



# TAMALPAIS GUARDIAN

*Guardian of the Mountain since 1912*

## President's Message: Winter 2020

It's quiet in the middle of this cold winter.

At this point, latter January, I haven't even seen the first milkmaid, which usually would have been blossoming in December. The plants know when to wait.

Part of the board had a meeting with Shaun Horne, the new watershed manager, to present some ideas we have for a project near Lake Lagunitas.

Chris Barry had long noted that people need a place to meet and find each other from the various branches of the Lagunitas parking lot. Some protection from sun or rain would be nice, too.

We propose to have built a small open, but roofed, structure, matching, of course, the usual

natural materials and construction used by MMWD. Seating would be included. As Shaun suggested, it could also serve as a place for a little informative material.

We feel it would be widely used and appreciated.

Shaun did not feel it would fit in the 2020 scheme of things, but in 2021, it might. We certainly hope so.

Janice D Barry, MD



*Photo contributed by Chris Barry*

**Tamalpais Conservation Club**

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 Marin Art & Garden Center

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**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:**

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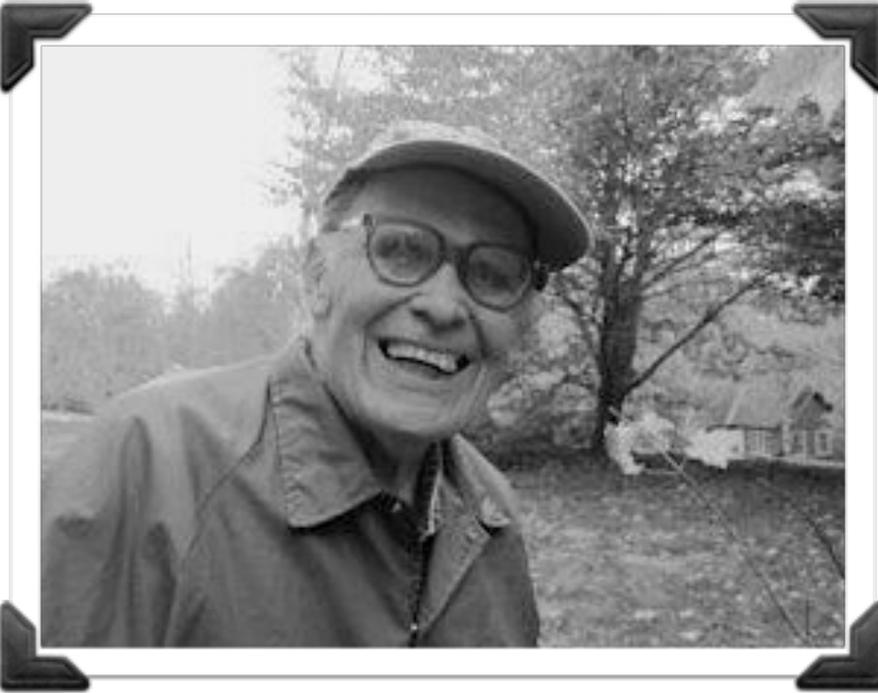
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**UPDATE ON CVP v. MCOSD**

*By Joan Bennett*

The Court of Appeals issued its decision in the matter of **Community Venture Partners v. Marin County Open Space District**. As you may recall, Marin County Superior Court Judge Haakenson ruled that the MCOSD violated CEQA in its failure to conduct an adequate environmental review of its decision to open Alto Bowl's trails to mountain bikes. The Court issued a mixed ruling, part reversal and part affirmation of Judge Haakenson's decision. Relative to the CEQA challenge, the Court ruled that "safety issues," namely, allowing bikes to ride on narrow hiking and equestrian trails, is *not* valid grounds under the law for setting aside MCOSD's decision. On the more arcane matter of MCOSD's procedure in reaching this decision, the Court affirmed Judge Haakenson's decision. On this point, under the County's Road and Trails Management Plan, any changes to trails require essentially a list of potential options. On this matter, MCOSD failed to follow its "grading" procedure. The Court found MCOSD deficient in this regard and thus ordered the matter back to Judge Haakenson for a retrial of this issue. What comes next? CVP may appeal the matter to the California Supreme Court, proceed with a retrial instead or reach a settlement with the County. Regardless of CVP's decision, what is abundantly clear is *continued on next page*



Below is a quote from Gordon Oehser appearing in the TCC's news letter, "California Out of Doors" contributed by Janet Walker

*"What I get out of the TCC is a special opportunity to create within the urban environment of the Bay Area an "illusion of wilderness" ; with my membership. I get the support of the organization and the other members in contributing to the preservation of the mountain. The membership fee (is a bargain at \$2.00) at the very least represents a contribution to a good cause which we can then increase to the extent we are willing to actively participate in the organization. It is the old but true story; what we get from the TCC is what we put in.*

**IN MEMORY OF GORDON OEHSER**

By Perry Cole

Gordon Oehser died in October, 2019, just prior to his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Gordon was president of Tamalpais Conservation Club for two years, 1980 and 1981. He had a strong passion of preserving Mt. Tamalpais in its natural beauty by rejecting any and all commercialization on the mountain. He was very vocal against theatrical productions and provided compelling arguments of why such events were better suited elsewhere. We Directors often turned to him for his historical advice. Thank you Gordon for your unfailing stewardship as a protector of Mt. Tamalpais.

***CVP v. MCOSD***

that safety is a matter of serious concern for anyone who hikes or rides horses on trails that will now be open to mountain bikes. It is well within the County's power to consider this in any and all decisions regarding trail use. The County may either adopt this as an element of all future decision making or abandon safety on the trails.

We shall keep you posted regarding any future developments.

Eva Buxton, well known Marin botanist, generously gave some of her time to take board members of the TCC on a plant hike on Abbotts Lagoon Trail last fall.

It was a delightful morning, and there were interesting surprises on the dry, autumn day. There were many flowering species, which might well be overlooked in the spring floral season.

We each gained new knowledge and appreciation of the abundant floral world of Marin, and were left with the scent of the flowering coyote bush to remember.

Eva kindly offered to take us on a spring hike! Stay tuned.

*By Janice D Barry, MD*

Photo: Eva Buxton and Jim Rodgers on Abbotts Lagoon Trail



**Time Value**

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