



# MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST NEWS

P R E S E R V I N G M A R I N C O U N T Y F A R M L A N D

Spring 2009

Volume 25 Number 1

## Saving Farmland in Troubled Times

Like individuals, businesses, and nonprofits almost everywhere, MALT has been affected by the global financial turmoil. As we go to press, the state of California has not yet settled its budget stalemate. In response, the Department of Finance has frozen bond money tied to conservation funding approved by voters over the past few years. This includes a grant for more than \$800,000 that would have helped MALT protect a 750-acre dairy. Preservation of some 4,000 additional acres on three other family farms also may be impacted.

On a brighter note, member dues and contributions—MALT’s lifeblood—provide about eighty percent of our operating budget. Through December (halfway through our fiscal year), receipts were on target despite the economy. “We anticipate some drop-off during the second half of this budget year,” said Executive Director Bob Berner.

Our investments have reflected the general market slide, though to a lesser degree. The Finance Committee of our Board of Directors is led by Bob Bingham, founding principal of Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough LLC, a San Francisco wealth management firm.

“Discipline is the key element to investing in troubled times like these,” said Bingham. “The committee is following that approach by maintaining a highly diversified portfolio of low-cost stock and bond funds in domestic and international markets. The resulting performance has been better than that of the broad stock market indices.”

MALT’s ability to purchase agricultural easements provides farming families with a conservation alternative to the sale or subdivision of their land. Our greatest financial challenge during this difficult period will be to fund the purchase of these easements. Ironically, at times like these, pressures on farming families are greater than ever, and MALT is presented with even more conservation opportunities. If MALT can’t respond, families may be forced to sell.



West Tomales Bay by John Iwerks

The 12th annual *Ranches & Rolling Hills* Landscape Art Show & Sale will take place on Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17, at the Druid’s Hall in Nicasio, California. Money raised from art sales helps preserve Marin County farmland. With other funding sources at risk, your support of the art show is more important than ever. Invitations will be mailed in early March.

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## Farmers! Housewives! Children!

## The President of the United States Appeals to You Personally

*Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bands.*  
—THOMAS JEFFERSON

At first glance it would appear that the main qualification for being president of the United States is that a candidate be a lawyer. That, at least, has been the premier profession for 24 of our nation’s leaders including Barack Obama, Commander-in-Chief number 44.

Andrew Johnson was the sole tailor who took up the presidential mantle, but there were also six soldiers, two sailors, a handful of schoolteachers and professors, a banker, a businessman, a pilot, and an actor.

Surprisingly, the most common profession after lawyer is farmer.

George Washington was one. So were John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Polk, Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Jimmy Carter. All could claim an employment history that had something to do with working the land.

Despite this tradition, the likelihood that any future president will be a farmer is small. Yet when journalist Michael Pollan wrote an open letter addressed to the Farmer-in-Chief in the

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# FARMERS!

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New York Times Magazine last October, he was serious about the need for America's food system—from field to table—to become a priority for the new president.

He urged the as-yet-unknown new president to acknowledge that the health care crisis, climate change, and national security all are related to our current reliance on fast foods, fossil fuels, and an agricultural system that discourages small farmers who produce food for a local market—or puts him or her out of business. He asked the president to “appoint a White House farmer” to plant an organic garden on the South Lawn as a model for citizens all over the country.

*It is honorable, it is amusing, and, with superior judgment, it is profitable.*

—GEORGE WASHINGTON  
ON FARMING

It wouldn't be the first time. During World War I, Woodrow Wilson appealed to families to cultivate gardens and asked farmers to feed the nation by planting “abundant food stuffs as well as cotton,” and he asked middlemen to expedite those vital shipments. He called these efforts “patriotic.” He said the fate of the nation rested on its farmers, and he demanded that the government itself “stand ready to cooperate.”

Wilson's victory gardens, as they came to be known, had a resurgence during World War II when they were taken up by Eleanor Roosevelt—against the advice of the USDA. In 1943, she had a garden planted on the White House lawn and citizens followed suit, turning city lots and back yards to food production. Home gardeners fed themselves from these plots so the nation's farm output could nourish our allies and troops abroad.

In West Marin at that time, children tended a victory garden beside their one-room schoolhouse at Pierce Point Ranch. In a boon to the local economy, dairymen produced what was called “emergency milk,” according to the late West Marin historian Jack Mason. In a bitter footnote, Japanese truck farmers raising peas on Point Reyes were taken to internment camps, and their fields abandoned. Artichoke growers of Italian descent were banned west of Highway One “for security reasons,” and their crops, too, were lost. “In a sense, WW II changed the direction of agriculture here,” notes Dewey Livingston, author of local and regional histories of West Marin.

Today, diversification has again taken hold in Marin. Some conventional dairies have transitioned to organic operations, some beef producers are marketing grass-fed meat, and organic row crops are increasingly seen as profitable alternatives or add-ons to traditional farming businesses.

On the national front, the 2008 Farm Bill signaled a new era for American farm policy. It included stronger protections for farmland conservation, more support for local foods, farmers' markets, and healthy diets, funding for renewable energy, a safety net for farmers who experience losses beyond their control, and improvements to the food programs for low-income people. But much more needs to be done.

President Obama is unlikely to have the time or inclination to take up a hoe or get behind the wheel of a tractor, but if he holds true to his campaign promises to support local and regional food systems, to encourage young people to become the next generation of farmers, and to partner with landowners to conserve private farmland, he will prove a worthy successor to his presidential farming forefathers.

President Woodrow Wilson's appeal to the Nation

**FARMERS! HOUSEWIVES! CHILDREN!**  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES APPEALS TO YOU PERSONALLY

These extracts from the address of President Wilson should be read carefully by every one who produces or can produce food and by all who consume food:

**MY FELLOW CONSTITUENTS:**  
The entrance of our own beloved country into the grim and terrible war for democracy and human rights which has shaken the world creates so many problems of national life and action which call for immediate consideration and settlement that I hope you will permit me to address to you a few words of earnest counsel and approval with regard to them.  
We are equally pressing our every effort to create an effective war footing and are about to create and equip a great army, but these are the simplest parts of the great task to which we have addressed ourselves.

**ABUNDANT FOOD SUPPLIES ESSENTIAL**  
We must supply abundant food for ourselves and for our armies and our seamen not only, but also for a large part of the nations with whom we have now made common cause, in whose support and by whose aid we shall be fighting.

It is evident in every thinking man that our industries, on the farms, in the alginate, in the mines, in the factories, must be made more prolific and more efficient than ever and that they must be more economically managed and better adapted to the particular requirements of our task than they have been; and what I want to say is that the men and the women who devote their thought and their energy to these things will be serving the country and conducting the fight for peace and freedom just as truly and just as effectively as the men on the battlefield or in the trenches.

Thousands, nay, hundreds of thousands, of men otherwise fitted to military service will of right and of necessity be exempt from that service and assigned to the fundamental, sustaining work of the fields and factories and mines, and they will be as much part of the great patriotic forces of the nation as the men under fire.

**MAKE SURE OF LARGE HARVESTS**  
I take the liberty, therefore, of addressing this word to the farmers of the country and to all who work on the farms. The supreme need of our own nation and of the nations with which we are cooperating is an abundance of supplies, and especially of food stuffs. The importance of an adequate food supply, especially for the present year, is superlative. Without abundant food, alike for the armies and the people now at war, the whole great enterprise upon which we have embarked will break down and fall. The world's food reserves are low. Not only during the present emergency but for some time after peace shall have come both our own people and a large proportion of the people of Europe must rely upon the harvests in America. Upon the farmers of this country, therefore, in large measure, rests the fate of the war and the fate of the nation. May the nation not count upon them to omit no step that will increase the production of their land or that will bring about the most efficient cooperation in the sale and distribution of their products?

**TO YOUNG MEN AND BOYS**  
The time is short. It is of the most imperative importance that everything possible be done and done immediately to make sure of large harvests.

**TO THE FARMERS OF THE SOUTH**  
I particularly appeal to the farmers of the South to plant abundant food stuffs as well as cotton. They can show their patriotism in no better or more convincing way than by routing the great temptation of the present price of cotton and helping, helping upon a great scale, to feed the nation and the people everywhere who are fighting for their liberties and for our own. The variety of their crops will be the visible measure of their comprehension of their national duty.

**THE GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE**  
The Government of the United States and the governments of the several States stand ready to cooperate. They will do everything possible to assist farmers in securing an adequate supply of seed, an adequate force of laborers when they are most needed, at harvest time, and the means of expediting shipments of fertilizers and farm machinery, as well as of the crops themselves when harvested. The course of trade shall be as unimpeded as it is possible to make it and there shall be no unwarranted manipulation of the nation's food supply by those who handle it on its way to the consumer. This is our opportunity to demonstrate the efficiency of a great Democracy and we shall not fall short of it.

**TO THE MIDDLEMEN**  
This I let me say to the middlemen of every sort, whether they are handling our food stuffs or our raw materials of manufacture or the products of our mills and factories: The eyes of the country will be especially upon you. This is your opportunity for signal service, efficient and disinterested. The country expects you, as it expects all others, to forego unusual profits, to organize and coordinate shipments of supplies of every kind, but especially of food, with an eye to the service you are rendering and to the sight of those who relied in the weeks for their people not for themselves. I shall cordially expect you to deserve and win the confidence of people of every sort and station.

**TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD**  
Let me suggest, also, that everyone who creates or cultivates a garden helps, and helps greatly, to solve the problem of the feeding of the nation, and that every housewife who practices strict economy puts herself in the ranks of those who serve the nation. This is the time for America to correct her unimpeachable fault of wastefulness and extravagance and to show every man and every woman the duty of careful, prudent use and expenditure as a public duty, as a duty of citizenship which we can now expect every one to be excited or inspired by.

**THE SUPREME TEST OF THE NATION HAS COME. WE MUST ALL SPEAK, ACT, AND SERVE TOGETHER!**

Woodrow Wilson

U.S. Department of Agriculture

# TROUBLED TIMES

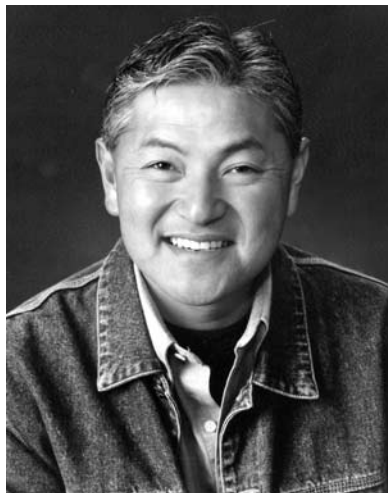
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We are stewards of the easements we acquire as well as stewards of the donations—both large and small—contributed by our members and supporters. Over the past decade, half of the \$27 million cost of purchasing easements has come from state, federal, and foundation grants. The other half, about \$14 million, was contributed by individual donors.

“We know that today's economy presents especially difficult choices for donors,” said Bob Berner. “Fortunately, MALT was in sound financial condition prior to the worldwide economic crisis. Be assured that we'll continue to do everything we can to deserve the confidence and support of those who help us preserve the extraordinary agricultural landscape of Marin County by investing in its protection.” If you are not yet a MALT member, or if you'd like to make a special gift to support our work at this critical time, you can make a tax-deductible donation online at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org).

# WRITING ON FARMING & RURAL LIFE

## GEOGRAPHY OF HOPE CONFERENCE RETURNS



David Mas Masumoto, author and organic peach farmer, will chair the 2009 Geography of Hope Conference

Author and peach farmer David Mas Masumoto will chair the 2009 Geography of Hope Conference (GOH) in Point Reyes Station from March 20 to 22. The first GOH conference, held in 2008, was one of the most exceptional literary events ever to take place in northern California. It was dedicated to Wallace Stegner whose writings reflected on relationships between people and the land. Building on that theme, this year's event will take as its focus writing on farming and rural life featuring authors who are farmers, ranchers, and growers, people who—to paraphrase Barbara Kingsolver—have devoted their lives to the health of their habitat and food chain.

Conference chair Masumoto grows organic peaches and grapes on his family farm in Del Rey, in the San Joaquin Valley. Author of *Harvest Son*, *Epitaph for a Peach*, and *Four Seasons in Five Senses*, the author has won numerous awards for his writing.

Joining Masumoto will be leaders in publishing, arts, culture, conservation, and literature, including Wes Jackson, Verlyn Klinkenborg, Malcolm Margolin, Wendy Johnson, and Rose Castillo Guilbault (partial list). The conference is sponsored by MALT, Point Reyes Books, Marin Organic, Heyday Books, Toby's Feed Barn, Marin Arts Council, and Tomales Bay Library Association.

Held in the heart of Marin County where the predominant land use is agriculture, the conference will explore the duality of inspiration and cultivation as expressed by some of the finest writers in the nation. Field trips to nearby family farms and ranches will give conference attendees a chance to experience local agriculture, a tradition here since the mid-19th century. On one of them, MALT's Executive Director Bob Berner will lead a group to the top of Black Mountain on the Nobmann Ranch where rancher and former board member Sam Dolcini will read some of his cowboy poetry. On another, Vivien Straus will read from a book she is writing about growing up on her family's dairy in Marshall. MALT Associate Director Elisabeth Ptak will read from her "Homeward Bound" collection on a tour of Pt. Reyes Station farms. For further information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.ptreyesbooks.com](http://www.ptreyesbooks.com) or phone 415-663-9480.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) has tapped into the fertile resources of the local agricultural community to add three new members to its board of directors. Julie Evans Rossotti, Mike Gale, and Peter Martinelli all bring a wealth of innovative experience to MALT.

Julie Evans Rossotti is a fourth-generation Marin County farmer who grew up on her family's historic H Ranch in Point Reyes National Seashore. "Point Reyes Preserves" is her line of handmade pickles, relishes, and jams sold at stores throughout the Bay Area and at Marin farmers' markets. "Coastal Goat" is Julie's newest enterprise. Meat from her herd of African Boer goats is sold at local farmers' markets and the Point Reyes Station butcher shop Marin Sun Farms, owned by Julie's brother Dave.

Mike Gale grew up in Los Angeles and attended the University of Southern California. After college, he joined the Peace Corps, serving in Venezuela. He returned to the states to work with the Corporation for National and Community Service and ACTION community volunteer programs in Hawaii. In 1993, he moved to a 586-acre ranch in Chileno Valley that had been in his wife Sally's family since 1862. Mike and Sally raise grass-fed Angus cattle that they sell directly to consumers as "Chileno Valley Natural Beef." They also raise certified organic apples, pastured chickens, and heirloom tomatoes.

Peter Martinelli is a fifth-generation Marin resident, and the nephew of the late Rod Martinelli, one of MALT's founding board members. He attended UC Berkeley, and has worked in agriculture for over 20 years. Martinelli established his own organic farm, Fresh Run Farm, on the family ranch in Bolinas in 1995. A dedicated environmentalist, Martinelli works to preserve his land's natural resources and minimize impact to the fragile Pine Gulch Creek, an important tributary for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Martinelli's products are available in Point Reyes Station stores and the Point Reyes Farmer's Market.

"We are delighted that three such accomplished and forward-thinking agriculturalists are joining the board to advise and support us at a time when MALT has an opportunity to preserve significantly more Marin farmland," said Bob Berner, MALT's Executive Director.



Julie Evans Rossotti with one of her African Boer goats

Elisabeth Ptak

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## GROWING THE FUTURE

The Marin History Museum (MHM) in San Rafael is getting “down to earth” on Friday, February 13, 2009, with the opening of a year-long exhibition celebrating the heritage of farm-fresh food cultivated in Marin’s fertile lands. “Growing the Future: Farming Families of Marin” explores agriculture’s rich local history, spanning 150 years of family-run farms and ranches.

The exhibition includes an oral history project, and the voices of Al Poncia, founding board member of MALT, Loren Poncia, Al’s son and current MALT board member, and Albert Straus, organic dairyman and son of MALT co-founder Ellen Straus help bring the story of Marin agriculture to life.

On Saturday, April 4, MHM and Dominican University present “Going Green in Marin: Land, Water, Food, and Sustainability.” MALT Education Director Constance Washburn will moderate the panel.

Keynote speaker Richard Heinberg is the author of *Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Declines*. Panelists include MALT’s board chair Lynn Giacomini Stray of Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese. Details available at [www.marinhistory.org](http://www.marinhistory.org).



David, Jim, and Ron McClure, circa 1951 (Woodbridge Williams photo, Point Reyes National Seashore Archives) as seen in “Growing the Future” at the Marin History Museum

## THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER

2008 was the year of the volunteer at Marin Agricultural Land Trust. Volunteers contributed many hours and huge amounts of energy to our education, outreach, and development activities—we lost count somewhere past the 100th event! Many exceptional volunteers also dove into projects of their very own making to contribute to MALT and the agricultural community it serves. Helene Holl, Marcia Sitcoske, Leigh Kenny, and Beki Simon turned their love of food and the desire to protect the environment into a series of chef-taught, “Farm-fresh Cooking” classes. They designed, coordinated, and staffed three seasonal classes on local farms, and introduced new friends to MALT and to the delights of fresh, local foods and the farmers who grow them.

Powerhouse volunteer Candice Gold initiated MALT’s participation in the Marin Human Race. With the help of her friends, other volunteers, and her formidable organizational skills she helped raise thousands of dollars for MALT.

Trigg McLeod, Cynthia Sawtell, Lisa Hanley, Kathy Callaway, and Bev McIntosh drew from their varied interests and talents to enhance MALT’s Farm Field Studies (FFS) Program for schoolchildren. Trigg used her marketing experience to promote FFS to Bay Area schools. Cynthia employed her systems analyst background (as well as her past as a “back yard farmer”) to develop FFS procedures and train other volunteers to become FFS docents. Lisa drew from her years as a teacher and mother to create a series of age-appropriate lessons connecting school curriculum to what children see at the farm. Artist Kathy created beautifully hand-drawn educational posters, while naturalist Bev created lessons about the wildlife that thrives in and around the farms’ ponds, lakes, and streams.

MALT has benefitted immensely from our volunteers’ commitment and efforts. Last year we reached more people than ever before and created programs with greater depth and variety. We thank our volunteers for their creativity and continuing support, and hope they take pleasure in the work they have done and the friendships and sense of community they have created along the way. To learn about volunteer opportunities at MALT, contact Mia Pelletier at [mpelletier@malt.org](mailto:mpelletier@malt.org) or 415-663-1338.



MALT volunteers with chef Toni Piccinini

Constance Washburn



# MALT HIKES & TOURS & TALKS

## SPRING 2009

This spring, reawaken with the land. Come experience the farm, taste the bounty of Marin, and learn about local food issues. Visit spring lambs at a brand new sheep dairy, watch kids (the goat and human varieties) frolic in the green hills on one of our family-oriented tours, and spy the abundance of wildflowers blooming in West Marin pastures. You're certain to feel rejuvenated.

**MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST**  
Post Office Box 809 Point Reyes Station, California 94956

**NEW:** Register for HIKES & TOURS online at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org)  
415-663-1158 [hikesntours@malt.org](mailto:hikesntours@malt.org) [malt.org](http://malt.org)





Paige Green

### Food & Farming on the Urban Edge Can San Francisco Feed Itself? Can "Slow Money" Help? Tuesday, March 24











"Can San Francisco feed itself from food grown and produced within a 100-mile radius?" Results of a recent study on the topic are both disturbing and encouraging. Co-author Sibella Kraus, Director of the Agriculture in Metropolitan Regions Program, UC Berkeley, will introduce the findings. Woody Tasch, venture capital investor, entrepreneur, and author of *Slow Money, Investing as if Food, Farms, and Fertility Mattered* will discuss investing in a regional food system. If farmland is lost, so is food—slow or otherwise. Jeff Stump, MALT Easement Program Director, will describe the status of farmland preservation in the region and state. Co-sponsored by the Institute at the Golden Gate, Slow Food Marin, and Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate. **Pre-registration requested.**  
**TIME:** 6 P.M., no-host reception 7 P.M., presentation  
**WHERE TO MEET:** Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate, 601 Murray Circle, Ft. Baker, Sausalito  
**COST:** Presentation is free. No-host food & wine reception.

### Leiss & Corda Ranches Wildflowers, Vineyards & Wine Tasting Saturday, March 28

Hike over pastures and through the woods with Leiss family members on their ranch in Chileno Valley where wildflowers grow in profusion. Botanist and MALT co-founder Phyllis Faber will help us identify the flowers. From there, hike overland to the Corda Vineyard. Those who can't make the scrambling hike can drive to Corda Ranch, then take a hayride to the vineyard where we'll hear from Mark Pasternak, Marin's most prolific grape grower. Wine tasting at the Corda Winery included. **Pre-registration required.**  
**TIME:** 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
**WHERE TO MEET:** 179 Wilson Hill Rd. From Marin, go west on Hicks Valley/Wilson Hill Rd. Go right at intersection with Marshall/Petaluma Rd. 2.75 mi. to Leiss Ranch on right. From Petaluma, take Western Ave. west for 2 miles; turn left at Chileno Valley Rd., 4.1 mi. to ranch  
**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, picnic, hiking shoes  
**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** Wildflower walk & hayride tour  Ranch to Vineyard hike   
**COST:** \$30 / \$35 non-members

## MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST HIKES & TOURS Registration Form

Due to ongoing concerns about Foot-and-Mouth Disease, we ask that individuals who have visited farms outside the U.S.A. up to 10 days prior to events not participate in farm tours. Weather can change quickly in West Marin. Bring a jacket for warmth, a hat for protection from the sun, and a daypack for food & drinks. **Most tours are not appropriate for young children.** Please check with MALT. For more detailed directions to a Hikes & Tours meeting place, phone 415-663-1158, Monday - Friday, 9 A.M.-5 P.M. or visit [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org)

-  **Easy:** Flat or very little slope in a distance of less than one mile
-   **Moderate:** Varied, mild terrain for one-five miles
-    **Difficult:** Steep terrain and/or over five miles
-     **Family Tour:** Activities appropriate for a family

### PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

I would like to sign up for the following MALT Hikes & Tours:

Hikes & Tours title	# people	date	cost
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

**Register by mail or at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org).** Space is limited, and tours fill up at different rates. Please enclose a separate check for each tour, or charge tours & memberships to your VISA, Mastercard, or Amex. Full payment is required; participants must preregister five days prior to event. Confirmations will be sent. Refunds only if MALT cancels a tour or if tour is already full. Please be prompt. Events are timed around the farm's or dairy's work schedules. Hikes & Tours are on private property; you have permission to enter for the MALT event **only**. You may not re-enter at another time. **Absolutely no pets allowed.**

Please complete other side of form.

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## Barinaga Ranch Sheep Dairy Saturday, April 4

Join Marcia Barinaga at her new sheep dairy, the first in Marin County. Thirty-eight Friesian and Katahdin ewes will be lambing around this time. Marcia is crossing these breeds to develop a hardy milk sheep which sheds its hair, thereby reducing shearing costs. Marcia's grandfather was a sheep rancher from the Basque region of the Pyrenees who moved to Idaho. She'll be making Ossau-Iraty and Idiazabal cheeses typical of that region. After touring the facilities, we'll hike up into the hills overlooking Tomales Bay. **Pre-registration is required.**

**TIME:** 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Millerton Point parking lot, 5 miles north of Point Reyes Station

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, picnic, shoes that can get dirty

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** 

**COST:** \$30 / \$35 non-members




## Stewart Ranch Family Day Saturday, April 4

Bring the kids to meet ten-year-old dairyman Stewart Campbell as he milks his two Jersey cows at his family's ranch. Make butter to spread on warm breads and drink hot chocolate made with fresh milk when we gather in the barn for afternoon snacks. Stewart's mother Amanda will take us around the ranch to feed her organic chickens, hunt for eggs, and pet the horses. Exploring the creek and checking out the beef cows are also part of this fun-filled afternoon for the whole family. **Pre-registration is required.**

**TIME:** 3 - 5 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Stewart Ranch, 8497 Hwy 1, 1.2 miles south of Olema on right.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, extra clothes in case others get dirty and wet

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   

**COST:** \$15 / \$20 non-members (\$8 for children, \$45 for a family of 4 or more)

## Hog Island Oyster Co. & Straus Dairy

Thursdays, April 23 & May 14

Join local oystermen for a tour of their oyster-growing operation. Taste bivalves grown in Tomales Bay and enjoy great views while eating your own picnic lunch. Afterwards, we'll carpool to the Straus Dairy which converted to organic in 1993 and learn about treating cows

with homeopathy, keeping organic feed free of genetically modified corn, and generating energy from a methane digester. Then we'll gather in the dairy barn while the 270-cow herd is milked. **Pre-registration is required.**

**TIME:** 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Hog Island Oyster Co., 20215 Highway One, Marshall (10 miles north of Point Reyes Station)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, picnic, shoes that can get dirty

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** 

**COST:** \$30 / \$35 non-members

## McEvoy Olive Ranch Friday, April 24

Celebrate Arbor Day amongst 18,000 organic olive trees as you tour Nan McEvoy's 550-acre ranch in a spectacular valley near the Marin-Sonoma border. Walk through the flowering orchards scattered with wildflowers and learn how olives are grown. McEvoy Ranch links the farmscape with the landscape to increase wildlife habitat. Then tour the olive-pressing facility and watch as oil is extracted from the olives. Taste the oil and, if you like, purchase items made with this wonderful farm product. **Pre-registration is required.**

**TIME:** 9:45 A.M. - noon. Please arrive on time.

**WHERE TO MEET:** McEvoy Ranch, 5 miles south of Petaluma at 5935 Red Hill Rd. (aka D Street or Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd.)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, walking shoes

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** 

**COST:** \$15 / \$20 non-member

## Windrush Farm Family Day Saturday, May 2

Bring your children to watch baby animals bounding over spring-green fields. Feed the lambs, llamas, cows, and goats then walk around the pond to look for tadpoles. We'll make pizzas with local ingredients and cook them in an outdoor, wood-fired oven. Mimi Luebermann raises a variety of sheep for wool and spins her own yarns. She'll show us various fleeces and wool products and teach carding and spinning. Bring picnic items to enjoy with your pizza lunch in the corral. A great tour for the whole family. **Pre-registration is required.**

**TIME:** 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** 2263 Chileno Valley Rd. From Marin, go west on Hicks Valley/Wilson Hill Rd.

Go right at intersection with Marshall/Petaluma Rd.; bear right on Chileno Valley Rd. 3 mi. to Windrush Farm on right. From Petaluma, take Western Ave. west for 2 miles; turn left at Chileno Valley Rd., 3.6 mi. to farm  
**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, picnic lunch, shoes that can get dirty and wet

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   

**COST:** \$20 / \$25 non-members, \$10 for children \$55 family of 4 or more




## Ryan-Tocalino, Grossi, Daniels & Dolcini Ranches Saturday, May 9

Join Marin County Open Space Naturalist David Herlocker and Alison Kiehl, MALT's Stewardship Associate, for a long hike starting at Stafford Lake and wending over four ranches with MALT easements. You'll see some spectacular views and visit hidden valleys and redwood groves. Learn about the ranching operations as well as the natural habitats and identify a variety of birds, plants, and wildlife.

**TIME:** 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Stafford Lake County Park, 3 miles west of Novato; Free parking at Area #5

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, picnic, hiking boots that can get dirty and wet

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   

**COST:** \$25 / \$30 non-members

## Painting on the Farm with Timothy Horn Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 7

A graduate of the Cooper Union School of Art, plein air artist Tim Horn has participated in MALT's *Ranches & Rolling Hills* Landscape Art Show since 2004. "I have always been in awe of the spectacular beauty and undisturbed quality of the landscape here," he says. His popular two-day workshop is held outdoors on a ranch protected by a MALT easement and includes demonstrations, discussions on materials, scene selection, composition, value, and brushwork with critiques and individual attention throughout the day. Open to beginning and intermediate students. More information at [www.horndesign.com](http://www.horndesign.com).

**TIME:** 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. each day

**WHERE TO MEET & WHAT TO BRING:** Directions to the farm and a list of suggested supplies and color palette will be sent two weeks prior to workshop.

**COST:** \$240 / \$280 non-member

### MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST HIKES & TOURS Registration Form

name \_\_\_\_\_

street \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

I'd also like to become a MALT member.

\$500 Patron  \$250 Sponsor  \$100 Associate  \$75 Supporter  \$40 Individual

Separate checks for each tour are enclosed.  Charge my credit card **Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Absolutely no pets allowed.**

card# \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed registration form with checks made payable to MALT.  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Post Office Box 809, Point Reyes Station, California 94956 · 415-663-1158

Please complete other side of form.



Paige Green

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# 25 YEARS OF GIVING TO PRESERVE MARIN'S FARMLAND

As we begin a new year, it's a particularly auspicious time to recognize those who have been contributing to Marin Agricultural Land Trust for 20 years or more. Remarkably, we have almost 200 donors who fall into that category! All of them started giving to MALT in its early days as biologist Phyllis Faber and dairywoman Ellen Straus, our co-founders, were seeing their idea for a new kind of land conservation organization come to life. Now, almost 30 years later, more than 41,000 acres of farmland have been permanently protected because of Phyllis' and Ellen's vision and with the help of our loyal supporters. Thanks to all of you!

Two donors who represent the commitment to farmland and open space preservation that is the hallmark of our longtime supporters are Jean Starkweather of San Rafael and Joseph Bodovitz of Mill Valley. Each has been supporting MALT for 25 consecutive years. That's quite a commitment!

Jean Starkweather has devoted most of her adult life to environmental work, and her passion and energy are inspiring. Her leadership has included terms as president of Marin Audubon and the Marin Conservation League, and as a Marin County Parks and Open Space Commissioner. She has received numerous awards including the Marin Green Award and in 1989, she was one of the first to be inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame.

To those who value open space and farmland in Marin County, she advises, "If you care about something, you ought to support it." And Jean has done just that as a volunteer, a donor, and a leader. She champions MALT because she cares about land preservation, local agriculture, and farm families. "MALT helps keep farming families on the land and preserves the rural landscape of West Marin," she says. Thank you, Jean, for your dedication and generous spirit.

Joseph Bodovitz began his long career in public service as Deputy Director of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association and then as Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation Development Commission. He moved on to become head of the California Coastal Commission and, later, the California Public Utilities Commission.

Joe got to know Ellen Straus in the early days at the California Coastal Commission. He describes himself as a longtime fan of Ellen and Phyllis Faber. "It's remarkable that what began as a gleam in their eyes three decades ago went on to survive and thrive and make such a tremendous impact. Marin people should be very proud," he says.

As to MALT's future, Joe believes that people will become increasingly aware of the need for protecting our natural resources—water, land, and food. And with the high visibility and impact of the local food movement, MALT's mandate to preserve farmland will become ever more important. He finds it inspiring that Marin County is San Francisco's next-door neighbor and also home to sustainable agriculture—and he is delighted to support it. Thank you, Joe!



*Jean Starkweather*

Krita Cummings



*Joseph Bodovitz*

Kristine Ball

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## ONLINE UPDATE: 200 FANS AND COUNTING

We're expanding our presence on the web, and we invite you to join us! Last August, we launched our redesigned website, [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org). New features include an easier navigation system, online application forms for our popular Farm Field Studies program for school-age children, and MP3 downloads of our award-winning audio tour of West Marin narrated by Peter Coyote. And of course, you can register online for our current selection of hikes, tours & talks, as well as read previous issues of our newsletters and annual reports. While you're checking out the new website, be sure to sign up for our new monthly e-newsletter, designed to keep you up to date on all of MALT's news and current events in between regular newsletters.

For those who care to venture even farther into cyberspace, join us in the brave new world of social networking and find us on Facebook. Become our fan (we have more than 200 so far!), and invite your friends to do the same. Help us spread the word about our efforts to preserve Marin County farmland. We've added a section for our fans to post their own photos, so if you have a favorite from a MALT hike or event, we'd love to see it.



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## The MALT Shop



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farmland@malt.org

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### MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

is a private, member-supported, nonprofit organization created in 1980 by a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists to permanently preserve Marin County farmlands for agricultural use. MALT eliminates the development potential on farmland through the acquisition of conservation easements in voluntary transactions with landowners. MALT also encourages public policies which support and enhance agriculture.