

# ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH



2009 BRYCE BROWNING • WITH APOLOGIES TO EMANUEL LAUTZ

## 2009 MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S BBQ

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND **SUNDAY MAY 24th** FROM NOON UNTIL 5 PM  
AT THE MUIR BEACH PICNIC GROUNDS ON MUIR WOODS ROAD • PARKING IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE CARPOOL



YOUR MINIMUM DONATION OF **\$20 PER CAR** GETS YOU A PLACE TO PARK, PLUS  
\$10 WORTH OF COUPONS TO SPEND ON A GREAT MEAL, A DRINK, A T-SHIRT, OR WHATEVER  
**PARK SERVICE REGS PERMIT ALCOHOL PURCHASED ON-SITE ONLY... NO B.Y.O.B !**



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# BEACHCOMBER

Muir Beach Neighborhood News

Issue 245 May 2009





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Photograph by Shamini Dhana	
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FROM THE EDITOR

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Mill Valley Market, Shop & Give Program.  
Shop at Mill Valley Market, give code #7094 to the cashier before the end of the transaction, and 2% of your total receipt will come back into our community to the Beachcomber.

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you for making the Beachcomber a world-class neighborhood news paper.

—Tayeko Kaufman

The latest Beachcomber is a gem. Again. To me it represents all the positive aspects of community journalism and none of the negative ones. As I move through this issue, I’m sure additional requests will follow, but to start with, would you and Suzanne Bender-Van Spyk allow us to share with the greater West Marin community her wonderful combination of demographic analysis and sociologic commentary?

—Jim Kravets, Editor, The West Marin Citizen

I have really appreciated how much the Beachcomber reveals about our community; as a distinct newcomer, it pulls back the opaque veil of seaside village, revealing a spectrum of brilliant, engaged, jolly good beings wholeheartedly bent on creating beauty, fostering communication and emphasizing sustainability. Yes! Yes! Yes!”

—Qayyum Johnson, Green Gulch Farm

UPFRONT

About the Front Cover

A Winter’s Tail

By Shamini Dhana



‘Twas a simple, sultry Sunday morning on a winter’s day when we were pleasantly surprised by an unexpected guest. Who would have known in that split second, one would transform one’s view of the world? Indeed, that is exactly what happened that December weekend.

I remember being called to witness an unusual occurrence going on outside our living room on the balcony. There he was majestic, tall and beautiful. His reddish brown feathers enveloped his body whilst his deep-set eyes scanned all the dwellings around him. Perched at the corner of the deck, he stole a moment to acknowledge the human world and gather a quick inspection of the grounds, the natural environment, his prey and beyond. It lasted all of fifteen seconds. And in that time, I managed to scamper up my digital camera and click four times at this amazing creature. Then off he departed, without a word, gliding effortlessly into the skies along the spectacular jagged edge of California’s coastal waters. What a moment... a memory to last a lifetime and a gift to all of us!

MARIN ORATORIO

Boyd Jarrell, Director

Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)

The towering genius of the English Baroque was born 350 years ago. We celebrate with "the composer's perfect specimen of music-drama," Purcell's only true opera, *Dido & Aeneas*. Pastoral, heroic, comic-grotesque, and ultimately tragic, this crystalline gem is one of the earliest operas still in the current repertoire.

Also on the program are the vigorous and celebratory *O Sing Unto the Lord*, the harmonically adventurous *Jehova Quam Multi Sunt Hostes*, the inventive ground-bass trio *Since God So Tender a Regard* with its variations of tonality, texture, and tempo, and *Rejoice in the Lord Alway (the Bell Anthem)*, one of Purcell's most enduringly popular sacred works.

The one-hundred-voice chorus will be joined by orchestra and guest soloists Christa Pfeiffer, Erina Newkirk, Lisa Houston, Clifton Massey, Ed Betts, and Jeffrey Fields.

Our last concert virtually sold out for both performances, so plan to get tickets to ensure seating. Treat yourself to some of the most beautiful live music you can hear anywhere.

—Lonna Richmond

Lonna Richmond sings alto with Marin Oratorio. She has been a member of the chorus for ten years, participating in their concerts held in the spring and fall.



Dido & Aeneas

and Sacred Anthems

College of Marin Fine Arts Theater, Kentfield

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 8 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 3 PM

Suggested donation: \$20 general  
\$15 students, staff, seniors, and alumni

All proceeds go to support the programs of Marin Oratorio. Log on to www.marinoratorio.org, or call (415) 485-9687 for information and ticket reservations.

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## Bistro BUZZ

By Suzanne Wynn and Linda Gibbs

Bistro takes place at the Muir Beach Community Center every Wednesday morning 9:30 am - 11:30 am, hosted by Lonna Richmond under the auspices of the Muir Beach Community Services District. All are welcome. Coffee, tea, and Nancy Knox's world-renown scones are available for purchase.

Come out and meet your neighbors!



"Uncle Stevie" Shaffer, who rarely misses Bistro, with Bistro regulars Tiana Vincent-Pearlman (left) and Hannah Eigsti.

The Beachcomber welcomes photos for "Bistro Buzz." Please send your photos in JPEG format to the editor by June 8th for the July issue. Be sure to include captions and photographer credit.

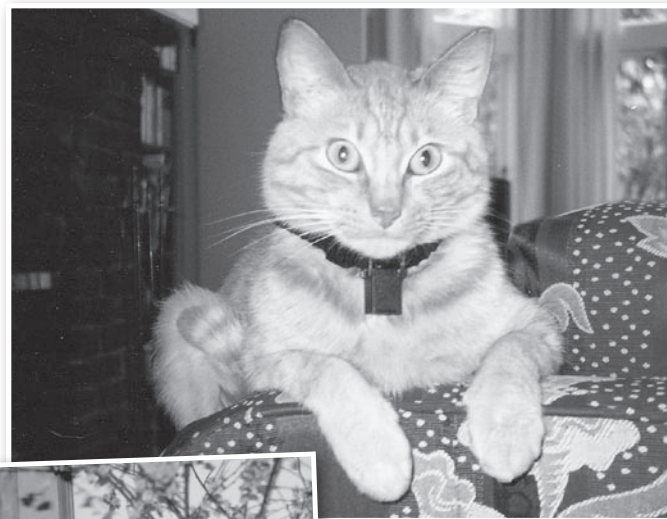


Kathy Sward is getting a "cleanup cut" by hair stylist Suzanne Wynn. (Spray bottle is filled with water!)

Suzanne Wynn rides Muir Beach's beloved Sunset Way horses, Honey and Rascal, after enjoying a cuppa jo and visiting at Bistro on Wednesdays and will fit in a haircut or two for locals and their friends. Her salon, permanent makeup practice, and art studio are in Sausalito. (suzannewynn.com)

Photographs by Nina Vincent

## In Loving Memory



**Pasta Gibbs Leivick**  
1989 – 2009

*Farewell  
"Pasta Wasta"*

Photographs by David Leivick

## Announcing Wag's Revue

By Sandra Allen

*Wag's Revue*  
Issue 1 • Spring '09



Muir Beach native Sandra Allen recently co-founded an online-only literary magazine called the Wag's Revue. Issue 1, which released March 21st, features interviews with Pulitzer Prize-nominated author and McSweeney's founder Dave Eggers, n+1 magazine founder Mark Greif, fiction writer Wells Tower, as well as new fiction, poetry and nonfiction. Wag's Revue will be a quarterly publication that aspires to

harness the freedoms of the Internet to create a safe space for good writing. Wag, an antiquated word for a droll wit, is also a portmanteau of 'web' and 'magazine,' as the Wag's Revue aspires to completely reinterpret the way a magazine can exist online. We invite everyone to visit [www.wagsrevue.com](http://www.wagsrevue.com) to read Issue 1, for free, today. Also, look out for our writers' contests, offering \$500 prizes for the best poem, fiction, and nonfiction, and guaranteed publication in Issue 2.

## Kate Brandt Update

By Laurie Brandt

Our most recent trip to Washington, DC included a White House tour. As some of you may know, there are three different tours. The East Wing, which is open to the public, houses the reception rooms for visitors and the First Lady's offices. The West Wing, which fans of the TV series by that name will know, houses the President's office and the offices of those closest to him as well as the grand meeting rooms that include the Cabinet Room, the Situation Room, and the Roosevelt Room. Tours of this wing of the White House are privately conducted by White House staff. And the third tour is of the residence, also private.

We thoroughly enjoyed our West Wing tour and our daughter Kate Brandt proved to be an excellent tour guide. Since Inauguration Day, Kate has been working at the White House Office of Energy and Climate as a policy analyst.

Kate graduated from Brown University in May of 2007 with a BA in International Relations. After completing a summer internship at the World Affairs Council in San Francisco, she began her studies at the University of Cambridge as a Gates Scholar. In July of 2008 she completed her MPhil in International Studies.

Just prior to completing her masters thesis Kate was chosen by the Academy of Achievement to attend its 47th Annual International Achievement Summit. The Academy brings students face-to-face with the extraordinary leaders, thinkers, and pioneers who have shaped our world. 125 graduate students are selected from 25 countries. The 2008 summit was held in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii—Kate was flown there from London! One of the high points of the experience for Kate was meeting the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa, a recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

From there her path followed one similar to most political appointees. In August she went to Denver and worked at the Democratic Convention for Secretary Alice Germond doing advance. This included all the prior arrangements for the Secretary's attendance at numerous functions. After the Convention, Kate chose one of the swing states, and worked on the Obama campaign in Tampa, Florida. She worked 14-hour days seven days a week and the success of the efforts that she and her colleagues made is now history. The couple who generously sponsored Kate's stay with a lovely bungalow on the Tampa Bay were Republicans all their lives. Fortunately, there were many others and among the counties that Obama carried was Tampa's.

After celebrating the victory, Kate moved to Washington. Her goal was to work on the Transition Team and hopefully secure a job at the White House. She knocked on many doors and ultimately achieved her goal. She worked in the security sector, first on agency review, then on preparation for Susan Rice's UN Ambassador confirmation, and then she landed a job with Carol Browner, the Senior Advisor to the President for Energy and Climate. The long days continue, but the excitement of being



White House staffer Kate Brandt in the press briefing room of the West Wing.

Photograph by David Brandt

part of the new administration seems to sustain Kate. The excitement began when she attended the inauguration and various inaugural balls. It hasn't let up!

The White House since 911 has become a solidly secure place. To get into the West Wing requires pre-registration, numerous identity checks, metal detectors, and staying close to the guide. All well worth it. It was quite a thrill to stand at the entry to the Oval Office and see the family photos the President has placed behind his desk. The office is sparsely furnished and uncluttered. The only new addition is the head of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which used to be in the East Wing. Each president chooses a rug. The one in the office is still George Bush's and is distinguished by the Texas Lonestar being repeated in the design. We are looking forward to seeing what the current president chooses.

Because the First Family was at Camp David the Rose Garden was open and we got to see the famous column-lined passage where the President walks each day from the residence to the West Wing. We enjoyed our stroll in the rose garden, viewing the expansive and beautiful grounds of the White House. It was truly a joyful experience to be guided around the White House by Kate. It is a pretty interesting place for a 24-year-old Muir Beacher to have her first real job!



Kate Brandt and Sean Grant at Obama Inauguration.



## Beachcomber Collection Update

By Laurie Piel

It was just about a year ago when I had a discussion with Bryce Browning around a picnic table at the BBQ. That chat made me realize how nice it would be if we had access to all of the past *Beachcombers*. Hard as it is to believe, we had only been here about six months and it was the first time I had met Bryce. It would not be a surprise to longtime residents that an accessible *Beachcomber* collection was the subject of our conversation. There are so many reasons to want to read the back issues. Newcomers like me who are interested in learning the history of Muir Beach will find them fascinating, and longtime residents looking to jog their memories of when and how things happened will have a reference tool. Of course, anyone just wanting to settle a bet could find what they needed if we had a collection housed somewhere with access, or online in a database. Needless to say, our conversation led us to Linda Gibbs, the *Beachcomber's* intrepid editor, and the three of us talked about our wish list: good storage space for the current collection, the addition of as many issues as could be rounded up, and eventually an electronic searchable database for the entire collection.

We are thrilled to be able to give you the update on the wish list. Michael Moore, Judith Yamamoto, and Leslie Riehl have all donated their collections. We are still looking for issues dated prior to 1974. Currently, their collections are housed in my 10 x 10 in four magazine holders. I have organized the issues chronologically and we have most of the issues dating from 1974, along with one from 1954, one from 1966, and one mystery year (although Sherlock Piel intends to solve the mystery). Some of the issues are so beautiful. Many of them are hand colored. And the change in the feel of the issues when Larry Yamamoto's logo design started gracing the cover is remarkable. If anyone would like access to this collection please let me know. For the moment, I guess I'm the librarian by default. We are working on our ultimate wish, the searchable database, and when we have some news, you know you'll find the information right here in your *Beachcomber*.

Did you know that the Marin Civic Center Library has a collection of

*Beachcombers*? I didn't. Linda Gibbs has been donating each new issue of the *Beachcomber* to the Library since she took over the helm as editor in 2007. The past editors supplied editions starting with 1974 through 1986. Missing from the library were the years 1987 - 2006. In the March 2008 issue of the *Beachcomber*, Linda Gibbs put out the call for copies of the *Beachcomber* to fill in the missing years, and the community responded magnificently. In March, Linda, Julie Smith, our trusty photographer and webmaster, and I met in the Anne T. Kent California Room at the Civic Center and presented the library with one copy of each of our duplicates for their missing years. Their collection also dates from 1974. We spoke with Head Librarian Laurie Thompson and her digital archivist, Carol Uhrmacher, and learned a lot about what we can do to achieve our goals in Muir Beach. Among the information we received was what archival boxes they use to house their collection in the library. We hope to find the way to purchase these boxes for us as well.

That's the news and there will be periodic updates in the *Beachcomber* as this project moves forward.



A fraction of the collection on the Piel living room floor waiting to be filed.  
Photograph by Laurie Piel

## Beachcomber Archive Growing at the Marin County Library

By Linda Gibbs

Tucked behind the Children's Room at the Civic Center Branch of the Marin County Library is a gem of an archives: The Anne T. Kent California Room maintained by Head Librarian Laurie Thompson and Digital Archivist Carol Uhrmacher. Between these two gracious and knowledgeable women, you can find all things Californian: newspaper clippings, biographies and obits, books, journals, photographs, and the from 1974 to 1986.

Last year, when Paul Jeschke was in the California Room researching a story, Thompson asked for any back issues we might have in the community to complete their archive.



Collection Coordinator Laurie Piel (second from left) donates the *Beachcomber* collection to Head Librarian Laurie Thompson. Also present are *Beachcomber* Editor Linda Gibbs (far left) and Digital Archivist Carol Uhrmacher



*Beachcombers* both old and new are stored in acid-free archival folders and boxes.

The call went out in the and three residents—Judith Yamamoto, Michael Moore, and Leslie Riehl—generously donated their collections. Laurie and David Piel painstakingly sorted through the donated issues, separating out duplicates that could be contributed to the Library. A year later, on March 12th, Laurie, Julie Smith, and I paid a visit to the California Room for the handing off event.

Our thanks go out to the California Room librarians for their care and dedication in maintaining the history of Muir Beach. Stop by and say hello to them and take a look at the archive, so carefully preserved for generations to come.



The *Beachcomber* collection ready for the archive.



Location of the *Beachcomber* archive in the Anne T. Kent California Room of the Marin County Library, Civic Center Branch.

Photographs by Julie Smith





## "If You Aren't Outraged You Aren't Paying Attention"

By Lonna Richmond

You know the saying, but that is an understatement when referring to what I recently heard at the City Arts & Lecture series at Herbst Pavilion. The conversation was between Dr. Denis Mukwege, Director and Founder of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and playwright Eve Ensler ("The Vagina Monologues"), and it was about the genocide (aka femicide) going on in the DRC and other poor countries. Now, not a day goes by that I don't think of what is and has been going on there for more than 13 years.

In 1998 Eve Ensler founded VDAY which is a global movement to end violence against women and girls throughout the world. She has been tirelessly working to get the word out and the words are END THE VIOLENCE. I learned that one of every three women in the world today will personally experience physical or sexual violence. Political violence begets personal violence and there are over sixteen countries that are home to numerous areas of armed conflict. In each place women and girls are at extreme risk of rape, physical assault, and murder.

Since 1996 the DRC has played host to the world's deadliest conflict since WWII, resulting in the death of somewhere between three and five million people. Indeed, eastern Congo right now is the most dangerous place in the world to be a woman or a girl. Militias use sexual violence as a weapon of war to torture and humiliate women and girls and destroy families and communities. And then when families flee, the women and children often languish for long periods in refugee camps where they continue to be exposed to physical and sexual assault and are preyed upon by sex traffickers.

Following a landmark peace agreement and a tumultuous political transition backed by the world's largest UN peacekeeping operation, the Congo held largely successful elections in 2006. However, elections were not a panacea to eastern Congo's ills: 45,000 people die each month, mostly from hunger and disease resulting from the ongoing conflict, and over one million people have been displaced.

Fueled by the exploitation of the country's rich natural resources by foreign and local armies and private enterprises, the war has directly affected the lives of 50 million Congolese.\* In South Kivu Province, for example, according to Titinga Frederic Pacere, an independent expert for the UN Human Rights Council on the state of human rights in the DRC, 14,200 rape cases were registered between 2005 and 2007 but only 287 were taken to court. The UN estimates that 200,000-300,000 women have been raped since the beginning of the conflict, but Dr. Mukwege says the real figure is more like half a million. Rapes of girls as young as six and women over 70 have been reported. I don't want to be graphic here, but when I say rape I mean RAPE. These women are often so brutally assaulted that their internal organs are broken and, if at all possible, Dr. Mukwege and his team of six surgeons try to rebuild them. Their hospital can only handle 10 surgeries

a day and these good doctors routinely work 18-hour days. Dr. Mukwege has been doing this for over 10 years!!!

This particular tour, which visited five cities, was called TURNING PAIN TO POWER. It placed a spotlight on the women of the DRC and the atrocities they face. The tour is in support of the V-Day and UNICEF global campaign STOP RAPING OUR GREATEST RESOURCE: POWER TO WOMEN AND GIRLS OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. With the money raised they are creating the City of Joy in Bukavu—a center for survivors who have been left without family, community, or the capacity to have children. City of Joy will give these survivors a safe place to live while providing an education, leadership training, and a chance to earn income.

When you hear their survival stories, the themes that resound across cultures and geographies are the indifference of authorities, the familial instinct of denial, and the lack of public outrage about the violence that millions of women experience every day. These truths are what VDAY and other groups (i.e., RAISE Hope for Congo) were born from. The unacceptable desecration of human dignity must be exposed and brought into light or the violence will continue and the perpetrators will go unpunished. Despite the horrific scale of violence, and the grave consequences of the conflict in the DRC, we rarely see it on television, we seldom hear about it on the radio, and we hardly ever read about it in the newspapers. The more we are silent about this, the more acceptable rape will be as a weapon of war. Strong U.S. engagement can help end the conflict and the violence against women. Each day that goes by without action, thousands more Congolese are displaced or killed and countless women and girls are raped. We must tell our leaders that we cannot allow such crimes to continue.



A few of the websites I used for this article regarding women and violence:

- vday.org
- enoughproject.org
- www.rdcviolencesexuelle.org/site/en/node/35 - Congolese Women's Campaign Against Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- [http://doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/reports/2004/sexualviolence\\_2004.pdf](http://doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/reports/2004/sexualviolence_2004.pdf)
- <http://www.amnestyusa.org/all-countries/congo-dem-rep-of/stop-violence-against-women-in-drc/page.do?id=1101873>

To learn more about the minerals in conflict, please check out these websites:

- <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/mineindex.htm>
- <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=14588>
- <http://blogs.zdnet.com/sustainability/?p=114>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OWj1ZGn4uM>

Where you can write to comment on the situation in DRC:

- Representative Lynn Woolsey: [woolsey.house.gov/contactemailform.asp](mailto:woolsey.house.gov/contactemailform.asp)
- Senator Dianne Feinstein: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUs.EmailMe>
- Senator Barbara Boxer: <http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm>
- President Barack Obama: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>
- Vice President Joe Biden: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

To support President Barack Obama's request for International Affairs Funding, which means aid to the DRC and to other countries in need, please email the President at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/> or write to him at: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20500



## Earth Hour '09

By Cori Valentine

This year at least 35 people from the community switched off their lights and joined together at Little Beach along with 3900 other cities and 84 countries in support of the global effort that is being hailed as the largest demonstration of public concern regarding climate change ever. AND, we had a really good time

doing it, too! We had a beautiful bonfire—thanks to Chris Gove—and a potluck of wine and snacks. I heard someone say, “I can’t think of a better excuse to come together with my neighbors.”

While the event itself was not intended to reduce carbon emissions, it has transformed into the world's first “global election” urging the world to VOTE EARTH and reach the target of one billion votes. These votes will then be presented to the world leaders at the Global Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this year.

President Barack Obama has also invited figures from the world's 16 major economies to Washington for a meeting on climate change at the end of April. The event will be the first meeting of what the White House calls “the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.” It will focus on increasing the supply of clean energy and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. It was announced as millions worldwide observed Earth Hour, turning off lights in a protest against climate change.

So the question becomes, Will our votes make a difference in climate legislation? We'll have to wait and see.

In the meantime, we have lots of resources to educate ourselves and others and what actions we can take to reduce our carbon footprint and continue to do our part in protecting our precious Mother Earth. And we can save money while doing it. There are lots of resources on the Internet including this website: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/whatyoucando-individuals.html>

Earth Hour began in Sydney Australia in 2007 when 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for one hour. In 2008 the movement spread worldwide and 50 million people and businesses switched off their lights. This year the count in the U.S. alone was measured at 36 million people.

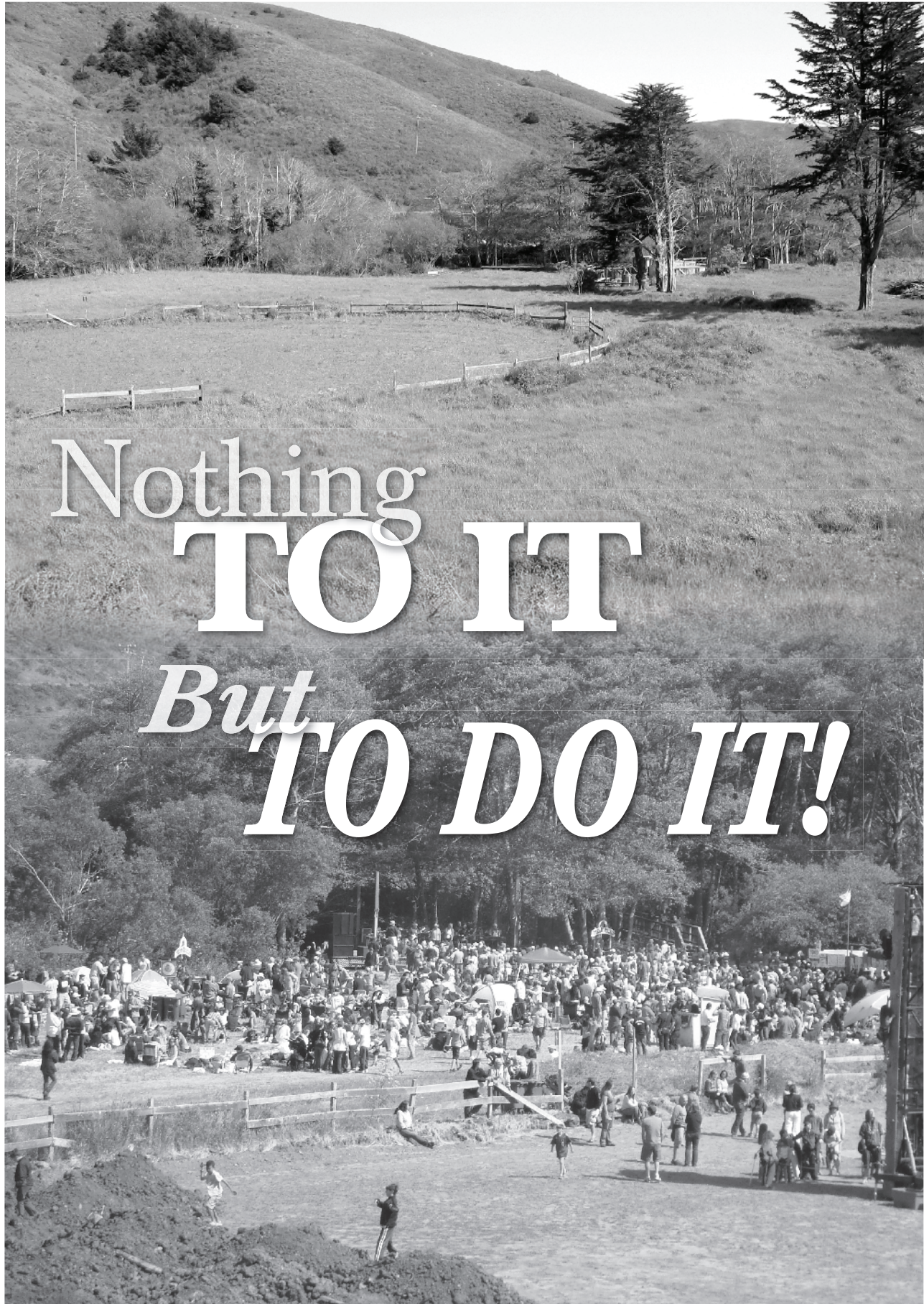
I apologize to those of you I missed on the email distribution list. Next year I will get more organized and send out flyers. And I hope you will join us next time!



Turning out their house lights and gathering on Little Beach, Muir Beach residents observe Earth Hour '09, a worldwide event held at 8:30 pm on March 28th.

Photograph by Kathy Johnston





Top photograph by David Leivick; bottom photograph by Brad Eigsti.

A Celebration Or a Fundraiser?

By Anne Jeschke

As the Muir Beach Memorial Day Barbecue approaches each year, one can't help wondering if it is a community celebration or a fundraiser for our volunteer fire department. Of course it is both, and something more as well.

Planning starts early in the year, actually before the first official meeting early in February. Deb Allen, for one, is out soliciting raffle prizes early in January! Kathy Sward and her committee are selecting shirt colors and styles in March. Michael Kaufman and members of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fireman's Association Board work all year with the State Parks personnel making sure all requirements are met for use of their land, which must be renegotiated each year.

Come Every Saturday in May, 10 am until 4 pm!

By May a lot of preparation has been done, and it is time to get down to the actual physical labor that is necessary to ready the barbecue site for the big event. Volunteers come to the Muir Woods Road site every Saturday in May from 10 am until 4 pm to clear brush, repair equipment, ready shelves for shirts and booths for ticket sales, and more. Lunch is served whether you're there for 30 minutes or 6 hours.

If you've always wanted to be part of the barbecue, this is a great place to start. You'll meet lots of neighbors,

and feel that strong sense of community as everyone adds their own skills and enthusiasm to the project. Think you don't have the skills? My first year Dee Hayden and I spent two Saturdays pulling old staples out of the shelves for the shirt sales. It wasn't exactly exciting, but in addition to smoothing out the shelves, I got to know Dee! Bring your weed eaters, rakes, clippers, gardening gloves, and you're ready for work. (Staple removers are generally provided.)

Sell and Buy Your Raffle Tickets!

Deb Allen works, works, works to accumulate 100 prizes. If you have goods or services to donate, let her know. Each Muir Beach resident will receive several booklets of raffle tickets. Buy them, sell them, and ask for more! Leave a message for Deb at 380-6137. The raffle is nearly pure profit, so let's make the most of it and sell, sell, sell.

Volunteer For a Committee!

If you want to work for a specific committee, just call or email the chair. They'll be grateful not to have to call around to ask you. If you want to volunteer "where most needed," call or email me, Anne Jeschke, at 388-2278 or [ajeschke@aol.com](mailto:ajeschke@aol.com). I'll help you find the perfect position. Workers are always needed to sell tickets and shirts, to serve food and collect trash, to check ID's and attach bracelets. And we're always looking for folks to help clean up the day after, 10 am until noon on Monday. No experience necessary!

Committees That Need Volunteers!

Beer and Wine	Jes Sward	381-8465; <a href="mailto:angiebanducci@hotmail.com">angiebanducci@hotmail.com</a>
Clean up	Anne Jeschke	388-2278; <a href="mailto:ajeschke@aol.com">ajeschke@aol.com</a>
Food Prep	Erin Pinto	383-4152; <a href="mailto:rarearth@earthlink.net">rarearth@earthlink.net</a>
Food Service	Erin Pinto	383-4152; <a href="mailto:rarearth@earthlink.net">rarearth@earthlink.net</a>
Parking	Chris Gove	497-3487; <a href="mailto:cgove@yahoo.com">cgove@yahoo.com</a>
Raffle Tickets/Prizes	Deb Allen	383-1854; <a href="mailto:dallen@pacunion.com">dallen@pacunion.com</a>
Security Gate	Al Kile	383-4725; <a href="mailto:alkile1@sbcglobal.net">alkile1@sbcglobal.net</a>
Shirts	Kathy Sward	383-6762; <a href="mailto:kathylovesquilts@yahoo.com">kathylovesquilts@yahoo.com</a>
Ticket Sales	Greg Ketchum	259-5960; <a href="mailto:drgreg@talentplanet.com">drgreg@talentplanet.com</a>
Trash/Recycling	Fleche Phoenix	388-0358; <a href="mailto:steinbachalan@gmail.com">steinbachalan@gmail.com</a>
Visa Sales	Gail Quentz	383-2886; <a href="mailto:gailquentz@hotmail.com">gailquentz@hotmail.com</a>
Work Party Food	Laura Van Amburgh	389-8396; <a href="mailto:vanamburgh@mac.com">vanamburgh@mac.com</a>
Work Parties	Barbecue organizers are looking for someone to step up and supervise the Saturday work parties. This job requires a person who has attended and helped at Saturday work parties in the past. A list of projects, supplies and equipment needed, and a timetable for work to be done, are all part of the job. If you know someone, or if you and a friend might be able to work together to oversee Saturday work parties, call Michael Kaufman, John John Sward, or Anne Jeschke now!	



MBVFD Raffle 2009 Update

By Debra Allen

By the time you receive this edition, you'll probably already have your raffle tickets. Please buy them if you can and return the small stubs with your check to the Fire Department (locked red box in mailbox row, which gets checked once a day in the afternoon). If you can't purchase them, please return the whole packet to the red box so that we may re-sell them.

2009 MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S RAFFLE PRIZES  
(promised & rec'd. so far!)

Overnights:

- 1. A Night & Breakfast at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, \$336.
- 2. Stay at the Calistoga Inn, \$75.
- 3. An Overnight at Lindisfarne Guest House with meals, Green Gulch Farm, Muir Beach
- 4. A Special Night at the Cavallo Pt. Lodge, Sausalito, \$314.

Art/Related:

- 5. Poster ("December Aspens" by Wm. Houk) from Robert Allen Fine Art, Sausalito, \$300
- 6. "Raven" Door Mat from Art Matters
- 7. Watercolor by Brad Eigsti, Muir Beach
- 8. Ceramic Salad Bowl from Heath Ceramics, Sausalito, \$84
- 9. 2 Pairs of Copper Earrings by Chrys Camperlino, SF
- 10. Knit Hat by Nina Vincent Pearlman, Muir Beach
- 11. Framed Water Color by Ben Farnham, Sausalito
- 12. Something Ceramic by Lorna Newlan/Sausalito Pottery
- 13. Gift Certificate for framing at Sausalito Picture Framing, \$100.

Restaurants:

- 14. Dessert at Max's Café, \$25.
- 15. Eat at the Parkside, Stinson, from David Leivick & Linda Gibbs, \$50.
- 16. Meal at Guaymas, Tiburon
- 17. Certificate to Piatti's from Sean Maley, loan broker, \$100.
- 18. Eat at Pizza Antica, MV, \$30.
- 19. Breakfast at The Dipsea Café, \$30.
- 20. Dinner for two at Station House Café, Pt. Reyes
- 21. Sandwiches at Togos, Larkspur, \$25.
- 22. Snacks at Duarte's Tavern, Pescadero, \$25.
- 23. Meal at Sand Dollar Restaurant, Stinson
- 24. Lunch at The Pelican Inn, Muir Beach, \$100.

Books/CDs:

- 25. "A Wine Journey Along the Russian River" & "The Trees of San Francisco" from Pomegranate Press
- 26. Cookbooks from 10 Speed Press: "The New Laurel's Kitchen", "Mustards" & "New Good Food"
- 27. Mindful books from Parallax Publishing: "Cosmos in a Carrot", "Long Rd. Turns to Joy", "Loves Garden" & "Present Moment Wonderful Moment"

I usually end up with 100 gifts, and am getting close (see the list here and for an updated version please go to the dept's website at [www.muirbeachfire.com](http://www.muirbeachfire.com)). You can buy more raffle tickets ahead of time (maybe you want to sell some at your work place or to your friends and family?), or at the BBQ on May 24th, or you can donate a prize as well. We call out the winners at the end of the day on May 24th, but you don't need to be present to win. Thank you and good luck! Debra Allen 380-6137

- 28. Sunset Books is sending a surprise collection
- 29. "The Trees of San Francisco" from Pomegranate Press & "I Bought Andy Warhol" Autographed & donated by author by Richard Polsky
- 30. "Galen Rowell: A Retrospective" from Sierra Club Books
- 31. More Cookbooks from 10 Speed Press: "Vincent's", "River Cottage Farm" & "Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant"
- 32. "Jules the Lighthouse Dog", "more adventures of" & "Kid Canine Superhero" children's books from Black Plume Books
- 33. Claudia Chapin Gallery is sending an art book
- 34. "Experience the California Coast" from U of CA Press & "The Trees of San Francisco" from Pomegranate Press
- 35. Rodmell Press sends "Living your Yoga" "Awakening the Inner Body Yoga" & a Relaxation CD

Yummy Items/Certificates to Stores:

- 36. A Baggallini Suitcase from Debra Hendsch & Assoc., Muir Beach, \$175.
- 37. Coastal Home Décor Basket from Mermaidhut.com, \$175.
- 38. Certificate to Whole Foods, from Sara Zander, loan broker, \$25.
- 39. A Bag of Cleaning Items & a "Squeaky Green" book. from Method, \$50.
- 40. A Certificate to Demo Sport store, San Rafael
- 41. A Certif. for Blue Cheese & a "Blue Course" cookbook. from Pt. Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.
- 42. Assortment of Teas & a Mug from Mighty Leaf Tea, San Rafael
- 43. A Certificate for Flowers from Mill Valley Flowers, \$25.
- 44. A Skate Deck, a Beach Towel, Hats & Stickers from Proof Lab, Tam Valley, \$100.
- 45. A Basket of products from Soulstice Spa, Sausalito
- 46. Olive Oil, Vinegar & Sea Salt from St. Helena Olive Oil Co.
- 47. An Obama Duck from Celebriducks, San Rafael
- 48. Another Gift Certif. to Whole Foods from Sara Zander, loan broker, \$25.
- 49. A Selection of Marin County Harrison Maps from Tom Harrison
- 50. Certificate to Mostly Natives Nursery, Tomales Bay, \$50.
- 51. Another Coastal Home Décor Basket from Mermaidhut.

- com, \$175.
- 52. Teas & a Mug from The Republic of Tea, Novato
- 53. A Certificate to Cabaline Emporium, Pt. Reyes
- 54. A Tennis Bag (or something neat) from Brad Gilbert Tennis, San Rafael
- 55. A huge basket filled with chocolate from Ghirardelli!
- 56. A Subscription to the *Beachcomber* (Muir Beach mag.) & Beach Towel

Shows/Classes/Travel, etc.:

- 57. A Sunset Sail for two out of Sausalito from Call of The Sea, \$80.
- 58. A Child's Horsemanship Lesson from Ocean Riders of Muir Beach, \$100.
- 59. Tickets for two to the Carmel Bach Festival
- 60. Four Classes at Yoga Center of Marin, Corte Madera, by Susy Stewart, \$60.
- 61. Golf 18 holes (for two + cart) at Little River Inn, Mendo.
- 62. Six Tickets to Alcatraz, from Michele Phillips of Muir Beach
- 63. Ice Skating at Snoopy's in Santa Rosa
- 64. Kayak Rental for four hrs., from Sea Trek Ocean Kayak Ctr., Saus., \$140.
- 65. Wine Tasting with Ted at TR Elliott Family Vineyards!
- 66. Entry Passes (for ten of you) to Punch Line Comedy Club, SF, \$120.
- 67. Lift Tickets to Northstar or Sierra at Tahoe, \$158.
- 68. Two Adult Classes at Roco Dance, Mill Valley, \$32.
- 69. Four Tickets to see Lynyrd Skynard at Konociti Harbor,

- Kelseyville
- 70. Two Tickets to a play at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, \$96.
- 71. Go see the Marin County Fair (all four of you)
- 72. Four Tickets to a Hockey Game from the San Jose Sharks!
- 73. Passes to the Tiburon Music Festival from Paul Smith
- 74. Intro. to Sailing for Two at Club Nautique, Alameda, \$130.
- 75. After Hrs. Private Tour w/the Brewmaster at Anchor Steam Brewery, SF
- 76. Day Use (for two) of the Spa at Vichy Springs, Ukiah
- 77. Classes at Marin Karate Kids, Corte Madera
- 78. Two Entry Passes to SFMOMA, \$25.
- 79. Racing for Two at Go Kart Racer, Burlingame, \$150.
- 80. A Family Pass to the Slide Ranch Harvest Festival, Muir Beach
- 81. A five-Class Card at Yoga of Sausalito, \$75.
- 82. Kayaking for two hours from Blue Waters Kayak, Tomales
- 83. Go see a Play at Marin Shakespeare, San Rafael
- 84. Paintballing for 10 of you at Norcal Paintball, Petaluma
- 85. A Trail Ride on Horseback with Ocean Riders of Muir Beach, \$100.
- 86. A free one-hr. Consultation with Atty. Levon Sagatelyan, \$\$
- 87. Southwest Airlines will fly you and a friend anywhere they go, \$800!

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EA., SEE YOU ON MAY 24th! (415) 380-6137 for info.



Just Dog Stuff

By Kathy Sward

It's time again to renew your supply of Muir Beach Fire Department paraphernalia. We'll again have tanks and tees, including kids' and ladies' items, sweat shirts, pants and hoodies, denim shirts and aprons, fleece vests and ¼ zip pull-ons, ball caps and berets, thermal mugs, and fleece stadium blankets and anything else I may have forgotten to list.

This year I'm hoping to have some ceramic dog dishes, if potter Lorna Newlin, who you may remember from our Christmas Fair in 2006 and 2007, will be able to produce them for us. But you'll want to get there early for this hot item, as she can produce only so many, and, of course, since they're not easy for us to store, we won't order a ton of them.

I'm also trying to find some cost-effective cotton or hemp vegetable bags to sport our famous logo; then if we all use them when we're grocery shopping, we can feel good that we're taking one tiny step to being a little "greener" for our Mother Earth.

And besides the items you want to get for yourself, think about birthday and thank you gifts you'll be needing soon. And also, how about finally buying things for your friends who've been asking you to please get them one of those fabulous dog items. But most of all, remember that these purchases you make are one of the main ways the Association raises money to fund our wonderful, dedicated and always-first-on-the-scene volunteer fire department.

So on Sunday, May 24th, come to the shirt booth which will be filled with a colorful array of choices, almost making it too difficult to make decisions; but we happily accept credit cards, so you won't have to worry about narrowing down your choices—you can buy them all, and the fire department will be grateful!



# Beachcomber Spotlight: Firefighter Ted Marshall

*Tenth in a series of interviews with the members of the MBVFD*

*By Linda Gibbs*

Your name has come up in interviews with other firefighters, i.e., the influence you’ve had over young recruits. Are you always on the lookout for community members who would be good candidates for volunteer fire service?

I would say, no, actually I’m not, you know. It occurs to you that some people would be a good fit, and then you pursue it. But in general I don’t think it’s something that you want to recruit. Mike [Moore] I think has tapped a few people. Sutton [Freeebarin-Smith] tapped me twenty some years ago. He said, “I think it’s time, come on, Ted.” But I don’t think it’s appropriate for just anybody. I don’t think this kind of volunteer service is appropriate certainly for every kind of person. It’s not a good fit. There’re other ways that people can contribute to their neighbors.

**How do you tell someone would be a good prospect?**

Poor mental health! I don’t know, it’s crazy, it’s sort of silly.

**How do you mean?**

Wearing a pager, being available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Doing three 3-hour drills a month. And taking responsibility to help somebody in a rather important way if called upon is kind of odd.

**Do you think of yourself as an odd person?**

I don’t know, certainly so! But in general, it’s not a fit for everybody, you know, to have that sort of unconditional availability, to drop everything, whatever they’re doing. There was a rollover at three last night, my pager, the battery had gone dead so I didn’t respond. But at three in the morning everybody rolls out of bed and goes and tries to help somebody.

**Chris Gove mentioned in his *Beachcomber* interview that you are quite the accomplished carpenter and that you are highly trained in Japanese-style carpentry. First of all, what is Japanese-style carpentry?**

It’s building Japanese joinery, what I was trained in. This is the old joinery style which every culture developed in how to build buildings. Before there were nails and fasteners there were joints. And the Japanese arguably had some of the most sophisticated methods, so it’s basically sixteenth century technology of building buildings with mortise and tenon.

**What is that?**

It’s a male [tenon] and a female [mortise]. So it’s how things fit together structurally.

**Without nails?**

Without nails, right. And so there’s the engineering of that. So I did a four-year apprenticeship of temple style and then



*Firefighter Ted Marshall  
Photograph by Julie Smith*

I worked with a teahouse builder for two years.

**What is temple style?**

It’s the style in which temples are made in Japan.

**With this mortise and tenon technique?**

That’s right.

**Where did you study?**

At Green Gulch, with Paul Discoe.

**He’s a carpenter?**

Yes, a master carpenter.

**Did you live at Green Gulch?**

I did at different times. Back in ’71 when the Zen Center first bought it, I was the first guest student along with two others. So I was there and that was my introduction to Muir Beach. And then I came back and moved in Margaret Keyes’ downstairs so that I could go to Green Gulch and study. Then I was the caretaker at Slide Ranch for six months and then I went off to Tassajara for four years.

**You did all of that as an apprentice carpenter?**

No. And then after all of that, I came back and apprenticed with Paul. After four years at Tassajara I went back to logging for 18 months and then came back and served my apprenticeship.

**So you are a Zen student? Is that how you were connected with Tassajara and Green Gulch?**

Yes.

**How did the carpentry evolve from being a Zen student?**

An interest in craft all my life. An interest in public art all my life. And this was sort of a nice combination of those two influences—to have architecture and public art and a craft that was very reflective of your state of mind, which sort of goes into paying attention to yourself a little bit as a Zen student. So it seemed like good work.

**After you were an apprentice for four years in the temple style at Green Gulch, you did an apprenticeship for two years?**

It was not a formal apprenticeship. It was working with Hiroshi Sakaguchi who did the last half of the teahouse here at Green Gulch, which was the first teahouse to be built in America.

**There was no teahouse in America before the Green Gulch one?**

That’s my understanding. Larry Rockefeller funded it. It was a Japanese teahouse-style residence with a tea room attached so it’s not a classically a teahouse, which is a separate and small building. And it was built for Yaeko Nakamura (who is passed now) who I think was one of the two leading tea teachers in the world at the time.

**What happened after you were trained for six years in Japanese-style carpentry? Did you become self-employed?**

Yeah, I actually stopped doing carpentry for a while. I developed a fear of heights because I had blown out a knee, and then I was doing an elaborate shingle job at Lindisfarne Guesthouse at Green Gulch. It was a two-story; I didn’t have safety features. And so I was up there and I developed a fear of heights. So I started climbing trees with Ruck Rucker—who is now passed—to overcome that fear of climbing trees. He was a great tree surgeon. He was sort of the well-used tree person here in Muir Beach, Green Gulch and Zen Center, and in Mill Valley. And a great guy, just quite a wonderful character.

**Did you get over your fear of heights from climbing trees with him?**

I did, it helped. And then I started doing carpentry jobs. I had been in kind of a hothouse environment, in this rarified environment of building all these buildings where everything is hand-planed. There’s no nails. Everything is rather pristine and so I went out and started doing production trim work, which was kind of this great balance. I have fond memories of it.

**Was that to free your mind?**

No, I wouldn’t say that. It’s a different energy. It’s a different kind of focus to enjoy and work with.

**Is that what you do now?**

No, I do actually a bunch of different things. I do furniture right now, cabinets, a remodel, some high-end trim work. What I would like to do is transition to building musical instruments as I’m getting older now. That would be my next ambition.

**Musical instruments of days of old?**

Violins, mandolins, and guitar.

**Are you a musician?**

A little bit of a mandolin player.

**No kidding. Have you ever played publicly in Muir Beach?**  
No.

**And when you say that you’re doing these different projects, are they all in the Japanese style or is it a mixture?**

No, it’s a mix.

**Depending on what the client is looking for?**

Yeah.

**Chris also mentioned that you built your own house.**

Yes.

**Is this the kind of project that you wait many years until you have the skills you need to accomplish it? Or do you learn as you go?**

Both.

**When did you start building the house?**

We bought it in ’95 and then my mom got ill with cancer and we got red tagged. And so there was a scenario. And when my mom got ill with cancer, taking care of her took the bulk of my energy over a four-year period. She was in Fresno. After she passed, soon after that is when I built it.

**What year was that?**

That’s a good question, I’m not sure. I want to say 2001 is probably about when I started building it in earnest.

**How long did it take you to build it?**

About 18 months.

**Did you work mostly by yourself or did you have help?**

No, Chris worked with me. I had subcontractors for things that I don’t do like plumbing and electric. We had a slater come work with us who is just a delight. And we had some really highly skilled plasters that I’ve worked with over the years that came and helped with the exterior plaster.

**I would think it would take a skilled and confident person**



## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



*Ted Marshall built his own house in Muir Beach in 2001.  
Photograph by Julie Smith*

**to say I'm going to build my own house... No comment, huh?**

Well, it's hard not to be a wise ass with such a straight comment. Well, I mean fools rush in, you know. It's very satisfying. It's not that often that carpenters can afford to build their own home so it has been very rewarding. Not easy but very rewarding to make your own home.

**I would think it would be enormously satisfying. Do you have any advice for others contemplating building their own home?**

I don't know. I want to say just enjoy the process. You have the choice at times as to whether or not it's a process that has frustration that you enjoy or that you suffer through. And to try and enjoy it, I think.

**It seems to me that 18 months is pretty fast to build a house.**

Yeah, it's somewhere in that range. It would be interesting to see if Sharry thinks it was 24 months. I think it was more like 18. And there's certainly still things to do on the house.

**How did you end up being the BBQ Chair of Beans, Bread, and First Aid? That's a lot of Chairs.**

Because I got tired of doing all the alcohol. And before that I was barbecuing chicken and I got tired of smoke, and then many years of pouring beer and wine. We used to pay for a Budweiser truck, and I thought it would be better to get microbreweries to donate and save us money. And to the extent that we can get wine donated, although we haven't been that successful lately, I think. And so once that happened it was time for a change. The First Aid—I used to have friends come from Fresno, a lot of medical friends. And Beans and Bread—Aran Collier was moving on so I took that slot.

**How long have you done the Beans, Bread, and First Aid jobs?**

I have no idea.

**A lot of years?**

Yeah, I guess seven or eight years, something like that.

**And you say you had medical friends come from Fresno? Yeah, that's where I was raised.**

**To help out in the First Aid Station?**

Yes, doctors and nurses. They'd come for the weekend for many years. They don't any longer, but yes, for many years.

**That's commendable. Did you get many visitors to the First Aid Station at last year's BBQ?**

There's usually just a couple minor incidents, which is very, very fortunate.

**What are the minor incidents?**

Infected belly button rings, bee stings, hay fever, band-aid for a cut or an abrasion. We've been really very, very fortunate at the BBQ.

**You never treated anyone who had to go to the hospital?**

No, not in my recollection.

**How long have you lived in Muir Beach?**

Thirty years this time.

**This time?**

I was here in those two periods in the early seventies and then I came back in '79.

**Why did you decide on Muir Beach?**

Why do you decide who you fall in love with, you know?

**Yeah, I don't think that's really a decision.**

Right, it happens to you.

**You were a Zen student and you were practicing at Green Gulch.**

Correct.

**That's what brought you to Muir Beach the first time?**

Yes, initially.

**Had you studied Zen somewhere else?**

I had been reading a lot. There was always this sort of nagging inquisitive aspect in that realm to pursue. And I had checked out different scenes very briefly and everything felt funny. And then I came to the Zen Center on Page Street and it intimidated me in just the right way.

**Did you join the volunteer fire department soon after you moved here?**

No, it was about nine years after I moved here.

**So around 1988 you joined the fire department?**

Yeah, something like that.

**Why did you join the department?**

I had had some related experience in the past and Sutton [Freebairin Smith] asked me to join.

## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**What was the related experience?**

After I graduated college a bunch of us organized ourselves and had the Forest Service train us to be hotshot firefighters. And so we carried pagers all summer. None of us wanted to start a career. So we would carry pagers and have an hour to get to the airport and they would fly us off to fires. So we would fight forest fires on the West Coast.

**Where were you that summer?**

Based out of Fresno. And then I worked for the Forest Service for four seasons after that, working trails in the John Muir Wilderness. And then there would be fires, big fires, they would radio us and pull us out of the country for larger events. So I had firefighting experience through that. And then when I was at Tassajara, I was the Fire Marshall for four years.

**So you came to the fire department here with a lot of experience, probably more experience than most.**

In some ways, yes. I hadn't had but a handful of structure fire experience but a lot of forest fires.

**When you say four seasons, is that four fire seasons?**

Basically I went from fighting forest fires as a firefighter to working for the Forest Service on a seasonal basis, where they give you a part of the John Muir Wilderness and there's two people, and you each have a horse and two mules. You go up and maintain the trails. So you're working from mid-spring until late fall and you're following the snowmelt up and getting snowed out in the fall.

**You're in the wilderness from spring through the fall?**

Yes. You can come down twice a month for groceries, to get fresh food.

**And you're living in a tent?**

Yeah, if you want to bother to put a tent up! You're mostly gypsy camping through the country, just moving along and camping in different places as you go. Sometimes you set up a base camp and work from there.

**What were you doing there?**

You're maintaining the trails and improving the trails in some cases. They were just starting the Ranger Wilderness Program so we started having some responsibility doing that, which wasn't taken very seriously in terms of checking peoples' wilderness permits. They were just starting to invent wilderness permits. Right now they have a dedicated wilderness ranger, that kind of thing. It was sort of an adjunct to our job description.

**Working for the Forest Service must take a lot of skill. First of all you have the firefighting capability and the trail maintenance skills, but you also must be an expert rider in order to move through the wilderness on a horse, correct?**

I have a hard time describing myself as expert at that or

much of anything else, but in reflection it was a really lovely four years to be on horseback so many days out of the year. It was really quite wonderful.

**It sounds it. I've been taking riding lessons at Miwok for little over a year. The more I get into it, the more there is to learn. It's an amazing and powerful experience to be with horses.**

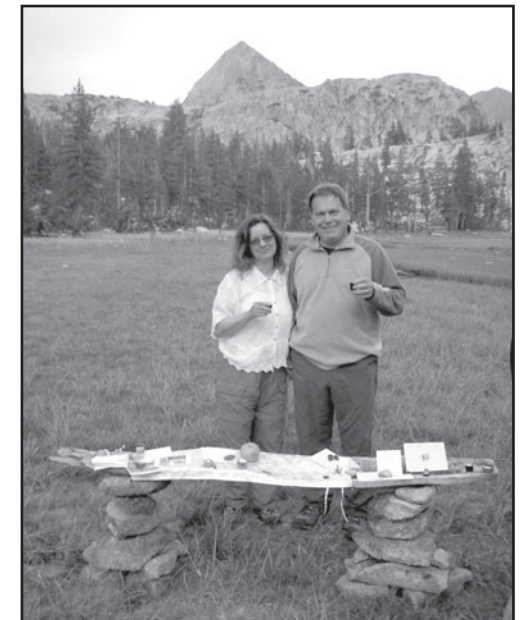
Yeah, it can be very intimate when you're spending four to six months with the same set of animals.

**Did you get to choose the horse that you would ride?**

For the most part, yes. You get to choose the horse and the mules. You have your own string. What happened is I lived on a ranch with some friends. And we got hired together, the three of us, and there was actually four all together, six total, and we split up the John Muir Wilderness into three sections, the North Fork of the Kings River drainage. So we'd be in teams of two for the most part. But then we'd work together—the six of us—on occasion. So it was real nice in terms of being solitary, you know, for the most part.

**Why did you join the volunteer fire department?**

It's a way to give back and I'm trying to quantify it. I think studying at the Zen Center helped me realize the value of community and its pitfalls. But it did impress me with the importance of—for me, and it's an individual decision—of having some way to be helpful to your neighbors. And it



*After 19 years together, 12 of which they were engaged, Ted Marshall and Sharry Mullin tied the knot in Sept. 2006 in Black Cat Basin, a meadow above 10,000 feet in the North Fork of the Kings River drainage of the John Muir Wilderness, where Ted had camped as a child and then later worked for the Forest Service. Sharry explained, "Black Cat Basin is 23 miles from the nearest road. We rode in by horseback, took 9-10 hours, and were married in front of the altar that Ted and a friend constructed out of granite and a pine log. There are no pictures of the ceremony because the three people who attended were in the wedding!" Photograph by David Dowis*



## MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



*Ted Marshall has served on the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years.*

*Photograph by Julie Smith*

was certainly a fit. And I tend toward, you know, the other people who sort of feel the same way. There's certainly a camaraderie, you know, in terms of like-minded.

**Do you have specific duties around the firehouse and at the scene?**

No. As I've gotten older, I'm happy to be a little bit more oversight and not the person hands-on depending on what the situation is.

profession it is. And it's a real squeeze on the volunteer support network that all of our communities need and enjoy, or hopefully enjoy. So it's been really really hard. Plus there's the fundraising in terms of training and certifying and being up on it. The other side of it is that it helps us to be better responders. But it has become more formal in some ways and more urgent in some ways, less casual. It's still very satisfying but it's something to be concerned about, for the whole community to be concerned about how this whole system is going and find ways to support our department.

**When you say concerned about the way it's going, you mean that it's going more in the professional direction?**

Well, it's going more in terms of the requirements on the fire department: workmen's comp, certain kinds of turnout, the equipment being upgraded, certain kinds of very specific training and reviews of that training, both medical and equipment operations. You know we have these very expensive and wonderful masks for our breathing apparatus that have to be certified every year, as a most recent example. And it's just an awful lot of different very specific requirements.

**And you're saying you need the community's support?**

Hopefully the community is aware of this general trend, you know. It's nationwide, and probably beyond that. And we're sort of in the trenches with it. The association's very helpful and there's a lot of pressure on the association and the fire chief and the individuals as well. But John John's quite amazingly selfless in terms of his service.


**I think that's a really good description of him. I would call you the same.**

No, I don't think so.

**Well, twenty years of consistent service is quite a contribution and the community is appreciative.**

Well, good, thank you.

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?**

No, I mean just in general, I think this community's wonderful and such a wonderful place to live. 

**March 14, 2:09 pm**

Slide Ranch

Unoccupied vehicle. Call cancelled.

**March 14, 5:00 pm**

Dipsea and Deer Park Trails

Hiker with dislocated knee

**March 19, 5:10 pm**

Muir Beach Parking Lot

Visitor with medical emergency. Transported to Marin General Hospital.

## MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



### District Manager's Report

**March 2009**

*By Maury Ostroff*

One of the advantages of living in Muir Beach is our proximity to so many great hiking trails that wind their way through the surrounding hills of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area and Mt. Tamalpais State Park. But of more immediate interest is the pedestrian easements and pathways within the residential areas of Muir Beach that are owned and maintained by the Muir Beach CSD.

Most of the easements and parkland are well known and used often by Muir Beach residents and visitors who are hiking through. Others are less well known and used. For the record, the following lists the CSD owned trails in Muir Beach:

- Ahab Drive to Sunset Way, continuing across Sunset Way down to Little Beach.
- Seacape Drive to Muir Beach Overlook.
- Corner of Seacape Drive and Starbuck all the way down to Seacape across from the Community Center.
- Community Center down to Sunset Way, continuing across Sunset Way down to Pacific Way.
- Sunset Way (east) to Pacific Way.
- Sunset Way (west) to Little Beach.

The CSD strives to maintain these trails in working order and in character with their surroundings. Where needed and appropriate, we have installed steps and handrails. Sometimes there are real staircases, other times there are just old railroad ties staked into the ground, and mostly it's just a well-worn dirt path. But we do go through the easements on a periodic basis with a weed whacker and keep the trails passable. Obviously, some trails are in better condition than others, and hopefully by the time this article appears in print we will have fixed some of the loose steps and done other trail restoration.

The most frequently used path is the one that starts on Pacific Way through a driveway and then up the steps to Sunset Way. The notable feature here is the wooden flume on the side that carries storm drainage water. Most visitors to Muir Beach take this path to start their hike up to the Muir Beach Overlook (or beyond.)

The path continues directly on the other side of Sunset Way and heads straight up to the Community Center. About halfway up is a bench with a plaque in memory of Lawrence and Janet Stump; a great place to catch your breath and look back on the view.

Continuing on up the path you come to the Community

Center. A new landmark on the east side is our new Storage Shed, and a set of new stone walls, and a new stone bench set in the wall next to the shed, which offers yet another spectacular view of the beach and the coastline to the south. The trail continues along the ramp and up the stone steps to Seacape Drive, where you will end up by the wooden sign and bulletin board in front of the Community Center.

Directly across Seacape drive and the Community Center the path picks up again, winding up a hill to the Lower Starbuck extension. You can see the Lower Water Tank on the east side, which provides water to the "lower zone" of houses primarily along Sunset and Pacific Way. There is a set of stairs that lead to the Lower Starbuck extension road, but the main path continues on up the hill. After a few switchbacks and a few hundred yards, you will come to another stone bench with a plaque in memory of the Clark family, which provides yet another increasingly spectacular view of the coastline and surrounding hills to the south. By now you have climbed enough in elevation to see into the valley and fields of Green Gulch Farm.

The path continues on up the hill running between houses facing Seacape Drive to the southwest and Starbuck Drive to the northeast. Currently at the top of the hill things are in a bit of flux due to the construction of two new houses on Seacape. There is a road used by the construction crews that goes straight down to Starbuck Drive just before Seacape, but there is also a path that



*View from the new stonewall at the Community Center to Sunset Way. Note that the path continues down across Sunset Way to Pacific Way and to the Muir Beach Parking Lot.*



### MBVFD Incident Log

*Compiled by Paul Jeschke*

**February 23, 3:15 pm**

Stinson Beach

Structure fire at home undergoing renovation.

**March 11, 2:00 pm**

Ocean View Trail

Medical Emergency





View to the southeast along the Seacape/Starbuck Parkland Trail as it goes past the Clark Family Bench.

leads to a set of stairs that ends right at the corner of Seacape and Starbuck. At this point you can see Mt. Tamalpais to the north.

To get to the Muir Beach Overlook, the best way is to continue walking up Seacape Drive, past the Upper Water Tank, and on to the entrance to the Overlook parking lot, which is owned and maintained by the National Park Service. There is an easement from Seacape that leads to the back portion of the Overlook which the CSD keeps clear and open, but it dead-ends into a thicket of scrub and poison oak when it reaches NPS property.

Now that we've hiked up in elevation about 400 feet from the beach to the Overlook, this is as good a time as any to talk about some of the issues regarding the public trails and easements. In general, we want to keep the trails open not only to all residents but to the general public as well. However, there are certain trails that are in close proximity of private residences to areas that are easily accessible by car and/or the general public. To be frank, as a measure of concern for security and privacy, it is not advisable for us to open the trail to the Overlook, and accordingly we have not asked the Park Service to clear the brush on Federal land.

Once at the Muir Beach Overlook, you can continue your hike down to Slide Ranch along the Owl Trail, or cross to the east side of Highway One and take the Coast View Trail all the way to Pantoll. One of my favorite hikes is the Heather Cutoff Trail with its numerous switchbacks that takes you back down to Santos Meadow where the annual Fire Department BBQ is held. The top of the Heather Cutoff Trail can be found a few hundred yards past the Muir Beach Overlook, where there is a sign on the Coastal View Road indicating Pantoll straight ahead, and Heather Cutoff to the right.

The path I just described starting at Pacific Way is the path used by thru-hikers who either start at the Muir Beach parking lot, or who have come from further south along the Coastal Trail. The fact is that the only connection to the Coast View Trail to the north and to the south of Muir Beach goes through the CSD easements. I can also recommend the Coastal View Trail to the south that leads to "Pirate's Cove" and continues on to Tennessee Cove, or you can take the Coastal Fire Road, then either Green Gulch or Middle Green Gulch Trail that goes down to the Zen Center.

Getting back to Muir Beach, another path starts at Ahab Drive where there is a set of wooden steps at the top. Halfway down the trail you can see the infamous "Bello-Seacape" drainage ditch on the right. This ditch carries storm water from Ahab and Seacape drives and runs between Ahab and Sunset Way, and eventually empties into the Cove Lane seasonal creek. Continue down the path and there is another set of steps that leads down onto Sunset Way. The easement continues in a straight line to a set of relatively steep steps that end at the bottom of Cove Lane and the path to Little Beach. The 1.5" water line that serves some houses at the bottom of Cove Lane runs down along this path and ends at the Fire Hydrant at the bottom, but the small size of the pipe is not enough to make that hydrant useful in a fire.

There is another path that starts at Little Beach and goes up to the end of Sunset Way. The CSD is about to start another phase of our Water Capital Improvements Plan and add a new 6" water line that will replace the other water line. We will relocate the Fire Hydrant and make it operational. At that time, the trail will be rerouted to be further away from the eroding cliff and we will make other repairs to make the trail safer and more usable. However, just like the situation at the Overlook, we don't want to make this trail too inviting (or visible) to the general public at Little Beach.

There is another, seldom used path that runs down from the very beginning of Sunset Way to Pacific Way. The actual path has fallen into disuse and has become overgrown, and at some point in the future we hope to restore this trail. However, there is another trail that has been established by the horses that goes from Sunset Way down to Pacific Way near the Terwilliger Butterfly Grove in the same general area.

If you want to get in shape and see the great outdoors, sell the treadmill and the Stairmaster and get out and hike the trail up to the Overlook, down to the beach and back once a day. In no time at all you'll be ready to run the Dipsea. Or maybe just take your time and take a casual walk on the weekend and see some of your neighbors. These pedestrian easements were set aside for our enjoyment so get out and use them!

*Photographs by Maury Ostroff*

## Community Center Update

*By Laurie Piel*

Here comes spring! The rains have stopped, the skies are blue and the Community Center is getting a "stair lift." The old gal has seen some hard times on the lower portion of the stairs that most people use to get down to the Great Room. The wooden railroad ties have seen better days and they have become a hazard. Repairing the stairs gave the CSD the opportunity to upgrade the whole front entrance. The plans are in place and by the time you read this it should be finished. We're looking forward to seeing the beautiful work of John John Sward gracing the entrance to the Community Center. Once again, there will be an opportunity for the Garden Club to green up the area. Please grab a sweater and a kid or two if you got 'em, and c'mon down to your Center and see all of the new work. The best time to come is still Wednesday mornings between 9:30 am - 11:30 am to join your neighbors for a scone made by Nancy Knox and baked by Lonna Richmond. The coffee and conversation ain't bad either.

And speaking of the Garden Club, plans are afoot for this year's Rummage Sale. It will be the last weekend in August (8/29-31) where Pacific Way meets the beach parking lot. Last year, with little fanfare, the Garden Club raised \$800 towards the shed. The beneficiary of this year has not yet been decided. So save those things that you don't know what to do with any more... and bring 'em down to the sale. For specific information about the Rummage Sale, and what you can do to be part of it, call Joey Groneman at 383-2898.

The economy has dealt a blow to every one and that seems to include folks getting married. The Center's outside bookings are way down this year. Fortunately for us, our neighbors are using it more. We're not generating as much money, but it is doing what it was built for...serving the community. As the Center gets its well-deserved upgrades, our community is seeing its beauty and the benefits of using it. It is a pleasure to see our neighbors having birthday parties, weddings, bat/bar mitzvahs, and dinners as they gather in the heart of our community.

The Facilitator Program is still in its infancy. With the loss of most of our over-the-hill renters, we have not yet even had our first training session. We had hoped to start by February, but alas, this spring has not proven a viable one for the program.

I am still looking for back copies of the *Beachcomber* to add to our collection. We got a huge donation of early issues from Michael Moore and Judith Yamamoto a few months ago. The most recent additions just arrived from Leslie Riehl. Linda Gibbs and I took all of the duplicate copies to the Marin County Free Library on March 12th. They are now happily housed in the Anne T. Kent California Room at the Civic Center Library (see stories on pages 6-7). The full database project is still a dream of Bryce Browning, Linda Gibbs, and myself.

Just a reminder, if anyone has any pictures from events at the Center, it would be great if you could pass them on. I would love to have the names and phone numbers of suppliers used as well. I am still planning on creating a picture book or scrapbook of events held at the Center to help people see how the Center has been used in the past. So if you have any information for vendors such as wedding planners, decorators, caterers, photographers, florists, or any other folk that you liked, please send them along as well. You can either email them to me at bookthembcc@aol.com or if you have prints you are willing to part with, you can drop them in my box at 9 Starbuck. As I said if you'd like to take the time to go over the pictures with me, I would love to hear all about your experiences...the coffee klatch invitation still stands.

That's the update for now, more news in the next edition!



# Board Okays Community Center Upgrades

By Paul Jeschke

The Muir Beach Community Center steps up in access, safety, and class with new steps down to the popular gathering spot along with electrical and heating improvements.

Plans to replace the dangerously well-worn steps leading to the deck and main entrance to the facility were approved by the CSD at its March meeting. The stairway will be replaced with steps of Connecticut Bluestone, a metamorphic sandstone chosen to match the upper steps from Seacape to the Community Center. The redesigned steps curve slightly instead of the present straight-line configuration. Part of the project involves tearing out the concrete slab outside the office and enlarging the deck to include that space.

CSD directors authorized John Sward to initiate construction. The project, estimated at between \$30,000 and \$40,000, is being paid for by a grant from the Marin Community Foundation, which, in turn, received funds from an anonymous donor.

The electrical system also gets a significant upgrade with the replacement of the main service panel and new electric outlets on the deck, according to District Manager Maury Ostroff. At the request of Laurie and David Piel, who coordinate rentals of the facility, the board is investigating the feasibility of installing electric space heaters on the deck. Fire safety is a consideration, as is a system to monitor and pay for additional electric use.

The community firehouse could also undergo remodeling, upgrading, and expansion if a coordinated effort with the National Park Service is successful, according to Sward, who serves as chief of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department. The fire department board, Sward said, has submitted preliminary architectural drawings by Gail Falls and is working on additional structural and electrical components. MBVFA board member Brent Smith has had several meetings with NPS officials who have voiced conditional approval, although considerable negotiation remains over terms of use for the historic dairy structure and methods of funding the project. Stressing a need to get the initial “sky high” construction cost reduced, Leighton Hills, Deputy District Manager, said there was “good progress.”

Sward said the department was also working on grants for new fire vehicles. He is also looking for several new volunteers for the department and urged interested Muir Beach residents to call him at 383-4961.

The National Park Service is still uncertain when construction will begin for the Muir Beach reconstruction and restoration project, according to Brian Aviles, NPS planner and landscape architect. Park officials are seeking

a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which could get work underway in August. If the money, part of the current federal stimulus package, is not available, implementation will probably be delayed until next year. NPS expects to receive a design plan from the county mid-May for the proposed Pacific Way bridge.

Perhaps the most contentious issue of the meeting was Aviles’ report on GGNRA’s plan to install new fire rings on the beach. Some Muir Beach residents complained at a previous meeting that beach fires are dangerous and polluting and should be prohibited. Aviles said park management had “revisited” the issue and would continue the discussion, but it was “long standing policy to permit fires there.” There are presently three fire rings on the beach, but visitors frequently build fires in unauthorized areas.

Director Sheré Stoddard complained that she has seen beach fires burning all night long and called the situation “an on-going problem.” She said it was “harmful to the environment for people to be burning wood anytime, day or night, at a time when we’re under pressure to limit the use of fireplaces in our houses.”

Aviles said late night fires at the beach are prohibited and that violations should be reported to park police.

The CSD, in response to a question from the audience, conducted an informal poll of directors who are up for reelection in November. Dan Fitzpatrick, Danny Hobson, Peter Rudnick and Sheré Stoddard indicated they would probably run again. Candidates for the board must file papers between July 13 and August 7. Board President Steve Shaffer’s term does not expire this year.

The board also discussed plans for a community garden and composting center. One possibility is a small garden near the playground downhill from the Community Center. Deer fencing would be necessary and space is limited. A larger garden and compost facility might be possible on part of the Banducci property and could accommodate a community garden, individual plots, and emergency food, according to board member Rudnick, an agricultural consultant and farm manager.

Ostroff said a compost pile at the larger site might be particularly appropriate because NPS already has plans to move some of the horses from the dairy to the Banducci ranch. Manure added to the compost would help with two disposal problems, Ostroff said.

NPS, while aware of community interest, has not formally considered the garden project.



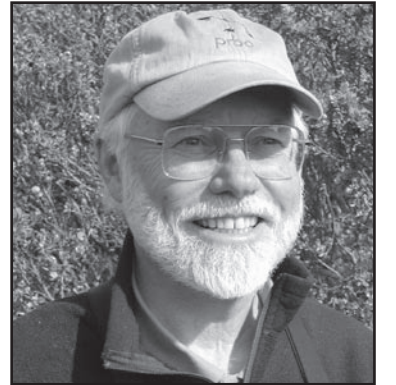
## The Critter Report: Changes

By Dave MacKenzie

Like the old David Bowie song “Changes” (ch-ch-ch-ch changes, turn and face the strain!), we have to deal with a lot of new things happening in the world. Hopefully, the new administration will be one of the major positive changes we can support, but even a great new leader won’t fix all of our problems overnight, if ever. So if we just focus locally, what changes can we see now reflected in the local wildlife? And what can we do?

Perhaps one of the most obvious things in Muir Beach this year has been the effects of the very late, but nevertheless adequate, rainfall. Redwood Creek was basically not open until the rains in February, which is much too late for the Coho Salmon migration and breeding. As a result, no fish were detected this winter in Muir Woods (including Steelhead), and only two redds (nests) were detected in the lower creek. Another bad year. Some of this may also be blamed on the La Nina effect, which suppresses the onshore upwelling (due to winds) which normally produces food for the fish (and lots of birds). This can’t be the whole story, however, since there seemed to be a lot of life when I went on a bird/whale-watching trip to Cordell Bank (off of Pt. Reyes) in November. There seemed to be plenty of life, and I saw my personal one-day record of 72 whales! (including Humpbacks, Blues, one Fin, and Orcas, plus hundreds of Pacific White-Sided Dolphins and Northern Right-Whale Dolphins). Apparently one of the problems predicting the effects of climate change in the Bay Area is that we are sort of on the edge of the La Nina (wet in the north) and the El Nino (wet in the south) cycles, so we can go either way. The result will be more variation in climate, not just hotter. But that too. A pod of Orcas (from Puget Sound) seen off San Francisco in March also suggests some animals are foraging widely to find food (in this case Salmon).

By the way, if you want an excellent tutorial on the whole climate change issue, you may like *The Weather Makers*, by Tim Flannery (a well-known evolutionary biologist from Australia, and one of my favorite nature writers). Tim’s writing style is excellent and easy to follow. He made a personal study of all of the models and reports to sort out this issue and makes the subject very clear. Bottom line: there is no scientific debate! Climate change is happening, and much faster than we expected.



*Dave MacKenzie has been contributing nature articles to the Beachcomber for 13 years, which is when he and his wife Bonnie moved to Muir Beach. Dave does engineering consulting from his home office, but also spends a lot of time searching the Redwood Creek Watershed for interesting critters. His unfulfilled desire is to see and photograph a mountain lion in the wild. At this point he has only seen tracks, kills, pets and photos. Help him out with timely reports and primed cell phone cameras!*

*Photograph by Bonnie MacKenzie*

Even without Salmon to snack on, the Redwood Creek River Otter family seems to still be doing alright. Early in March I was alerted by Bob and Dee Hayden at the beach that they had just seen an Otter in the front lagoon. Armed with my video-cam, I managed to get some great shots of the cute critter as it repeatedly dived down and surfaced with small fish to munch. There are several species of bottom-dwelling fish in the creek, such as Sculpins, which apparently were the target.

Speaking of “seafood,” a study of Barred Owls pellets (regurgitations!) from last year in Muir Woods showed that the resident pair is still dining on the tasty (non-native) Crayfish from Redwood Creek. That is helpful, since the Crayfish eradication program has always been manual (humans with spears at night), but a natural approach is easier. On March 21, Jim White heard the first calls of a Barred Owl this season near Bridge 3 in the Woods, so they will probably nest in the area for the third year in a row. Barred Owls have been detected in several other locations in Marin, and their effect of displacing the endangered Spotted Owls is being studied. On the other hand, Spotted Owls continue to nest near Muir Woods and in other local areas and are still doing OK despite the obvious pressure from the Barred Owls. (Spotteds are typically driven out of the prime nesting areas). A Spotted Owl was seen perching right above a picnic table at Camp Eastwood in mid-March. Another owl that seems to be doing just fine is the





River Otter

diminutive (only 8” long), but feisty, Saw-Whet Owl. There seemed to be quite a few of them scattered at various locations along Redwood Creek this winter. This owl has been heard and seen many times in Muir Beach over the years.

This winter we had a couple of Mt. Lion reports as usual, but no verification such as detailed sketches and notes or photos. Some large Bobcats have been seen (and photographed, e.g., by me) all around the Muir Beach area as usual, so this may account for some lion reports. Brent Smith and I were commenting in March that neither of us have seen the one-eyed Bobcat in the upper Muir Beach area in a long time. I hope it is still around. A possible lion kill off Muir Woods Road was just as likely—it seemed to me—to be a car-injured deer which made it far enough

from the road before dying and becoming Coyote fare. There are lots of Coyotes around these days, and some very big tracks. You can’t miss their nightly howling. Keep your cats indoors!

So what can we all do to locally address the changes, especially climatic ones which affect all of the critters and us humans too? Giving up gasoline and electricity are tough, although we can all do our part. Has everyone tried the Muir Beach shuttle? Carpooling is still a great idea, but not well organized.

One thing which seems to be catching on is gardening in Muir Beach. As Green Gulch has shown for many years, there are many vegetables which do quite well here with some planning and tending. I have been attending a series of classes at Green Gulch on various gardening skills such as soil preparation, fruit tree pruning, and composting, and led by our own expert and acclaimed author Wendy Johnson (*Gardening at the Dragon’s Gate*). I have been inspired and now am attempting chard, kale, beets, and more with some prior successes at lettuce and a few others. Protection from gophers, voles, and deer are all issues, but they can be dealt with. And there seems to be a lot of local “chatter” about community gardens and compost piles. Let’s do it!

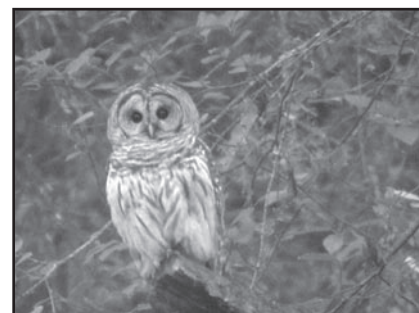
For now, just remember that the changes we face will affect all of us, humans, critters, and plants alike. So think global and act local!



Coyote



Northern Saw-Whet Owl: Length 8"



Barred Owl: Length 21"

Photographs and Egret illustration by Dave Mackenzie

## From a “Footnote to History”

By Gerry Pearlman

So much about our Volunteer Fire Department these days, but not a word of how it all began about 40 years ago. A lot of the Founding members of the original volunteers are even still around including myself, Terry Onorato, Larry Yamamoto, Harvey Pearlman, Andre Pessis and of course, John Sward. If memory serves me right other Founding members were Julian Knox, Bill Hybert, Bill Sward, and Steve Buonocelli. But like all history, this only amounts to my version, and there may well have been others there at the beginning.

Volunteer firemen are probably as old as time, but we actually got our start through the good offices of another neighbor who had actually obtained a used fire truck from somewhere, and kind of cloistered it on his own. He was not a very popular member of the community, being hypercritical of every decision that was ever made for the common good, and always threatening lawsuits. Nonetheless we all pitched in to build the sea wall at the bottom of his property as a buffer against the tides slowly eroding it. But we didn’t like his exclusive control over the only fire truck and somehow managed to get it away from him and take over its operation.

I am guessing, but I think we must have had some help from the County in establishing a regular training schedule that even included the EMT stuff. I remember learning CPR on the dummies brought to the Community

Center by our instructor. That level of EMT training probably came a lot later than the original organization of the MBVFD since we didn’t even have the Community Center when we first started the MBVFD. And now to be sure the level of training and competence of today’s volunteers makes those of us from yesteryear look like the keystone cops.

I believe we acquired a slightly better castoff fire truck from somewhere, and continued to practice our drills mostly laying hose and learning how to drive the truck. In one of our drills we even got to burn down the old Circus dwelling (then on GGNRA land) and practice real firefighting. Somewhere around this time we negotiated with the GGNRA for the use of the old Dairy barn as our firehouse, and did extensive remodeling on it including a new roof.

Meanwhile the first Fireman’s BBQ fundraiser had been established using and developing the same formula in use today. Close to 40 years later that formula has been refined many times over, but basically remains the same in accommodating several thousand people instead of the hundred or so mostly community members, attending the original one. We probably only had to barbeque no more than 50 chickens then compared to over 1,000 today.

Bryce Browning had designed the universally acclaimed logo almost from the get go, and we may even still be using the original BBQ sauce recipe. While we were still small however, we used to cook our own beans to go along with the chicken. It was somewhat of a competition as to whose beans were best, but usually Aran Collier’s managed to take top honors.

It is unclear to me when the MBVFD clothing line and accessories hit the big time, probably later than the early history. But a less glamorous version was also there early on—mostly T-shirts with the long underwear sets being a personal favorite of mine. And we probably had all of 10-15 prizes in the first raffle (many of the original donors have continued donating to this day).

Some new County funds suddenly became available for West Marin and, tiring of secondhand toys, we decided to get a brand new fire truck. I can’t recall how much money we had to raise on our own, but I do remember that we had to send



Early MBVFD members, some of them Founding: from left, Tom Murphy? Harvey Pearlman with the family dog Cloud, Terry Onorato with his back to the camera talking to Bill Hybert. On the other side of fire truck: from left, Peter Smith, Julian Knox, unidentified person in white hat with back to camera, Steve Garnett, and John Sward.



HISTORY

John Sward and Bill Hybert to Florida to drive the truck back here. We were all waiting down by the mailboxes to celebrate their arrival and greet them after the drive which took the better part of two weeks.

Lots of great moments including a hard-fought victory over the Stinson VFD in pool, and some not so great moments like the Hyman/Land altercation in the fire barn, or the death of Fire Chief Bill Farkas. My personal favorite moment was when responding to a call, which came during dinner and a few glasses of wine, I went running down the stairs to get to the truck. I stumbled toward the bottom of the stairs and backed into a picket fence. Upon arriving at the scene of the accident, one of the other respondents noticed the blood on my trousers. So while the driver of the accident vehicle was pronounced as not needing assistance, I was sent to Marin General to get stitches in my backside.

COMMUNITY INFO



Photograph by Julie Smith

**Community Center Drop-in Use**  
Daytime hours if the Center is not scheduled for other activities. Users responsible for cleanup.

**Community Center Rental Policies**  
For any rental inquiries, please email Laurie Piel at BooktheMBCC@aol.com (best way to reach her) or call her at 415.388.8319.

WEEKLY IN MUIR BEACH

These activities take place at the Community Center unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY

- **Tai-chi** - 6:30 - 7:30 pm, \$22.50 per month
- **The Bookmobile** - Noon - 1:00 pm - 1st and 3rd Mondays, Mailboxes, Highway One across from Pelican Inn. For more information, 415.499.7544.

TUESDAY

- **Anusara Yoga** - 6:15 - 7:30 pm. Taylor’s zendo, 1821 Shoreline Hwy. All levels, beginners welcome.

Still the beginnings and development of our Volunteer Fire Department have to stand out as an impressive achievement by any standard of measurement. Today the Department probably has more money than it knows what to do with, and the BBQ is more of an opportunity for the community to get together in a united effort celebrating one another than an actual fundraiser.

To that end it would seem like a good idea to gather all the leftovers at the end of the actual event (adding where necessary) and continue celebrating in the Community Center that evening, rather than distributing them to those fortunate enough to still be there at the end of the day. That way we could extend the pleasure of one another’s company and continue celebrating the fact of a job extremely well done.

Instructor: Rachel Clare Teannalach 415.897.8158  
**WEDNESDAY**

- **Tai-chi** - 8:00 - 9:00 am
- **Bistro** - Wednesday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 am  
Organic fair trade coffee, \$1.50 per cup; additional cups 25¢ each. Featuring fantastic fresh-baked organic scones by Nancy Knox, \$1.50 each.
- **Muir Beach Quilters** - 11 am. No fee.
- **CSD Board of Directors Meeting**  
Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Muir Beach Community Services District are open to the public and are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, every other month, at 7:00 pm. Notice of Board Meetings are posted 72 hours in advance, as exact dates may vary.

THURSDAY

- **Tai-chi** - 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- **Volleyball** - 6:00 pm - late  
At the courts on Muir Woods Road. No fee.
- **Iyengar Yoga** - 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Taylor’s zendo 1821 Shoreline Hwy. Instructor: Susy Stewart 415.388.1549

SUNDAY

- **Green Gulch Zen Center**  
8:15 am Meditation Instruction  
9:15 am Meditation (zazen)  
10:15 am Lecture  
11:15 am Tea  
11:45 am Discussion with lecturer  
12:45 pm Lunch for Program Attendees (\$8 donation)  
  
Children’s Lecture and Program  
- 1st Sundays 10 - 11:30 am

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Name:\_\_\_\_\_

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You have my permission to list my name in the *Beachcomber* as a Friend of the *Beachcomber*. Please list my name this way:

\_\_\_\_Do not list my name in the *Beachcomber*. Show as anonymous.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to *Beachcomber* and mail to *Beachcomber*, 19 Seacape, Muir Beach, CA 94965, or drop in the *Beachcomber* mailbox at southern end of Pelican Mailbox Row.

The *Beachcomber* thanks you for your patronage and appreciates your interest and support.

0509

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0509

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Beachcomber Beach Towel

Made of 100% Turkish terry velour, this luxurious royal blue towel (30” x 60”) carries the Beachcomber masthead in elegant translucent tone on tone printing. Lovely for your home and a great gift idea, too.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_@ \$30.00 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

If order will be shipped to you, add:  
\_\_\_\_@ \$7.00 per towel S&H = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to *Beachcomber*. Drop in Beachcomber mailbox at southern end of Pelican Mailbox Row, or mail to *Beachcomber*, 19 Seacape, Muir Beach, CA 94965.

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