



Madrone LEAVES

Madrone Audubon Society, Inc., Post Office Box 1911, Santa Rosa, California 95402

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Madrone's Secret Legacy

By Betty Burridge

Madrone Through Time

We are planning several articles to acquaint you with highlights of our Chapter's history and some of its special people. The Chapter was incorporated forty-six years ago in January, 1967.

In the mid 1970s when I first joined the fledgling Madrone Audubon Society, hand-painted bird pins were very popular at our meetings. It didn't take long to learn that these were part of a local 'cottage industry' fostered by Charter Member Tom Olds. "For Olds, retirement preparation began in childhood when he took up 'whittlin.'" (see note below)

Each pin was true to the color and nature's design of the bird, and pins could be ordered individually by species. There were also tie tacks and bolos for the men, and pendants for the women. Tom fashioned some 70 different species of birds and some wild animals. "Tom's labor of love," explained his wife Venetia, "helped Audubon further its conservation education goals."

All proceeds from pin sales went into the MAS treasury, and the result was substantial financial support for the new Audubon chapter. Holiday, birthday, and personal gifts were frequent reasons for buying the popular and very attractive items. At first, all individual pieces were sold for less than \$5, but high volume rapidly swelled our coffers.

Tom died in the late 70s, but his legacy lived on when two other Madrone members, Nick Givens and Marjorie McCulley, took over the project. Nick did the design and carving, and Marjorie meticulously painted each individual piece. All together there must have been several hundred pins produced. Hundreds of dollars were collected and Madrone's first fund-raiser took off seemingly on its own, without intensive marketing. The project "grew



Great Blue Heron carved and painted by Tom Olds
Photo by Gordon Beebe

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GENERAL MEETINGS

First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa

April Meeting
"Birding in Kenya"
Monday April 15, 7:30 PM

Buff and Jerry Corsi are local Madrone Audubon members who have travelled extensively and have become proficient at photographing the natural world. They have given presentations to our chapter in the past, and we welcome them back for a program on birding in Kenya.

Initially attracted by the opportunity to see and photograph the large mammals of East Africa, Buff and Jerry Corsi began visiting Kenya in the '70s. Over the years they discovered that the birds deserve just as much attention as the iconic "big five." This program, while including those iconic mammals, focuses on the birds – so many of which are big and beautiful. The presentation will include suggestions for putting together your own personal safari to this wonderful destination, including the best places and times of the year to visit, photo hints, and who to hire to guide your adventure.

May Meeting
"Mayacamas Mountain Sanctuary"
Monday May 20, 7:30 PM

Audubon Canyon Ranch's Sherry Adams (Preserve Biologist and Manager) and Dave Self (Naturalist) will talk about the Mayacamas Mountain Sanctuary located east of Healdsburg along Pine Flat Road. Madrone Audubon has played a crucial and steadfast role in the stewardship of this wild property, which is now owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch. Sherry and Dave are thrilled to have the continued support and involvement of Madrone Audubon at the Sanctuary. Come and hear about their vision for the property, current goings-on, and how you can be involved.

To receive *Leaves* via email in PDF format just email your request to:
madroneaudubon@um.att.com
You will get your copy faster and help save paper.



SECRET LEGACY

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like topsy” until Nick passed away some years later.

Now, both Martha Bentley’s and Ernie Smith’s personal pin collections have been donated back to Madrone by their



Long-tailed Duck carved by Nick Givens and painted by Marge McCulley
Photo by Gordon Beebe

families. (Both were charter members, like Tom, and stalwart supporters of all things bird and conservation oriented.) A few pins salvaged from some dusty corners in my own house have also been added, so there are now a respectable number of these pieces in the possession



Pileated Woodpecker carved by Nick Givens and painted by Marge McCulley
Photo by Gordon Beebe

of Madrone’s Board of Directors. Please note that some of these pins can occasionally be found at garage sales and flea markets. Keep your eyes open for these treasures!

No plans have been made yet regarding the future of these pieces. Some will be on display at both the April and May 2013 meetings. Please come to view them and we welcome your suggestions for a fitting way to honor this precious part of Madrone’s legacy. And if you have some original pins that you would like to donate, the Board would welcome additions to our collection.

NOTE: The quotes above are from the June 12-18, 1974 *News-Herald*... and we have no idea what town. Madrone has a copy of a 4-column article entitled “Carving up Time in the ‘Golden Years’ ” by Nadenia Newkirk, which will also be on display at the two meetings.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The pins displayed at the April and May meetings will be arranged by our own fabulous artist and board member, Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena. Look for more photos (by Gordon Beebe) of all the pins on Madrone’s website.

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Rebel With A Cause

by Diane Hichwa

Marty Griffin is one of the Sonoma/Marin County “Rebels” portrayed in a film about saving Point Reyes National Seashore, based on his 1998 book, *Saving the Marin-Sonoma Coast, the Battles for Audubon Canyon Ranch, Point Reyes, & California’s Russian River*. The book is fascinating and pertinent, and we recommend reading it, especially since the need for advocacy on open space and coastal issues still goes on! At 92, Marty is vibrant and engaged, and remains an advisor to Audubon Canyon Ranch, which has the Martin Griffin Preserve in Bolinas, Cypress Grove Preserve on Tomales Bay; and here in Sonoma Coun-

ty, the Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen, and the Modini-Mayacamas Preserve. Their focus is preservation, education and research.

“Rebels With A Cause” is an award-winning documentary about the people who saved Point Reyes National Seashore and the GGNRA for all of us. Produced by local filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto in conjunction with KRCB, the film spotlights the “Rebels” from many walks of life who fought to preserve open space, protect agriculture and wildlife, and establish public parks next to a densely populated urban center yearning for access to nature. Their efforts set new precedents for protecting open space and shaped the local environmental movement as we know it today.

Please use this link to find out about upcoming showings of the film: <http://krcb.org/video-on-demand/rebels-with-a-cause>. Nearby screenings include: the Sonoma International Film Festival, April 10-14 (contact them for date and time of screening), and a Bolinas Community Screening, Saturday, May 18, 7:00 PM at Bolinas Community Center.

If you miss these local showings, the film is planned for national release this fall on PBS.

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Preservation Ranch, Mis-named or an Omen of its Future?

by Diane Hichwa

Remote, rugged northwest Sonoma County received true preservation at the end of February when several funding partners stepped up to protect “Preservation” Ranch. The Ranch’s 19,300 acres will be protected from conversion of forest to vineyard, roads and development, and contaminants and siltation into the Gualala River, a large water body forming the northern boundary of Sonoma and Mendocino County. Funding to

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PRESERVATION RANCH

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protect the lands comes from four entities at national, state, and local levels: The Conservation Fund out of Virginia has helped protect seven million acres across the nation and in this project alone nearly 20,000 acres; the California Coastal Conservancy has been a stalwart organization for coastal land protection; and our County efforts conjoin the local tax monies of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District with the private support of Sonoma Land Trust.

Protests of the scale and damage of the project came from all levels as well: local roles as well as national media attention of ads, articles, and an online petition. Local Supervisor Efrén Carillo played a productive role in support of this deal. Madrone participated in the environmental review's scoping, beginning in 2008, and has been watching this project over five years. The plan of the new owners is to focus on forest health, wildlife habitat, and sustainable forestry. We are all optimistic that this is positive for the landscape and for all of us.

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BLM (The Bureau of Land Management) Honors Citizen Scientists from the Sea Ranch

Partnering with the Stewardship Task Force on Citizen Science activities in the California Coastal National Monument, a group of Madrone members have stood on the windy bluffs searching for well-camouflaged Western Gull chicks, watching for a Brandt's Cormorant to feed chicks to get a count, and getting baseline information on the birds and pinnipeds that use the islands over the course of a year for roosting, foraging and nesting.

To view BLM honoring our citizen scientists with their awards, please see www.blm.gov/ca/ccnm.

Audubon Canyon Ranch Acquires 1,750 Acre Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve in Sonoma County -Stinson Beach, CA-

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), a leader in conservation science, habitat protection and restoration, and nature education, has announced that ownership of the 1,750-acre Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve, in the Mayacamas Mountains above Healdsburg, has now officially transferred to Audubon Canyon Ranch, per the terms of Jim and Shirley Modini's trust.

The property is part of a protected area in the Central Mayacamas Mountains and plays an important role in regional conservation because of its connection to other natural areas. The property features a rich blend of biologically diverse habitats, including oak woodlands, pine forests, grasslands, chaparral, riparian forests, natural springs, wild streams, and serpentine outcrops that support several rare plants. The area is home to abundant and diverse wildlife, including deer, black bears, bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, and nesting golden eagles.

Are you a National Audubon member?

Please consider joining our local chapter, Madrone Audubon (see membership form, back page)

The focus of ACR's work at the Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve will be conservation science and habitat restoration to protect the native wildlife and plant species.

"I am thrilled to witness the official transfer of Jim and Shirley Modini's beloved property to Audubon Canyon Ranch," said Jesse Grantham, former biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and longtime friend of the Modinis. "It is clear from ACR's 50-year track record and proven success in conservation science, habitat restoration and land preservation, that Jim and Shirley's commitment to environmental stewardship and the protection of the resident plants and animals will live on with ACR as the new owner of the Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve."

In 2009, Jim and Shirley Modini bequeathed the land to ACR. The Modini property, combined with the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary (MMS), which

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Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

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ACR acquired in 2012, empowers ACR to permanently protect 3,370 acres of important natural habitat in the Mayacamas Mountains for native wildlife and plant species.

“It is an honor for Audubon Canyon Ranch to include the Modini land as part of our network of preserves, which extends across Sonoma and Marin counties,” said Scott Feierabend, Executive Director of Audubon Canyon Ranch. “Under Audubon Canyon Ranch’s ownership, we will ensure that the natural systems of both the Modini and Mayacamas preserves will be protected in perpetuity for the benefit of the area’s local communities and neighbors who rely on the clean water, healthy soils and pure air that these landscapes provide.”

Although there is no public access to the Modini Ingalls Ecological Preserve, ACR’s adjacent 1,620-acre Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary offers a variety of opportunities to explore and enjoy the natural habitat of the area. ACR’s on-the-ground conservation and ecological service work spans the region from Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay along the Pacific Coast, to the inland areas in the Sonoma Valley and southern Mayacamas, to the wild and untrammeled reaches of the central Mayacamas Mountains in northern Sonoma and Lake Counties. – *Paula Maxfield*

County Continues Renewable Energy Policy Review

By *Susan Kirks*

In February, the County Planning Commission continued discussion of the new Renewable Energy policy. The February hearing focused on the potential for commercial installations on agricultural land. The Commission will recommend to the Board of Supervisors a “no” on commercial renewable energy installations on Land Intensive Agriculture (LIA) properties. An LIA District land is defined as over 2 acres with high potential for permanent agricultural production. The Commission also considered Land Extensive Agriculture (LEA) Districts, defined as land suitable for permanent agriculture with less intensive production per acre. The LEA County map has a concentration in South and Southeast Sonoma County. The majority of commissioners encouraged a cautious approach to consideration of any commercial renewable energy installation on LEA lands, with discussion for this category to continue. In other words, an LEA property may exist, for example, along Lakeville Highway and High-

way 37, but this does not automatically mean commercial renewable energy installations would be suitable for such properties. Wind energy continues to be part of the overall renewable energy policy formation. Our Renewable Energy Committee continues to review the forming policy and provide input for protection of birds and wildlife, and preservation of Sonoma County’s magnificent landscapes.

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Dinner with the State Audubon Board

By *Susan Kirks*

MAS Vice President Gordon Beebe and I recently enjoyed dinner with members of the State Audubon Board of Directors at San Francisco’s East-West Asia Kitchen. The State Board had planned their quarterly meeting in San Francisco for the next morning, and Bay Area Audubon Chapter Leaders were invited to join the Board for dinner. I particularly enjoyed dinner conversation with Pedro Nava of the Audubon Board. Mr. Nava served in the California State Assembly and on the State Coastal Commission. While in the State Assembly, he authored legislation to ban use of lead-based ammunition in the endangered California Condor’s habitat. California State Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Sam Schuchat gave an encouraging dinner presentation about the Coastal Conservancy’s work to preserve and restore the San Francisco Bay and wetlands. The San Francisco Bay Regional Authority has been formed, of which Schuchat is a member, to support fundraising and continue to focus on restoring and protecting San Francisco Bay.



Female Common Merganser at Spring Lake
Photo by Tom Reynolds



April 2013 calendar

All walks and meetings are open to the public. Bird walks are recreational and educational in purpose, and all levels of expertise are welcome. Bring field equipment and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing for variable weather conditions. Please carpool whenever possible. Forecasted heavy rain cancels. There is no charge for activities unless otherwise specified, but some parks have day-use fees.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE exchanges information by phone and email as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL MAYACAMAS EVENTS: Madrone Audubon Society sponsors Mayacamas Sanctuary field trips. The field trips are free, open to the public, and suitable for all levels of interest. Bring lunch and wear hats and sun protection. Clean, sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots recommended; preserve managers do not want to spread Sudden Oak Death disease. Be prepared for rain, but heavy rain cancels. No dogs, no smoking; preserve is not wheelchair accessible. Be aware that spring heralds the emergence of poison oak, ticks, and rattlesnakes. Meet on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge; Pine Flat Road begins .25 mile past the Jimtown Store on Highway 128 East at the first sharp right turn. Information: contact Janet, 526-5883. Reservations for field trips are not required this year.

Wednesday April 3, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

BOLINAS LAGOON IN MARIN COUNTY. Bird Walk. Note 9:00 AM starting time. Meet at the first large turnout south of the Bolinas turnoff on Highway 1. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, 546-1812.

Saturday April 6, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. From the center of the town of Bodega Bay, drive north on Highway 1. Turn left at Eastshore Road (the Bodega Head turnoff), then right at the stop sign and continue 0.3 mile to the large dirt parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 829-9017, and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Saturday April 6, 10:00 AM

DEER ISLAND, NOVATO. Nature Walk. Wildcare Family Adventures explores Deer Island on a walk looking for butterflies, flowers, raptors, and reptiles. Get directions on the Marin County Parks website. Wildcare naturalists will lead this family walk.

Sunday April 7th, 9:00 AM - Noon

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Spring Feather Fest for Kids.

Parents and Kids: Join us for a docent-led morning bird and nature walk designed for kids 6-12. Observe nesting behavior of birds amidst the habitats of the Petaluma Wetlands. **Tailgate Party:** Hotdogs, chips, cookies and sodas provided for \$2.50 per person (kids and parents). This is an alcohol-free event. **Space is limited.** To sign-up, please call Al Hesla at 707-765-9411 or email at a.hesla@comcast.net no later than April 5. Co-sponsored by the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance and the City of Petaluma Parks and Recreation Department.

Thursday April 11, 8:30 AM - Noon

RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. Meet at the innermost parking lot of Sonoma County Riverfront Regional Park, 7821 Eastside Road, west of Windsor. The parking lot is 0.4 mile from the park entrance. For those without a Sonoma County Park Permit, parking is \$7. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday April 13, 9:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact: Gerald Moore, 763-3577.

Saturday April 13, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. Nature Hike. Join naturalist and retired biology professor Peter Leveque in a general nature hike. We might find the fawn lily. A moderately strenuous hike on Clark Foss Road; you'll need to get out your hiking sticks and boots. Limited to adults. Please see general information above.

Wednesday April 17, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

PUTAH CREEK AND SOLANO COUNTY PARK. Bird Walk. Meet at Monticello Dam on Lake Berryessa on Highway 128 (Napa County). Parking fee of \$5 at Solano County Park. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday April 20, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. History Hike. Retired ranger and archaeologist Daniel Murley will lead a moderately strenuous hike discussing the pre-history, human history, and natural history of Healdsburg near the old town of Pine Flat. Bring a light lunch and your curiosity. Older children okay with supervision. Please see general information above.

Saturday April 20, 10:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One to two hours, depending on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Saturday April 20, 8:30 AM - Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. For those without a Sonoma County Park Permit, parking is \$7. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, left on Newanga Avenue, right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Leader: Ken Wilson, 665-5127.

Thursday April 25, 8:30 AM - Noon

SPRING LAKE REGIONAL PARK. Bird Walk. For those without a Sonoma County Park Permit, parking is \$7. From Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa, go east on Hoen Avenue, left on Newanga Avenue, right inside the park entrance gate, and meet in the parking lot near the restrooms at the top of the hill. Information: Tom McCuller, sisypus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Thursday April 25, 7:00 PM

"Bay Area Herons and Egrets - A Dazzling Sight" Program presented by Dr. John Kelly, Director of Conservation Science and Habitat Protection, Cypress Grove Research Center, Tomales Bay; in partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks. Hunted to nearly to extinction for their plumes in the nineteenth century, herons and egrets have impressive wingspans and stand immobile or wade through wetlands to capture fish with a deadly jab. Today, scientific interest focuses on breeding biology, habitat relationships, foraging, the energetics of coastal and estuarine birds, and ecological restoration. Location: 126 1st Street West, Sonoma.

Saturday April 27, 9:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer, 763-2934.

Saturday April 27, 8:00 AM - 3 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. Bird Walk.

Ken Wilson is the owner of Talon Tours. A native New Zealander, Ken has been leading nature and bird watching tours worldwide since 1995. Ken has also led focused tours to many national and state parks in the western United States, as well as to key birding sites during migration. Please see general information above.

Sunday April 28, 11AM - 4PM

BIRD RESCUE CENTER. First Annual Festival of Feathers Open House. Guests will be wowed by opportunities for up-close encounters with the center's resident birds of prey, which include a variety of owls, falcons and hawks. Kids of all ages will enjoy a selection of fun and educational activities. Appetizers, snacks, desserts and wines representing Sonoma County's finest will be available. A silent auction and raffle with fantastic items offered by local artists and businesses will be offered. The Center is located at 3430 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa, near Sutter Memorial Hospital. Information: birdresq@gmail.com, 523-2473.



May 2013 calendar

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE exchanges information by phone and email as soon as possible when an issue surfaces. Please contact Diane Hichwa at 785-1922 or dhichwa@earthlink.net.

Wednesday May 1, 8:45 AM - 2:30 PM

ANNADEL STATE PARK. Bird Walk. Note 8:45 AM meeting time. We will search for returning passerines, mainly along Channel Drive. Meeting place: from eastbound Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa, turn right onto Channel Drive and go 0.6 mile to an unpaved parking lot on the left side. There is a \$7 entrance fee for the park. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday, May 4, 7:15 AM - 3:00 PM

NORTH GEYSERS ROAD. Birdwalk. This will be a new field trip on our schedule, and visits a very rich and underappreciated area of Sonoma County. We expect many birds not seen on other trips, with lots of breeding activity. Meet at the Park and Ride lot adjacent to the PGE substation on River Road, just off Highway 101. We will need to combine into as few cars as possible, as parking is very limited along the road. Bring lunch, liquids, and layers. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bill Doyle 483-8773, and Gordon Beebe 583-3115.

Sunday May 5, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. Digital Nature Photography for the Eco-Tourist with Bryant Hichwa. Come to the Mayacamas at the height of the wildflower season, and experience the beauty and ruggedness of this preserve. Our in-the-field photo workshop will include tips for the semi-professional nature photographer as well as fundamentals for the beginner. We'll compare various types of digital cameras, work on close-up shooting techniques, and use the instantaneous feedback of digital to constructively critique participants' photos. Please no dogs. Children okay under careful supervision. Please see general information above.

Sunday May 5, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. Geology Hike. Iain Jamieson, a retired geologist who worked up at the Geysers in the 1970s, will lead our hike. Iain was a 2012 Bouverie Preserve docent. Be prepared for a moderate hike with many stops to discuss the rock formations and geological history. Bring magnifiers and binoculars. Early teens may find this of interest. Please see general information above.

Thursday May 9, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY AND PINE FLAT ROAD. Bird Walk. Meet for carpooling northeast of Healdsburg on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge. Pine Flat Road begins 0.25 mile east of Jimtown store on Highway 128 East. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday May 11, 9:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance/Madrone leads a nature walk. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. Contact Gerald Moore, 763-3577.

Saturday May 11, 9 AM - 3 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. Fire Ecology at the Preserve. Jennifer Potts is a resource ecologist at ACR's Bouverie Preserve, and has done fire ecology research in California, Arizona and Florida. Join us for a leisurely walk where we will look at the evidence from the Geysers fire that passed through the Preserve in 2004. We'll talk about the different strategies that plants and wildlife have for living with fire, the history of fire in the region, and the impact it had on the Preserve. Please see general information above.

Wednesday May 15, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

SALMON CREEK ROAD/BODEGA BAY. Bird Walk. Meet in Bodega at the junction of Bodega Highway and Salmon Creek Road (on the north side of Bodega Highway, opposite the Bodega Post Office). Bring lunch. We will bird Salmon Creek Road in the morning and Bodega Bay in the afternoon. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday May 18, 10:00 AM

SHOLLENBERGER PARK. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads two children/family nature walks. One to two hours, depending on age of children. Meet at the first kiosk. Rain cancels. For the children/family walk in English, contact Gerald Moore at 763-3577; for the walk in Spanish, contact Connie Peabody at 338-2237.

Saturday May 18, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WILLOW CREEK, DUNCAN'S LANDING, JENNER. One of our most productive bird walks. Meet at the parking lot of Sizzling Tandoor Indian Restaurant in Bridgehaven at the south end of the Russian River Bridge on Highway 1 (Coast Highway). Bring lunch, liquids and layers of clothing. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115, and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.

Sunday May 19, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

MAYACAMAS SANCTUARY. Botanical Walk. A day of discovering the splendid diversity and ecology of land plants: mosses, ferns, trees, shrubs, and those photogenic wildflowers. Your guide will be Peter Warner, botanical and ecological consultant, and teacher. Peter leads botanical field trips throughout California. The pace will be deliberate, with frequent stops. Bring field guides, hand lenses, and cameras if you wish. Children okay with supervision. A plant list for the Sanctuary and environs is available by contacting Peter: phytopagan@sonic.net. Please see general information above.

Thursday May 23, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK. Bird Walk. From Kenwood on Highway 12, go east on Adobe Canyon Road to the park entrance and parking lot (\$8 parking fee). Bring a portable lunch (we will lunch away from cars). Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday May 25, 9:00 AM

ELLIS CREEK WATER RECYCLING FACILITY, PETALUMA. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance leads a walk at the Ellis Creek ponds. Go to the end of Cypress Drive and through the gates. Parking lot is on the left. Rain cancels. Contact Bob Dyer, 763-2934.

Wednesday May 29, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

POINT REYES. Bird Walk. Meet in the parking lot across from the Bear Valley Visitor Center, which is just west of Olema. Bring lunch. Information: Tom McCuller, sisyphus@sonic.net, or 546-1812.

Saturday June 1, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PINE FLAT ROAD. Always a very birdy outing. We will meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road, just east of its intersection with Highway 128 north of Healdsburg. We will combine into as few cars as possible. Please do not join us in an additional vehicle after the trip has started, as a large number of cars negatively impacts the birding and the residents of the area. Bring lunch, liquids, and layers of clothing. Rain cancels. Leaders: Gordon Beebe, 583-3115, and Bill Doyle, 483-8773.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Slate of Officers

We are pleased to report from the Nominating Committee that the current officers are willing to continue, so our Slate of Officers for 2013-14 will be: President Susan Kirks, Vice-President Gordon Beebe, Recording Secretary Emily Heaton, Corresponding Secretary Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena, and Treasurer Linda Lebovic.

Jays & Juncos, Vireos & Vultures: Birding for Beginners at Pepperwood

Join local naturalist Lisa Hug and learn about the different bird species native to our area on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 9 AM to 2 PM at Pepperwood Preserve. The class costs \$25 per participant and is suitable for ages 14 and up. Register online by searching for "Pepperwood" at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Lisa Hug of the Wild Bird Center of Santa Rosa will begin this class with a presentation covering the basics of bird identification and the use of binoculars. Then she'll teach participants how to apply these skills in the field during an exploration on the beautiful preserve. Though participants will car-pool to various areas of the preserve, some hiking off-trail over uneven terrain is required.

Lisa is a freelance naturalist, contract biologist, and birding enthusiast living in Sonoma County. She has been an Interpretive Ranger for Point Reyes National Seashore and a research assistant with Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

Pepperwood is a community-supported ecological institute that conducts applied research and provides educa-

tional programming with the singular goal of conserving the Bay Area's natural heritage for generations to come. Dedicated to the protection of the region's rich biodiversity represented within its 3,200 acres, Pepperwood provides unique open-space access to nature lovers, volunteers, students of all ages, and scientists from the Bay Area and beyond.

The preserve is located at 2130 Pepperwood Preserve Road, approximately midway between the towns of Santa Rosa and Calistoga off of Franz Valley Road and adjacent to Safari West. For more information about Pepperwood Preserve and its programs, visit <http://www.pepperwood-preserve.org>.



Red-shafted Flicker at Spring Lake
Photo by Tom Reynolds

Madrone Seeks Membership Chair

Are you skilled with a computer and have a little time to dedicate? If so, then please consider becoming our new Membership Chair.

Our membership data is currently in an Access database; however, past Membership Chairs used Excel. In the distant past, pencil and paper management did the task (but no suggestions of that now)! Due to the large number of National Audubon and local Madrone Audubon members we serve, some computer skills are necessary. The new Membership Chair can tailor the membership information management to her/his skills. Duties include: recording and updating address and membership data, providing mailing labels/file for *Leaves* newsletter, and tracking new and renewing local membership.

It is time consuming, no question of that. For the right person, this is an important labor of love to serve our entire membership, responding to questions and researching membership information.

Might you be the volunteer we seek? Or do you know of a friend or colleague who would be a good fit? If so, please call or email today! Susan Kirks, susankirks@sbcglobal.net, 241-5548, or Diane Hichwa dhichwa@earthlink.net, or Gordon Beebe gdbeebe@earthlink.net.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

Our sincere apologies – the donation in memory of Sharon Audiss listed in the February/March issue of *Leaves* was from Don McCarthy (not Richard McCarthy)

In memory of Rich Stallcup
Gene Hunn
Richard Hurley



Junior Audubon

On Saturday, March 2nd, six people joined Leia Giambastiani, of PRBO Education and Outreach, at Sonoma Baylands for a morning of planting natives along the levee system. Leia said we planted over 70 plants in our three hours of work; a pair of Long-billed Curlews kept watch on us. This project was part of a Toyota Green grant for which Madrone partnered with PRBO Conservation Science: STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed). This grant attempts to give native species a foothold by reducing invasive plants, thereby creating habitat for the Clapper Rail and indigenous mouse. It was a beautiful day and time well spent!

The next Junior Audubon outing is will be Saturday, April 13 at Point Reyes. Moss Henry has agreed to co-lead this

trip and I'm trying to get another bird banding demonstration for our visit. Please RSVP me at (530) 828-6115.

On May 1, Audubon helps Lincoln Elementary students understand the lives of birds, especially herons and egrets in the rookery right next to the school. One way to change a heart toward nature is to educate the brain to think about the inter-relationships all around us.

— Scott Campbell



Junior Audubon joins PRBO for wetland restoration at Sonoma Baylands.

New Friends of Madrone Audubon Society

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Whole Foods





Observations

January – Early March • Dan Nelson • 479-2918 • birdsurf64@sbcglobal.net

Eurasian Wigeon (1)	1/25	Doran Park entrance pond	SC
Eurasian Wigeon (2)	2/22	Hudemann Slough ponds	BB
Blue-winged Teal (1)	1/4	Hudemann Slough	GH
Barrow's Goldeneye (fem.)	1/21	E. of Spud Point, Bodega Bay	DS, et al
Harlequin Duck (fem.)	2/18	Doran Park, near e. jetty	GH
Redhead (35-40)	1/18	Mare Island, Alco metal works, Solano Co.	TF
Black Scoter (4)	2/12	Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes	LH
Hooded Merganser (10)	2/14	Marin French Cheese Factory	TP
Common Merganser (2)	2/14	Marin French Cheese Factory	TP
Tundra Swan (1)	1/10	Guerneville Rd., e. of Laguna de Santa Rosa	BD
Ancient Murrelet (5)	1/25	Off Bodega Head	SC
Black-legged Kittiwake (1)	1/25	Off Bodega Head	SC
Slaty-backed Gull (3rd yr.)	1/13	Goat Rock beach	TE, JS
Magnificent Frigatebird	1/20	Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co., heading N	MB
Ferruginous Hawk (2)	2/10	Adobe Road	DB, LB
Rough-legged Hawk (2)	2/3	Estero Rd., Marin Co.	BD
Rough-legged Hawk (1)	2/27	Tolay Creek area	PC
Swainson's Hawk (1 dk)	2/20	Over Petaluma, flying ESE	DN
Bald Eagle (2)	2/26	Jenner	DB
Prarie Falcon	2/16	S. of Millerick Rd.	GH
Burrowing Owl	12/31	Bodega Head, near overlook pkg lot	DHo, BDP, DN
Short-eared Owl	1/21	Bodega Head	DN, et al
Rock Sandpiper (1)	2/10	Bodega Head	DS, SG, EV
American Avocet (14)	1/4	Doran Park entrance pond	D Herzberg
Mountain Plover (55)	Jan.	Robinson Rd, N. of Flannery Rd. Solano Co.	RO'D
Red-naped Sapsucker	12/31	Sonoma, Gen'l Vallejo home	CH
Allen's Hummingbird	2/12	Petaluma; Paula Lane residence	DN
Rufous Hummingbird	3/5	Santa Rosa residence, at feeder	HK
White-throated Swift	2/27	Novato, ovprss near Rush Creek Marsh	DN
Eastern Phoebe	1/24	East Railroad Ave., Cotati	GH
Rock Wren (1)	1/19	Lake Sonoma Visitor Ctr, nr spillway	KB, GB
Rock Wren (2)	1/22	Lake Sonoma Visitor Ctr, nr spillway	KP
N. American Dipper (1)	1/19	Lake Sonoma Visitor Center, at spillway below dam	KG, GB
Townsend's Solitaire (1)	1/30	2600' on Bald Mtn., Sugarloaf	GH
Great-tailed Grackle (1)	2/9	Novato, Vintage Oaks Shopping Ctr	G Schepke
Nashville Warbler (2)	Jan.-Feb.	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay, cont'g	M. Ob
Wilson's Warbler (1)	1/17	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay	DS,DF, et al
Palm Warbler (2)	Jan.-Feb.	Doran Park, continuing	RM, et al
Bullock's Oriole (imm. male)	1/11	Diekmann's Store, Bodega Bay	DF
Western Tanager	1/25	Rincon Valley, Santa Rosa	KW, BO
Western Tanager	2/8	Fountaingrove Parkway, nr Agilent, SR	AW
Chipping Sparrow	2/6	Larkfield	KH, EB
Harris' Sparrow	through 1/23	Cordelia, Solano Co.	M. Ob
Swamp Sparrow (2)	Jan.- Feb.	Spring Lake	M. Ob
White-throated Sparrow (3)	2/16	Hill Rd., Glen Ellen	KM
Cassin's Finch (several)	2/4	Hood Mountain, off Pythian Rd.	LH
Cassin's Finch (2)	2/18	Kenwood residence, visiting feeder	RR
Red Crossbill (several)	1/3	1.5 mi. E. of Occidental	JSo
Red Crossbill (10)	3/5	Salmon Creek Road	LH
Evening Grosbeak (26)	2/24	Olema Marsh	PC

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Madrone Audubon Society

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Santa Rosa, California 95402

April/May 2013

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MADRONE LEAVES



Madrone Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of each month, except in June, July, August, and December. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. All meetings and walks are open to the public. Information: telephone answering service - 546-7492, e-mail - madroneaudubon@um.att.com.

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