



2015–2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting the Land That Sustains Us

Dear Members and Friends,



“Aren’t you almost done?” It’s a question we often hear at MALT. Understandably—with almost 50,000 acres of farmland in Marin permanently protected it seems like a logical conclusion.

In truth the answer is no—tens of thousands of acres remain to be protected. Over the last year MALT’s staff and board have been deep in planning and preparing for how we get to “done” from here.

The first step is clear: With demand for Marin farmland—for development, not farms—driving land values up sharply and many ranching families preparing to pass the reins to the next generation, MALT must quicken the pace of land protection. We aim to double our rate of protection over the next five years.

That pace is necessary to get MALT to a new, ambitious goal: 100,000 acres protected by 2040. We’re confident we can get there with the support of our community.

That community starts with you. It’s everyone who treasures Marin’s working landscapes and believes in MALT’s mission. It’s the conservationists, ranchers, sustainability advocates, and innovative local food producers who are coming together for the common goal of protecting land in a sustainable way.

Without this community, and without your commitment to farmland, West Marin’s family farms might have disappeared years ago. But thanks to your generous support, we’ve been able to protect 48,000 acres of Marin’s private farmland for farming. This year alone, we’ve saved three ranches: Gallagher North Bend, Fallon and Wilson Hill Road.

Alongside this year’s successes we’ve suffered a loss in our community. In August we were shocked by news that MALT board member Gail Seneca had passed away suddenly. Gail asked hard questions and pushed us all to think big because she believed in MALT’s mission and in Marin’s farmers and ranchers. We remember and honor her by moving ahead with bold plans.

With our deepened commitment to securing the land MALT is also committed to advancing sustainable agriculture: community-based farming that is economically and environmentally viable over the long term. Like our easements, MALT’s stewardship is forever—meaning that our work will evolve but will never be “done.”

We’re honored to be a part of this forward-thinking community of farmers, ranchers, and you, the donors, who make it possible.

With gratitude,

Jamison Watts
Executive Director

Janine Guillot
Chair, MALT Board of Directors

Farmland Protected by MALT and You

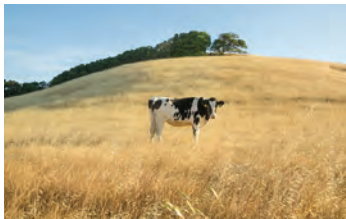
In the last fiscal year you protected...



1. Fallon Ranch
186 acres in Tomales
Dairy cattle, organic vegetables



2. Gallagher North Bend Ranch
330 acres in Point Reyes Station
Beef cattle, organic vegetables



3. Wilson Hill Road Ranch
491 acres in Petaluma
Dairy cattle



Financial Report 2015–2016

We are pleased to report that 2015–16 was another successful fiscal year for MALT. We protected three ranches totaling 1,007 acres of Marin farmland. Our stewardship staff visited all 75 ranches already under MALT protection to confirm that the terms of each easement continue to be met. In preparation for easement acquisitions in the coming years, we evaluated five new ranches. MALT also successfully renewed our accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance, earning the organization accreditation through 2021.

The fiscal year 2015–16 was also a successful year for fundraising. Unrestricted cash contributions were \$3.5 million, and almost \$10.6 million was pledged by private sector donors for easement acquisitions, stewardship and support.

REVENUE: Total revenue of \$17.9 million was up by \$6.4 million from the prior fiscal year. This increase is mainly driven by gifts from generous individuals and family foundations.

EXPENSES: Total expenses of \$7.2 million were up \$300,000 from the prior fiscal year. The primary reasons for this modest increase were easement purchases on a higher number of acres this year versus last year and a minor increase in total staff costs.

NET ASSETS: MALT ended the year with almost \$29.5 million in net assets, an increase of \$10.8 million from last year. This increase is entirely due to successful fundraising efforts. This money will be put to use in the acquisition of three conservation easements planned and well underway to be completed in the fiscal year 2016–17, as well as several additional easements targeted for completion in subsequent years.

Thanks to the commitment of our individual supporters and public agency partners, MALT is well positioned to pick up the pace of farmland protection over the next few years. MALT's efficient funding model, in which donor dollars are matched with public funds, coupled with the current availability of sales tax revenue from the Marin County Farmland Preservation Program, means that we can leverage private gifts to protect more land, faster.

The amounts presented on the opposite page are derived from MALT's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2016. Copies of the audited report are available upon request.



Stacey Witchel
Director of Operations



Neil Rudolph
Treasurer, MALT Board of Directors

Statement of Financial Condition *as of June 30, 2016*

ASSETS

Current assets—cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,391,159
Current assets—bequest receivable	777,550
Current assets—other	204,145
Property, land and equipment, net of depreciation	1,335,985
Land held temporarily	5,300,000
Other noncurrent assets	499,793
Unrestricted investments held for long term	3,367,543
Restricted endowment investments	4,968,353
Pledges and assets restricted for conservation projects	9,446,917

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 34,291,445**

LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 238,689
Long-term liabilities	4,597,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 4,836,189

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted	\$ 11,939,545*
Temporarily restricted	12,547,358
Permanently restricted	4,968,353
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 29,455,256

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$ 34,291,445**

**Unrestricted net assets are broken down as follows:*

Operating, including \$1,320,019 of building and facilities	\$ 2,689,685
Easement acquisition fund	7,595,884
Board designated endowment	1,653,976

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS **\$ 11,939,545**

Summary of Activity and Changes in Net Assets

REVENUE and ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS

Contributions	\$ 14,284,201
Government grants	3,444,500
Program revenue and other	144,448

TOTAL REVENUE AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS **\$ 17,873,149**

EXPENSES

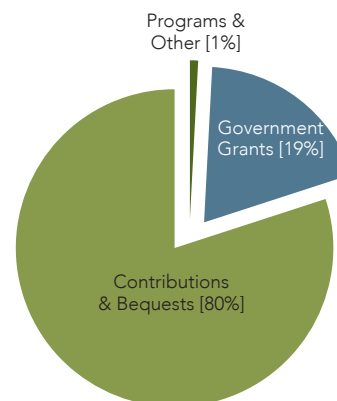
Purchase of conservation easements	\$ 4,617,388
Other program expenses	<u>1,079,875</u>
Fundraising	876,120
Management and support services	578,300

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 7,151,683**

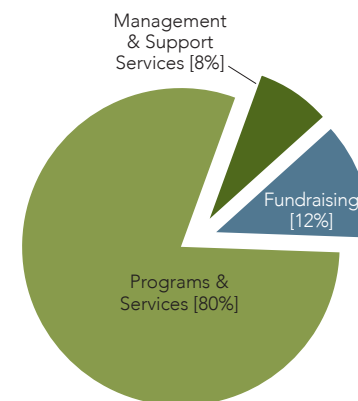
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 10,721,466
Investment return	\$ 73,334

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$10,794,800**

REVENUE BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Building on Success

MALT Sets New Goals for Farmland Protection



The golden-hilled farmland of West Marin, just 30 minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge, looks like a scene from history. Yet it's far from stuck in the past. Farmers and ranchers here have evolved to meet the Bay Area's demand for great food, and their artisanal cheeses, grass-fed beef, pastured eggs and organic milk and vegetables have made Marin agriculture an economic success.

According to the latest Marin County crop report, "the 2015 gross value of all production is estimated to be the highest value ever recorded at \$111,061,000. ... 10 percent higher than the reported 2014 total agricultural production value." In the last 10 years, the value of Marin's agricultural production has doubled.

Likely none of this would have happened without an innovative idea hatched by two determined women and a small group of ranchers, environmentalists and

community leaders. Today Marin bears their legacy—and MALT is making ambitious plans for its future.

What Could Have Been

Marincello, a planned community nearly built on the Marin Headlands in the 1960s, was catalyzing. But it was small compared to the massive development and freeways to the coast proposed for Tomales Bay. Awakened to the possibility that rural Marin could be lost, the Board of Supervisors in 1973 approved A60 zoning, which restricted the number of homes on agricultural land to one per 60 acres.

Zoning stopped suburban sprawl but didn't secure the land for farming. At the same time prices for milk, Marin's main agricultural commodity, were falling thanks to big agribusiness elsewhere in the state. For-sale signs suggested the end was near for family farms.



market. Pick up a MALT-protected carton of eggs, pound of beef, round of cheese or bunch of carrots at the farmers market or grocery store and you know it came from a nearby family farm.

Since 1980 MALT has protected 48,000 acres of Marin's private farmland, forever. Farmers and ranchers have invested much of the easement sale money back into their land, creating, as Grossi describes it, "the high-quality, organic food our neighbors over the hill have come to expect from us."

Protect More, Faster

Now Marin's food is in high demand, but so is the farmland on which that food is raised. "People want it for estates, not farms," said MALT Executive Director Jamison Watts. "That drives up the price beyond the reach of farmers and ranchers. Once it's converted to nonagricultural use, land is typically lost forever, which puts the pressure on MALT to work faster."

This year MALT set two key goals: Doubling our pace of land protection over the next five years and hitting the 100,000-acre mark by 2040. The latter would essentially finish the "protect" phase of MALT's mission, putting most of Marin's



productive farmland under conservation easement. With the land secured, MALT will enter a "sustain" phase, continuing to monitor its easements and helping ensure that Marin agriculture remains economically viable and environmentally sustainable over the long term.

The timing couldn't be better. Right now, millions of dollars in sales tax revenue via the Marin County Farm-

land Preservation Program (created in 2012 by voter-approved Measure A) await matching private gifts for MALT to purchase new easements. At the same time, MALT has a robust pipeline of farmers and ranchers seeking to protect their land.

Together, private donor gifts and money from the county program will allow MALT to protect thousands more acres of farmland before it's lost forever.

"We have to finish the job," said Ralph.

"The concept of conservation easements was introduced to us by an unlikely pair of women, environmentalist Phyllis Faber and dairy farmer Ellen Straus," recalled Ralph Grossi, who was working on his family's Novato dairy ranch in the 1970s. "They came to the Farm Bureau with the concept, a committee was formed, and 18 months later Marin Agricultural Land Trust was born."

"A New Era"

MALT's conservation easement model was met with some skepticism, but a handful of respected ranchers saw the potential and took a chance on the new organization. Others followed.

"We believed that if we could just stabilize land use, farmers and ranchers would be in position to benefit from our proximity to some of the most affluent, discriminating consumers in the world," explained Ralph, a founding and current MALT board member as well as past executive director of American Farmland Trust. "By purchasing development rights, MALT has both secured the land for future generations and provided enough liquidity to help launch a new era in Marin."

The new era that dawned in Marin has brought widespread organic certification, diversification of farm products, direct-to-consumer sales, and value-added products like cheese. Each of these innovations allows farmers and ranchers to make more money while providing local food rather than selling on the commodity

Our Mission, Your Leadership Farmland Protected Forever—Together



*Your commitment to Marin farmland has helped save 78 family farms and ranches on more than 48,000 acres. Each and every gift, no matter the size, helps protect more of the farmland you love, forever. The following generous supporters gave MALT cash gifts between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. **Thank you for protecting the land that sustains us.***

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“We were raised in Orange County in the ’50s, when we ate corn and strawberries freshly picked from the fields. MALT has a goal that can actually be achieved: preserving the existing agricultural land in the area while at the same time preserving open space.”

Christine Ralls & Frank Tulleners, Oakland
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“After we moved to Marin from the Midwest, we found the ranches and hills of West Marin. And then we found MALT. We were so impressed with the mission and success of MALT that we had to become involved. It brings us great satisfaction to do what we can to help preserve this special land for future generations.”

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“The car I donated to MALT had once belonged to my dad, who knew the importance of adventure in a child’s life. We spent many days hiking, camping and exploring this great country around us. It is a fitting tribute that his car would help preserve these lands in some small way. Nothing would’ve made him happier.”

Colleen Hogan, Sebastopol
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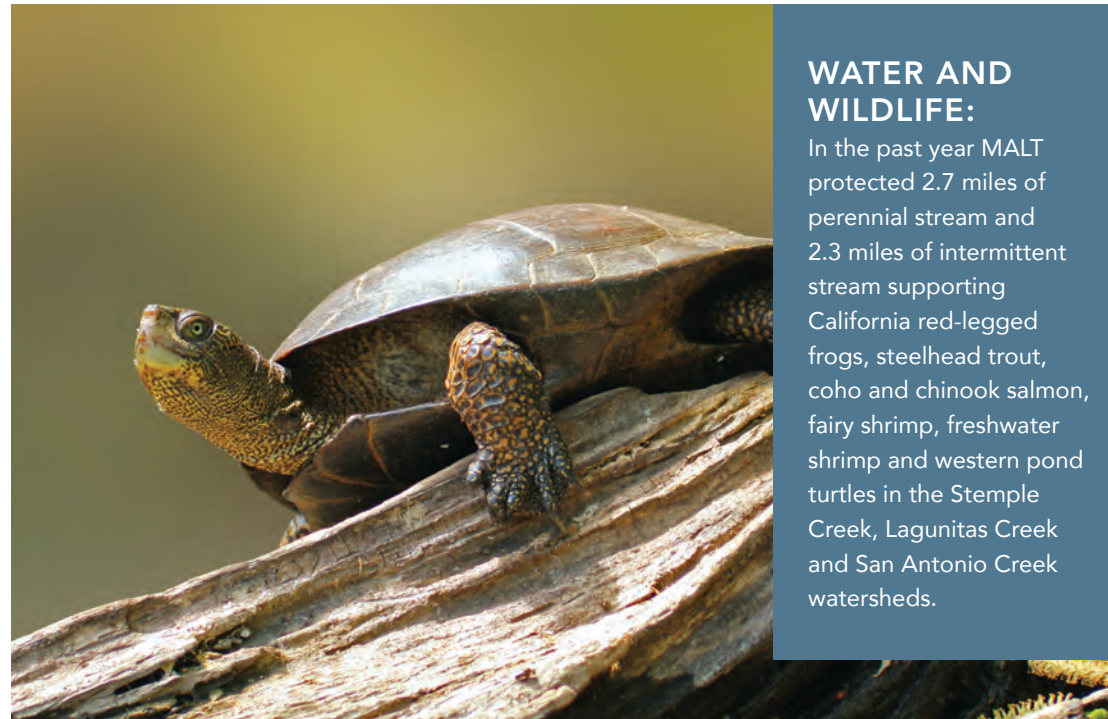
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In the past year MALT protected 2.7 miles of perennial stream and 2.3 miles of intermittent stream supporting California red-legged frogs, steelhead trout, coho and chinook salmon, fairy shrimp, freshwater shrimp and western pond turtles in the Stemple Creek, Lagunitas Creek and San Antonio Creek watersheds.

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“The MALT ride guides us through some of the world’s greatest scenery and that, in itself, would be enough reason for us to return year after year. However, the real power of this ride is that cycling past and tasting the wares of the various MALT farms allows us to feel that we are doing something good for the next generation.”

Jerry Spolter & Laurel Morris-Wessler, Sausalito
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“Teaching our two children how to choose food that comes from local and sustainable sources, live in a community responsibly, and care for the land Mother Nature provides us is the center of an education. We take great pride and responsibility in helping steward the next generation of MALT supporters to ensure that the ‘farmland forever’ vision Phyllis and Ellen pioneered lives on.”

Andrew & Lily Riesenfeld, Corte Madera
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“Inverness, the National Seashore, and West Marin’s farm and ranch lands have been a tranquil haven from everyday life in Los Angeles for my family across scores of visits. MALT has always led the way in farmland preservation, so support always seemed natural.”

Doug & Andrea Apatow, Los Angeles
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MALT Donors *July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016*

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Gail Seneca & Harold Nathan

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Ed Ryken
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Helen Wickes
Linda & Bill Wells

PUBLIC GRANTS

County of Marin
Marin County Parks &
Open Space District
USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service
State Coastal Conservancy

IN-KIND

CONTRIBUTIONS

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble
Mallory & Natsis LLP
Fernandez/2
Partnership - Architecture
Thomas Fileti, Morrison &
Foerster LLP
Strategic Growth Council,
Sustainable Agricultural
Land Conservation Program
Charles Wallace

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Janice Admire
Nancy Boyden
Elsie R. Carr
Nancy de L'Arbre
George Dirkes
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Ingeborg Hallock
Jim Harvey

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Jean M. Ostaggi
Jerome Raube
Dori & Ted Schulz

Phyllis Telder
Bob & Phyllis Telder
Marilyn Troppmann
Geraldine Young

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

Bob Bingham
Katherine Butler

The Forrest Family
Lisa Gansky
The Goldstein Family
Janine Guillot
Larry Haber &
Audrey Davenport
Michael Heaton
Bill & Mary Blue Huey
Stephanie Kyne



In preparing this report, we made every effort to ensure that it is accurate and complete. If there is an omission or error, please accept our apologies and notify the development department at (415) 663-1158 x312 or development@malt.org so we can correct our records. This report lists all gifts of \$250 or more received between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. Gifts made after that date will be published in next year's report.

Corporate Circle

CORPORATE GUARDIAN (\$10,000-\$19,999)

Northern Trust Charitable
Giving Program
Whole Foods Market **

CORPORATE STEWARD (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Clif Bar Family Foundation
Fentons Creamery
Hog Island Oyster Co. **
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Point Reyes Farmstead
Cheese Company
Stemple Creek Ranch
Straus Family Creamery *
Toluma Farms & Tomales
Farmstead Creamery

CORPORATE CONSERVER (\$2,500-\$4,999)

BIBrooks fine flowers ®
Cowgirl Creamery *
Marin Country Mart
Nicasio Valley Cheese Co.
Oliver Ranch Foundation
Pam Ferrari Custom Catering *
Partisan Arts, Inc.
Three Twins Ice Cream *

BUSINESS BENEFACTOR (\$1,000-\$2,499)

AppleGarden Farm
California's Artisan Cheese
Festival
E&J Gallo Winery
edible Marin & Wine Country
Elements Massage
Grizzly Peak Cyclists, Inc.

Hendrickson Development, Inc.
KWMM-FM
Lagunitas Brewing Co.
Marin French Cheese Co. **
Nicasio Valley Farms *
Pacific Union

BUSINESS PATRON (\$250-\$999)

Allstar Organics
Bank of Marin Community Fund *
Bici Sport USA
Cafe Stella
Clif Bar & Company
Comforts, Inc.
Devil's Gulch Ranch
Equator Coffees & Teas
Good Earth Natural Foods *
Hunt & Behrens, Inc. **
Justin's
The Lunch Box
Marin Sun Farms, Inc. *
McEvoy Ranch *
McPhail Fuel Co.
Julie Mikos Photography
Mill Valley Market, Inc.
Out West Garage
Palace Market
Pasture Fresh Eggs
Raiser Resources LLC
Rustic Bakery
Sausalito Woman's Club **
Solidaire Network
Sonoma County Distilling Co.
Straus Home Ranch
Tulocay Winery

CORPORATE CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT: HOG ISLAND OYSTER CO.



Terry Sawyer of Hog Island Oyster Co.

Oyster Farm Helps Protect Farmland Upstream

When they started Hog Island Oyster Co. in Tomales in 1983, founders John Finger and Terry Sawyer were marine biologists by day, oyster farmers by night. They developed aquaculture techniques to produce certified-sustainable shellfish in Tomales Bay, which today are downstream from many MALT-protected farms and ranches.

The connection is not lost on the company. "We are literally downstream from human impacts," says Terry. "We see the water quality every day. We can very quickly tell when poor land management practices are

going on. So we know the importance of sustainable agriculture. And we know the importance of MALT."

In celebration of Earth Day this spring, Hog Island hosted "Let's Give a Shuck," a daylong benefit during which the company donated 10 percent of proceeds—\$6,500 in all—from all their restaurants and stores to MALT.

It's funding that will ultimately help the oysters: Well-managed ranches are key to improved water quality. MALT protects farms and ranches in the Keys Creek, Walker Creek, Lagunitas Creek, Nicasio Creek and Tomales Bay East Shore watersheds—all of which drain to Tomales Bay.

"We know the importance of sustainable agriculture. And we know the importance of MALT."

Terry Sawyer, Hog Island Oyster Co.



In Memory

GEORGE DIRKES

As a tax attorney specializing in trusts and estates, George Dirkes thought a great deal about legacy planning. “He wanted to leave a legacy to future generations and felt that’s exactly what MALT does by securing a future for farmers and ranchers,” said his wife, Gail Stern. “He wanted to preserve a way of life for farmers and preserve West Marin’s natural beauty for everyone else.” In addition to advising clients who donate to MALT, recommending the organization for foundation grants and serving on the MALT board of directors, George included a gift to MALT in his own estate plans. Friends and family donated more than \$10,000 to MALT in George’s memory as well.

JEAN STARKWEATHER

Jean Starkweather was a decorated Marin environmentalist, winning numerous honors and even having a bayfront San Rafael park named in her honor. Over the years Jean served on the boards of the Marin Conservation League, Marin Audubon Society, Audubon Canyon Ranch and the San Francisco Bay Association. She also served for decades as an Audubon Canyon Ranch docent and a Marin County Parks and Open Space commissioner. Jean became a MALT member in 1984 and left a bequest to MALT upon her passing last year.

C. SEARLE WHITNEY

Berkeley resident Searle Whitney was a musician and founder of the nonprofit Institute for Population Studies, which he created to address the environmental and cultural impacts of a growing population. He was raised in New York, and his love of nature was shaped by childhood years in the Adirondacks. He became a MALT member in 1998 and, upon his death last year, left the organization a bequest to continue protecting Marin farmland. “Searle came from great wealth, but lived on very little money and gave it all away when he died,” said his lifelong friend Virginia Kiser. “He loved the land and felt strongly about protecting it.”



MALT VOLUNTEERS

Beni Agoustari
Bob Bingham & Carol Kearns
Jan Blackford
Linda L. Blackwood
Charlotte Boesel
Esta Brand
Ann Brenner
Pat Burns
Nancy L. Chaffin
Bob Davisson
Adam Dawson
Susan M. Dollberg
Sue Evans
Kamala Friedman
Susan Galbraith
Marilyn Geary
Joe Gillach
Adi Girroir
Carol Golden
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Elizabeth Hollis
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Joan Lamphier
Colin Lind
Christine Malone
Tom & Nancy McKlveen
Sharon McNamee
Golda Michelson
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Richard & Susan Moore
Dwight & Kate Morejohn
Colleen Navellier
April Powers
Allison Puglisi
June Purpura
Diane Rehn
Andrew Riesenfeld
Joanne Saunders
Leila Sharifi
Lydia Sharifi

Donna Shoemaker
Laine Sprague
Mary Jean Stavish
Robert Steinberg
Oscar Steiner
Stacy Stevenson
Alice Wallace
Evan Wilhelm
Deborah Zierten

RANCHES & ROLLING HILLS ARTISTS

Meredith Brooks Abbott
Whitney Brooks Abbott
Chris Adessa
Leslie Allen
Nanette Biers
Martha Borge
Christin Coy
William B. Dewey
Michael Drury
Jon Francis
Kristen Garneau
Sue Gonzalez
Susan Hall
Whitney Brooks Hansen
Jeremy Harper
Dana Hooper
Timothy Horn
Ray Hunter
Larry Iwerks

Paul Kratter
Jeanette Le Grue
Richard Lindenberg
Daniel McCormick
Carol Peek
Davis Perkins
Richard Schloss
Wendy Schwartz
Suzanne Siminger
Gary Smith
Tom Soltesz
Robert Gantt Steele
Nancy Stein
Arturo Tello
Millicent Tomkins
Ward Walkup
Thomas Wood



FARMS AND RANCHES

Farmers and ranchers who welcomed MALT event guests and artists onto their land

Barinaga Ranch, Marcia Barinaga & Corey Goodman
 Black Mountain Ranch, Dave Osborn
 Bob Burbank Ranch, Bob & Linda Burbank
 Chileno Valley Ranch, Mike & Sally Gale
 Corda Ranch, Fred & Nettie Corda
 Cow Track Ranch, Liz & Bruce Daniels
 Dolcini Red Hill Ranch, Kitty Dolcini & Doug Dolcini
 Erickson Ranch, Lee & Janeann Erickson
 Fallon Ranch, Anne Murphy & Scott Murphy
 Grossi Ranch, Ralph & Judy Grossi
 Ielmorini Ranch, Doug & Cathy Ielmorini
 Jensen Ranch, Bill & Eileen Jensen
 Leiss Ranch, Nancy Chaffin & Betty Nunes
 Marshall Home Ranch and Dairy, Marissa Thornton
 Millerton Creek Ranch, Mike Giammona & Andrew Zlot
 Moretti Family Dairy, Mike & Monique Moretti
 Nicasio Valley Farms, Lafranchi Dairy &
 Nicasio Valley Cheese Co., Rick Lafranchi,
 Scott Lafranchi & Randy Lafranchi

Panfiglio Ranch, Joe Panfiglio
 Paradise Valley Ranch & Fresh Run Farm,
 The Martinelli Family
 Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co., Bob Giacomini,
 Lynn Giacomini Stray & Jill Giacomini Basch
 Pozzi Ranch, Joe Pozzi & Amy Chesnut
 Spaletta Ranch, Jim Spaletta
 Stemple Creek Ranch & Poncia Ranch,
 Loren & Lisa Poncia and Al & Cathie Poncia
 Straus Home Ranch, Michael Straus,
 Miriam Straus & Vivien Straus
 Stubbs Vineyard, Tom & Mary Stubbs
 Thomas Ielmorini Ranch, Tom & Claudia Ielmorini
 Thornton Ranch, Gary Thornton &
 Marissa Thornton
 Tocalino/Gause Ranch, Jerry & Cleo Gause
 Toluma Farms & Tomales Farmstead Creamery,
 David Jablons & Tamara Hicks
 Walker Creek Ranch, Patrick McLaughlin
 Zimmerman Ranch, Bill Zimmerman

EXPERTS, EDUCATORS AND VENUES

Businesses and individuals who supported MALT's outreach programs

Blue Waters Kayaking
 Couloir Wine Tasting Room
 Debra Dickerson, Cowgirl Creamery
 Michael Fischer, Marin Amateur Radio Society
 Julie Mikos, The Healing Farm
 James S. Rosenfield & Diana Rodgers,
 The Marin Country Mart
 Doreen Smith, Botanist
 Anthea Stolz, California Artisan Cheese Guild
 Vivian Straus, Straus Home Ranch
 John Taylor, Bivalve Dairy
 Dr. Michael Whitt & Barbara Whitt
 Alison Young & Rebecca Johnson,
 California Academy of Sciences
 Erik Young, University of Washington



Welcome New Board Members

Marcia Barinaga has been raising East Friesian sheep on the MALT-protected Barinaga Ranch since 2009, and in a short time has garnered numerous awards and accolades for her Basque-style farmstead sheep's milk cheeses.

She has it in her blood. Her father grew up on a sheep ranch in Idaho, and her grandfather brought the shepherding tradition from the Basque region of Spain, where her Basque cousins still make sheep cheese. She also holds a doctorate in molecular biology, an expertise that first lent itself to a career as a science journalist; she worked for 15 years as a reporter for *Science* magazine.

Now, her experience as a rancher and steward of the land has become an asset to MALT's Board of Directors.

"As a Marin County rancher, I understand the challenges facing small producers in Marin," she says. "I am thrilled to be joining the board and to be able to have a role in helping MALT meet its goals of protecting 100,000 acres of ranchland in Marin by 2040, and in helping those ranchers maintain the health of their land and the viability of their ranches."

Robert McGee, president of Straus Family Creamery, brings to the MALT Board of Directors deep expertise in operations, finance, strategic planning and leadership development.

Robert joined Straus, the first 100% certified organic and Non-GMO Project Verified creamery in the United States, as COO and CFO in 2011. He became company president in 2014 and works closely with Straus Family Creamery founder and CEO Albert Straus, whose mother, Ellen, co-founded MALT.

"MALT gives me an opportunity to give back to the farmers and ranchers who supply our communities and families with local, healthy food," says Robert.

In addition to MALT, he serves on the boards of the North Bay Food Industry Group and the Career Technical Education (CTE) Foundation of Sonoma County.



In Memory

Gail Seneca with her husband, Hal Nathan.

REMEMBERING MALT BOARD MEMBER GAIL SENECA

Gail Seneca retired from a successful career in finance, including running her own investment management firm, GMG/Seneca Capital Management, and turned to a life devoted to charitable and creative endeavors. An Inverness resident, she was a writer, global traveler, gospel singer and philanthropist.

MALT was one of the organizations fortunate to benefit from Gail's insights, financial expertise and tough questions on the MALT Board of Directors, as well as her generosity as a donor. Gail knew little about MALT when Ellen Straus contacted her out of the blue, invited her to coffee and asked her for a \$100,000 gift. She appreciated Ellen's bold ask and said yes.

Years later Gail wrote, "Living in Inverness in the mid-'90s I heard about an organization that protected land from development and had a notion that MALT was good for my views. ... I've come a long way from 'What lovely views!' to an understanding that those 'views' contain grit, history and love."

Gail passed away suddenly in August, leaving behind a true legacy in our community.

2015–2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janine Guillot *Chair, Chief Operating Officer, San Francisco*

Ralph Grossi *Vice-Chair, Rancher, Novato*

John Taylor *Secretary, Dairyman/Engineer, Point Reyes Station*

Neil Rudolph *Treasurer, Financial Adviser, Mill Valley*

Bill Barboni II *Veterinarian/Rancher, Hicks Valley*

Barbara Boucke *C.P.A., Stinson Beach*

Sue Conley *Artisan Cheesemaker, Point Reyes Station*

Sam Dolcini *Rancher/Agricultural Recruiter, Chileno Valley*

Mike Gale *Rancher, Chileno Valley*

Gary Giacomini *Attorney, San Geronimo*

Tamara Hicks *Dairy Farmer/Cheesemaker, Tomales*

Chris Kelly *Conservationist, Larkspur*

Steve Kinsey *Marin County Supervisor, 4th District, Forest Knolls*

Rick Lafranchi *Rancher/Artisan Cheesemaker, Novato*

Paul Martin *Retired Dairyman, Petaluma*

Peter Martinelli *Farmer, Bolinas*

Rebecca Patton *Conservationist, Palo Alto and Inverness*

Ellie Rilla *Retired Agriculture Adviser, Sebastopol*

Julie Rosotti *Farmer/Rancher, Point Reyes*

Gail Seneca *Writer, Inverness*

MALT STAFF

Jamison Watts *Executive Director*

Willa Antczak *Development Manager*

Linda Appling *Development Associate*

Kristine Ball *Director of Development*

Tristan Conway *Event & Outreach Associate*

Michelle Cooper *Stewardship Manager*

Brian Dill *Senior Major Gifts Officer*

Linda Fissori *Annual Fund Associate*

Christine Harvey *Database Manager*

Colleen Hogan *Office Manager*

Jim Jensen *Stewardship Project Manager*

Robin Livingston *Communications Associate*

Zach Mendes *Stewardship Project Manager*

Denise Rocco-Zilber *Events & Volunteer Manager*

Eric Rubenstahl *Stewardship Project Manager*

Jeff Stump *Director of Conservation*

Stephanie Tavares-Buhler *Easement Project Manager*

Christine Walker *Campaign Coordinator*

Marisa Walker *Marketing & Communications Manager*

Lisa Whitaker *Accounting Manager*

Stacey Witchel *Director of Operations*

Co-founded by Phyllis Faber and Ellen Straus

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Marin Agricultural Land Trust is a member-supported nonprofit organization created in 1980 by a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists to permanently protect Marin County farmland. Some of the Bay Area's most highly acclaimed meats, dairy products and organic crops are produced on farmland protected by MALT totaling more than 48,000 acres on 78 family farms and ranches.

Learn more about Marin's working farms and the food they produce at www.malt.org.

