

WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF MARIN (WAM)

NEWSLETTER

Fall-Winter 2021



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support! We can't
do it without you!**

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WATERMARIN.ORG



SEASONS GREETINGS!

As for most folks, because of Covid 19 and other issues, the past few years have been challenging for our mission's work.

The biggest challenges for the fish and other aquatic species occurred when our local perennial creeks ran dry from an historic unprecedented drought. Then an October 24th deluge caused creek mouths to breach, salmon returned and our reservoirs began to fill. With water came hope returning nature's balance. Bald Eagles were sighted from Panoramic ridge as they, too, were watching for the return of the salmon!

We had another setback when our board members had to deal with serious health and family health issues that limited their ability to participate. In addition, all were dealing with Covid.

Despite these challenges, our motivation and involvement in Countywide issues has increased. We are eternally grateful to the many incredible people who have stepped up to support Marin's natural legacy and WAM's work. Zoom has been a fantastic tool in keeping us linked but in-person would be better!

We look forward to a new season, filled with rain, flowing creeks, with healthy life and salmon, our keystone species.

If anything, this year taught us that we can survive if we persist in our vision and with the support of our greater community. May we translate our love and appreciation of one another to our wildlife and this Eden that we are entrusted with. We thank all of you who have generously donated so that we may protect and save the natural world we love and care about. **WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE CAN EXPAND OUR WORK. PLEASE DONATE AT: WATERMARIN.ORG**

Sincerely, *Laura Chariton*

Laura Chariton, President Watershed Alliance of Marin

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019-21

MEETINGS - too numerous to list but here are a few highlights

- Meetings with District Attorney Lori Frugoli about enforcement in Marin County; Supervisors Connolly, Sears and Rodoni about the California Environmental Quality Act, Mia Monroe Community Liaison National Park Service about salmonids. Dozens of meetings on Ecological impacts mitigation in Marin from Fire.
- Met with Mill Valley Mayor, Police Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) at Rebekah and Larry Helzel's on Arroyo Corte Madera Creek to stop people fishing threatened steelhead. Press included headline City of Mill Valley Newsletter and Next Door Article

REPORTING VIOLATIONS

- Reported Violations to CDFW, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. National Marine Fisheries Service leading to protection of wildlife and fish.

FUNDRAISING

- Held successful Fundraiser Party and Art Auction at the Muir Woods Park Community Association Club House. Thank you to Andrea Montalbano and community members, the Artists of Mt. Tam who generously donated work for sale, Mill Valley Market and all our generous donors and organizers
- Raised over \$50,000 in 2020-2021 Private Donations and Grants. Our grantors include Rose Foundation, Sierra Club Marin Group, California Alpine Club and hundreds of private donors.
- Social Media and Website Outreach campaign [for Watershed Alliance of Marin fundraising](#).
- Grants Received: Rose Foundation, California Alpine Club, Private Grantors, California State Covid Recovery Grant

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Two Press Releases on Dipsea Ranch lawsuit published in the Marin Post [Press Release Dipsea Suit](#)
- Multiple press mentions in the Marin Independent Journal and the Marin Post, [2014 Cover of San Francisco Chronicle for Muir Woods Coho](#), [2021 Sacramento B Feature article for support of Tule Elk protections](#), [Marin Voice by Judy Schriebman on Dipsea Ranch](#), etc.
- Marin Voice article on Dipsea Ranch lawsuit by board member Judy Schriebman published Oct. 25, 2021 in the Marin Independent Journal [County-leaders-failed-by-approving-dipsea-ranch-without-full-report/](#)

ADVOCACY

- Organized community group Friends of Muir Woods Park to legally challenge Marin County on improper review of a development project Redwood Creek <http://watermarin.org/advocacy>
[IJ Article on Dipsea Ranch Lawsuit](#)
- Worked on Stream Conservation Area Ordinance for San Geronimo, Lagunitas Creek
- Worked with Trust for Public Land and Marin Sierra Club on Measure D 2020 toward the purchase of the 157-acre San Geronimo Golf Course for preservation and restoration
- Monthly participant in Marin County Environmental Round Table with multiple environmental groups to inform open space uses
- Letter on Mill Valley Vegetation Management Plan published in Marin Post. [WAM on MV Vegetation Management plan](#)
- Change.org petition with over 65,000 signatures to support saving Redwood Creek watershed from overdevelopment

SOCIAL and ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

- Did outreach to Golden Gate Village Residents Council, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the Coast Miwok Tribal Council - Building relationships and supporting protection of cultural resources.
- Support for Shore Up Marin, Terrie Green's school project with middle schoolers

EDUCATION and OUTREACH

- Taught 90 Marin City Youth Grades 6-9 on Watershed Health and Water Quality Testing through Terrie Green's organization "Shore Up Marin City" addressing the impacts of rising seas on this community.

- Photo documentation and data collection of creek water supply levels, biology and morphology 2016-2019.
- Outreach to Tamalpais High School students on cleaning up the Creek behind Safeway in Mill Valley.
- Board members Nik Bertulis and Laura Chariton attended the 3-day Coho Confab at the River's Bend Ranch in Philo, Mendocino where even the great Noyo River was drying up.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

- Testimony: Marin County Planning Commission, Marin County Board of Supervisors, California Coastal Commission on not poisoning Farallones, Pt. Reyes National Seashore and Development at Muir Beach potential effects on Coho salmonids.
- Laura Chariton, a past four-year Tule Elk docent at Pt. Reyes National Seashore works with activist groups to protect the Tule Elk of Point Reyes National Seashore, delivering water and nutrients necessary for their survival. Laura is a plaintiff in the Federal Case with other plaintiffs represented by Harvard U. Animal Law.



Interfacing with other organizations is critically important to our success. New and renewed relationships with other organizations: North Coast River Alliance, SPAWN, Shore Up Marin, Sierra Club Marin Group, Sierra Club Bay Chapter and Sierra Club National, Mill Valley StreamKeepers, City of Mill Valley, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, Gallinas Watershed Council, Lagunitas Technical Advisory Group, Environmental Solutions Project, Marin Conservation League, Marin Municipal Water District, Larry Bragman Board member, Frank Egger 5 time Mayor of Fairfax, Mia Monroe, Community Coordinator for National Park Service, Resource Renewal Institute, Marin County Parks Environmental Round Table, Sierra Club Federal Lands Committee.



Judy and Laura raised over a dozen monarch butterflies and from eggs to caterpillars to butterflies and their obligate milkweed plants. Four caterpillars were relocated to a fecund milkweed habitat in Mill Valley. This year saw a boom in Monarch migrations. Laura raised about 8 Anise Swallowtails earlier in the season.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2020/2021 GRANT AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

We look for volunteers to get involved? We have monthly meetings. First Monday of the month at 5:00 PM. Please email us at: watermarin@comcast.net to get put on our notification list.

Board Members:

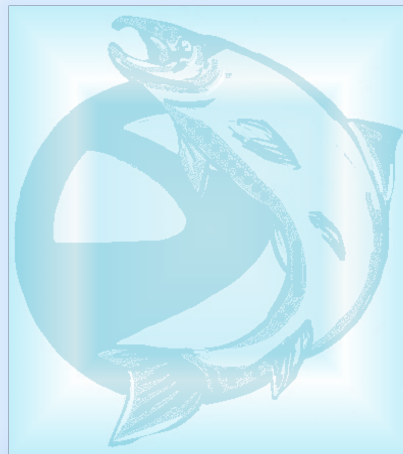
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Grantors

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Thanks to our attorneys Edward Yates, Ingrid Evans Stephan Volker, Harvard Animal Law and staff for their tireless work beyond the call on the Dipsea Ranch lawsuit challenge of the California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative

Please visit our website WATERMARIN.ORG to DONATE and for our newsletter, legal and press documents and projects

OUR EMAIL: WATERMARIN@COMCAST.NET

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