

THE SEA RANCH Soundings



A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER WRITTEN BY AND FOR THE SEA RANCH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS NUMBER 104 SPRING 2010

IN THIS ISSUE:

JENNER HEADLANDS

BUDGET ADOPTED

COMMUNICATIONS

LODGE UPDATE

THE SEA RANCH BOARD CHOOSES NEW COMMUNITY MANAGER

By George Rathmell

After an extensive search, the BOD has hired a new Community Manager: Francis "Frank" Bell, who will take the helm late in March.

Bell began his career in public service as a Military Policeman in the Army from 1971-1973. As a civilian, he continued in law enforcement as a police officer in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, attaining the rank of Chief Investigator. Then he spent fifteen years in Park City, Utah where he became Chief of Police, Fire Commissioner, and Events Manager. He finished his time there as Director of Olympic Planning and Services, coordinating all aspects of Park City's participation in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Following the Olympics, Bell served for four years as Town Manager of Crested Butte, Colorado, a rural historic community. Since 2006, he has been Town Manager for Telluride, Colorado, an upscale resort community with a population of 2,500, plus numerous seasonal visitors.

Bell is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and has a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a PhD in Political Science, both from the University of Utah, where he taught courses in organizational behavior, conflict management, and research problems.

There are several aspects of Bell's résumé that are of particular relevance to The Sea Ranch:

- He has extensive experience in the management of open space, trails, and recreational land.

→ page 2

ROSEMARIE HOCKER IS SEA RANCHER OF THE YEAR



Rosemarie Hocker with some of the people who nominated her for Sea Rancher of the Year. L to R. Goldie Pounds, Jackie Gardener, Rose, Sandy Bush, Bob Pounds

By Claire McCarthy

It's nearly impossible to write about Rosemarie Hocker without making her sound too good to be true.

How many people do we meet, really, whose actions consistently line up with their ideals? Who can state without hesitation that her goal has always been to live a life of service, to give back—and to have done just that? Who says that she tries to live by the Golden Rule—and then to hear in her introduction as Sea Rancher of the Year that "she is the only person I know that cares more deeply that we respect all the members of our community than if we respect her"? Or that "she is a remarkable ambassador for the concerns of the entire coastal community"? Or that "no one ever says a dark thing about Rose"?

Our Sea Rancher of the Year is an extraordinary person. We are blessed to

have had the benefit for over twelve years of her energy and dedication to the spirit of volunteerism that sets our community apart here on the coast.

Rosemarie Oldow was born in 1935 and grew up in a small town on the Upper Skagit River in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington, just twenty miles south of the Canadian Border. Her mother, Mary, came to America from Italy when she was six—Mary's grandfather had prepared the way for his family to immigrate by working as a logger, felling the giant redwoods of Humboldt County that rebuilt San Francisco after the earthquake.

Her father, Stanley, was a seaman who had crewed on ships that sailed around the world. But Mary wanted her children to have a father who stayed closer to home, so he worked as a tugboat captain for Seattle City Light when Rose and her two siblings were growing up; his job was to clear the debris

around Lakes Diablo and Ross while the big dams were being built.

Rosemarie was the second of their three children, and she thinks that being the "middle kid" helped shape her inclusive leadership style. Her early experiences taught her that "...there wasn't just one point of view."

"I always saw myself as the mediator," she says. "I learned quickly that it was best to watch and listen carefully instead of just jumping in, to find out first how things worked."

She recalls that her mother in particular valued education and there was never any question that she would go to college. Rose began her education in a one-room schoolhouse in Diablo Flats (population 105) and knew by the time she was six that she wanted to be a teacher. "I always liked helping the other kids," she says, "(teaching) just fit my personality."

She graduated from Western Washington University in 1957 and went to work teaching third grade in Bellevue. During the summers she did course work at Stanford, where she met her husband, Bob Hocker, a school psychologist. Bob was also a tireless volunteer here on the coast, and the couple received a Lifetime Service Award from The Sea Ranch in 2005 for their many contributions together.

After they married in '59, the Hockers moved to Carmel where they both found positions with the Monterey Unified School District. Son David, a Lt. Col. in the Army who served in Iraq and is now stationed at Ft. Huachuca in Arizona, was born in 1960; daughter Lynda, who owns a Pilates yoga studio in Seattle, arrived two years later.

The family eventually moved to Riverside in southern California, where Rose took on a special education class in addition to her regular Kindergarten/First Grade assignment.

"Special Ed' was brand new then, we were barely touching the surface of helping youngsters with special needs," she says. "The program was called LDG—Learning Disabled Group. I wanted to change the name to LEG—Learning Enabling Group!"

In addition to her duties as a working Mom, Rose was involved in several volunteer organizations in Riverside, including the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, the American Red Cross, and the Junior League.

At the suggestion of her principal, she took several classes in school administration and earned a Master's degree in Education at Claremont University.

→ page 2



It must be assumed that all owners of property within The Sea Ranch by virtue of their purchase of such property are motivated by the character of the natural environment in which their property is located, and accept, for and among themselves, the principle that the development and use of The Sea Ranch must preserve that character for its present and future enjoyment by other owners.

From The Sea Ranch Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions



ROSE MARIE HOCKER from page one

In 1975 she was offered the position of Principal at her school.

"There were very few women in administrative positions at that time," she recalls. "Within five years (of my taking the job), there were 93 women applicants for three similar positions in the Riverside Unified School District." Over the next eighteen years, Rose served as principal at three different schools in the district.

Although Bob and Rose were aware of The Sea Ranch early on, it was not until 1985 that they bought their lot. "We drove the north coast route several times in the 1960's, on visits to my maternal Grandparents in Holmes Flat and then Eureka," says Rose. "We observed The Sea Ranch in its early days. (Then) while searching the entire West Coast for a retreat from city living, we decided to seriously consider The Sea Ranch. We stayed at the Lodge in September of 1985, got the feel of this place, caught the spirit, found Lot 30-35 and made the plunge."

They hired architect Elee Tsai to design their home on Greencroft Close and moved up full time in 1996. "We jumped right into volunteering, starting with the Fire Department picnic," Rose says. Colleen & Ray Jackman remember that when the Hockers volunteered they were signed up as servers. But that wasn't nearly enough, and Rose asked if there wasn't something more they could do, like take care of the garbage.

Going the extra mile has been the hallmark of Rose's volunteer career ever since, both here at TSR and beyond. The list of organizations she has worked with is way too long to mention here—there are many still benefiting from her passion for building community by listening to everyone's point of view.

Although she was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2008 while hiking in Alaska, she served out the five month remainder of her term on the Board of Directors and continues to attend most meetings. She still travels, volunteers as she is able, and is part of a large and dedicated circle of friends and supporters. "I want to continue to serve," she says.

"I'm content with what has happened. Living life well is the best medicine."



FRANK BELL from page one

- He has planned and implemented "green" programs in environmental protection, alternative fuels, and watershed management.
- He has demonstrated a genuine interest in historical preservation.
- He has created public input processes in decision-making.
- He has managed numerous festivals and other public events.
- He has developed skills in obtaining grants and finding creative ways to control governmental costs.

According to BOD Chair Jim Jordan, the firm of Peckham and McKenney, Search Consultants (commonly known as "head-hunters") was contracted to initiate the search for a new manager. Ninety-two applicants from around the country submitted their résumés. The BOD selected six finalists and invited them to come to The Sea Ranch for interviews. The Board as a whole questioned each finalist, and then each Board member had a forty-five minute face-to-face interview with each candidate. The Board members were very pleased that all decisions made in this quest and selection were unanimous.

Frank and his wife Linda (who also has professional experience in public administration) took a break from their search for a Sea Ranch home to attend the Midwinter Meeting at Del Mar Center Hall on February 13, and the reception following.

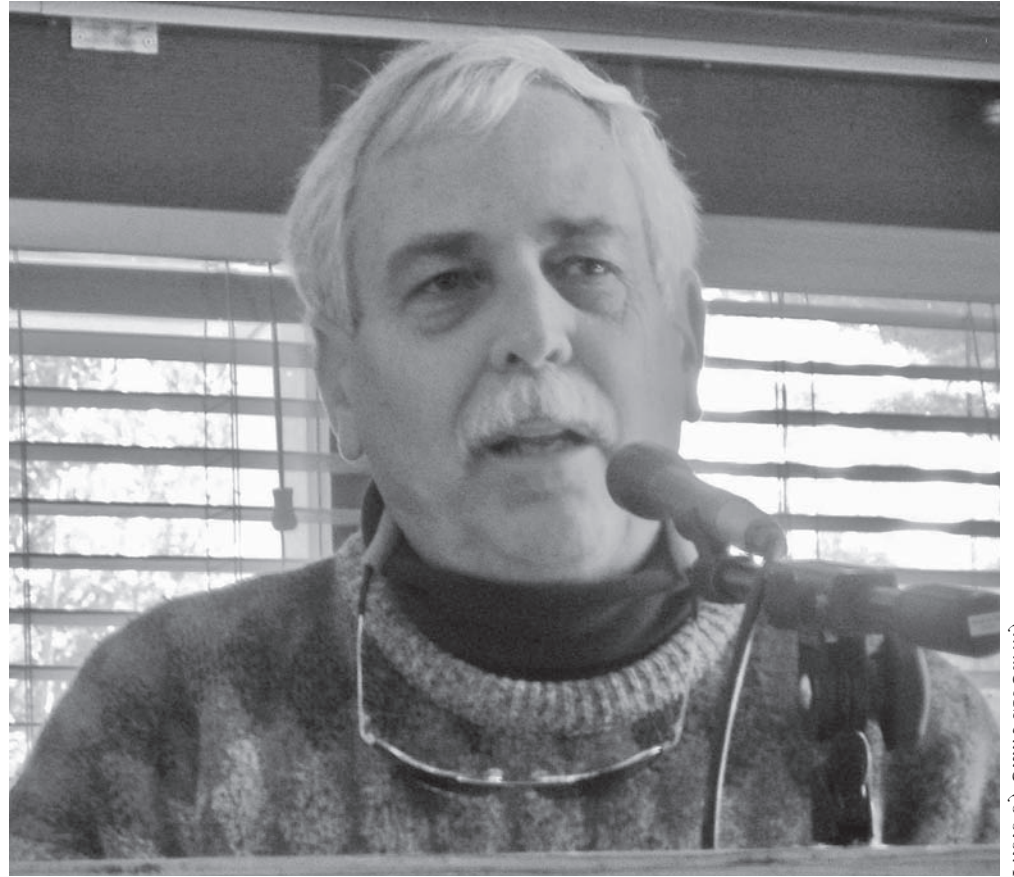


Photo by Claire McCarthy

In his remarks to the membership Frank demonstrated a sense of humor, as well as an appreciation for the privilege of living in a beautiful place, that should serve him well in his new job.

"I'm from the government and I'm here to help," he said, adding that his general philosophy has always been that "if you're lucky enough to live in places like this, you're lucky enough." He expressed his appreciation for the time he has spent with Interim Community Manager Will Randolph, add-

ing that he will be spending his first few weeks on the job with the Board, staff, and committee chairs getting acquainted. He then hopes to move out into the larger community to meet as many people as possible.

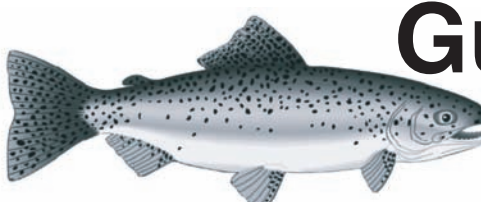
Soundings offers congratulations to Frank Bell and wishes him a pleasant and successful experience in the challenging job of Sea Ranch Manager.



Past Sea Ranchers of Year welcome Rosemarie Hocker to their midst. L to R: Jer Skibbins, Jeff and Millie Davis, Sally Skibbins, Martha "Dibby" Tyler, Rose, Diane Boeke, Carole Emory, Patti Mattson, John Horn, Pete Mattson, Sandy Bush.

Photo by Claire McCarthy

visit **FRIENDS OF THE GUALALA RIVER** at



GualalaRiver.org

to see breaking news about how this local organization is stepping up to protect old growth redwood habitat in our watershed.

Send your tax-deductible contribution to:
Friends of the Gualala River - PO Box 1543 - Gualala, CA 95445

JENSEN / PTASZYNSKI ARCHITECTS



707.785.9200
www.jandparchitects.com



PRO WEST
Interior Services
Lic.# 625867

Window Coverings on the Mendonoma Coast

Your Full Service Specialist

Phil Atkins
707-884-1009

For free in-house consultation—
CALL TODAY!



Equinox Care Facility

Respite Care * Dementia Care * Hospice Care

Equinox Care Facility is a twenty-four hour residential care facility for the elderly. We provide assistance with the activities of daily living. Clients have their own private bedroom, allowing them to feel comfortable and at ease.

PO BOX 1281
Gualala, CA 95445
Phone (707) 884-4061
Fax (707) 884-9763
Licensed by the State of California
LIC#236801775



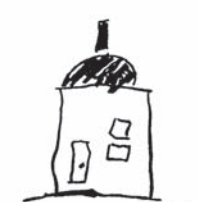
design

Seryozha Krysti

Interior Architecture and Planning
Residential/Commercial

- New Construction
- Remodels
- Space Planning
- Lighting
- Furnishings

P.O. Box 67
The Sea Ranch CA 95497
Tel 707.785.2101
Fax 707.785.2126



BOB HARTSTOCK
• BUILDING DESIGNER •

PO BOX 319
THE SEA RANCH
CALIFORNIA
95497

TEL • 707-785-2036
FAX • 707-785-2125

2010 BUDGET ADOPTED AT FEBRUARY 27 BOARD MEETING

By Laurie Mueller

After a deliberative process which lasted nearly three hours, the Board adopted the 2010-2011 budget at the February 27th Board Meeting and set the monthly member assessment at \$197.25.

Treasurer Tim Gallagher started the process by moving that the Board adopt resolution 317, which proposed that the Board accept the Finance Committee recommendations to set the assessment level at \$197.25. He noted that the rise in dues was primarily due to unusual anticipated legal expenses and that the operations budget had only increased by \$3.85 per month, an increase of 2.1% over a two-year period.

Director Cecilia Moelter then introduced a substitute motion by amendment to propose specific budget cuts that would result in a member assessment of \$193 per month. Among the items listed were cuts in security staff, in merit pay increases, the *Bulletin*, the Verdant View project, and the Board's project fund.

CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE OPEN MEETING ACT VIOLATION

Early in the discussion, Interim Community Manager Will Randolph raised the issue of a possible violation of the Davis-Stirling Open Meeting Act, stating his concern that "I may be participating in an illegal process" because it appeared a majority of the Directors, in a series of conversations, had consulted with one another prior to the Board meeting about what budget cuts to propose.

Mr. Randolph stated that he was "counting to four" because, based on information he had, Director Retzer had conferred with two other Board members about a list of proposed budget cuts prior to a discussion Director Retzer had with Director Moelter in which he suggested changes she might make in the substitute motion she was planning to introduce.

Chair Jim Jordan polled members of the Board, stating that he had not been a party to any budget discussions. Director Moelter explained that after discussing several items at length with

Director Retzer, they had agreed she would present what she described as a "hybrid" motion that combined her and Director Retzer's ideas. Director Retzer indicated that he had spoken with Directors Beach and Austin about budget cuts to determine "some items we could arrive at that made sense" and that "the items that Cecilia and I talked about were not the same." Director Beach stated that his list of cuts would have been much longer and Director Austin stated that he had talked with Directors Beach and Director Retzer and with many other people about the budget, but if there was an implication that there was a conspiracy or attempt at manipulation, the answer was no.

After the Directors spoke, Sea Ranch attorney Carol Korade stated that she could conclude that four Directors had discussed the budget but that she would not be able to conclude what specific items were discussed without further inquiry. She stated that this type of discussion is not good policy or practice. She advised that, because the budget needed to be voted on, the meeting could proceed as long as Directors who had conferred ahead of time disclosed any prior discussions they had had. Director Tyler commented that she felt "sandbagged" because she had spent a lot of time studying the budget on her own without talking to other Board members about which cuts to make.

The Directors then continued their discussion of Director Moelter's amendment. Director Tyler had asked earlier that each item be discussed separately rather than be voted on as a package. Subsequent amendments to the amendment were made to address specific proposed cuts, causing some confusion as Board members frequently stopped to sort out what motion was currently on the table for discussion.

Board members discussed each amendment and members were also given an opportunity to speak. After Board discussion and member comments on each item, proposed cuts to the security staff, the *Bulletin*, and the Verdant View project were eliminated.

The final discussion was on a proposed \$25,000 cut to the Board's project fund. Several Board members stated that they thought the cut was inadvisable because

the fund might be needed for emergencies, but that they wouldn't "jump into the ocean" or otherwise commit suicide if it remained as a cut. As the discussion continued, Director Moelter decided to withdraw her substitute motion since most of the items it had originally contained had been removed.

The original motion to adopt the budget at \$197.25 was then passed on a 4-3 vote, with Directors Austin, Gallagher, Jordan and Tyler voting yes and Directors Beach, Moelter and Retzer voting no. Director Austin indicated that he had run on a platform for cutting the dues but felt that at this point a budget needed to be adopted and "for practical reasons, not logical reasons" felt he had to vote yes.

BUDGET CAP PROPOSAL TABLED

A later item on the agenda was Resolution 319, which proposed setting a 3% limit on increases in member dues which could only be lifted, for extraordinary reasons, by a super-majority Board vote of 5-2. The resolution further provided that this resolution could not be altered in the future by less than a 5-2 super-majority of the Board.

The resolution's author Director Retzer asked that the resolution be tabled because he had been advised that changing from a simple majority to a super-majority vote would require a change in the Association by-laws. He stated that after a conversation with incoming Community Manager Frank Bell, he felt confident that Mr. Bell had some strategies that could keep future budget increases within limits.

END OF A LENGTHY BUDGET PROCESS

The Budget presented at the February Board meeting was the result of a process that began in early summer of 2009, when the Finance Committee held two workshops for member input, which were followed by three formal Budget Workshops in November, January and February conducted by the Finance Committee and the Board.

A major issue in this year's budget process was the need to assess members for \$13.40 in projected legal costs in

the coming year to secure the Association's water rights and to resolve ongoing litigation involving a violation of the CC&Rs.

Board members, while recognizing that there had only been a small increase in operations costs, were concerned about the impact that the total assessment might have on members who could have difficulty with a \$17.25 increase in monthly dues. There was some discussion about making the legal fees a special assessment or otherwise separating out the unusual legal costs so that dues wouldn't "ratchet up" from a new base of \$197.25 once the legal issues were resolved.

Board members indicated that legal costs would be tracked separately and that dues would be adjusted back downward following these unusual expenses. Chair Jim Jordan announced that a fund was being established to assist members who found that the increase in dues created a financial hardship. (See page 4.)

At the January Workshop, some members of the Board asked the staff to develop a "\$180 budget" for review. At the February Workshop, Interim Community Manager Will Randolph presented cuts that would reduce the total assessment down to \$180, by cutting \$475,000 in the operations budget to offset the anticipated legal costs. He made it clear that the staff was not recommending this level of cuts.

None of the suggested cuts were deemed acceptable by the Board. Five of the six Finance Committee members present and three members of the Board indicated that they supported the \$197.25 budget submitted by staff at the January meeting. The other three Board members present indicated that they would like to keep working to find other cuts that would reduce the assessment.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Finance Committee Chair Chris Kenber suggested that the Board might consider changing the format of future Budget Workshops to enable Board members to have "true public budget work sessions" because the current process had not allowed for Board members

→ PAGE 4



Lane GeoGraphics, LLC

Custom Maps & GIS Services

lanegeo@mcn.org
707 785-9714

Bev Dodds

Outstanding service to discerning Sea Ranchers since 1994

business (707) 884-3866
voice mail extension 302
fax (707) 884-9004
home (707) 785-3211
email bev@cbpac.com

COLDWELL BANKER
PACIFIC REAL ESTATE

www.cbpac.com

Architectural Design Counseling by the Hour
intensive one on one design sessions at your site or home

WINGES ARCHITECTS

JERRY L. WINGES, AIA, LEED-AP
Kiko Winges, Office Mascot



residential master planning
site sensitive unique solutions
green design/ lighting design
design review/code assistance



immediate creative ideas
real estate decisions and advice
quick sketches & problem solving
new constr. / additions / remodeling

30 years professional experience
full architectural/engineering services
TSRA Member/Owner

www.wingesaia.com
1290 HOWARD AVE. SUITE 311, BURLINGAME, CA
(650) 343-1101 X101 jlw@wingesaia.com

GREAT HOMES FOR GREAT FAMILIES
SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA, THE SEA RANCH, AND THE COAST



Formerly Cheerful Chimneys

Vellutini Heating Contractor

Wood ★ Gas ★ Pellet
Fireplaces • Stoves • Pipes

Sales Service Installation

Lic.#: 560256
22 years of dedication on the coast

884-1618



ROSS RANCH

PRIVATE HORSEBACK RIDING
ON MANCHESTER BEACH & IN THE ELK MOUNTAINS

Private, guided horseback rides through a beautiful mountain redwood forest just east of Elk, or go for a ride on spectacular Manchester Beach.

\$50 for 2 hours in The Mountains
\$60 for 2 hours on The Beach

707-877-1834 www.rossranch.biz



Photo by Jack Cosner

Professional Consultants Group: L to R: Back: Charles Moore, Al Boeke, Joe Esherick, Jim Burns, Donald MacDonald, Jack Cosner, Bill Turnbull. Front: Larry Halprin, Reverdy Johnson, Hideo Sasaki

AL BOEKE ORAL HISTORY DEPOSITED AT UC BERKELEY BANCROFT LIBRARY

By Kathryn Smith

Editor's Note: Kathryn Smith, who initiated and conducted the Boeke oral history, is noted for her scholarly books and articles on modern architecture and planning, including such figures as Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, and R.M. Schindler. Smith is a former employee of the UCLA Oral History Department.

Al Boeke (former Vice-President of Oceanic Properties, a division of Castle & Cooke), who was responsible for the creation of The Sea Ranch, has completed an 11-1/2-hour oral history. The development of this second-home community set a national standard for environmentally-conscious planning and innovative modern design in the mid-twentieth century. In December 2009, the audio versions and transcript of six sessions recorded in May 2008 along with supplementary material were donated by Boeke to the Regional Oral History Office of the University of California, Berkeley where they will be available to the public through their website, www.Bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/, and at the Bancroft Library beginning early 2010.

Defying conventional building industry wisdom by hiring a group of progressive architects noted for landscape and architectural design (Lawrence Halprin, Joseph Esherick, and Moore, Lyndon,

Turnbull, Whitaker), Boeke conceived of the potential of the 10-mile tract of the Ohlsen Ranch with extraordinary imagination and bold decision-making. Boeke's interviews cover the complete evolution of The Sea Ranch including his original discovery of the rural site which he first viewed from an airplane while on a search for land in California to build a New Town (a planning concept he had implemented in Mililani, Hawaii). He further explained his immediate decision to option the sheep ranch to conceive an example of a socially responsive, holistic approach to a residential community in the context of the wild, natural beauty of the rugged Sonoma coast.

He discussed in detail the one-year "option-to-buy" period. During this time he met bi-monthly with a team of fifteen consultants he had assembled (attorney, architects, landscape architects, landscape architects, engineers, geologists, public relations and marketing firms, etc.). Boeke directed the team to study the site from every professional point of view including soil, wind, forest, legal and economic considerations to develop the original collaborative vision. The result was the formation of the environmental planning concept as well as the detailed legal basis that created the homeowner's association, which eventually assumed sole management of the property.

SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED TO HELP MEMBERS WITH DUES

Because the increase in dues might cause a financial hardship for members living on a fixed or diminished income, The Sea Ranch Housing Project has been set up by members of The Sea Ranch to provide an income supplement to help members remain as residents here at The Sea Ranch.

The Housing Project is a revolving fund which provides long-term interest-free loans which can be paid

back when and if financial circumstances change. The Project will also provide assistance for Burbank Housing if funds are available.

If you would like to contribute to this tax-deductible fund or would like further information, please contact Marghi Hagen at bksmvs@aol.com.



BUDGET PROCESS, from page 3

to have the type of conversation needed early on in the process. He offered to produce a more concrete proposal for such changes if the Board wished.

A full account of the February Board Workshop is reported in the *Finance Matters* article in the March Bulletin.

The Interim Community Manager has reviewed this article for accuracy. The audio recording of the budget discussion at the February 27th Board Meeting is available on the TSRA website at www.tsra.org/mod/s=ecfile/viewed.php?file_id=427



Volunteers Needed!
for
Utilities Committee
Archives Committee
The California Coastal National Monument
Stewardship Task Force
Del Mar Gardeners

The Volunteer Application can be picked up at the Association office or found on the website at <http://www.tsra.org/news.php?viewStory=8#miscellaneous>.

For the Del Mar Gardeners, an application is not required: just contact eosteraas@earthlink.net.

Other topics covered are design and construction of Unit One (Condominium #1 and Hedgerow Houses), drafting of the CC&R's as future protections for the unique architectural and landscape character of The Sea Ranch, forest clearing, the addition of the Moonraker

Swim Club, Hot Spot, roads, utilities, and trails. Boeke's comprehensive history is a major new source in understanding the original intentions of the creator of this extraordinary, rare example of visionary community planning.





Sea Ranch Lodge

New Local Flavor Thursdays
\$19.00- 3 Course Dinner
1/2 off Wines by the Glass

Upcoming Winemaker Dinners and Events

Mar 27- Cloud's Rest
Apr 24 - Phillips Hill
May 21- Roessler

Call Today to Make a Reservation
707-785-2371
www.searanchlodge.com

fhallensearanch.com



Our team of full time experienced real estate professionals

...who love where they live...

Golden West Associates

◆ New Construction ◆ Renovations ◆ Decks & Spas
◆ Weather Damage ◆ Design & Permit Specialist

Over 30 Years of Coastal Construction

Michael Thomas - General Contractor #458460
P.O Box 1660 Gualala, CA 95445
707 785-1765 fax 785-2895 gwest@mcn.org


Kathleen Ball
Broker/Realtor


Steve Harder
Broker/Owner


Marianne Harder
Owner/Realtor


Rosie Iversen
Broker/Realtor

707-785-3600

39145 South Highway One, Gualala, CA 95445

An independently owned and operated brokerage

LODGE EXPANSION PROJECT ON HOLD: Focus returns to continuing operations



Photo by Claire McCarthy

The staff at The Sea Ranch lodge is looking forward to your visit. L to R: Assistant Manager Frian McDonough, Executive Chef Phil Kaufman, Lead Bartender, Kelly Langwell, Lead Server Debby Langwell.

The Sea Ranch Lodge expansion project—for months the premier topic of discussion and debate among Sea Ranchers—has apparently been postponed indefinitely. According to a November 14th letter posted on the project update web page by Principal Peter Heinemann, Passport Resorts has re-structured its loan so that there is “no longer a risk of foreclosure,” and intends to commence construction “as soon as there is sufficient recovery in the economy and the hospitality market.” <http://www.srlep.com/>

Meanwhile, morale and enthusiasm at the Lodge remain high, and a recent conversation with General Manager Greg Hagin revealed an ongoing commitment to programs and services that make the Lodge a valuable community partner, expressive of the special resources available here on the coast.

While some repair and redecorating are in the works (painting, carpeting, roofing), much of the focus is on the food and beverage service. “The idea is that when we do renovate, the concept for the restaurant will stay the same, including type of food and price point,” says Greg. “One of our aims is to create a more consistent product.

We listen carefully to the locals; it’s important to us that we have a local following.”

Greg estimates that at present there are about 50-60 “regulars” at the Lodge; he would like to see that number increase. In keeping with that goal, in February the restaurant started offering Local Flavor Thursdays, featuring three courses for \$19 and ½ off wines by the glass.

In September, newly hired chef Phil Kaufman took over the kitchen. Phil is a Northern California native with an impressive 22-year culinary career that included stints as Executive Chef with One Market in San Francisco, Evvia Estatorio and Restaurant Soliel in Palo Alto, and Hush restaurant in Laguna Beach. <http://www.searanchlodge.com/chef.html>

Phil’s experience with Mediterranean dishes runs especially deep, and his goal at the Lodge is to use as many Sonoma County products as possible in their creation. He regularly purchases from local suppliers like Red Dog Ranch and Oz Farm, and employs a local expert to forage for mushrooms

and wild baby greens. The asparagus on the menu often comes from The Sea Ranch “Posh Squash” Community Garden, (“...it’s just the best...” says Greg) and all the organic compost from the kitchen goes there. All wines are from Sonoma or Mendocino County and most are from small producers.

Events like weddings, private parties, and Winemakers Dinners continue, as well as the popular annual Easter Egg hunt, monthly art shows in the Fireside Room, and art exhibits in the front gallery (in partnership with Gualala Arts). Also in conjunction with Gualala Arts, the Lodge will hold a special dinner, Sunset and Jazz, on April 4 as part of the annual Whale and Jazz Festival. And the store still offers 10% off all purchases (excluding sale items) when you present your Sea Ranch ID.

Greg offers guests the opportunity to make a donation to local non-profits—Greg estimates that about 70% of guests respond, and over four thousand dollars have been distributed to Gualala Arts, Action Network and Redwood Coast Humane Society in the past year. The Lodge participates in the Adopt-a-Highway program, and maintains a cache of emergency equipment and supplies in order to serve as the southern staging area for The Sea Ranch disaster preparedness plan.

Greg hopes that members who may not be familiar with the Lodge will take some time to stop by and get acquainted. “I think a lot of Sea Ranchers will be pleasantly surprised to see what we’re offering here,” he says, “and what we’re all about.”

By CM



A new program at the Lodge is the Good Night Foundation, which of-

THE SEA RANCH
THE SPIANS
present
Seascape
by Edward Albee

Kathye Hitt, Director
Carol Emory and John Wingate, Producers

Knipp-Stengel Barn (mile marker 53.76)

April 16, 17, 18 and 23, 24, 25
at 4 pm

FREE ADMISSION
PARKING CARDS PROVIDED AT ENTRANCE

Reservations are necessary (140 seats)

FOR RESERVATIONS
www.searanchthespians.com or call Carol Emory at 785-2548

Mehl/Bishop
Electric Co. 884-3682
C10, C57 LICENSE # 725684

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING
REPAIRS, REMODELS, EMERGENCY SERVICE
HOT TUB SERVICE & REPAIR
38317 So. Hwy. 1 • P.O. Box 308 • Gualala, CA 95445
1-800-501-1856 For Fast Service

ted smith
architect
a.i.a.

p. o. box 215
lincoln, ca 95648
916/645-6125
tsaia@mcn.org

QUALITY · RELIABLE · PROFESSIONAL



AQUASCAPE PLUS

Peter Norville
Tony Ariola

SPA MAINTENANCE
SPA SALES
SPA CARE PRODUCTS

(707) 884-9511

38870 S. Hwy One
Gualala, CA 95445



HEALDSBURG
FAMILY & IMPLANT
DENTISTRY
DR. WILL BROGDON

- In-House Lab
- Oral Sedation
- Dental Implants
- Cosmetic Dentistry

www.healdsburgdentistry.com

“Since 1986”

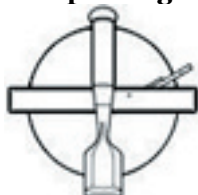
445 March Ave, Suite C
Healdsburg, CA 95448

707.433.2090



MADER CONSTRUCTION

“Improving Paradise, One Home at a Time”



Environmentally Responsible
Green Building Practices

Remodels • Additions • Home Repair

707-785-1701

www.maderconstruction.com

Gualala CA Steve Mader, Owner lic.464894

We offer a full selection of Equity Release Products for Seniors:

- Reverse Mortgages
- Income Maintenance without closing costs
- Reverse Mortgage for Home Purchase



John Holmgren
Your Sea Ranch Neighbor
Since 2006

Phone: 888.420.0111
www.bayareareversemortgage.net

REAL ESTATE UPDATE -- WHERE DO WE STAND?

By Martha "Dibby" Tyler

Have real estate prices hit bottom? Are we seeing the beginnings of recovery in the local housing market or is recovery still in the future? Will the housing market bounce back and return to the boom times of the recent past or is recovery likely to be slow? *Soundings* posed these questions to two local real estate brokers—Hanne Liisberg, broker with Liisberg & Kalinoski and Sharon Burningham, realtor with the Sea Cliff office of Coldwell Banker. No one knows the future, but both agree that inquiries are increasing and the market may be moving upward. Neither expects recovery to be rapid.

Let's look at some numbers. At a peak in the housing market in 2004, 97 houses sold at The Sea Ranch; 49 sold in 2009. That is almost a 50% decrease in the number of houses sold. Five more houses sold in 2009 than in 2008—perhaps an indication of some recovery. However, lots are barely selling at all. In 2004, 64 lots sold. That number decreased to 4 in 2009—lower even than the 7 lots sold in 2008.

HOUSE AND LOT SALES

The Sea Ranch 2004-2009

	Houses	Lots
2004	97	64
2005	62	57
2006	64	24
2007	61	24
2008	44	7
2009	49	4

Both Hanne Liisberg and Sharon Burningham see the relatively high costs of building as contributing to the slowdown in lot sales. Construction costs remain high and the costs of permits and meeting new building code requirements have increased in recent years. These costs, coupled with the decrease in cost of existing homes, make building a new home an expensive choice.

Almost half the house sales at The Sea Ranch were located in the meadows west of Highway 1. This pattern has not changed with the economic downturn.

HOUSE SALES BY LOCATION, 2009

Ocean Front	10
West Meadows	23
East Meadows	3
Hillside	3
Forest	6
Clusters	2
Total	47*

* 2 houses not classified by location.

The most dramatic changes in the housing market during 2009 were a decrease in sales prices and an increase in number of days on the market. The multiple listing data show that median house prices dropped 26% from 2005 to 2009. The decrease was 19% from 2008 and 2009. Much of the appreciation in house value in the boom years has been wiped out.

MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE & DAYS ON MARKET (DOM)

The Sea Ranch, 2005-2009

	Median Price	DOM
2005	\$850,625	83
2006	\$795,305	138
2007	\$847,000	144
2008	\$777,000	136
2009	\$629,000	158

Also, it now takes longer, on the average, to sell a house than it did in 2005. Then, a house was on the market an average of 83 days—less than 3 months. In 2009, a house was on the market an average of 158 days—more than 5 months—before selling.

As of February 7, 2010, 34 Sea Ranch houses were on the market with list prices ranging from \$2,000,000 to \$329,000. The median list price was about \$830,000. Owners had dropped the prices on 17, or exactly one-half, of the houses since putting them up for sale. On average, the houses had been on the market for 220 days—five of them for over a year.

In the meantime, how is The Sea Ranch Association faring? According to The

Sea Ranch Association Finance Director Ellen Buechner, the Association's finances are sound, but the Association is not immune to general economic conditions. As of the end of 2009, five Sea Ranch houses had gone into foreclosure, the Association had filed liens on 12 properties to recover delinquent assessments and 47 accounts were in arrears on assessments. So far, the losses are covered by contingency funds set aside for the purpose, but the Association staff is maintaining a close watch.

About one-third of the budget for the Department of Design, Compliance and Environmental Management (DCEM) comes from design review fees. A slowdown in construction reduces these fees. The earliest indication of a slowdown is in Preliminary Site Visit (PSV) meetings—the first step in the multi-stage design review process. DCEM participated in 54 preliminary site visits in 2004; by 2009, the number had dropped to only 6.

PRELIMINARY SITE VISITS

The Sea Ranch 2004-2009

	PSVs
2004	54
2005	42
2006	28
2007	20
2008	14
2009	6

Similarly, new housing starts have also dropped dramatically from 36 in 2004 to 5 in 2009. With fewer new home projects in the design review

pipeline and the slow sales of lots, any significant increase in the number of housing starts is at least a year or two away. Much of the region's construction activity is at The Sea Ranch and a slowdown here means fewer jobs in building design, construction, building supplies and related businesses. Fortunately, the number of major additions has remained constant and this helps to soften the impacts of reduced new construction.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS AND ADDITIONS

2004-2009

	Homes	Additions
2004	36	18
2005	31	16
2006	24	15
2007	19	12
2008	17	18
2009	5	17


Both Hanne Liisberg and Sharon Burningham agree that downturns and upturns in the housing market here lag the Bay Area's housing market. Recovery seems to be coming gradually to the Bay Area market. Both realtors said that financing on favorable terms is available to take advantage of good values at The Sea Ranch. It is a good time to buy here. The flip side is that it is not a particularly good time to sell a house. However, if priced to sell, houses are being bought. The most optimistic prognostication is that the bottom hit in 2009 and The Sea Ranch may see the beginnings of a gradual recovery in 2010.

SAVE THE DATE

LARRY HALPRIN DAY
July 3, 2010

A Celebration of Larry Halprin's Life and Work

Several events at various times and locations throughout the Sea Ranch.
Organized by the VIP Committee
To help with the event, contact
Jacquelynn Baas at jbaas@mcn.org



Action Network

Family Resource Centers & Across Ages and Cultures Prevention Coalition

39144 Ocean Drive, Suites 3 & 4
U.S. Mail via PO Box 1163
Gualala, CA 95445
and
200 Main Street
Point Arena, CA

After School Activities & Fun K-12
Mentoring & Teen Peer Court K-12
Playgroups – Infant, Toddler, Preschool
Counseling – Multi-cultural & Bi-lingual
Parenting Classes & Support Services

Make a difference in a child's life!
Be a Mentor, Tutor, or Career Coach
Call 884-5413 for more information

Our Mission ... to build a thriving, healthy community by nurturing people, networking organizations and taking action to secure local services for the Redwood Coast.

for the fun of it ♥ for the fun of it ♥ for the fun of it ♥



The Cotton Field
A CLOTHING STORE FOR WOMEN

Wearable clothes...
Wonderful jewelry...
for the fun of it!

SEACLIFF CENTER • GUALALA
(707) 884-1836 • Daily 10-5 and Sun 11-4

♥ for the fun of it ♥ for the fun of it ♥ for the fun of it ♥

DIRT WORKS EXCAVATING
FOR ALL YOUR EARTH MOVING NEEDS

POOLS & PONDS
HOME UTILITIES
BUILDING PADS
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
SEPTIC SYSTEMS
DRIVE WAYS
ROAD WAYS
GRAIDING
TRENCHING
SITE DEMOLITION
RETAINING WALLS
FOUNDATION FOOTINGS
SLIDE REPAIR

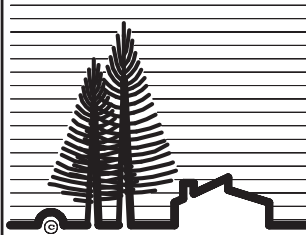


LAND CLEARING BRUSH AND STUMP GRINDING
707-684-9144
CCL 032017 **FREE ESTIMATES**



Verdon Jenny architects
Jack Verdon AIA
Peter Jenny

707.884.9521
www.verdonjenny.com



WALTER G. LIM ARCHITECT INC

PO BOX 128
THE SEA RANCH
CA. 95497
707.785.9208
arrkitk@gmail.com

10 YEARS EXPERIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
LICENSED ARCHITECT
IN NINE (9) STATES

PLANNING A WEDDING?



WEDDING CEREMONIES & VOW RENEWALS

Rev. Donald Heimburger
Minister
P.O. Box 1507
Gualala, CA 95445-1507
Phone: (707) 884-4350
FAX: (707) 884-4359
E-mail: metheim@mcn.org
www.mendonomaweddings.com

GIANT INVADERS THREATEN THE SEA RANCH

By Thayer Walker

A militia of giant invaders is bivouacked on the exposed southern flank of The Sea Ranch, awaiting the right conditions to advance.

The force has been gathering strength for more than a decade, swelling its ranks, occupying suitable terrain, awaiting the signal to press forward. Starting with a small reconnaissance probe shortly after the Yardarm fire in 1996, scouts established positions near the roadside.

Since then, spear-bearing reinforcements have swarmed over the weakened hillside and taken up positions on the high ground. When the wind is right—storm winds from the south or Santa Anas from the east—advance forces drift invisibly with the breeze toward us, they dig in, and slowly but inexorably, the army inches north to our enclave.

Make no mistake—they are hostiles.

This ominous band refers, of course, to a growing infestation of pampas grass. It has taken over the eastern hillsides of Richardson property a few hundred yards south of The Sea Ranch. Since its influx after the fast-moving Yardarm fire burned nearly every tree and bush in its southward path, one or two pampas grass plants 10 years ago have burst forth to an unknown number. They will be seeding again this spring.

In a tromp across their domain in early February amongst their three-foot base clumps called tussocks, and 12-foot spears—many now broken by winter winds—I counted 200 plants (and an equal number of ticks) in an area about 300 yards square before my dog and I were driven out by the insects and cuts from the plant's razor-sharp 10-foot leaves. (They hurt and the cuts can become inflamed.)

A rough, wholly unscientific guess is there may be five times what I counted in an area along Highway 1. The occupied stretch extends for three-quarters of a mile, with the heaviest concentrations about a half-mile long and perhaps 300 yards wide. It's a formidable and daunting sight.



Photo by Thayer Walker

Already, one lone plant has assumed an outpost on Caltrans right of way within Sea Ranch proper, or at least inside the green Sea Ranch sign, about mile 49.83. As pampas grass goes, it's a small plant, probably relatively young, attesting to the notion, that although our prevailing winds blow south, pampas grass is asserting itself northward as well.

California classifies pampas grass as a noxious, invasive weed, because it "threatens California's coastal ecosystems by crowding out native species", says the University of California Cooperative Extension.

The severity of the threat gets clearer if we deconstruct that sentence. It's declaring pampas grass is not a limited problem, an acre or ten here and there, instead, it affects "California's coastal ecosystems" extending over—not just our 840 miles of Pacific coast—but all 3,427 miles counting small bays and inlets. The California Invasive Plant Council says one plume can produce 100,000 seeds, a single plant distributes a million seeds or more, can pump seeds out for up to 15 years—sometimes twice a year—and send them 20 miles or more from the mother plant, quickly dominating a landscape.

Whether the infestation nearby is actually pampas grass or its close relative jubata grass is unclear—even botanists often have difficulty distinguishing the two—so for convenience, they are

often lumped together. Whatever one threatens us, the pest came here from South America's pampas (Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil), about 150 years ago, but wasn't first reported as a weed until 1966, when it was spotted in a cutover redwood forest in Humboldt County.

Since then, it has taken hold in coastal zones from San Diego to the Oregon border. It didn't help when in 1946, in a masterpiece of unintended consequences, the Soil and Conservation Service in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties planted pampas grass "to provide supplementary dryland forage and prevent erosion". The stuff absolutely loves our cool foggy climate, and thrives in disturbed ditch banks, road cuts, cliffs, cutover areas, and eroded or exposed soil, writes Joseph M. DiTomaso of UC Davis Weed Research and Information Center.

He says there's another problem. Control.

Many of the invaded sites are environmentally sensitive areas. That limits how one goes after it. For example, DiTomaso says burning and grazing don't work, the pests just resprout. And, he adds, there has been no research on biological control.

TSRA's Bill Wiemeyer, Director of Design Compliance and Environmental Management, says the Association has a wary eye on the infestation. He describes the threat level as medium.

Since the problem is on our Southern border, he says our first line of defense is the prevailing wind out of the northwest. Whether that natural buffer will continue to protect us is an open question, he acknowledges.

Historically there has been an equal, potentially more serious problem near the reservoir on the North end of Sea Ranch, surrounded by Gualala Redwoods Inc. property, out of sight of most Ranchers, Wiemeyer says.

"We are getting a continuing number of new pampas grass plants from the adjacent GRI property," he says. "We have seen them migrate as far down as the golf course." In previous years, an active volunteer force helped keep pampas grass and other invasive plants from gaining ground, but that group has faded.

"We have an active control program that involves bagging the seed stalks and spraying the roots with approved pesticides," Wiemeyer said.

I went on a scouting trip to the Sea Ranch reservoir with Director of Works Randy Burke. He pointed out dozens of plants, now dead.

"We bring in a licensed contractor, an expert who is fully insured. We never spray when there is wind. The chemicals and the methods we use are approved by both UC Davis Agricultural experts, and the Sonoma County Agricultural Extension," Burke said.

Leaving the reservoir, we head south for lunch at Stewart's Point Store, driving past Yardarm and the Richardson ranch infestation. Burke glances east.

"There must be at least a thousand plants in there," he says. "And that's just what you can see from the road. It wasn't anything like this a couple years ago."

"This"... he says, slowing his pickup to a crawl as if counting and strategizing simultaneously, "This..." followed by a thoughtful pause,

"...this could be a real problem."



ELEE TSAI ARCHITECT 蔡以理建築師
 P.O. Box 11774
 Santa Rosa
 CA 95406 USA
 V (707) 575-9990
 F (707) 575-0188
 Elee@EleeTsaiArchitect.com
 www.EleeTsaiArchitect.com

ROSEBUD STUDIOS
HOMES & REMODELS
 Design on the coast since 1988
ED ROSE
 707 • 785 • 9180

Planning
 Design
 Construction
 Maintenance
floriferous LANDSCAPING
 Scott Graf
 PHONE 707.884.9900
 SCOTT@FLORIFEROUS.COM
 WWW.FLORIFEROUS.COM
 License # 914057

Come and Share The Views With Us
 Unobstructed Views and Privacy at The Sea Ranch on Hares Tail Close
 \$995,000
JUST SOLD!
 Patty Bettega, Broker Associate
 DRE #01042567
 884-3591 ext.326
 patty@cbpac.com
 Linda Morley-Wells, Sales Associate
 DRE #01822211
 lindajet@cbpac.com
COLDWELL BANKER
 Pacific Real Estate

O'Neil's
Septic Service
GUALALA, CA
 "The Wizards of Ooze"
 Since 1975
RICK O'NEIL & ERNIE O'NEIL
707-884-3818
 Septic Tanks Cleaned
 Pumped, and Repaired
 Chemical Toilet Rental
 Emergency Service
 Lic. No. 670575

Pacific Reach
Drafting
Cad-Drafting
Services
 AutoCad house plans,
 details, decks, kitchen
 remodels, additions and
 Paper to CAD conversions
Ken Lane
(707) 785-9265
 kenoshi200@aol.com
 P.O. Box 265
 The Sea Ranch, CA 95497
 www.pacificreachdrafting.com



Restaurant Review GETTING TO THE POINT: ENJOYING PT. ARENA, PART II *By Mary Street Alinder*

Copyright 2010 by Mary Street Alinder

The city of Pt. Arena is an inviting walking destination with sidewalks for safe strolling and now a public toilet, just north of the theater – two essentials sadly missing in Gualala. Facing Main Street is the Pt. Arena Centennial Plaza, a twenty-four foot circular memorial mosaic formed of four tons of coastal beach and river pebbles. The mosaic pictures a Compass Rose pointing to magnetic north and is rimmed by a bench for an easy wait for the local bus, the MTA.



The Arena Theater presides just a few yards south. Here is a cultural treasure for everyone in our extended community. Built in the late 1920s as a vaudeville house, it has been a movie and performance venue for many years. We were there that stormy winter night nearly twenty years ago when the stucco began to peel off the building with a horrible, wailing screech. Through community donations and a lot of hard work by volunteers, the old theater was rebuilt. Now it is better than ever, with a great sound system. Each seat is named for a donor – check out the brass plaques underneath. The lobby is gilded with gold-leaf. The bathrooms

are adorned with handmade tiles. High on the theater's walls perch light sconces cut into metal friezes of local landmarks. Sue Gilmore still takes the tickets, and there is Brewer's yeast to sprinkle on the hot popcorn with real butter. Two different movies are screened each week, plus classic films on Mondays. Live performances are up close and personal because of the small venue – and a whole lot of fun. There is everything from stand-up comedy to mime to poetry slams and good old rock 'n roll. Over the next few months, enjoy the 3rd Annual Blues Series and on occasional Saturday mornings don't miss "Live at the Met," spectacularly produced HD live broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera. Here is one of the rare venues in the entire world to experience this amazing production.

Next door to the theater is the former "Uneda Meat Market" – look up to see the original sign molded into the plaster façade. Until recently this was Palmers, a down home café with red-checked oilcloth tablecloths, counter seating and hearty breakfasts and lunches. Their cloud-light biscuits with sausage gravy were the best someone's ever eaten, not telling who. Tragically Chef Palmer died in an automobile accident over these past winter holidays and his wife was seriously injured. Closed for the past few months, the Trink's family – of the wonderful Gualala coffee shop – has resurrected the diner, now a great place again for breakfast and lunch. The goal is to continue the diner tradition with All-American eats, and the Sunday special is Eggs Benedict. Trinks PA Café gets a big boost from Trink's son,

Ross Woodward, and his wife Dionely. They met the first day of classes at the California Culinary Academy and Ross says it was love at first sight. They have been in Gualala for the past few years providing a fine catering service as well as cooking at Trinks in Gualala. (Don't be the last to know about Trinks' Wednesday and Friday dinners in Gualala. Wednesdays a variety of burgers are offered – from veggie to fish to beef – and Fridays brings a changing, limited but always delicious menu. Get on the email list to receive each week's menu.) Between the two businesses and their new baby, son Cupertino, Ross and Dionely are very busy, but happy.



Across the street from the theater, find Franny's Cup and Saucer, what one citizen, speaking for many, christened "The Jewel of Pt. Arena." As you enter the tiny, very cute shop, the aromas are so enticing that whatever vows of abstinence or just simple reasonableness you may have taken are instantaneously forgotten. The interior is a 1950's dream and at its center is the very ador-

able Franny with her unforgettable singsong sweet lilt of a voice. Divine pastries of every flavor beckon, moist chocolate ganache-iced petit fours, cupcakes frosted in strawberry cream, ginger cookies, almond cookies, biscotti, muffins, and at lunchtime, very yummy warm pizzas and frittatas. A wonderful array of homemade jams and marmalades are just \$6/each. Franny also is a fantastic caterer.

Nearby is a favorite stop, Lena Bulamore's Everything Under the Sun, a store chock-full of delightful crafts from local and third world sources, and part of the Fair Trade Federation. This is a great place for exotic clothes, housewares and gifts for children. Lena taught kindergarten and the joy in her face reflects the responsible, caring life she has led.

Another testament to the volunteers of this area is the Coast Community Library. A cozy children's room has a rug and reading chairs at its center. Story Time for children under five is every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11. The library offers WiFi and computers along with a good selection of books and a comfortable reading area with couches.

As you poke around Pt. Arena, wander into Outback Garden and Feed. Feed's in front with everything for animals, and, as advertised, out back is the quite sizeable garden store with plants, fertilizer, seed – you name it.

A fine choice for dinner before the movie is Phoenix, just a bit north of the theater, serving home-style Italian dinners. Come very hungry. The servings are enormous. Delicate house-smoked

→ page 9

PHOTOS BY JIM ALINDER

Fiona E. O'Neill
architect

707 785-0040
fionaone@mcn.org
1000 Annapolis Road
The Sea Ranch
California
95497-0108

Body Therapy
Skin & Body Care
Facials
Massage
Waxing

Laurie Bowman
L.E., C.M.T.
Healing Arts Center
Cypress Village, Gualala
707-799-6651
www.bodytherapyskincare.com

COLDWELL BANKER PACIFIC REAL ESTATE

Seacliff Center: 39140 Shoreline Highway One
P.O. Box 512, Gualala, CA 95445
Tel: 800-660-3591 • 707-884-3591
Fax: 707-884-1933

Serving
The Sea Ranch • Gualala
Northern Sonoma & Southern Mendocino Coast

FREE COLOR BROCHURES
HOMES • LOTS • ACREAGE
Ocean Front • Ocean View

Contact Us for a Free
Market Analysis of Your Property
On Line • On the Phone • Or In Person
Coldwell Banker, "Making Real Estate Real Easy"

39351 Shoreline Highway One
P.O. Box 700, Gualala, CA 95445
Tel: 800-944-8941 • 707-884-3866
Fax: 707-884-9004

E-mail: info@cbpac.com
Internet: www.cbpac.com

SEARANCH
VACATION RENTALS
& Property Sales

PROPERTY SALES | VACATION RENTALS

Over 38 years of local Real Estate experience!

- ◆ Serving the Northern Sonoma and Southern Mendocino Coast
- ◆ Our award winning, professional sales staff are among the top producing agents in the area
- ◆ Members of the BAREIS Multiple Listing Service
- ◆ Family Owned & Operated
- ◆ Experts in Real Estate and Property Management

(800) 274-4500 (707) 884-3765
email: info@SeaRanchSales.com
www.SeaRanchSales.com

Jack Vore, Eve Larson, Michelle Berardinelli,
Eric Landeck, Toni Wilson, Kris Rose

PAT ROMEIRO'S
commissions are going to the dogs... and cats, and other pets.

When you hire Pat for your real estate needs, you'll get energy-charged and focused dedication, integrity, professionalism and friendly service.

You'll also give something: Pat will donate 10% of her sales commission to the **Redwood Coast Humane Society** in your name.

Mention **Young At Heart** and Pat will give to them too!

KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES
www.kennedyrealestate.com
patr@kennedyrealestate.com
DRE #01291505
Office 707-884-9000 x19 / Cell 707-291-1161

SRES REALTOR



and Roots is the city playground with the best play equipment on the coast and picnic tables. It's a favorite place with our grandchildren.

The Arena Market & Café is a member-owned cooperative with much more than all the basic needs – milk, eggs, bread and butter. The store is welcoming: bright and clean. There is a fine selection of meats from Ft. Bragg's Round Man butchers, as well as organic poultry and sausages. A rich array of seasonal organic produce is offered. Breads and bagels from Café Beaujolais in Mendocino are delivered every Friday. A large bulk section is stocked with nuts and grains and beans and such. There is an organic salad bar (\$8.50/pound), excellent homemade soups (\$5.50/bowl – their white bean and pork with herbs was perfect on a cold, rainy coast day), cookies and muffins, and family-style dishes, such as lasagna and frittatas. Membership is a total of \$300 or \$50 annually for six years or \$12.50 quarterly. Members receive 5% off everything, every day, and can buy case lots at even deeper discounts.

The Point Arena General Store boasts of their world famous sandwiches that are made to order, and while not quite up to their slogan, they are good (\$5.99). There's a small to-go pizza counter called Bulldog Pizza. All pizzas are one size – large – and are \$13.99 for as many toppings as you choose. The pizza is hearty, American old-fashioned style with a hefty, crisply-bottomed crust that won't get soggy and generous amounts of cheese with tomato sauce and in our case ham, black olives and mushrooms. This is no designer pizza, but if you're hungry, you won't be for long.

And then there's the charming old Record building erected in 1890. (The Re-



cord was the long ago Pt. Arena newspaper.) Reincarnations are the norm for this location. Recently it held a terrific organic and local food store and deli. It is planned to again rise into a deli.

For farm to table dinners, check-out both Oz Farm and Windy Hollow Farm, where dedicated farmers grow a great variety of vegetables and fruit and raise poultry, all organically, and in the case of Windy Hollow, totally off the grid. Every so often, each offers inspired family-style dinners.

The first half of this article, in last month's *Soundings*, described the activities surrounding the Point Arena Pier. The pier manager, Peter Bogdahn, has published a small cookbook, *Catch of the Day* (\$13) and all sales go to benefit the pier. With recipes from Wild Sea Palm Slaw to North Coast Abalone Wraps – and of course ways to prepare crab, salmon cod – this book will support the urge to eat locally. Reading, I learned that at the height of the Pt. Arena sea urchin industry, in 1990-91 when the Japanese appetite for sushi rolled across the world, sea urchins brought in 8.5 million dollars to Pt. Arena. As our local seabeds got "urchined-out" the state imposed stiff, restrictive regulations that were just lifted in 2009. The kelp beds have been thriving – urchins feed on kelp – and without sea otters

to consume the urchins, they again are abundant, even while the global market for them has faltered.

Catch of the Day can be purchased at the pier or at Lisa's Luscious Kitchen just off the corner of the Arena Cove Road and Highway One. Since the mention in the last issue of *Soundings*, I have grown in awe of Lisa who makes more than twenty different jams and marmalades (Huckleberry Preserves and Blood Orange Marmalade), some great sauces (Plum Ketchup and Bing Cherry Vodka), Chutneys, infused vinegars (Blackberry Sage) and two wonderfully aromatic Asian cooking oils (Black Bean Chili and Star Anise Sesame).

Pt. Arena's insider nickname has long been Pointless Arena. That is clearly not the case. Pt. Arena is rich with fine people, delicious food and great experiences. As businesses in Gualala, especially restaurants, have been shutting down, Pt. Arena is oh so quietly booming. Pt. Arena has a lot to teach all of us about community. Please consider becoming a member of the Arena Theater Association, the Coast Community Library, the Arena Market Coop and the Pt. Arena Lighthouse Keepers – each a great non-profit asset to our area and dependent upon memberships and donations for their existence – their contacts are listed below.

[This is part two of a two part article. The book, *The Early Days of Point Arena*, by Steve Oliff and Cheri Carlstedt provided great information for this article and I highly recommend picking up a free copy of the latest *Lighthouse Peddler*, "A Little Newspaper by the Edge of the Sea," to keep informed about our neighbor, Pt. Arena, in addition to the ever-valuable ICO.]

→ Page 10

One corner of the Phoenix building is home to Roots Herbal Apothecary, a quintessential Pt. Arena experience. The salves, balms, oils and teas are brewed from herbs and flowers grown in local gardens by the busy young mothers who own this shop. Try Moroccan Blue Chamomile Butter or Love is in the Air Body Oil. Their Women's Tonic Tea is to "guide us gently through our lives." Just a short, paved path behind Phoenix

Sassy Rooster.

Oil paintings by Carol Watanabe and other artists

HENLEY'S
ART & INTERIORS

Established 1981

Open Daily 10 am to 5 pm
Cypress Village • Gualala, CA 95445 • 707-884-1531

Sea Ranch Vacation Rentals
Property Management of Sea Ranch Vacation Homes

The Benefits of our Rental Program are:

- * Over 35 years experience
- * No minimum monthly charge - if we don't rent your home, we don't get paid!
- * Cleaning supplies included
- * Back to back scheduling - no lost rentals waiting for your home to be cleaned
- * Repeat clientele
- * Family owned & operated
- * All of our housekeepers are bonded

800-643-8899
www.SeaRanchGetaway.com

Sea Ranch Vacation Rentals
Located on Highway 1
in the center of Gualala
email: info@SeaRanchGetaway.com

ESTRADA CONSTRUCTION

RICARDO ESTRADA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
CA LIC# 814539

37940 Old Stage Rd.
Gualala, CA 95445
707.884.1454 ofc.
707.884.9683 fax
707.321.5234 cell
estrada@mcn.org

From honey-to-do list to new construction! Experienced and Reliable Competitive Rates

CRISTALEN

Photography & Web Master Services

Chris & Allen Francis
707.785.2872

CRISTALEN.COM

gf

gayle forster

Please view my portfolio online at www.gayleforster.com

BRODIE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Steve Brodie, Architect AIA
Linda Brodie, Designer

located at the Sea Watch building
39150 Ocean Drive #5
Gualala, California
(707) 884-9021

Serving the Sonoma / Mendocino coast since 1982

C N A METALWORKS, INC
JOINS FORCES WITH
SEA RANCH SUPPLY, INC
35550 Verdant View on The Sea Ranch
(707) 785 2366
License # C833277

COPPER-STAINLESS STEEL-GALVANIZE-BRASS
ALUMINUM-RAINGUTTERS-COUNTERTOPS-
LIGHT SCONES-ROOF FLASHINGS-CHIMNEY
CAPS-FURNACES-DUCTING-VENTING-
MACHINING- LIGHT WELDING
LUMBER & HARDWARE

Full Service Interior Planning & Design

707-785-1049
gaylef@wildblue.net

Over 20 Years Experience

Certified Interior Designer #2564



POINT ARENA from page 9

Arena Market & Café – Coop
Main Street, Odd Fellows Building,
882-3663
7:30AM-7 PM Mon-Sat, 8 AM-6PM Sun
www.arenaorganics.org

Arena Theater
Main Street, 882-3456
www.arenatheater.org for schedules

Coast Community Branch Library
225 Main, 882-3114, www.co.mendocino.ca.us/library/coast.htm
open Mon.-Sat.

Everything Under the Sun
211 Main Street, 882-2161
11:30 AM-5 PM Wed-Sat

Franny's Cup & Saucer
Main Street, 882-2500
8 AM-4 PM Wed-Sat, no credit cards

Lisa's Luscious
90 Main Street, 882-2452
Open daily 11-4:30 PM – that's the intention, at least
www.lisajams.com

Outback Garden & Feed
Hwy One, middle of Pt. Arena, 882-3333 or 882-3335
10 AM – 5 PM Tues-Sat

Oz Farm
41601 Mountain View Road, 882-3046
www.oz-farm.com

Phoenix
250 Main Street, 882-1619
5 PM-9PM Wed-Sun

Point Arena General Store and Bulldog Pizza
187 Main Street, 882-2280
7:30 AM-8 PM Mon-Sat, 8 AM-5:30 PM Sun

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORTS SURVEY FINDINGS

By Laurie Mueller

At the February 27th Board meeting, the Communication Committee presented its summary report on the comprehensive survey conducted this past summer on Sea Ranch publications, the TSR website, the Infoalert email system, and other aspects of communications at The Sea Ranch.

GENERAL FINDINGS

95% of the survey respondents said they were satisfied with communications at The Sea Ranch and 99% said that such information was important or very important to them. 76% percent said that they receive the right amount of information, while 13.5% wanted more information and 10.5% wanted less.

When asked which sources of information they rely on, 97% of the respondents indicated that they regard the *Bulletin* as an important source of information and 91% of respondents

indicated the *Soundings* as an important source.

SOUNDINGS

The survey contained several questions regarding member satisfaction with Association publications. Most members responding (93%) were either satisfied (40%) or very satisfied (53%) with *Soundings*. Four percent were dissatisfied and 3% indicated that they do not read *Soundings*.

A high percentage of the current content of *Soundings* is usually or occasionally read by members responding to the survey. More than 90% of the respondents read each category listed except for advertising, which is read by around 70%. The most frequently read content is information about Gualala and other regional issues (95%), Sea Ranch issues (98%) and environmental topics (95%).

Eighty seven percent are happy with publishing *Soundings* once a quarter. About 5% think it is published too often and 6% not often enough.

THE BULLETIN

92% of the survey respondents were either satisfied (54%) or very satisfied (38%) with the *Bulletin*. There were some differences in satisfaction levels between respondents who were full-time residents and other Sea Ranchers: 97% of non full-time residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the *Bulletin* while a lower 87% of full-time residents felt the same.

There were also some differences depending on the length of time re-

spondents had been members. 83% of respondents who were members for five years or less were satisfied with the amount of information in the *Bulletin*, with 8.6% wanting more and an equal 8.6% wanting less information. While 66% of respondents who have been members for 6-10 years were satisfied with the current level of information, 23% wanted more information and 11% wanted less. 70% of members who have been here between 11 and 25 years were satisfied, with the remainder evenly split between wanting more and wanting less information.

Most of the current content of the *Bulletin* is usually or occasionally read by members responding to the survey. 88% of the respondents read each category listed in the survey except for legal notices, which are read by 76%. The categories read by the highest percentage of respondents include the Events calendar (96%), the Community Manager's Report (92%), the monthly Sea Ranch Conversations (91%), Board summaries (91%), and information on security (94%), design (92%), fire safety and vegetation (94%) and committee and task force work (92%).

Eighty four percent were happy with receiving the *Bulletin* once a month. About 15% thought it was published too often. Some of the respondents suggested publishing the *Bulletin* quarterly or once every two months.

COST-SAVINGS OPTIONS

A number of cost-savings options for the *Bulletin* and *Soundings* were explored in the survey. Most respondents (93%) did not object to mailing the *Bulletin* and *Soundings* together and

Roots Herbal Apothecary
250 Main Street, 882-2699, www.rootsoriginals.com
11 AM- 4:30 PM Mon-Sat

Trinks PA Café
206 Main Street, www.trinks@mcn.org
7 AM-2 PM Wednesday-Monday

Windy Hollow Farm
24101 Windy Hollow Road, 707-353-0035
jketring@hughes.net

→ page 11

WEST COUNTY DESIGN
14390 Highway One
707-876-1963
www.westcountydesign.com
Open Thurs-Sun and by appointment

Custom home furnishings in Valley Ford
Polished concrete vanities and kitchen counter tops
Fine wood dining tables and case goods

CHARLES S. WOODS **BONDED**
(707) 884-9453 Lic. #640699

Pacific Woods Glass
New Windows · Window Repair & Replacement
Tub & Shower Enclosures · Mirrored Walls · Wardrobe Doors

38001 Old Stage Rd. Gualala, Ca 95445

COEN PAINTING

Product expertise. Attention to detail.

(707) 884-1339

BONDED
Lic # 718410

Protecting & Beautifying
Sea Ranch homes
since 1985.

We install the sun. Locally.

MD Electric Solar is locally owned and operated and installs only the highest quality solar modules and inverters. We have many satisfied customers up and down the Mendocino coast. Our prices are competitive and our work is guaranteed. We handle all the CSI paperwork and county inspections, plus we warrant the system for 10 years. Call Mike Nelson to set up a free evaluation to learn if your rooftop or property has good solar potential. We can then custom design and fit the installation to your exact specifications and needs.

MD Electric SOLAR
C-10 Lic # 815891 707.884.1862

Ridge Construction Company

18 year Sea Ranch Resident
Large and small projects on The Sea Ranch
Decks · Siding · Hot Tub Enclosures · Repairs
Tile Setting · Power Washing · Seal/Stain · Fencing
Local references available upon request.
Consulting & Approval with Design Committee

(707) 785-3850
email at starridge@mcn.org

MICHAEL STARR
General Contractor
CLN #394539 B HAZ Certified

Come fly with me!
Use your Mastercard or Visa to earn Frequent Flyer miles

Gualala Arts Chamber Music Series

2010

Sunday, April 11
4pm
Laurel Ensemble
specializing in the rich and varied repertoire written for mixed strings, winds and keyboard during the past four centuries.
\$20 advance

July 10, 7:30pm
July 11, 4pm
The Eighth Annual Summer Chamber Music Weekend
Roy Bogas and Friends
Gualala's Favorite
\$50 for both advance or \$30 for each advance

Gualala Arts Center
4650I Gualala Road in Gualala
707-884-1138 www.GualalaArts.org



COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY from page 19

(82%) considered placing advertising in the *Bulletin* acceptable.

Respondents were less comfortable with combining the two publications. 20% of the respondents indicated they did not want the two publications combined and another 11% were not certain. There were many comments expressing concerns that the two publications maintain their distinct character and stating the importance of keeping *Soundings* as an independent voice for members.

Many respondents submitted suggestions about moving content, combining the two publications or eliminating either the *Soundings* or the *Bulletin*.

The survey contained several questions about distributing publications electronically. More than 90% of the respondents read both publications in paper form. Many read the paper copy and access publications online as well. About 5% read publications on the website only.

Significantly more respondents (28%) read both the paper and online issues of the *Bulletin* than read both versions of *Soundings* (14%). Perhaps because the *Bulletin* contains information of a timely nature, more people may read the *Bulletin* online first, since it is available prior to the printed copy.

About two-thirds of the respondents are willing to read publications on line, but 57% prefer reading the *Bulletin* in paper form and 64% prefer reading a paper copy of *Soundings*. The reasons for not wanting to read the publications online varied, but the largest percentage (69%) simply stated they preferred a paper copy. 67% of those responding do not want either publication distributed via the website only.

MEMBER COMMENTS

More than 700 member comments were submitted, providing a rich variety of member statements about their preferences and their views (often opposing!) about ways to improve communications at the Sea Ranch. All comments are posted in a separate Member Comments document posted on the website as part of the Communication Survey.

HOW THE SURVEY WILL BE USED

The Communication Survey is an informal member survey which will be used, along with other data, as a general indicator of what types of information members want, what channels of communication they prefer, and what changes they would like to see made in the communication services provided by the Association.

During the next several months, the Communication Committee will be reviewing the results of the survey and incorporating them, along with other considerations, in assessing what changes should be made in Association publications. A key challenge will be to find ways of reducing costs while maintaining or improving the quality of service provided to members.

Survey results indicate that different groups of people have different information needs and preferences, which will be considered as changes are contemplated in the type or amount of information and how it is distributed to members.

A major focus of the committee will be determining more precisely the pathway to moving more information onto the website and in encouraging more members to use the website as a primary resource for information about the Association and about community activities and events. Finding a smooth

A NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE: WellnessOnThe Coast.com ©By Mirka Knastaar, 2010

For many of us living on the coast, just being here is vital to our self-care and sense of well-being. Breathing in the fresh air, walking in the beautiful environment, delighting in the wonders of nature, engaging in creative ventures, and participating in the community all contribute to our sense of self, belonging, and wellness. We are also blessed, here at The Sea Ranch and in the larger community, to have many skilled professionals who offer a variety of healing arts and movement practices to help us draw out our inner wisdom and balance.

In the past, the focus in health care was more on getting rid of disease rather than on cultivating an optimal state of health. Then, in the 1950s, Halbert L. Dunn, M.D., began using the phrase "high level wellness" to indicate something other than the absence of illness: an integrated method of functioning that is directed toward maximizing our individual potential to be healthier and happier. When we are able to meet the needs of body, mind, and spirit,

transition to online publications that keeps in mind the needs of those members not comfortable with the Internet while maximizing the potential advantages of electronic distribution will also be an important consideration.

The summary report, along with full survey data, member comments and other Communication Survey documents, is available at the Association office and is posted on the website at www.tsra.org/news.php?viewStory=822

the overall feeling of balance is what we've come to call "wellness."

There are so many ways to promote wellness in our lives. For example, reducing excessive muscle tension is going to release mental stress as well. And vice versa. We can use mindful movement to diminish strain in the mind and body not only as part of a recovery plan following an injury or other debilitating conditions, but also to improve how we move in general. Working with the "body-mind" provides all kinds of opportunities beyond eliminating a muscle spasm. It can become an education we never got in school, an education that teaches not by rote but by experiencing with our whole being. Working with the body-mind can elicit an inner intelligence that no amount of reading and memorizing could ever do. As farmer-poet Wendell Berry noted, "There's a world of difference...between that information to which we now presumably have access by way of computers, libraries, and the rest of it, great stockpiles of data, and the knowledge that people have in their bones by which they do good work and live good lives."

Neuroscientists have now debunked the adage that we can't teach an old dog new tricks. It turns out that the body and brain are not set in stone: they are "plastic" and moldable, repairable and educable. It's quite possible to alleviate the tight neck and shoulders, the aching back, or the painful foot and to gain greater flexibility and balance. It's possible to be invigorated with new energy and greater freedom and pleasure. And it's possible to increase our sensory awareness and thus our sensitivity to the world around us.

→ Page 12

Complete Asphalt Renewal
Slurry Sealcoating - Striping
Patching - Crack Filling



A & L Asphalt Maintenance

Tony Lamantia

Telephone (707) 528-0388 Contractors License #801317

Kevin McCoy Landscape Services

- ◆ Quality Service Since 1980
- ◆ Landscape Design & Installation
- ◆ Hardscape, Planting & Irrigation
- ◆ Landscape Maintenance

Cal. State License # 462769
P O Box 484 • Gualala • CA • 95445
(707) 884-3384

Flowers
by **Natasha**

707-884-9414

38640 South Highway 1 • Gualala • CA • 95445

searanchrentals.com

Beach Rentals
Sea Ranch Vacation Homes
39200 South Highway One, Gualala CA 95445 707/884-4235



**We've Gone Independent.
We Have a New Name.
And, We Have a New Home.**


Now we offer you a greater selection of items from our new and expanded lines of products, items we now carry to complement our already extensive collection of custom window coverings, window seat cushions, fabrics, UV window films and natural fiber rugs.

**MARY BOAL
WINDOWEARS**

CYPRESS VILLAGE, GUALALA – 31926 CYPRESS WAY, SUITE A
707.884.3300
Free In-Home Consultation & Estimates
License#905934

**Celebrating & Sharing the Original
Vision of The Sea Ranch for 30 Years**

At Rams Head we appreciate our lasting relationships with Sea Ranch property owners, frequent visitors and Redwood Coast neighbors



COASTAL PROPERTIES
RAMS HEAD REALTY

Sales (707) 785-2417
Rentals (707) 785-2427
www.ramshead.com
1000 Annapolis Road • P.O. Box 123 • The Sea Ranch, CA 95497

THOSE "BLACK BIRDS WITH A FLASH OF RED"

By Diane Hichwa

It has been ten years since President Clinton asked the Bureau of Land Management to protect the rocks, pinnacles and islands known as the California Coastal National Monument. In 2006, The Sea Ranch Association became a Steward for our ten miles of the California coastline and, as such, embarked upon a five year project. This year, 2010, marks our 4th anniversary of the project which entails monitoring the birds, mammals, flora and fauna that use the islands of the CCNM. We are thankful for our volunteers who have contributed their time and talents over the last four years. However, we find ourselves in need of additional help to carry on our very important work.

If you are interested in nature, the birds and mammals that frequent our coastline or the vegetation that grows on our rocks/islands, we can use your help. You might find the time to accompany our group leaders as they conduct quarterly walks along the bluffs to count and record wildlife sightings and plants that are observed on the islands; conduct a monthly or weekly survey of specific island locations (Black Point, Galleons/Arch Rock and Gualala Point); or during two weeks

in the last part of June/early July for daily observation of the nesting activities on Gualala Point Island (GPI). We ask that you consider helping us out! Volunteers are needed in several roles: spotters of what is where, recorders and data entry people, as well as those experienced in the identification of birds, plants, or pinnipeds. We offer training and hands-on sessions in the field with experienced team members.

While viewing the Monument islands, you can watch for two very different "black birds with a flash of red"!

You can't miss the all-black shorebirds with a heavy bright red bill. Black Oystercatchers are often heard before they are seen, calling a loud *kee, kee ah*. The oystercatcher is here year round. In winter we see groups of 10-12 together but as we move into late spring we expect to see them in pairs. In 2009 it wasn't until June 12 that we confirmed a nest from the GPI-North monitoring point and on June 13 one sitting on a nest at Black Point Islands. The nest is just a scrape on a rock with maybe a few pebbles pulled together, but the clue to the nest is a bird sitting in the same spot. They often nest just



Black Oystercatcher

Photo by Craig Tooley

above the high tide line and feed in the sliver of land between high tide and low tide as they forage for mussels, limpets, barnacles and shells -NOT oysters! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers the Black Oystercatcher a Focal Species for priority conservation action due to its small population size, restricted range and possible threats to its preferred habitat. California Audubon has selected them as an Indicator Species for global climate change because of their linkage to the tide lines. I would like to know if you are seeing nesting activity as you walk the bluff trail.

ily of birds that come to land only for nesting. These chunky black birds, with white patches on the wings, have bright red feet. You will also see bright red inside their mouths as they open to emit a very high thin whistle. Their winter plumage is very different: a white seabird with dark back and distinctive wing patterning. They begin gathering offshore in March and head to the rock islands to select a crevice or cavity to nest inside. Last year on April 1 and 3 we first spotted them on our monitoring islands at Black Point and GPI. A good indication of a nest in progress is seeing a fish being carried inside the crevice to a waiting chick. The literature says that the cavities are reused for many years and we have seen that already in our monitoring and photographs of GPI. They feed close to shore and "fly" underwater by swimming with their wings after fish. Most of the juveniles leave the nest crevice during the night and are independent of the parents from then on. They can "fly" in the water but not yet in the air!

The other black bird with a flash of red has distinctly different habits than the Black Oystercatcher. The Pigeon Guillemot is a seabird in the Alcid fam-



Photo by Bryant Hichwa

We will be following the seabird nesting from April 1 through August 30 and will be watching for these "black birds with a flash of red" (and others) as we begin our weekly survey at four locations along TSR's coast.

Please contact Rich Kuehn windnsea@hughes.net (785-3415) or Diane Hichwa dhichwa@earthlink.net (785-1922) if you would like information or to volunteer.

WELLNESS ON THE COAST from page 11

In short, all of us can learn how to carry out our daily activities—be they household chores, routine errands, computer use, sports, or pastimes such as dancing, gardening, sculpture, or woodworking—with greater ease and gracefulness. Of course, we often need help to recognize our unhealthy but habitual old patterns and what the new options may be. This is where a supportive professional can be of vital service, guiding us not only to prevent and repair the restrictions and pains that constrain our lives, but also to expand beyond our present limitations and enliven our capacity to thrive.

Sea Ranchers who would like to explore such possibilities have a new resource to consult. Local practitioners and teachers who live and work at The Sea Ranch, Gualala, Anchor Bay, and Point Arena have joined together to describe their modalities and services

at a new community website: www.WellnessOnTheCoast.com.

Here you can find overviews of more than a dozen modalities offered by more than twenty local practitioners through private sessions and classes. These run the gamut from Acupuncture and Aromatherapy, Osteopathy and CranioSacral Therapy, various forms of Massage Therapy, Somatic Expression and Tai Chi, Classical Homeopathy, and brain/body re-education through the Anat Baniel Method™ and Feldenkrais Method®.

May you enjoy a new adventure of wellness!

Mirka Knaster is the author of *Discovering the Body's Wisdom* (Bantam Books) and the forthcoming *Living This Life Fully: Stories and Teachings of Munindra* (Shambhala).

GUALALA COMMUNITY CENTER
Serving the community since 1954

PAY 'N' TAKE RUMMAGE SALE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Available for CLASSES CHURCH SERVICES SERVICE CLUB MEETINGS COMMUNITY/SOCIAL EVENTS

FOR INFORMATION: 884-3179

PACIFIC LAND SURVEYS

Professional Land Surveying and CAD Mapping Services

P.O. Box 574 Gualala, CA 95445
P.O. Box 316 Bodega, CA 94922

PH 800.373.3208

pacificlandsurveys@earthlink.net
www.pacificlandsurveys.com

California, Nevada & Arizona License

Remodels
Custom Structures
Dry Rot/Termite Damage Repair

STEVE SMITH
Tel 707.785.2101
Fax 707.785.2126
Lic# 564436

MICHAEL BARRON-WIKE
Architect AIA

P.O. Box 30 Gualala CA 95445 P: 707.884.4418 C: 707.292-7174

LOCATED AT SEACLIFF IN GUALALA

Specializing in "Certified-Green" Designs
30 Years of Sea Ranch Design Experience

Virtual Reality Presentations
Custom Residential • Interior Design

www.mbwarchitect.com

WHALE & JAZZ FESTIVAL

Events through April 1 through 17

Chowder Challenge: April 3

A free concert with traditional New Orleans jazz by **Barnebey's Hot Four & More!** - back again by popular demand - accompanies the annual Chowder Challenge. \$20 includes Festival Logo wine or beer glass and 15 tickets for chowder tastings and/or beverages.

Main Event: April 17

Ground breaking, multi-layered original compositions performed by major musician composers. **Bay Area Ensembles range from quintet to seventeen pieces.** Joined by guest artists, 14-year-old flutist, **Elena Pinderhughes** (youngest member ever of SF Symphony), and the riveting, avant-garde vocalizations of **Zoë Presley**. Tickets \$28 advance, \$5 more day of event; includes free appetizer buffet. No-host bar.

FINE ARTS FAIR
MAY 29 & 30

Art Off the Wall
May 29 ~ \$30 to \$60 Tickets

Gualala Arts Center

707-884-1138 fax 884-3038 info@GualalaArts.org Tickets Visa and MC at 800-838-3006

More information about all our events at GualalaArts.org

9am to 4pm weekdays 12 to 4pm weekends



NEW BUSINESSES AT THE SEA RANCH



Photo by Claire McCarthy

Stacy and Chris Aitchinson of The Sea Ranch Building Supply

Despite the dip in the economy, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well at The Sea Ranch—several new businesses have opened recently right here on Verdant View off Annapolis Road. We spoke with the owners recently to get a sense of what they offer and how things are going.

SEA RANCH BUILDING SUPPLY

What: Full service hardware, lumber and building supply
Nursery & Garden Shop coming in March
Where: 35550 Verdant View; 785-2366
When: Opened in June 2009; M-F, 7:30-5:00; Saturday 8:00-4:00
Who: Stacy and Chris Aitchison

The next time you think you have to drive to Gualala to replace those batteries or pick up some painting supplies, think again: there is a friendly, knowledgeable staff of hardware experts ready and waiting to help you at TSR. "Everyone on our staff has either built their own house or done a lot of work on it," says owner Stacy Aitchison, "so they are very familiar with products and 'up' on all the codes." Sea Ranchers from out of town can call in their

list of lumber and supplies for, say, a deck they want to build; Sea Ranch Supply will put it all together and deliver it so everything is at their Sea Ranch home when they arrive.

Stacy's roots in the community run deep—a Sundstrom, she was born and raised here, and she met her husband Chris when she was in college and he was in the Air Force. Fans of the Fish Rock Café (now the Redwood Grill) in Anchor Bay will remember that the couple built the successful restaurant from scratch and ran it for nine years before selling it in 2004. Chris also had a metal and heating shop, now housed on-site at Sea Ranch Building Supply.

The Aitchisons' enthusiasm for their business and the community is obvious. On the day we stopped by, Stacy was just putting away the mustard, ketchup and relish from "Wienie Wednesday," a weekly event which sometimes attracts over 50 locals—for \$3.50, you get a hot dog, chips and a drink, and a chance to chat with folks from TSRA and other businesses in the area. "We are honored, proud and grateful to be part of the business community here at Sea Ranch," says Stacy,

"not to mention that we are also having a really good time!"

1043 GALLERY

What: Original watercolors and drawings emphasizing architectural subjects
Where: The Ranch Center, Verdant View (next to TwoFish); 785-2184
When: Opened September 2009; Open most days
Who: Al Forster

Having the Ten Forty-Three Gallery close by is like having the Studio Tour experience available every day—artist Al Forster is delighted to have visitors come by to watch him work (his studio is right there, open to the Gallery) and to "ask questions, to comment, criticize, engage, learn." The space is nicely configured, small but light and airy, stylistically very "Sea Ranch;" the artwork is subtle and evocative, drawing the viewer in with its emphasis on soft colors and imaginary places. "I don't use a computer at all, everything is hand-drawn the old fashioned way," he says.

Although Al has had his architectural rendering studio there for eleven years, the Gallery is a new venture which he officially opened during the 2009 Studio Discovery Tour last September.

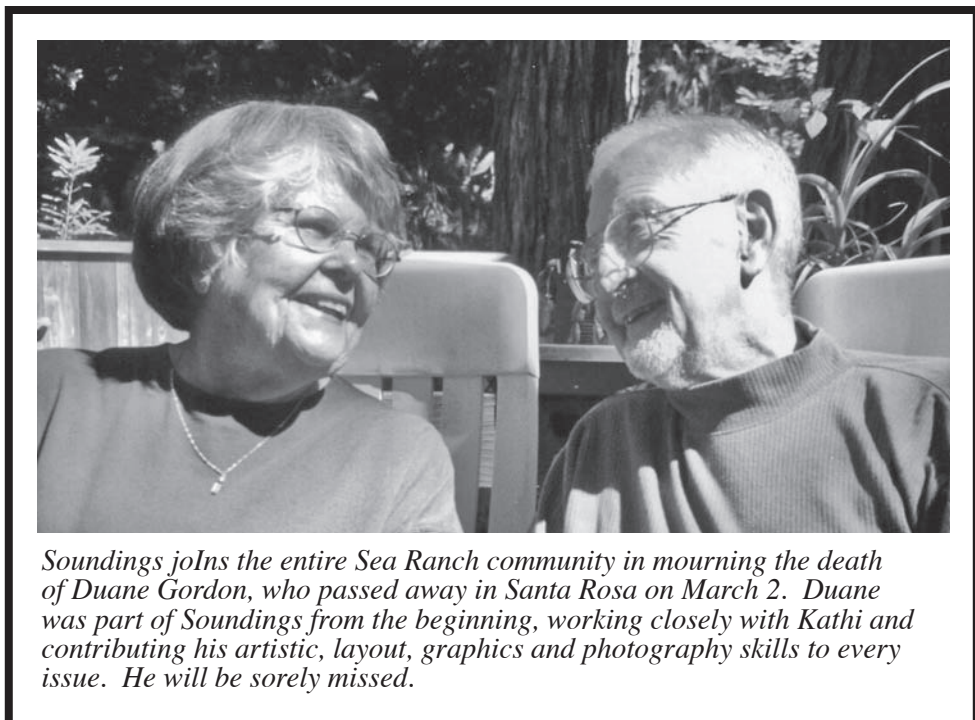
"This was something I always wanted to do," he says, "and it just seemed like good timing." Although he has not done any advertising, opening "slowly and softly," as he puts it, he has already sold eighty-three pieces of art. "It's all new to me, this retail thing," he says, adding that Two Fish Bakery next door is "a big draw."

Trained as an architect, Al settled in San Diego after leaving the Navy, and during his 30-plus year career there and on the North Coast has handcrafted watercolor presentation drawings of buildings and projects around the world. Local art lovers will recall that until he opened his gallery on Verdant View, his work was featured at Placewares Gallery in Gualala.

BIRDSONG CLINIC AND TEA SHOP

What: Fine Teas, Acupuncture and Massage
Where: The Ranch Center, Verdant View; 291-5765 (Melinda); 495-3828 (Sarah)
When: Opened in April 2009; Tea Shop Hours Friday-Sunday, 9-1; Clinic and tea tastings by appointment
Who: Melinda Mills, L.Ac, CMT and Sarah McDonough, CMT

➔ PAGE 14



Soundings joins the entire Sea Ranch community in mourning the death of Duane Gordon, who passed away in Santa Rosa on March 2. Duane was part of Soundings from the beginning, working closely with Kathi and contributing his artistic, layout, graphics and photography skills to every issue. He will be sorely missed.

Photo by Bill Lange



Since 1986
 Licensed and Insured
 Contractor Lic. 488313

Mitchell Kirby
884-3416

Specializing in Re-siding & Roofing at The Sea Ranch

AmeriGas

America's Propane Company
 Appliance Sales

Serving The Sea Ranch with
 lowest propane prices year round!

Gualala CA
800-499-5427 • 707-884-3478



Steve M. Howe
 Owner

Kodiak Construction Co.
 Quality workmanship at fair pricing

Serving The Sea Ranch since 1992
 Home Repair • Decks • Fencing
 Kitchens & Baths • Custom Homes
 CA Lic. #695946

707 888-3141 Mobile P.O. Box 73
 707 785-3217 Phone/Fax The Sea Ranch, CA 95497

Friendly Service



Greeting Cards • Gifts
 T-Shirts • Fudge • Books
 • Cosmetics • Film

• Helium Filled Balloons
 Fax and Copier Service

Jack Chladek Pharmacist — Owner
 Most Insurance plans accepted
 Medicare Plan D

(707) 884-4107 / FAX (707) 884-9024
 P.O. Box 528 • Sundstrom Center - Gualala
 Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 - 6:00 Sat. & Sun. 9:30 - 5:00

BONES ROADHOUSE

Authentic Wood-fired Texas BBQ
 Dine In • Take Out • Backdoor Catering

(707) 884-1188

38920 S. Highway One
 In (Uptown) Gualala

BBQ, Brews & Blues!!!

Kristine & Richard Thomure

Bringing 38 Years Combined
 Expertise Listing Properties
 on The Sea Ranch.

Two Offices to Serve You
 39040 S. Highway 1, Gualala
 707-884-9000, ext 17
 1000 Annapolis Rd., The Sea Ranch
 707-785-2321



KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES

www.kennedyrealestate.com
 kristine@thesearanch.com



NEW BUSINESSES from page 13



Melinda Mills of Birdsong

Photo by Claire McCarthy

Who wouldn't love to visit a place called "Birdsong"?

Melinda Mills' delightful shop does not disappoint. The delicate fragrance of Jasmine tea fills the air; a softly undulating wall of recycled redwood boards provides a backdrop for an artful display of teas and teaware, gently screening the clinic area in back. The shop is tiny but beautifully appointed, and the selection of teas is generous and of the highest quality. Melinda compares fine tea to fine wine—factors like weather and soil conditions influence its flavor and aroma.

A self-described "locavore," Melinda lives with her husband in Annapolis where they grow their own food and raise goats. They moved here from Marin, where Melinda ran the Full Moon Healing Arts Center, a massage and acupuncture clinic. She decided to include the tea shop at the Birdsong Clinic because she wanted a way to draw people in, to have a way of interacting with the community as opposed to just being available "by appointment." Melinda combines acupuncture and massage in her treatments; her colleague Sarah McDonough practices Swedish and Deep Tissue massage.

In addition to the tea shop and massage, Birdsong offers tea tasting at the shop or privately in your home. "The purpose of a tea tasting is both to compare interesting teas to build your appreciation, and to have a Tea House experience of relaxation, contemplation and friendship," says Melinda. Birdsong also plans to offer monthly Tea Circle tasting and Tea and Meditation evenings.

GAYLE FORSTER INTERIOR PLANNING AND DESIGN

(Disclosure: This reporter is an employee of Gayle Forster Interior Design)

What: Residential and commercial space planning and interior design; staging services
 Where: The Ranch Center, Verdant View; 785-1049
 When: New Location opened mid-2009; Consultation by appointment
 Who: Gayle Forster, CCIDC, Certified Interior Designer

A credentialed professional with a BA in Interior Design, Gayle Forster brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her clients here at The Sea Ranch. She moved recently to her new location at The Ranch Center.

UPCOMING FORUM PRESENTATIONS

The Forum Steering Committee has arranged several Forums for the upcoming months. Unless otherwise noted, Forums are held the first Saturday of the month, from 3-5pm at Del Mar Hall. Mark your calendar.

The traditional "Meet the Candidates Forum" will be held on Sat., April 3, from 3-5 at Del Mar Hall. Candidates for TSRA Board of Directors will present statements and answer questions from members. A reception will follow. *NOTE: The Forum Committee is not a formal Association organization, and this presentation is not part of the official election process.*

A Special Forum on April 10th will provide an excellent opportunity for Sea Ranch members to "Meet Our New Community Manager Frank Bell".

The May 1st Forum will be: "Seasonal Sightings at TSR – Summer and Fall". What can you expect to see and when? Birds and migrations, aquatic mammals, wildflowers and berries, land animals, and more. This is a fol-

low-on to the November 2009 Forum, "Seasonal Sightings at TSR – Winter and Spring".

On May 8th, there will be a "Special Forum On The Sonoma County Coast", on the progress and plans being made for preserving land along the Northern Sonoma Coast from Jenner to the Gualala River. The new Jenner Headlands acquisition and other possible land purchases along our coastline will be discussed.

The June 5th Forum will present "FIRE at the North End--Condition Red! Who will respond? What will they do? Representatives from CalFire and the TSR Volunteer Fire Department will discuss what actions they are likely to take and what residents can and should do.

If you have questions or suggestions about the Forums, please contact Leigh Mueller, Chair, The Forum Committee, leighmueller@earthlink.net, 785-9533.



Educated at San Diego State, Gayle met her husband Al (of the 1043 Gallery) when he was her Drafting and Presentation professor there. She worked for several interior design firms in Southern California before joining Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in San Francisco. There, she designed and managed a variety of large-scale commercial projects in the Bay Area. Here on the coast, she has worked on the redesign of guest rooms and public spaces at The Sea Ranch Lodge, the interior design of several businesses in Gualala, and many individual residential projects.

"My focus is always on the client's needs and requirements," she says. "I want to provide the expertise necessary to accomplish their objectives, with an emphasis on relating interior and exterior spaces in keeping with The Sea Ranch style."

By CM



Al Forster at 1043 Gallery

Photo by Claire McCarthy



PAUL L. PLAKOS, M.A., M.F.T.

Psychotherapy
 Marriage & Family Therapist
 License # MFC 42044

Gualala (707) 326-7236
 Santa Rosa sliding scale fees

MONTHLY / BI MONTHLY

DUBOUR SERVICES
 FULL LANDSCAPE SERVICES

MOWING/TRIMMING
 MAINTENANCE
 WATER SYSTEMS/INSTALLATION

DENIS DUBOUR
 SEA RANCH MEMBER SINCE 1992
 DENIS DUBOUR
 707 4835260
 LIC. and INSURED

DESIGN & BUILD

JAMES DOCKER
 MFA, AIA ALLIED MEMBER
 GENERAL CONTRACTOR
 B299900

FUMIKO DOCKER
 M.A.R.C.H., LEED AP

LET US PUT TWENTY YEARS OF SEA RANCH SUCCESS TO WORK FOR YOU

- An intimate knowledge of TSR design review process
- Environmentally sensitive design & LEED certification
- A seamless transition from design approval to construction
- A dedication to the craft of building custom homes on California's rugged North Coast

www.searanchbuilder.com
tsrdock@mcn.org tel 707.785.3929



Emergency? REACH is there.
 Our medical and aviation teams are on duty 24/7, serving the North Coast. Protect your family and your finances with our low-cost REACH for Life air ambulance membership that guarantees no out of pocket expenses.

REACH for life
 Air Ambulance Membership

Join REACH for Life today.
 Call 866-767-3224 or visit www.REACHair.com.

THE SEA RANCH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

B.B.Q.
 SUNDAY MAY 30th
 NOON-3PM
 ONE-EYED JACKS PLAYGROUND

GAMES FOR THE KIDS
 SMOKEY BEAR

HAMBURGERS
 VEGGIE BURGERS
 HOT LINKS
 BEANS & SLAW
 BEER & WINE
 SODAS & DESSERTS

ADULTS: \$15
KIDS (5-12): \$10 UNDER 5: FREE



Classified ads

NEXT EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
MAY 4, 2010

SOUNDINGS welcomes all submissions of articles by TSRA members. The articles should be 500 to 750 words or less, signed by the author, and submitted electronically, preferably as a Word document or may be typewritten, double spaced.

The SOUNDINGS Editor will determine whether the articles are suitable and relevant to Sea Ranch membership, and whether there is space for their publication. Because of space limitations and when necessary, articles will be subject to editing.

ALL ARTICLES ARE WELCOME, subject to the above conditions. If you have questions, please call SOUNDINGS Editor Claire McCarthy. (She is delighted when people volunteer!)

THE SEA RANCH SOUNDINGS
A quarterly publication for TSRA members

Published in
Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

Editor: **Claire McCarthy**

Reporters/Contributors: Mary Street Alinder, Nancy Carter, Carol Emory, Marghi Hagen, Mirka Knaster, Claire McCarthy, Laurie Mueller, Leigh Mueller, George Rathmell, Kathryn Smith, Martha "Dibby" Tyler, Thayer Walker.

Photography: Jim Alinder, Jack Cosner, Brian Hichwa, Bill Lange, Claire McCarthy, Craig Tooley, Thayer Walker.

Graphics/Layout: Duane and Kathi Gordon

Advertising: Sandy Sloan

Address Correspondence to:
The Sea Ranch SOUNDINGS
Post Office Box 16
The Sea Ranch, CA 95497
or soundings@tsra.org

Telephone Calls to:
Advertising: Sandy Sloan 785-2832
Editorial: Claire McCarthy 884-3444

Contact by e-mail:
Advertising: Sandy Sloan sloan@mcn.org
Editor: Claire McCarthy Soundings@tsra.org

Published by

THE SEA RANCH ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 16
The Sea Ranch, California 95497-0016

Copyright © 2010
THE SEA RANCH SOUNDINGS
All Rights Reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without the prior, written permission of the editor, excepting the brief quotes used in connection with reviews written specifically for inclusion in a newspaper or magazine.

Would you like to trade houses? Do you need a house/pet sitter? Are you available to "sit" a Sea Ranch house? Do you have something you want to sell? Or buy? Or rent? Use the Classified Ad section to match your needs with someone's wants. Classified advertising rates: 30 cents a word, \$5.00 minimum. Mail your ad, **clearly written with payment enclosed**, to TSRA, Box 16, TSR, CA 95497, attention: The Sea Ranch Soundings. Make check payable to TSRA.

Display advertising space is also available on a first come basis, limited to camera-ready ads in PDFs in seven sizes, starting with business card size ad 3 3/8" x 2". Costs begin at \$33.00 for the business card size. If you are interested, please send for a space request sheet.

Advertising deadline May 4, 2010 for the SUMMER issue targeted for mailing early June.

ART SUPPLIES at THE LOFT in SUNDSTROM MALL, Gualala, 884-4424

CIVIL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS. Dimensions 4 Engineering, Inc. (707) 785-2293. Appointments available Tuesdays at The Sea Ranch or in Santa Rosa at 2952 Mendocino Avenue M-F 8:00-5:00
Topographic Maps, Grading and Drainage Plans, Perc Tests, and Septic System Plans.

PICTURE FRAMING: Enhance your art work or family photos with custom mats and frames. Twenty+ years experience. Elizabeth Langdon 707-785-2628.

PAINTING: High quality interior finishes. Dust-free wood refinishing system for cabinets and window sills. Odor-free eco-safe interior paints. Reliable, neat workmanship, 25 yrs experience, reasonable rates. Lic. 606197
Michael Sullens 884-3844

SECRET GARDEN B&B
Relaxing, spacious, peaceful, and private atmosphere. Big country breakfast and cheerful, helpful hosts. \$100-\$115/night. 707-884-3302. Call for midweek or without breakfast rates.

YOGA CLASSES, southend of Sea Ranch. Tue/Thur @ 4:30 PM. Sat/Sun @ 10 AM Saturday great for beginners and basic review. Ask about Sunday Yoga Workshops. Cindy Gibbons, Certified Yoga Instructor. Reservations required. 707-785-2227. cindygibbons@sbcglobal.net.

REBECCA'S HAIR DESIGN
38630 Old Stage Road
Tuesday thru Friday
Haircuts • Colour • Perms
Men • Women • Children
By Appointment only:
Please call - Rebecca O'Neil
884-3252
Established since 1976

TOO MUCH FAMILY AND NOT ENOUGH HOUSE? -- Rams Head Realty's Mid-Week Special (3 nights for 2) continues through May 31. Renters can stay Mon.-Tues. and Wed. nights for the two-night rate. (Not available during holiday periods.) Call (707) 785-2427 or 1-800-785-3455 for conditions and reservations.

The Light of the Coast Science of Mind Center meets on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at 33801 So. Hwy. 1, Gualala (half way between Gualala and Point Arena.) Spiritual counseling, weddings, memorials and classes are available in the Science of Mind teaching. Call Rev. Alyce Soden for information 884-3631

ACUPUNCTURE
Licensed Acupuncturist, Melinda Mills
25 years experience
707-291-5765
birdsongclinic@gmail.com
Call for information and appointment

FABRICS and YARNS at THE LOFT in SUNDSTROM MALL, Gualala, 884-4424

PET/HOUSE SITTING: We would enjoy providing short-term, live-in, attentive pet and/or home care while you're away. Previous Sea Ranch couple. References. 530-644-1235

NEW BOOK: Legends of Mother Mary is a documented biography revealing her spirituality and many incidents in her life not in common knowledge. Hard bound. 273 pages including six beautiful plates from old master artists depicting her life. Rev. Alyce Bartholomew Soden's latest work of ten years is now available for \$29.95 plus tax at the Dolphin, Four-eyed Frog and Fish Rock Publishing Company. Or call Rev. Alyce for information at 884-3631.

Coastal Weddings. Rev. Alyce Soden performs beautiful non-denominational weddings, provides spiritual counseling and referrals to local service. Call Rev. Alyce today to officiate at your memorable wedding. 884-3631

OPENING SOON AT SEA RANCH
Birdsong Clinic & Tea Shop
birdsongclinic@gmail.com

FURNITURE STRIPPING and refinishing. 20 years experience. Bob Shimon (707) 884-4126

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call 884-1401 for location, day and time of Sea Ranch meeting.

HOWARD E. CURTIS



architecture & planning

POB 675, Gualala, ca 95445
39108 Cypress Way, Gualala, Ca
CYPRESS VILLAGE CENTER

C 14189
PLS 3501

884-1601 fax 884-1602

howard@hcurtisaia hcurtis348@earthlink.net



The Sea Ranch
(707) 785-2293

CIVIL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

**Topographic Maps,
Grading & Drainage Plans,
Perc Tests and Septic System Plans**

2952 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa, CA
(707) 578-3433 M-F 8:00-5:00

Panorama
The Essence of a Northwest Retirement Lifestyle

Why have some of your Sea Ranch neighbors moved to Panorama?

Visit our beautiful campus and see for yourself.

If you are considering relocating to a more service-rich lifestyle, consider Panorama. Located in the scenic South Puget Sound region with its moderate climate, rich cultural life and highly rated quality of life, Panorama is the Pacific Northwest's largest and most comprehensive Continuing Care Retirement Community. Panorama offers an abundance of choices and things to do, with 80-plus interest and hobby groups as well as an amenity list too long to include. Visit Panorama's website to learn more about this wonderful way of living (www.panoramacity.org) or call 1-800-999-9807 for more information. You will want to see for yourself why your neighbors from Sea Ranch have chosen Panorama as their new home!

1751 Circle Lane SE • Lacey WA 98503 • www.panoramacity.org

John H. Bower, Inc. offers complete preparation and installation of asphalt driveways that meet or exceed Sea Ranch, Mendocino County, and Caltrans construction standards.

The company also has a full range of equipment and expertise to complete your residential or commercial development needs, including excavation, site compaction, road building, terracing, undergrounding, septic systems, and much more.

Free consultation and estimate.



John H. Bower, Inc.
General Engineering Lic. #631301
(707) 884-1174
Serving Sea Ranch to Irish Beach

THE PRICE IS RIGHT!

In the current Sea Ranch Real Estate market, setting the "right price" on your property is more important than ever. What you never want to do is chase the market; you want the market chasing you. Our unparalleled knowledge of the market, utilizing the most up-to-date technology enables us to achieve your goals - quickly and effectively; from market statistics and customer service to advertising and promotion.

Our annual Marketing Reports and statistics are an undisputed source of industry knowledge and information.

Being recognized as leading Real Estate Brokers with strong reputations and character; our commitment is your success. Call us for a current market analysis on your Sea Ranch property.



KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES

39040 South Highway 1, Gualala
707-884-9000 ext 11 Cindy ext 13 Pat

Cindy: ckennedy@mcn.org
Pat: pnet@mcn.org



www.kennedyrealestate.com

UPDATE ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE SONOMA COAST

By Nancy Carter

The Sonoma Land Trust, a Sonoma County conservation group, recently completed an acquisition that touches on the everyday enjoyment of Sea Ranchers. As reported in a press release www.sonomalandtrust.org and articles in the Independent Coast Observer (December 17, 2009) and the San Francisco Chronicle (December 18, 2009), the Land Trust completed a five year, 36 million dollar acquisition of the Jenner Headlands which will be held in perpetuity as protected open space. Ten public and private entities collaborated to guarantee this scenic entry to our incomparable coast and prevent private development of the open spaces we all take for granted when we head north to our Sea Ranch homes and the rugged isolation we value.

The Jenner Headlands is adjacent to over 13,000 acres of Sonoma Coast State Park and will bring the protected acres on the Sonoma County Coast to nearly 20,000 and create a preservation zone from Duncan Mills to Fort Ross.

Sea Rancher Pete Mattson, Vice-Chair of the Sonoma Land Trust, sees this acquisition as representative of what multiple constituencies can accomplish through hard work, and if negotiating parties with different agendas can find common ground that will benefit gen-



Jenner Headlands

Photos courtesy of Sonoma Land Trust

erations to come. "I've driven up the coast for 25 years to the Sea Ranch and I assumed that the 2 1/2 miles of rugged bluffs and ocean I passed in awe would always be there protecting our coast and considerably adding to our investments at the Sea Ranch." Without this agreement private development of 38 estate homes could have altered this diverse and isolated landscape forever".

When I inquired of Pete if other Sea Ranchers were involved in the work of the Land Trust and the acquisition negotiations he indicated that many members had supported the Land Trust over the years, donating \$3-4 million to the effort but preferred to remain anon-

ymous. Several had given over \$1,000 to the project. To each of them we give our heartfelt thanks. The final transactions were made possible by last-minute funding from The Save the Redwoods League, the Wildlands Conservancy and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation which will be paid back when bonds are available. Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District is paying one third of the cost of the acquisition and the sellers including Gualala Redwoods, Inc., Russian River Redwoods and Sonoma Coast Associates contributed one million dollars.

The Sonoma Land Trust will manage the Jenner headlands for several years until a

public agency such as the California State Parks can assume control. Sonoma County will monitor adherence to the open space agreement through the Agricultural and Open Space District.

Many have asked how they can gain access to the property to see for themselves what is being preserved. Pete indicated that it is too early now as the Land Trust needs to obtain insurance against liability. Ultimately groups of individuals will be given multi-use access and the hikes will be led by groups of volunteers, e.g., wild life experts, border watchers, and conservationists. There will be no vehicle access even though some logging and farming roads run through the site. The Land Trust is currently working on a limited access plan and land use study.

According to the Sonoma Land Trust guided hikes along the coast began in January and are scheduled for February 27 and March 27 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Access to the property and reservations must be made through jennerheadlands@sonomalandtrust.org and currently follow old roads beginning behind the Jenner Inn on Highway One. A roundtrip hike is about 3.5 miles. As the Land Trust begins to work with local community volunteers for property restoration the frequency of the tours may increase.



NEVER BEFORE ON THE MARKET!

HUGE 4.7 Acre lot in Meadow West w. Single Family Home. Approx. 2500+ sq.ft, 2-bed, 2-bath, 2-car garage, Mostly wood interior, large library and sunroom. Large lot is unique with room to grow.

40425 Leeward, UBL 34A-26, \$995,000 Please call for a private showing.

THE COASTAL REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Liisberg & Kalinoski

707.884.1212 info@TheCoastalRealEstateCompany.com www.TheCoastalRealEstateCompany.com DRE License 01822071

