Marin Conservation League

NEWS

March – April 2005

From the Executive Director

Marin Conservation League Remains Active On Several Fronts

Dear Friends:

Thanks to your support, MCL remains active on a number of fronts in preserving, protecting, and enhancing Marin's spectacular environment. The League has taken a strong stand supporting the National Park Service's efforts to control and eradicate non-native deer from Pt. Reyes National Seashore, we are opposing the Governor's efforts to gut the California Environmental Quality Act, we've launched another wetland restoration project on the Starkweather Shoreline Park, we continue advocating for a Green Building ordinance in Novato, we sponsored and participated in a number of Earth Week events, we have weighed in to defend attacks against the Endangered Species Act, and we are launching a "paperless shareholder" initiative. These are but a few of the many actions we are taking on behalf of the environment – all made possible by the support and contributions of our many members and donors.

I want to welcome MCL's newest Board members -- Bruce Fullerton, Sara Johnson, and Daniel Sonnett -- who are filling the big shoes left behind by outgoing Board members Kathy Lowrey and David Weinsoff. Kathy and David, who gave countless hours of their time, energy and passion to the League and to protecting Marin's natural resources, will be deeply missed. We are, however, fortunate that David has agreed to serve as MCL's newly established Legal Counsel and will advise us on legislative and legal matters as they arise.

Finally, please keep an eye out for MCL's mid-year appeal that will soon be arriving at your door! As you know, we turn to our members once a year to help bridge the gap between our operating income and what we need to preserve and protect Marin's natural assets, so I hope you will give generously when our appeal arrives.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Feierabend
Executive Director

MCL Helps To Make Shoreline Park's South Pond Project A Reality

Thanks to the MCL and support from the Dennis and Carol Ann Rockey Fund, a long-waited wetlands restoration project is about to become a reality. Partnering with the City of San Rafael, MCL provided the final funding needed to complete the South Pond wetlands restoration project located on the southern reach of the Starkweather Shoreline Park. This project is the fourth in a series of important habitat restoration projects that MCL has spearheaded along the two and a half mile trail that hugs San Rafael Bay.

Continued on page 3

Issues Watch

MCL Advocates For Marin's Native Species

Supports Park's Efforts to Eradicate Non-Native Deer

MCL has voiced its strong support for the National Park Service's recommendation to eradicate Axis and Fallow deer, both non-native species, from the Point Reyes National Seashore by 2020. In a letter commenting on the Service's draft EIS, MCL noted that these exotic deer are competing directly with native species for food and cover and degrading the area's soils, vegetation and water. According to MCL, failing to address these problems through a scientifically-based deer management plan will only perpetuate and amplify the environmental impacts within the National Park's boundaries and eventually throughout Marin County.

After carefully reviewing the Park Service's proposal, MCL concluded that contraception alone will not effectively reduce the non-native deer population at the National Seashore. In commenting on the DEIS, MCL President Jana Haehl wrote that, "Although lethal removal is clearly the most effective and economical method for management and removal of non-native deer populations, the Service needs to develop contraceptive methodology for potential application to other federal lands." Haehl continued, "The Service's overriding management goal must be the timely removal of both Axis and Fallow deer and eliminating the adverse environmental impacts these non-native species are having on the Seashore's ecosystems."

While there are those who oppose the use of lethal means for removing Axis and Fallow deer, concern for the health of the ecosystem as a whole has been the determining factor in MCL's support of the critical management decisions made by park professionals charged with …

Continued on page 3

MCL Board 2005-2006

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Jana Haehl
Corte Madera

First Vice President
Roger Roberts
San Rafael

Second Vice President
Nona Dennis
Mill Valley

Secretary
Sarah Allen
Inverness

Treasurer
Ken Drexler
Fairfax

BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Brousse
Greenbrae

Catherine Caufield
Pt. Reyes Station

Kathy Cuneo
San Rafael

Don Dickenson
San Rafael

Bruce Fullerton
Mill Valley

Robin Kohn Glazer
Mill Valley

Sara Johnson
Nicasio

Brannon Ketcham
Fairfax

Tim Rosenfeld
Mill Valley

Lawrence Smith
Nicasio

Daniel Sonnet
San Rafael

Jean Starkweather
San Rafael

Susan Stompe
Novato

Take Action - Join MCL's Paperless Initiative

Make Shareholder Mail A Paperless Experience!

Thanks to efforts by environmental organizations such as MCL, and concerned citizens, the corporate sector is slowly moving towards a "paperless world." Until we get there, however, our mailboxes and recycling bins will continue overflowing with shareholder statements, proxy ballots, and an endless stream of glossy annual reports. As you might suspect, a staggering number of trees are harvested and processed to produce these documents.

MCL has been researching actions that each of us, as individuals, can take to reduce this huge volume of paper by asking to receive these documents via the internet. The first step is to contact your investment counselor or the corporation directly. Corporations are finally beginning to provide instructions in their annual reports on how to sign up for e-mail notice of corporate mailings. You or your investment counselor can contact them directly to activate this service. For firms that fail to provide information on how to go "paperless," we recommend that you voice your concern directly to the corporation by using the model letter below.

Dear _____:

I would like to receive my corporate annual reports and other shareholder mail from _____ [Corporation] as PDF files at the e-mail address provided below. I believe that providing your shareholders with an optional paperless approach will provide both environmental and corporate benefits, and recognizes your customers' growing concern over a significant waste of resources.

In taking a leadership role on this issue, _____ [Corporation] would gain significant public credit by acting to preserve the large number of trees cut for the production of shareholder mail, often unread and quickly discarded. In doing so, you will not only cement the reputation of the company as a good corporate citizen, but you will also join what is rapidly becoming the industry standard (Nokia and Coca Cola provide their shareholder documents via the internet).

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Email address

MCL 71st Annual Dinner a Huge Success!!

MCL would like to give a special thanks to everyone who made this year's 71st Annual Dinner such a special event. Congratulations to all of our award winners and many thanks to all attendees and sponsors! Listed below are our 2005 Environmental Achievement Award winners:

Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award
State Senator Bryon Sher

Green Award for Environmental Leadership
Fran Brigmann

John P. MacPhail, Jr Business Award
Peter Martinelli, Fresh Run Farms

Ted Wellman Water Award
Byron Leydecker

MCL Volunteer Award
Gil Thomson (Posthumous)

Youth Award for Environmental Leadership
Natalie Pellolio, Drake High School and Zack Ruskin, Drake High School

Issues Watch

Continued from front page…

overseeing the protection and restoration of federal lands. The Service's mandate is to protect and restore native wildlife and plant life on its lands, and it is for this reason MCL believes that preserving an introduced invasive species at the expense of the health of an entire ecosystem is unjustified and a poor use of public funds.

MCL Helps Advance Novato's Green Building Ordinance

The Marin Conservation League is helping the City of Novato to become the first community in the county with a Green Building ordinance. Last summer, the Novato City Council directed the Planning Commission and staff to develop a Green Building ordinance for commercial development. Subsequently, the Planning Commission held workshops on Green Building, the last of which included Sam Ruark, Marin County Sustainability Planner, Armando Navarro of Sonoma State University's Environmental Technology Center, and Ann Ludwig of Alameda County's Stop Waste Partnership.

In a letter last summer to the Planning Commission, MCL encouraged the Commission to pursue a Green Building ordinance. In response, the Commission agreed to develop an ordinance for municipal buildings that would comply with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building standards; to develop an ordinance for large residential projects that would be a hybrid of Marin County and Green Point standards; and to recommend the City Council appoint an ad hoc working group to address commercial Green Building in either a mandatory or voluntary format.

MCL Says "No!" To Building Industry's Attack on CEQA

MCL has raised its voice in opposition to efforts by the Building Industry Association to gut California's crown jewel environmental law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For 35 years CEQA has given citizens and environmental advocacy organizations, such as MCL, the legal ability and clout for fighting sprawl, pollution, traffic congestion, and loss of native species and habitats. According to MCL, the Building Industry Association is poised to introduce legislation that would gut CEQA, based on hollow arguments that the statute is hindering the construction of badly-needed residential development. In a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, MCL President Jana Haehl urged the Governor to keep CEQA strong and to "reject any effort to weaken or comprise CEQA and to stand in strong defense of this law that is good for the public, good for the environment, and good for the economy." If you would like to lend your voice to this effort, log onto http://action.nwf.org/campaign/CEQA_advo.

MCL Welcomes Three New Board Members!

MCL's membership recently elected three new members to its Board of directors. We want to welcome Bruce Fullerton, Sara Johnson and Dan Sonnett to the League and look forward to the many contributions they will make in building and strengthening the organization!

BRUCE FULLERTON, a resident of Mill Valley, is co-owner of Mill Valley architecture firm Markoff/Fullerton Architects, a practice focused on quality design, sustainability principles and community support. Bruce is also a board member and architect for the renovated Lark Theater in Larkspur and is active in preserving open space in Mill Valley.

SARA JOHNSON, of Nicasio, is an independent consultant specializing in river and fisheries restoration involving dam removal, and organizational strengthening and training for citizen groups. Before moving to California, Sara founded the River Alliance of Wisconsin, a statewide citizen advocacy organization, where she served as its Executive Director. Sara is currently working with her husband to build a "green" home in Nicasio, solar powered and off of the power grid.

DANIEL SONNET, lives in San Rafael and is a semi-retired businessperson. As former Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the AARP Pharmacy Service, Dan developed prescription card programs to provide pharmaceutical discounts to millions of retirees lacking prescription drug coverage. Dan has held management positions at Shaklee and Alberto-Culver Company, and has served on several boards, including the Dominican/ Black Canyon Neighborhood Association, Junior Achievement and United Way.

South Pond Project

Continued from front page…

According to MCL Board Member Jean Starkweather who has helped coordinate the effort, "This project will provide a vital link in a continuous walkway along the San Rafael Bay. It will also afford excellent public viewing spots of the Bay and South Pond and restore and improve important wetland habitats for resident migratory bird species. "

Committee Meetings

Meetings are held monthly at the MCL office in San Rafael.

Land Use
Meets first Wednesday at 8 a.m.

Parks and Open Space
Meets first Thursday at 3 p.m.

Transportation
Meets second Friday at 8 a.m.

Water Resources
Meets third Thursday at 12:00 p.m.

Creeks, Wetlands & Watersheds
Meets third Thursday at 4 p.m.

Marin Conservation League
1623A Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect, and enhance Marin County's natural assets.

Executive Director
J. Scott Feierabend

Office Supervisor
Lora Martens

Our board of directors and issue committees meet monthly. Meetings are open to the public. We welcome your membership and participation.

Contact us at:
Phone: (415) 485-6257
Fax: (415) 485-6259
mcl@marinconservationleague.org
www.marinconservationleague.org

NEWS

March- April 2005

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 151
San Rafael, CA

We are looking for volunteers! If you have free time and would like support MCL with more than a check, please contact Lora at lora@marinconservationleague.org. We would appreciate the help and would love to get to know some of you better!

Call for Email! MCL is trying to reduce its use of paper by increasing our electronic correspondence. If you would like to receive emails from MCL please send an email to mcl@marinconservationleague.org so we can add you to our database.

MCL Announcements

Save the Date

It's time for MCL's Second Annual Picnic on the Porch!!

The Marin Conservation League will be celebrating its 71st birthday – more than seven decades of conservation action – from **4pm to 7pm, Saturday, July 24**. We're firing up the grills and blowing up the balloons for our second, great ***Picnic on the Porch***.

So, round up the kids, come on over to MCL's historic Victorian office in San Rafael, and join us for an afternoon of traditional picnic fare, birthday cake, door prizes, and a silent auction and raffle. Look for your "Save the Date" postcard to arrive in the mail soon.

Purchase Power! Support MCL With eScrip

Did you know that you can contribute to the MCL each time you go to the store? MCL has partnered with eScrip, an easy, hassle-free way for you to raise funds for the environment through everyday purchases you make at eScrip merchants. There is no cost to you, no receipts to collect, no vouchers or certificates to buy – and every purchase counts. To learn more about the program, view participating merchant locations and to enroll, go to **www.escrip.com**, click on "sign up," and follow the instructions from there. Thanks for your support! Questions or problems please call Lora at 415-485-6257

MCL's Fine Merchandise Is Now Online!

Need a last-minute birthday gift with a green twist? Looking for nifty, stylish, caps, or Tshirts? Want to trade in those environmentally-unfriendly paper and plastic shopping bags with a reusable canvas tote? Then check out MCL's great line of merchandise now online at **www.marinconservationleague.org!**