



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022



President's Message

Welcome to 2022, with the good news that migrating monarch butterfly populations are overwintering along the Central California coastline and the salmon are spawning in Lagunitas Creek.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Environmental Forum of Marin! In 1972 Dr. Martin Griffin and his fellow activists from

Audubon Canyon Ranch, Stan Picher and Clerin Zumwalt, realized that a cadre of skilled and informed advocates was necessary to protect Marin's vulnerable environment. A pioneering environmental education consulting firm headed up by Remmy Kingsley created the original Forum training course in close collaboration with EFM members Virginia Havel, Kathy Cuneo, Nona Dennis, Ray Peterson, and Phyllis Faber.

Fast forward half a century to today, and EFM continues to offer high quality programs on environmental issues and has provided environmental education and advocacy training to well over a thousand people—all thanks to the dedication of numerous volunteers, great speakers, and caring community activists.

Please plan to join us for a gala celebration of the first 50 years of Environmental Forum of Marin on May 15 at the Mill Valley Community Center. We want to celebrate the roots of EFM and all the milestones from the past 50 years, plus create a fun opportunity for the entire EFM community to come together in a joyful acknowledgement of what we've achieved together.

You can help us make it a meaningful and memorable event! Please let us know if you can help with general organization, putting together a slide/video presentation of Forum achievements, or setting up/cleaning up on the day of the event (May 15). Please contact Kim Rago to volunteer or to get more details (kim@marinefm.org).

The Board and staff of EFM continue to do incredible work to put on programs that have been well attended during these past two years of dealing with the effects of the pandemic. I would like to thank our retiring Board member Leslie Gerstenfeld, Program Director, for all she did to create Forum 2020 and 2021. Best wishes as you pursue your new career in epidemiology.

It's going to be a busy time for the next few months as we plan for the May 15 event and create programming for Forum 2022.

Your participation is important and valued. Here are three ways to stay involved:

4 **[Renew your 2022 membership](#)**

1. [Renew your 2022 membership.](#)
2. [Sign up for the 2-part webinar series **Aligning Your Money with Your Values** on February 9 & 16.](#) *(more information below)*
3. Save the date and volunteer for the **50th anniversary celebration** on May 15, 2022

Susan Rusche, President

Susan Rusche



FORUM 2022



Align Your Money with Your Values: a two-part Webinar series

February 9 & 16, 4:00 – 5:30 PM on Zoom

You know what you're spending and investing... but what exactly are you financing?

You get to vote only a few times a year, but with every purchase or investment you are casting a vote for the world you want to live in. Unfortunately, it's not always easy to know what your money is supporting.

- Many retailers and service providers make political donations with the profits from your purchase.
- While you're out protesting against fracking, the cards in your pocket and the dollars in your bank account may be funding it (or other environmentally damaging activities).
- Your investment funds may include companies and industries that you don't want to support... and might not be offering opportunities to invest more directly in the change you want to see in the world.

This two-part webinar helps you understand what your money is supporting. Part one focuses on your spending choices, and part two on investing. Whether you have a lot of money or a little, or whether you're just beginning the accumulation stage of your financial journey or are well into retirement, these webinars provide practical advice for using the financial power you have to help bring about the future you want.

Each [webinar features three experts](#) who will help you understand each of these issues and will provide practical advice on how you can take action that aligns your money with your values. We will conclude each webinar with a Q&A period.

REGISTRATION

Connect and inspire: EFM In-Person Mixer

Come get and give inspiration!
We're gathering our **Forum 2020**
and Forum 2021 classes, along
with our Board for a mixer on
March 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm.
Wine, cheese, and an icebreaker
activity will set the stage for us all
to enjoy connecting with fellow
environmental advocates.

We are planning for an in-person
event at the [Mill Valley Golf
Clubhouse](#). Please RSVP promptly as
space is limited to comply with
social distancing recommendations.
In-person attendees must be fully
vaccinated.



REGISTRATION





Environmental Forum of Marin is as strong as its passionate and dedicated members. We've been making a difference in Marin County for 50 years through our educational events and advocacy training. Please consider supporting this important work by [becoming a member or by renewing your membership for 2022](#).



Artwork courtesy of Bernard Healey (1932-2021)

SAVE THE DATE

May 15, 2022 at the Mill Valley Community Center

We celebrate 50 years of EFM education and environmental activism in 2022!

We will honor our founders, look back at 50 years of highlights, and enjoy food and fellowship together.

Recapping our Autumn Webinars and Forum 2021 Advocacy Series

**Biodiversity on Land, at Sea,
on Tam**

September 29, 2021



Speakers at the **second webinar in EFM's Forum 2021 series on biodiversity** offered three perspectives on supporting biodiversity on "land, sea, and air" in an era of habitat loss and global climate change.

Dan Gluesenkamp, *President of the California Institute of Biodiversity*, started the session by making a fundamental point that biodiversity refers to the abundance of all species in a particular ecosystem as well as to the variability across different members of a single species.

Too much inbreeding creates problems, including less healthy offspring. But it's also important because survival of a species depends on its ability to adapt to changing conditions. If a few salamanders in a pond tolerate warm water better than others, those outliers have a better chance of surviving than the more "normal" salamanders. Thus we need to be sure that we save enough members of prioritized species to ensure that they will be able to adapt to changing conditions.

Adam Ratner, *Associate Director of Conservation Education at the Marine Mammal Center*, also addressed the concept of adaptation. He described how MMC staff care for injured and sick marine mammals and then track their subsequent movements. In doing so, they learn about environmental conditions that may have caused their health problems as well as how they are adapting to new conditions.

Did you know that the status of the threatened Northern Spotted Owl is unexpectedly good right here on Mt Tam? A key aspect of protecting biodiversity is to develop comprehensive databases containing information about the health, habits, and relative abundance of local plant and animal life over time.

Lisette Arellano, *One Tam Community Science Program Manager*, described the wildlife indicators being monitored on Mt Tam. She also outlined opportunities for local residents to become involved by, for example, identifying mammals captured in images obtained for the Marin Wildlife Picture Index.

Christina Sloop, *Science Adviser and Science Institute Lead at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, moderated the Q and A that followed these presentations as well as contributing insights from her own extensive experiences in this field.

Submitted by Susan Holloway, author of EFM Notebook

Waterscapes: Watersheds and Human Dependency

November 10, 2021



Our speakers were:

Obi Kaufmann, *Artist, Naturalist,
Author *The State of Water*,
Understanding California's most
Precious Resource*

Jay Lund, *Professor, UC Davis
Center for Watershed Sciences*

Cynthia Koehler, *Marin Municipal
Water District, Board Member
and Co-founder and Executive
Director of WaterNow Alliance
Municipal Water District*

We learned about a variety of water-related topics, including:

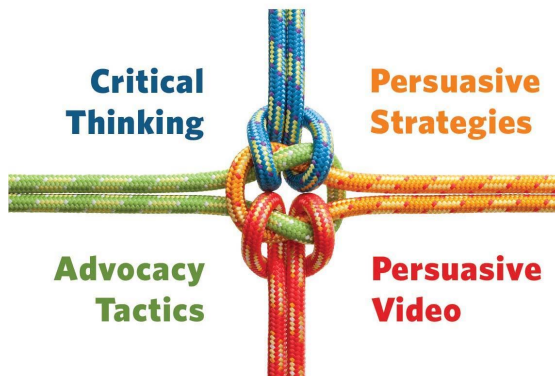
- The other species that depend on our watershed
- Interconnectedness of all watershed issues and water users
- The changing relationship between economic growth and water use

- Whether high water use crops like almonds are worth it
- Who's in charge of water in California
- Whether Marin is about to run out of water
- How MMWD takes a portfolio management approach to water supply
- What's with that idea of an "intertie" pipeline over the Richmond Bridge

Those of you who listened to the live event had an opportunity to ask questions of our panelists. We had so many questions for MMWD that we couldn't cover them all, but our presenter, MMWD Board President Cynthia Koehler, [generously offered to provide written answers.](#)

Submitted by Anne-Christine Strugnell, Director of Communications for EFM

Advocacy Training



October 13 – November 3, 2021

EFM-trained advocates have achieved substantial environmental "wins" in Marin County for more than 50 years. Advocacy training is a four-part series of interactive webinars that show you how to take your passion and create change.

Critical Thinking Advocacy

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October 13, 2021

The series kicked off on October 13 with a workshop on critical thinking led by **Trevor Stevenson**, an executive coach for social change leaders.

Trevor structured his presentation around a case study involving recent attempts to ban leaf blowers, which are extremely loud and emit toxic fumes. These efforts have culminated in Governor Newsom's approval of a bill phasing out sale of these and other landscaping equipment by 2024. Implementation details will need to be hammered out, however, meaning that environmental advocates are needed to ensure the best possible outcome.

What are the critical thinking processes that enable advocates to gather and make good use of trustworthy information? Trevor highlighted a number of these, such as evaluating the quality of information available on a topic. For example, applied to the case of leaf blowers, is there scientific evidence that the engines powering this equipment emit gases that are toxic to human health? Or are assertions such as these based on opinion or hearsay?

Another important aspect of critical thinking is taking into account the potential biases of those who provide information. In the case of leaf blowers, if scientists or political leaders were to receive funding from the lawn equipment industry, what are the likely effects on the integrity of their assertions?

Trevor also emphasized that advocates are more effective when they consider the mindset of those on the opposing side. When it comes to banning leaf blowers, advocates concerned about environmental impact may be at odds with those who worry about economic impact to low-wage landscapers. By listening carefully to the commitments of those on the opposing side, advocates are more likely to find solutions that suit the requirements of all stakeholders.

In addition to discussing the leaf-blower ban, Trevor also encouraged the participants in the class to reflect on their own passions, and to apply the principles of critical thinking to those issues closest to their own priorities.

Submitted by Susan Holloway, author EFM Notebook

Persuasive Video

November 3, 2021

Leah Faw, EFM's Social Media Director, led a class on persuasive video as our final meeting of the Forum 2021 Advocacy Series. This was a new topic for advocacy training, but critical to navigate to reach out via Facebook, Instagram, You Tube, Tik Tok among others. It's a new language: avatars, GIFs, thumbnails, memes...whaaaat?!

Leah presented along with:

Kate O'Donnell, science education specialist, multimedia artist, and national award-winning audio producer; and **Aniya Butler**, 15-year-old environmental activist with the Oakland-Based organization [Youth Vs. Apocalypse](#). The class focused on the social media landscape, best practices for audience engagement, and engagement strategies and videos used by environmental action organizations. Thank you to our Advocacy Series participants for a lively and engaging class!

Submitted by Leah Faw, EFM Social Media Director



Earth 2050: Create a better world

Join our big event in Mill Valley on April 24, 2022

This creative campaign is led by [Green Change](#)

How can we create a better world by 2050? What will it look like?

Come see art exhibits, hear inspiring talks, play games and enjoy good music at Earth 2050, our free Earth Day community event.

[Free registration required](#). Children under 13 are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Remembering Ann M. Maurer Bauer

**This October, we lost one of
our own.**

She was a true *Mujerona* of Marin:
her presence was large with
benevolence, humor, strength and
perseverance. We have been
blessed with a score of *Mujeronas* in
Marin, from Alice Eastwood, Caroline
Livermore, Ellen Strauss (and many
more) in the 19thC and 20thC, now
to Ann and her contemporaries in
the 21stC.





Throughout her professional career, Ann continually embodied feminine qualities of grace, self-authority, abundance and power — while achieving high goals in traditionally male-dominated fields. Her life was dedicated to encouraging not just environmental diversity, but social, physical, spiritual, and mental health for both people and the planet.

Ann studied natural resources and technology at Humboldt State University, spent a summer working as a wilderness ranger, and served as a Peace Corps environmental educator in Paraguay. She also served on a new wildland management team in Honduras. But most notable was the 23-year career Ann enjoyed at The Marine Mammal Center, eventually as Director of Education. She also demonstrated her devotion to the natural environment by leading coastal cleanups for 26 years, by volunteering for Home Ground Habitat Nursery and the San Rafael Clean Coalition. Finally, Ann also served on the Board of the Environmental Forum of Marin.

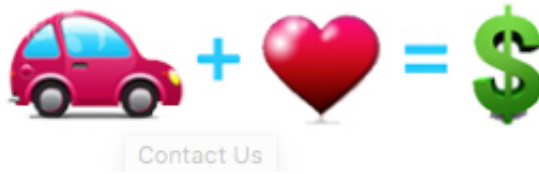
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/marinij/name/ann-bauer-obituary?id=31107763>

She will be deeply missed.

by Carolyn Losee

A member asked: Can I donate a car to EFM?

Yes! EFM is now listed as a charity for cardonationservices.com. We get 60% of the proceeds once the car has been sold--another avenue for supporting EFM.



Recognizing our Business Supporters



[Strategic Energy Innovations](#) ([SEI](#)) is an environmental nonprofit that builds leaders to drive sustainability solutions and has been a long-time supporter of EFM. For over 20 years, SEI has worked with schools, communities, and businesses to develop a leadership pathway from elementary school to early career.

SEI's flagship programs ([Energize Schools](#), [Energize Colleges](#), [School of Environmental Leadership](#), [Climate Corps](#), and [Energize Careers](#)) educate and empower students and emerging professionals to create thriving, resilient communities. Both SEI and EFM work within communities to enact change and foster empowerment through education and action. Recent partnership activities include collaboration on [equitable park access](#) and participation in the EFM Green Jobs event. As a business member of EFM, SEI staff also regularly attend EFM training as part of continuing staff development and education.

We are proud to support EFM and look forward to continued collaboration in the future

Submitted by Katie Hallah, SEI Operations Coordinator



MARIN HOLISTIC HEALTH
— AND ACUPUNCTURE —
DR. ANJIERO-TROCK, R.N., L.A.C., DACM

[Marin Holistic Health and Acupuncture](#) supports EFM because as a Marin certified green business, the practice is built with environmental concerns in mind. Dr. Anjie-Trock opened Marin Holistic Health & Acupuncture with the goal of providing an environment for patients to experience acupuncture, lifestyle and nutritional counseling, and herbal remedies or supplements to restore vitality and healing.

MHH sees a direct connection between the health of the environment and the health of her patients.

Final thought: Monarchs and the salmon...get out and enjoy them!



With the abundant rainfall, make time to view the return of spawning salmon. Understand why this is significant, decide where to head for viewing and learn about salmon spawning behavior before you go: <https://www.marinij.com/2022/01/17/marin-salmon-runs-extend-farther-with-help-from-rain/>

EFM board and staff

Kim Rago, *Executive Director*

Susan Rusche, *President*

Karen Mendelow Nelson, *Vice President of Education*

Barbara Ball, *Treasurer*

Norma Fragoso, *EFM Ambassador*

Kirsten Nolan, *Secretary*

Maggie Fillmore, *Newsletter Editor*

Gayle Marsh, *Graphic Design and Website*

Jonny DeBorst, *Assistant Program Director*

Susan Holloway, *Author of EFM Notebook*

Anne-Christine Strugnell, *Director of Communications*

Marty Blum, *Development Director*

Leah Faw, *Social Media Coordinator*

Terri Thomas, *Director of Ecology*

www.MarinEFM.org



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

415-484-8336

#Education4Action