



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 S
volume 20 number 2 summer 2004

PUBLIC FUNDS HELP PROTECT MARIN FARMLAND

Since its founding in 1980, mal t has protected 35,000 acres of farmland from development through the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements. While a small number of those easements have been conveyed by the owners without cost to mal t, the majority have been purchased at a total cost of \$28 million. To tackle the increasing challenge of raising the money to buy additional easements, mal t has recently become part of a private-public partnership in which the easement program manager works with state government agencies to co-fund easement acquisitions.

The private funds in this partnership come from contributions by our members to the Ellen Straus Farmland Preservation Fund. But what about the public funds? Where do they come from? And how do they end up at mal t?

Currently, most of the public funds come from bond measures passed by voters, then appropriated by the Legislature to state agencies that implement the goals of the measures. In the last four years, California voters have consistently supported bond

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Rich Gallagher and Jim Moore

Elisabeth Ptak

MOORE RANCH EASEMENT

FINDING COMMON GROUND TO PRESERVE HISTORIC RANCH

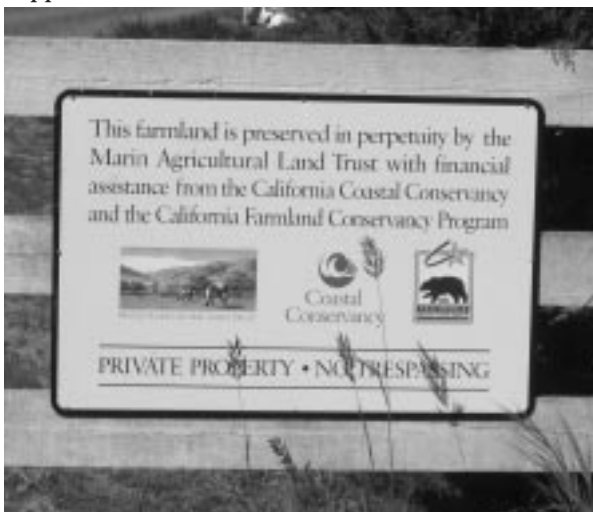
The barnyard mud is just about dry on an early spring day at the Nicasio Valley ranch that cattleman Rich Gallagher has called home since his birth there almost 70 years ago. The sun is warming up the old hay fields, too, and the views of Big Rock Ridge, Mt. Tamalpais, Black Mountain, and Hicks Mountain are crystal clear. After a long, wet winter, “the cricks are runnin’ good,” says Rich. “It’s my favorite time of year.”

The youngest of nine children born to descendants of Irish immigrants, by 1999 Rich was one of numerous heirs to the landmark 1000-acre property located at the intersection of Nicasio Valley and Point Reyes-Petaluma roads. Faced with distributing the family assets among so many, a sale became inevitable. “I hated to sell it,” Rich recalls, “but I went along with the rest of them. Being it had to be sold, there couldn’t be a better guy than Jim.”

Jim is Jim Moore, a Columbia University graduate and former Wall Street investment banker who with his wife Margaret purchased the property from the Gallagher family five years ago. Early this year, the Moores sold an agricultural conservation easement to mal t, permanently protecting the land from subdivision and non-agricultural development. mal t paid the appraised easement value of \$1,710,000. The Department of Conservation’s California Farmland Conservancy Program contributed \$1,000,000 to the purchase. The remainder of the funds were raised from mal t members and contributors.

In a partnership that seems to sit well with both past and present owners, Rich Gallagher retains ownership of the ranch’s cattle business. “I have a deep appreciation of both the challenges and the

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The Zimmerman Ranch

PUBLIC FUNDS

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funding for farmland preservation, natural resource protection, and recreation, for example:

- ◆ Proposition 12, June 2000: \$2.1 billion for neighborhood parks, coastal preservation, and air and water resource protection
- ◆ Proposition 13, June 2000: \$1.97 billion for water protection
- ◆ Proposition 40, March 2002: \$2.6 billion for parks and resource protection
- ◆ Proposition 50, November 2002: \$3.44 billion for water resource and coastal protection.

Mal t has partnered with two state agencies, the California State Coastal Conservancy (scc) and the Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservation Program (cfcp), to secure funds from these bonds for Marin County farmland preservation. We work closely with agency staff to identify easement acquisition projects that will both fulfill our mission and meet the agency's goals.

The scc granted Proposition 12 funds to mal t to help pay the cost of the Barboni and Ielmorini-Moody easement acquisitions and Proposition 40 funds to assist mal t in buying the Zimmerman and Grossi easements. Karyn Gear, the scc's North Coast Program Manager, says, "mal t does a fantastic job of working with the local agricultural community and identifying conservation opportunities, and we are pleased to have been able to provide funding for a number of mal t's easement acquisitions. Despite the State's recent economic downturn, California voters have shown by their approval of the resource bond acts that they place a high value on preser-

vation of our coastal resources, open space, and agriculture. The funding provided by those bond acts is what enables the Conservancy to support the important work of mal t."

The cfcp contributed Proposition 12 funds toward the Grossi and Zimmerman acquisitions (with scc and mal t contributing the balance). The cfcp also contributed more than half the cost of the Moore easement from Proposition 12 funds. This public-private partnership model is essential to the cfcp because the program's charter states that it may serve as a granting entity to local organizations, but may not hold conservation easements itself.

"The framers of our program wanted to create an entity strictly to support local farmland preservation efforts," says Chuck Tyson, cfcp Program Manager. "Local nonprofits like mal t have the landowner connections, skills, and credibility to take these easements on and do the nitty-gritty stewardship work."

But as Executive Director Bob Berner observes, "Because of the condition of the state budget, the near-term future of funding for land conservation is uncertain. However, voters have historically been supportive of conservation. We would hope that another conservation bond measure might be considered for the ballot before the end of this decade."

For now, bond funding provides mal t with a significant resource for preserving local family farms. Through successful partnerships with state agencies, mal t is able to leverage the private funds in our Ellen Straus Farmland Preservation Fund with public money and increase the pace of permanent agricultural land preservation in Marin.

—Aimee Crawford

MOORE RANCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

pleasures of ranching," Jim says. As a young man, he worked and lived on ranches throughout the West, and his parents owned a cow/calf operation for several years. "But Rich is as much a part of this place as that rock," he says, pointing to one of the sandstone outcroppings that characterize the landscape. "We want to make sure he can do what he's been doing since day one."

The land was once part of the Rancho Nicasio land grant, initially presented to Don Pablo de la Guerra and John Cooper. James Black purchased a large part of it in the mid-19th century and established a tenant ranch. The owners from 1881–1950 were all heirs of the Pacheco family of Ignacio. It was purchased in 1950 by the Gallagher family who had leased it since 1923. The Gallaghers operated one of the biggest dairies at the time, milking about 150 cows.

In those days, availability of home-grown feed dictated the cycle of the dairy's year. Cows bred in the winter were dry during pregnancy through the summer months when the hay was growing. The grain was harvested in the fall about the same time the new calves were born. The milking cycle could begin once again, and young Rich and his brothers and sisters would be put to work.

Jim Moore was born and raised on the eastern slope of Colorado where his family has resided for several generations. For Jim, that rural lifestyle would be short-lived. "I woke up in the summers to the sound of hammers," he said, remembering the march of suburbs across the countryside, until the former working landscape was almost unrecognizable. It was this early experience and a recognition of the national threat to farmland that helped the Moores make up their minds to sell an



The Moore family, clockwise from top: Jim; Colin; Joey; Sofia; and Margaret

Dexter Roberts

easement. "That's what drove the mal t decision," Jim says, "You philosophically have to want to tie up a piece of property in perpetuity."

Rich runs the beef business in conjunction with one

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STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFERS NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD PROBLEMS

Developing knowledge and evolving societal values continue to place demands on landowners to update their operations. However, new solutions to old problems are frequently difficult and often cost more than profits can justify in today's agricultural economy. To ease transitions and help maintain ranch viability, malt in 2002 launched its Stewardship Assistance Program (sap) with funds raised in the *Campaign to Save Marin's Farmlands*. The Board of Directors grants up to \$25,000 to landowners to reduce non-point pollution sources and enhance riparian corridors on easement properties.

During the first two years of the program, malt dispersed nearly \$80,000 to six different landowners in grants ranging from \$4,500–24,800. The funded projects help protect springs, ponds, and creeks through fence and water trough development. They also help improve riparian habitat, control erosion, provide creek bank repair, and enhance livestock management. All projects were designed to reduce the amount of pollutants entering Tomales Bay, Walker Creek, and various tributaries while also improving long-term productivity and viability of the land.

But the grants do more than that. They also help easement landowners realize dreams and give malt members and staff a share in their pride.

Since purchasing an easement-protected ranch near Marshall in 2001,

Marcia Barinaga and Corey Goodman have been working to improve the property and develop plans for diversifying agricultural operations. With the help of Marcia's father, they plan to begin a sheep operation and start a test vineyard to complement the former owner's ongoing cattle operation. First, though, they wanted to improve and protect the resources on the ranch, and they asked for sap help.

In 2002, two springs and a pond that drained to Tomales Bay were fenced to control livestock access. Troughs were installed as alternative water sources for the animals. Marcia has taken the lead on the project and is thrilled by the results. "I can't believe it's been only one year since the work was done. The springs and pond have been transformed, and there seem to be more birds in the tules." The lush vegetation the birds enjoy is also arresting erosion of the pond bank and spillway, and capturing sediment and organic material otherwise headed for the Bay. Cross-fencing to improve forage management is next on Marcia's list.

Ron and Patti Pomi have lived on their beautiful ranch south of Petaluma since long before malt purchased an easement on it—our first!—in 1983. The family they raised there grew up and moved away, but son Mark Pomi and daughter Kim Naugle recently



MALT Land Steward Tony Nelson at restoration site on Barinaga-Goodman Ranch

moved back to the ranch, bringing with them their new young families and new enthusiasm. As part of a plan to diversify agricultural operations and maintain a self-sufficient ranch, a sap grant is helping the family build fencing and create a stock pond.

Mark explained that the main restriction to their resource and agricultural goals has been availability of water. Besides the creeks, the only source has been on a neighbor's ranch. "The grant is giving us the opportunity to develop our own water source so we can fence and protect the creeks. And the fence that protects the creeks will also allow us to improve our pasture rotation and get better use of the land." And with better use of the land, Ron and Patti should also get to see their grandkids grow up on the ranch.

Malt's supporters and programs not only help protect agriculture and the landscape we love, but also the community and old friendships on which they depend. Marcia Barrinaga made our day when she told us that "malt's continued interest in this project gives us a sense that it's worthwhile, and that we have a partnership that malt really values."

—TONY NELSON

MOORE RANCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

on the historic F Ranch, formerly owned by his family and now operated under a lease with the National Park Service.

Meanwhile, the Moores are working on improvements to the barns and out-buildings. Upgrading historic springs and distributing water more evenly will

provide diversification options in the future. "We'll maintain the beef operation as Rich wants it for as long as he wants to do it. From then, we'll see what happens," says Moore.

Like the original founders of malt, these two men from very different

worlds have found common ground in caring for land that in many ways has changed very little over the years.

"This is an amazing piece of property," Jim says, "this is the old California."

—ELISABETH PTAK

CALLING ALL EDUCATORS TO THE SUMMER AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE!

Teachers, take note: the 6th annual Marin Summer Agricultural Institute is just around the corner. Presented by the Marin Agriculture and Education Alliance, of which *mal t* is a collaborating partner, the 2004 session will be held from June 15–17 at the Tomales History Center. This year, the seminar is coordinated by Cindy Pomi of the Marin County Farm Bureau.

The training gives k–12 educators the tools and hands-on experience to integrate agricultural education into math, language arts, history, ecology, and biology lessons. Complete with curriculum plans that correspond to California State Standards, this three-day session includes farm visits and lots of inspiration for utilizing school gardens and local farms as learning opportunities.

Each year, participating teachers have raved about the experience. “I was so inspired by the workshop both personally and as a teacher,” reported San Domenico elementary school teacher Alison Adams. “This year, we did a unit about the farm before visiting the Lafranchi Dairy and grew food from our garden to make a 7-layer lasagna to teach

about local farms and food. We would not have done this if it weren’t for attending the Institute.”

Marin Farm Field Studies Program, a program started in 2003 to help school children visit local farms, is made available to teachers who have attended the Institute. Over 28 school groups have visited sites such as Star Route Farms in Bolinas, the Murphy Ranch on the Pt. Reyes Peninsula, and Fairlea Ranch in Nicasio. Program Coordinator Anne Murphy explains, “We do programs for kids from kindergarten through high school. No matter what age, children love farms and have a great deal of interest in understanding the work of farmers. Being on the ranch really captures their attention.”

The Institute is funded in part by the Marin Community Foundation and Autodesk. Pre-paid enrollment of \$55 is due by May 31. A stipend of \$100 is offered to Marin teachers who complete all three days. One unit of Dominican University credit is available for \$45. To obtain a registration form, contact the Marin County Office of Education at 415-499-5877.

—LEAH SMITH

Elizabeth Ptak



Office Manager Katherine Landreth

Katherine began her professional career as a high school teacher. Now a resident of Stinson Beach, she finds time in her daily commute through the historic Olema Valley pastoral zone to reflect on how things change and how they remain the same. One of the qualities that attracted her to working at *mal t* was its partnership with easement landowners in protecting farmland in perpetuity. “An easement is a living entity,” she says. “I love the continuity of names and families that have been on the land for so long. In a small way, I share that sense of belonging.”

—ELISABETH PTAK

KATHERINE LANDRETH JOINS STAFF

Katherine Landreth has joined *mal t* as office manager, a position that benefits from her past experience in publishing, grant research, and investment management consulting, but draws especially on her ability to be responsive to the needs of staff and the public. Katherine will be providing support to all program areas, and it’s her friendly voice that will now greet you when you call the *mal t* office.

Raised in Menlo Park where her father owned a bicycle shop and her mother taught fourth grade, Katherine began visiting West Marin at an early age. Her grandmother bought a piece of land in Inverness in 1960. “I grew up running wild in the woods in the summers with my cousins,” she remembers. “From that I gained a lifelong appreciation for woodlands and open spaces, but also for all the different layers of people and activity and life out here.”

A graduate of Stanford University with a master’s degree from Brown, Katherine began her professional career as a high school teacher. Now a resident of Stinson Beach, she finds time in her daily commute through the historic Olema Valley pastoral zone to reflect on how things change and how they remain the same.

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MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST
Post Office Box 809
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MALT HIKES & TOURS & TALKS

This summer MALT will once again offer a variety of tours and events, some of them especially designed for families. Educating the next generation about the value and wonder of local agriculture is important because MALT preserves farmland in perpetuity. MALT and Marin farmers will need the support of an engaged community for generations to come. So bring your children and your friends, and plan on learning a lot while having a good time. Agriculture will survive and thrive with your help.

SUMMER 2004

MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST 415-663-1158 hikes&tours@malt.org
Post Office Box 809 Point Reyes Station, California 94956 www.malt.org



Elisabeth Prtak

McEVROY OLIVE RANCH

Fridays, June 4, July 23, August 27

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 60 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 Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd.

WHAT TO BRING: Water, walking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:

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

HOG ISLAND OYSTER CO. & STRAUS DAIRY

Thursdays, June 17, August 5

Learn all about oyster farming as you tour Hog Island Oyster Company with the owners. Taste oysters grown in Tomales Bay while enjoying great views. After eating your own picnic lunch, tour the Straus family's organic dairy at milking time and sample Straus cheeses. Bio-security protocols will be in place to protect the animals. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: 11 A.M. – 3 P.M.

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

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

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:

COST: \$25 / \$30 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 day-pack for food & drinks. Not all tours are appropriate for young children. Please check with MALT. For more detailed directions to a Hikes & Tours meeting place, phone 415-663-1158, Monday – Friday.

- 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

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

tour name	# people	date	\$
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Absolutely no pets allowed.

- I'd like to become a MALT member.
- \$30 Individual
 \$50 Supporter
 \$100 Associate
 \$250 Sponsor
 Other \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

- Separate checks for each tour are enclosed. Charge my VISA or Mastercard

Name _____ Card # _____

Signature _____ Expiration date _____

Please complete other side of form.



As tours fill up at different rates, please enclose a separate check for each tour, or charge tours & memberships to your VISA or Mastercard.

Registration by mail only.

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BIG ROCK TO BIG ROCK RIDGE Saturday, June 26

Hike along the open space trail that winds its way up the open hills above the new Lucasfilm offices on the old Grady Ranch. Staff from Lucasfilm will show us historic photos of the area's old ranches, plus before-and-after photos of their construction project. Naturalist David Wimfheimer will lead the trek, pointing out native plants, grasses, and birds. From the top get a bird's eye view of Nicasio-area ranches as well as Novato, Terra, Linda, Mt Tamalpais, San Pablo Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: 3838 Lucas Valley Road, five miles west of Highway 101

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

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:   

COST: \$20 / \$ 25 non-members

MEET MALT AT THE MARIN COUNTY FAIR

July 1-5

If you haven't yet visited the MALT exhibit at the Marin County Fair, you're in for a treat! Our beautiful red barn forms the entrance to the agricultural area of the fairgrounds. Meet our MALT volunteers there, and ask for a tour of our display of historic and contemporary photos of West Marin farms. Then step through the big double doors into the barnyard where cows, pigs, and other farm animals are waiting to be petted. This year's theme is the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright. For details on entrance fees, visit marinfair.org.

TIME: 11 A.M. - 11 P.M. daily

STRAUS DAIRY SPECIAL FAMILY TOUR

Friday, July 9

This first-ever family tour of the Straus Dairy will guide you through the unique organic farm on Tomales Bay, introduce you to the cows, give you a chance to feed a calf, and make your own organic butter. Your family will learn where milk comes from, sample Straus products and learn about all the products that are made from milk. The dairy will have bio-security protocols in place to protect the animals. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: Noon - 2 P.M.

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

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

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:   

COST: \$15 adult members / \$ 20 non-members / \$5 all children / \$45 families of 5 or more

ACME CHOPHOUSE BENEFIT DINNER & PANEL DISCUSSION

Tuesday, July 13

San Francisco Giants fans are familiar with Acme Chophouse, the acclaimed restaurant located on Willie Mays Plaza outside SBC Park. Famous for its food, Acme also takes the cake for its commitment to serving sustainably produced local farm products and supporting organizations like MALT that help protect farmland from development. This benefit evening features a grass-fed beef dinner and a lively panel of culinary and farming experts. Seating is limited. **Reservations required.** Phone 415-644-0240.

TIME: 6 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: 24 Willie Mays Plaza

COST: \$75 (includes food, wine, tax & gratuity)

STRAUS FAMILY DAIRY & CREAMERY

Thursday, July 15

The Straus Family Creamery was the first certified organic dairy west of the Mississippi. This tour will guide you through the unique farm on Tomales Bay and through the bottling plant on the nearby S/2 Ranch. You'll sample Straus milk products as you picnic at the dairy. Bio-security protocols will be in place to protect the animals. **Pre-registration required.**

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

WHERE TO MEET: Millerton Point Parking Lot, 5 miles north of Point Reyes Station. Carpool to farm and creamery

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

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: 

COST: \$20 / \$ 25 non-members

FRESH RUN FARMS SPECIAL FAMILY TOUR

Saturday, July 17

Frogs, llamas, foxes, and egrets all share Peter Martinelli's organic farm where he grows a variety of vegetables while leaving plenty of room for wildlife. In 1870 the farm boasted the area's first apple orchard. Successive owners dairied and raised chickens and artichokes. Peter firmly believes in providing fresh local foods to the Marin Community and will show you how to plant strawberries and harvest veggies. Picnic next to the frog pond. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: Fresh Run Farms, Bolinas. From Hwy. 1, turn west on the Olema/Bolinas Road for one mile, then right at stop sign onto Horseshoe Hill Road. Go uphill one mile & turn left onto paved road. At the "T," turn

right. Park inside the gate.

WHAT TO BRING: Water, picnic, hiking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:   

COST: \$15 adult members / \$ 20 non-members / \$5 all children / \$45 families of 5 or more

ANE CARLA ROVETTA AT COW TRACK RANCH SPECIAL FAMILY TOUR

Saturday, August 14

Ranchopalooza! Bring the whole family to Cow Track Ranch where owner Liz Daniels will take us to visit longhorn cattle, Canada geese, and her large organic vegetable garden. Then join artist, storyteller, and naturalist Ane Rovetta on a magical tour of ranch woodlands, highlighted by stories and legends about the oaks, bays, and firs and their medicinal and culinary properties. The day will end with creation of an art project from natural materials. **Pre-registration required.**

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

WHERE TO MEET: From Nicasio Square, go north 1 mile. Turn right just past County maintenance yard. Follow dirt road for 1.25 miles. Park near barns.

WHAT TO BRING: Water, picnic, hiking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:   

COST: \$15 adult members / \$ 20 non-members / \$10 all children / \$60 families of 4 or more

GALE RANCH BURGERS & APPLES

Sunday, August 29

Sally Gale, 5th generation West Marin rancher, will lead a tour of restored buildings and lands on her family's Chileno Valley ranch. For lunch, enjoy mouth-watering burgers from the ranch's grass-fed beef, topped with local organic salad greens and AllStar Organics' heirloom tomatoes. Mike Gale will take us to meet the cows and describe his beef operation. For dessert, visit the five-year-old dwarf apple tree orchard, and sample the taste-test winners such as Zesta, Mutsu, and Pinova. **Pre-registration required.**

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

WHERE TO MEET: Gale Ranch, 5105 Chileno Valley Rd.

WHAT TO BRING: Water, snacks, hiking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: 

COST: \$30 / \$40 non-members

SAVE THE DATE!

ALICE WATERS &

TASTE OF MARIN

Thursday, September 23

Enjoy a presentation by the woman who inspired a culinary revolution while you sample the best of local farm products at the Marin Art & Garden Center. Details in Fall newsletter

MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST HIKES & TOURS Registration Form

name(s) _____

street _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

telephone _____ email _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY: Each participant must sign.

I am aware that accidents or injuries may occur during hiking and walking activities sponsored by Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT). I am voluntarily participating in these activities. I hereby agree to accept any and all risks of injury on behalf of myself and any of my minor children who may also participate in the activity. As consideration for being permitted to participate in this activity, I hereby release, discharge, waive, and relinquish any and all actions, causes of action, or claims for personal injury or damages that I, my assignees, heirs, and legal representatives may have now or hereafter against MALT or the property owner resulting from negligence or other acts, howsoever caused, by any employee, officer, agent, or contractor of MALT or the property owner arising from my participation or my child(ren)'s participation in the activity.

signature _____ date _____

signature _____ date _____

Mail completed registration forms and signed release for each participant with checks made payable to MALT. Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Post Office Box 809, Point Reyes Station, California 94956 · 415-663-1158

Space is limited, and tours fill up quickly. Registration is by mail only. Full payment is required, and all participants must pre-register by five days prior to event. Confirmations will be sent. Refunds are given 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. We will be hiking and touring on private property. You have permission to enter for the hike or tour only. You may not re-enter at another time. Absolutely no pets allowed.

WHY *Art* MOVES US

Stendhal, the 19th century French novelist, was so stirred by the art he saw in Florence that he experienced what he called “a sort of ecstasy” or “celestial sensation.” He complained of “palpitations of the heart...and walked with the fear of falling.” Stendhal’s syndrome, as this malady is called today, continues to afflict art lovers.

Clearly, art moves us.

Nineteenth and early twentieth century American landscape artists, many of whom were commissioned by railroads eager for passengers, painted the splendors of the western frontier. We might say that the art of these landscape painters—Bierstadt’s grand canvases of Yosemite are just one example—enticed an entire population to move westward.

In a 1997 article in *Artweek*, Bay Area artist Mary Hull Webster notes that Westerners and by extension, their art, tend more “toward conservation of land and waters than to [the] intellectual acrobatics which may characterize [art in] other parts of the world.” Indeed, she argues, “art connected to a place goes deeper”; it allows the “local image” to “carry a sense of soul meaning.”

Whether this tendency to land preservation is inherent in Western artists or not, there are groups of artists who make the connection between their work and land preservation clear. In 1985, Santa Barbara painters Ray Strong and Arturo Tello formed the Open Air Klub (oak), a group of painters who work to combine “the aesthetics of plein air painting with the ethos of preservation.” Through consciousness-raising and fundraising activities, the group is committed to protecting ranchlands as well as undeveloped coastal lands. They have participated in malt’s *Ranches & Rolling Hills* art show from its inception, helping to raise almost \$400,000 for farmland preservation.

Another group, the BayWood artists, is composed of Marin artists whose mission is to conserve farmlands and preserve Bay Area open space. A number of BayWood artists also participate in malt’s show. Zenaida Mott, co-founder of the group, is

passionate about Marin and the environment. Her landscapes evoke a sense of nostalgia for simpler times, reminding us that the farmlands she depicts could become memories unless we act to keep them safe.

Perhaps the art of Point Reyes Station native Susan Hall, whose work is well represented in the *Ranches & Rolling Hills* show, exemplifies this affinity best. She describes her paintings as “the result of more than 50 years’ relationship with this land, its weather, its people.” Her work, she says, “is contemplative, rather than literal, hopefully distilling and reflecting the soulful depths of what I call home.”

In his writing about landscape and narrative, author Barry Lopez describes an exterior and an interior landscape. The exterior, which we access directly with our senses, is understood by “perceiving the relationships in it which have purpose and order,” he writes in *Crossing Open Ground*. The interior landscape is shaped by our personal history, by the kind of life we live, by our beliefs, by our habits, by our experiences with the world and with those beings that fill it.

“The interior landscape,” Lopez notes, “responds to the character and subtlety of an exterior landscape; the shape of the individual mind is as affected by land as it is by genes.”

Landscape painters participating in malt’s show are linking the connection we feel to place—the landscape we call West Marin—with our desire to conserve the open spaces and farmlands that surround us. Perhaps one outcome of this relationship is art’s ability to move us to action.

—MARY PILEGGI

Elisabeth Ptak



Artist Tim Horn on the Zimmerman Ranch

malt’s 7th annual *Ranches & Rolling Hills* landscape art show will take place this year from 2–5 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, & from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Sunday, May 16 at the Druid’s Hall in Nicasio. Admission is free.

ENJOY THE LAND, THINK OF MALT, WITH OUR THANKS!

Aaah, the joys of summer: school’s out, days grow longer, birds chirp, cows moo, vacation time draws near. During the coming months, many of you will have the opportunity to visit West Marin. As you drive or bicycle about, appreciating the protected farmland and admiring Marin’s summer landscape, think of your MALT membership. You are the heart and soul of our success! You provide the solid base needed to support our work of acquisition, stewardship, and education. But you may wonder about others ways you can help us:

- Support local agriculture by shopping at farmers’ markets
- Ask your grocer to stock Marin County farm products
- Bring your family and friends on a MALT hike or tour
- Celebrate a birthday or anniversary with a gift membership

- Wear your heart on your sleeve: purchase a MALT t-shirt
- Become a Partner for Preservation by naming MALT in your estate plan
- Check the website for events and news updates
- Consider an additional gift to the Ellen Straus Farmland Preservation Fund

Any of these take only a short time to consider and act on, but they help us continue our mission of preserving Marin County farmlands. Thank you for your membership and for all the other ways you help keep Marin’s working landscape *farmland forever*. —ROBB OLLETT



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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.