



# AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Number 37

BULLETIN

Fall 2005



TOM SCHWEICH

TRANSFORMATION IN ACR'S  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## The Alchemy of Change

by Rebecca Anderson-Jones  
*ACR Director of Education*

*My group at Bouverie Preserve was walking through Indian Flat yesterday when a voice called out from behind me, "Stop! Look at the butterfly!" Ryan and Sierra were kneeling at the edge of the trail, observing a Pipevine Swallowtail. The kids—all five of them—had been particularly interested in the butterfly since we first saw several in the Gilman Hall garden.*

*We all got down on our hands and knees around Ryan and Sierra and were told that the butterfly was putting "little red beads on the plant—right there on the stem!" I think everyone knew what she was doing, but I told them anyway. All eyes opened wide, and not a word was spoken for the next five minutes as we watched the egg-laying go on. I will never forget the look on their faces. All the names and labels we had been putting on things parted way for something very important, beyond words—something that seemed at the same time to embrace everything we had been talking about in the classroom and at the preserve. Hurrah for the young people!*

—Ken Ackerman, Bouverie Preserve Docent



*Metamorphosis: chrysalis and caterpillar of Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly (above) and adult (top left).*

This wonderful anecdote recalls for me a favorite axiom: "Change is the one constant in nature." No matter how *unchanged* or *unchanging* things around us may seem, there are always transformations taking place if we happen to look from another perspective or at a different scale. The children in Ken's true story were changed by watching a

Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly lay its tiny eggs. Ken was changed by the transformations he saw occurring in the children. Within each miniscule swallowtail egg, changes propelled the well-known-yet-miraculous sequence that is a butterfly life cycle. And all of these transformations reminded me of the enduring constants, as well as the changes, in ACR's education programs.

*continued on page 3*

BARRY DEUTSCH, COURTESY BARBARA DEUTSCH

## RESTORING HABITAT

by Dan Murphy, President, ACR Board of Directors

I recently had the opportunity, with Skip Schwartz, our executive director, and Daniel Gluesenkamp, PhD, our restoration biologist, to visit the lovely, grass-covered dunes at Toms Point, an ACR preserve at the north end of Tomales Bay.

This little peninsula is a critical habitat on California's most pristine coastal estuary, but when you look closely into the dune vegetation, you see a confusion of exotic plants. We know that here and there are remnants of the original flora, and the Northern Harriers, White-tailed Kites, and Red-tailed Hawks aloft suggest there is plenty to eat in the grasslands below. It's what ACR is learning—and doing—that we were there to see.

On a walk into the dunes, Dan suddenly came to a stop in a restored area and, pointing with his shovel, showed us where European dune grass had been removed and an obscure San Francisco spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidate* var. *villosa*) appeared in the opening. There were many more nearby, and also a little dune gilia (*Gilia capitata* ssp. *chamissonis*)—little blue flower heads everywhere in the clearing. It occurred to me that if we managed to clear enough habitat at Toms Point and elsewhere in the range of these plants, we might just bring them back from the threat of extinction. And in fact, within 30 yards of restored habitat we found numerous rare plants that weren't present before Dan began implementing the Toms Point Natural Resource Management Plan.

Down in the marsh is another restoration area where ACR volunteers, under Dan's direction, have removed invasive saltgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) to keep our mudflats open, especially for hungry shorebirds, and to allow other native plants to regain a foothold.

Along with land preservation, research, and education, ACR's work includes making a home for San Francisco spineflower and dune gilia. Maybe one day our good work will help to not only restore habitat on ACR lands, but our Habitat Protection and Restoration Program will help bring rare plants back from the brink of extinction.

How can you help with this element of ACR's work? Participate as a volunteer on our habitat restoration work days. Continue to include ACR among the organizations to which you provide financial support. It is only through the generosity of our donors that we can continue to successfully carry out the mission of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

## EXPERIENCING NATURE

by Skip Schwartz, Executive Director

Some of my favorite moments spent at an ACR preserve are when I can watch the progression toward delight and wonder reflected in a child's face as they bravely hold a wet and dripping newt in their wet and dripping hands for the first time. I can see the cascade of thoughts and emotions from, "Uh, oh!" to "This is not so scary" to "This is way cool!" to "I wonder how it breathes?" to "Wow, what else is in that pond?"

Author Richard Louv has used the phrase "Nature Deficit Disorder" when expressing his concern that many children may have a mostly virtual or intellectual experience of "nature" through television and videos. At ACR we feel natural science education must include students' actual experience in nature at our beautiful preserves: the native geography, habitats, plants and animals. ACR nature education emphasizes time in the field at the preserves, in the flow of nature and the consequent feeling, sights, sounds and smells—all informed with scientific curiosity and respect. Skilled staff and volunteer educators (Docents and Ranch Guides) personalize the education program for every student and visitor. At ACR we are committed to education as a critical arm of our mission and we hope that the guided experience of nature at Audubon Canyon Ranch raise and/or resurface a love of nature and a commitment to protect our natural resources and heritage.

ACR's hundreds of active volunteers provide our education programs for thousands of San Francisco Bay Area schoolchildren. In addition, ACR supporters like our Partners in Education ensure that we can continue to provide these programs, as well as transportation scholarships, free of charge for schools that, because of financial constraints, would not otherwise be able to participate. With your support, we will continue to provide natural science education through the experience of ACR's beautiful preserves.

*Audubon Canyon Ranch is a  
guardian of natural  
environments  
through preservation, education  
and research.*



CASSIE GRUENSTEIN

*Making contact with a lizard at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve.*

### **ACR Education**, from page 1

As fall arrives, each Pipevine Swallowtail larva will build a chrysalis in which to overwinter. Planning for the future of our education programs is akin to building and overwintering in such a chrysalis: it serves as a structure within which to focus on, clarify, and prepare for what will come when conditions

allow another cycle of metamorphosis. Inside the “planning cocoon” something new is taking shape. When seasonal changes again find Pipevine Swallowtail pupae in their cocoons on our preserves, ACR’s Education Committee should be working steadily to begin implementation of *An ACR Education Plan: A Vision for the Future, 2005*, recently approved by the ACR Board of Directors. We are eager to see what emerges from this process!

### **The Task Force and Its Charter**

In the fall of 2002, the Planning Committee of the ACR Board of Directors recognized the need to develop a comprehensive, long-range plan for our education programs. A task force was envisioned, and its members appointed (see box below). In her letter to the Education Planning Task Force, former Board President, Sue Stoddard wrote:

*“This is an opportunity to ‘think outside the box’ of day-to-day delivery of our excellent programs, and develop an education plan, based on our strengths, which identifies how we fit in the broader environmental education world and in our communities, counties, and region.... As a team, the task force is in a great position to explore our possibilities and to develop the vision of the future....”*

*continued on page 4*

## **Task Force Members Bring Skill And Experience To The Education Plan**

Task Force members were chosen based on their unique experiences within ACR and their other relevant life experiences. Task force members have been or continue to be:

- active docents
- docent council presidents
- training committee chairs
- active Ranch Guides
- school program committee chairs
- scheduling committee chairs
- ACR education committee chairs
- public school volunteers

- K-12 grade substitute teachers
- and/or ACR Board members.

Remarkably, this 11-member task force also includes:

- a retired elementary school principal
- a retired classroom teacher
- a retired teacher’s aid
- a newly credentialed pre-service teacher
- a practicing lawyer
- a homeopathic medical practitioner
- a former residential camp naturalist

- a former college level lab instructor
- a former private foundation employee
- an advisor to the Bay Area California Regional Environmental Education Community Network (CREEC)
- a leader in California 4-H
- a participant in a regional planning process for the Bolinas–Stinson community
- members of the North American Association of Environmental Education
- a member of the California Association of Bilingual Educators

- and a member of the Environmental Education Advisory Committee for the California Department of Education!

Task Force Members are:  
Ranch Guides: Rich Schiller, Jamie Perham & Carol Guerrero; BLP Docents: Jeni Jackson, Mary Bicknell & Jan Moffet; BP Docents: Beth Gurney, Mary Engebretth & Sue Walker; and staff members Yvonne Pierce (Administrative Director) and Rebecca Anderson-Jones (Director of Education & Task Force Chair).

### *ACR Education, from page 3*

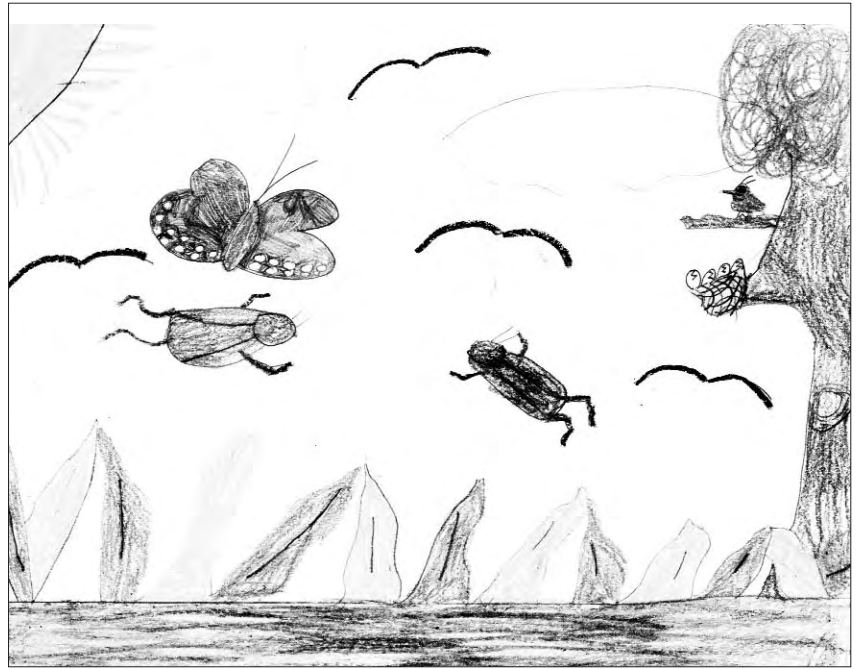
The Education Planning Task force was composed of representatives from each of the three primary education programs of Audubon Canyon Ranch: the Ranch Guide Council, the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve Docent Council, and the Bouverie Preserve Docent Council, and included two staff members with broad education program responsibilities. Our work benefited from the consultation and facilitation of professional management consultant Nancy Williams, and was sponsored by Skip Schwartz, ACR Executive Director, and Sue Stoddard, formerly ACR's Board President and Planning Committee Chair. Within the task force, members shared 60 years of combined ACR experience, and a wealth of relevant life experiences (see box on page 3). After the task force first convened in March of 2003, this representative group engaged in a deliberately inclusive yet intensely focused process that resulted in a plan that we believe ACR participants, friends and sponsors will value and support.

Previously, no single document had outlined ACR's many educational offerings. We began our work together by carefully documenting "what we do," and the result is a comprehensive summary that has already served as a useful tool for organizational outreach and internal communications. Documenting these "Elements of ACR Education" taught task force members quite a bit about each of ACR's current education programs.

### **A Preview of Plan Actions**

What milestones will mark our education programs in the future, and what will they say about Audubon Canyon Ranch? What will our programs contribute to the quality of the environment and to the communities with which we are interconnected and interdependent?

The results of our planning process provide compelling answers to these questions! We have identified 19 action items with recommendations for implementation. I have chosen a few to highlight here. They demonstrate Audubon Canyon Ranch's commitment to keeping our programming relevant, current, inclusive and exciting for visitors, students, volunteers, staff members and supporters.



*Student thank-you drawing. Inscribed on the back: "The Bouverie is so fun you can see where the Indians would cook. They did not have spoons to grind their acorns. Birds flew over my head like crows, robins and bluebirds."*

To retain the interest of current volunteers and engage new people in volunteering, the Plan includes actions and recommendations that strengthen outreach, coordination, recognition, education and networking for our volunteers.

One such action builds on the talents and interests of many members of the "ACR family" and will benefit volunteers and visitors alike: *Expand efforts to conduct education programs with a "multiple intelligence approach"—to include art, dance, music, theatre, etcetera.* Recommendations for implementing this action include incorporating activities using the arts in class and field trip programs and volunteer trainings, and providing stations where visitors will be supplied with appropriate materials and invited to share their reflections by writing, drawing, or working with other media. We'd love to see those reflections bound into collections or published in other ways! This action is expected to have synergistic impacts on other parts of the Plan as well.

Today, education in California is strongly shaped by the Department of Education's academic content standards. These standards influence what is taught and how it is taught in public schools. This can present significant challenges for classroom teachers who are interested in fostering in their students a greater knowledge of and caring for the environment. In recent years, research into brain function has provid-

ed a wealth of new and relevant information about how people of all ages learn. Within this dynamic context, we are committed to maintaining the high quality of all of ACR's education programs. The Plan articulates this continuing commitment to: *Correlate ACR education programs, materials and curricula with sound and innovative educational philosophy and methods.* In addition, the Plan includes actions and recommendations for increasing the kinds of data we gather about our programs and enhancing our on-going program assessments, which ensure that we consistently meet our own quality standards.

The Overnight Program at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve and the Juniper Program of the Bouverie Preserve are two wonderful ACR education programs that developed as extensions of our Elementary School Education Programs. Each regularly provides opportunities for students to prolong their learning experiences on our preserves. A strong body of research reinforces our observations that extended experiences improve learning about the environment and strengthen participants' commitment to environmental stewardship. The Plan calls for us to explore a range of options for providing extended programming for visitors of all ages.

Like many of our colleague organizations, Audubon Canyon Ranch has long recognized a need to work proactively to increase the diversity of cultural experiences represented in



REBECCA ANDERSON-JONES

*Games teach adaptations—and trust!*

### **Alliterating Audubon**

A class poem by fifth-graders of Otis School

Awesome Audubon Canyon Ranch  
 Beautiful birds and bouncing bunkhouse  
 Cool canyon, comfy cots  
 Devoted Diane and determined docents  
 Enchanting egrets and exciting events  
 Fabulous food and fulfilling fire  
 Gobbling gophers, gorgeous garter snake  
 Hilarious hawk and happy herons  
 Interesting iris  
 Jobs and jeans  
 Kool kids  
 Lovely lagoon and little lizards  
 Magnificent monkey flowers  
 Newborn newts and nighttime nature  
 Outstanding oak trees  
 Persevering Peter and perfect parents  
 Quick-footed quail  
 Rising red wings  
 String stroll and striking sticklebacks  
 Terrific tales and tough trails  
 Unusual underbrush  
 Victorious vultures  
 Wonderous watershed and wiggly worms  
 Extreme exercise  
 Yapping youngsters, yawning young'uns  
 ZZZs at day's end.

our organization. To ensure that our education programs are relevant to all participants—given the continuing change in California's demographics—the Task Force has identified a number of initiatives, including: *Review and adjust techniques and materials to increase environmental understanding and appreciation for visitors who are learning English.* Training volunteers to work with visitors from varied cultural and linguistic backgrounds, developing education materials with multi-lingual applications, and conducting outreach by providing speakers to various community events, are a few recommendations for implementation.

Our commitment to diversity includes a continuing commitment to improving reasonable accommodation and access for those with disabilities. The Plan includes provisions for identifying physical barriers that remain (despite recent accommodations) and determining appropriate responses. The Plan also recommends making use of the expertise of others who have successfully reviewed and adapted content and delivery in similar programs, to make information more accessible.

These are only a few of the highlights of the ACR Education Plan. It has been enlightening and exhilarating to look into the future and identify our intentions for education at Audubon Canyon Ranch. This metamorphosis is just beginning!

## KEYS TO CONTROLLING NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIONS

## Early Detection, Rapid Response

by Daniel Gluesenkamp, PhD

*ACR Habitat Protection and Restoration Specialist*

One of the most sacred elements of ACR's Bouverie Preserve is the rich dark understory of the mixed-species hardwood forests. Thousands of times each year a student steps out of Bouverie's hot, sunny, plant-rich grassland and into the hush of these forests, quits talking, and marvels at the cool dark silent space beneath the tall trees. Perhaps the same student will stoop to grab a handful of brown leaves that carpet the forest floor (photo at right) and notice the scarce blue *Nemophila* flowers and bright green ferns that punctuate the duff here and there.

This is the story of one plant with the potential to forever alter this enchanted habitat – and illustrates one way that ACR's Habitat Protection and Restoration program is working to preserve distinctive aspects of our sanctuaries.

*Geranium robertianum* is a beautiful product of natural selection, a northern European annual herb with snowflake-shaped leaves, bright red stems, and an affinity for covering mossy rocks and tree trunks. Unable to resist the beauty of this elfin annual, horticultural prospectors brought *Geranium robertianum* to North America for sale to home gardeners. Unfortunately, the insect herbivores and pathogens that moderate the plant's reproductive exuberance were left behind, and so the non-native herb has escaped from gardens into the wildlands of North America. *Geranium robertianum*



Forest understory dominated by *Geranium robertianum* (inset—close-up of the plant).



PHOTOS BY DANIEL GLUSENKAMP

Undisturbed forest floor beneath tall oaks, buckeyes and other hardwood trees at Bouverie Preserve.

produces sticky seeds that are readily dispersed by animals, exudes toxic chemicals that may give it an advantage over other plants, and ultimately forms a thick monoculture that excludes the diverse native community of wildflowers and herbs. *Geranium robertianum* invasion converts the open brown leaf litter of natural forests into an Astroturf-green sward and fundamentally transforms this fragile ecosystem (photo below left). In Washington state this has occurred to such a degree that *Geranium robertianum* is regulated as a noxious pest plant.

The first Bouverie Preserve population of *Geranium robertianum* was found in April of 2004, during a botanical survey by volunteers from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The low-growing European herb was one of many new species added to the Bouverie plant list, and would have drawn no special interest if not for the presence of Ann Howald, CNPS Rare Plant Program Director and former president of the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). Ann identified the plant and cautioned that it was highly invasive and that Audubon Canyon Ranch had better treat it seriously. Since the plants had already set seed, I marked the population and put it on the calendar for removal efforts the following year. As April ended, *Geranium robertianum* occupied a few hundred square meters of species-rich hardwood forest understory.



Using a weed torch to eradicate *G. robertianum*.

When I returned the following February, our little patch of *Geranium robertianum* had spread to cover an entire watershed—several acres—with a dense blanket of poisonous leaves and hairy red stems. ACR Habitat Protection and Restoration staff and crews spent several days removing *Geranium*, working in the cold rain with propane-fueled weed torches to selectively remove this annual forb from the perennial-dominated ecosystem (photo above).

Through careful mapping, we located several new populations and identified the original source of the outbreak. Bouverie's *Geranium robertianum* was traced to a large population on a neighboring property at the headwaters of the infected watershed. The core of this neighboring source population is a recently graded vineyard, where the plant probably arrived via seeds trapped on a tractor, then germinated in the recently disturbed soil. Its spread down the watershed into Bouverie Preserve evidently followed the seasonal creek. Additional Bouverie populations, recently

detected, occur on trails that cross this same seasonal creek, supporting the assertion by Washington state biologists that *Geranium robertianum* readily colonizes new sites by sticking to the shoes of hikers.

This tremendous rate of *Geranium* expansion illustrates the importance of early detection of harmful invaders and the value of rapid response. While most introduced plants have a limited impact on wildlands, a handful of extremely harmful and quick-spreading invaders can devastate natural habitats. Early detection and rapid response is critical for two reasons. First, the cost of controlling harmful wildland invaders increases at least as fast as do the pest populations, and so a stitch-in-time approach avoids the significant costs caused by deferred natural resource maintenance. More importantly, early and preventative action is likely the only viable option for preventing the irreversible damage caused by some invasive species. In the case of *Geranium robertianum* on an ACR preserve, early detection allowed us to respond before the plant had invaded hundreds of acres of diverse forest understory.

This is the essence of Audubon Canyon Ranch's new Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) project. Aimed at high-impact invaders such as *Geranium robertianum*, it employs principles pioneered in fighting wildfires: detect outbreaks when they are small and respond rapidly to eradicate hotspots before they become uncontrollable. The EDRR project is a dynamic partnership of preserve visitors, volunteers, outside researchers, and ACR staff biologists. The collective natural history expertise of these partners has been key to early detection of other invasive plant populations posing harm to ACR lands, including invasive *Spartina* in Tomales Bay, pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) in Walker Creek Delta, and thoroughwort (*Ageratina adenophora*) at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve.

*continued on page 8*

## Habitat Restoration Volunteer Openings

Audubon Canyon Ranch protects some of the most diverse habitats in the region, including wind-swept coastal sand dunes, bird-filled riparian forests, and floriferous grasslands. While these sanctuaries are permanently protected from development, they are still threatened by invasive species, historic impacts, and changing natural processes.

ACR's Habitat Restoration volunteers work to keep these places wild and diverse. Work parties remove invasive plants, install or remove livestock fences, collect seeds and plant natives, and beach-comb for invasive iceplant along the West Marin shoreline. Working with others at some of the most beautiful locations on the planet is a fantastic experience. What's more, the projects are essential to preserving and restoring our delicate natural systems.

For more information, check the **Preservation** page at ACR's website, [www.egret.org](http://www.egret.org). If you have a group looking for a project, please contact Dan Gluesenkamp by email, [gluesenkamp@egret.org](mailto:gluesenkamp@egret.org).



*U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein is one of the elected officials with whom Dan Gluesenkamp met during his recent Washington, D.C., visit to discuss invasive plant issues.*

### **Rapid Response**, from page 7

Our early detection methods are building on the informal observation and reporting that has been under way for years. Increased efforts by ACR staff to detect incipient invasions now include regular reconnaissance of our properties by me in my role as Habitat Protection and Restoration Specialist and annual coastal wetland surveys organized by Research Coordinator Katie Etienne. Because of our effectiveness in detecting incipient outbreaks, ACR's Board of Directors recently established a small rapid response fund to support emergency treatment of priority conservation emergencies.

Ultimately, biological invasions are a phenomenon that transcends property boundaries and cannot be addressed at the scale of individual preserves: witness the rapid invasion of Bouverie lands by *Geranium robertianum* from an adjacent property.

ACR's Habitat Protection and Restoration program is working with several partners to build regional programs that address our shared invasion crisis. In one successful project, Katie Etienne has established partnerships with the Invasive Spartina Project and other conservation organizations that are effectively protecting coastal wetlands in Bolinas Lagoon and the Tomales Bay. More recently, I have joined with dozens of partners in the Marin Sonoma Weed Management Area to coordinate our individual projects and develop a common strategy for our region; this work was recently supported by a prestigious National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. ACR has also collaborated with the California Invasive Plant Council on projects that include developing a peer-reviewed Invasive Plant Inventory, designing training courses and materials, and educating elected representatives about the need for proactive solutions to California's native plant crisis.

In today's world, benign neglect of preserves is not the best option, as it leaves natural systems that we value exposed to the ravages of imbalances caused by humans. Responsible stewardship requires that we actively protect and care for our natural lands. At Audubon Canyon Ranch we are firmly committed to the hard work of active stewardship, dedicated to research and invention of solutions, and hopeful that we can work with many others to create the best chance for all of Earth's grand diversity to persist.

## WELCOMING JEANNE WIRKA

"Dream Job" is how the email reaching Jeanne Wirka described the position open at Audubon Canyon Ranch—Biologist/Educator at Bouverie Preserve. And "dream job" is how Jeanne described her view of this opportunity.

The newest member of ACR's staff, Jeanne possesses extensive expertise in protecting natural areas, gained on the job as Project Ecologist for Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program since 1999. Along with designing, implementing, and monitoring habitat restoration projects in many



*Jeanne Wirka on a Hawaii bike*

California habitats, Jeanne has trained volunteers and taught high school students and the general public.

Also successful as a free-lance nature writer and grants writer/administrator, Jeanne represents a wonderful combination of talents and dedication. Says Executive Director, Skip Schwartz: "Jeanne is an exceptional biologist and educator, and we are excited to have her join the ACR team."

Audubon Canyon Ranch warmly welcomes Jeanne Wirka to our staff at the Bouverie Preserve.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## GUIDED NATURE WALKS

*Bouvierie Preserve*

**Sept. 17, Oct. 8, Oct. 29, Nov. 5,  
Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 2005**

**Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Mar. 18, April 1,  
April 22, May 6, 2006**

**9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

Here's your chance to experience the beauty and rich natural history of this 500-acre preserve. Our half-day guided nature walks are on Saturdays throughout fall and spring. Hikers are chosen by lottery. Form must be returned one month prior to the walk. Call 707/938-4554 for lottery form.

*No charge but donations appreciated.  
Docent Council of Bouvierie Preserve*

## FALL & SPRING WORK DAYS

*Bouvierie Preserve*

**Saturday, September 24, 2005**

**Saturday, March 4, 2006**

**9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**1:00 p.m. – LUNCH**

Come help spruce up the preserve by working on the trails, in the native plant garden, around the formal gardens, in the library, or cooking the lunch (which we provide). Bring your favorite tool for outdoor projects! Call 707/938-4554 to register.

*Free, but please call to register so we can plan  
on enough food!*

*ACR Staff*

## FALL & SPRING WORK DAYS

*Bolinas Lagoon Preserve*

**Saturday, October 8, 2005 –**

**Volunteer Canyon**

**Sunday, March 5, 2006 – Picher  
Canyon**

**9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**1:00 p.m. – LUNCH**

Help us with trail work, library work, pulling weeds, planting native flowers or cooking the lunch (we provide). Bring your favorite tool for outdoor projects!

Call 415/868-9244 to register.

*Free, but please call to register so we can plan  
on enough food!*

*ACR Staff*

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DAYS

*Bouvierie Preserve*

**Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12,  
2005**

**Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, April 10,  
May 8, 2006**

**8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Come help clear trails, pull non-native plants, or work in the native plant garden. Bring gloves, a lunch and lots of energy. Drinks and tools will be provided. Trail days are limited to 15 participants for each day. Call 707/938-4554 to register.

*ACR Resource Management Staff*

## UNDER THE HERONRY

*Bolinas Lagoon Preserve*

**Saturday, October 29, 2005**

**9:30 a.m. social, 10:00 a.m. start.**

**We'll finish around noon.**

That's right, UNDER the Heronry: you won't believe what you see and hear! Join Ray Peterson and be exposed to ACR history as well as to this very special place. Don't forget to bring friends for this short walk.

*Free, but please call 415/868-9244 to register.*

*Space is limited to 20 participants.*

*Ray Peterson*

## RANCH GUIDE TRAINING

*Bolinas Lagoon Preserve*

**Saturdays, January 28 - March 18,  
2006**

**(Orientation January 21, 2006)**

This seven-Saturday program is designed to convey basic information about Audubon Canyon Ranch history, the preserve, trail techniques, pond life and BLP's nesting colony of herons and egrets. Those interested in sharing knowledge and appreciation of nature during ACR's public weekends, please call 415/868-9244.

*Gwen Heistand*

*Bolinas Lagoon Preserve Resident Biologist*

## DOCENT TRAINING

*Bouvierie Preserve*

**Wednesdays, September 2005 –  
March 2006**

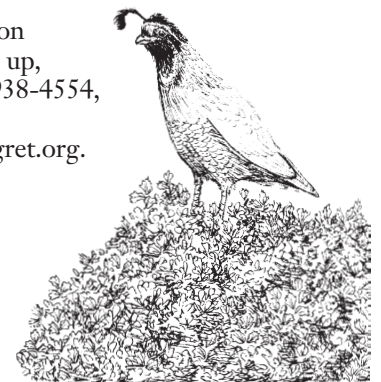
ACR's Bouvierie Preserve's next natural science docent training session begins this fall! Classes meet once a week, for 23 weeks, on Wednesdays. Topics covered include birds, wildflowers, mammals, amphibians, Coast Miwok culture, spore- and seed-producing plants, regional plant communities, and environmental education techniques. Docents guide the school-children on the trails, and visit the classrooms. Experienced Bouvierie Docents also lead Guided Nature Walks on the week-ends. There is a fee of \$120 (may vary slightly) for the training, to cover material costs. Partial scholarships are available. Ongoing training, workshops and other activities are available for active docents.

For more information

or to sign up,  
call 707-938-4554,

or email

[nancy@egret.org](mailto:nancy@egret.org).



ANNE ROVETTA

For complete information on the events listed here, see our website, [www.egret.org](http://www.egret.org). Or call (415) 868-9244 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM weekdays, or e-mail: [acr@egret.org](mailto:acr@egret.org). Participation is by advance reservation. Seminars take place rain or shine. Refunds are made, less a \$10 processing fee, when you notify us two weeks prior to the class meeting date. Refunds are not made for late cancellations.

**WISH LIST • WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, WHICH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE WHEN DONATED TO ACR. • Letter folding Machine • Propane Outdoor Heaters • 10 x 10 Shade Tent • Truck in good working condition for ACR Habitat Protection and Restoration. • IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CALL YVONNE PIERCE AT 415/868-9244.**

**MAJOR BENEFACTORS**

(\$50,000 – 99,000)

Estate of Robert C. Alexander  
Frank A. Campini Foundation**BENEFACTORS**

(\$25,000 – 49,000)

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(\$5,000 – 14,999)

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## ACR THANKS OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION!

### *Founding Members Show Enthusiastic Support*

Audubon Canyon Ranch has been introducing the wonders of the natural world to curious students and families through our extraordinary nature education programs since we opened the doors of our first sanctuary in the 1960's. In nearly 50 years, ACR scientists have helped train thousands of docents, who have in turn generously shared millions of hours of their time, their joy, and their love for our shared environment with generations of Bay Area schoolchildren. In San Francisco, Alameda, Sonoma, Napa, Contra Costa, and Marin counties, Audubon Canyon Ranch volunteer docents annually offer more than 7,000 schoolchildren unique opportunities to get close to nature. Additionally, each year Ranch Guides at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve and Docents at the Bouverie Preserve interpret the natural history of these wildlands to more than 6,000 visitors from around the world.

Thanks to the generous support of our friends, ACR education programs have been strong and successful for decades. With a visionary education plan in hand, and a proven roadmap of success, Audubon Canyon Ranch stands poised to continue our successes in environmental education.

This year, a small group of extraordinary donors became the first Founding Members of the Audubon Canyon Ranch Partners in Education donor circle. Partners in Education make an annual commitment of \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000 or more to directly support ACR education programs, which cost more than \$300,000 each year. Audubon Canyon Ranch wants to thank the first Partners in Education for their visionary support. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a Founding Member of the Partners in Education to call Skip Schwartz or Cassie Gruenstein at (415) 868-9244 for more information.

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##### **\$25,000 +**

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## WHEN TO VISIT

### **Bolinas Lagoon Preserve**

Mid-March to mid-July: Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Weekdays by appointment only; call (415) 868-9244.

Closed Mondays.

Bolinas Lagoon Preserve is adjacent to Bolinas Lagoon on State Highway One, three miles north of Stinson Beach.

### **Cypress Grove Preserve**

By appointment only. (415) 663-8203.

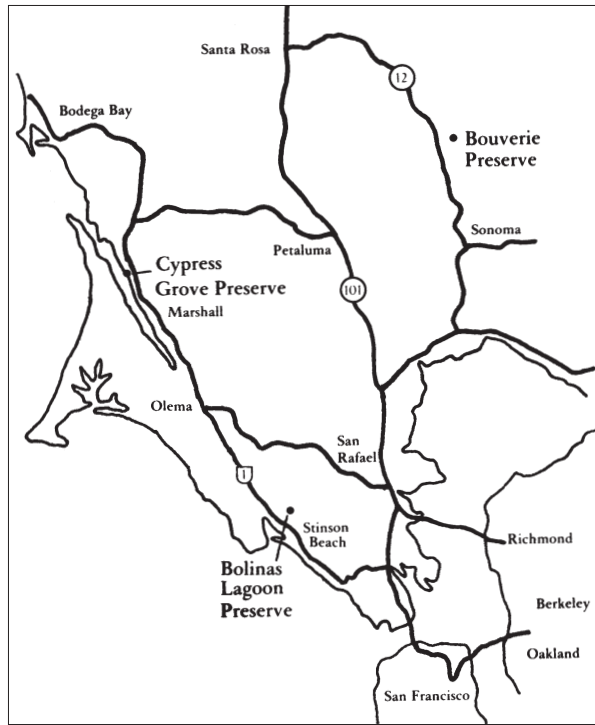
### **Bouverie Preserve**

By appointment only. (707) 938-4554.

See schedule of events, inside.

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

e-mail: [acr@egret.org](mailto:acr@egret.org)



ANNE ROVETTA

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**The Mission of Audubon Canyon Ranch:** ❖ Preserve, protect and manage ACR properties as sanctuaries for native plants and animals. ❖ Educate children and adults about the natural environment and the need to protect it, through the experience and enjoyment of ACR sanctuaries. ❖ Support research and conservation efforts that enhance the preservation and management of ACR sanctuaries.



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