



# 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

Summer 2008

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## CARBON CREDITS FROM FARMLAND? MALT JOINS PROJECT TO STUDY LOCAL SOILS

How can West Marin's farms and ranches sequester greenhouse gasses and help stop global warming? This is the question a group of researchers from UC Berkeley, Lawrence-Berkeley Laboratory, local ranchers, Marin Organic, and MALT are attempting to answer.

Approximately two-thirds of agricultural lands in West Marin have the potential to store additional carbon through various grazing and plowing practices, representing a large pool of potential carbon storage. To tap into this pool, MALT staff is helping collect soil samples for the Marin Carbon Project (MCP). Funded by Nicasio residents John Wick and Peggy Rathmann, MCP is under the direction of ecosystem ecologist Dr. Whendee Silver from UC Berkeley.

"The idea," according to John Wick, "is to use existing local infrastructures to develop replicable, scalable, and broadly applicable solutions to global warming. My hope with this portion of the project is to scientifically support a suite of best management practices that have benefits for the land manager, including biological services that include rain water harvesting and filtration, soil fertility, as well as the capture of atmospheric gases."

Recent legislation passed in California, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, will require emitters of greenhouse gasses (GHG) to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. On the national front, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2007 would require 20% emission reductions by 2020. Aside from mandatory reductions, a variety of opportunities exist to voluntarily reduce GHG.

### Certain Grazing & Cultivation Techniques May Help

Both mandatory and voluntary programs have created a demand for carbon credits, one likely to become even stronger in future years. A carbon credit represents one metric ton of atmospheric carbon dioxide or its equivalent. Emitters purchase carbon credits in amounts sufficient to meet the emitter's reduction goal. Credits are purchased from parties that have implemented projects or practices known to store additional amounts of carbon dioxide above some pre-determined baseline level.

In the case of farmland, these practices frequently consist of soil cultivation and tillage techniques that reduce or eliminate breaking up and turning over of soil, and/or specialized grazing strategies that increase the amount of stored soil carbon. Purchases typically are facilitated by third parties that determine the baseline carbon storage quantity, certify the effectiveness of carbon storage practices, and verify the amount of additional stored carbon associated with each practice.

The California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) serves as this third-party facilitator in this state. While the CCAR has certified a variety of project types, it has not yet certified projects related to rangelands and other agricultural soils even though



Christina Wong, a UC Berkeley field technician and José Vazquez use augers and strong backs to collect soil samples at the Barboni Ranch in Hicks Valley

Paige Green

#### CARBON FAST FACTS

##### Total tons of carbon emitted annually by:

Average passenger car	4.5 metric tons
Average person (worldwide)	4.5 metric tons
Average person (United States)	21 metric tons

##### Approximate cost of carbon credits:

United States (Chicago Climate Exchange)	\$5 – 6 / metric ton
Europe (European Climate Exchange)	\$23 – 25 / metric ton
Average amount of land required to store 1 metric ton of carbon annually	0.67 acres

## PARTNERSHIPS IN CONSERVATION: MALT AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

Since its founding in 1980 as a partnership created by dairywoman Ellen Straus and wetlands biologist Phyllis Faber, MALT has been successful in its mission to protect Marin's family farms and ranches by extending that partnership to landowners and protecting more than 40,000 acres of farmland in West Marin. However, the collaboration doesn't end there.

MALT has other key partners: our members, who provide support for our annual operating budget and conservation easement program; Marin County, which maintains strong planning policies protecting farmland; California voters, who have approved a number of key propositions that provide funding for conserving California's natural resources; private and family foundations; and lastly, a small group of public agencies which provide critical funding for the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements.

California's State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the Department of Conservation California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP), and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program all have awarded grants to MALT to help protect farmland.

The Coastal Conservancy provided grants as far back as 1982, and CFCP since its creation in 1996. In the last year, MALT has partnered with: the Coastal Conservancy and FRPP to protect the Gene Poncia Ranch and the Coastal Conservancy to protect the Tomales Farm and Dairy West property; and CFCP to protect the Crayne Ranch. These properties all are located near the town of Tomales. Together, the agencies provided \$2,800,000 of the \$4,020,000 cost of these projects. (MALT members and donors provided the rest.)

Agency support for MALT's program is a direct reflection of MALT's success at competing for these monies, and of the statutory authority that created each program and the tremendous support from agency staff, management, or governing board. Each of these programs is unique and operates under different rules, but their support for protecting farmland through agricultural easements comes from a common understanding that farmers and ranchers are stewards of a landscape that provides local, healthy food, offers soil and water quality that is vital to the long-term health of agriculture and the environment and, in West Marin, provides treasured scenic views.

The Coastal Conservancy was created in 1976 as a complement to the California Coastal Commission which regulates development along the coast. The Conservancy has helped open more than 100 miles of coast and bay shores to public use, and preserved more than 300,000 acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, parks, and farmland. MALT agricultural conservation easements funded in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy include: Tomales Farm and Dairy East & West, Straus Dairy, Robert Giacomini Dairy, and the Gale Ranch, to name only a few.



Jeff Stump (left) and Bob Berner (right) with Bridgett Luther, Director of the California Department of Conservation

Elisabeth Prak

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## STEWARDSHIP GRANTS HELP PROTECT WATER QUALITY

In 2008, MALT's Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP) begins its fifth year of assisting landowners on MALT-protected properties with a variety of ranch improvements. The grants vary, totalling up to \$25,000 per landowner. The program was initiated as a way to provide continuing financial benefits to MALT landowners, beyond the initial easement acquisition, and to encourage good land stewardship. MALT funds awarded through the SAP are frequently combined with grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Marin Resource Conservation District, along with investments of money or labor from the landowner to address important restoration efforts.

Historically, the program has focused on projects intended to improve water quality. Typical projects have included creek fencing and development of troughs, springs, and other water sources. For the first time in 2008, it will fund a much wider variety of projects including invasive plant removal, creek fencing and restoration, methane digesters, new animal feeding and handling facilities, and more. Interest in the revised program has been strong with about 20% of MALT landowners applying for funding. For further information, contact Stewardship Director Matt Wacker at 415-663-1158, ext. 304 or [mwacker@malt.org](mailto:mwacker@malt.org).

—MATT WACKER

## PAINTING TO PRESERVE THE LAND

Over the years, *Ranches & Rolling Hills* artists have visited and found inspiration at 80 or more Marin County ranches, many of them protected by MALT agricultural conservation easements. As the coordinator of the *Ranches & Rolling Hills* landscape art show since its founding in 1998 by Michael Whitt and the late Ray Strong, I've often had the pleasure of asking local farmers and ranchers permission for artists to visit for the purpose of painting or photographing for the art show.

The answer has almost always been "Sure"—barring some emergency like a sick cow or a change in the weather that means the silage will be harvested a day sooner than originally planned.

For Nicasio artist Tom Wood, one of the greatest benefits of being in the show is meeting the people who own the land. He considers the farmers and ranchers "partners in the process of creating the art" as they show him around and point out the views they like. "The dividend is to see their pleasure with the finished product," he says.

Though some of the artists in the show work in the studio from photographs or memory, others are *plein air* painters. Once, I complimented Santa Barbara artist Karen Gruszka on her ability to endure the elements for long periods of time. She was sniffling, her cheeks were red with the cold, and even though we were in a warm room by that time, she still was buttoned into the pile-lined coat she'd worn when she was outside painting. "This is our work," she said without a moment's hesitation. "This is what we do."

What they also do is get an education in the day-to-day operations of a working farm, something most people never get a chance to observe. "I can paint that," says San Rafael artist Christin Coy, "and with my art, let others get 'behind the fence,' too."

"What MALT is doing is related to what I'm doing, too," says Tom Wood. "I'm not only making art, but making a record. It fits hand-in-glove—this idea of painting the ranches and saving the ranches. I think people make that connection when they come to the show."  
—ELISABETH PTAK



*Plein air Artist Tom Wood is pictured with his easel in this photo by Art Rogers entitled Hallock Creek Valley (Lafranchi Ranch)*

© Art Rogers/Point Reyes

*The 11th annual Ranches & Rolling Hills landscape art show and sale will take place on May 17 (2–5 P.M.) & May 18 (10 A.M.–4 P.M.) at the Druid's Hall in Nicasio. Admission is free. Art sales help preserve Marin County farmland.*

### PARTNERSHIPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

The California Farmland Conservancy Program is designed to ensure that the state's most valuable farmland will not be developed. "Shielding productive farm and ranch land from development pressure is one of the most important things we do at the Department of

Conservation," says DOC Director Bridgett Luther. "MALT has done amazing work in Marin County. We're proud to have been part of several of those projects and look forward to helping MALT protect the county's agricultural heritage and productivity in the future."

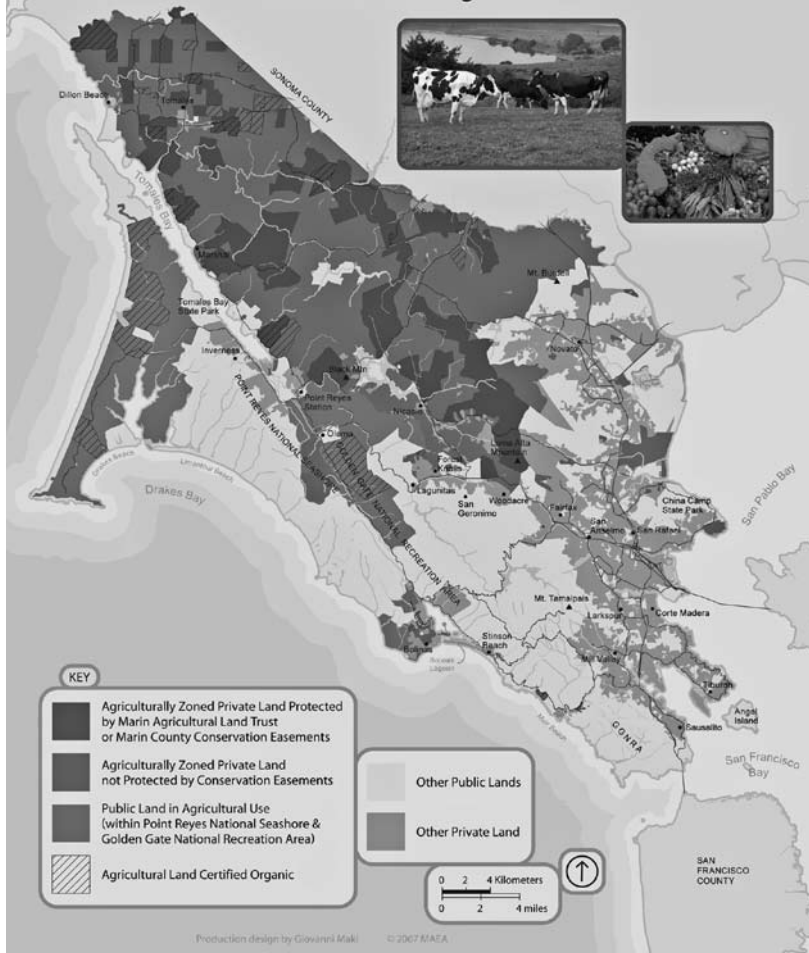
To date, CFPCP has provided MALT with six easement grants, contributing about \$4.5 million to help protect about 4,200 acres of high quality grazing land on the James Grossi, Zimmerman, Moore, Jacobsen, and Crayne ranches.

MALT's newest public agency partner, the NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, safeguards productive farmland by purchasing conservation easements to eliminate non-agricultural uses. Through a highly competitive grant process, NRCS partners with state, tribal, or local governments, and nonprofit organizations such as MALT to acquire the easements or other interests in land from property owners. The Gene Poncia Ranch, protected by a conservation easement early in 2008, is the first MALT project funded by NRCS.

Funds are channeled through the Farm Security and Rural Reinvestment Act (the Farm Bill), last reauthorized in 2002 and currently the topic of heated negotiations in Congress. Conservation groups have been pushing to expand conservation funding in the new Farm Bill, but the outcome is not yet clear.  
—JEFF STUMP

# Marin County Farms & Ranches

Local Sustainable Agriculture



## MAP GIVES KIDS A FARM GEOGRAPHY LESSON

The Marin County Farms & Ranches map is a collaborative, county-wide effort of agricultural and educational groups to raise awareness about Marin's farms and the foods they produce. In 1999 the Marin Agriculture and Education Alliance (MAEA) gave birth to the Marin Agricultural Institute for Teachers and the Farm Field Studies program for students. Since then, more than one hundred teachers have been through the multi-day, intensive institute, and thousands of children have visited Marin's farms and ranches.

Published in 2007, the map is a tool for teachers and farmers to illustrate which products are grown in our county. The map shows all farmland in Marin: private lands—both those protected by MALT conservation easements and those not—and lands within Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. An additional overlay shows all the lands that are certified organic.

"Marin has amazing agricultural richness," says MALT's Education Director Constance Washburn, "but many who live in east Marin are not aware of it. Our goal is to grow a population that values our farms and ranches. Local agriculture is an important part of a sustainable future for us all. We think this map will help to illustrate that point."

The Marin County Farms & Ranches map was funded by the Marin Community Foundation and MAEA. With help from Marin County Office of Education, the maps have been sent to all public and private schools in the county. Additional copies can be ordered by contacting Hope Ratner at 415-663-1158, ext. 300.

—MIA PELLETIER

The 2008 Marin Agricultural Institute for Teachers training takes place June 18–20. To register, contact Janice Alexander at U.C. Cooperative Extension at 415-499-3041. Schools can book fall, 2008, farm visits through MALT's Farm Field Studies Coordinator at 415-868-0205.

## CARBON CREDITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

they represent one of the most effective methods to store atmospheric carbon. Their total storage potential is estimated at 200 million metric tons per year (about 12%–14% of the United States' total annual carbon dioxide emissions).

MALT and its partners are working to collect samples representing a variety of soil types and rangeland management practices across West Marin. Dr. Silver will analyze the soils in her lab to determine the total carbon content and to document any differences that can be attributed to management practices.

This sampling process is a critical initial step toward developing a rangeland soil carbon protocol as well as a robust local, statewide, and national market for agricultural soil carbon credits from Marin. Once this protocol is developed and approved, Marin's farmers and ranchers may be able to market carbon credits and thus realize an additional source of income from their agricultural operations. It also may provide a financial incentive for farmers and ranchers to implement practices designed to improve soil carbon storage and soil productivity. For more information on this project, visit the Marin Carbon Project website at [www.marincarbonproject.org](http://www.marincarbonproject.org).

—MATT WACKER

Marin Agricultural Land Trust News© is published quarterly by Marin Agricultural Land Trust, a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST  
PO Box 809, Point Reyes Station  
California 94956-0809



Paige Green

Marin Carbon Project field staff



# MALT HIKES & TOURS & TALKS

## SUMMER 2008

Experience the long days of summer in the countryside on a tour of West Marin farmland or get that easy feeling at the Marin Winegrowers Association Pinot Noir Tasting in Larkspur or at the annual Taste of Marin dinner which this year is part of Slow Food Nation on Labor Day Weekend. Just want to laze around? Pick up a copy of the new book inspired by our annual landscape art show at one of the special book events being held around the Bay Area, then sit back, put your feet up, and enjoy.

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**malt.org**



Timothy Horn



Wendy Schwartz



Zee Zee Mott



J. Thomas Soltész



Suzanne Siminger



Whitney Abbott

from  
*Ranches & Rolling Hills:  
Art of West Marin  
—A Land in Trust*

## RANCHES & ROLLING HILLS: ART OF WEST MARIN—A LAND IN TRUST

A handsome book that documents and celebrates ten years of MALT's annual art show with a collection of 135 color images that make it a treasure of fine art and a historical record of land conservation and farmland protection in West Marin. Available at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org) and at bookstores, or by contacting Windgate Press at 415-332-0912.

### May 23: Copperfield's Books, Petaluma

Enjoy an evening talk and book signing with author Elisabeth Ptak in conversation with ranchers and artists featured in this beautiful book. **TIME:** 7 P.M. **WHERE:** 140 Kentucky Street, Petaluma

### June 7: Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers, San Francisco

Join us at a wine and cheese reception and book signing at this elegant furniture showroom which also will feature an exhibit of paintings by *Ranches & Rolling Hills* artists. Art and book sales will benefit MALT. **TIME:** 2 - 6 P.M. **WHERE:** 3395 Sacramento Street at Walnut in San Francisco

### July 13: Book Passage, Corte Madera

Another chance to enjoy an evening talk and book signing with author Elisabeth Ptak in conversation with ranchers and artists featured in the book. **TIME:** 7 P.M. **WHERE:** 51 Tamal Vista Blvd, Corte Madera

**COST:** All book events are free.

## 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
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

Registration is by mail only. 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 American Express. Full payment is required, and all 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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**WESTERN WEEKEND  
HISTORIC POINT REYES TOUR**

**Saturday, June 7**


Join West Marin's favorite historian Dewey Livingston for a walking tour of Point Reyes Station to learn about its colorful history. Visit historic buildings, including the old Cooperative Creamery, the Point Reyes Emporium, the livery stable, and the former Northwestern Pacific Railroad engine house and depot. **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 10 A.M. - noon

**WHERE TO MEET:** MALT office, 145 A Street, Point Reyes Station

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

**COST:** \$10 / \$15 non-members

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** 

**MARIN WINEGROWERS ASSN.  
PINOT NOIR TASTING  
HISTORIC ESCALLE WINERY  
A BENEFIT FOR MALT**

**Saturday, June 14**

This 4th annual Marin County pinot noir tasting is an inspired effort to preserve Marin County farmland. Proceeds will benefit MALT. The limited production Marin pinot noirs include some marquee names and some of California's most promising new faces: Corda Winery; Dutton-Goldfield Winery; Kendric Vineyards; Orogeny Winery; Pey-Marin Vineyards; Point Reyes Vineyards; Sean Thackrey; Stubbs Vineyard; Thomas Fogarty Winery; Vergari Wines; Vision Cellars; and Willowbrook Cellars. A wide selection of locally-produced foods will be offered. Don't delay, this fantastic event sells out quickly. **On-line registration only for this event at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org).**

**TIME:** 2 - 3 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Historic Escalle Winery, 771 Magnolia Ave, Larkspur

**COST:** \$50; valet parking & wine glass included

**STRAUS DAIRY FAMILY TOUR**

**Thursday, June 19**




Celebrate Dairy Month with this family tour of the Straus Organic Dairy. Meet the cows, feed a calf, and make your own organic butter. Your family will learn where milk comes from and all about the products that are made from milk by tasting Straus products. The dairy will have bio-security protocols in place to protect the animals. Children must be at least 10 years old. **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** Noon - 2 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Millerton Point Parking Lot, 5 miles north of Point Reyes Station; carpool to farm

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

get dirty

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   

**COST:** \$15 adult members / \$ 20 non-members \$5 children over 10 (\$45 families of 5 or more)

**LOMA ALTA & SPIRIT ROCK**




**Saturday, June 21**

Join MALT Land Steward Matt Wacker for a strenuous hike over gorgeous pasturelands and MALT-protected properties. Starting at Loma Alta Ranch, now owned by Lucasfilm, hike to the summit for spectacular views of the Bay Area. While picnicking at the top, learn about MALT's stewardship program. Then follow the ridge down to Spirit Rock Meditation Center and tour the retreat center and meditation hall. **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Spirit Rock Meditation Center, 5000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Woodacre

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, picnic, hiking shoes

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   

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

**MURPHY RANCH FAMILY DAY  
& ICE CREAM TASTING**




**Saturday, August 9**

Bring your whole family to spend the day at a working cattle ranch. Now operated by the Murphy family, the Historic "A" Ranch is the oldest of the historic ranches on the Point Reyes Peninsula. Collect eggs in the hen house, visit with the cattle, pet a horse, feed the sheep, take a hike, and taste a selection of ice creams produced with local milk **Pre-registration required.**

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

**WHERE TO MEET:** Take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west to Inverness. Go 4 miles past Inverness, then turn left at the Estero Trail Rd. following it past the trailhead to the end of the road.

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

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   

**COST:** \$15 / \$20 non-members \$8/\$12 for children ( \$55 per family of five or more)

**McEVROY OLIVE RANCH**

**Fridays, July 11**

Tour Nan McEvoy's 550-acre organic olive ranch, where 16,000 olive trees thrive in a spectacular valley near the Marin-Sonoma border. Walk among the orchards, learn about olive-growing, and tour the pressing facility to see how olives are transformed into oil. Afterwards, taste and purchase olive oil and a variety of related products. Limited to the first 40 reservations

received by mail. **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 10 A.M. - noon

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

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

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** 

**COST:** \$20 / \$25 non-member

**HOG ISLAND OYSTER CO. & STRAUS DAIRY**

**Thursday, July 17 & August 14**

Join local oystermen for a tour of an oyster-growing operation. Taste oysters fresh from Tomales Bay while enjoying great views. Eat your own lunch or pre-order a made-in-Marin lunch from Tomales Bay Foods with your registration. Afterwards, carpool to the Straus Dairy where dairyman Albert Straus will talk about his organic dairy operation. Learn about the methane digester and other energy-producing and -conserving techniques used at the ranch. Watch the cows being milked in the dairy that was converted to organic in 1993. **Pre-registration 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). Carpool to dairy from there.

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

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** 

**COST:** \$30 / \$35 non-members ( \$20 additional to pre-order made-in-Marin lunch.)

**ANNUAL TASTE OF MARIN  
AT SLOW FOOD NATION**

**FORT MASON, SAN FRANCISCO**

**Sunday, August 31**

MALT, Marin Organic, and Marin Farmers' Markets are teaming up this year with Slow Food Nation (SFN), a project of Slow Food USA. SFN has received the support of Mayor Gavin Newsom's office and the Fort Mason Foundation to celebrate, explore, and educate about food that is delicious, ecologically sustainable, and socially just. Marin's premier dining event will feature local farmers, Marin-grown and -produced food and wine and a chance to rub elbows over dinner with Michael Pollan, Alice Waters, and other food pioneers before you dance the night away to live music. **Pre-registration required. Go to [www.tasteofmarin.org](http://www.tasteofmarin.org).**

**TIME:** 6 - 8:30 P.M. followed by dancing

**WHERE TO MEET:** Herbst Pavilion at Fort Mason, San Francisco

**COST:** \$150

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I'd also like to become a MALT member.

\$250 Sponsor  \$100 Associate  \$75 Supporter  \$40 Individual  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.**



Margot Duane/www.planetmargot.com

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*“Everything that MALT stands for, I believe in.”*

## TWO NEW BEQUESTS CREATE LASTING LEGACIES FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

In the last six months, Marin Agricultural Land Trust has received two very generous bequests—one from the estate of Edmund Brunswick and one from the estate of Carolyn Timmins, both long-time Marin County residents. Their bequests will have a significant impact on our continued ability to preserve Marin County farmland.

In the next year alone, MALT hopes to acquire easements on some 5,000 acres of farmland at a cost of about \$13 million. The bequests will be used toward the acquisition and stewardship of these easements and, ultimately, for the benefit of future generations of residents in Marin County and beyond.

### CAROLYN TIMMINS BEQUEST

A Greenbrae resident since 1981, Carolyn Timmins died at her home in February of this year at the age of 73 after a long illness. A native of Oregon, she was an active environmentalist. Not only did she support MALT, she was also on the Docent Council of Audubon Canyon Ranch where she led many Bay Area school children on tours.

Mrs. Timmins belonged to a Marin alumnae group of her social sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, whose members read and discussed books and attended movies, lectures and other cultural events. She also was a fan of the San Francisco Symphony and Opera.

While attending MALT’s Taste of Marin event several years ago, she heard Alice Waters speak about the importance of local agriculture. Afterwards, she was inspired to tell her brother Richard Colby that, “Everything that MALT stands for, I believe in.” Carolyn Timmins notified us a few years ago that MALT was one of several beneficiaries of her IRA. The estimated value of her bequest is \$300,000.



*Carolyn Timmins*

### EDMUND BRUNSWICK BEQUEST

Edmund Brunswick owned a home in Tomales where he lived for more than 20 years. He left the bulk of his estate to MALT which he had supported for a remarkable 25 years. Mr. Brunswick’s files included newspaper clippings and articles about MALT going back to its inception. He even had MALT’s first newsletter which was published in 1982.

We also were touched to find in his files a 1984 handwritten note from our co-founder Ellen Straus that included compliments on Mr. Brunswick’s home-made pumpernickel! To quote Ellen: “You are a great baker. Bill and I thought your pumpernickel was delicious. Would you invite me sometime when you’re baking to watch? That is, if this isn’t a secret recipe.” We don’t know if Ellen actually got the recipe, but it was just like her to want to keep in touch with MALT’s donors in this way.

The total value of the Brunswick estate is approximately \$500,000. Mr. Brunswick specifically designated that the money be used to purchase conservation easements and protect farmland in Marin County, and the funds will go directly to MALT’s Ellen Straus Farmland Preservation Fund. Like Mrs. Timmins, he had been a donor to MALT since 1989.

We will continue to remember both Mr. Brunswick and Mrs. Timmins with sincere appreciation as we continue our work of preserving Marin County farmland with their generous help.

—RITA CUMMINGS

### BECOME A PARTNER FOR PRESERVATION

You, too, can help preserve the beauty and productivity of Marin County for future generations. Please consider naming MALT as a beneficiary of your estate or will, your IRA or 401(K) fund, or by setting up a Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity.

Most planned gifts and bequests become part of MALT’s Stewardship Fund Endowment and go towards ensuring that MALT can continue its important work in years to come. Those who let MALT know of their estate planning intentions are recognized as Partners for Preservation and are noted in our Annual Report, invited to special MALT events and to our annual Partners for Preservation recognition event. Nearly 130 donors have indicated that they have chosen MALT as a beneficiary of their estate. We hope you will consider joining them.

If you’d like more information on estate planning, visit [www.malt.org/giftplanning](http://www.malt.org/giftplanning) or contact Development Director Rita Cummings at 415-663-1158, ext. 305, or [rcummings@malt.org](mailto:rcummings@malt.org).



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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

MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST  
Box 809 Point Reyes Station California 94956

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**ALL NEW**

**The MALT Shop**

SERIES IV  
*Ranches & Rolling Hills Collection*

Boxed set of 10 full-color greeting cards with envelopes \_\_\_\_\_ Boxes @ \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

*Ranches & Rolling Hills: Art of West Marin—A Land in Trust* \_\_\_\_\_ Books @ \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Published by Windgate Press of Sausalito 160 pages, 135 full-color art plates  
by Elisabeth Ptak with essays by Jean Stern and Michael Whitt

Shipping/Handling Cards: Add \$5.00 per order \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping/Handling Books: Add \$15.00 per book \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Shop for these & other items at **malt.org**

Every **MALT Shop** purchase increases awareness of our farmland conservation efforts & raises funds for MALT.

All greeting card images are also in the new book (below)



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**MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST**  
Post Office Box 809  
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farmland@malt.org  
**malt.org**

Printed on recycled paper, containing  
30% post-consumer waste.

**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.