

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH



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50 Years and Still Gaining Ground

Bold Plans for ACR's Success ENVISIONING THE NEXT 50 YEARS

by J. Scott Feierabend and Bryant Hichwa

Imagine entering the Martin Griffin Preserve and seeing the iconic West Marin farmhouse sporting a fresh coat of paint, with its doors open wide to welcome visitors to the treasures of the preserve. Once inside the farmhouse, you learn about Audubon Canyon Ranch's rich legacy and conservation leadership, and linger in a new, well-stocked and expanded bookstore.

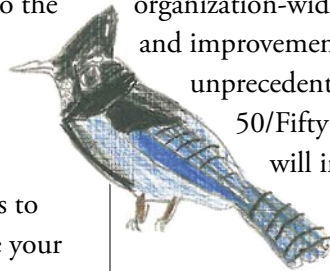
From there, you stroll over to the Display Hall to view newly refreshed exhibits and a "smart" classroom, serving over 3,000 schoolchildren each year. Then, you explore preserve trails to rejuvenate your soul and restore your spirit by reconnecting with nature.

Thousands of footprints

Since 1962, when Stan Picher, Aileen Pierson, Marty Griffin and

countless volunteers made Audubon Canyon Ranch a gateway to the natural world, hundreds of thousands of feet have walked the trails on our Marin and Sonoma County preserves.

During these 50 years, nature and seasonal rhythms have weathered and worn our buildings and their facilities. This fall, as our anniversary gift to the community, ACR will launch an organization-wide refurbishment and improvement initiative of unprecedented scope—called the 50/Fifty Initiative—which will include restoration projects on each of its preserves. Each thoughtfully developed project will yield myriad benefits to the environment and the communities we serve by providing:



- More opportunities for public visitation and enhanced educational experiences
- Improved interpretative displays and interactive educational materials
- Reduced carbon emissions and increased energy and water conservation

Creating a deeper experience

Special projects are planned for the Martin Griffin Preserve, Bouverie Preserve and Cypress Grove Research Center. Combined, the projects will enhance visitor understanding of the local ecology and provide a deeper appreciation of the important work Audubon Canyon Ranch conducts each and every day.

The 50/Fifty Initiative is a gateway to ACR's next 50 years and a reminder please turn to *Envisioning the Next 50 Years*, page 10

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Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary and the Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve **FALLING FOR ACR'S NEW PRESERVES**

by David Self

In two short months (December and January), my mind, eyes and heart have been captured by ACR's newest preserves, the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary and the Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve.

I am mesmerized by the wild canyons and crags, the vistas and clouds, and the mossy and lichen-crusting boulders that glow in the fog.

I see barren sea-green serpentine outcrops and hear music from the ripples along Little Sulphur Creek. I am intrigued by the stark tree skeletons that reach up from the site of the 2004 Geysers Fire and are now surrounded by a riot of new trees and resprouts, some already 30 feet tall.

Witnesses of history

I am dwarfed by the occasional towering yellow pine and Douglas fir that withstood the Geysers Fire and date back to the 1800s, and even earlier.

Everywhere I see evidence of human history, highlighting the peoples who were once here: proud Wappo Indians, early ranchers and mercury boomtown residents. A wagon road built and maintained by Chinese laborers served rugged miners of the boomtown and carried European royalty and other wealthy patrons by stagecoach to health spas at the Geysers. Now the road is one of our hiking trails.

Getting acquainted

Longtime neighbors, residents and friends, both wild and human, have shared a bit of time or left a track, story

or note about the preserve—and I am humbled by all of these. I want to get to know the lions, bears and ranchers, the robin, the eagle and birders, the wildflowers, shrubs, trees and the botanists.

I want to hike all of these hills and canyons and hear the histories and stories. Such a wealth from which to learn . . . and share.



Trees charred by the 2004 Geysers Fire

A sweeping vista

These preserves, which together total over 3,000 acres, occupy steep slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains above Highway 128 and Jimtown in the Alexander Valley. With spectacular views of the valley, Mt. Saint Helena and the Coast Ranges, this place is home to Black Bears, Mountain Lions, Golden Eagles, several sensitive animal and plant species, and a host of spring wildflowers.

Habitats include a mix of grassland, serpentine outcrops, chaparral, oak woodland and mixed evergreen forests, as well as streams, creeks and springs. The peaks, ridges, ravines and valleys here are part of three healthy watersheds,

which drain to the Russian River near Cloverdale, Jimtown and Healdsburg.

Protecting Mayacamas lands

These two preserves are also core to 12,000 acres of contiguous habitat in the Mayacamas Mountains protected through conservation easements with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOSD), or as public land.

Audubon Canyon Ranch will continue collaborating with SCAPOSD and other local organizations and agencies on the management, research and educational use of the preserves.

Partnering for preservation

Ownership and management of the 1,620-acre Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary was shared by National and California Audubon, with ACR providing management assistance.

In May 2012, title to the property was transferred to Audubon Canyon Ranch.

The Madrone Audubon Society, a Sonoma County chapter of the National Audubon Society, has provided a vital presence in the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary since 1994, and today continues to partner with ACR to offer a wonderful series of natural history programs each spring.

Reserved for science

The adjoining Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve is over 1,500 acres of undisturbed



continues on page 4

watershed, long protected by Jim and Shirley Modini, local ranchers and stalwart conservationists. This land is dedicated to preservation and scientific research only, with no public access, at the request of the Modinis.

ACR has been assisting with management of the preserve since 2008 and became the property owner in December 2012.

How to enjoy the preserves

Hiking in the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary is available through ACR's guided programs or by permit only. But visitors can enjoy birding and views anytime from several pullouts along Pine Flat Road, which climbs a steep ridge through the length of the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary.

Come drive the road, but please drive slowly and carefully—this is a steep, rough, narrow, windy, one-lane country road with occasional blind curves and is a very popular route for area bicyclists.

Get oriented

For a permit to hike the sanctuary, we require that you take part in an access orientation session (see end of article for details). Offered monthly, these 90-minute orientations give an overview of the preserve and Audubon Canyon Ranch and how to partner with ACR.

You'll also learn—as visitors and neighbors—to help protect the plants, animals, history and views of this wonderful place.

Stay tuned! Together with the Madrone Audubon Society and others, ACR staff is organizing guided hikes and nature programs for this spring, which will range from geology to wildflower photography, dragonflies, birding and history. We look forward to exploring these dramatic wildlands through the seasons with our new friends in the community.

Contact Preserve Naturalist David Self at david.self@egret.org and join the monthly email list. You'll receive notices about upcoming hikes, access orientation sessions, and other activities at the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary.

David Self is ACR's Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary Naturalist



Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary

Planned Giving at Audubon Canyon Ranch **CREATIVE ESTATE PLANNING**

by Yvonne Pierce

Clerin “Zumie” Zumwalt, ACR’s first naturalist, was a talented educator who inspired hundreds of children and adults through hands-on nature-based education at Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Members of ACR’s Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle, through creative estate planning, have given clever and thoughtful gifts that honor Zumie’s legacy and embrace his generous spirit. These donors are helping to ensure that ACR programs will continue for future generations.

Just this past year, ACR staff was informed of a number of inspiring legacy gifts:

- A forward-thinking couple included in their estate plans a restricted gift for an Adult Education Lecture Series at the Martin Griffin Preserve. Their support will help us launch and fund this special nature education series for adults.
- A generous donor honored Audubon Canyon Ranch in her



Photo by Leslie Sophia Lindell

Cypress Grove Research Center

will. Her gift, which includes annuities and real property, will provide ongoing financial support for ACR’s mission work, including children’s education programs.

Ensuring that children have access to nature is a powerful way to inspire them to protect our natural resources in the future.

We are grateful to the members of the Zumwalt Legacy Circle—and indeed all ACR supporters and volunteers—for assisting ACR’s efforts to protect nature through land preservation, nature education and conservation science. Thank you for helping to inspire children and adults to appreciate the natural world.

*Yvonne Pierce is ACR’s
Executive Administrator and
Martin Griffin Preserve Manager*

Funds Donated to Study & Protect Tomales Bay

ACR is honored to announce the creation of a new endowment to provide financial support for our conservation work on Tomales Bay and its watershed.

The endowment was used to establish “The Fund for Scientific Research and Protection of the Natural Resources of Tomales Bay,” and was created anonymously to honor the memory of a Marin County resident who had a strong interest in natural resources, especially that of the California herring fishery.

To contribute to the Fund or to learn about how to establish an honorary fund for a family member or friend, contact ACR Director of Development Didi Wilson at 415.868.9244 or didi@egret.org.



CLERIN ZUMWALT LEGACY CIRCLE

ACR’s Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle honors supporters who have included Audubon Canyon Ranch in their estate plans. If you name ACR in your estate plan—at any amount—you become a member of the Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle. For more information, contact Didi Wilson, Director of Development and Communications, at 415.868.9244 or didi@egret.org. We welcome your questions.

ACR is in strict accord with the ethical guidelines of the National Planned Giving Committee.

Martin Griffin Preserve Ranch Guides VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We asked some of our beloved Ranch Guides to muse a little about their experiences as volunteer naturalists at the Martin Griffin Preserve. As usually happens when someone talks about something they love, they inspired us with their words. We are honored to highlight a few of them here.

"I most enjoy the look on a visitor's face when they share an insight about a plant or animal that they gained while walking through the woods or perched on an overlook with a spotting scope. A sense of wonder is a rare thing and it can happen as simply as seeing the pale blue color of an egret's egg for the first time . . . or seeing creatures emerge from pond water under a hand lens."

- Karen Goetz

"Everyone, it seems, wants to get kids 'turned on' to nature. But for me, the real thrill comes when I can inspire

an adult's discovery. Volunteering as a Ranch Guide allows me to do this . . . and it happens nearly every time I'm on the preserve."

- Amy LaGoy

"Ranch Guides sing the songs of the land at the Martin Griffin Preserve. The effect on visitors feeling a part of the land here is palpable as they handle a newt, discover an egret chick through the scope, or witness the swallows feeding their young. We are tasked with extending the meaning of the earth we know and love. It is never a burden,

THANK YOU, ACR VOLUNTEERS!

Audubon Canyon Ranch salutes the hundreds of individuals listed below for their dedication to ACR and for generously donating time and energy as Docents, Ranch Guides, Ranch Hosts, Field Biologists, Citizen Scientists, Stewards, Work Day Volunteers, Directors and Advisors. You are the backbone of this organization! For all you do, we thank you!

American Conservation Experience Girl Scout Troop #10406 Project ReGeneration REI Sonoma Valley High School Dorothy Abbott Mary Abbott Deborah Ablin Sarah Abramson Nancy Abreu Ken Ackerman Robert Ahders Joan Ann Albers Bonnie Alexander Julie Allecta Jane A. Allen Jason Allen Judy K. Allen Kathy Allen Linda Allen Sarah Allen Linda Alwitt Robert Alwitt June Ambrose Claire Ames Carolyn Anderson Constance Anderson Janica Anderson Melanie Anderson Nina Antze Bill Arenander Janis Arendt Thelma L. Arlom Paula Asterlind Robert Aston Francine Austin Grace Austin John Aycock Lauren Ayers Sawyer Backman Norah Bain	Richard B. Baird Ankie Bajema Cathy Baker Justin Baker Ted Bakkila Sharon Bale Nancy Barbour Jackson L. Barker Judy Barker Carole Barlas Judy Barrie Katie Barron Paul Bartome Patricia Barton Molly Basset Katy Baty Tom Baty Barbara Beck Kassian Becnel Gordon Beebe Leslie Bellis Douglas C. 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but always an honor to sing its song.”

~ Connie Anderson

Ranch Guides are trained volunteer naturalists who interpret nature and answer visitors' questions at the Martin Griffin Preserve. They are available weekends and holidays from mid-March through mid-July, when the preserve is open to the public to view the historic heronry, explore nature and hike the trails.

What question will you ask when you visit?



Ranch Guide Karen Goetz admires an Artist's Conk fungus

Congratulations, Graduates!

ACR congratulates and welcomes the following graduates of the recent Martin Griffin Preserve Docent Training program.

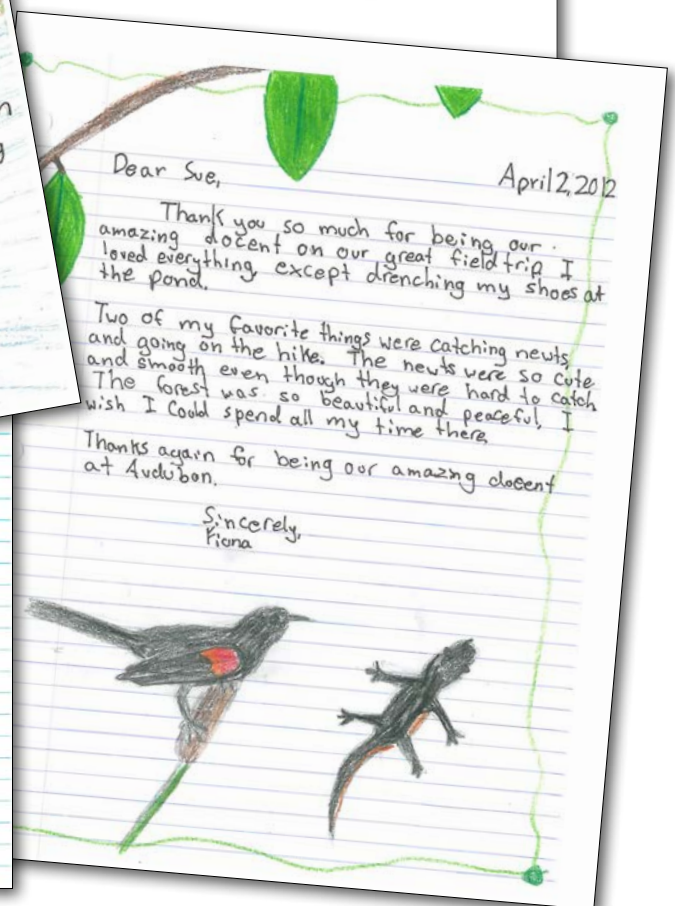
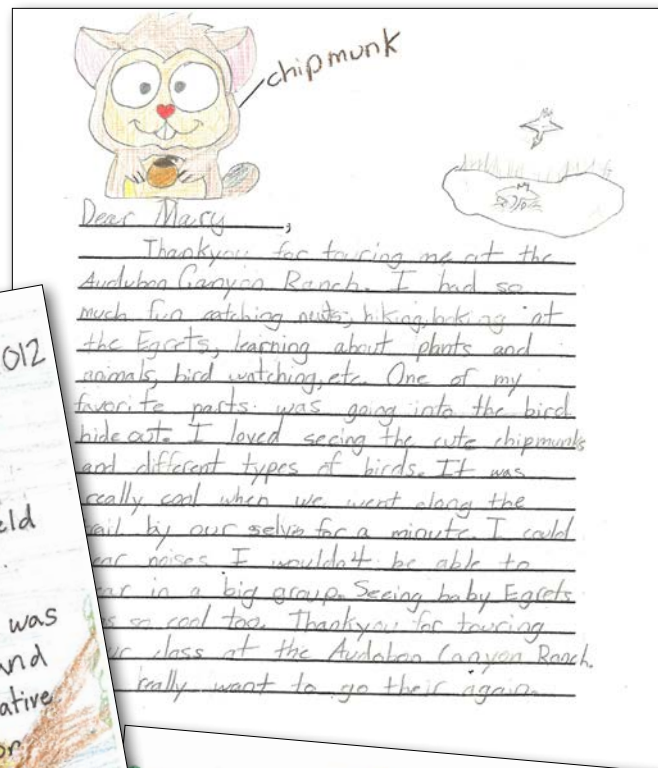
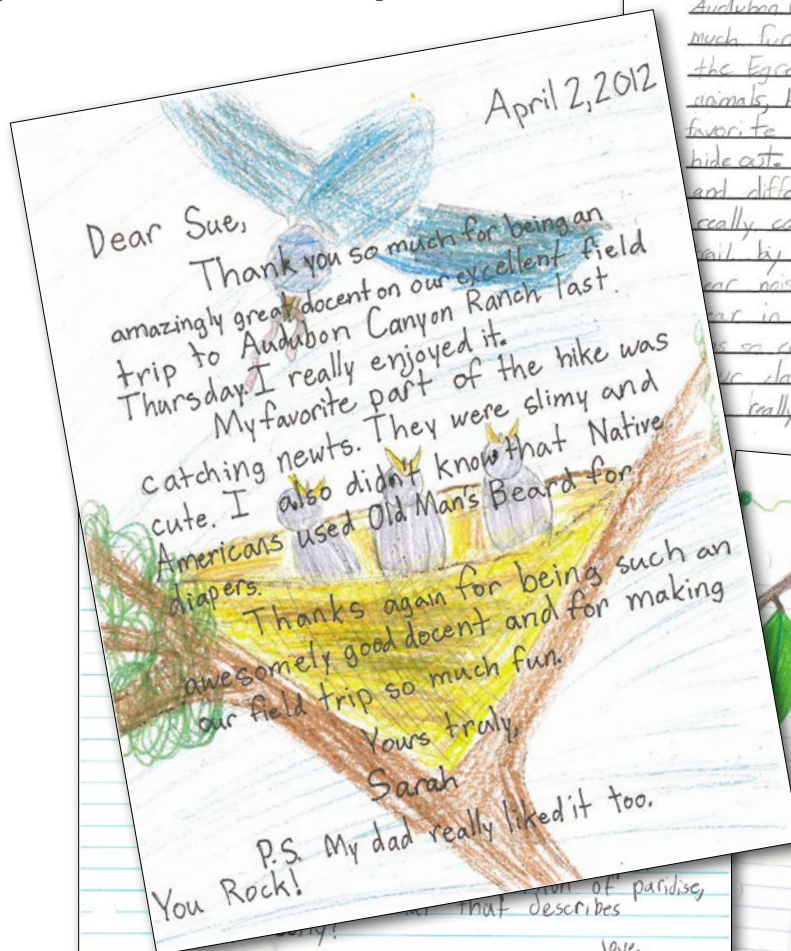
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Joan Collignon
Kevin Dixon
Virginia Fifield
Charlotte Jenkins
Karla Kelly
Medea Leones
Murray Peterson
Jeanne Sutter
Bill Wells

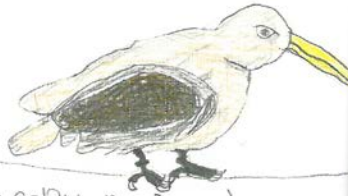
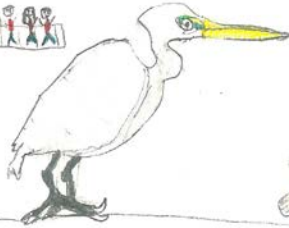


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Emma King	John Longstreth	Anne Montgomery	Cari Paganini	Alysha Risch	Jean Simpson	Eric Thistle	Jane Wellington
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Freida Larson	Vicki Masterson	Tina Nevers	Susan Poirier-Klein	Tyler Sarter	Robert Spofford	Gerrit Van Sickle	Mike Witkowski
Bill Laurie	Dana Jean Martin	Wally Neville	Sarah Pola	Susan B.	Sue Spofford	Barbara Jean Veronda	Colin Wolford
Dakota Lawhorn	Alicia Mayorga	Birkin Newell	Julia Pollock	Schermerhorn	Jean An Sprague	Natalia Vicino	Carol L. Wood
Robyn Lawyer	Pat McCaffrey	Ben Nguyen	Erica Posner	Richard Schiller	Craig Spriggs	Sylvia Victor	Patrick Woodworth
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Dick Lemon	Rita McClain	Brenden Norris	Katherine Prescott	Thea Schurer	Shelby Stansfield	Gregory Vose	Nancy Young
Stephanie Lennox	David McConnell	Bill Northcoast	David McConnell	Karen Schwartz	April Starke Slakey	Zac Wagner	Peter Young
Colleen Leof	Alexandra McDonald	Grace Noyes	Susan Pridmore	Decker	Jean Starkweather	Chelsie Walker	Sarah Zainfeld
Medea Leones	Chris McHale	Susan Nuernberg	Judy Prokupek	John Schwonke	Cornelia Steinberg	Susan Walker	Ingrid Zimmerman
Robin Leong	Jeanne McHenry	Tilly Nylin	Lauri Puchall	Maria Scott	Rebecca Sterlin-Trivelpiece	Varia Walle	Suzanne Zimmerman
Anisa Lester	Helen McKenna	Jackie Nystrom-Parker	Maris Purvins	Claire H. Seda	Liz Sterns	Ann Walsh	Jill Zumwalt
Keith Lester	Bev Leve	Patricia O'Brien	Peter Pyle	Matej Seda	Laurel Stevenson	Tom Walsh	Loretta Zweig
Bev Leve	Jackie Lewis	Allison O'Connor	Barbara Ramsey	Lindsey Segbers	Susan Stoddard	Christine Walwyn	
Jackie Lewis	Karlyn Lewis	Edna O'Connor	Betsy Randolph	Victoria Seher	Serena Stoepler	Chris Ward	
Karlyn Lewis	Seela Lewis	Sheila O'Donnell	Richard Randolph	Lee Seidner	Julie Stokstad	Patricia Warren	
Elizabeth Levvas	Valerie Merrin	Raymond Rapp	Raymond Rapp	Charlotte Seymour	Robert Stokstad	Cara Wasden	
	Devon O'Meara			Kevin Seymour			

INSPIRATION GOES BOTH WAYS

After a nature hike at ACR's Martin Griffin Preserve or Bouverie Preserve, as part of ACR's Education Programs, third, fourth and fifth graders (and their teachers) often write to the docents who educated and galvanized them. Their letters and artwork are insightful, smart, humorous . . . and inspire us to do what we do. Take a peek.





Dear Audubon Canyon Ranch,
I loved seeing all the birds, espe-
cially the egrets. I was the only one
who saw the babies. Also, I liked that
you didn't give us animal names. I was
an Egret. When we searched for newts,
I tried to find lizards. We found a lot
of newts, but no lizards.

Dear Ms. Chris,

I really enjoyed today's
sights! Our group worked
well. First, we went in the
One bird kept coming close
very common to see there.
kind of looked like chicken.
Next, we went
one! Should I pick it up?
creature. "Put it in the water."

Newt



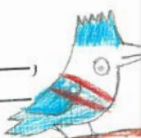
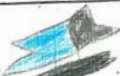
Duckweed



Dear Amy,
Our group loved how you taught us.
I LOVED when we saw the egret feed
her babies, and also when we saw the egret
mom turn her eggs. I LOVED when I
saw the newts and held them. I also
liked it when I saw the
CALIFORNIA quail, and the redwood tree
and the poppies. When we saw poison
oak, it was good for me because I
never knew how it looked. Now I
know how it looked, last I also
loved seeing the woodrats home.



Sincerely,
Willy

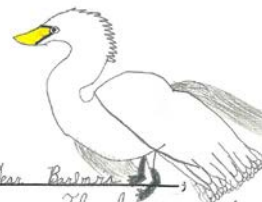


Dear Docents,

The thing I liked the most about
the fieldtrip is where we ate lunch. It
was so pretty! There were so many
redwood trees, and even a creek! I liked
feeling the skin of the newt. In
the Monday Tuesday pond we only saw
one newt (and one frog). The canyon scorpion
newt is so cute. I even saw the egret
turning the eggs. I have a 280 acre
much and it is full of trees, but I think
yours is much prettier.

Your friend,

Haley



Dear Barbara,

Thank you for being such a
fantastic docent at Audubon Canyon
Ranch. The number one thing I loved
the best was catching newts at the
horse trough pond. The least favorite
thing was the poison oak and the
spiky plants. I also loved seeing all
of the 70 egret nests in that
big tree. And looking through
the telescopes and seeing the
baby egrets was so cute. Catching
water skiers was so fun, but
they were very fast. My favorite
thing was having you as our
docent.

From, Chloe



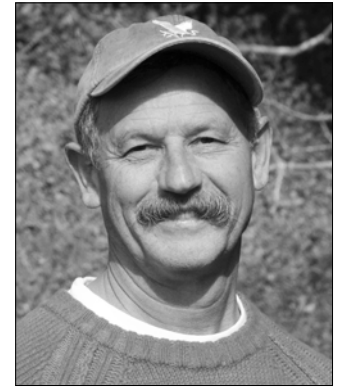
continued from *Envisioning the Next 50 Years*, page 2

that we must conserve our properties and facilities, which are critical to delivering the programs that meet our mission. The initiative will inspire our volunteers and staff, engage our donors and greatly enhance learning opportunities for children and adults alike.

We invite you to participate in this bold and creative plan to help ACR chart a course for success for its next 50 years.



Bryant Hichwa is the President of ACR's Board of Directors



J. Scott Feierabend is ACR's Executive Director

FOOD, WINES AND BREWS
FROM SAN FRANCISCO'S FOODSHED

the Art of Eating
MFK
Fisher

June 2, 2013 - Sunday

12:30pm - 4:30pm

The Bouverie Preserve

- Cutting edge chefs, vintners and brewers
- Priceless auction items

Visit **www.egret.org** for information and tickets or call **415.868.9244 x 23**

SAVE THE DATE Audubon Canyon Ranch Appreciation Picnic

Saturday, September 7, 2013
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ACR supporters at the Sponsor (\$250) level or above and all of our volunteers should save the date for a picnic at the Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay



MEMBERSHIP WITH AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch members and corporate sponsors think globally and act locally through ACR's land preservation, nature-based education and conservation science programs. Please join today, and together we will protect wildlands in Marin and Sonoma counties. Call **415.868.9244** or visit **www.egret.org** to join.

*We are especially grateful to
ACR Corporate Sponsors*

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Stay in the Loop

Published every two months, our online newsletter brings you updates from the preserves, school group visits, latest findings from science staff, volunteer opportunities and ways to explore ACR's nature sanctuaries. Visit www.egret.org/eNewsletter to opt in.

Green Your Mailbox

Join us in our continuing commitment to green practices and choose to receive the ACR Bulletin online. Let us know if you'd like to opt out of the snail mail version by calling Leslie Sproul at ACR Headquarters at 415.868.9244.

Get Connected



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

Open to the Public
Martin Griffin Preserve



March 16 - July 14, 2013 Weekends and Holidays ~ 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Weekdays (except Monday) ~ open by reservation – call 415.868.9244

Hike the more than eight miles of trails at ACR's Martin Griffin Preserve. Visit the newt ponds, view the nesting Great Egrets, and enjoy the wildflowers. Knowledgeable Ranch Guides will answer your questions. *Donations appreciated*

Guided Nature Walks

Bouverie Preserve

Saturdays ~ March 9, March 23, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11, 2013
 September 21, October 12, October 26, November 9, 2013
 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Experience the beauty and rich natural history of this 535-acre preserve. Reservations required and accepted one month before each respective hike date.

rsvp@egret.org or 415.868.9244 *Donations appreciated*

Work Day

Martin Griffin Preserve

Sunday ~ March 3, 2013 – Picher Canyon 9:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., followed by lunch

Help with trail and library work, pulling weeds, planting native flowers or cooking lunch (ACR provides). Bring your favorite tool and gloves for outdoor projects!

Registration required: rsvp@egret.org or 415.868.9244



Backyard Naturalist Series

Bouverie Preserve

Saturday ~ April 6, 2013 – Wildflowers with Jeanne Wirka
 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Geared to the adult amateur naturalist, these Saturday seminars include time in the classroom and on the trail. One- to three-mile hike. Mildly to moderately strenuous. Bring lunch and water. Class size is limited. *\$25 per seminar. Discount for ACR members at Sponsor-level or above.*

Registration required: rsvp@egret.org or 415.868.9244

Mother's Day Barbeque

Volunteer Canyon, Martin Griffin Preserve

Sunday ~ May 12, 2013

Bring families and friends for a day of food and fun in Volunteer Canyon. Proceeds benefit Audubon Canyon Ranch and Marin Audubon Society education and conservation science programs. Call Mary Anne Cowperthwaite at 415.453.2216 for information. Space is limited. RSVP by May 6. Carpooling strongly encouraged!

\$25, \$12 children under 12. Mail your check payable to: Marin Audubon Society, 141 Oak Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960 or visit www.marinaudubon.org to make your reservation online.

Docent Training

Bouverie Preserve

Training starts Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Share your sense of wonder – become a Docent of the Bouverie Preserve. Call 707.938.4554 for more information or to sign up for an orientation.

Habitat Protection & Restoration Stewards

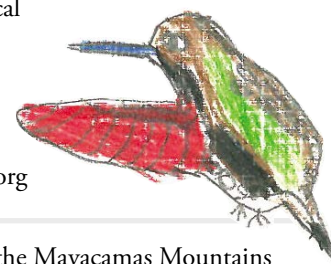
Stewards work intimately with the land and help with ecological restoration projects.

Bouverie Preserve: Mondays ~ 8:30 a.m. – noon

Call 707.935.8417 or e-mail Jen Potts at jpotts@egret.org

Martin Griffin Preserve: Thursdays ~ 9:00 a.m. – noon

Call 415.868.9244 or e-mail Gwen Heistand at gwen@egret.org



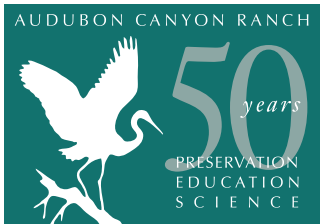
Nature Hikes

Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary

Explore the rugged terrain of ACR's newly acquired preserve, the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary, just east of Healdsburg. Visit www.egret.org/calendar for guided hike dates and permit orientation sessions.

Questions? Contact David Self at 707.431.8184 or david.self@egret.org.

No RSVP or cost, but donations appreciated



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Our Mission

Audubon Canyon Ranch
protects nature through land
preservation, nature education
and conservation science.

WHEN TO VISIT

Cypress Grove Research Center

By appointment only 415.663.8203

Bouverie Preserve

See Calendar of Events inside

Martin Griffin Preserve (formerly the Bolin's Lagoon Preserve)

Mid-March to mid-July

Saturday, Sunday and holidays

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Weekdays by appointment only

415.868.9244 Closed Mondays

Central Mayacamas Preserves

Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary

See Calendar of Events inside

Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve

No public access

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*St. Helena fawn lily at Mayacamas Mountains
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50 Years and Still Gaining Ground



Inspiration from student artists, pgs. 8–9