to EFM. I continue to be grateful to all our Board members and staff for all they do to keep EFM operating.

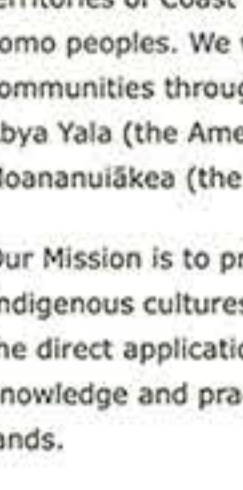
Several months ago we created a Sustainability Committee to explore the ways we can keep EFM operating and supported into the future. We want to continue to bring you webinars and programs on the latest environmental issues, offer field trips, present the wonderful Notebook articles, and provide advocacy training. I would like to hear from our members and supporters: what do you want and/or expect from EFM's programs? Send me your suggestions at susan@rusche.com.

Join us for the second program in our Forum 2022 series: [Indigenous Values and Practices Tied to Land](#) on Tuesday, November 15. This promises to be a program filled with ideas and inspiration for new approaches to restoring and enriching our contemporary landscapes.

We will have an in-person Holiday Party on December 4, to once again see one other (details and registration below) and find joy and comfort in the many things for which we are grateful. Thank you everyone for your support of EFM!



Susan Rusche
EFM President



FORUM 2022

The Reciprocity of Earth's Living Systems

As this year draws to an end, we will be focusing on reciprocity, or how to use environmental knowledge and advocacy to re-establish a productive balance among the earth's living systems.

Indigenous Values and Practices Tied to Land

November 15 | 7:00 - 8:30pm via ZOOM



Forum 2022 Presents
Indigenous Values and Practices Tied to Land
November 15, 2022 | 7:00 - 8:30
www.MarinEFM.org

The Ramaytush (pronounced *rah-my-toosh*) are the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish, the Ramaytush Ohlone numbered approximately 1500 to 2,000 persons, but by the end the Mission Period only a few families had survived. Today, only one lineage is known to have produced living descendants in the present. Today, those descendants comprise the membership of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples and the staff of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone.

We are [The Cultural Conservancy](#), a Native-led organization founded in 1985. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, our headquarters is on unceded Ohlone land and our land base in the sovereign territories of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo peoples. We work with Indigenous communities throughout Turtle Island and Abya Yala (the Americas) and Moananuiākea (the Pacific).

Our Mission is to protect and restore Indigenous cultures, empowering them in the direct application of traditional knowledge and practices on their ancestral lands.

Our next program on **November 15, 2022** explores the beliefs, values, and practices through which indigenous people in Northern California traditionally engaged in the sustainable management of natural resources. We will take a look at the distinctive patterns of interaction that benefitted tribal members along with other living systems for centuries. These indigenous ways of living provide ideas and inspiration for new approaches to restoring and enriching our contemporary landscapes.

Indigenous staff will share their perspectives as Native people on their relationship with the natural world.

Speakers



Jonathan Cordero, PhD, Executive Director from [The Association of Ramaytush Ohlone](#)



Redbird Willie, Native Ecologist, from [The Cultural Conservancy](#)



Sara Moncada, CEO, from the [The Cultural Conservancy](#)

Missed the October webinar? Susan Holloway recaps it for you.

Housing Equity & Transformative Justice

Tuesday, October 11 via ZOOM



Photo taken by Tim Tsai at High Street Encampment, Oakland, April 2019

As the cost of housing continues to skyrocket throughout the Bay Area, many residents have been forced to move out of the region while others are living in vehicles or on the streets. How can we increase the supply of housing while also honoring the responsibility of ecological stewardship? In the kickoff webinar for Forum 2022, two speakers dove into this complex and crucial question.

Margaretta Wan-Ling Lin, Executive Director at Just Cities, critiqued the mainstream narrative of homelessness as caused by drug addiction or mental health problems and urged us to consider the resources that privileged individuals can access to face such problems versus those available to marginalized people.

Given the role of racism and capitalism in establishing inequities in land ownership and access to financing, Lin argued against market-based solutions to the housing crisis. She emphasized the importance of public policies that prevent homelessness, not only those that provide services for the unhoused. For example, Oakland's pioneering Fair Chance Housing ordinance removes housing barriers to formerly incarcerated individuals, who constitute the great majority of those facing homelessness.

Our second speaker, **Pam Dorr, Executive Director at the Community Land Trust of West Marin (CLAM)**, described how community land trusts are being used in West Marin to create permanently affordable housing in West Marin. Community land trusts take land and housing out of the speculative real estate market and hold it "in trust" to serve as a community asset for housing people. These trusts can either rent the housing or sell it while continuing to own the ground it sits on.

Dorr described CLAM's transformation of a former Coast Guard Housing site in Point Reyes Station into a new neighborhood of 51 environmentally sustainable, affordable homes aligned with the natural environment. This development is part of a growing movement in California to create affordable homes on small lots in residential neighborhoods. Such housing allows families to purchase rather than rent, thereby making communities more resilient, and it also respects site setbacks and height restrictions, making these sites compatible with existing homes and acceptable to current residents.

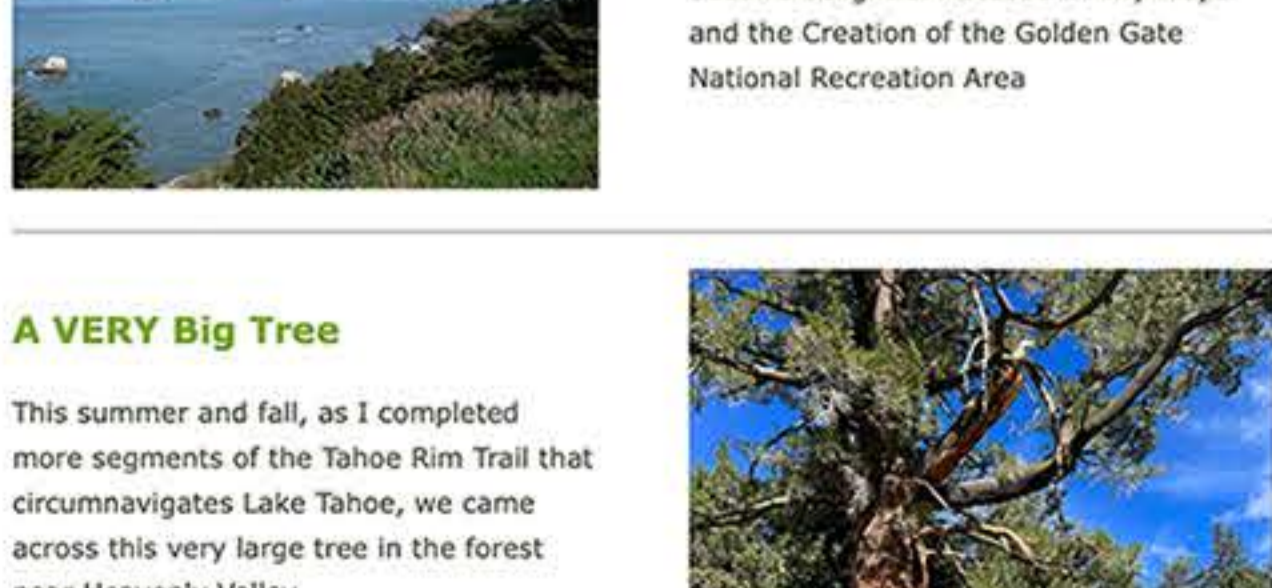
The Q and A following the presentations was moderated by **Bill Carney, president of Sustainable Marin**. Among the topics discussed were tactics for generating political will to create affordable housing and the need for financing tools to support constructing of various kinds of homes.

Click [here](#) to see our handbook with lots of resources to learn more about the Bay Area's housing crisis and how to be part of the solution.

Submitted by Susan Holloway, EFM Notebook Editor



Coast Guard Housing: courtesy of Todd Pickering



Come raise a glass with us at Environmental Forum's Annual Holiday Party. See old friends, meet new people, and celebrate another year of successful environmental education and advocacy training.

Sunday, December 4 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm
San Rafael Yacht Club
200 Yacht Club Drive, San Rafael, CA

Please bring a plate of "finger food" - savory or sweet - to share.
EFM will provide wine and your glass!

The EFM party is complementary to Environmental Forum Members* (plus one additional guest). We look forward to seeing you there.

[Register Here](#)

***Is your EFM membership out of date? Please renew today for 2023.**

Are you new to the EFM? Join us! Become a member now and start receiving benefits today.

- Looking forward to 2023 programs:**
- Building Resilience for Climate Anxiety
 - Climate Change Education for Future Generations
 - Rewilding and Biodiversity
 - Empowering Environmental Advocates

Look for details in the new year!

Welcome to the EFM Board

Keenan Kelsey



Nine years ago, newly retired as a Presbyterian Minister, I began looking for new outlets. A graduate of an EFM Master Class suggested the Forum. It took a few years to get there, but my experience with the 2020 Forum Class rekindled a lifelong connection and concern with the physical world. Through it, I found others on the same journey. I was reminded that I have skills and I have passion, and that EFM offers hope.

I remember my first definable connection with the power of nature on a North Carolina mountainside at 11 years old. It grew with summers in Florida with the Bay on one side, the Gulf on the other, and at a mountain top inn in Vermont. At 27 I stumbled into the Washington DC headquarters of the first Earth Day. There, my activist edge was honed. I realized that we cannot take our Earth for granted. At age 30, I joined the Ecology Center in San Francisco.

Later, in my ministry, creation theology and environmental justice were central to our mission. Now, both a grandmother and a new bride, I have a renewed urgency about our world. We face unprecedented environmental crises, complicated by global warming, power and land struggles, industrialization, and so much more. We have strangled creation; we need to restore her. The Invitation to the Board seems like a call, a way to be part of the solution.

Wendy Wyse



Wendy has lived in Marin County for forty-four years, long enough to evaluate the successes and failures of attempts to preserve the environmental health of our county. She graduated from the comprehensive EFM training program of 1993-4, attending 20 weekly, all-day classes (with homework!) to develop a broad understanding of our habitat and the issues facing it. Also a graduate of the UC Master Gardening program, she has a particular interest in preserving and restoring native biodiversity.

Wendy grew up in Portland, Oregon, graduated from Wellesley College and Harvard Law School, and practiced as an attorney for 50 years. She and her husband, Bruce Dodge, have 3 adult children and 7 grandchildren.

We thank you Susan Rusche!

Karen Mendelow Nelson, EFM's Vice President of Education, expresses our gratitude to President Susan Rusche:

"Susan has been our super President for the last 6 or 7 years and has held various EFM positions over the years. Susan is a terrific listener. She focuses on Board members concerns and stays dedicated to environmental and climate concerns. She leads us forward amicably in meetings to accomplishing our program goals.

Susan is upbeat and a super writer. She stays on the pulse of Marin issues, what is happening in the Marin IJ and always has a positive attitude. Additionally, Susan communicates beautifully with our membership and kindly does outreach with our community. She writes insightful President's messages for our quarterly newsletter. We are grateful and appreciate Susan's long-term commitment to EFM."



EFM is a proud to be a sponsor of this event, now available online.

Home tours explain how are Marin residents adapting their homes to

- combat climate change
- improve air quality
- generate clean energy
- save water
- move toward a safer, healthier, greener, and more resilient future.

The tour features new homes, remodels, retrofits, and low-cost, low-tech, DIY solutions for homeowners and renters. Short presentations by experts, links to relevant businesses, and useful resources and rebates are included.

Another Milestone 50th Anniversary: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

On Oct. 27, 1972, a collection of former military, private, and public lands across the Bay Area was united and officially designated as public parklands for all. Those lands are the [Golden Gate National Recreation Area \(GGNRA\)](#). EFM celebrates the milestone 50th anniversary year of their founding.

EFM Notebook Editor Susan Holloway

introduced Amy Meyer and her role with GGNRA in the Notebook. Click on the photo taken from Land's End to re-read Susan's delightful Notebook. Amy Meyer and the Creation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

A VERY Big Tree

This summer and fall, as I completed more segments of the Tahoe Rim Trail that circumnavigates Lake Tahoe, we came across this very large tree in the forest near Heavenly Valley.

A Google later, I learned that it is a Western White Pine and one of the largest in the western US.

Submitted by Maggie Fillmore, Newsletter Editor

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