



THE LOOKOUT

Disaster Averted on Easter Morning

- Nancy Klasky Gribler

Last Easter Sunday, a crisis was avoided when the quick thinking and fast actions by two neighbors stopped a suspect from taking extreme and violent actions.

Nai Feuy Saelor, a 24-year-old Richmond resident, was arrested at a home on Panoramic Highway and booked into Marin County Jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, arson and vandalism.

An unidentified neighbor saw Saelor spraypaint distasteful graffiti on the street and mailboxes and decided to confront her. The resident didn't know that earlier that morning, Saelor had allegedly set fire to a carport down the lane.



Fire Captain Groneman, photo by Nancy Gribler

The two engaged in a loud argument, and just at that moment, off-duty Marin County Fire Captain Graham Groneman was driving down the Mountain for his Sunday Peet's. He came upon stopped cars and residents at Bayview Avenue. At first he thought there had been an accident, and then he saw two women engaged in an argument.

"I got out to take a look to see if I could help and quickly assessed the situation by talking to people at the scene," said Groneman. "It wasn't an accident; it was two women in a struggle. One looked more like the aggressor and one looked like the victim. I was trying to piece together the story when I smelled lighter fluid, and the look on the resident's face gave me a clear idea she was in trouble. She was doused in lighter fluid and the other woman had a lighter."

At that point, Groneman sprang into action and subdued the alleged aggressor and asked neighbors to contact the authorities. When State Rangers arrived, he turned the suspect over to them. A fire engine from



2015 CLUBHOUSE EVENTS

- May 2** 9am
Work Day at the Clubhouse
- May 2** 10am
Succulent Exchange
- July 11, 12** Free Green Waste
Chipper Days
- July 18** Noon - 5pm
Summer BBQ & MWPCA
80th Anniversary
- August 1** 11am-6pm
Artists of Mount Tam
Art Fest and Sale
- October 4** 1pm - 6pm
Jazz Fest
- Nov 13** 6pm
Annual Meeting and
Election
- Dec 13** 6pm
Adult Holiday Party
- Dec 20** 3pm - 5pm
Children's Holiday Party

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Throckmorton arrived and Groneman then learned about the arson down the road.

Doug Pittman, Control Commander for the Sheriff's Office oversees the Patrol Services for Marin County. In an interview with *The Lookout* he said, "The suspect is not a stranger to authorities. Last April, she came to the same home, with boxes and suitcases in hand, and asked to be allowed to live in the home."

When asked about the actions of Captain Groneman, Pitt said, "Captain Groneman intervened at the moment when the suspect had lighter fluid and lighter in hand. People in public safety refer to his quick response as 'situational awareness.' Graham's talents are some of the finest examples of an officer who is smart, a quick thinker and a problem solver. I've known him for years; he just possesses exceptional skills."

The Board of Directors of the Muir Woods Park Community Association voted at its April 9 meeting to send a commendation of appreciation to Captain Groneman for his exceptional response and actions, and, in addition, the Board has arranged for a special night out for Captain Groneman. Because he acted while off-duty, his superiors approve and applaud the Board's token of appreciation.

Important Phone Numbers

Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station

Non-emergency
415-388-5414

Sheriff Department

Non-emergency
415-332-5422

Cell Phone call to 911 within Marin County

Local dispatch
415 -472-0911

Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station Update

Hello from the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station.

While there have not been any staff changes at the Throckmorton Ridge Fire House, our department is in the process of training 10 new firefighters to fill retirements. The 10 individuals will be starting an academy that will run from April to the end of June and is in cooperation with the Southern Marin Fire Protection District. The new firefighters will begin station work after completion of the academy.

With summer around the corner, we remind everyone that it's time to evaluate defensible space around your home and property. Defensible space is essential to improve your home's chances of surviving a wildfire. This space can slow or stop the spread of fire and gives firefighters a safer environment to protect your home. Marin County Fire Department firefighters will be conducting annual defensible space / wildfire hazard reduction inspections May 30 and 31. If you are home and want to learn more about defensible space, please feel free to ask. You can also visit www.firesafemarin.org for more information.

On July 11 and 12, from 9am to 5:30pm, MWPCA, Fire Safe Marin, Mill Valley and Marin County Fire Departments will host a green waste collection day. Residents are encouraged to bring green waste debris from their yard to be chipped on site. For more questions about the green waste days, please give us a call (415-388-5414).

Stay safe,

Ben Ghisletta
Senior Fire Captain, Marin County Fire Department

CHIPPER DAYS!

JULY 11 & 12
9am - 5:30pm

At the Clubhouse | 41 Ridge Avenue | Lower Lot

Create a Fire Safe Defensible Space Around Your Home.

Dispose of the Cut Vegetation Material for Free!



Free Green Waste Days July 11-12, 2015



Collection and Chipping located at Muir Woods Community Center, lower gravel parking lot.

**Saturday and Sunday
July 11-12, 2015
9:00am to 5:30pm**

This is your opportunity for free and safe disposal of green waste yard materials such as branches, grass and light brush. Please, no building materials, general debris, garbage or palm trees.

For information, call 415-388-5414

Sponsored by MWPCA, Marin County Fire Department, Mill Valley Fire Department, and FIREsafe MARIN.

Tips for a Healthy Septic System – Part 2

In understanding septic systems, one needs to consider the types in current use on Mt. Tam:

- 1) Gravity feed to two tanks, one for solids, one for wastewater with a gravity outlet.
- 2) Same as 1) but with a pump for uphill disposal of water.
- 3) Same as 1) and 2) but with an enclosed area called a “kitty litter box” with the two tanks, but has enclosed area with artificial leach material.
- 4) Cesspool, which is the single tank with waste material in the one tank, and the liquid drains out the bottom of the tank.

In our area we have all of these systems. Some are as old as 70 years old and still functioning. Even the most modern of systems can be overtaxed and, if not cared for properly, can be compromised. Much has been said about septic systems and their potential. There is no set rule and no set life span. In our area we have a variety of terrains so one system is not an answer. As to our specific locations it can always be said “out of sight, out of mind.” Also, “The grass is always greener over the septic tank.” During the current drought it can be assumed that our trees get much of their moisture from the septic systems. The leaching of the wastewater works its way to the root systems and subsequently the trees are working their root systems to the leach field.

Here is where maintenance should be the watchword. A periodic Roto-Rooter inspection when the tank is pumped is a good precaution. The leach pipes are the main avenue for water release and should be unobstructed. I recently saw a septic system with a concrete wall and wooden top with a massive two-foot-diameter redwood root ball inside the tank. Care should eliminate such occurrences.

As previously mentioned, make sure that nothing other than toilet paper and human waste enter the disposal system. Toxic chemicals should be avoided to prevent interruption of the aerobic activity within the tank.

- Jim Bramell

Time to Conserve Water!

You’ve already got the low-flow showerhead, toilets rated at an effective flush volume of 1.28 gallons or less, a shut-off nozzle on your hose and a high-efficiency washing machine.

So what else can you do? Plenty.

We all know that lawns are water hogs, but if you just can’t part with that stretch of green, you might consider reseeded with a [drought-tolerant lawn](#). (You can even put up an “Eco-Lawn” or similar sign to preempt those sneers from [xeriscape](#)-obsessed neighbors.) Also, aerate that lawn periodically. Holes will allow the water to reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

Drought-friendly plants include many succulents (they help protect your house from fire too!), yarrow, Kangaroo paw, Ceanothus, lavender, lupine, many sedges, lilies, iris and [many more](#).

Organic, plant-based mulches such as bark, straw or compost help retain soil moisture. A smart sprinkler controller that adjusts watering based on weather, soil type, amount of shade and plant type also saves water.

Indoors, use a bucket to collect water for plants while your shower water is heating up. Insulate water pipes, which will get that hot water to you more quickly. Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. Take shorter showers. Turn on your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are fully loaded. Don’t leave water running while brushing teeth, washing dishes or shaving. Rather than wait for water to get cold while running the tap, keep a pitcher in the refrigerator.

And . . . share your water-saving tips with neighbors!

More conservation resources:

<http://wateruseitwisely.com>

[21 tips](#) from remodelista.com

Have a [thriving garden](#) and save water

http://eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm

<http://bewaterwise.com/tips01.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/ConserveWater.htm>

- Diane Curtis

Where the Wild Things Are...



I was sitting in a chair having a cup of coffee the other morning in our little cabin on the Panoramic; the sun was shining. Even with a mild winter, the grass outside was as green as Ireland. Then I sensed something outside. A movement, maybe.

It was three deer, feeding away. One of them sensed me, too, and looked right in the window.

You know how it is; deer are a nuisance; they eat the plants. They wander on the road, especially on a foggy night. But there have been deer around this neck of the woods as long as I can remember. Quail, too, and even little gopher snakes, green and yellow.

It shows you that even as we are near a big city, we are still close to a wild California.

Seeing the wild animals on a Monday morning reminded me of another encounter, maybe 12 or 13 years ago. It was Labor Day weekend, a Sunday, about eight in the morning. I was on the Matt Davis trail, heading for a pancake breakfast at the West Point Inn.

I came around a corner of the trail and there was a man, stopped, still as a statue. A runner, by the look of him. "Stop," he said. "Don't make a sound. There's a wildcat." He pointed off in the brush. It was no wildcat; it was a mountain lion, with a long tail.

I remember it had yellow cat's eyes and it looked right at us. I wasn't afraid, not a bit. I was impressed. It was a beautiful animal with a tawny coat. I had seen mountain lions before, once in a zoo. That one was caged, like a prisoner, pacing up and down.

This one was free. It looked at us, just like a cat, only bigger, more lean. Then it moved away, melted, almost, into the brush.

I had never seen one before in the wild, and have never seen one again. That mountain lion was one in a lifetime, a reminder that no matter how civilized we think we are, there are wild things, just around the corner.

- Carl Nolte

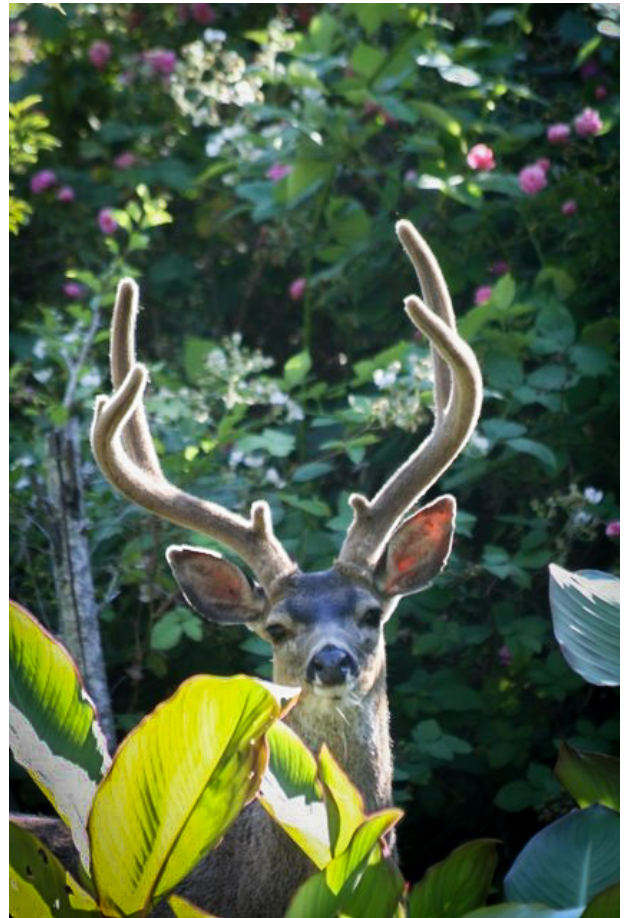


Photo by Lorne Dubin

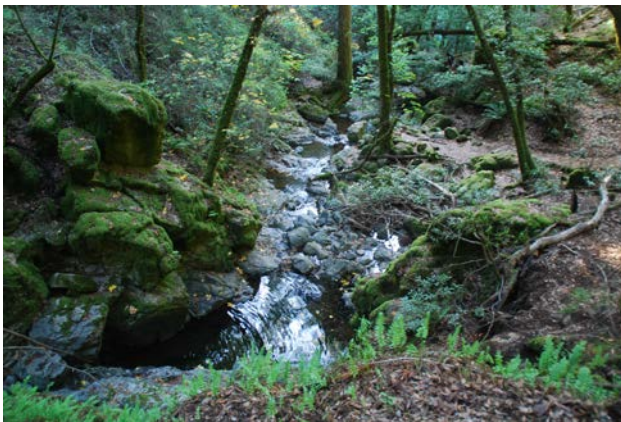
MOUNT TAM PURLS
Last Wednesday of the Month
3:00-5:00 PM

Calling all knitters! Come join in the fun. To receive reminders contact Lila Sparks-Daniels at lilasd@aol.com for meeting locations and to get on the email distribution list.

Slow It. Spread It. Sink It!

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better - Albert Einstein

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world – John Muir



We live in a place surrounded by nature where everything is connected. Our two watersheds, Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio Creek on the east side and Redwood Creek on the west side, encompass thousands of residents and multitudes of wildlife. The Muir Woods Park community is the headwaters of these two watersheds, and our land-use practices influence pretty much everything downstream, including mainstem creeks miles away. A number of federal and state agencies are focused on these watersheds in order to protect the survival of Coho salmon and steelhead. We can do our part to help.

How? [Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!](#) as advised by the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program. Rain, necessary for watershed health, has lately been either in short supply or has come in torrential storms and so managing storm water is challenging, especially in our environment altered by climate change.

Storm water infiltration on our hillsides occurs naturally when there are healthy plant communities such as those once found in our area – redwood forests, oak woodlands and coastal prairie. Redwood forests gather moisture from fog and drip rain throughout the dry months, and act to disperse water from major rainfall. They also cool

and shade the streams for salmon and trout habitat. Many of our plant communities have been altered, however, and impervious surfaces from roads, buildings and patios direct storm water away from its original destination.

Where is away? Diverting storm water onto neighboring properties is not legal, so storm drains send storm water, polluted by road runoff, straight into streams in violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

How do we slow and purify storm water, turn it into an asset and keep it on-site? Some methods include rain-gardens, bio-swales, roof rainwater catchment systems, all of which allow us to slow it, spread it and sink it. Roof catchments provide water supplies that augment our dry season irrigation and provide an emergency water supply.

Utilizing storm water in a beneficial way also helps prevent negative consequences downstream. Planting native vegetation and protecting exposed soils by covering with weed-free straw, straw wattles, and mulch helps control erosion. Trees and vegetative cover help retain water in the soil, which acts like a sponge, filtering pollutants. Keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch not only prevents erosion, but also landslides, flooding downstream and the deposit of sediment in creeks, which kills fish. Water infiltration for slow release into salmon and trout-bearing streams through the summer prevents soil from drying out too quickly and hydrates plants, thereby decreasing fire risk. Moist soil encourages the growth of subterranean fungi that contribute to plant health and enhances habitat for many species.

Before cutting trees, consider their ecological function and also the time of year. Between February and August, birds nest in trees and on the surrounding ground and low-lying vegetation. The presence of nesting birds, which are federally protected, can be determined by a survey by a reputable biologist or ornithologist. A Los Angeles Audubon guide to bird-friendly tree-trimming and removal can be found [here](#).

You can see how quickly the mainstem creeks can rise to flood stage during peak rain events by looking at the Mill Valley hydrograph at marin.onerain.com

- Laura Chariton

Mia's Muir Woods Musings

The lush woods are full of life – pileated woodpeckers, otters, banana slugs, chipmunks, baby fish and melodious Pacific wren, as well as tourists, students and hikers. Does it seem busy? It is! Endless sunny days, no snow or winter storms from the East Coast, and the economy is growing (bringing convention business and more people to the Bay Area). All of this makes our beautiful parklands a popular place to be. So, come early or late to avoid the crowds and appreciate the spring bloom and a forest full of bird song and wobbly fawns.

The Muir Woods shuttle starts the first weekend of April. The Route 61 bus (West Marin Stage) has added service. All trails are open. Have you been on the newly upgraded Canopy View Trail, the rehabilitated Hillside and Bootjack Trails? They are stunning! Not only are they much safer for people and the forest but also they have been greatly enhanced to show features and views.

At the foot of Canopy View Trail on the forest floor is Founders Grove. Sit on the bench, look at the Pinchot Tree and imagine William Kent (an early park donor) standing there talking with the National Park Service's first director, Stephen Mather. Imagine John Muir looking at this very scene. We are proud to have our roots deep in conservation history, and we will be looking back and planning forward as the NPS Centennial kicks off this month.

There are several interactive features in the woods and on Mount Tam. Check out the watershed models, see the new face on the ever-popular crosscut, hug a log, walk the boardwalks (strollers and wheelchairs can navigate down to the beach on mobi-mats plus Rodeo Beach, Muir Beach and Stinson Beach all have free beach wheelchairs). There are trails designed for full accessibility: Do you know about the fully accessible trails off of West Ridgecrest, out of Pantoll, Verna Dunshee or East Peak?

Campouts, trails, sunrise or sunset views, bonfires at Muir Beach – so many opportunities to "find your park!" I hope to tip my ranger hat to you soon.

-Mia Munroe
NPS Community Liaison

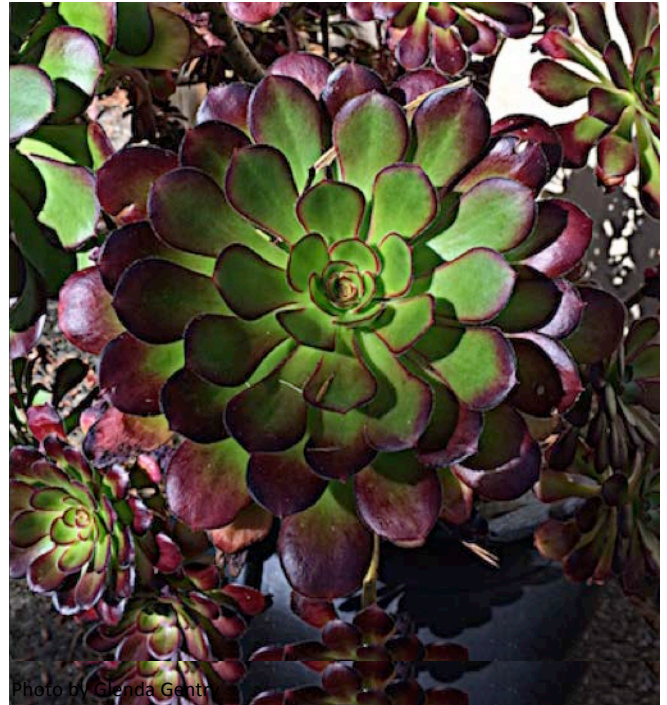


Photo by Glenda Gentry

Come to the MWPCA Succulent Exchange!

If your succulents have been busy multiplying, you might be interested in gathering some of their "pups" or cuttings to share with others. Who knows, other succulent lovers might be interested in varieties you have but they don't and vice versa. Seems like a perfect reason for a brief gathering to conduct an exchange.

Let's meet Saturday morning, May 2, at 10:00am, outside the MWPCA Clubhouse and see what happens.

Suggestion: Bring 5-20 of your healthy "pups" or cuttings to exchange, rather than already-potted plants. We'll conduct the exchange so that everyone can take some away for our own gardens. Any plants that remain could then be available for planting outside the clubhouse. **Don't be late as plants and people won't stay long!**

- Glenda Gentry

For more information contact [ggentry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gentry@sbcglobal.net)

Notable Natives

As I walked along Alice Eastwood, I couldn't help but notice an awesome showy start to spring by some of my favorite natives, from the California poppies (*Escholzia californica*) and morning glories (*Calystegia macrostegia*) at the beginning of their long flowering season to the very short-lived Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*) flowers, currently in spectacular bloom. But the native that caught my eye the most was that of the noble Doug fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with its bright green fresh buds tipping every branch. Not a true fir as assumed by its common name (true firs are labeled by the genus *Abies*), and not a true Western Hemlock as its Latin name tells us (pseudo = false, tsuga = hemlock), this distinguished tree is in a genus of its own. Spanning heights only surpassed by one other conifer, our majestic Redwood, Doug firs are the second-tallest evergreen on the planet, with historic reports over 300 feet, and the dominant tree west of the Cascade Mountains.



Indigenous peoples have long documented the gifts received from this plant. Most commonly, an antiseptic resin from the trunk has been used as a poultice or salve to treat cuts, bruises and a variety of skin conditions. This resin can also be chewed like gum and purportedly soothes sore throats. The outer bark has been used as a

light brown dye and the inner bark has been noted by many tribes as being ground into a meal, mostly used during periods of low acorn-producing years. The wood has been prized as a building material/timber tree and is known as an excellent fire fuel because of its high heat and output of little smoke. In places where Doug firs have open space for their roots to grow long and untangled, thin roots were used in basketry. But among all of these awesome gifts this notable native shares with us, the favorite among my family are the bright green tips catching my eye all over the mountain right now. These fresh new growths are tender and sweet and an excellent source of vitamin C and electrolytes! I love to sprinkle the radiant green leaves on top of fresh goat cheese and dehydrated crackers. Next time you're out for a hike, pluck a small tip and try one!

And for those of you mourning the passing of the seasons and ripe acorns now shed, mark your calendars for the weekend of November 7 and 8. I'll be hosting a fall Mt. Tam workshop learning how to process acorns. You'll leave with acorn flour, a recipe for acorn pancakes, and if time, create an herbal infused syrup or honey to top them off with!

- *Apryl Uncapher*

MOUNT TAM TASK FORCE:

Update: Muir Woods Solutions Stalled

Congressman Huffman convened four months of meetings with the National Park Service (NPS), County Supervisors Kinsey and Sears, Mount Tam Task Force (MTTF) and their legal team to seek a plan to reduce environmental, traffic and public safety risks near Muir Woods. These October through February negotiations yielded a draft plan to reduce risks by limiting parking along Muir Woods Road and to set up a national reservation system. Mandatory “valet” parking will cost \$15.

County sources say, however, that the NPS has resisted formalizing the agreement that was due last month. Despite the sensitive negotiations and public protests, the NPS signed a General Management Plan (GMP) that contradicts prior understandings with communities bordering Muir Woods.

For example, many Panoramic citizens devoted time and donated legal fees to halt the 180-car parking lot and bus depot at Four Corners, and sought solutions to the environmental and public safety issues in the watershed.

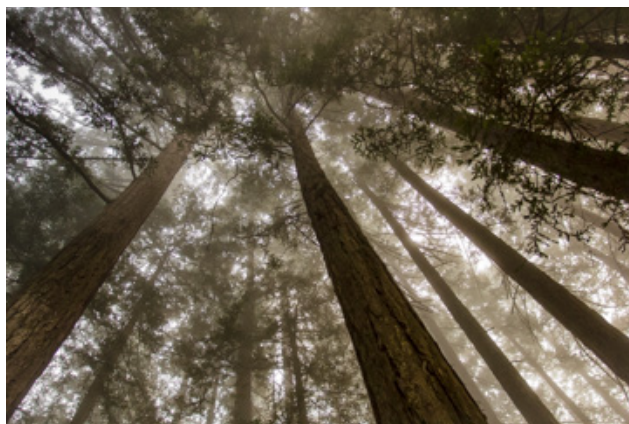
However, the GMP, signed without public notice in January, reopens the door to unlimited visitation, bus depots and a parking lot on Panoramic.

NPS also wants police powers over the County Road.

The GMP ignores changes requested by Congressman Huffman, the public and Marin County Supervisors. Supervisors formally requested a cap on the visitor load and asked that the NPS do a long-promised (since 1974) scientific capacity study on what Muir Woods can sustain. But NPS has refused to do the capacity study or to cap the visitor load that recently topped 6000 people a day, or, annually, twice the population of San Francisco.

Meanwhile NPS sister organization, the Parks Conservancy, has spent \$980,000 to “re-brand” Mt. Tamalpais as “One Tam.” NPS has also created a new full-time PR position called Community Liaison. Former Muir Woods senior manager Mia Monroe now works at Ft. Mason in this role.

- Kristin Shannon



TALES OF MOUNT TAM:

The Eccentric Old Man of Edgewood

Back in the seventies, along with many of my friends, I worked on the Mountain on a mind-boggling project for an amazing man on Edgewood Avenue. John Keller was a self-made Swiss immigrant who had come to America and made and lost millions several times. By this time he was very old and retired from many occupations, among them banking and logging. John was like an elf, he walked with a cane and was very short, with a long silver goatee as well as a severe lift in one shoe and extremely thick wire-rimmed glasses. A unique individual, he usually dressed in old ratty tweed suits that made him look like he had stepped out of another era. All appearances aside, he was sharp as a tack, kind to the young men he employed and a joy to be with as well as a wealth of information.

The tiny beat up old one-room cabin that John lived in was a wreck – brush constantly surrounded it and gooney-eyed feral cats abounded and thus consumed any scraps that John gave them. Stacks of yellowed newspapers surrounded his corner of the room. I remember John always offering me Swiss goat's milk cheese for lunch, ever present on the dirty small table. I kindly declined it, as the cats licked it and it was seemingly never moved, nor refrigerated...

The project was a magnificent beautiful Swiss-style building that was built to "withstand an 8.0 earthquake." John hand selected every piece of wood that went into that building and he was well known at Mill Valley Lumber. To say the craftsmanship and quality of this building were exceptional is an understatement. In short, it was a lifetime achievement, a project of such endurance and quality, time and patience that it could never be replicated. Vast amounts of concrete for the foundation, huge diameter rebar, and industrial grade wiring, as well as only the finest woods were used in this project. No expense was spared, despite the fact that John lived like a pauper.

One day John suggested we try to get his gold 1965 Buick Rivera running – it had been parked when his vision was too bad to drive and it hadn't run in many years. Thick blackberry vines covered it, so I brought my machete to

work and slashed and uncovered the amazing car. With a new battery and a trip down the hill to fill the tires with air, the golden beast came to life.

The huge engine roared and we slowly made our way down Edgewood Avenue. Little John Keller sat in the passenger seat barely able to see over the dashboard as we hit the Hwy. 101 onramp. As I pushed the gas down he grinned and yelled, "Faster, faster Andy." I went past Marin City going about 100 miles an hour and the old man's joy and excitement couldn't be contained. I remember the words as if they were yesterday, "This is the most fun I've had in years!! "

A colorful life was followed by a strange finding after his demise, which was when he was 100 years old. Upon entering his cabin, several odd things were encountered; a long-dead feline rested on his shoes deep in his dark closet, by now only a remnant of dry skin, having crept back there and died a mere six feet from John's non-functional sense of smell. Also found were stacks and stacks of antiquated Swiss Bank notes that John had stashed below the bed. It seemed that even in death, the strange life of John Keller was shockingly unique...

John Keller was truly one of a kind, and I am glad to have known this marvelous individual. There are many, many stories in a life so long.

- Andy Lillestol

Born on November 21, 1897 in Bern Switzerland, John Keller came across to America after W.W. 1. John landed in New York and made and LOST a huge fortune on Wall Street and was totally wiped out in the stock market collapse and depression. He then bought a Model A Ford with three friends, and drove out to the west coast and remade his fortune in a lumber mill in the Pacific Northwest. The mill eventually burned down and so John decided to move to San Francisco where he became an electrical engineer.

His original cats were named Smokey, Lucky and Scotty.

John lived to be 100 years and six months old.

-AL

ARTISTS OF MOUNT TAMALPAIS



We are doing something new for 2015! In lieu of our annual Open Studios Trail Walk, Artists of Mount Tamalpais invite you to a one-day-only **Art Fest and Sale, Saturday, August 1 from 11am-6pm**. Come meet our talented artists and enjoy art, music, refreshments and children's activities!

In this *Lookout* issue we introduce you to some of our artists. We hope you enjoy getting to know a little about us and that you'll visit us at the Clubhouse at our event in August where you can view and purchase fabulous "locally created art." To read more about our artists and see more of their work, visit our website:

<http://www.mounttamartists.org>

In other local art news, four members of our group, Beverly Anderson, Rhonda Dubin, Glenda Gentry and Alex Uncapher are showing work in the "Composing Chaos" group show at the O'Hanlon Center for the Arts in Mill Valley through April 23. Check our [Facebook](#) page for updates on activities, shows and workshops of our members.

Now in our 4th year, we have more than 20 MWPCA members in this group of visual artists. A number of exhibitions are planned for this year, including a group show at the Mill Valley Library in June. Monthly planning meetings are held at various members' homes, with time for sharing new work with each other. It's a lively, fun, and supportive group of artists of varying experience. If you or any one you know is a MWPCA member and an artist, and would like to join, contact Linda Sawtelle at linsawt@yahoo.com or Teresa Harrison at teresahh@verizon.net.

CALLING ALL POETS!



Mt. Tam poets, if you are interested in joining a group of Mountain poets to share poetry, provide a forum for poetry on the Mountain and more, please contact Jean Sublett: jeanlhs@aol.com

MEET SOME OF OUR LOCAL ARTISTS

Beverly Anderson: Photographer

How long have you been creating your art?



Woody gave me a camera in 1985 when we met and I have been in love with both since then. Prior to this I had tried many forms of art including classes in watercolor, oil on canvas, jewelry making, weaving and ceramics. I also took a class

in composition and design, which I feel, is essential for any artist.

Tell us a little about your medium and process.

My medium is photography. In the beginning I used slides and the cibachrome process. I now shoot only digitally and have my printing done at Image Flow.



Photo by Beverly Anderson

What inspires you creatively about living on the Mountain?

Just this morning I was up at dawn taking a photo of the sunrise. Inspiration is everywhere whether it is a moonrise, a hike around Mt Tam or just observing the seasonal change. Texture is one of my favorite subjects and that is everywhere along with light that knows no boundaries.

What has the experience been like for you being a member of Artists of Mount Tamalpais?

I am not prone to be a part of any group activity. In fact I have been able to avoid this for decades. This group of artists has really gotten my attention and I am so honored to be a part of such a creative group of people. I truly feel committed to being a working member of the group in whatever way I am capable, and want us to succeed not only with public attention, but inspiring people to be productive with their artistic gifts. One of the best things we do is to have the artists bring their work to be critiqued.

Bonnie Neumann: Painter

How long of you been creating your art?

Since I can remember. I've had my studio for 25 years, and made art at the kitchen table or in school before that.



Tell us a little about your medium and process.

I work mostly with oil on canvas, wood panel, or paper. For the last 15 years I have been working with patterns and a silkscreen process using paint. I usually work with multiple thin layers of paint, often sanding between layers.

What inspires you creatively about living on the Mountain?

Living in nature is very inspiring to me, and since my studio is in Emeryville, I generally get a read on the Bay itself as I cross the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge and drive along the edges of the bay twice a day on weekdays. Since I have been working with the theme of water this has been very inspiring. Stinson and Pt. Reyes are also close by and very inspiring.

What has the experience been like for you being a member of Artists of Mount Tamalpais?

It has been great meeting other artists who live on the mountain, getting to know them, and to know their work.



Painting by Bonnie Neumann

Bonnie Himberg: Textiles

How long of you been creating your art?

I started my textile art career when I was 13. I was an apprentice for a batik artist in Mexico City.

Tell us a little about your medium and process



My focus and love has always been in the world of textiles, although I dabbled in most mediums in art school. I taught fabric arts including Navajo arts at Fort Mason Art Center in San Francisco for 20 years. My interest is fabric enrichment—painting, silk-screening, airbrushing, soft sculpture and basketry. My work has always been 3-

dimensional with a bit of whimsy. I am presently passionate about felting and exploring its many possibilities in 3d art. Color and textures are an important element in most of my work.

What inspires you creatively about living on the Mountain?

I have lived here for 44 years. The mountain has been a peaceful place to create and get ideas while jogging or walking. It is my time to reflect! These days with the traffic in the flats, I can't wait to get back to this refuge.

What has the experience been like for you being a member of Artists of Mount Tamalpais?

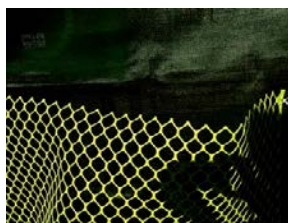
I have known many of our artists for many years, the art connect has been amazing. It has brought many of us closer...We have a common purpose, a goal and the sharing of ideas, information and critiques. Being a member of Artists of Mt. Tam is an enriching journey.



Felted Textile by Bonnie Himberg

Glenda Gentry: Photographer

How long of you been creating your art?



I've made photographs, primarily landscapes, since the '70s, until recently silver gelatin prints from SLR cameras. I loved the magic and the concentrated work of printmaking in the

darkroom. I studied photography at the San Francisco Art Institute, and I taught photography classes for 15+ years to students and adults at Redwood High.

Tell us a little about your medium and process

For the last 2-3 years, I have been using iPhone cameras exclusively and making prints via iPhoto from my desktop Mac. A committed black and white devotee from the start of my photo-making life, I have done almost no color work until recently when I began to use the always-with-me iPhone. Now, I make both black/white and color images. Most tend toward abstraction.



Photo by Glenda Gentry

What inspires you creatively about living on the Mountain?

I am inspired by light, silence, and beauty, all wonderfully ubiquitous here on the mountain. Living in the midst of such natural beauty can easily be taken for granted after a while. I am grateful that so many who call this unique area "home" continue to celebrate the neighborhood and to treasure it.

What has the experience been like for you being a member of Artists of Mount Tamalpais?

I am the newest member of the group. I have appreciated the warm welcome and the encouragement of the members, the seriousness and the enthusiasm all take in their work as well as the camaraderie and the shared commitment that the organization will be active and successful within the community and beyond it.

NEXT ISSUE :

Meet more of our local artists



SAVE THE DATE :

Saturday, August 1, 11am-6pm

at the Clubhouse

ART FEST AND SALE!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner a Success!

Sixty happy people attended the Saint Patrick's Dinner on March 15, co-chaired by **Lila Sparks-Daniels & Carol Stern**. It was great fun and the meal was delicious!

At least 25 people assisted with the event. Special acknowledgements to:

Foo Kennedy - for handling the bar and providing the Irish music

Susan Johnson – for baking the grasshopper pies

Lynn Hindley –for baking the soda bread

Keith Papulias – for being the meat carver

Rhonda Dubin – for photos of Ireland and to **John Lovell & Lorne Dubin** for hanging & removing them

Harold Dittmer – for replacing the sound system with a serious upgrade

John - friend of Foo's who led group participation in telling Irish jokes & singing Irish tunes

(Others helping: Diane Curtis, Jane Larrow, Etta Deikman, Blake Richardson, Henry Richardson, Susan Van Hise and daughters Katie & Annie, Kathleen Delehanty, Bruce and Carolyn Lowenthal, Bonnie Himberg, Jean Sublett, Laila Svendsen and more – thank you all!)



Photos by Lila Sparks-Daniels and Carol Stern



HAPPY
EASTER!



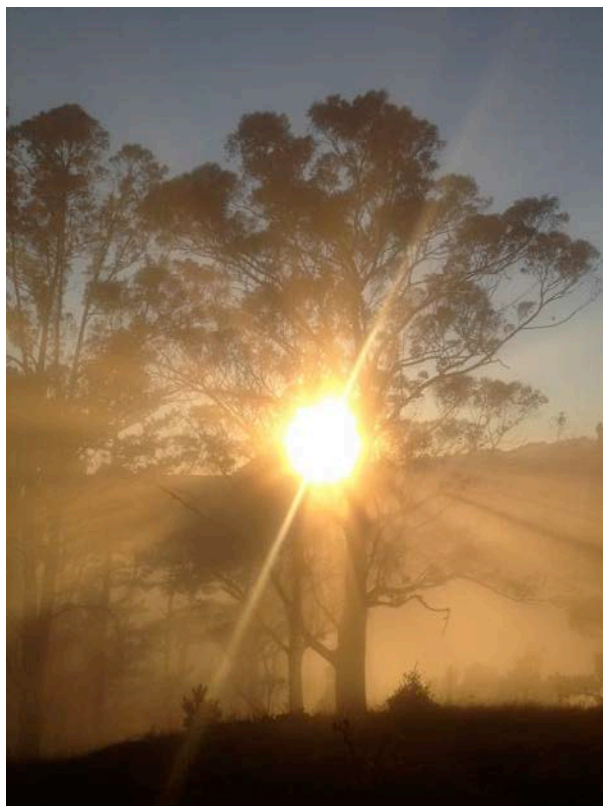
Thank you John Lovell
and Judy Sparks
Graham. We had a great
turnout - 40 adorable egg
hunters!



IN MEMORIUM

Frances Anne Thompson, a well-known painter, was born on February 10, 1933 and passed away on November 28, 2014. She was a long time resident of the Mt. Tam community until she moved to San Francisco in 2007. Fran moved to Mill Valley in about 1989, where she lived on a ridge overlooking Muir Woods, painted the surrounding hills, plants, and animals, and made connections with the Green Gulch community. Her publications include *The Monterey Bay Aquarium Coloring Book*, *Point Lobos*, *An Illustrated Walker's Handbook*, and illustrations for *The Tassajara Bread Book*. She was also a hiker, chef, conversationalist, biologist, scientific observer, birdwatcher, gardener, student of Shunryu Suzuki, Roshi, Sotan Tatsuagami, Roshi, Alison Cameron Stilwell, and C.C. Wang.

Alan Williams was born on September 22, 1933 and passed away on Monday, February 9, 2015. Alan was a long time resident of the Mt. Tam community. He was an architect, and designed his home on Bayview. He was an avid hiker and was active in club activities and in the Mt. Tam community. He is survived by his wife, Julian, a son who lives in Spain, a daughter who lives in Portland, and her daughter, his granddaughter.



Mill Valley Residential Real Estate Overview

Overall, the Mill Valley residential real estate market is “white hot”. The statistics show that there are currently 37 active listings and 34 pending listings. The average number of days on the market is approximately 55 from listing to contract. While average prices appear to have remained constant, the average 2015 house is almost 200 square feet smaller than the 2014 house, resulting in a \$71 per square foot jump in price.

Housing inventory is still very low compared to the number of people wanting to buy. This situation often results in multiple offers, and a house selling for over the asking price. Approximately one-third of the offers being made are for all cash. Properties on the Mountain are taking a little longer to sell than others in Mill Valley. Many buyers are looking for properties with level land that are closer to town and schools. Most folks don't realize just how close we are to town and how quickly we can get there. And we also have proximity to the beach and the trailheads. Happy Spring!

- Kathleen Delehanty



CLUBHOUSE WORK DAY!

Saturday, May 2, 9 A.M.

All are invited to the upcoming Work Day. Bring your gloves and tool belts and join the fun.



Kathleen Delehanty
Quarterly Real Estate Update

Listing and selling properties on Mt. Tam. Contact me...let my 20+ years experience on the Mountain work for you. Call for a free evaluation of your property and feedback for preparing your home for the market.



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ACTIVE LISTINGS - APRIL 2015		
92 Adams Ave.	2BR/1BA	\$679,000
240 Panoramic Hwy.	3BR/2BA	\$1,850,000
30 Sunnycrest Ave.	4BR/3BA	\$1,999,000
820 Edgewood Ave.	5BR/4BA	\$3,395,000
551 Edgewood Ave.	7BR/6/2BA	\$4,995,000
LOTS /ACTIVE		
Ridge Avenue	.9 acres	\$499,000
CONTINGENT/PENDING		
667 Sequoia Valley Ave.	4BR/3.5 BA	\$1,850,000
SOLD		
1020 Edgewood Ave.	3BR/2BA	\$740,000
12-26 Kings Way	4BR/2BA	\$741,500
2 Fern Lane	3BR/3BA	\$1,268,000
620 Amaranth Blvd.	3BR/2.5BA	\$1,275,000



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Webmaster	Diane Curtis: dianecurtis@mail.com
Parenting	John Lovell

Community Calendar www.mounttam.org			
APRIL			
29	Wed	Mt Tam Purls	3:00 PM
MAY			
2	Sun	Work Day	7:00 PM
27	Wed	Mt Tam Purls	3:00 PM
JULY			
11, 12	Sat Sun	Green Waste Chippper Days	9AM-5:30 PM
18	Sun	Clubhouse BBQ 80 th Anniversary	Noon-5
AUGUST			
1	Sat	Artists of Mount Tam Art Fest	11AM-5PM

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

THANK YOU TO OUR LOOKOUT CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE:

Beverly Anderson, Jim Bramell, Laura Chariton, Diane Curtis, Kathleen Delehanty, Faybeth Diamond, Lorne Dubin, Glenda Gentry, Ben Ghisleta, Judy Sparks Graham, Nancy Gribler, Teresa Harrison, Bonnie Himberg, Andy Lillestol, John Lovell, Mia Monroe, Bonnie Neumann, Carl Nolte, Woodward Payne, Kristin Shannon, Lila Sparks-Daniels, Carol Stern, Apryl Uncapher

A Note From the Editor

Have any comments for us? Do you have a story you would like to share or news about our neighborhood? Photos? We welcome your feedback and contributions.

Rhonda Dubin
415-497-4069 / rrdubin@gmail.com