

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

50
years

Number 55

BULLETIN

Fall 2014

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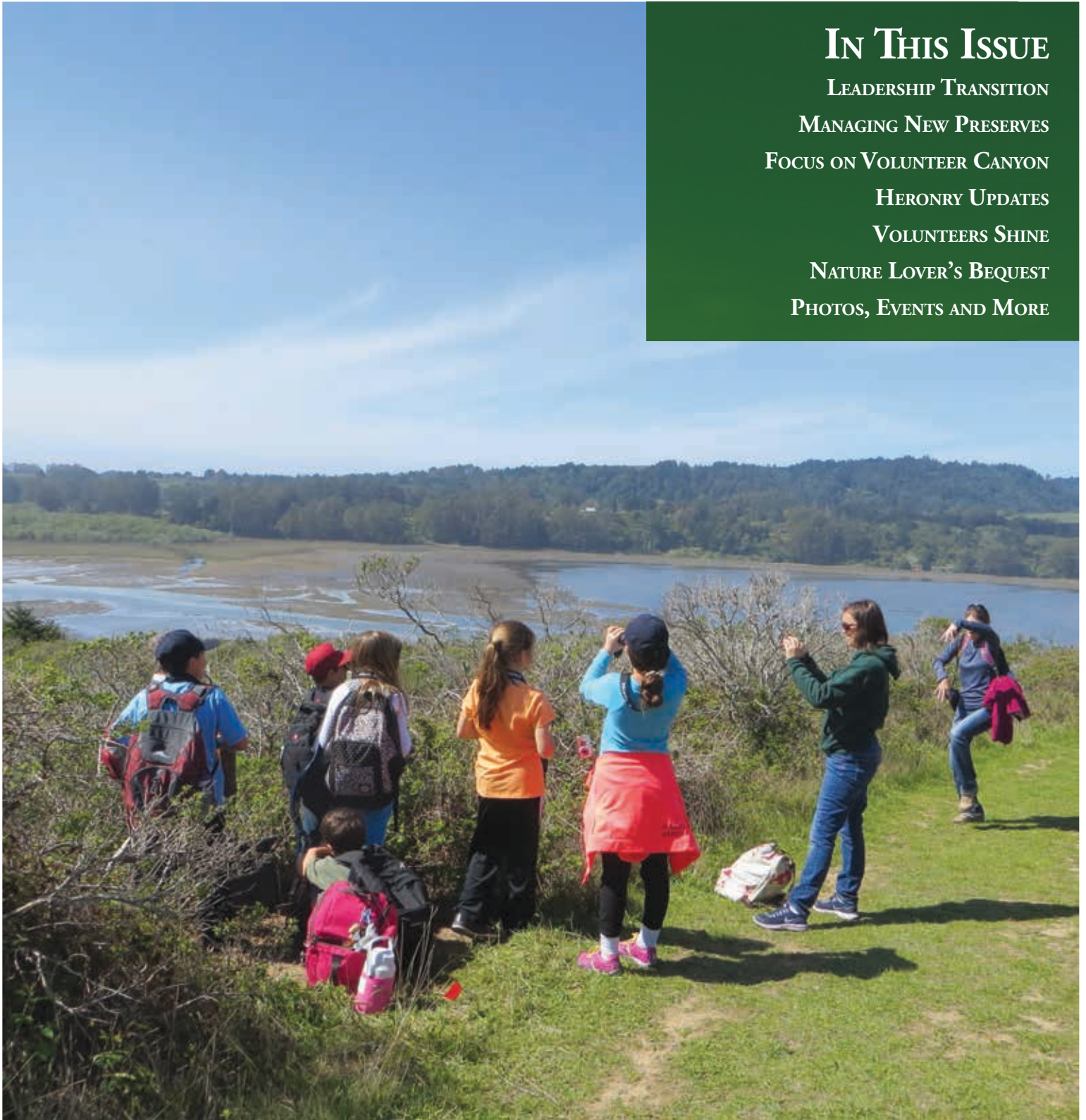
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Leadership Transition Underway

DEPARTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVISIONED A VIBRANT FUTURE

by Diane Jacobson

On behalf of all the communities we serve, please join us in thanking Scott Feierabend for his unwavering commitment and service to Audubon Canyon Ranch.

After 4½ years Scott has stepped down from the role of Executive Director. He expressed his gratitude to our community of volunteers and donors whose passion and generosity has helped fuel our progress in making ACR stronger than ever.

Under his leadership, Audubon Canyon Ranch expanded land holdings by more than 3,300 acres. The acquisition of the Modini Mayacamas Preserves allows us to permanently protect a rich blend of biologically diverse habitats.

In addition, Scott led the updating of the ACR strategic plan,

which strengthens and guides our conservation science, nature education and land protection programs for continued growth into the future.

As we continue our ambitious multi-year Strategic Investment Plan to restore and renovate ACR's facilities, we are grateful to Scott for his vision and hard work. His direction greatly contributed to the completion of key projects at Bouverie Preserve, Cypress Grove Research Center and Martin Griffin Preserve.

Positioned for expansion

We are fortunate that Scott leaves Audubon Canyon Ranch well positioned, with solid planning and talented, dedicated staff and volunteers in place. Our plan is to expand our programmatic reach and achieve



John Petersen

even greater impact throughout the Bay Area. In order to ensure a smooth transition, the Board of Directors has appointed John Petersen as Acting Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer. He will provide leadership during the search for Scott's successor. John has a solid, 28-year record of successful team building, program implementation, and strategic leadership, with a passion for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Still moving forward

Additionally, the Board's leadership task force is conducting an executive

please turn to *Leadership Transition*, page 10

Audubon Canyon Ranch

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How ACR is Managing the Modini Mayacamas Preserves CARING FOR NATURE THROUGH STRUCTURED ACCESS

by Sherry Adams

Caring for the land, learning how nature works, and sharing knowledge with others—it's what Audubon Canyon Ranch has done for over 50 years.

But how we implement our mission varies across our different preserves. The Modini Mayacamas Preserves are the newest ACR wildlands, and we've used the first few years to craft a vision for how the preserves should work.

We were fortunate that the Modini Mayacamas lands had been sensitively tended by people who knew and loved them. ACR staff was able to spend years learning from Jim and Shirley Modini, ACR benefactors and previous land owners before their passing. We've also had the benefit of collaboration with Madrone Audubon, whose members have cared for and been keen

nature observers of the Mayacamas side of the preserves.

Challenges of a public thoroughfare

But having a nature sanctuary bisected by a public road—Pine Flat Road—is a new challenge for Audubon Canyon Ranch. Just a few years ago illegal dumping, hunting, firewood collection, marijuana cultivation, off-road driving and target shooting were still occurring on these and neighboring lands.

But misuse is not the whole story. This place also provides stunning views of the region and is surrounded by enough wildlands that black bear sightings are commonplace.

The area harbors numerous serpentine outcrops (our state rock), which support a suite of unusual specialist plants. And, the property has the elevation and habitat diversity that can provide refuge in an era of rapid change.

In short, it is an awe-inspiring place in need of care and constant vigilance, just as those who cared for these lands before us demonstrated.

ACR staff is a dedicated, but small team, so we put out the call for help. And you answered. Here are some ways we've teamed up with volunteers and professionals to implement the components of ACR's mission, in a way suited to the unique challenges of the Modini Mayacamas Preserves neighborhood.

Conservation Science

Staff, visiting researchers and volunteers have joined forces to conduct research projects.

Breeding bird surveys: ACR Director of Conservation Science John Kelly is heading up two breeding bird surveys along Pine Flat Road (2014 *Ardeid*) and on the Modini property (2011 *Ardeid*). Find the *Ardeid* archives at www.egret.org/ardeid.

Sonoma County vegetation map: The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District is leading the project to create a high quality vegetation map that can aid conservation by identifying important natural resources for county planners. ACR provided access and guidance.

Grad student field research: Graduate students use these preserves as field sites for their ecological investigations. Michelle Reilly, a Ph.D. student at Northern Arizona University, is studying the impact of trails and human use on animal presence. Preliminary results indicate that even non-motorized trail use by humans impacts animals.

Noninvasive animal monitoring: Wildlife Biologist Sue Townsend is conducting a long-term project using a grid of cameras across Modini Mayacamas Preserves and the Pepperwood Preserve. (See details on the Wildlife Photo Index project in the 2013 *Ardeid*.) The cameras reveal changes in the rates of animal presence through time and across the landscape.

Yellow star thistle management: In August I presented findings of an



Removing teasel, Pine Flat Road

continued from page 3

investigation into the impacts of yellow star thistle management at the Ecological Society of America conference. (Find a pdf poster at www.egret.org/scientific_contributions)

Education

We are excited to share these special protected lands with our community.

Nature walks: Our partners at Madrone Audubon have continued to host outings led by experts in geology, botany, and of course their specialty, birds.

Expert-led hikes: ACR volunteers and staff with particular expertise lead outings, such as a walk on fire ecology by ACR Resource Ecologist Jennifer Potts. Volunteer Denny Fujita shared his knowledge on the history of the stagecoach road. And volunteer Ginny Fifield, who maintains cameras on several ACR preserves, led an excursion on motion activated photography. See recent videos from the MMP camera at tinyurl.com/MMPnorthCAM.

Look online, then get outside: Visit ACR's website for details on public outings on these preserves: www.egret.org/visit_modini_mayacamas.

Preservation

Our management plans guide on-the-ground work, such as the use of trails and signs and several hands-on aspects of resource management.

Our targeted approach to managing introduced plants prioritizes species and occurrences based on tractability and impact.

Where infestations are large and subject to recolonization by the same or other invasives, we undertake micro-site restoration. This process may

include collecting seeds of appropriate species from the preserve and direct seeding or propagation.

A dedicated group of volunteer stewards helps Resource Ecologist Dave Self with hands-on projects twice a month. Some of their tasks:

- walking boundary fences to ensure signage is in place
- maintaining the old stagecoach road as a hiking trail
- monitoring and targeted removal of invasive species
- patrolling the preserves in pairs or groups to help us keep an eye on things. (See inset box for details.)

What's happening now along Pine Flat Road? The breeding bird survey team is doing point counts. Nature enthusiasts are joining a walk about native grasslands. Nature lovers who've taken our orientation program are birdwatching or going for a walk.

So how do you protect preserves with a public road through them and a history of destructive trespassing? By *being here*.

Sherry Adams is ACR's Biologist and Manager of Modini Mayacamas Preserves

BE A PART OF THE MODINI MAYACAMAS PRESERVES TEAM!

Volunteers meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to help care for the preserves—trail maintenance, invasive species removal and habitat restoration.

You'll work with ACR Resource Ecologist Dave Self. Contact him at david.self@egret.org, 707.431.8184, or just show up for a scheduled workday. Join us at the intersection of Pine Flat and Red Winery roads in Alexander Valley, less than 10 miles from Healdsburg.

Learn more at www.egret.org/volunteer_plant.



Native grass seeds

Resilience and Community at the Martin Griffin Preserve **FOCUS ON VOLUNTEER CANYON**

by Gwen Heistand



Walking up the driveway, Volunteer Canyon

One of the more amazing experiences of my tenure at Audubon Canyon Ranch followed on the heels of the failure of the 2013 heron and egret nesting season in Martin Griffin Preserve's Picher Canyon.

Committed to continuing hands-on nature education programs *while* protecting a historic heronry, Audubon Canyon Ranch closed Picher Canyon to the public and resolved to move school groups to the preserve's adjacent Volunteer Canyon. We were determined that one-day field trips, in a new form, would continue for the thousands of fourth and fifth graders who visit Martin Griffin Preserve.

A combination of heart and hard work

What followed that decision is a story of incredible heart, community, commitment and hard work. People inside and outside of ACR collaborated to ensure that nature education for Bay Area children would be ready by spring.

While this may sound like a simple proposition, what needed to happen in a few short months was far from trivial. Volunteer Canyon trails were in need of major repair, and the water tank was failing. There was no docent meeting room or rainy day room for the students, and the parking area was insufficient.

Also, the spring curriculum at Martin Griffin Preserve had centered on nesting herons and egrets, so this meant making modifications to classroom and trail materials and retraining hiking docents.

The vital contributions of volunteers

Docents, the volunteers who work with students at ACR, are indispensable to our education efforts. They manage docent training, recruitment, continuing education, scheduling, the library, the volunteer center, publicity, and key to this effort, School

Program administration, development and delivery.

Our docents met news of the heronry failure and Picher Canyon closure with dismay and concern.

Fueled by their commitment to getting children out into nature, the School Program Committee, led by Docent Ann Howard, rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Four working groups were convened to prepare the classroom slide show, classroom materials, Volunteer Canyon activities and docent training.

Establishing new curriculum

Overarching themes were identified: watersheds, maps, nature journaling and Volunteer Canyon human and natural history. Trails were hiked to determine potential sites for lunch spots, stump circles, and bins containing binoculars, journaling materials, and teaching aids for geology and birding.

The Mosaic Garden, two new creek accesses, a new mammal photo box, the orchard, Oak Trail benches, a willow seep on the Olive Hyde Trail, the Dead Horse Grove, and the Devine Bench were proposed as additional activity areas.



Mammal photo box

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Then the docents began developing new materials and modifying existing manuals.

Unique challenges

Volunteer Canyon presented its own challenges. Most docents were unfamiliar with the trails, the Scrub Trail was so narrow it needed to be designated one-way, and there were no special programmatic areas like the ponds and heronry overlooks of Picher Canyon.

Docents from the Overnight Program provided invaluable insights, since they had been teaching students in Volunteer Canyon since 2000. The trails working group hiked all the trails, timed each segment, and with the help of Docent Susan Moritz's husband Dennis, identified seven trail patterns to minimize traffic and congestion problems.



Learning about contour maps

Along with maps of trail patterns, Bouverie Preserve Docent Bill Bridges created a contour map of Volunteer Canyon Trails. Docent Jane Ferguson took the map and created a teaching aid 3-D model of the canyon. Docent Karla Kelly and her daughter Anna hiked the trails and developed a pictorial map of the canyon that included critters and a flipside for journaling. Docents Patti Blanton and Joan Turner created a map of suggested walk-alone hikes.

Volunteer Canyon was now map-rich and these maps could be used to address one of the key concept areas and introduce orienteering into the program in a more systematic and formal way.

Bringing facilities up to par

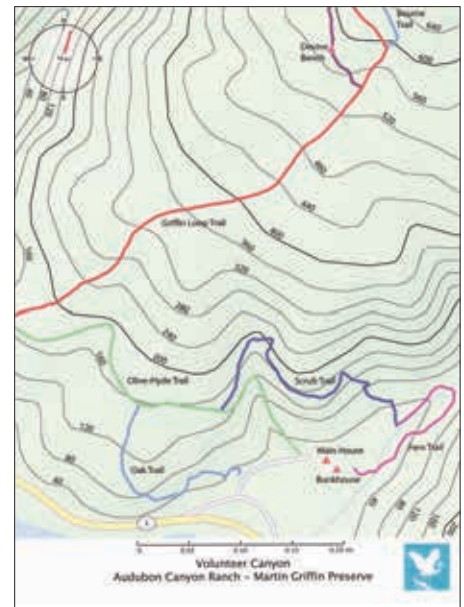
Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Yvonne Pierce, Martin Griffin Preserve Manager, was busy coordinating facility maintenance and repair. A new liner was installed in the water tank, septic was pumped, and bathroom facilities were assessed.

Many of the preserve's beautiful old oaks had died due to Sudden Oak Death. So Pacific Slope Tree Cooperative cleared dead and hazardous trees, as well as cut rounds of the dead trees for program area seating.

Conservation Corps North Bay conducted major trail work that included rerouting portions of the Scrub and Oak trails. Martin Griffin Land Steward Steve Trivelpiece and his Thursday volunteers installed stump circles for outdoor seating and activity bins with program materials. They cleared trails, rebuilt benches on the Oak Trail and generally readied the canyon for docents and students.

Once the Long House, one of the oldest buildings in Marin County, was refurbished, work could move ahead to create the docent meeting and rainy day teaching rooms. Docent Leslie Doughty ensured that there was furniture, sign-up boards, first aid materials, trail-side equipment, spare clothing for unprepared kids, and anything else docents might need.

Docent Anna-Marie Bratton created an inviting rainy day room filled with



Volunteer Canyon contour map

activities and specimens that enhanced themes developed for Volunteer Canyon.

Work previously done by our habitat restoration volunteers, the Martin Griffin Preserve Stewards, proved invaluable. The Mosaic Garden was available for program use, habitat restoration sites were mature and blending into established habitat, areas around the buildings were planted with plants grown in the greenhouse, and weeds were under control.

Trails and facilities were restored, meeting rooms prepared, trailside and classroom materials written, and maps were developed.

Retraining the experts

Next on the agenda, train the docents who would teach thousands of visiting fourth and fifth graders about nature this spring. Advanced Docent Training was moved to Volunteer Canyon. Classes in lichens, storytelling, dragonflies and damselflies, fungi, and bird song highlighted the canyon's

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The Heronry of Martin Griffin Preserve SCIENCE STAFF OBSERVES NEST SUCCESS ACROSS BOLINAS LAGOON

by Sarah Millus

The number of nests initiated in the heronry at ACR's Martin Griffin Preserve declined dramatically in 2013, and none of those nests fledged any young.

In 2014, two Great Blue Herons flew low over the colony site on January 29. No other herons or egrets were seen in the canyon, and no nests were attempted.

In contrast to the events at Martin Griffin Preserve, the colony site across the lagoon, near the town of Bolinas, saw a dramatic increase in the number of nesting Great Egrets in 2014.

Twice as many nests near Bolinas

The season total of 34 nests was more than double the number initiated at that site the prior year.

For Great Egrets, 68% of their nests

were successful, fledging 45 chicks from the colony. Nine Great Blue Heron nests were also established, eight of which were successful and fledged a total of 22 chicks.

The strong nest success and the high number of chicks fledged from the Bolinas colony suggest that food supply did not limit heron and egrets nesting on Bolinas Lagoon.

The reasons egrets chose not to nest at Martin Griffin Preserve appear to be specific to that colony site, probably related to disturbance by potential nest predators, with no apparent adverse effects on the colony at Bolinas.

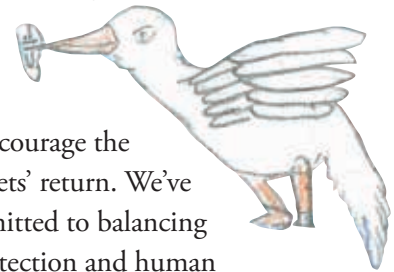
For more information on the history of the heronry and ACR's efforts to ensure its future, visit www.egret.org/thebirds.

Martin Griffin Preserve open for fall hiking

We've been putting nature first this past spring, limiting human impact at Martin Griffin Preserve in order to encourage the nesting egrets' return. We've been committed to balancing habitat protection and human access in this way, but have missed our community of nature lovers and bird enthusiasts. Audubon Canyon Ranch welcomes you back to Martin Griffin Preserve for fall exploring!

See the Calendar of Events on page 11 for visiting days and times.

*Sarah Millus is ACR's
Helen Pratt Field Biologist*



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natural history. Docents familiarized themselves with the new program materials and restored trails.

Volunteer Canyon put on a show for the training. The stream was flowing, newts were on the trail, the sun shone, the grass was green and pipevine was in full bloom. Wild cucumber was twining around everything, and latticed stinkhorn fungus was pink and stinky.

And, during lunch one training day, we heard a huge cracking crashing thundering sound, and the ground trembled. A redwood tree along the Fern Trail had fallen.

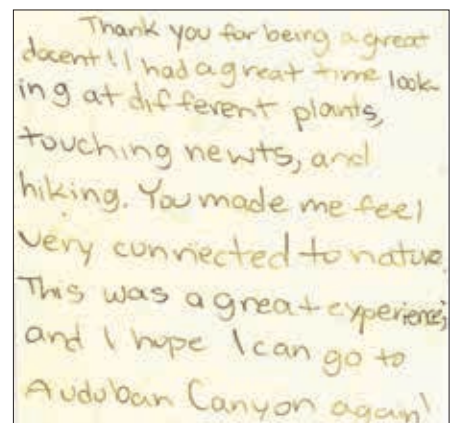
Serendipitously, all 160 feet of the tree fell along the edge of the trail, providing another exciting teaching opportunity. Students would soon be

able to pace off the length of a redwood tree and talk about redwoods up close and personal!

Being part of the magic

All of the work was completed in less than three months. I was so fortunate to be able to work with ACR's amazing volunteers, staff and the land that is the Martin Griffin Preserve throughout this process.

A kind of magic happened—magic created when love of place, generosity of spirit and commitment to excellence converge to overcome what is initially perceived as a catastrophe. I watched trepidation and insecurity transform into joy, ownership and discovery. Fourth and fifth grade students were the beneficiaries of this transformation,



thanks in large part to our wonderful volunteers.

As one fourth grade boy proclaimed walking up the driveway from the bus, "Oh! Oh! Oh! We're in *Volunteer Canyon!*"

*Gwen Heistand is ACR's Resident
Biologist at Martin Griffin Preserve*

Amazing Effort for Students' Field Trips A SPOTLIGHT ON ACR VOLUNTEERS

In order to continue hands-on nature education programs while protecting a historic heronry, Audubon Canyon Ranch temporarily closed Martin Griffin Preserve's Picher Canyon to the public this past spring. Although our education programs have been held there for the past 40+ years, we resolved to make the closure seamless by moving school groups to the preserve's adjacent Volunteer Canyon.

The challenge—making sure we'd be ready to welcome the fourth and fifth graders to the new location for field trips in the spring. It took ACR staff and dozens of docents to pull it off.

Over just a few months, docent volunteers rewrote curriculum, produced hiking schematics, developed teaching materials, trained their docent community and eventually welcomed the students back without interruption.

The ultimate in cooperation

"There have been a few times in my teaching career when everyone got together, but I haven't seen anything like this," says ACR Docent Mary Lee Bronzo, whose professional background

"We realized what a gift it is to really sit with the kids and talk about the things they were learning."

is in education program development.

"Everyone did the ultimate job.

"ACR is nimble, but it is also resilient and strong. It is a really connected group of people who do a great job of supporting each other," Mary Lee adds. "You need those things to respond to change."

ACR docents are now using more inquiry-based teaching techniques, which were incorporated into the new curriculum. Docent Ann Howard, an expert in administration and project management, says, "The location change encouraged us to reevaluate our program and create new curriculum. Most of the new curriculum will transfer well to Picher Canyon in the fall."

Sitting still in nature

Mary Lee noted a difference in the new program. "Since the trails are shorter in Volunteer Canyon, we

spent more time sitting and talking, journaling and doing drawing activities, instead of focusing on covering ground on the hiking trails," she says. "We realized what a gift it is to really sit with the kids and talk about the things they were learning. That new habit will transfer well back to Picher Canyon."

"The bottom line is everyone wants the kids to experience the outdoors and that's all that matters. I am so impressed with how authentically people acted on that," says Docent Karla Kelly, a specialist in curriculum development.

ACR was built on volunteers' dedication and sweat equity. We're thankful that, 50 years later, our community's generosity and commitment to nature education are intact.

We tip our hats to the docents who helped ensure students still learned about nature at the Martin Griffin Preserve this past spring...and indeed, deep thanks to all ACR volunteers.

Jackson Barker	Lorraine Johnson
Gail Berger	Anna Kelly
Patty Blanton	Karla Kelly
Mary Blume	Diane Lafrenz
Patti Blumin	Pattie Litton
Anna-Marie Bratton	Jan Moffet
Bill Bridges	Dennis Moritz
Mary Lee Bronzo	Susan Moritz
May Chen	Kathleen Murphy
Dave Chenoweth	Kevin O'Dea
Sharon Dado	Janet Oyen
Leslie Doughty	Tony Paz
Judy Dugan	Erica Posner
Jane Ferguson	Jean An Sprague
Ginny Fifield	Joan Turner
Pamela Gach	Eric Watterud
Linda Herrington	Paul Webster
Ann Howard	Martha Wessitsh



Journaling at Oak Trail benches

April Starke Slakey's Generous Bequest CHILDHOOD ENTHUSIASM FOR NATURE LASTS A LIFETIME

by Phil Murphy

ACR Advisor April Starke Slakey was raised on New York's Long Island, in a home 20 feet from the banks of the Connetquot River. She grew up swimming, sailing, ice skating, canoeing and exploring nearby woods.

Now, April—a biology major, seasoned fundraiser, widowed mother of two adult children, and 10-year member of ACR's Board of Directors—has stepped down after sharing her expertise as chair of our planned giving committee.

Appreciating and supporting nature

She has included Audubon Canyon Ranch in her own living trust, for many of the same reasons she loved her Long Island home.

"I have enjoyed ACR preserves enormously," she says. "I feel so fortunate to be able to walk those lands. I have a deep connection with them."

When she last revised her living trust, she set aside 25% of her total estate for three nonprofit organizations. Audubon Canyon Ranch was one of them.

ACR made the cut, she says,



April Starke Slakey, Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle Member

for three reasons. It preserves environmentally important lands and publishes well-researched papers on Bay Area flora and fauna. And, through its Docent and Ranch Guide programs, the organization educates children and adults about the value of the natural order. "And it's local," April, a Mill Valley resident, adds emphatically.

Keeping up with conservation science

She is a fan of *The Ardeid*, ACR's annual publication about conservation science, which summarizes staff research on topics ranging from the effects of motorized boating on waterbirds to the status of black-crowned herons in the northern Bay Area.

"ACR does hard science on

important local environmental problems," she says. "As a biologist, I appreciate that."

During her time on the ACR board, she has gently and repeatedly encouraged others to consider including the organization in their estate plans.

"I am hoping we can enlarge that circle," she says. "Bequests are vital to ACR's future."

Research potential in the Mayacamas

April speaks with enthusiasm about ACR's latest acquisition, the Modini Mayacamas Preserves. "It's so pristine," she says.

Then, in the way she recounted the outdoor passions of her Long Island childhood, she mentions the deer, bears, bobcats and mountain lions that roam the preserves. These local wildlife species, she adds, support an unusual number and variety of native plants. "I mean, it could become a possible site to study the effects of global climate change!"

Audubon Canyon Ranch is honored to list April Starke Slakey as a member of its Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle and is pleased to recognize her efforts to increase the Circle's membership.

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 Scott Artis, Director of Development and Communications, at 415.868.9244 ext. 114 or scott.artis@egret.org. We welcome your questions.

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION continued from page 2

search and helping ensure we move forward seamlessly, continuing to achieve ACR's strategic goals.

Our hard-working staff and volunteer Board of Directors appreciate your continued support. And, we are grateful to Scott for his contributions to Audubon Canyon Ranch and the thousands of children and adults whose lives have been changed by our work during his tenure.



Diane Jacobson

Diane Jacobson is President of ACR's Board of Directors

the Art of Eating MFK Fisher 2014

Sponsors, attendees, donors and volunteers to ACR's recent *Art of Eating* fundraiser helped raise \$122,000 for ACR's Education Programs. We are grateful to you for supporting hands-on learning for the thousands of students, adults and nature enthusiasts who will experience nature on ACR preserves in the coming year...**thank you!**



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 ext. 110 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 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.

Members' Discount

Become a member this fall and take advantage of the Members' 10% discount in the ACR Bookstore at the Martin Griffin Preserve!

ANNUAL ACR APPRECIATION PICNIC

Saturday, September 27, 2014 ~ 11:30 a.m.
Cypress Grove Research Center

Audubon Canyon Ranch welcomes its supporters—volunteers, members (Sponsor level+) and donors (\$250+ annual gift)—as we **thank you** for your support of our programs and preserves. This year, join us at the Cypress Grove Research Center and see the Terrace Renovation and Restoration Project.

View a slide show at:

www.egret.org/cgrc-terrace-restoration-project.

By invitation only

Not yet a Sponsor-level member or supporter?

Visit **www.egret.org** to make a donation today!

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Fall Exploring Martin Griffin Preserve

Audubon Canyon Ranch eagerly welcomes you back to the Martin Griffin Preserve for fall exploring! Though we limited access in the spring nesting season to encourage the egrets' return, we've missed our community of nature lovers and bird enthusiasts. So come visit this fall!

September 2 - September 29, 2014: Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays ~ 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Closed to the public for Docent Training on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

September 30 - November 15, 2014: Mondays ~ 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays ~ 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Closed to the public during morning School Programs.

Saturdays ~ September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13, 2014:
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Guided Nature Walks

Bouverie Preserve

Saturdays ~ October 11, October 25, November 1 and November 15, 2014
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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 ext. 110
Donations appreciated

Nature Hikes Modini Mayacamas Preserves

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, in partnership with Madrone Audubon Society. **Learn more at www.egret.org/calendar** or contact ACR Resource Ecologist David Self at david.self@egret.org.
No RSVP or fee, but donations appreciated

Members Hike Bouverie Preserve

Saturday ~ October 11, 2014: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. By invitation only
ACR members and supporters at the *Patron* level or above are invited to join us for a members hike. We'll explore Bouverie Preserve's diverse oak woodlands with Resident Biologist Jeanne Wirka. Enjoy the preserve's fall landscapes, learn to identify oak tree species and get a close-up look at the magical micro-world of oak galls. *Not a member?* Become one today at the *Patron* level, and join us for this members-only event!

Backyard Naturalist Series

Gilman Hall, Bouverie Preserve

Class sizes are limited.
Registration required:
rsvp@egret.org or
415.868.9244 ext. 110

Friday ~ October 31, 2014: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.—Bats, Spiders, Owls, Oh My!
Families are invited to explore the nocturnal wonders of the Bouverie Preserve. Enjoy games and a night hike led by our wicked Director of Education Anne Burnett! Begins promptly at the witching hour of 6:00 p.m. Come prepared to spend a few hours outdoors. Costumes appreciated but not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$35.00 (\$25.00 for ACR members at Sponsor-level or above.) *Free for children 10 and under.*

Saturday ~ November 8, 2014: 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.—Earth to Art with Ane Carla Rovetta
Combine the wonderful soils of our California terrain with historic recipes from Europe and rural America and you get a nontoxic paint of beautiful harmony. Ane will share her recipes so you can make, try and take home your own paints. Bring 2 or 3 leak-proof containers, pencil, notebook and sketchbook or paint journal. Other supplies provided. \$55.00 (\$40 for ACR members at Sponsor-level or above.)

Saturday ~ December 13, 2014: 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.—Family Eco Craft & Gift Making
Join us for a day of inspiration and preparation for the holidays! Lunch and all materials provided. Enjoy handcrafting gifts, including wreath and candle making, ornament construction and stationery design. \$75.00 (\$60.00 for ACR members at Sponsor-level or above.)

Habitat Protection & Restoration Stewards

Bouverie Preserve

Mondays ~ 8:30 a.m. – noon

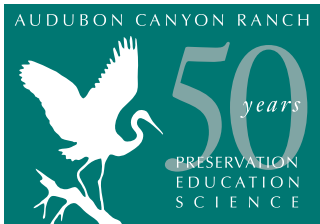
Bouverie Stewards work intimately with the land throughout the year. This dedicated crew assists with habitat protection and restoration work, while learning about the ecology behind the project. Contact Jen Potts at jpotts@egret.org

Modini Mayacamas Preserves

1st and 3rd Thursdays ~ 8:00 a.m. – noon

The Modini Mayacamas Stewards remove invasive plants and prepare restoration sites, collect native seeds, maintain trails and more. We have a good time together and learn about the preserve from the resource ecologist and other team members. Contact Dave Self at 707.431.8184 or david.self@egret.org

More detail on all these nature exploration opportunities is available at www.egret.org.



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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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the Martin Griffin Preserve in spring 2014.
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Honoring & Connecting with Nature

