

Dear members and friends

In May, 2007, Marin Agricultural Land Trust sponsored a public opinion survey to better understand how Marin County residents feel about preserving family farms and agriculture here. We learned that those polled regard family farms as essential to the County's quality of life. They see them as sources of locally grown and produced food, as important open space and wildlife habitat, and as a critical part of the economy. Almost 90% said they want Marin's farm and ranch land conserved—even if they don't live close to it!

In MALT's early days, most non-farmers valued our agricultural lands primarily for the open space they provide. Our 2007 survey responders said that's still important, but access to farm-fresh foods is also significant. That's partly because we are much more interested in where and how our food is grown or produced than we were 20 years ago. It's also because Marin farmers and ranchers are at the cutting edge of producing many extraordinary crops for our tables and restaurants—dairy products, including artisan and farmstead cheeses made from the milk of cows that graze on protected farmland; grass-fed beef; organic fruit and vegetable row crops; poultry; eggs; olive oil; and oysters. There's also a recognition of the benefits of well-managed livestock grazing (still the predominant agricultural land use on Marin's rolling hills) for native species and species diversity, and the importance of unfragmented grazing land for wildlife corridors.

A unique agricultural solution We're gratified that so many people support Marin's family farms and believe in what MALT is doing to protect them because we are facing a great opportunity, accompanied—as opportunities often are—by a great challenge. In the fiscal year 2006-07, with financial assistance from the California State Coastal Conservancy, we purchased an agricultural conservation easement on a highly visible, 178-acre portion of the Tomales Farm & Dairy property known to many as the Cerini Ranch. We're ensuring long-term protection of existing farmland in West Marin, which is a goal of the Tomales community and the Marin Countywide Plan, and we're supporting the prospect of a unique agricultural solution on land threatened by development. Meanwhile we have been working on a number of other easement projects which will come to fruition soon. In the next few years, we will have an opportunity to permanently preserve up to 25 Marin family farms and ranches totaling more than 12,000 acres.





Conservation easement program

As the first conservation organization in the United States to focus solely on preserving farmland, Marin Agricultural Land Trust pioneered the use of the agricultural conservation easement in 1980. Twenty-seven years later, 59 family farms and ranches are permanently protected by MALT in collaboration with the landowners, many of them the fourth or fifth generation of their families to live on and work their land.

MALT's ability to purchase an agricultural conservation easement enables ranching and farming families to meet financial challenges like business diversification or the passing of land from one generation to the next without having to sell, divide, or develop their land.

A perpetual responsibility When MALT acquires a conservation easement, it also assumes a perpetual responsibility for monitoring the property to ensure that the terms of the easement are honored. Our Stewardship Program fulfills this responsibility and helps build strong relationships with landowners so we can work in partnership to protect the natural and agricultural resources on their property.

The Stewardship Program has three components:

Baseline documentation to objectively characterize each easement property through descriptive information, maps, and photographs

Annual monitoring to document and evaluate changes in conditions and uses over time to ensure they remain consistent with easement provisions

Stewardship assistance in natural resource conservation

Annual monitoring visits allow us to fulfill our legal obligations as the easement holder and work with landowners on issues that impact their agricultural operations and natural resources. Noxious weeds, for example, diminish agricultural productivity and threaten wildlife and plant diversity, and controlling them is costly for landowners.

One resource offered to easement landowners is the no-till drill farm equipment we purchased in partnership with the Marin Resource Conservation District. Ranchers use it to improve rangeland conditions with minimal disturbance to soils and vegetation.



At the Sartori Ranch



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Fire has shown promise in reducing many weeds at a lower cost per acre than chemicals or labor-intensive practices. After several discussions with landowners and MALT staff to determine strategies, this fall the Marin County Fire Department burned several acres on the Gale Ranch in Chileno Valley to reduce expanding, unpalatable, non-native distaff thistle. "The Marin Fire Dept. really came through for us," said landowner Mike Gale. "Eleven vehicles and 20 firefighters spent six hours destroying almost 10 acres of distaff thistle with the controlled burn. It was very successful. Captain Keith Parker and his crews (from all over Marin) set up the burn and carried it out without a hitch."

A national model

As we acquire additional easements and as technologies change, our Stewardship Program will need to grow and adapt so that we can maintain the high level of easement management, service to landowners, and professionalism that has made the program a national model.

Organization policy allocates bequests and memorial gifts to a fund that provides for the expenses of MALT's perpetual stewardship responsibility over easements it holds. For more information on ways that you can support MALT's Stewardship Program through planned giving, please see page 12.

At the Gale Ranch Insert: Carthamus Ianatus (distaff thistle)

Dutreach and education program

Is it possible to accurately measure the value of protecting farmland? MALT tries to answer that question through the many public offerings of our Outreach & Education Program. We believe that when people see where their food comes from and meet the farmer who produces it, their support for local agriculture and for MALT's efforts to preserve the land will increase.

This year we offered a wonderful variety of Hikes & Tours on ranches and farms. Sessions included creek resource restoration work days, a strenuous hike and a history lesson on Three Peaks above Tomales Bay, a plein-air painting workshop, an ice cream social where participants churned creamy and delicious ice cream from local ingredients, and an heirloom tomato-tasting event. We've also significantly increased the opportunities for school children to visit farms through our Farm Field Studies program. We kicked off a Bay Area-wide discussion of the Farm Bill with our "Food & Farming on the Urban Edge" lecture series, featuring American Farmland Trust president Ralph Grossi and our colleagues at The Center for Urban Education about Agriculture at the San Francisco Ferry Building. Our annual landscape art show and sale, Ranches & Rolling Hills, was held for the tenth year in May. The works exemplify a special partnership between MALT, family farmers, and artists painting to preserve the land that inspires them. A book inspired by the art show will be published in early 2008.

Every farm protected by a MALT ease- Our answer is that ment provides benefits that go far beyond that which can be measured in acres saved or dollars spent

every farm protected by a MALT easement provides benefits that

go far beyond that which can be measured in acres saved or dollars spent. With each one, we move a step closer to becoming a society that places real value on those things that make life truly "livable:" a strong economy, a sense of community, personal and environmental health, clean air and water, and a variety of fresh and abundant food.

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to create here in our own backyard the kind of healthy, nurturing, and sustaining community we all yearn for, and we're grateful to the family farmers and ranchers who make the creation of that kind of community possible.





Historian Dewey Livingston with MALT Hikes & Tours group at the top of Three Peaks overlooking Tomales Bay

Volunteers and partners in education

Volunteers help us broaden our Outreach & Education efforts by assisting on Hikes & Tours, staffing special events, and creating a network of advocates for family farms: Paula Alsterlind, Suzanna Anderson, Kate Baxter, Nina Belluci, Celeste Binnings, Jerry Binnings, Janet Blair, Diane Bolman, Ann Brenner, Julian Brock, Kathy Callaway, Ed Christiansen, Deborah Coburn, Peggy Diedrichs, Gary Diedrichs, Susan Dollberg, Jennifer Drake, Sue Evans, Heather Foote, Lester Foote, Amy Forseth, Sandy Forsyth, Lori Fouts, Paula Frankel, Guido Frosini, Marilyn Geary, Adi Girroir, Candice Gold, Carol Golden, David Green, Kathy Grey, Marion Guyer, Clair Hadley, Calen Hall, Lorraine Heitchue, Anne Hellman, Linda Herman, Helene Holl, Stuart Jenkins, Pamela Johnson, Cindy Jordan, Ellen Josephy, Diane Judd, Muniera Kadrie, Tricia Kalish, Dahlia Kamesar, Heide Kawahata, Leigh Kenny, R. Scott Lafranchi, Joan Lamphier, Silvia Lange, Elizabeth Li, Bonnie MacLaird, Bev McIntosh, Ewell McIsaac, Trigg McLeod, Ron Moore, Liz Muller, Christie Nelson, Carlo Passalalpi, Tina Pavane, Steven Pironti, Gene Ptak, Allison Puglisi, Grace Raube, Joyce Rhodes, Lynn Ross, Cynthia Sawtell, Gina Schnabel, Carol Schoenfeld, Eve Senn, Donna Shoemaker, Sherry Stanton, Sharon Stender, Theresa Umland, Anne Vick, Alice Wallace, Karen Whitaker, Barbara Whitt, Janet Wittkopf, Joe Youmans, Deborah Zierten

Farm Tour & Event Hosts & Leaders: AllStar Organic, Janet Brown, Marty Jacobsen; American Farmland Trust, Ralph Grossi, President; Black Mountain Ranch, Margaret Nobbman, Mike Giamonna; Clark Summit Farm, Dan Bagley, Liz Cunningham; Creekside Farm, Susan Martinelli; Devil's Gulch Ranch, Mark & Myriam Pasternak; Doughty Dairy, Karen and John Taylor; Drakes Bay Hereford Ranch, Anne Murphy; Draper Farm, Jerry Draper & Mea McNeil; Escalle Winery, Mary Tscornia; Gale Ranch & Chileno Valley Beef, Sally & Mike Gale; Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Brian O'Neill, Superintendent; Gospel Flats, Don & Micky Murch; Green Gulch Farm, Sukey Parmelee; Hog Island Oyster Co., John Finger, Terry Sawyer, Michael Watchorn; Hog Island Oyster Company, John Finger & Terry Sawyer; Lafranchi Dairy & Nicasio Valley Farms, Mary & Randy Lafranchi, Lynette Pareglio; Dewey Livingston, Historian; Lunny Ranch & Drakes Bay Oyster Farm, Kevin & Nancy Lunny; Marin Winegrowers Association, Sean Thackrey; Pey-Marin Vineyards; Dutton-Goldfield; Stubbs Vineyard; Vision Cellars, Point Reyes Vineyards; and Corda Winery, Mark Pasternak; McEvoy Olive Ranch, Nan McEvoy, Shari de Joseph, Eliza Fisher, Jill Lee, Jeff Creque; Next Course, Larry Bain; Nunes Dairy, Tim Nunes & Betty Nunes; Panfiglio Ranch, Joe Panfiglio; Paradise Valley Produce, Dennis & Sandy Dierks; People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Amy Meyer co-chair; Point Reyes Vineyards & Winery, Steve and Sharon Doughty; Slide Ranch, Charles Higgins & staff; Splaletta Ranch, Jim Spaletta; Stewart Ranch, Joanna Stewart; Straus Family Dairy & Creamery, Albert Straus; Tim Horn, Artist; Tresch Dairy, Joe & Kathy Tresch; Windrush Farms, Mimi Luebberman; University of California Cooperative Extension, Ellie Rilla & Steve Quirt; David Wimpfheimer, Naturalist

Partners in Outreach & Education include organizations and agencies that help MALT reach out to the community about the importance of local agriculture: The Bay Institute, Marin Conservation Corps, Marin County Farmers' Markets, Marin County Farm Bureau, Marin County Health and Human Services, Healthy Marin Partnership, Marin Winegrowers Association, Environmental Education Council of Marin's Marin Food Systems Project & Marin Agriculture and Education Alliance, Marin County Office of Education, Marin Organic, Nicasio, Olema, Novato, Point Reyes, and San Rafael 4H Clubs, Slide Ranch, University of California Cooperative Extension, College of Marin, Nicasio Fire Department, American Farmland Trust



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Over the next few years, MALT may be able to protect 25 Marin family farms & ranches

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Announcing the publication of RANCHES & ROLLING HILLS ART OF WEST MARIN—A LAND IN TRUST

Marin Agricultural Land Trust is pleased to announce publication of a new book with 125 full-color works of art selected from *Ranches & Rolling Hills*, our annual landscape art show and sale. The elegant 160-page large format book, published in a hard-cover edition by Windgate Press of Sausalito, contains essays by MALT's Associate Director Elisabeth Ptak, by Jean Stern, Executive Director of the Irvine Museum, and by Michael Whitt, the show's co-founder and curator.

During the era of America's westward expansion in the mid-nineteenth century, countless artists were inspired by the luminous beauty of California. Prominent painters who visited the state at that time included Albert Bierstadt, William Keith, and others who illustrated both the native beauty and, later, the agrarian life that became an integral part of the landscape. This book is a collection of contemporary artworks in that tradition, but the images also stand on their own as representative of a new tradition, that of the artist as conservationist.









Advance Sale

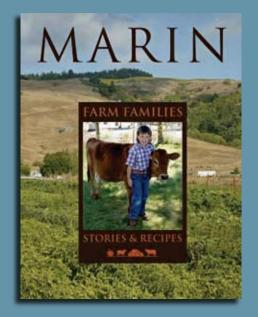
We are offering a special pre-sale to MALT members and friends. You or the recipient of your gift will be the first to receive shipment of this beautiful publication in February 2008. In the meantime, we'll send you a gift acknowledgement printed on one of our beautiful *Ranches & Rolling Hills* collection greeting cards. As a special gift, we'll include one of our brand new MALT bookmarks.

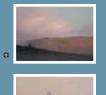
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And in honor of Phyllis Faber's 80th birthday on October 31, 2008

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Your financial support makes a difference

Marin Agricultural Land Trust depends on members and supporters to help us continue the important work of protecting farmland from non-agricultural development.

Contributions to our Operating Fund provide 80% of our annual operating budget. Gifts to the Ellen Straus Farmland Preservation Fund are used to purchase conservation easements. Bequests and memorial gifts go to our Stewardship Fund which supports the monitoring of each protected property to ensure that the terms of the easement are met. It also helps ensure MALT's long-term financial stability. THANK YOU for your support!

A New Way to Give: The Phyllis Faber Circle

In 1980, Phyllis Faber and Ellen Straus co-founded Marin Agricultural Land Trust. Ellen passed away in 2002 and we miss her greatly, but we feel fortunate that Phyllis Faber continues to be closely connected to MALT as a very active board member. She also is a scholar, editor, writer, botanist, teacher, and environmentalist. She's a fellow of the California Native Plant Society & former editor of its publication *Fremontia* as well as co-editor of UC Press's California Natural History Guides.

In 2008, we launched the Phyllis Faber Circle to recognize her achievements and her foresight in helping pioneer the use of the conservation easement to protect farmland. Members of the Phyllis Faber Circle agree to an automatic monthly contribution by credit or debit card which helps save paper and resources and guarantees a steady source of income for MALT. Members can cancel at any time. Current members and those who sign up by the end of the year will be invited to a special farm tour with Phyllis in 2008.

We'll also be fêting Phyllis, who turns 80 this year, at our annual holiday open house from 7–9 P.M. on Friday, December 7, at the Dance Palace Community Center in Point Reyes Station. Watch for details via mail or email. If you'd like to wish Phyllis "Happy Birthday," or make a gift to MALT in her honor, you may do so online at www.malt.org or send your check payable to MALT to:

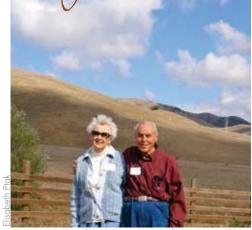
Happy Birthday, Phyllis! Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Post Office Box 809, Point Reves Station, CA 94956



Marin family farmers produce healthy food close to home, including sheep, dairy products, and organic row crops



Partners for Preservation



Sue & Dale Missimer, MALT donors since 1988

For the first half of our lives, Sue and I lived in a quiet suburban/rural area with much open space. Through the years, the region was over-developed with many homes and high-rise apartments. Traffic congestion and smog were everywhere.

Our first view of Marin County was a 1953 driving and camping trip along the coast to the Pacific Northwest. As we left Samuel P. Taylor Park in the early morning hours and dropped down into the pastoral Olema Valley, Sue remarked, "Those lucky cows, living in such a beautiful area!" Then in 1969, we moved here. We were impressed that so very little had changed. When we learned about MALT and its efforts to protect the West Marin we love, we became members and have continued to support it ever since.

Leave a lasting legacy to help When you leave a portion of preserve Marin farmland... your estate to Marin Agricultural Land Trust, you become part of a

community of more than one hundred special supporters called Partners for Preservation. In the last year, MALT has been the beneficiary of three significant bequests: the Robert Held Estate, the Estate of Laurie Vaughn, and the estate of Edmund Brunswick. We are enormously grateful to these three donors who cared so deeply about the preservation of farmland in Marin County. The Held bequest was the largest MALT has received in its history. We anticipate it will total close to \$6 million. The combined Vaughn and Brunswick bequests total more than \$1 million. The bequests create a lasting legacy that help preserve Marin County farmland forever.

For more information on joining our Partners for Preservation, visit our website at www.malt.org/giftplanning. For a free estate planning kit, please contact Development Director, Rita Cummings at 415-663-1158, ext. 305, or rcummings@malt.org.

PRESERVING MARIN







Staff, left to right back row: Bob Berner, Tony Nelson, Hope Ratner, Katie Medwar, Kelly Brown, Constance Washburn; left to right front row: Rita Cummings, Barbara Petty, Elisabeth Ptak, Mia Pelletier

On the cover: Frank's Place by Tomales artist Jeanette LeGrue, one of the participating artists in Ranches & Rolling Hills, a show and sale of landscape art to benefit MALT and the preservation of Marin County farmland. The eleventh annual show will take place on May 17 &18, 2008, at the Druid's Hall in Nicasio. A book inspired by the show will be published in February, 2008.

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2006–2007 Board of Directors, standing left to right: Joe Gillach, Warren Weber, Ann Flemming, Tony Gilbert, Bob Bingham, Chris Kelly, Phyllis Faber, Loren Poncia; kneeling left to right: Steve Kinsey, Jim McIsaac, Sam Dolcini, Doug Moore



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created in 1980 by a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists to permanently preserve Marin County farmland. Some of the Bay Area's most Marin Agricultural Land Trust