



MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST NEWS

25

YEARS PRESERVING MARIN COUNTY FARMLAND

Autumn 2005

Volume 21 Number 3

POZZI RANCH EASEMENT MALT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Located at the mouth of Walker Creek, the 1,125-acre Martin and Sally Pozzi Ranch has the kind of natural beauty that can take your breath away. Wildflowers carpet hillsides that ease down to Tomales Bay. Pelicans and cormorants soar in the summer sky. Hog Island looks close enough to touch. The property also has a vivid human history. Site of a commercial wharf in the mid-19th century, the ranch's Preston's Point once boasted a store, a warehouse, a dance hall, even a caged bear.

Today, that spit of land and the surrounding acreage have reverted to bucolic pasture. Sheep and cattle graze on abundant grasses. But the extensive shoreline frontage that allows panoramic views of Tomales Bay and the proximity to nearby cities gave the property extremely high development potential.

This summer, MALT purchased an agricultural conservation easement on the property, enabling the Pozzis to purchase the ranchlands they had leased for the past four years and permanently protecting the land for agriculture. MALT paid the appraised easement value of \$4.1 million. The California State Coastal Conservancy provided a grant of \$1,450,000. The remainder was raised from MALT members and supporters.

"The Conservancy has been working with MALT to protect Marin County farmland for about 20 years," said Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy. "I can't think of a more productive partnership."



Dexter Roberts

Martin and Sally Pozzi with their children Steven and Regina

Both Martin and Sally Pozzi were born and raised in farming families. Sally's southern California family has grown citrus and avocado crops for five generations. The Pozzi family, too, has deep roots in family farming. Martin's great grandparents settled in Occidental in 1880. Martin grew up just one half mile from his new ranch on his family's home place—150 acres purchased in 1915, where they ran a dairy and, later, a beef and sheep operation.

CONTINUED PAGE FOUR

FAMILY TIES: ANOTHER GENERATION OF MALT BOARD MEMBERS

One of the distinguishing characteristics of Marin County agriculture is that the dairies, beef and sheep operations, and organic producers here are truly family farms. Owned and operated by successive members of the same families, most of these businesses can trace their heritage back three, four, or five generations. The strength that comes from this kind of commitment to the land and to the food it produces can be seen in the vitality of a dairy herd that wins accolades for its production or tasted in the sweet bite of a perfectly ripe organic strawberry picked on a summer morning.

Food produced by the ranching families of West Marin always has had wide appeal. Butter made on the ranches on the Point Reyes peninsula in the 19th century was known as "the other gold" and was marketed at a premium. Today, Marin agriculture can't compete with high volume mega-farms elsewhere, but the grassy flavor of its pastured beef and the creaminess of its dairy products have been noted by publi-

CONTINUED PAGE TWO



Paige Green

Like father, like son: Rancher Al Poncia served as one of MALT's founding board members. His son Loren (pictured) has followed in his footsteps, both as a rancher and as a board member.

CO-FOUNDER PHYLLIS FABER REJOINS BOARD

It seems especially fitting in this, our 25th anniversary year, that we welcome back to the Board of Directors Phyllis Faber, co-founder of MALT with Ellen Straus in 1980. Scholar, editor, writer, botanist, teacher, and protector of the environment, Phyllis is a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society and was editor of its publication, "Fremontia," for 16 years. She is a co-editor of the University of California Press' *California Natural History Guides*.

Phyllis and Ellen met and forged their friendship during a session of the Environmental Forum which trains environmental

leaders in Marin. She attributes her dawning appreciation for the importance of agriculture and the threat to its survival to the charmingly astute native of the Netherlands who operated a dairy with her husband on the shores of Tomales Bay. Together, they and a group of ranchers and environmentalists banded together to create the first agricultural land trust in the United States here in West Marin. MALT has been a model for land trusts throughout the nation. It has so far protected 38,000 acres on 57 family farms and ranches, but 80,000 acres are still at risk.

Phyllis, it's good to have you back!

FAMILY TIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

cations as varied as the *Point Reyes Light* and the *New York Times*, and niche markets have provided additional staying power for both new and traditional operations.

If contemporary Marin agricultural products have an edge, it's this combination of a compatible climate and knowledge transferred from father to daughter and mother

to son. Now MALT, too, is reaping the benefit of those family ties. Currently serving on our board of directors are: Sam Dolcini, son of founding board member Earl Dolcini; Loren Poncia, son of founding board member Al Poncia; and Lynn Giacomini Stray, daughter of longtime board member Bob Giacomini.

The Dolcini family business has evolved from dairy to beef over the years. Earl was a dairyman when he served on our first board of directors; today, his son Sam works fulltime on the family's beef cow-calf operation and serves as chair of MALT's 2005 board. Sam signed on, he says, "...because MALT presented an opportunity to help keep agriculture in West Marin growing. For well over a century, ag was able to survive on its own. Today, it's going to take a collaborative effort, and MALT is the catalyst for that effort."

Loren Poncia joined the MALT Board because he's passionate about preserving Marin agriculture. "MALT is a great tool for agriculturalists to expand their business and/or take some capital from the property without forcing a sale," he says. "My dad never encouraged me to be on the board, but he always encouraged me to be a leader and to follow my passion. I choose preserving agriculture and, hopefully, making agriculture in Marin flourish into the future as my focus.

"As far as continuing tradition, I'm excited to have the opportunity to farm or ranch. I'm the fourth generation on the ranch and with that comes some pressure to keep it. We're not big enough to support two or three families, so in turn, [my sisters and I] have been forced to get outside jobs... My goal is to change that paradigm and be able to farm and ranch full time and make a great living doing it. Maybe I'm idealistic, but I think it is possible. Whichever way you look at it, I have the bug. I love the land, I love the community, and I love the fulfillment I receive from producing a great quality product for consumers."

Lynn Giacomini Stray grew up on her parents' Point Reyes Station dairy ranch. She graduated from St. Mary's College with a BS in Business in 1988 and a minor in Art history. She pursued a career in sales and marketing until returning to West Marin with her husband and two children to join her family's Point Reyes Original Blue cheese company. As part owner, she is involved in national sales, marketing, and business development.

"In 1998 my father talked about his vision to bring an all-natural product to the consumer," she recalls. "Cheese was the natural value-added product to milk. After attending Cal Poly University's course on cheesemaking, I knew this was what I wanted to do."

"My father was on the MALT board in its early years and talked of its importance and believed in its purpose. Not only did it help farmers, but it also sustained the land through generations, he told me. Twenty five years later, I am working hard to continue our agricultural lifestyle through my generation, and I am proud to be a part of the MALT board which is helping others find that same path. My father is very excited to see MALT still thriving today and for one of his children to be involved."

—ELISABETH PTAK

Meet Sam Dolcini, Loren Poncia, and Lynn Giacomini Stray on Sunday, November 6, at the Druid's Hall in Nicasio for the final installment of our 25th anniversary MALT Stories. Admission is free.



Paige Green

CELEBRATE LOCAL FOODS & FARMS AT *TASTE OF MARIN*

It's time again to gather in celebration of Marin's agricultural bounty and honor the people who bring farm products from the fields to our tables. On September 9, the *Taste of Marin* will feature Marin's farmers and ranchers and showcase local celebrity chefs who will offer a variety of specialties made from organic produce, grass-fed beef, poultry, meats, wines, cheese, seafood, and even locally produced organic ice cream. The get-together will be held outdoors on the grounds of one of the most spectacular locations in Marin County, St. Vincent's School, in San Rafael.

Other special highlights will include an auction of one-of-a-kind prizes such as an organic barbecue for eight at a local ranch, a weekend at a Point Reyes bed and breakfast inn, or a one-day nature camp for kids. There will also be live music by a surprise guest and some of the most phenomenal food you've ever eaten, all in the magical atmosphere created by an Indian summer evening in a 19th century mission-style courtyard.

MALT launched the first *Taste of Marin* in 2000. Now in its sixth year, the event will again bring together Marin's renowned farmers, ranchers, cheesemakers, bakers, and vint-



Elisabeth Plak

ners. But instead of sitting down to dinner, guests this year will roam among tables filled with delectable treats prepared by noted local chefs.

This celebration of local food, local farmers, and local chefs, is presented by MALT and Marin Organic, an organization that promotes local organic food production.

Admission is \$125 for MALT or Marin Organic members and \$150 for non-members. St. Vincent's School is located in San Rafael, one exit north of Lucas Valley Road.

Pre-registration is required. Phone 415-663-1158.

—HELGE HELLBERG



Constance Washburn

Built and staffed by volunteers led by Candice Gold, Kathy Callaway, and Claire Hadley, the MALT float has been a popular entry at Marin's hometown fairs this summer. See it in action on October 2 at the San Anselmo parade and on October 9 at Harvest Day at the Farm in Nicasio.

Tina's Summer Vacation

Dear MALT,

When I was planning my visit in the Bay Area, I was looking forward to sailing in the San Francisco Bay, downing oysters at the Ferry Building, lunching at Chez Panisse, and wine tastings in Sonoma. Instead, I found myself sticking Velcro on the back of pictures of farmers at MALT's Marin County Fair exhibit, planning the Harvest Festival, riding on a parade float, and attending a fundraising meeting for the school lunch program.

Easements? Land trusts? Don't sit on the plastic cows? Organic? This is what I learned on my summer vacation. I also learned what a small group of dedicated volunteers could do to educate citizens of their community about keeping local farms safe and sound.

Thanks for allowing me to be a part of it. Your spirit and enthusiasm were contagious. I plan to bring the MALT message to all New Yorkers and to open a MALT branch office in midtown Manhattan as soon as I get home...

Tina Pavane

(Tina, a friend of our very active MALT volunteer, Candice Gold, gets our Accidental Volunteer Award!)

COLLEGE OF MARIN OFFERS AGRICULTURE COURSE

Are you intrigued by certain unique aspects of agriculture in Marin? Do you have a yearning to find out how they fit into the “Big Picture”? Have you been waiting for a comprehensive, in-depth introduction to the Marin agricultural scene? If so, you are in luck!

Every three years, MALT, UC Cooperative Extension, and the College of Marin (COM) join together to present a full-semester college course on Marin County agriculture. This year, the session begins on August 25. It will run for 15 Thursday evenings from 6–9PM. on COM’s Kentfield campus (Room SC 101) and on selected weekend days at various locations around the county.

The course will explore the connections among people, crops, domestic animals, and land and water resources, within the context of individual production systems and the overall Marin food system. It will feature presentations by local farmers, ranchers, researchers, and analysts. In addition, it will include group visits to significant sites of local

agricultural production and distribution. Past student Florentine O’Rourke is enthusiastic about the class: “Even though I was born and raised in Marin, this course revealed several aspects of the county I didn’t know of before. I would take it again if I could!”

Instructor Dr. Paul da Silva teaches in COM’s biology, natural history, and environmental science programs and has a background in agricultural research and education. “This course is for everyone who lives, breathes, moves and eats anywhere in and around Marin—and wants to think about it!” says Dr. da Silva.

To register, call 415-883-3220, or visit the College of Marin website at www.marin.cc.ca.us. Course title is “Marin County Agriculture,” listed as Biology 148, section 0170. Three college credits are available. Fee is approximately \$78, which includes all classes and field trips. Further information is available by contacting the instructor at 415-485-9542 or at pgsilva@marin.cc.ca.us.

POZZI EASEMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Martin and Sally have two children, and the ranching life is a big part of their upbringing, just as it was for their parents. Like a lot of seven-year-old boys, Steven Pozzi builds trucks from Lego® blocks. But on Steven’s vehicles, the yellow blocks become bales of hay. He also imagines a tractor, a real one, and describes how he’d use it to cut thistles, scrape the ranch roads, and herd sheep. While he’s talking, he picks a bouquet of wildflowers for his mother: clarkia, blue-eyed grass, a dandelion or two.

Regina, nine years old, loves to read, even while touring her parents’ ranch in the way back of the family SUV. Regina’s in 4-H, and she’s raising a calf and lambs which she showed for the first time at the county fair this year. But she has little patience for 14 llamas grazing near a flock of sheep. The gangly animals were brought in to keep the coyotes at bay. “All they do is spit, eat, and have more llamas,” she says, a trace of rural practicality in her young voice.

In fact, their parents say that the Pozzi children are actively involved in everything having to do with the ranch, whether it’s fixing fences, delivering hay, or attending meetings of the Marin County Board of Supervisors when agricultural issues are being discussed. When it’s shearing time, the kids are up at daybreak, helping to sort the animals, even though the market for sheep’s wool is so bad that Martin says he gives it away. “Recently, we’ve received a fair price for the meat. We supplement that income with our beef herd and our hay business.”

If succeeding in agriculture today means knitting together a combination of businesses, the Pozzis are willing to do it. “We’ve done a lot to survive,” Sally says. “We’re not afraid to try things.” But coming up with the money to purchase the valuable land they’d been leasing would have been an almost impossible challenge.

“The landowners wanted to sell the land to us,” Martin says. “They could have put it on the market at a price that was unreachable for us, but they saw how hard we work on agricultural issues. But if you don’t have organizations like MALT, the resources aren’t there for a young person to buy land. We feel blessed that, in this day and age, we were able to purchase this property. This transaction would not have transpired without MALT.”

Sally couldn’t agree more. “We’re so fortunate for the landowners [wanting to sell to us] and that MALT was able to work with us. I wake up and I think I’m the luckiest person on the face of the earth.”

—ELISABETH PTAK

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



MALT HIKES & TOURS & TALKS

As the agricultural year moves into the harvest season, we continue to celebrate MALT's 25th anniversary, by visiting family farms and ranches that have been protected by agricultural conservation easements. We'll go to a vineyard, sample heirloom tomatoes and grass-fed beef, learn about Marin's farming families, and cap the season with a climb to the top of Black Mountain. There, we'll feast on history, panoramic views, and poetry written especially for the occasion. The dates following the ranch name indicate the year the easement was acquired.

FALL
2005

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



CELEBRATE LOCAL FOODS AT 6TH ANNUAL TASTE OF MARIN Friday, September 9

It's time to gather and celebrate Marin's agricultural bounty with the people who bring it from the field to our tables. MALT and Marin Organic are teaming up once again to produce Marin's premier food event. Meet local farmers and ranchers and watch local chefs as they prepare products provided by the farmers. Includes auction and live music, too. (See story on page 3). The Taste of Marin is co-sponsored by the Marin County Farmers' Market Association. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: 6:30 – 9:30 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: St. Vincent's School; Marinwood/St. Vincent Dr. off Hwy. 101; head east and park at main buildings

COST: \$125 members, \$150 non-members

10TH ANNUAL HARVEST DAY AT THE FARM NICASIO VALLEY FARMS (1986)

Sunday October 9

Bring the whole family, and celebrate MALT's 25th anniversary and the bounty of Marin's family farms. Select a pumpkin, take a hayride, spin wool, ride a pony, pet a sheep, goat, or cow. Then purchase a delicious meal of barbecued chicken, oysters, grass-fed beef, salads and locally made desserts and ice cream. Great music for kids from 10:30–12:30. Later, dance to the rock n' roll sounds of the Crocodiles, then join in square dances led by a caller to the great old-time music of the Roadoilers. Co-sponsored by Manka's Inverness Lodge, Lucasfilm Ltd., McEvoy Olive Ranch, Nicasio Valley Farms, Atwood Ranch, Marin County Farmers' Market Association, California Land Title Co., Clover-Stornetta Farms, Bank of Petaluma, Bank of Marin, Marin Organic, and United Markets. No pre-registration required.

TIME: 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

COST: Free admission

WHERE TO MEET: Nicasio Valley Farms, 1/4 mile north of Nicasio Square

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

- 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.

- \$40 Individual \$75 Supporter \$100 Associate
 \$250 Sponsor Other \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Separate checks for each tour are enclosed. Charge my credit card

Name _____ Card # _____

Signature _____ Expiration date _____

Please complete other side of form.

To apply 25th anniversary gift for one event check here & mail coupon with registration form.



As 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.

Registration by mail only.

cut here

McEVoy OLIVE RANCH
RIPE FOR HARVEST

Friday, September 16

Tour Nan McEvoy's 550-acre organic olive ranch at harvest time, where 16,000 olive trees thrive in a spectacular valley near the Marin-Sonoma border. Learn about olive-growing, and tour the pressing facility. Afterwards, taste and purchase olive oil and a variety of related products. **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 or Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd).

WHAT TO BRING: Water, walking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: 

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

JIM GROSSI & FAMILY RANCH (2004)
HISTORY OF THE GROSSI FAMILY IN MARIN
Saturday, September 17

Join 93-year old Jim Grossi, eldest of the Grossi clan, as he tells the history of his family in West Marin. The family has influenced Marin agriculture over the years as leaders in the dairy and beef industries. The extended family owns 17 ranches, including two in Novato that are holding the line against non-agricultural development. Historian Dewey Livingston will add other historic information. After the talk, join Grossi family members for a short hike around the property. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: Talk, 10 A.M. – Noon;

Picnic, Noon; Hike, 1 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: 4025 Novato Blvd., 1 mile west of Stafford Lake Park entrance

WHAT TO BRING: Water, picnic, hiking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Talk 

Hike 

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

STRAUS DAIRY (1992)
THE FUTURE OF ORGANIC MILK IN MARIN
Wednesday, September 21

In 1993, the Straus Dairy became the first organic dairy west of the Mississippi when it converted from a traditional operation. Albert, son of MALT co-founder Ellen Straus, started the organic operation and will discuss his plans for the future. This tour will guide you through the unique farm and the bottling plant on the nearby S/2 Ranch. You'll sample Straus milk products at the creamery, then return to Millerton

Point for your picnic. **Pre-registration required.**
TIME: 10 A.M. – 1 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: Millerton Point parking lot, 5 miles north of Point Reyes Station for carpool
WHAT TO BRING: Water, picnic, shoes that can get dirty

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: 

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

FROM OUR FARMS TO YOUR TABLE
SAMPLE & LEARN TO COOK LOCAL FOODS
Sunday, September 25

Visit Allstar Organics Farm to taste some 40 varieties of tomatoes and 20 types of peppers. Our feast then moves down the road a piece to the Nicasio School kitchen where chef Andrea Riesenfeld of Point Reyes HomeCooking and Point Reyes Preserves creator Julie Evans will demonstrate cooking and preserving a harvest from Marin farms. Menu includes Panzanella salad and soup with heirloom tomatoes, grass-fed beef, local cheeses paired with fruit, and apple compote. **Pre-registration required.** (25th anniversary tour coupons not valid for this tour)

TIME: 1 – 4 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: Lafanchi Ranch, 5300 Nicasio Valley Rd., 1/4 mile north of Nicasio Square

WHAT TO BRING: Water, walking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: 

COST: \$45 / \$55 non-member

BARBONI RANCH (2000)
& **STUBBS VINEYARDS (1986)**

NEW CALVES & NEW WINES



Saturday, October 1

Former MALT board member and 4th generation rancher Bill Barboni will take us on a tour of his family's 1,310-acre ranch. Fall is beef calving season, and as we walk through the fields, we may see newborn calves. From there, we will drive past miles of protected land to the Stubbs property, where 11 acres of pinot noir and chardonnay vines grow. Their first wines were released in 2004 to enthusiastic reviews. We'll tour the scenic vineyards and taste their wines. **Pre-registration required.**

TIME: 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: Barboni Ranch, 1052 Hicks Valley Rd., 1/2 mile west of the Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd.

WHAT TO BRING: Water, picnic, hiking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:  

COST: \$25 / \$35 non-members

9TH ANNUAL BLACK MT. HIKE (1993)
WORDS, SONGS & POEMS TO CELEBRATE FARMS
Saturday, October 22

Join MALT board, staff, volunteers, ranchers, students, historians and naturalists on a very strenuous hike up this West Marin landmark. Listen to poems by MALT board president and 5th generation rancher, Sam Dolcini, and by our local poet and doctor Michael Whitt. Children will sing "The Farmers Song" and recite poems about the land. Black Mountain is located on the Nobmann Ranch, one of the largest properties protected by a MALT easement. The mountain provides spectacular views and supports an active beef cattle operation. No pre-registration required

TIME: 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: MALT office parking lot on Mesa Rd. in Point Reyes. All must carpool to Black Mountain.

WHAT TO BRING: Water, picnic, hiking shoes

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:   

COST: Free (1200 ft.-elevation)

THE NEXT 25 YEARS:
THE FUTURE OF MALT &
AGRICULTURE IN MARIN COUNTY

Sunday, November 6

In our first 25 years, MALT has protected 38,000 acres of land on 57 family farms and ranches. Look with us into the future: imagine challenges and opportunities ahead for MALT and Marin agriculture. Speakers include Executive Director Bob Berner and board members

Loren Poncia, Sam Dolcini, and Lynn Giacomini Stray whose fathers served as past board members, plus organic strawberry grower Russ Sartori. A reception of local food and wines follows. Please join us to celebrate all MALT has accomplished and cheer us into the next 25 years.

TIME: 4 – 6 P.M.

WHERE TO MEET: Druids' Hall, Nicasio Square
COST: Free



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.

cut here

ART SHOW SALES REACH \$145,000

From the eager preview attendees who began lining up at 10:30 AM on the first day of the 2005 *Ranches & Rolling Hills* landscape art show, to those latecomers who tried to take it all in during the final 60 minutes on Sunday afternoon, the response was unanimous. The enthusiasm of the buyers confirmed what those of us who helped set up the show earlier in the week had suspected: in terms of quality and artistry, this year's presentation was outstanding!

Sales of 125 pieces of artwork totalled \$145,000, slightly less than last year's total, but our second best during the eight years of the show's history. Fifty percent of that amount went to MALT's Ellen Straus Farmland Preservation Fund and will be



used to purchase future agricultural conservation easements.

All the works in the show "captured history on canvas," said Fairfax artist Dan McCormick,

Landscape painter Ray Strong at age 100 continues to be an inspiration to artists participating in Ranches & Rolling Hills. He was honored at a get-together at the Nicasio home of Richard and Levin Kinsey the evening before the art show opening in May.

"—the barns and buildings and landscapes that have been a part of Marin County for hundreds of years."

In honor of MALT's 25th anniversary, artists were encouraged to focus on painting MALT easement properties. Dozens of such representations were on display, with special tags indicating the ranch or farm was "Protected as Farmland Forever." Suzanne Siminger of Mill Valley painted the view of Tomales Bay from the Zimmerman Ranch in Marshall, while Point Reyes Station's Susan Hall captured common black birds in a most uncommon way as they hovered on the power lines above the feed barn at the Robert Giacomini Dairy.

Fairfax artist Tim Horn's renditions of Marshall sheep rancher Richard Respini portrayed the working man in the landscape. Glenna Hartmann of the Oak Group displayed evocative pastels of spring wildflowers growing on the Leiss Ranch in Chileno Valley.

As always, the array of paintings, prints, and photographs lent the simple Druid's Hall a sense of grace. "Even if you walked away without buying a painting," said MALT volunteer Christie Nelson of San Rafael, "you felt bathed in beauty."

In addition to the art sales, attendees responded enthusiastically to the new *Ranches & Rolling Hills Collection* of greeting cards which feature full-color images of artwork from past shows. Sets of 10 cards are available for \$15, plus shipping, online at malt.org or by calling 415-663-1158.

57 EASEMENTS & COUNTING – CAN WE AFFORD TO MONITOR THEM FOREVER?

MALT is justly proud of its accomplishment of having protected 38,000 acres of Marin County farmland. Yet this is only the first step in our conservation program. When we acquire an easement, we assume perpetual responsibility for seeing that the natural and agricultural resources on the property are protected according to the terms of the easement agreement.

Monitoring 57 family farms and ranches on an annual basis currently requires the efforts of one fulltime and one parttime staff member. As the number of our easements increases, so does the magnitude of our stewardship responsibility. How will we afford to monitor these easements forever?

Our Easement Stewardship Fund was established to secure the costs of this long-term obligation. All bequests and memorial gifts are placed in this fund. Those who name MALT in their estates join our "Partners for Preservation" and help ensure that our conservation easements will continue to preserve and protect the land forever.

How can you become a Partner for Preservation? It's as simple as naming MALT as a beneficiary in:

- ◆ your will
- ◆ your life insurance policy
- ◆ your charitable trust
- ◆ your traditional IRA, SEP-IRA, or annuity

If you want to help our efforts to preserve and monitor West Marin's spectacular agricultural landscape for future generations, please consider including MALT in your estate plan. Consult with your financial planner, tax advisor, or attorney to create the plan best suited to your individual needs, or contact our Development Department at 415-663-1158 to schedule a free consultation with our advisor.

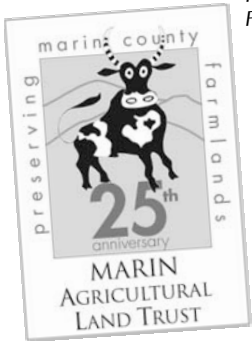


25 YEARS PRESERVING MARIN COUNTY FARMLAND

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Marin
Agricultural
Land Trust

MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST
Box 809 Point Reyes Station California 94956
www.malt.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NEW!
Featuring our 25th anniversary logo

The MALT SHOP

- 25th Anniversary T-shirt (Adult S, M, L, XL) 18.00
 - pale yellow pale green
- 25th Anniversary T-shirt (Youth XS, S, M, L) 16.00
 - pale yellow only
- 25th Anniversary Cap (with embroidered cow patch) 20.00
 - terra cotta black
- Ranches & Rolling Hills Collection* 15.00
(a selection of 10 notecards with envelopes)

Shipping/Handling: Add \$5.00 per order _____
Total \$ _____

MALT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sam Dolcini, *Chair* Rancher, West Marin
- Warren Weber, *Vice-Chair* Organic Farmer, Bolinas
- Stan Gillmar, *Secretary* Attorney, Inverness
- Haynes Lindley, *Treasurer* Attorney, Sausalito
- Janeann Erickson Rancher, Tomales
- Phyllis Faber Biologist, Mill Valley
- Anne Flemming Community Volunteer, Ross
- Tim Furlong Rancher / Contractor, Tomales
- Tony Gilbert Lawyer, Marshall
- Joe Gillach Businessman, San Francisco
- Chris Kelly Conservationist, Larkspur
- Steve Kinsey Marin County Supervisor, 4th District
- Jim McIsaac Rancher, Novato
- Doug Moore Businessman, San Francisco
- Tim Nunes Rancher, Point Reyes
- Loren Poncia Rancher, Tomales
- Lynn Giacomini Stray Farmstead Cheese Producer, Point Reyes Station
- Bill Zimmerman Rancher, Marshall

STAFF

- Robert Berner, *Executive Director*
- Stella Cousins, *Stewardship Assistant*
- Aimee Crawford, *Easement Program Manager*
- Tony Nelson, *Stewardship Coordinator*
- Laura Patterson, *Membership & Database Manager*
- Elisabeth Ptak, *Associate Director / Director of Outreach*
- Leah Smith, *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Katherine Landreth, *Office Manager*
- Constance Washburn, *Education Director*

I want to help MALT preserve Marin County's beautiful and productive agricultural land. Here's my tax deductible contribution of:

- \$40 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

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

name _____ **Marin Agricultural Land Trust**
 street _____ Post Office Box 809
 city _____ state _____ zip _____ Point Reyes Station, California 94956
 telephone: _____ email _____ 415 663 1158
 card # _____ expiration date _____ farmland@malt.org
 signature _____ **www.malt.org**

Editor: Elisabeth Ptak. Graphic design: Gay Stack. Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.

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.