



TAMALPAIS GUARDIAN

Guardian of the Mountain since 1912

www.tccmarin.org

President's Message

It has been the tradition of the TCC for many decades to try to protect and preserve Mt Tam, its slopes and spurs, its flora and fauna.

That has meant helping the agencies who are also charged with that stewardship.

But sometimes, it might mean not agreeing with them.

In this case, the TCC questions the proposed plans for Azalea Hill that are put forth by MMWD.

Two of the TCC board members were part of a hike, kindly presented by MMWD, to allow interested people to see the area; several MMWD employees donated their time and knowledge for several hours to explain different aspects of the proposal.

There are several parts. The first, we support: to decommission the network of social trails that criss-cross the face of the hill, as you look at it from Bon Tempe Lake. Some of these cross serpentine outcrops, with delicate and rare endemic plants; others are simply contributing to erosion and are rather poor trails. An improved, single trail here would be good.

They also propose to improve the portions of the trail used by fishermen (all right, "fisherpersons") along the water; this courses irregularly through seasonally wet soil.

There are a few stream crossings along the way that present somewhat difficult footing, as the trail progresses northward along

Alpine Lake, and a few larger ones which show clear signs of erosion and are in need of repair.

Interestingly, staff mentioned that the sediment deposit into the reservoirs is actually not a big problem, and is worst in Phoenix Lake.

The trail merges into the old Bolinas Fairfax road, now a trail itself, (Liberty Gulch) which is in remarkably good condition, despite, we were told, the last maintenance having been done in 1941. It is mostly level and follows the lake edge. It is very lightly used, and some beautiful stonework still stands, supporting the trail.

But what is proposed next makes no sense to us. Out of a total budget of about \$1.2 million, \$560,000 is to be spent on creating a new "multiuse" trail some yards uphill from this old, quiet trail. Another \$110,000 is estimated for Azalea Hill parking lot amenities, presumably needed for new users of the proposed wide trail. This will create a new cut off for mountain bikes and hikers to be able to use MMWD lands from the top of the hill at Pine Mountain road to the new bridge to be built on Bullfrog road near the quarry, to spare *Continued on Page 3*

September General Meeting **Cancelled**

Due to scheduling difficulties, the TCC Board voted in August to cancel the September semi-annual meeting this year. We look forward to seeing everyone next May.

Tamalpais Conservation Club

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Tamalpais Conservation Club
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 Marin Art & Garden Center

OFFICERS:

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DIRECTORS:

Basia Crane, Barbara Ford, Chris Barry, Jim Rodgers

MEETINGS:

Monthly: Board of Directors meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Tamalpais Conservation Club office at 7p.m. Members are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS:

Regular \$ 25.00/yr
 Life \$250.00/one time only

Send Change of Address and Membership to:

Tamalpais Conservation Club
 P.O. Box 532
 Ross, CA 94957
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**Membership/Gift Application
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Name _____
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 Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Gift: \$ _____

**TAMALPAIS CONSERVATION CLUB
 FINANCE STATEMENT**

FY May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016
 submitted by Perry Cole, Treasurer

Operation Receipts - 2016

Dividends & Interest	\$15,929
Donations - all types	\$3,304
Dues - all types	\$1,907
Pay Pal	\$1,176
Book Sales	\$163
Total Receipts	\$22,479

Operation Expenses - 2016

Bank Service Charges	\$150
Computer: Internet/Web	\$5
Funding TCC's Goals	\$4,989
Dues & Subscriptions	\$625
Insurance	\$2,845
Office Supplies	\$77
Postage	\$1,124
Printing	\$1,399
Professional Fees	\$144
Program Expenses	\$499
Rent - MAGC & USPS	\$6,999
Utilities	\$500
Total Expenses	\$19,356

Operating Net Gain/Loss \$3,123
 Total Assets As Of April 30, 2016

Endowment Fund	\$482,707
Money Market Fund	\$10,819
Union Banking Checking	\$3,667
Plus Income (see above)	\$22,479
Less Expenses (see above)	-\$19,356
FY Change in Market Value	\$135,149
Total Assets	\$635,465

The Tamalpais Conservation Club's last fiscal year that ended on April 30, 2016, showed an operating net gain of \$3,123. This is a first in many years. Adhering to our goals of supporting Mt Tam State Park, TCC donated nearly \$5,000 worth of equipment (see April 2016 TG article) to be used by the state rangers to enhance their safety.

TCC thanks C Berto, JL Johnson and PM Nonneman for their continued support by their generous donations.

President's Message Continued from Front Page

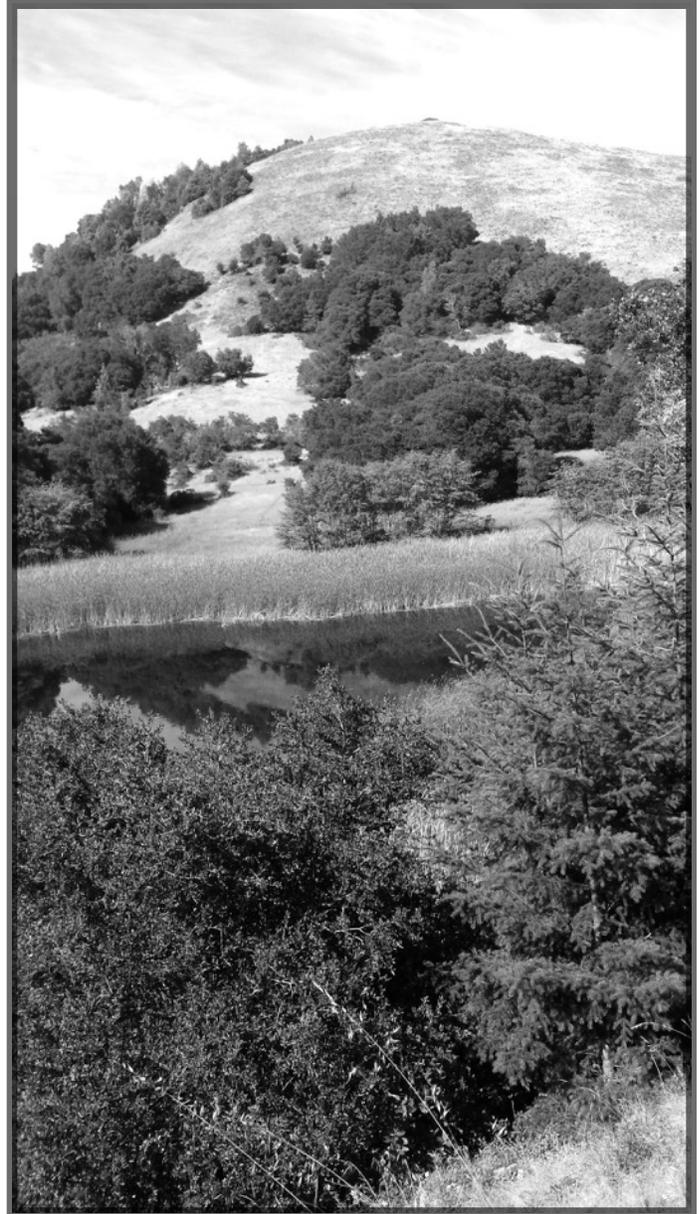
them the—horrors!— 1.25 mile paved road down to the Meadow Club where the dirt road takes them to Bullfrog. This road, of course, is used daily by many road cyclists, who do not find it a bit dangerous or inconvenient, though some pavement repair would be welcome.

The source of funding is unclear at this point, as is the problem of how to get large equipment into the steep trailside to dig out a new, wide trail. (Talk about getting sediment into the water!)

The primary mission of MMWD is to provide good quality water. They are also to protect and preserve the land surrounding it. This seems to us a very far cry from their stated and right business.

Rather than restore habitat, or protect the watershed, this will provide an unneeded new route that will bring heavy use to an area which is now leaving only a slight footprint on the land.

Janice Barry, MD, President



Pilot Knob photo courtesy of Kathy Hyde Sennello

Matt Davis Tribute

The TCC was saddened to learn that Matt Davis of Mill Valley, a stalwart guardian of Mount Tamalpais, died last year. Matt was a life member of the TCC who lived in Homestead Valley and led hikes on Mt. Tam for over 50 years introducing countless people to our beloved mountain. He faithfully showed up on Saturday morning TCC Trail Crew days with a smile on his face and was the designer of the TCC's green signature T-shirt worn by many.

Matt authored "Opening the Mountain: Circumambulating Mount Tamalpais, A Ritual Walk" and "On Foot in Homestead" as well as being a long time contributor to the Mill Valley Herald. We believe a quote of his from 2006 is especially relevant: "What walking does is it really grounds your life. Every time I walk I feel more part of this place." Happy trails, Matt.

H E L P ! ! N E W O F F I C E N E E D E D !

The TCC is actively searching for a new office needed by October 1. We're hoping one of our members will help us with a lead! You know that empty room at the back of your office? The Board meets monthly, and once in a while there is a Guardian mailing or interview scheduled. Thank you! Please email information to www.tccmarin.org.

Time Value

Address Service Requested

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