

## MALT'S NEWEST EASEMENT

### A RANCH FOR THE FAMILY AND FOR THE FUTURE

“**S**heep ranching has to be born into you,” Stan Mazzucchi says of growing up on his family’s sheep ranch. “I can remember being four years old, riding on the saddle horse with my mom in the wind and the rain, bringing the sheep down off the hills during lambing season.” Stan represents the third generation of ranchers in his family, who have been sheep ranchers or dairymen in the Valley Ford area since the 1920s. “I love the land here,” he says, “I love going out and checking everything, rain or shine, with the wind blowing. It’s a good feeling.”

MALT purchased an agricultural conservation easement on the 215-acre Mazzucchi Ranch, located just south of Valley Ford, and adjacent to the scenic and environmentally sensitive Estero Americano. Owners Stan Mazzucchi and his sister Loretta Bidaurreta currently live on the ranch, originally purchased by their parents in 1964 after a number of years leasing the property to raise sheep.

Based on an independent appraisal, MALT paid \$424,000 for the easement, with all of the funds raised from MALT supporters. The sale of an easement will enable Stan, his wife Sally, daughters Emily and Jodie, and nephew Casey Mazzucchi to continue to run 300 head of sheep on the property and maintain the high quality of the ranch infrastructure. The land can never be subdivided, and is permanently protected for agricultural use.

The well cared for ranch is a testament to the family’s devotion to

the land. Like many ranchers, Stan has a full-time off-ranch job, with ranch work taking up evenings and weekends. Daughters Emily, a third-year pharmacy student at University of California, San Francisco, and Jodie, a biology major at Sonoma State University, grew up working on the ranch, and still come out on weekends and vacations to help Stan with the sheep during busy lambing and shearing periods.

“The Mazzucchi ranch is a perfect example of how MALT works with ranchers and farmers to help them keep the land that has been in their family and preserve it for future generations,” said MALT Executive Director Robert Berner. “Keeping this land in well-managed, small scale agriculture also helps to protect the water and soil quality of the fragile Estero Americano.”

The Mazzucchi family feels strongly about wanting the ranch to stay the way it is. Future plans include finding new markets, developing new products, and, eventually, having Stan dedicate his full energies to the ranch. “I want to continue what I’m doing and have more time to devote to the ranch,” says Stan, “We want to keep it in working agriculture, and save it for our kids.”

Surveying the sheep grazing in the golden pastures rising up behind the barns, the grassy hilltops billowing gently in the late afternoon breeze, Stan sums it up, “When you’re raised here, you want to stay here. Who would want to leave? It’s beautiful.”

— Deborah White



**Mazzucchi family**

left to right: daughters Emily & Jodie Mazzucchi; Stan’s wife Sally Mazzucchi; Stan Mazzucchi; and Stan’s sister Loretta Bidaurreta

Ed Haas, edhaas.com

## WHY PROTECT FARMLAND?

There have been many highlights throughout MALT’s 30 year history, not the least of which is the protection of so many of Marin’s family farms. But as we perused back issues of this newsletter, reading articles from the past, we realized that among our greatest contributions has been the awareness we’ve raised in the non-farming community of the importance of those farms.

One article, from our very first issue in 1985, particularly caught our eye. It was entitled “Why we need farms in Marin County.” Why in-

## THANK YOU ELISABETH PTAK

**WE** announce with regret the departure of longtime staff member Elisabeth Ptak, who worked for MALT just under fifteen years, the last eight of those as Associate Director.

"We are deeply grateful for the countless contributions Elisabeth Ptak has made to MALT's development and growth as an organization and to our achievements in permanently preserving Marin's family farms and ranches," says Executive Director Robert Berner. "Elisabeth is a gifted writer, editor, photographer, and project manager, and she forged meaningful relationships for MALT with donors, the press, the public, conservation and environmental groups, and the agricultural community."

MALT's successful annual art show, *Ranches & Rolling Hills*, which Elisabeth produced since its inception in 1998, has earned

nearly \$1 million for the preservation of Marin County farmland. She also researched, wrote, and edited the book, *Ranches & Rolling Hills: Art of West Marin—A Land in Trust*, published in 2008 by Windgate Press to commemorate the art show's first ten years.

Says Bob, "Through her dedication to quality, her attention to detail, her production of unique and effective marketing materials, her outstanding work ethic, and her unfailing commitment to MALT and the people involved in Marin County agriculture, Elisabeth has helped create an awareness of our work that will benefit the organization far into the future as we continue to offer a conservation alternative to Marin's farming families and work towards completion of our goal of protecting all of the County's farmland from subdivision and non-agricultural development."



Ken Smith

Elisabeth Ptak

### *Ranches & Rolling Hills*

MALT's 13th annual *Ranches & Rolling Hills* landscape art show and sale at Druid's Hall in Nicasio was a resounding success. The weather was perfect, attendance was high, and business was brisk, with art sales totaling more than \$142,000. Thanks go to all the MALT volunteers who helped out this year, the MALT staff, and to all the participating artists, who generously donate fifty percent of all sales towards MALT's work of preserving working farm and ranch land in Marin County. Special thanks go to everyone who came to see the art and to support MALT! See you at next year's show May 21 & 22.

Photos clockwise from top left: Oak Group artist Arturo Tello; artist Davis Perkins talks with a guest; Hilary Jeffris with daughters Hannah & Isabelle; artists Dana Hooper & ZeeZee Mott



Hope Ratner



## MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

## NEW LOGO CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF MALT

**WE** proudly present MALT's new logo in celebration of our 30th anniversary. "Our logo communicates who we are, and we wanted a visual 'signature' that reflected the 30-year evolution of MALT as well as our commitment to its exciting future," said Executive Director Bob Berner. "We started considering updating our traditional logo over a year ago and I'm very pleased now to present the results of many months of creative brainstorming and feedback from you, our members, on how you think about MALT."

Last year, MALT received a grant from the Taproot Foundation, a nonprofit consulting firm in San Francisco, which offers pro-bono assistance to ensure that nonprofits have access to the high-quality professional services they need to fulfill their missions. MALT's grant was for "Visual Identity," specifically our logo, the visual expression of who we are.

This is the first major redesign since MALT's traditional logo, a woodcut representation of cows in a field, first appeared in 1980. The Taproot team of pro-bono marketing, branding, and graphic design professionals took a long, hard look at our existing visual identity, and did a great deal of initial research that was used to create a unique and compelling logo that reflects our promise, personality and philosophy.

Based on feedback from MALT donors, board members, staff, local ranchers and farmers, and other community stakeholders, the team developed dozens of initial concepts. The designs were then evaluated and refined into six different logos, and finally distilled into what we knew instantly was the winner.

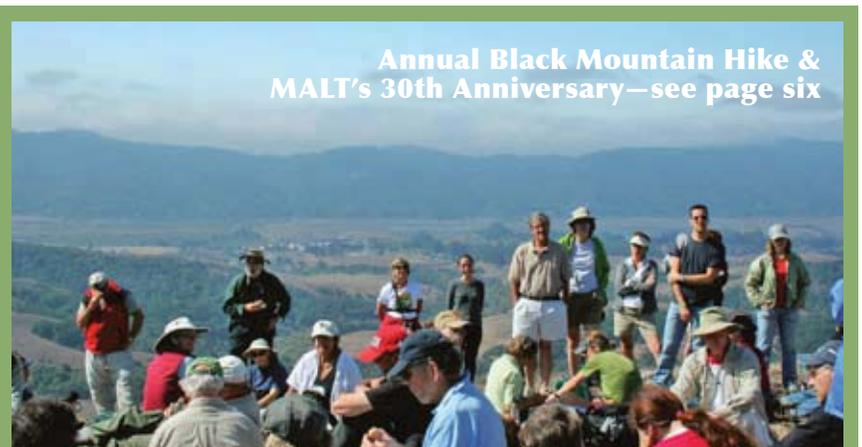
The new logo incorporates how most of you know us best, simply as "MALT." The full version of our name, "Marin Agricultural Land Trust," forms a solid foundation at the base of the logo, grounding the entire design. We also wanted to include a graphic element that referred to the land itself, so the designers incorporated images of blades of grass into the letters used for "MALT", evoking the grassy, wind-swept hills of West Marin.

"In many ways," said Berner, "the new logo communicates all that MALT is about—preserving farmland, protecting open space

for recreation and wildlife habitat, providing sources of local food, and so much more. The local farmers and ranchers here are a diverse lot—most say that the main West Marin crop is grass, whether they are raising beef or sheep, running dairies, or growing row crops. We feel that this logo defines the character of this special part of Marin County. It speaks to the benefits that this bountiful farmland provides for so many of us in the Bay Area, as well as MALT's ongoing mission to preserve it, forever."

We thank the volunteer professionals from the Taproot Foundation for the hundreds of hours they spent developing our new look, which we'll begin rolling out in earnest in mid-September in our print and online communications. Thanks also to our members and supporters for helping MALT move forward for the next 30 years!

—Deborah White



**Annual Black Mountain Hike &  
MALT's 30th Anniversary—see page six**

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MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST  
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## HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE MARIN RCD!

**WE** extend a hearty “Congratulations!” to the Marin Resource Conservation District (Marin RCD) for 50 years of excellence in helping to preserve and enhance Marin County’s working farm and ranch lands and the natural resource values they support, including soils of state and local importance, plentiful water resources, and a diverse assemblage of plant communities and wildlife habitats. The Marin RCD is one of a number of organizations working to support farming and ranching in Marin, and one of MALT’s primary conservation partners, sharing with us the belief that the health and beauty of West Marin’s natural landscape is intertwined with the county’s agricultural vitality and heritage.

Over the last five decades, the Marin RCD has played a central role in supporting and funding natural resource conservation efforts on Marin County farmland through successful grassroots partnerships with the agricultural community and federal, state, and local funding agencies and organizations. The Marin RCD’s

five-member board of directors is composed primarily of individuals from West Marin’s farming and ranching community. Recently, the Marin RCD has been an honored recipient of the Governor’s Economic and Environmental Leadership Award.

In the last decade alone, the Marin RCD has received 40 grants totaling \$8 million for educational workshops, habitat restoration projects, and conservation planning assistance to livestock and dairy operators in the county. This small public agency serves over 276 family farms in Marin County, including operations in the Point Reyes National Seashore. The State Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Fish & Game, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), and the Marin Community Foundation have been, and continue to be, important funding partners for the Marin RCD.

Over the next five years, the Marin RCD will be providing millions of dollars in federal and state funding to help ranchers in the Tomales Bay Watershed comply with new regulations to improve water quality and habitat in Tomales Bay and its tributaries. During the 2009 monitoring season, MALT’s Stewardship staff worked with 40 MALT conservation easement landowners to develop ranch plans to comply with these new regulations. It is anticipated that many of our landowners will be seeking technical and funding support through the Marin RCD and USDA NRCS to implement water quality protection projects on their properties identified in their ranch plans.

To celebrate and preserve the agricultural heritage of West Marin, the RCD hired local historian Dewey Livingston to document the multigenerational histories of West Marin’s farming families as part of its on-going oral history program. These oral histories will be published by the RCD in celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

—Patricia Hickey



**Before**



**After**

*Stream Restoration Project on a MALT Easement*

# HIKES TOURS TALKS

FALL 2010

## McEvoy Olive Ranch – Friday, September 10

Visit Nan McEvoy's 550-acre organic olive ranch in a spectacular valley near the Marin-Sonoma border. This organic ranch links the farmscape with the landscape to increase wildlife habitat. See the orchards ripe with fruit, and learn how olives are grown. Tour the olive-pressing facility and then taste the award-winning oil, and, if you like, purchase a variety of products made with this wonderful farm product. **Pre-registration 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:** \$30 / \$40 non-member

## Marin Sun Farms & Rogers Ranch – Saturday, September 18

Join 4th generation rancher David Evans, owner of Marin Sun Farms, for a tour of the Roger's Ranch where he raises grass-fed beef and pastured chickens. David was raised on the H Ranch in Point Reyes National Seashore and now leases the Rogers Ranch. Learn about his family history and how he has created his business to support local ranchers and deliver local, pasture-based food for our Bay Area community. After the tour we will eat lunch at the Marin Sun Farms restaurant and butcher shop. **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.  
**WHERE TO MEET:** Marin Sun Farms Butcher Shop, 10905 Highway 1, Point Reyes Station  
**WHAT TO BRING:** Walking shoes, water, layered clothing  
**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   **COST:** \$40 / \$ 50 non-members

## Tresch Dairy – Straus Partner Tour – Sunday, September 26

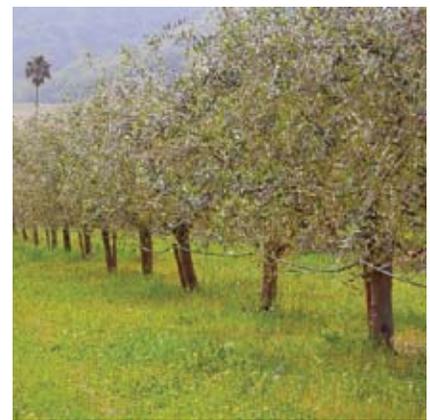
With almost 2,100 acres, 900 milking cows, and two milking parlors, Tresch Dairy is the largest of the Straus Family Creamery's dairy producers. Bottle-feed a calf, see cows being milked, and churn and taste butter. Visit the heirloom apple orchard, taste Straus milk products, and learn about sustainable agricultural methods and the important role farms play in preserving watersheds and wildlife habitat. Suitable for the whole family. **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. Please arrive on time.  
**WHERE TO MEET:** 1170 Walker Rd. Petaluma  
**WHAT TO BRING:** Shoes and clothes that can get dirty, water, snacks  
**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**     
**COST:** Adults \$15 /\$20 non-members – Children \$8/\$10 non-members.

## Work & Party for Local Food & the Planet – Sunday, October 10

The West Marin community invites you to participate in 350.org's *International Day of Climate Action - A Global Work Party*, an effort to increase community resilience and fight climate change. To support local farms and food, both key to creating a sustainable future and reducing greenhouse gases, MALT and Marin Organic are coordinating work parties at locations like Walker Creek Ranch, followed by a dinner and dance party for all participants at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station. For more information visit <http://transitionwestmarin.wordpress.com> **Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 9 A.M. work party — 4 P.M. – 8 P.M. dinner and dancing  
**WHERE TO MEET:** MALT office, 145 A Street, Point Reyes Station. (We will carpool to ranch work sites.)  
**WHAT TO BRING:** Water, lunch, work clothes and shoes, food to share at party. Once work sites have been selected you will be sent a more detailed list of supplies to bring.  
**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**   **COST:** FREE



Hope Ratner



Marin Sun Farms



Caroline Kraus

Hikes & Tours  
 Registration Form on page 8  
 or register online at [malt.org](http://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



Elisabeth Ptak

### Hikes & Tours Registration Form on page 8 or register online at [malt.org](http://malt.org)

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)

### Nicasio Valley Farms Pumpkin Patch – Open daily, October 2–31

Bring the kids to this MALT protected farm for pumpkin picking, hayrides and mazes, farm animals, a farm stand, and the bouncy house and slide. Nicasio Valley Cheese Co. will be open Thursday – Sunday and Big Ned's BBQ will be on hand every weekend. Educational exhibits and activities supported by MALT Farm Field Study sponsors: *Autodesk, Bank of Marin, Clover-Stornetta Farms, Earl's Organics, Good Earth Natural Foods, Veritable Vegetable, Straus Family Creamery, and Gerald Thompson on behalf of the C. M. van Vlierden Trust.*

**October 3, 10, 17, and 24:** Children's musician Tim Cain (11 A.M.)

### **MALT Day – October 17 – pumpkin sales support MALT**

Kids' games and contests along with wood-fired pizza by The Baker, Mexican food by Delicias de Marin, Iron Springs Brewery beer, and educational booths by Marin Organic and Agricultural Institute of Marin. **No pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** Daily 10 A.M. – 6 P.M. ( MALT Day 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.)

**WHERE TO MEET:** Nicasio Valley Farms, ¼ mile north of Nicasio Square

**COST:** Free. Phone 415-662-9100 for school group rates.

### **Black Mountain Hike & MALT's 30th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, October 23**

Join MALT board, staff, volunteers, ranchers, historians, and naturalists as we climb this West Marin landmark, taking in spectacular views along the way. Learn about the land that's been preserved, and then fortify yourself with your picnic lunch and our 30th anniversary cake. Black Mountain is located on the Nobmann Ranch and supports an active beef cattle operation. We'll learn about MALT'S history from founder Phyllis Faber and hear plans for the future from MALT staff. Rancher Mike Giammona will also be on hand to talk about beef ranching. **No pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** West Marin School 11550

Hwy. 1, ¼ mile north of Point Reyes Station. All must carpool from the school.

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

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:**  **COST:** Free

### **Goat Butchering Demo**

#### **Nick's Cove Restaurant – Saturday, October 30**

Low in fat and high in protein, goat is one of the most widely consumed meats in the world, and currently making its way onto more and more restaurant menus in the United States. Adam Mali, Executive Chef at Nick's Cove, will demonstrate how to butcher and cook goat, and MALT board member and local rancher Julie Rossotti will be on hand to "talk chop" about the grass-fed African Boer goats she raises. Afterwards, enjoy a lunch featuring grilled sirloin and braised shank of goat accompanied by Point Reyes Vineyard Pinot Noir, local cheeses, and fall vegetables as we sit overlooking beautiful Tomales Bay.

**Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 11 A.M. – 2 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Nick's Cove, 23240 Hwy. 1,

Marshall, CA

**COST:** \$90/ \$100 non-members

### **Bill McKibben & "Food for the Parks"**

#### **Panel at the Institute at the Golden Gate – Sunday, November 7**

Bill McKibben, author, educator, environmentalist will be joined by National Park Service leaders, well-known sustainable food experts from the Bay Area for a discussion about climate change and the global and national value of local food systems. In his new book *Eaarth*, Bill makes strong connections between building resilient communities, reducing greenhouse gases and preserving and supporting local farms. The *Food for the Parks Initiative* of the Institute at the Golden Gate will provide support and expertise to accelerate the adoption and implementation of sustainable food system policies throughout the National Park Service. Books will be for sale at the event by Point Reyes Books. **Presented in collaboration with the Institute at the Golden Gate. Pre-registration required.**

**TIME:** 3 – 5 P.M.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Mission Blue Chapel at Cavallo

Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate, 601 Murray Circle, Fort Baker, Sausalito

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

## Hold the dates!

**Holiday Open House &  
30th Anniversary Party**  
Friday, December 10  
festivities begin at 5 PM  
Dance Palace Community Center  
Point Reyes Station

**Gale Ranch Creek  
Restoration Work Party**  
Saturday, December 4  
9 AM - 2 PM  
Ranch Tour 2 PM - 4 PM



Roana Tirado

## WHY INDEED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

deed? Ask any of us at MALT and we could give you a well constructed, convincing response, but none more compelling than this:

*"I think that there are lots of reasons why we need farms in Marin County. One is that if there were no farms the land would get developed because the land wouldn't be being used and people would want to build on it. The food, milk, and eggs produced in Marin County don't have to travel as far to the city. The trucks don't use as much gas. The farms provide jobs for people who live in the country.*

*The people from the city can come out to visit the farms and the country land. There isn't as much smog and smoke on the farms and it's a nice place to live. People who like to ride horses have a place to ride. Many of the farms have horses. The land provides open space for wildlife, such as birds. Also, the trees and plants of the open country provide oxygen and clean air.*

*The children and pets have a freer and more active life in the country. They are more healthy. The people who live on the farms live easier and somewhat simpler lives. I think farms are an important part of Marin County. I'm glad they're here."*

So reads fifth grader Paolo Wood's winning entry to the essay contest sponsored in part by MALT, and published in our first newsletter.

It's been 25 years, but Paolo's reasons are as relevant today as they were then.

As we reflect on our past 30 years, we thought it would be interesting to track down Paolo to see if he has anything to add to his grade school composition. We barely had begun our search when we discovered that, truly, the apple does not fall far from the tree: Paolo is the son of artist Thomas Wood, an annual participant in MALT's *Ranches & Rolling Hills* landscape art show. Clearly a passion for farmland runs in the family!

So what does Paolo, now a father of two, have to say currently? For one thing, he's impressed with MALT's achievements in preserving so much of Marin's farmland. "We are lucky to have people such as the folks at MALT and all of their supporters, not to mention the farmers and ranchers, who should be very proud to stand for something so noble." He also recognizes how much work still remains and encourages everyone to support MALT's efforts to "preserve this most valuable of resources, our agricultural land."

Raising awareness of the value of farmland will continue to play a critical role in MALT's success over the next 30 years. Help us by spreading the word and teaching your children—there's plenty of room for more Paolos out there!

—Hilary Jeffris

## GIVE YOUR EARTHSHARE

An EarthShare payroll deduction is one easy way to donate to MALT. Many corporate and government employers support EarthShare payroll giving. If yours doesn't yet, ask them to start. If it does, just decide on a single deduction or a recurring one from every paycheck. Simply designate Marin Agricultural Land Trust as one of your preferred charities.

For more information go to [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org) or contact Victoria Moore at [vmoore@malt.org](mailto:vmoore@malt.org).



# MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

PRESERVING MARIN COUNTY FARMLAND

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Point Reyes Station  
California 94956

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U.S. Postage  
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Marin  
Agricultural  
Land Trust

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## HIKES TOURS TALKS Registration Form

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Sign me up for these Hikes & Tours:

title	# people	date	cost
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
Total			\$ _____

**Register by mail or at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org).** Space is limited, and tours fill up at different rates. We do not have waiting lists. Pay total due by check or charge to VISA, Mastercard, or American Express. Full payment is required with registration. Confirmations will be sent. Refunds made only if MALT cancels a tour, or if tour is already full. Please be prompt. Events are timed around the work day schedules of the farm or ranch. 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.**

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

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check payable to MALT is enclosed    Charge my  VISA     Mastercard     American Express

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

### MALT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

Mail completed registration form to MALT **or register at [www.malt.org](http://www.malt.org).**  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Post Office Box 809, Point Reyes Station, California 94956