

Audubon Canyon Ranch



Number 36

BULLETIN

Spring 2005

Commuting with Egrets Flight Lines

by Mark McCaustland

Raising young requires lots of time, energy and—as anyone with a teenager can tell you—food. In this respect, herons and egrets are no different than humans. The breeding season is an extremely demanding phase of an adult heron or egret's life, and for me, one of the most interesting facets of their existence. I can remember as a child learning the basics of bird biology: how adults court, build a nest, mate, lay eggs, incubate the eggs, and brood the hatchlings. Then the parents need to provide their cute and fuzzy little chicks with food until they fledge.

As I further reflect upon my grade school lessons, everything did get a little fuzzy once the chicks appeared. The parents went out, found food, and brought it back to their hungry brood; there wasn't a great deal of explanation about the process of foraging. Twenty years later, as a field biologist with ACR's Heron and Egret Project (HEP)*, I still find the process of bringing home the bacon—or in this case, the crayfish—engagingly complex and not well understood.

With this in mind, in the spring of 2004 I began to look at the foraging flight lines of herons and egrets departing and returning to their colonies during breeding season. The first phase of the project was to select a group of colonies suitable for the study. This seemed like a simple enough proposition, but in a few short weeks I



PHILIP L. GREENE

was beginning to feel like the Goldilocks of field biology: this colony is too small, that colony is too remote, and that one has too many trees to see very well. Also, the flight-line investigation focused on colony sites associated with foraging areas in the Petaluma, Napa, and Suisun marshes. In the end, only four of the 60 active colony sites in the HEP study area possessed the attributes best suited for our study.

Thus, on a clear and unusually hot April morning, I found myself scrambling to the top of an oak- and manzanita-covered ridge in Skyline Park, east of the City of Napa. I wanted to find a vantage point above the large heron and egret colony at Napa State Hospital, and I needed a full panorama to accurately chart the arrival and departure vectors of the birds breeding there. After an hour or so of bushwhacking, a 270-degree vista was the best view I could obtain. I was hot and sweaty and pressed for time, so I sat down on a rock and began to record data as best as conditions allowed.

The colony at Napa State Hospital is interesting for a number of reasons. Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons have been reported breeding on the

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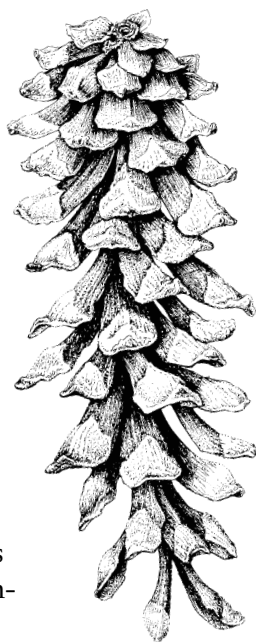
* ACR's **Heron and Egret Project (HEP)** explores the regional ecology of herons and egrets. Since 1990, ACR staff and hundreds of volunteers have monitored nesting activities at every known heron and egret colony in the northern San Francisco Bay area, including Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, and Contra Costa counties.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

by Dan Murphy, President, ACR Board of Directors

The single thing that has most impressed me about Audubon Canyon Ranch is the level of commitment, knowledge, and excellence I have seen in my fellow volunteers and in our staff. Although I'll admit to being intimidated when I first joined the board, there was never a time when my counsel wasn't solicited, when I wasn't thanked for my input, and when I wasn't helped along with any task I undertook. The expectations were very high, but support was in place to enable me to accomplish anything I started. When I took over writing "News from the Ranch", our column for Audubon Society chapter newsletters, ACR staff, board members, docents, and other volunteers were always a ready source of information and support. When I chaired the Nominating Committee, many dynamic and exciting people were eager to join our board and advisory board. I'm constantly rediscovering this special aspect of ACR: as president of our board I've got such widespread support that this very challenging job seems quite manageable.

What's special about ACR is that as volunteers and employees we are all committed to excellence in what we do, whether it's delivering educational services to children, producing the highest quality research, managing our lands as caring and thoughtful stewards, raising funds to support all those efforts and more, or just supporting each others' efforts to be successful parts of this organization. Our high regard for one another is the foundation for the excellence of this organization. During the coming year I hope to strengthen the link between our board of directors and our large family of volunteers, staff, and supporters, all of whom I value very highly.



ANE CARLA ROVETTA

CYCLES OF RENEWAL

by Skip Schwartz, Executive Director

Early in the cool, wet January morning I hear a deep reverberating bill-clap and know, with a flood of joy that the Great Blue Herons have returned. The herons, green grass, and wildflowers of January are heralds of spring and mark the perpetual pulse and vigor of renewal. In my experience as Executive Director of Audubon Canyon Ranch, I have felt perennially renewed by the seasonal cycles at ACR's Preserves and the nesting pageant of Herons and Egrets atop the Redwood trees.

Our tradition of scientific study of the heronry at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve has piqued our curiosity about Great Blue Herons and Great and Snowy Egrets. In this issue of the ACR Bulletin Helen Pratt Research Fellow, Mark McCaustland, writes about his work on the regional Heron and Egret Project. We are pleased to be continuing the legacy of dedicated research and monitoring of the behavior of Herons and Egrets, compiled over three decades by long-time volunteer Research Associate, Helen Pratt.

It's thanks to Helen and the many volunteers who have served ACR through the years at all three ACR campuses—the 1,000-acre Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, the 500-acre Bouverie Preserve in Sonoma, and the 500-acre Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay—that our programs continue to be successful. In this *Bulletin*, we also hear from one of the young graduates of ACR's Juniper Program, Jamie Freymuth, talking about her first experiment in creating environmental art in nature in the style of well-known artist Andy Goldsworthy. And we recognize the service of more than 700 active volunteers, whose contributions are invaluable and whose names are listed in appreciation of their contributed time and talent.

The *Bulletin* is just one of many ways we communicate to our volunteers, donors and friends about our mission and programs. Paula Miller Maxfield, ACR's Publicist, writes about how ACR's website www.egret.org provides up-to-date information about projects, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved. ACR advisory committee meetings

continued on next page

*Audubon Canyon Ranch is a guardian of natural environments
through preservation, education and research.*

ACR ON THE INTERNET

by Paula Miller Maxfield

Did you know the ACR Website, www.egret.org, provides an excellent source of information for ACR volunteers, donors, educators, and the public? Egret.org lists upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, driving directions to our Preserves, and information about public access. You can also donate directly to ACR using a credit card through our secure online donation service. ACR wishes to thank the Outrageous Foundation for its support of the expansion of our online presence.

This year, we've been working hard to get the volunteer section of the website up and running. Many thanks go to dedicated volunteer Peter Young, who has donated his expertise and time to make the magic happen. ACR volunteers can access useful information including:

- Important dates such as committee and board meetings; docent, host and ranch guide trainings; volunteer workdays; and potlucks and public season dates.
- Electronic versions of the *Bulletin*, *Ardeid*, *Heron*, *Nutshell*, *Ramblings* and *PreAmbles*.
- Contact information for ACR staff.

ACR is fortunate to have a large, dedicated volunteer family. With the development of the new volunteer site, the goal is to make it faster and easier to find the information you need and stay connected to the happenings at ACR. Comments and suggestions from our volunteers are always welcome. Please email Peter at webtuner@pacbell.net for more information.

Paula Miller Maxfield is ACR's Publicist. Paula was first introduced to ACR's Bolinas Lagoon Preserve as a student and Girl Scout and has fond memories of holding newts by Monday and Tuesday ponds. Paula can be reached for inquiries from press or friends of ACR at 831/246-0425 or paula@millermxfield.com.



STAFF NOTES



A warm welcome to Amanda Shults, who joined the ACR staff as the new Administrative Assistant at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve last November! Amanda graduated in 2002 with a B.S. in Genetics from U.C.

Davis. She worked with the Student Conservation Association helping protect sea turtle nests in Florida before joining the team of scientific interns at PRBO Conservation Science and moving to West Marin in the spring of 2003. Amanda's favorite thing about ACR? "I love ACR and my coworkers and believe in the power of our programs. I think teaching kids about environmental principles is the way we will change the future, and I'm glad to be working for such a wonderful organization." We're glad you're here, too, Amanda! Welcome to the ACR family.

Cycles of Renewal by Skip Schwartz, *from page 2*

and meetings of the Board of Directors are open to all. I want to encourage you to contact me, or any member of ACR's knowledgeable staff or board, with questions, concerns or suggestions.

I realize with some satisfaction, that as surely as the return of spring, the preserves and the good work of Audubon Canyon Ranch will continue to impart a love and respect for nature. Thanks for your help in making all this possible.

Flight Lines, *continued from page 1*

hospital grounds since the 1930's, and in recent years the colony has flourished. In 2004, there were more than 200 Snowy nests and more than 150 Black-crowned nests in the colony. In the mid-1990's, Great Egrets started to breed there as well, with nest attempts now numbering in the dozens. Napa State Hospital is a busy place, but the breeding herons and egrets appear to have habituated to the noise and activity of lawn maintenance crews, delivery trucks, and the like. In addition, a 12-foot-tall fence surrounds the facility, isolating the nest trees. A possible benefit of nesting within the fence perimeter may be improved protection from intruders such as raccoons, foxes, and other suburban animals.

Within an hour of assuming my perch upon the rock, one more curious aspect of this colony emerged. The volume of 'air traffic'—flights to and from the colony—was much greater than I anticipated, especially for Snowy Egrets. What's more, the majority of them seemed to be flying southward, down Highway 221, or returning from the same direction. The birds weren't fanning out as I expected, nor were most of them heading for the ample wetlands along the lower reaches of the Napa River. They were following the road instead. A protruding rib of the ridge, however, obstructed my view farther south. Puzzled, I hurried back to my car and turned south on 221.

It was difficult to keep my attention on the road. Every minute or so another egret would pass overhead and my eyes would automatically wander, tracing the bird's trajectory across the landscape. As I idled in a long line of traffic stopped at the junction with Highway 29, I saw a group of five Snowies pumping southward in ragged formation not more than 50 feet above my windshield. They ignored the red light and veered left, heading southeast along Route 29. This, I thought, is getting weird. Then I noticed one of those helpful green road signs with an arrow pointing straight ahead: 'Vista Point'.

Following the signs around a looping access road, I arrived at a tall hill just west of the junction of

Highways 221 and 29. Much to my surprise, the hill was crowned with a 15-foot bronze statue. The casting, a monument to the region's winemaking heritage, depicts a barefooted, dungareed laborer bent over a wooden press, tightening down the tamping-plate onto a barrel full of fresh grapes. Amused by the contrast with my morning hike through cheat grass and poison oak, I strolled across a verdant lawn to a bench at the base of the statue. Below me spread all of southern Napa Valley, the entire sweep of land from the Highway 29 bridge to the hills of Skyline Park due eastward. More importantly, although Napa State Hospital was almost two miles distant, I could easily see any birds departing or returning to the colony.

Immediately I lifted my binoculars and began recording flight vectors.

By the end of that first two-hour session, I knew that 'The Grape Crusher' was the spot. With the increased view and a broader perspective, I could see that the southward stream of outbound egrets split into two basic vectors. One group flew over the steel pipe factory on the east bank of the Napa River and continued downstream, often flying below the Highway 29 bridge before heading out to the wetlands of the lower Napa Marsh. The other group, however, stayed true to the course I had seen in the morning. They followed Highway 221 to the junction with 12 and 29, then they veered left and followed the road as far as I could see. As the evening rush-hour traffic increased, the flight of egrets—and by far most of the birds were Snowy Egrets—remained steady.

They flew along the road, solo or in pairs, trios, sextets or octets, all manner of group sizes. I was engrossed by the juxtaposition of the egrets flying with serene purposefulness above a roadway crowded with homeward-bound commuters mired in stop-and-go madness. Then it occurred to me: The egrets were commuting, too! Where, I wondered, could they be going?

That evening, as I drove back to ACR's Cypress Grove Research Center, that brief insight bloomed into a multitude of additional questions. Why, first and foremost, don't all the birds go straight down the Napa River to feed in the marshes closest to the colony? Are they avoiding competition for prey? Or



are different types of prey sought in different places? Furthermore, do the same birds feed in the same areas? Or do they sometimes follow their neighbors to new areas? If so, how do they decide who follows and who leads? Or do they alternate roles? Many of these problems are addressed in foraging theory, but here, possibly, was an opportunity to investigate some of the questions through field observations. First, however, I had to figure out where the 'road birds' were going.

The following week my HEP fieldwork took me out to Suisun Marsh. As usual, I checked in with Conrad Jones, one of the rangers at the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, and out of the blue he told me that whenever he went to pick up his daughter from music lessons (investing parental effort during the brood rearing phase!) he saw Snowy Egrets flying along Highway 12 through Jameson Canyon. Where, he asked, do you think they're going? "I don't know," I replied, feeling cagey but no doubt betrayed by a Cheshire cat grin.

The next morning found me and my binoculars parked at the eastern portal of Jameson Canyon, near the junction of Highway 12 and Interstate 80. Constant 20- to 25-mile-per-hour winds blew from the west through the gap, typical for spring weather in Suisun Marsh. Once again I observed substantial numbers of egrets, again mostly Snowies, flying along the road either solo or in groups of two or four or eight. The eastbound birds streamed over me and then fanned out over the great flat expanse of the Suisun Marshes, whereas the westbound birds gathered at the mouth of the Canyon, flapping hard and spiraling upwards, often 300 feet or more, before shooting the gap and flying on towards Napa. As I watched them struggle to make headway against the steady breeze I knew there had to be some very good reasons to convince these birds to commute all the way to Suisun to forage.

As usual, one answer—in this case, "Where?"—raises even more questions. What is it about Suisun Marsh that makes it worth commuting four times as far as the trip to Napa Marsh? Again, do the same birds go the same places? Do the same pairs go the same places? Do they alternate trips? Finally, and perhaps the biggest mystery, if Suisun Marsh is a desirable destination for Snowy Egrets to forage, why don't they nest there? Some of the largest Great Blue Heron and Great Egret



colonies in the HEP study are located in Suisun Marsh, but thus far we've only recorded a handful of nesting attempts by Snowy Egrets in Suisun.

This coming season, as the 2005 Helen Pratt Research Fellow, I will get the opportunity to look at these questions more intensively and try to find some answers. Such problems intrigue me not only from an ecological standpoint, but

also as a way of looking at egrets as thinking beings. Many of the basic impulses in their lives, such as the timing of migration or mating, are guided by instinct, but on a finer scale their complex behavior is based upon assessing options and making choices.

The more I learn about the life histories of these birds the more I realize that they make daily decisions in their lives much as we do. Sometimes, it appears they even follow the same roads we do.

Starting in 1999, Mark McCaustland has given his life over to the nomadic world of field biology. He has studied boobies in the Galapagos, albatrosses on Midway Island, eagles in Nevada, and numerous raptors and waterbirds throughout the US. West Marin exerts a pull upon his peregrinations, and this spring Mark will log his fourth season working for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

The Helen Pratt Research Fellowship

Each year, ACR offers a year-long, postgraduate research opportunity to a talented field ecologist. The primary focus of the Helen Pratt Research Fellowship is to help sustain the long-term monitoring of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets that nest in the redwoods of the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. The Helen Pratt Fellow maps every nesting attempt in the heronry and quantifies the reproductive performance and behaviors of the nesting birds. Contributing also to ACR research on heronries throughout the San Francisco Bay region, the Fellowship is named for Helen Pratt, whose studies of heron and egret nesting activity at ACR began in 1967 and continued intensively for over 30 years. During this time, as California wetlands suffered devastating losses, Helen's work frequently linked the viability of heron and egret populations to wetland health. Helen authored numerous scientific papers on the ecology of herons and egrets and produced a thorough account of their natural history in *Heron and Egrets of Audubon Canyon Ranch*, available at the ACR Bookstore.

—John Kelly, ACR Director of Research & Resource Management

Good as Gold: Earth Art at the Bouverie Preserve

by Jamie Freymuth with Rebecca Anderson-Jones

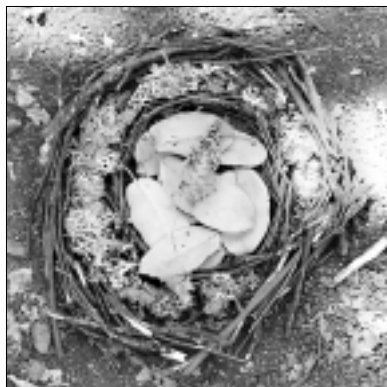


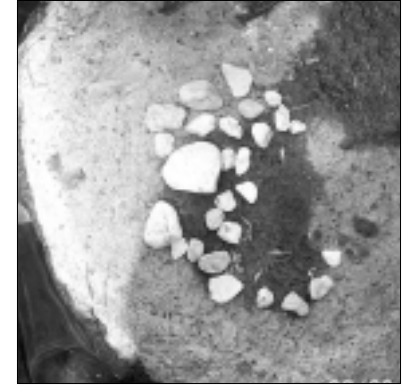
PHOTOS BY PETUR ROSANISSON, BOUVERIE JUNIPER

It's Friday, August 20, 2004, about 10:00 AM and warm already as we shuffle through pages of Andy Goldsworthy's books. Looking through his artwork, we are surprised by all he has created with natural materials. Some of it seems very simple until you think about how he did it! Dozens of new Junipers (see note, page 7), and a few experienced Junipers and Junipers at heart (docents), sit in the lobby of Gilman Hall at

Bouverie Preserve. We study the photos while anticipating a morning hike up the trails through the oak woodlands and into the Stuart Creek Canyon. There lies our destination, the creek and the place known as Indian Flats, where flint knapping happened so long ago. These places await our arrival and also our art.

We head off into the cool, wooded landscape and begin to gather feathers, colored leaves, and anything





else that catches our artistic eyes on the way to pay tribute to the Scottish natural artist Andy Goldsworthy, who is featured in the film "Rivers and Tides." This is an exciting day; one of several special days each year when Junipers gather to explore the Bouverie Preserve together with their docent mentors. Today, we are exploring differently, turning our eyes to a new way of seeing and a new way of appreciating our natural environment.

On the way, we make a careful and conscious effort to remember where we gathered our supplies, marking trees with various objects such as backpacks and hats. With buckets in hand and many sharp eyes scanning, we gather bits of our soon-to-be masterpieces and head off into the woods.

This is our first "Andy Goldsworthy Day," a day we've created in his honor to experience combining nature and art. Although we've never met the famous artist, the photos of his work gave us ideas about how to make art from nature. His work also made us think about how quickly things change. Goldsworthy usually lets nature take over his art after he has finished making it and taking photographs. That is also our plan: to make nature art that lasts for only a few moments.

We split up into two groups and begin to create works of art, from the Zen-like simplicity of stacking rocks in the creek, to a complex and intricate "acorn fortress" on the Indian Flats. There is a gecko made of sticks and moss, a golden bay leaf bird, and colorful mandalas of leaves and feathers. We use what is available and natural, with great respect for every-

thing around us. After we work on our pieces, we also take a moment or two to look at what others have done. Some have brought cameras with them, and we have a digital camera from the Preserve along, as well.

As quickly as we had come we disappeared, gathering our supplies back up and placing them carefully where we found them, leaving no trace or evidence of our presence. To the watchful eye it would appear as if nothing had changed, but as the trees and plants have witnessed, all that is left are our memories and a great appreciation of Mother Nature's beauty.

Jamie Freymuth was trained to be a Juniper in 1997. A "Juniper" is a student at ACR's Bouverie Preserve chosen from a school field trip to participate in a Saturday nature enrichment course while in 5th grade. Junipers have the option of continuing to participate in events at the Preserve after this course is completed. Today, Jamie attends Santa Rosa Junior College and has applied for the Bouverie Docent Training Program beginning August 31, 2005. During her time as a Juniper, Jamie has demonstrated a particular interest in the fungi, sharing her knowledge about this fascinating kingdom of organisms with other Junipers, with docents, and with the visiting public. She has served as a mentor for new Juniper ("Toyon") training sessions, has assisted with many Guided Nature Walks, and has contributed her time and energy to a number of Bouverie Preserve work days. In all of these ways, Jamie has embodied the spirit of the Juniper program, sharing her unique "spark of interest in nature."

Rebecca Anderson-Jones is Director of Education and Resident Biologist at the Bouverie Preserve.

BILL TYUKODI TAKES OUT FIRST-EVER ACR ANNUITY

by Phil Murphy

Sonoma resident Bill Tyukodi (pronounced “chickadee”), 80, has become Audubon Canyon Ranch’s first-ever charitable gift annuitant. The Ranch recently launched its gift annuity program through the California Community Foundation. A gift annuity is a contract between a donor and a charity. In return for a gift of cash, stock or real estate, the donor receives a guaranteed fixed annual payment for life.

Mr. Tyukodi’s gift annuity has a sweet symmetry, his contribution coming from the fruits of an ACR paycheck. “I worked for a year in the 1970s from spring-to-spring with Skip (ACR’s executive director) helping build the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve Education Center,” he said in the calm tones of someone who has fished a lot of streams. “I did electrical and plumbing and some wood butchering and slept in the dormitory. I enjoyed it very much.”

At the end of a year, ACR awarded Bill \$10,000 in appreciation of his work. The \$10,000 invested in the 1970’s grew over the years to \$200,000. “I thought it was reasonable to give some back,” Mr. Tyukodi said.

A former 40-year resident of ACR’s Cypress Grove Preserve, he had been satisfied with Treasury Bill investments until interest rates dropped sharply a few years ago. To add new life to his portfolio and to help the Ranch, Mr. Tyukodi contributed \$100,000 of his nest egg to ACR’s gift annuity program in return for guaranteed annual payments of \$8,000 for life. His gift also triggered a \$46,000 charitable income tax deduction.

Mr. Tyukodi topped off his gift annuity contribution with a direct cash gift of \$5,000 to the Ranch. “I wanted to compensate the Ranch for the 5% that will go from my account to the California Community Foundation at my death,” he said. The Foundation runs the gift annuity program for ACR.

Said Skip Schwartz, “Bill is the most all ’round competent guy I have ever known. He’s a master carpenter, cabinetmaker, cobbler, electrician, welder, plumber—and an accomplished sportsman who fishes his own



Bill Tyukodi (left) and Clifford Conly at Cypress Grove, circa 1985

dog-hair flies. Bill can fix anything from a TV to a jeep transmission.”

His talents go beyond the immediately practical. “He’s a walking, talking almanac,” Skip added. “He loves nature and is a natural teacher. He knows the weather patterns and history for Cypress Grove, the natural history of Tomales Bay, and how to grow fruit and vegetables in unfavorable climes. And he’s one of the most considerate men I have ever known.”

His gift is rooted in a long, personal association with and affection for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

While Mr. Tyukodi was stationed at the Hunter’s Point Naval Station after World War II, he met Clifford Conly, a San Francisco architect. He worked for Mr. Conly on the weekends refurbishing an old brick office in the City. Mr. Conly later purchased Cypress Grove, and began turning the property over to ACR in 1984. (It’s now the Cypress Grove Research Center.) He died in 2002.

“Clifford visited Cypress Grove when he was nine,” Mr. Tyukodi said. “He told everybody as a boy that he would someday own the property.” Some 40 years later, Mr. Conly returned to Cypress Grove with Mr. Tyukodi during a fishing trip. The road was rutted, the place was run down, and only a few of its cabins were rented. “Clifford looked at the place and thought they would sell,” Mr. Tyukodi said. They did, fulfilling Mr. Conly’s precocious vow as a nine-year-old.

Over the next several decades at Cypress Grove, they improved and beautified the buildings and gardens. Then, with Mr. Conly’s health in decline and his gift of the property to ACR in progress, they moved to Sonoma.

As though to complement his gift annuity, Mr. Tyukodi recently invested in a 15-foot motor boat. Audubon Canyon Ranch hopes that he will enjoy both his income and the fishing for many years and welcomes him as a member of its Clerin Zumwalt Legacy Circle.

For information on the Legacy Circle, call Skip Schwartz or Cassie Gruenstein at 415-868-9244.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bolinas Lagoon Preserve Opens to the Public Saturdays, Sundays & holidays March 19 – July 17, 2005 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Come view the nesting herons and egrets and hike the more than 8 miles of trails. On weekdays (except Mondays) the Preserve is open to the public by appointment. Call 415/868-9244 for more information.

Guided Nature Walks

Bouverie Preserve

**Mar. 12, April 2, April 16, April 23,
May 14, May 21, Sept. 17, Oct. 8,
Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3**
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

This is your chance to experience the beauty and rich natural history of this 500-acre preserve. Our half-day guided nature walks are on Saturdays throughout spring and fall. Call 707/938-4554 for lottery form. Form must be returned one month prior to the walk.

*No charge but donations appreciated
Docent Council of Bouverie Preserve*

Fall Work Day

Bouverie Preserve

Saturday, September 24, 2005
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
(1:00 PM – Lunch)

Come help spruce up the preserve by working on the trails, in the native plant garden, around the formal gardens, in the library, or cooking the lunch (which we provide). Bring your favorite tool for outdoor projects! Call 707/938-4554 to register.

*Free, but please call to register so we can plan
on enough food!*
ACR Staff

Spring & Fall Work Days

Bolinas Lagoon Preserve

**Sunday March 6, 2005 –
Picher Canyon**

**Saturday, October 8, 2005 –
Volunteer Canyon**

**9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
(1:00 PM – Lunch)**

Help friends of ACR ready the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve for our spring season, with trail work, library work, pulling weeds, or cooking the lunch (we provide). Call 415/868-9244 to register.

*Free, but please call to register so we can plan
on enough food!*
ACR Staff

Bouverie Trail Work Days

Bouverie Preserve

**Mar. 21, April 18, May 16, Sept. 12,
Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12**
8:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Help clear trails, repair trail steps, pull non-native plants, or work in the native plant garden. Bring gloves, a lunch, and lots of energy as this will be strenuous work. Drinks and tools will be provided. Limited to 15 participants for each day. Call 707/938-4554 to register.

ACR Resource Management Staff

Wondering & Wandering with Wildflowers

Bouverie Preserve

April 9, 2005
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Learn what to look for when identifying wildflowers, an easy floral formula, and how a basic field guide can aid in field identification. Best of all, hike the preserve, enjoy the wildflower display, and practice identification skills in the field. Bring a picnic lunch, water for the trail, and hiking boots or comfortable sneakers with a good grip. Other handy items if you have them: a 10x hand lens, *Peterson Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers* or your favorite wildflower field guide, a camera with film. Call 415/868-9244 to register by March 20, 2005.

*Rebecca Anderson-Jones
ACR Education Director – Biologist
Fee \$45*

Mother's Day BBQ

*Volunteer Canyon, Bolinas Lagoon
Preserve*

Sunday, May 8, 2005

Proceeds from this annual event, held in the magnificent meadow at Volunteer Canyon, benefit the educational programs of Audubon Canyon Ranch and Marin Audubon Society. Call Betsy Richardson at 415/454-5469 for information.

*\$18 per adult; \$10 children under 10;
payable to Marin Audubon Society. Mail
your check to MAS, 1540 Center Road,
Apt. 387, Novato, CA 94947 by May 2nd.
Your check guarantees your reservation.*

Docent Training

Bouverie Preserve

**Wednesdays, August 2005 – March
2006**

Beginning August 31st, training classes meet once a week for 22 weeks. Included are such diverse topics as birds, insects, pond life, and teaching techniques. Upon graduation, docents have the knowledge and confidence to lead Bouverie field trips for schoolchildren. Supplemental enrichment classes offered throughout the year enable docents to add to their knowledge. Orientations are scheduled for June 1st and June 22nd, 2005. Call 707/938-4554 for more information and to confirm participation in orientation.

A \$120 fee helps cover the cost of training.

For complete information on the events listed here, see our website—www.egret.org.

Or call (415) 868-9244 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM weekdays, or e-mail:

acr@egret.org

Participation is by advance reservation.

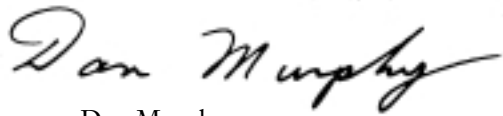
Seminars take place rain or shine.

Refunds are made, less a \$10 processing fee, when you notify us two weeks prior to the class meeting date.

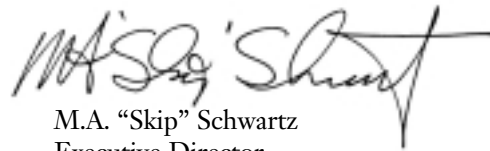
Refunds are not made for late cancellations.

THANK YOU ACR VOLUNTEERS!

Audubon Canyon Ranch salutes the hundreds of individuals listed below for their dedication to ACR and for generously donating time and energy as Docents, Ranch Guides, Ranch Hosts, Field Biologists, Researchers, Work Day Volunteers, Directors, and Advisors. You are the backbone of this organization! For all you do, we thank you!



Dan Murphy
President, Board of Directors



M.A. "Skip" Schwartz
Executive Director

Deborah Ablin
Marcy Abram
Nancy Abreu
Ken Ackerman
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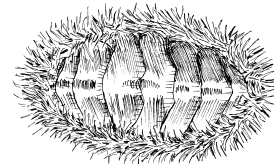


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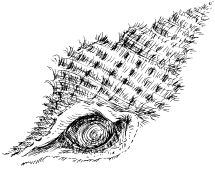
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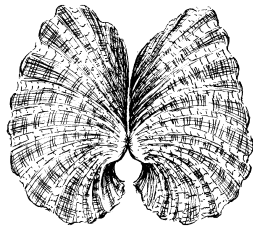
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Bolinas Lagoon Preserve

Mid-March to mid-July: Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Weekdays by appointment only; call (415) 868-9244.

Closed Mondays.

Bolinas Lagoon Preserve is adjacent to Bolinas Lagoon on State Highway One, three miles north of Stinson Beach.

Cypress Grove Preserve

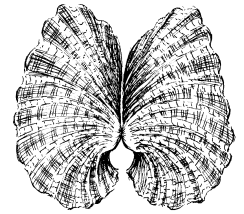
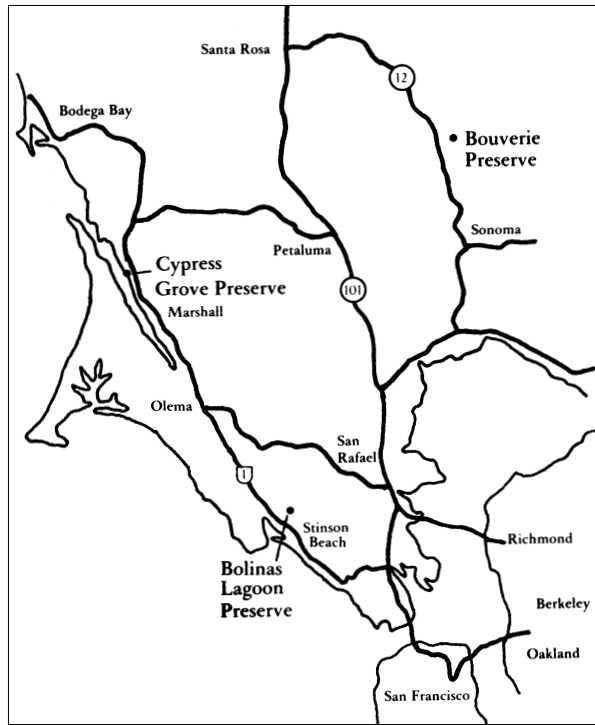
By appointment only. (415) 663-8203.

Bouverie Preserve

By appointment only. (707) 938-4554.

See schedule of events, inside.

www.egret.org
e-mail: acr@egret.org



ANNE ROVETTA

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