



# The Lookout

Muir Woods Park Community Association

[www.mounttam.org](http://www.mounttam.org)

February-April 2009

415/381-3119

## St. Patrick's Dinner

MWPCA Community Center 40 Ridge Avenue  
Saturday, March 14th at 6:00 PM  
Adults \$20 / Children under 14 \$10

The theme for the 2009 Board is "Building Community." With that in mind, we offer a special invitation to newcomers to come join us for one of the best neighborhood parties during the year!

Cocktail hour starts at 6 PM with no-host beer and wine, followed by traditional corn beef and cabbage dinner at 7 PM. Dessert follows, along with Irish coffee for adults. Dancing into the evening. Don your finest green and come to enjoy the evening. Please reserve early, as the celebration falls on a Saturday night and we expect many revelers.

Again (thank goodness!) the menu is courtesy of Executive Chef Lynn Hindley. Some of us continue understudying her to make sure the tradition is carried on. Give us a call if you'd like to help with the event: before, during, or after! Lynn will supervise us all.

Kids are welcome - we will have a movie in the back room for them.

Please RSVP to Lila Daniels at 415/383-8422



## You already know that you've moved to the most beautiful place on earth.

But do you know . . .

The Muir Woods Community Association clubhouse, with its magnificent, 360-degree views, is the anchor for community meetings, parties and events for adults and children throughout the year.....and a Red Cross Emergency Center, should we need it. You have your choice of a wide variety of activities at the clubhouse, including yoga classes, movie nights, Annual Meeting Potluck, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Jazz Fest, Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin (Carving) Day and Santa Claus visit. You can rent the clubhouse for weddings, birthday parties, family reunions and other special events.

This newsletter, the Lookout, is published quarterly to inform you of upcoming activities and relate the fun of past events, introduce you to neighbors, keep you up-to-date on area issues (like the progress of sewer approval and safety programs) and let you post or respond to ads for services and products of residents and friends of the community.

Your participation is always welcome. Come to the board meetings on the second Thursday of most months. Sign up to help on a Work Day to paint, pull weeds or do whatever needs doing and to meet other Mt. Tam residents.

You can contribute to community activities, emergency preparedness, the beautification of the area and upkeep of the clubhouse by joining the association. Make out a \$45 check to MWPCA for a year's membership and send it to MWPCA, 40 Ridge Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941. (See included form inside the Lookout.) On the back, you will find a list of board members to contact with your questions.

- Diane Curtis

## Fire House News

Your Marin County Fire Department Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station has transitioned from a very active 2008 summer fire season to our winter routine. Staffing has been reduced from four to two firefighters and we are enjoying a brief rest from traveling to wildland fires from one end of the state to the other.

This winter, in addition to responding to emergency calls, we are consumed with projects and programs of all types. In the fire service if we are not responding to emergencies we are preparing to respond to them – a constant state of readiness.

Speaking of being ready - I'm sure everyone has seen the big yellow sign at 4 corners – are you "ready" yet? We are working with your local Disaster Council to encourage all residents in our community to better prepare ourselves for the next disaster. The Get Ready Marin program will help us do just that.

I encourage all community members to learn more about this fantastic opportunity. Get Ready materials are available on the web at: <http://www.getreadymarin.org/> or we have the information at the fire station in booklet form. The web site is loaded with information including a comprehensive self study program. It is self paced and takes about one to two hours to complete; I guarantee it will be a good investment of your time. There are a number of ways you can get involved to better prepare yourself and your neighborhood for the next disaster. Give me a call at the fire house or contact your Disaster Council to learn more.

- Dave Carr, 388-5414

## Bus Service in the Neighborhood

Marin Transit would like to remind riders of the availability of The Stage coming through our neighborhood. Call them at 415/526-3239 or go to the following website for schedule updates: <http://www.marintransit.org/stage.html>



## Jobs Wanted

### Dog Walking Service

Local Mt. Tam resident Brenda Gunn is offering her dog walking and other pet care services. Call 389-8984 for details.



### Part-time bookkeeper seeks employment

Long-term Mt. Tam retired resident seeks bookkeeping and/or clerical work either on Mt. Tam or Mill Valley. Please call: 383-2217.

## Video Night Returns!

**7:00 PM on a Friday night—Quarterly  
Call Cindy Norman for details: 389-6847**

**Friday, April 24: FROST/NIXON**

Ron Howard directs this adaptation of Peter Morgan's popular Broadway play centered on a series of revelatory TV interviews former President Richard Nixon granted British talk show host David Frost in 1977. Nominated for five Oscars, including Best Picture, the film stars Frank Langella, reprising his Tony Award-winning stage role, along with a stellar cast that includes Michael Sheen, Sam Rockwell, Toby Jones, Kevin Bacon and Oliver Platt.

### Reminder—[nuthill@googlegroups.com](mailto:nuthill@googlegroups.com)

For those of you new to this electronic bulletin board idea, it works like an email party line. You post discussion topics by simply sending an email to [nuthill@googlegroups.com](mailto:nuthill@googlegroups.com) and everyone who has joined will see the email. Anyone can reply and continue the discussion.

But you have to first join! Do this by sending an email to me [cyn@cynorman.com](mailto:cyn@cynorman.com), your public servant, and I will add you to the list. Please send your name and address with the email so we know that you're part of the community. This will allow us to discuss freely about topics that we may not want the outside world to see or hear (like sewage issues, midnight hiking trips or sudden movie night announcements!)

Instructions:

1. Send an email to [cyn@cynorman.com](mailto:cyn@cynorman.com). Include name and address.
2. Within a day or two, **you will** receive an invitation from the group. Follow the instructions to reply.
3. You're in and we want to hear from you! When you have a topic, send an email to [nuthill@googlegroups.com](mailto:nuthill@googlegroups.com)

- Cindy Norman

## Septic Regulations Report

A revolution of sorts is spreading across the state as home and business owners learn of proposed regulation-sunder "AB 885" from the State Water Resources Control Board staff aimed at monitoring septic systems and water quality.

Regional hearings held throughout California over the past two months have been uniformly greeted by angry residents who pack auditoriums and council chambers to overflowing, arguing that the proposals could bankrupt them. Many also object to the intrusion of the state into what they contend is a local issue and to what they describe as a "one-size-fits-all" approach to a complicated issue.

The proposals would establish minimum requirements for the permitting, monitoring, and operation of septic systems statewide.

Among other things, they would require inspections with an estimated cost of \$325 every five years for all 1.4 million septic tanks in the state. If the system weren't working properly, it would have to be repaired or replaced. New septic systems would have to have alarms and overflow tanks and filters to prevent the escape of solids. Systems within 600 feet of certain bodies of water would need to have additional treatment equipment. Onsite wells would also be subject to inspection at a separate cost.

While local governments like Marin agree with the goals and apply stringent and often costly requirements for septic systems when houses are sold or remodeled, Phil Smith, deputy director of Marin's Environmental Health Services, says the proposed statewide regulations are "unworkable and prohibitively expensive." In addition, they don't allow for local flexibility to use alternative systems. His department and others around the state, which support some form of statewide regulations, have signed off on the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) opposition to the proposals. They hope widespread opposition will result in substantial changes, including allowing local health and water agencies to target only those faulty septic tanks identified through nearby contaminated water sources.

"The proposed statewide standards do not focus adequately on [systems] that contribute to water quality impairment, but rather impose considerable additional requirements on all [systems] irrespective of past performance," CCDEH President Lewis Pozzebon wrote to the Water Resources Control Board on Jan. 30. Among other complaints, county officials say they don't have the manpower to enforce the proposed regulations. But they also say the regulations don't take into account different geological conditions in different areas.

Board spokesman David Clegern says the proposal will be revised, but he says he doesn't yet know how. The state agency is holding hearings for the purpose of considering public input before the regulations become final.

"We're aware Malibu isn't the same as Marin," he told the Lookout. But he also said that "septic tanks are effective as long as they work." The board "simply wants to establish a baseline by which we can determine if there are problems." Clegern said how the regulations will change won't be known until after the hearings and the public comment period, whose deadline has been extended from Feb. 9 to Feb. 23 because of the huge interest and outcry. (Anyone interested in the issue should go to: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/program](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/program) to learn more about the regulations. To comment by the Feb. 23 deadline, send an e-mail to [AB885@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:AB885@waterboards.ca.gov).)

An estimated 10 percent of California households use septic systems. Smith says in some cases they have an advantage over sewer because sewers tend to leak. When working properly, septic systems provide a natural way to efficiently treat effluent and allow water to seep into the ground, help plants grow and ultimately help replenish the water supply.

Last August, Marin County imposed a new fee schedule for septic permits. At least one Mt. Tam resident was surprised to learn she must pay an annual \$495 fee for an alternative septic system operating permit.

- Diane Curtis

### Sewer Issue: Special Meeting Date to be scheduled during March

Look for a separate invitation to a meeting to discuss moving forward with identifying our neighborhood boundaries.

Lynn Hindley, Chair of the Sewer Committee, will keep us informed as new information emerges.

### Safety Committee Recap

During February we will test our Emergency Communications System which will be activated in the event of a disaster or mountain emergency. The following safety precautions will be activated to measure coverage and clarity of signal.

This test will consist of:

- Activating our siren located at our Clubhouse
- Calling our community by phone using the map supplied by us to the County Sheriffs Dept. (OES) to alert families of a danger and how they should react
- Activating our AM radio station (1280) located at the Fire Station for added details
- Urging neighborhood residents to alert their fellow neighbors

**Remember: this is an emergency test only.** After this test, if you have any questions or comments call me at 608-1172 or email me at [popsonsr@aol.com](mailto:popsonsr@aol.com).

Thanks. Have a safe and Happy New Year!!

- Richard Popson

## MWPCA President's Message

2009 is off to an excellent start, with great progress already on completing the patio stonework. We set the calendar for the year, with all the usual parties and other activities included. Determining if the community wants to proceed with the next step of the sewer study will be perhaps the most crucial item for the year.

Over the next few weeks we plan to mail a request for dues from on-going members and others who wish to join the MWPCA. We will also send a separate announcement regarding the next sewer meeting. I encourage all to give both your support.

—Peter Hindley

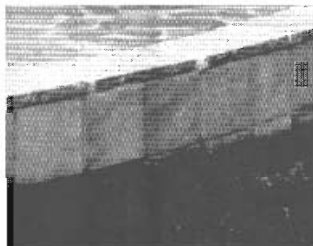
## Board Meeting Highlights

Note: Complete MWPCA Board minutes are now posted online at:

<http://www.mounttam.org>  
password is: musty

## Clubhouse News

**New Refrigerator:** Lynn Hindley found a special price on a new refrigerator for the kitchen and the MWPCA Board made the purchase. Our previous one was a donation from Glenda Gentry and we finally wore it out with all the rental requirements. Thank you again, Glenda.



**Patio upgrade:** Thanks to the work of Harold Dittmer, Keith Papulias, Lynn and Peter Hindley we have finished a low stone wall that will function as both seating at outside parties and provide a more finished look. Pavers will be added in front of the French doors and a new

cover for the septic tank is pending.

## Children's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11th at 9:00 AM



Please drop off colored eggs between 8-9am for the bunny to hide, then come with your friends to hunt and socialize.

## Adult Holiday Party



A bit quiet this year, the adult Christmas party was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The food was absolutely delicious.

Derrick Chan offered wonderful Asian delights (see his recipe column), Bonnie Himberg a Latin American dish, and Lynn Hindley repeated her cheese fondue to everyone's delight. Next year we hope for a larger turnout with many new faces joining in the celebration.

## Children's Christmas Party



We had a nice turnout for the party and the kids enjoyed decorating cookies while waiting for Santa to come. He arrived at dusk on the fire truck and everyone was excited. The drizzle didn't stop them from greeting him at the truck. Inside everyone sat in awe as Santa presented gifts for them.

There was good food, a warm fire and lots of cheer.

Thank you to Jennifer Sheetz for the delicious gingerbread people to decorate, the firefighters for the safe delivery of the big guy and to our own terrific Santa, a.k.a. Jack Vogensen for wowing the little ones and making it real! Thanks to everyone who made this a fun event.

—Kit Harris

## Spring Days in Muir Woods

Enjoy spring among the redwoods...soon trillium, redwood violet and milkmaids will brighten the lush green forest floor! Chipmunks will awaken and scamper among the understory and winter wren melodic song will fill alert you to this small bird's nest near the ground.

Besides hiking here, there are many volunteer opportunities to help your backyard national park. Make a difference by weeding or doing trail work. Volunteers also needed to walk the trails and greet visitors. Call 388-2596 to offer your help.

Change is in the air...have you noticed what a difference the "quiet zone" in Cathedral Grove makes? And, soon you'll be able to enjoy the Fern Creek loop again due to the creative hard work by our state park friends. Plus, in early May a new concession will open its doors at Muir Woods, featuring a menu to make locavores happy and a redesigned sales space. The big news is that the park has received approvals and funding to restore the lower part of Redwood Creek at Muir Beach...great for the salmon, wonderful trail connections and improved facilities! And, finally the connecting leg of the Dias Trail will go down the ridge for a link from Panoramic Highway, Miwok Trail and Muir Beach...wow!

Want to learn about the history of Muir Woods...the historic walking guide is about to be published and will give real insight into the last 100 years of this park's history.



Finally, we're working out the final details of Year 5 of the Muir Woods shuttle...this year funded with park fees and a new cooperative agreement with the County of Marin. This popular bus has been increasingly popular and takes lots of cars of the busy Highway One corridor...

With all this news and activity, Muir Woods still is a place of peace and quiet...come early or late and check out this ancient forest alive with the freshness of spring.

Mia Monroe  
Site Supervisor  
Muir Woods National Monument  
stay in touch by checking our website regularly  
([www.nps.gov/muwo](http://www.nps.gov/muwo))

## Healing: The Kindness of Neighbors

The kindness of Mt. Tam neighbors helped Alison Shapiro get through possibly the biggest challenge of her life.

With no risk factors, and no reason to suspect it could happen to her -- especially since she was in her 50s -- Alison was felled by two brain stem strokes. One day she was fine. The next, she couldn't sit up, she couldn't walk, she couldn't swallow. Her right side was wildly uncoordinated, her left side was paralyzed, her speech was slurred, and she had no control over laughing or crying.



At first, she was in "total despair." But then she began to fight back. "A great deal has to do with believing you can," she says.

That was seven years ago. Today, Alison, who first moved to Sunrise Lane in 1991 ("I thought I'd come to paradise") hikes five miles, goes to the gym, does floor exercises, and Qi gong, can work through a 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. day and has resumed the activities of her pre-stroke life -- plus some. Sadly, her husband Bob became ill one and half years into Alison's recovery and then died two years later. And besides doing the work she did before the stroke -- business consulting and drawing and painting, including illustrating a children's book, she is now chair of the board of Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center as well as a motivational speaker for stroke survivors. She has a book, "Healing Into Possibility: The Transformational Lessons of a Stroke," coming out in June.

"My life is more full than ever." And Alison has plenty of gratitude not only for her two sons and their families but for her Mt. Tam neighbors. She had regular physical therapy sessions with Suzanne White, who lives on Panoramic. Mt. Tam resident Del Goetz gave her the red candle she had been using to pray for Alison's recovery, along with a complete turkey dinner. Neighbors did chores and helped with whatever needed doing. "They were remarkable," she says, adding, "It's incredibly important for people to know their neighbors and know how giving they can be."

-Diane Curtis



## Chinese Boiled Chicken

Derrick Chan

This recipe is one of my favorites, one I grew up anticipating many times. It is deceptively simple, requiring only 4 ingredients and a pot of hot water, yet it is flavorful and nourishing. Getting the freshest ingredients will get the best results.

- 1 Whole Organic Chicken 5 to 7 lbs.
- 1 hand of ginger peeled and chopped into 1 inch chunks
- ¼ Cup of Toasted Sesame Oil
- ¼ Cup of Peanut Oil (approximate)

Salt and Pepper to taste

Take the chicken and rinse it in cold water after removing the giblets, liver, neck etc. Set those aside for soup stock or discard. Place the chicken in a heavy pot and fill the pot with enough water to cover the chicken 2 to 3 inches. Remove the chicken and set it aside in a bowl. Bring the water to a boil under high heat. Do not salt the water. Once the water is boiling, place the chicken carefully in the pot with the heat still on high. After one minute, take the chicken out again and set it back in the bowl. Bring the water back to a boil. Place the chicken back in the reboiling water and cover, turning off the heat and leaving the pot on the stove. Wait 20 minutes and remove the lid, turn the heat on high and when the water appears to move in the pot but no bubbles form, replace the lid and turn off the heat. After another 20 minutes repeat the process, careful to not let the water return to a boil or even a simmer. After the next 20 minutes, the chicken is ready to eat. The chicken will have been in the pot for a total of one hour in hot water, never simmering or boiling water.

While waiting for the chicken to cook, take a handful of the chopped ginger and place it in a blender under medium speed, pouring in the sesame oil as you pulse. Add handfuls of ginger alternating with the sesame oil then the peanut oil. The amount of oil depends on how much moisture the ginger has (this is a measure of its freshness) and so will vary. What you should end up with is a dipping sauce that is a bit slushy. The relative amounts of sesame oil and peanut oil is also a matter of taste. Add salt and pepper again to taste.

Remove the chicken from the water and let it drain. Do not reuse the bowl (raw chicken contaminated) and discard the boiled water. Traditionally the chicken would be hacked into pieces using a cleaver leaving the meat still clinging to the bone. If you prefer, you can just debone it like a raw chicken, removing the leg, thigh and breast meat. Discarding the skin will make this meal very healthy. Serve still warm or at room temperature with the ginger sauce and soy sauce. The fresh ginger can be very sharp, so mix the ginger with a little with soy sauce to mellow it out, if you wish. Serve with rice and fresh steamed vegetables for a clean healthy meal. Leftover chicken can be used in any other recipe calling for cooked chicken.

## Neighbors

John Faraher: Our neighborhood greeter is back. He took a cold-weather break, but he's ready to take his stand waving to drivers on Panoramic Highway. "I love what I do, particularly with reactions from the kids, tourists and friends. Come see me soon." If you can, stop by and say "hi." You'll find John as humorous, feisty, opinionated and happy as ever.

Ceiba Linton Lovell: Winona and John Lovell have just added to their family with the arrival of Ceiba, born on January 13<sup>th</sup> and weighing 9.5 lbs. Everyone looked great-tired but great. Ceiba's name comes from a large "Tree of Life" popular in Africa and South America. Good luck to all. If you'd like to say, "welcome," drop off a gift /card to 23 Ridge Lane.



Reubin Martin, Marin County Firefighter: As you know, he was seriously injured in an accident that occurred at the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station. He spent months at hospitals and after countless surgeries is now home with wife Kellie and their five-year-old son Coby. Rubin and his family seem fine.

Good luck to James Campbell and Michael Gonzales: They just sold their home on Monte Cimas and are moving to the North Bay. Jim was extremely helpful to MWPCA in getting Highway 1 reopened after the earthquake in 1989. More recently he helped develop our safety system. He spent hours working with the County, Fire and OES to get our siren and radio system in place. Carry on.....and come see us.

Bonnie Himberg: Having taught fiber arts for 20 years at Fort Mason, Bonnie will begin conducting 1-2 day workshops on various topics. For information regarding future dates, contact her at: 415/407-7010 or bonikasanimals@aol.com.

Lila Sparks-Daniels: Lila has just published her first photography book entitled **Being in Paris**. Copies are available from her directly or at



www.blurb.com/bookstore. She is hosting her first ever solo photography show at Chez Pierre Restaurant in Novato on Thursday, March 5th. You're invited, so please let her know if you plan to attend. The show will be up

until April 27th, so there's plenty of time to drop by and have a look.

Etta Deikman: Etta has two shows she'd like you to attend:  
March 9-May 28: "Women Artists of Marin: Five Decades"  
Civic Center

May 29-July 5: "Solo Show"  
Quicksilver Mine Company, Forrestville  
Curator: Jennifer Almodora

For more information, deikman@sbcglobal.net or 383-2198

## The Mountain Home Inn

I first got to see and understand Mt. Tam about 35 years ago. While living on the "flats" of Mill Valley, I experienced the Stinson Beach and Muir Woods areas, but never really "felt" the Mountain. Then, I went through a divorce and needed a place to live. I found it in a little cottage next to the Alpine Club on Panoramic Highway. The place was ideal for a single person and was my savior. I began exploring, taking trails, introducing guests, going to varied events at the local Clubs. And, since I worked a high- pressure job in the city, it was the ultimate escape. I also was introduced to the Mt. Home Inn. I'd go there a couple nights of the week and enjoy "shooting-the-breeze" with the heavy-duty German barkeep



and the Inn's customers and employees. The Inn was a Swiss/German concoction-heavy dark wood, maroon drapes and slanted squeaky floors. So slanted that everyone joked about someday being there and suddenly finding themselves down in Mill Valley miles away.

After a fire and a renovation project the new Mountain Home Inn began in 1985. The new ten- bedroom Mountain

Home Inn is owned by Ed and Susan Cunningham, who also own The Pelican Inn and properties in Wyoming and Scotland.

The current Manager of our Inn is Stuij Sander, a past Chef at Nikko Restaurant in San Francisco and before that a French Quarter, New Orleans Chef. He currently lives in Richmond with his wife Nicole and two daughters.

Stuij loves his job and the people who frequent the Inn. "The view stuns me everyday—being surrounded by nature and looking down on civilization is awesome," he told me. And, "I think our image is changing a little— we are not so elitist and snobbish. We're more open, and more varied people visit our unique facility. We're still very romantic and beautiful but a bit more open, I think," he stated.

I toured the Mountain Home Inn—its varied levels and rooms as well as the decks, cocktail lounge and restaurant areas. I strongly suggest, if you haven't been there in awhile, or never visited, do so. You'll be blown away.

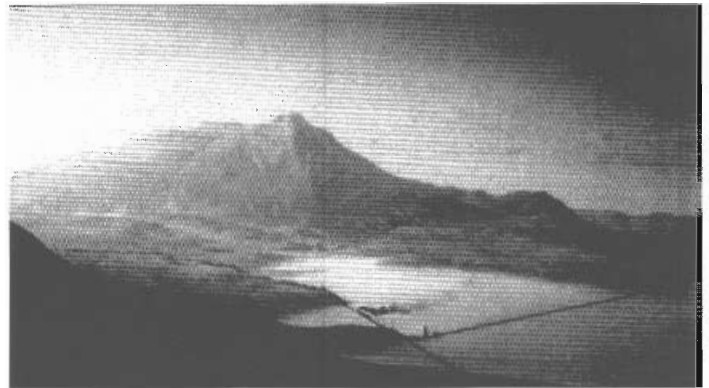
Meet Stuij or Marisa, the events coordinator. Marisa lives in San Anselmo with her husband and their twins. She loves where she works. Why? "It's great because it's a getaway from cities and traffic. It's totally peaceful here and I love the mountain," she added.

When you're there, be sure to take a look at the 1950s menu that's framed on the wall in the main dining room. It includes "Selected Table Wines" at 55 cents a glass. Times have changed a bit.

- Dick Popson

## History of the Mountain

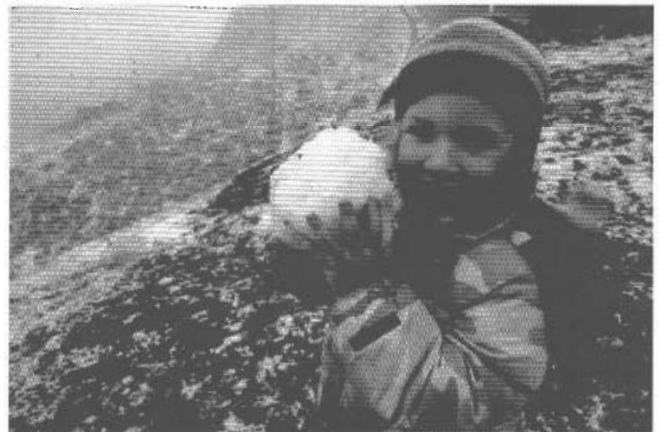
In future articles, we'll share history and background data about our mountain - the magical arena in which we live. If you have historical input including photographs, let me know and we'll include them in future issues.



### MOUNTAIN HISTORY 101- CHAPTER 1 The Sleeping Lady

Mount Tam got its name in 1770. Two explorers, Captain Pedro Fagers and Father Juan Crespi named it La Sierra de Nuestro Padre de San Francisco. This was later changed to the Miwok word tamalpais, which roughly translated means "bay mountain," or "coast mountain."

Mount Tam's appellation became "The Sleeping Lady," a name derived from old Miwok Indian legend, which still permeates the community and life on the Mountain. Other names have transpired over the years... Sleeping Maiden and Crying Lady (or Maiden.) The latter comes from some folks allegedly seeing water (rain or melting snow) draining down her slopes.



- Mojave Lovell

You'll read more about old history, but we must keep the past in our minds and support past principles and history.

I think it wise for us to uphold the ideals of our 2,751 foot Mountain and its old world name by keeping our community and households safe, secure and environmentally sound. Let's start there and add to these as life goes on and as the Lady looks on, let's try to serve her and maybe we can add the phrase "Smiling Lady" to her names.

- Dick Popson

## Watersheds: Animals and WUI

WildCare of Marin recommends that you refrain from tree and shrub cutting from March through August so as not to accidentally kill or injure baby birds and squirrels. It is illegal to destroy any nest or eggs of any bird species. Many bird species nest in low shrubs, especially in creek side (riparian) areas. Even dry creeks are considered part of the riparian habitat watershed system. Riparian habitat biodiversity and watershed health are incalculable assets to our community. Considerable challenges to birds, mammals and amphibians occur when habitat is lost from development, disturbance, pollution, invasive plants, clear-cutting, yard waste dumping, etc. Diverting creek water and removing vegetation are also not allowed.

It takes careful planning and understanding to adhere to WUI Fire codes, State riparian codes and good stewardship practices. Important things to consider in a vegetation management plan are the timing of tree/shrub cutting/removal for fire clearance as required by State, County and City WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) fire code, especially in riparian zones. Thirty-six species of native trees; 6 inches up are protected by County Ordinance 3342 of Title 22.

Native riparian and vegetative cover retains soil and prevents erosion. It provides food, shade and cover, nesting opportunities, and lowers water temperature beneficially for numerous fish, birds and amphibians. It provides water retention on steep slopes, slowing storm water runoff and raising the water table for year round subterranean replenishment. Thus, it raises the fuel moisture content of vegetation, lowering fire danger and preventing downstream catastrophic flooding. With our two watersheds of Redwood Creek and Mill Valley separated only by Panoramic Hwy we have a unique community-wide opportunity for responsible stewardship.

The fire departments and flood control district are aware of these issues. Before you cut, check [www.mcstoppp.org](http://www.mcstoppp.org) and talk to our fire captain.

- Laura Chariton

## Free Watershed Forum for Muir Woods Park APRIL 1 at 6:30 PM at the Clubhouse

### Presenters:

**Mia Monroe**, Site Supervisor at Muir Woods National Park

**Nick Tipon** Sacred Sites Chair, Coast Miwok, FIGR

**Laura Chariton**, Hutchins Institute, Action for a Viable Future and Mill Valley StreamKeepers

Bring finger food to share; refreshments provided. Call 388-7060 for information.

## Family Work Day and BBQ

**Saturday, April 4, 2009**

**9:00 AM +**

Come out for the work day and bring the kids. They can play (activities provided) while you work and meet your neighbors. A BBQ will follow all the "hard work."

There are tasks for all skill levels, so plan to come for awhile.

If you're just curious, drop by for awhile and check it all out.

Many people don't yet know about our wonderful facility. It is available for rental to help cover maintenance and upkeep expenses.

A special discount is available to members of MWPCA. It is ideal for birthdays, weddings, and celebrations of all kinds....and also serves as an emergency shelter should there be the need.



**BBQ details: Bring your own meat (and buns) and we'll provide potato salad and other goodies.**

To help with the BBQ, contact Lila Daniels at 383-8422. She'd like someone to manage the BBQ, help make potato salad, and plan the rest of a simple meal and, of course, a few snacks for breaks during the work.

## Call for Neighborhood Journalists

Do you notice more writers/contributors to our Lookout Issue? That's deliberate.....and I'm looking for other contributors, too.

Rumor has it that a new resident who moved into Jim Campbell and Michael Gonsalves' old place is poet Drew Dellenger. So, Drew.....I have your book of poetry. Which poem shall I include next time?

Others? Photographs are always welcome. And, please let me know if you enjoy this larger issue. Thank you so much for your input.

- Lila Daniels, lilasd@aol.com



## Harold Dittmer Developing Comprehensive Database for Muir Woods Park Residents

Hats off to Harold Dittmer. He's put in hours updating the community database which has gotten outdated. He's been walking the neighborhood, noting addresses and cross-referencing them with reverse directories, etc. The accuracy of the information is going to be useful in reaching each other.....for social gatherings as well as emergencies.

Why is Harold doing all this? Because the 2009 Board is wants to serve a larger number of residents here on Mt. Tamalpais. We will use the information to update the Neighborhood Directory (which is for community use only).

Harold has the technical skills to create the database and he is naturally curious. Thank you, Harold!

**Please Email MWPCA your Email Address: [webmaster@moundtam.org](mailto:webmaster@moundtam.org)**

We would like to include emails in the neighborhood database and directory. It is up to you, of course, but in this day and age, more and more communication is done by email and MWPCA would also like this capability. It would help especially with last-minute meetings or issues that arise.

For example, there will be a sewer meeting sometime during March, but Lynn Hindley (Sewer Committee Chair) hasn't confirmed a date yet. We would like to email the neighborhood, but instead the association will go to the expense of mailing out special announcements.

So, when you send in your 2009 Membership Dues (and we hope you will!), be sure to add your email address. Better yet, why not email your information and comments or questions to us via the website:

[webmaster@moundtam.org](mailto:webmaster@moundtam.org)

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

### Fire, Floods and Fish, Oh My!

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 PM—8:45 PM  
Mill Valley Library, Creekside Room

#### Free public program

#### Presenters:

**Jeffrey A. Davidson** Mill Valley Fire Chief  
**James Reilly**, Stetson Engineering  
**Laura Chariton**, Mill Valley StreamKeepers

For More information:

[www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org](http://www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org)

## Awaiting the Willing: Unconditional Love on Tamalpais...



From my lofty vantage spot I see the creature that has brought companionship and joy to our family. At my feet a small black dog named Zephyr rests awaiting any activities in which we should wish to indulge – be it a walk or a simple scratch behind the ear.

A dog is the companion of choice on this ethereal drift through time often referred to as "reality." Where on earth did I get a creature so aesthetically pleasing, perhaps visually stunning in my eyes? The little dog fills my eyes with joy whenever they make contact with his cute little form, that being often... With no doubt, I am proud to say, that dogs fill me with a solid abundance of enthusiasm for life; we are bound in a unique relationship, both he and I, in a web of undeniable and unconditional love. The dog brings out the love, of that there is no doubt.

If these heartfelt feelings appeal in any way to you, it's my guess that you to have the ability to adopt a dog. This mountain has room for more of these extraordinary creatures that have evolved alongside man for about forty thousand years.

The Marin Humane Society gets two thumbs up from me. My first dog Herman came from the same facility circa 1960 when I was eight. Herman gave my family of origin sixteen years of sweet love and carried us thru some tough times emotionally. He kept a smile on my face, which admittedly, wasn't always easy. Drifting for several decades eventually I found myself back at The Marin Humane Society.

There, many dogs anxiously await adoption, only half an hour away. You can look into their eyes and decide which one would fit your lifestyle and love to romp on the slopes of Tamalpais.

Sweep all the little interruptions and assorted mental entanglements aside and swim through the convoluted mass of gray matter long enough to pause and ask yourself one question, "Do I have room in my life for more love?"

Perhaps the answer is awaiting you at 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd. Novato, Ca 94949. You may also call 415/382-1349 or visit their website at [www.MarinHumaneSociety.org](http://www.MarinHumaneSociety.org).

-Thanks, Andy Lillestol





**Come Join Us!**

**Breakfast Saturday and Sunday 8 am – 11 am**

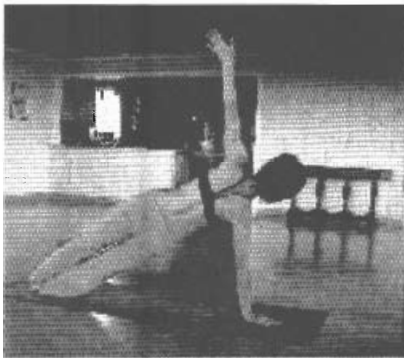
**Lunch Wednesday – Sunday 11:30 am – 3 pm**

**Dinner Wednesday – Sunday 5:30 pm– 9/9:30 pm**

**Small Plates served Saturday and Sunday after lunch**

**Phone 415-381-9000**

**www.mtnhomeinn.com**



**Yoga will soon return to the Mountain**

**Wendy Meideros** instructs a yoga class at the Clubhouse. Mats and equipment are provided. Details to follow.

**2009 MWPCA dues are due!**

Please complete the form on the next page and return it at your earliest convenience. We are updating the Neighborhood Directory and want to make sure we have your most current information.....especially your email address. It will be used within the neighborhood only.

To streamline communications, there are times when we want to alert you quickly to special meetings and opportunities that arise between Lookout issues, so please be sure to include your email address along with your dues payment.

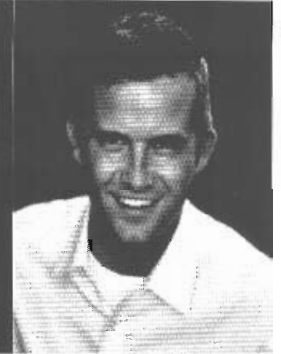
As we've said previously, board members and long-term residents are making a special effort this year to reach out to more neighbors in the community. We'd like to hear from you and learn more about you.

My husband and I will celebrate our 20th year up here this April. Time has flown by and we can't imagine living anywhere else.

-Lila Daniels, Lookout Editor

Thank you, Matthew, for the quarterly real estate updates.

Matthew Pouliot  
Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate  
60 Belvedere Drive  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
Primary: 415-265-7020  
matthew.pouliot@pacunion.com  
Http://www.PouliotProperties.com



Active Listings – All Realtors		
Active		
240 Panoramic	3BD/2.5BA	899,000
Contingent		
30 Monte Cimas	2BD/2BA	959,000
850 Edgewood	4BD/4.5BA	2,995,000
Sold		
301 Panoramic	3BD/3BA	\$765,000
61 Washington Pk	2BD/1BA	400,000
166 Bay View	5BD/3BA	980,000
Pending		
161 Bay View	4BD/2.5BA	1,725,000



**Kathleen Delehanty is Back!!!...**

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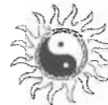
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Page # 78A-5274



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Confirm by phone:  
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RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION APARTMENTS COMMERCIAL

**MWPCA MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS Due for 2009!!**

\$45 Household \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Senior \_\_\_\_\_ (both include newsletter)  
General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Lookout subscription for non-residents \_\_\_\_  
Specific Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Facility Sewer Disaster Children's (circle)  
Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Please complete the entire form to reconfirm your information as we are creating a 2009 Neighborhood Directory)

Mail to: MWPCA, 40 Ridge Ave., Mill Valley, CA. 94941.

# THE LOOKOUT

Muir Woods Park Community Association  
 40 Ridge Avenue  
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

Non-Profit  
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*Return Service Requested*

## 2009 MWPCA Board Officers

President	Peter Hindley	383-7252
Vice President	Keith Papulias	388-9219
Recording Sec	Lynn Hindley	388-7252
Treasurer	Brad Silen	383-3612
Director	Bob Clemons	388-3641
Director	Diane Curtis	383-7241
Director	Lila Daniels	383-8422
Director	Kit Harris	388-0829
Director	John Lovell	383-4530
Director	Dick Popson	388-1135

## Committees

Clubhouse Rentals	Lynn Hindley	388-7252
Membership	(vacant)	
Safety/Emergency	Dick Popson	388-1135
Lookout Newsletter	Lila Daniels	383-8422
Parenting	Kit Harris	388-0829
Webmaster	Brad Silen	383-3612
Tech Consultant	Peter Spear	383-1842
Sewer Committee	Lynn Hindley	388-7252

### Clubhouse Available for Rent

Rates, rules, forms, calendar and all information about what is included are on the website: <http://www.mounttam.org>.  
 Special member discounts available.

## Community Calendar - see online for updates

### ONGOING

Yoga Classes will resume this spring; details coming soon

### FEBRUARY

Thursday 12 Board Meeting 7:00 PM

### MARCH

Tuesday 10 Fires, Flood, & Fish— 7:00 PM  
 Mill Valley Library

Thursday 12 Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Saturday 14 St. Patrick's Day Party 6:00 PM

TBD (notice coming) Sewer Meeting 7:00 PM

### APRIL

Wedn'day 1 Watershed Forum 6:30 PM

Saturday 4 Work Day and BBQ 9:00 AM+

Thursday 9 Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Saturday 11 Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 AM

Friday 24 Video Night 7:00 PM