

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

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BULLETIN

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Sharing the Land

Facilities Renovation and Restoration INVESTING IN ACR'S FUTURE

by J. Scott Feierabend and Diane Jacobson

Since first announcing the ACR Strategic Investment Plan—a multi-year, multi-million dollar investment in ACR's physical facilities—we have made significant progress on a number of key projects.

The Plan focuses on building renovations, technology upgrades, energy and water conservation, and improved public access. It is driven by a fundamental desire to expand and improve our mission impact and ensure a vibrant, forward-looking future for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

At the **Cypress Grove Research Center**, the Terrace Renovation and Restoration Project is complete. By improving access to the Conly Center and replacing the decades-old uneven, worn and unsafe pavers, we are now



Handmade thank you card from a student participant in ACR's education program

able to provide a safe and pleasant experience for our guests. This upgrade will sustain the facility's usefulness for decades to come.

To view a slide show of this amazing restoration project, please visit www.egret.org/cgrc-terrace-restoration-project.

At the **Bouverie Preserve**, we have replaced the worn roof of Gilman Hall with a metal standing seam surface that will last for decades. Plans now are to improve the structure's seismic safety, repaint the building's exterior and install rainwater catchments to reduce our reliance on groundwater resources.

We will also restore the Native Plant Garden, and enhance it with attractive, educational and interpretative signage.

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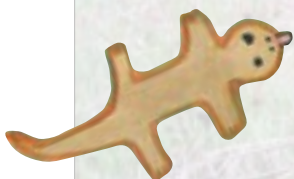
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Project YES Takes Root POSITIVE GROWTH AT BOUVERIE PRESERVE

by Jeanne Wirka



In the midst of a long-awaited torrential downpour in February 2014, a cluster of teenage boys dressed in yellow rain gear and black rubber boots gathered at the edges of the Quarry Pond (a.k.a. “the Pit”) at Bouverie Preserve.

Within minutes, the students had collected a Frisbee-full of frogs, newts, salamanders, tadpoles, lizards and millipedes. “There’s an eye on top of its head,” said one boy, examining a Western Fence Lizard with a hand lens. “Whoa, they’re moving!” exclaimed another, pointing to the centimeter-long newborn newt larvae still encased in the rubbery goo of the egg mass.

Hands-on science

Nothing brings out one’s inner eight-year-old like the chance to catch critters. And nothing works better than actual hands-on experience to reveal the wonders of science, especially for students who may not have had the

chance to explore the natural world as children.

This is the philosophy behind an innovative new education program launched this year at Audubon Canyon Ranch: Project YES (Youth Environmental Stewardship). A partnership with the Hanna Boys Center, Project YES is a service-learning project for at-risk youth that integrates field experiences at Bouverie Preserve, ecological restoration, and classroom activities and experiments.

Just five miles from the Bouverie Preserve in the Sonoma Valley, the Hanna Boys Center is home to more than one hundred 13- to 18-year-old boys from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds. Hanna’s mission is to provide a “home away from home” for boys who are underprivileged, troubled and seriously at-risk. They also provide accredited high school instruction in a small class setting.

Building a partnership

Planning for Project YES began two years ago. ACR education staff and Hanna teachers and administrative leaders worked out how to further their respective missions while taking advantage of the proximity of Bouverie Preserve and the Hanna Boys Center. Funding from the Community Foundation of Sonoma County enabled Audubon Canyon Ranch to launch the program last fall.

“It really was a partnership waiting to happen,” explains ACR Director of Education and Outreach Anne Burnett. “I think both organizations have really begun to reap the benefits this year.”

Classroom and field work

Project YES is organized around five field days throughout the school year. Each is preceded by classroom visits from Bouverie staff and supplemented with additional activities at Hanna.

The classroom visits introduce science concepts and methods that are embodied in the field days and engage the students in observational activities and discussion. The field days, which are focused on ecological restoration and monitoring, have included seed collection and propagation, soil testing, installing wildlife cameras and planting native plants.

Restoring grasslands

On this particular rainy day in February, the boys are working with ACR Resource Ecologists Theo Michaels and Jennifer Potts planting native grasses at Bouverie Preserve’s oak woodland restoration area. Planting is something that comes naturally to the

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boys since their environmental sciences class also cultivates the garden at the Hanna Boys Center.

"I like coming here because we get to work with different plants," explains 11th grader Sean Sitton, who also works in the berry patch at Hanna and is interested in scientific experimentation. "Since we did the soil testing here, it would be cool if we could test the soil back at Hanna," he says.

Theo Michaels, who has been instrumental in crafting both the classroom and field portions of the program, could not be more enthusiastic. "I'm psyched that the students are seeing all the connections. Even the kids who might not seem interested at school get out here and start asking lots of questions. It's a really cool thing to be part of."

Enthusiasm for the program

Hanna teachers Danny Smith and Peter Hines are equally enthusiastic. Hines, whose son Henry participated in Bouverie Preserve's Juniper Program last year, is especially appreciative of the reciprocal partnership between Bouverie Preserve and the Hanna Boys Center.

"The program has helped our teachers build curriculum and utilize specific lessons to engage students with meaningful hands-on activities," he says.

As teachers, Hines and Smith agree that the combination of classroom visits and field experience is key to learning. "Giving a whole class period to introduce something and then showing it to the students in nature

helps them cement the knowledge," says Smith.

Thumbs up for soil testing

When asked which of the learning experiences had been most interesting to them, the boys were near unanimous. "The soil testing was really cool. I didn't realize how many properties soil had," says sophomore Tyler Lezotte. "Yeah, I thought it was just dirt," echoes senior Nathan Evans.

While enhancing science learning is certainly a major goal of the program, equally important is the opportunity for the students to simply get outside and spend time in nature. "Hiking, getting dirty, touching different plants and animals are things many of us take for granted," explains Smith. "At Bouverie, these boys get opportunities to do and see these things for the first time at ages 16, 17 and 18."

The joys of nature

Smith's comments are reflected in the experience of Gustavo Porras, a sophomore from downtown Los Angeles. "I never really had a chance to go hiking or do things out in nature before," he says. "It helps me feel joy knowing that we're helping the environment." Asked what he likes best about the Bouverie Preserve, Porras observes, "I'm pretty sure I like everything out here—the air, there's no pollution, no noise."



As the school year comes to a close, staff at ACR are busy planning for next year and beyond. "Project YES has been so successful and has provided so many unanticipated benefits to the youth community and to ACR. We will be expanding our efforts across other preserves and among additional youth education providers," says Anne Burnett.

A lasting impact

In the meantime, Audubon Canyon Ranch will continue to partner with Hanna Boys Center at the Bouverie Preserve. As do all environmental education providers, the staff and mentors from both ACR and Hanna hope that the students will continue to appreciate nature throughout their lives and become active stewards.

As Gustavo observes, "The earth is something special that we have. We shouldn't take it for granted, you know?"

Jeanne Wirka is the Resident Biologist of ACR's Bouverie Preserve

Georgie Ducas' Lead Trust AS IMAGINATIVE AS SHE WAS

by Phil Murphy

Editor's note: Since the late Georgiana deRopp Ducas' charitable lead trust started benefiting charities seven years ago, it has provided Audubon Canyon Ranch with an average annual distribution of \$31,446. When the trust ends and the principal is distributed to her family in 2021, the Ducas' gift will have contributed about \$472,000 to ACR. To honor the memory of this remarkable woman, we are reprinting a shortened version of the article that appeared in this newsletter in 2006.

Former Bouverie docent Georgiana deRopp Ducas trekked the Himalayas and visited the Kingdom of Bhutan in her late 70s, and she canoed down a Central American river in her early 80s.

In her estate planning, she created a gift for the causes she loved as imaginative as the life she lived.

The Georgiana deRopp Ducas Charitable Lead Trust will pay yearly income of about \$30,000 each to seven charities—Audubon Canyon Ranch among them—over the next fifteen years.

"The estate received significant estate tax benefits from her plan," her attorney George Aguilar said. "But tax benefits were not her concern. Her emphasis was on the charities, most of them dealing with the environment.

"She was a delight," Mr. Aguilar added. "She had a zest for life and had me laughing all the time."



He described Mrs. Ducas, Georgie to those who knew her, as well-traveled and athletic. She loved horses and drove a horse and buggy around her home in Saratoga Springs, New York. She lived in Italy for a number of years, and had close friends on both coasts of the U.S.

After her family, her first love was the environment. "She felt strongly that it was her duty to help preserve the environment," Mr. Aguilar said.

ACR Chief Operating Officer John Petersen remembers her from her Bouverie years. "Georgie had a passion for botany and gardening," he said. "She shared them enthusiastically with the other volunteers and visiting children."

Charitable Lead Trust Basics

Lead trusts are so named because the charity's interests lead or come before the interests of the family. Unlike charitable remainder trusts that pay lifetime income to individuals with the remaining funds going to charity at their death, lead trusts pay income to the charities first and then pass whatever remains to the family.

Lead trusts allow donors to delay distributions to heirs until the recipients are mature enough to handle wealth responsibly. They may also reduce the gift and estate tax otherwise due on the distribution. For further information on lead trusts, contact ACR's planned giving consultant Phil Murphy at 415.457.7482.

Mrs. Ducas, who died in September of 2005, lived for two years in a cottage at ACR's Bouverie Preserve and served as a docent there after completing the training in 1988.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is proud to include Mrs. Georgiana deRopp Ducas as a posthumous member of the Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle, which honors those who have included ACR in their estate plans.

*Phil Murphy is ACR's
planned giving consultant*

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 the ACR Development Team at support@egret.org. We welcome your questions.

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

At Home on ACR Preserves
WILDLIFE PHOTOS TAKEN BY TRAIL CAMS

Mounted motion-sensing cameras on three of ACR's preserves—Modini Mayacamas, Bouverie and Martin Griffin—take photos of wildlife as they pass by. The photos provide a glimpse into the resident and migratory wildlife that call our preserves home.

Data from these cameras offer valuable insights to ACR science and education staff. Among them are trends in wildlife use and the opportunity for docents to talk with students about how we can share the land. Here are just a few of our favorite shots from the past two years.



Clockwise: Black bear, Modini Mayacamas Preserves; Mountain lion, Modini Mayacamas Preserves; Fawns, Modini Mayacamas Preserves; Gray fox, Martin Griffin Preserve; Black bear, Modini Mayacamas Preserves; Bobcat and kittens, Bouverie Preserve

For a full article on the motion-detection camera project on the Modini Mayacamas Preserves, please see *The Ardeid* 2013 available at www.egret.org/ardeid.



Clockwise: Coyote, Bouverie Preserve; Bobcat, Martin Griffin Preserve; Bobcat and kitten, Bouverie Preserve

HERONRY ANNUAL OPENING POSTPONED

Based on an integrated management framework created by ACR's science team, opening of our 1,000-acre West Marin preserve has been postponed.

The postponement is in response to a complete nesting failure in the heronry during the 2013 nesting season.

The delayed opening will establish conditions that encourage the return of egrets and the recovery of the heronry.

2014 Changes to Martin Griffin Preserve:

- Public season will be delayed until a minimum level of nesting activity is observed
- ACR staff will intensify monitoring efforts in the heronry, including video surveillance

- ACR's quality nature education programs, which serve thousands of Bay Area children annually, will be moved to Volunteer Canyon, an adjacent area in the Martin Griffin Preserve

"These actions will minimize human activity and promote natural elements of the sanctuary that may persuade more herons or egrets to initiate new nests," said John Kelly, Ph.D., ACR's Director of Conservation Science.

He says, "While we cannot control nature, ACR has a responsibility to make management decisions that support the return of the egrets and their future nesting success."



Photo by Wyn Hoag

For more information about the heronry and ACR's efforts to ensure its future, visit www.egret.org/thebirds.

Focus on Wildlife in Sonoma's Mountains

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A research project in the central Mayacamas Mountains is shedding light on key questions in regional conservation and a few committed volunteers are helping to make it happen.

A grid of motion-detection cameras across ACR's Modini Mayacamas Preserves is informing biologists of the diverse wildlife with whom we share the lands.

Examining thousands of photos

Dedicated volunteers Ginny Fifield, Tom Reynolds and Jeffrey Smith review and categorize all the photos taken monthly by these cameras, a few of which can be seen on pages 6 and 7.

With direction from ACR science staff and wildlife biologist Sue Townsend, the volunteers employ an internationally-recognized methodology known as Wildlife Photo Index. This landscape-level monitoring method combines the use of camera stations with statistical modeling of occupancy (the probability that a site is occupied by a particular

species) to watch for trends in wildlife use.

"These volunteers work hard, take pride in their work and make an important contribution to our science program," says ACR Biologist Sherry Adams. "They come into our Healdsburg office and look through thousands of photos taken by every single camera in the Wildlife Photo Index grid. Following a specific protocol, they are putting together a reliable database."

Breadth of experience

Each team member brings unique skills and experience, which makes their work so valuable: Jeff is a retired

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, Emeritus Directors and Advisors. You are the backbone of this organization. For all you do, we thank you!

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Tom Reynolds reviews wildlife photos

wildlife biologist, Tom has a passion for photography, and Ginny has years of experience with camera traps.

“Even if there is just a tail or an ear in the photo, they still need to look very carefully to try and figure out what animal it is,” Sherry adds. “The result is data we can trust about the presence of animals on the preserves.”

“The first time I visited the preserves I felt the history of Sonoma County,” says Tom. “I see a bright future for the preserves cared for by Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Modini Ranch is an amazing remnant of nature and history. Keeping it in that state is wonderful.”

Support for the project

The project, a collaboration with

Pepperwood Preserve, is also backed by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and ACR supporters. Wildlife cameras are also installed on ACR's Bouverie and Martin Griffin preserves.

“I am really glad to be able to volunteer for this scientifically based project, because I know it will provide valuable long-term wildlife data,” Ginny adds.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is grateful to Ginny, Tom and Jeff—and, indeed, all ACR volunteers—for their invaluable gift of time. We couldn't do it without you!

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Brett Lane	Alicia Mayorga	Susan Poirier-Klein	Susan Poirier-Klein	Linda Schmid	Shelby Stansfield	Deusen-Jensen	Wimpfheimer
Dennis Lang	Pat McCaffrey	Sarah Pola	Sarah Pola	Craig Schorr	April Starke Slakey	Gerrit Van Sickle	Barbara Winter
Freida Larson	Laurel McCaull	Julia Pollock	Julia Pollock	Theresa Schulz	Jean Starkweather	Kay Vasilyeva	Mike Witkowski
Dakota Lawhorn	Grace McCaull	Erica Posner	Erica Posner	Thea Schurer	Rebecca	Barbara Jean	Colin Wolford
Scott Lawyer	Mark McCaustland	Leah Post	Leah Post	John Schwonke	Sterlin-Trivelpiece	Veronda	Carol L. Wood
Robyn Lawyer	Rita McClain	James Post	James Post	Maria Scott	Liz Sterns	Natalia Vicino	Patrick Woodworth
Edgar G. Lehmann	David McConnell	Helen M. Pratt	Helen M. Pratt	Claire H. Seda	Laurel Stevenson	Sylvia Victor	Sherry Wright
Lamar Leland	Emma McEnhill	Katherine Prescott	Katherine Prescott	Matej Seda	Susan Stoddard	Bud Vieira	Peter Young
Dick Lemon	Lane Norton	Lauri Puchall	Lauri Puchall	Lindsey Segbers	Serena Stoepler	Claudia Vieira	Nancy Young
Stephanie Lennox	Jeanne McHenry	Logan Puntous	Logan Puntous	Victoria Seher	Robert Stokstad	Sasha Vitomski	Cindy Young
Colleen Leof	Helen McKenna	Maris Purvins	Maris Purvins	Lee Seidner	Julie Stokstad	Diane Voorhoeve	Karen Young
Robin Leong	Ridley	Peter Pyle	Peter Pyle	Mary Seymour	Michelle Stone	Gregory Vose	Sarah Zainfeld
Keith Lester	Jordyn McLean	Orion Qualls	Orion Qualls	Kevin Seymour	Sally Stone	Zac Wagner	Suzanne
Bev Leve	Sarahi Mendez	Barbara Ramsey	Barbara Ramsey	Charlotte Seymour	Kandice Strako	Susan Walker	Zimmerman
Peter V. Leveque	Ricardo Mendez	Richard Randolph	Richard Randolph	Robin Sharp	Emilie Strauss	Tom Walsh	Ingrid Zimmerman
Seela Lewis	Lydia Mendoza	Betsy Randolph	Betsy Randolph	JC Shaver	Morgan Streeter	Ann Walsh	Jill Zumwalt
Jackie Lewis	Valerie Merrin	Devii Rao	Devii Rao	Cade Sheets	Susan Strong	Owen Walsh	Loretta Zweig
Michele Liapes	Peter Metropoulos	Rebecca Olsen	Rebecca Olsen	Linda Sheppard	Tina Styles	Chris Ward	
Eileen Libby	Patrick Michaels	Joanne Olsson	Renee Rausin	Natalie Shieh	Lisa Summers	Patricia Warren	

INVESTING IN ACR'S FUTURE continued from page 2

At the Martin Griffin Preserve,

we have completely restored the exterior of the historic Bourne House in Picher Canyon, bringing back its former elegance and beauty. When ACR member Jerry Bourne, great-grandson of Captain Peter and Mary Bourne and whose grandfather was born in the house, saw the dramatic improvements, he wrote:

"... from the bottom of my heart thank you ACR and the Board for



Scott Feierabend

protecting and saving some history of my family. The Bourne House has always been special to me ever since I saw it boarded up as a small child.

"I fully support the ACR vision and know how important it is for future generations."

Still to come: preparing the Bourne House interior for public education and increased visitation. This will include the construction of a new Founders Room to showcase ACR's



Diane Jacobson

legacy and leadership in protecting the lands of Marin and Sonoma counties. To view a slide show of the Bourne House restoration project, please visit www.egret.org/bourne-house.

We hope you will add your support to our efforts in transforming ACR's facilities and improving our service to the community. To learn how you can participate in this important undertaking, please visit www.egret.org or contact the ACR Development Team at 415.868.9244 or support@egret.org.

*J. Scott Feierabend is
ACR's Executive Director*

*Diane Jacobson is President
of ACR's Board of Directors*

Stay in the Loop

Published every two months, our eNewsletter 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 contacting Leslie Melendy at ACR Headquarters at 415.868.9244 or leslie@egret.org.

Become an ACR Member

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.

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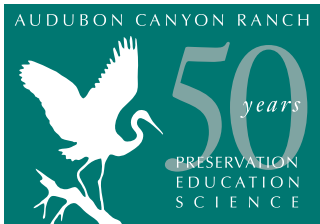
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The Art of Eating
May 18, 2014
The Bouverie Preserve, Glen Ellen
Sunday 12:30pm - 4:30pm

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- Priceless auction items

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for information and tickets or call
415.868.9244 x 23

Guided Nature Walks Bouverie Preserve	<p>Saturdays ~ March 15, April 12, May 3 and May 17, 2014 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Experience the beauty and rich natural history of this 500-acre preserve. Reservations required and accepted one month before each respective hike date. rsvp@egret.org or 415.868.9244 <i>Donations appreciated</i></p>
Backyard Naturalist Series Bouverie Preserve	<p>Saturday ~ March 29, 2014 – Wildflowers with Jeanne Wirka 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Geared toward the adult amateur naturalist, these Saturday seminars include classroom and trail time. One- to three-mile hike. Mildly to moderately strenuous. Bring lunch and water for the trail. Class size is limited. \$25 per seminar. Discount for members at Sponsor-level or above. Registration required: rsvp@egret.org or 415.868.9244</p>
Mother's Day Picnic Volunteer Canyon, Martin Griffin Preserve	<p>Sunday ~ May 11, 2014</p> <p>Bring families and friends to the magnificent meadow of 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 7. Carpooling strongly encouraged!</p> <p>\$28 per adult, \$12 children 12 and under. Mail your check payable to: Marin Audubon Society, 141 Oak Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960 or reserve at www.marinaudubon.org.</p>
Docent Training Open Houses Martin Griffin Preserve	<p>Wednesdays ~ June 18, 2014 and August 6, 2014 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Share your sense of wonder—become a Docent of the Martin Griffin Preserve. Attend an open house and learn about our 40+ years of nature education programs for Bay Area children and adults. Join us! Extensive docent training on 24 Wednesdays, starts September 3, 2014. Get details or RSVP for an open house: volunteer@egret.org or 415.868.9244</p>
Annual ACR Appreciation Picnic <i>Save the date!</i> Cypress Grove Research Center	<p>Saturday ~ September 27, 2014 Cypress Grove Research Center, Marshall</p> <p>ACR welcomes volunteers and supporters at Sponsor-level and above (\$250 annual gift) as we thank you for your support of ACR's programs and preserves. This year join us at the Cypress Grove Research Center, where we are excited to share the Terrace Renovation and Restoration Project. View a slide show of the project: www.egret.org/cgrc-terrace-restoration-project.</p>
Nature Hikes Modini Mayacamas Preserves	<p>Explore the rugged terrain of ACR's newest nature sanctuaries, the Modini Mayacamas Preserves, just east of Healdsburg. Natural history, local history and birdwatching hikes guided by local naturalists. Visit www.egret.org/calendar for details or contact ACR Naturalist David Self at david.self@egret.org. Hikes organized in partnership with our friends at the Madrone Audubon Society. Questions? Contact David Self at 707.431.8184 or david.self@egret.org. <i>No RSVP or cost, but donations appreciated</i></p>
Habitat Protection & Restoration Stewards Bouverie Preserve	<p>Mondays ~ 8:30 a.m. – noon</p> <p>Bouverie Stewards work intimately with the land throughout the year. This dedicated crew assists with habitat protection and restoration work, while learning about the ecology behind the project.</p> <p>Call 707.935.8417 or e-mail Jen Potts at jpotts@egret.org</p>
Temporarily Closed Martin Griffin Preserve	<p>During the 2013 nesting season, the historic heronry at the Martin Griffin Preserve experienced a complete egret colony failure. To help encourage the egrets' return, ACR scientists have recommended reducing human presence. If the egrets come back to the preserve or Bolinas Lagoon by mid-April, the preserve will open to the public in late spring. ACR will continue to provide its top-quality nature education programs for elementary school students in an adjacent canyon within the Martin Griffin Preserve.</p> <p>If you're looking to get outdoors, please visit one of ACR's other preserves: the Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen or the Modini Mayacamas Preserves near Healdsburg.</p> <p>Learn more about the egret colony and ACR's preserves at www.egret.org or call (415) 868-9244.</p>



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Our Mission

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

VISIT US

To visit these preserves, see the Calendar of Events inside

Bouverie Preserve

Woodlands in the Valley of the Moon

Martin Griffin Preserve

Sweeping Coastal Views in West Marin

Modini Mayacamas Preserves

Wilderness in the Mayacamas Mountains

By appointment only

Cypress Grove Research Center

Call 415.663.8203 to schedule

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