

Coming Home

News from The Bishop's Ranch

Fall 2012

Final Stages - Pool Renovation Update

A beautiful new pool will be ready for the swimming season next year. The old pool, built by the White family in 1930, had reached the end of its useful life and had to be urgently replaced. The wood frame poolhouse, built in 1959, was not wheelchair accessible and also needed to be replaced. The new pool is nearly twice as large, with 1500 square feet of surface area and is 60 feet long. The depth varies from less than an inch at the "beach entry" to 9 feet in the deep end and will provide lots of room for various activities. The pool will be heated by a solar system, extending the season that the pool can be used comfortably. A major goal of the new pool construction is to make the pool area as accessible as possible to those who are less mobile. A large part of the project is the new walkways that will gently link the pool and surrounding areas of Harrison House, St. Stephen's Youth Village, and St. John's Meeting House.



Demolition of old poolhouse

The pool project has been accomplished in five main parts:

1. Demolition of the trusty old pool and poolhouse,
2. Extensive preparation and compaction of the site to make it ready for the new pool and decks,
3. Construction of two



New larger pool with "beach access" on the left

new wheelchair accessible restrooms with showers,

4. Construction of the new larger pool,

5. Installation of expansive decks, plumbing, drains, electrical lines, plaster, accessible sidewalks and landings, safety fence, new entrances, new arbors, equipment shed, wheelchair lift, accessible parking area, landscaping and other tasks necessary for the completion of the project.



Eddie Arreguin, concrete contractor, works on expansive decks

As of All Saints Day, parts 1 through 4 are complete. Our meticulous general contractor, Dan Dale of Dan Dale Builders, has been guiding the project to make sure the Ranch gets the best pool possible. Dan grew up next door

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From the Executive Director - Life Raft - Part 1

That day was overcast. The uncertain horizon had no boundary between sea and sky. The sailboat rose and fell in able response to tumbling waves of gray, black and frothy white. An object flickered into view at some distance. Staring intently, one of our small crew said "It's a whale! We crowded to one side to look and he said "See the tail flukes raising up and back into the water?" Sure enough, I thought, straining my eyes. The object did flash in the shape of a fluke. We'd heard that a blue whale had been spotted nearby earlier. We hoped desperately to see it. After a peering silence with only the sound of waves on the boat's hull, someone said, "But it hasn't spouted" Looking through binoculars, he said "If it's a whale, I'm afraid it's dead." Then Captain

Richard came on deck. Taking a look, he altered course to investigate. We scrambled to trim the sails, our new course bringing us closer to the buff colored cliffs that rose above crashing surf. The mysterious object winked at us, slowly growing larger. Gradually, to the exclamations of the crew, it formed itself into a recognizable shape - a shape no one had anticipated.

The ocean off Northern California is beautiful-and awe-inspiring. Wind and waves can change in a moment. Much of the land is fringed with rocks, protected by fog and cold water. Just a mile or two from the land, even on a relatively calm day, the truth of how small we really are upon the earth strikes you all the way through to the bones. As each crew

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Ivan Thorpe

Employees are listed in their primary work group. Several work in more than one function.

Coming Home

A bi-annual newsletter about life at The Bishop's Ranch, a retreat and conference center for all ages.

Send correspondence and address corrections to:
The Bishop's Ranch
Coming Home
5297 Westside Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Tel. 707-433-2440
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email: info@bishopsranch.org
www.bishopsranch.org

Maintenance Staff and Volunteers Work Together



Ranch staff and many volunteers over the summer and fall helped move 20 tons of rock, or roughly the equivalent of 3 adult male elephants, into the gabion wall cages. The gabion wall creates a relatively inexpensive retaining wall to bound a level place for the new wheelchair accessible restrooms used by swimmers and tent campers.

Left: St. James' San Francisco youth group, building a stone gabion wall. Middle: Completed gabion basket retaining wall built in part by youth volunteers from St James and BREAD Camp. Right: diocesan youth volunteers taking a much deserved break from working on the remote campsite.

Just as the construction phase of the swimming pool project was getting underway in April of this year, Maintenance Coordinator Doug Wade went out on leave to have foot surgery. Rick Kaye took up Doug's yoke, and, along with Justin Stimson, Daniel Silverstrich, Brendan Swift, and Riley Wade, made sure that the Ranch remained safe and welcoming for all those that come here, and completed many necessary projects in different areas of the Ranch property.

The team also responded to new situations created by the pool construction. When a construction fence was erected, cutting off the path at the bottom of the arbor, they jumped into action to create a new pathway for guests. To guide guests around the construction area from the cottages, our team and some hardy volunteers used wood chips to define another path below the volleyball court to the refectory path.

One of the biggest accomplishments this summer was the construction of a retaining wall at the new bathrooms using gabion baskets and rocks. The project was started with help from members of the St. James', San Francisco youth group, who constructed and positioned steel baskets

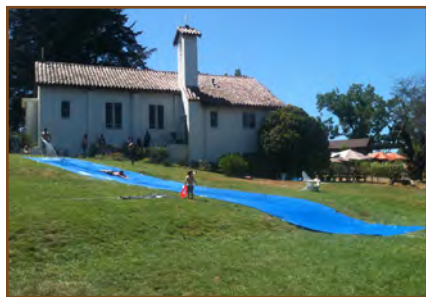
to hold rocks. Working over several days, they moved about 10 tons of rock, filling the baskets to the halfway point. Over the remainder of the summer, volunteers from the different camps moved an additional 10 tons of rock to complete the rock wall. The maintenance crew finished the project by landscaping the hillside above the wall and improving the path from St. John's Meeting House to the fire circle.

Doug returned in July, healed and ready to go. Along with getting up to speed on the ongoing projects, he began making plans for a service project with the God Squad, a multi-parish youth service group. They came in early August and created the foundation for a new backcountry campground in the Hundred Acre Woods part of our property. With guidance from our staff, they constructed a trail to the site, cleared brush, and leveled ground to create seven tent sites. This space, when complete, will give groups a new way to experience the Ranch.

Our maintenance team accomplishes an amazing amount of work, and they don't stop to rest on their laurels. They do take time to evaluate their progress, and when they do, they see that it is good.

Summer Camp 2012 - Andrea Foote, Camp Director

Now that the wading pools are all deflated, the friendship bracelet string put away and the pews back in the chapel, the "camp magic" is in hibernation, and as the Ranch calendar marches on I have been able to reflect on my first summer as Camp Director. The 2012 season brought 247 campers in five sessions. With a 100 foot "slip n' slide," weekly trips to the river, and the ever popular "sponge wars," we even survived a camp season without a swimming pool! We applied 275 Marks



Enormous camp slip n' slide

of Mission temporary tattoos during chapel, sang around 26 campfires, played with 21 fantastic counselors, prayed alongside 7 chaplains, celebrated four 4th of Julys and one game of Diggle. And families of all kinds enjoyed a restorative week at the Ranch during Family Camp or Generations.

Our traditions and schedules are regimented, but the renewal and community building of camp is unquantifiable in the numerical sense. One Senior High camper wrote "camp gives me a chance to explore my faith more, [in] a community that I feel 100% safe in. BREAD camp is where your soul goes to hug itself."

Service to the Ranch continues to be an integral part of that community building. Music Campers helped build

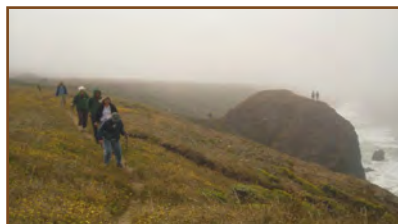
new Adirondack chairs for the pool, and BREAD Campers were part of a large



Campers work on pool chairs

effort to build a gabion wall by the St. John's embankment, transporting part of the 20 tons of rock in wheelbarrows (see page 2).

Nineteen pilgrims traveled by boat and foot along the Russian River to the Pacific Ocean, as the first participants in the Ranch's EcoPilgrimage program. The trip was a huge success. Look for upcoming trip dates on the Ranch website.



EcoPilgrimage hike along bluffs

As we expand our camp program, the staff has begun to change in shape and size. The 2012 camp staff included a counselor-in-training program for high schoolers, volunteers for one week increments, and a staff of Ranch Hands, paid college-aged counselors in residence for the entire summer. I look forward to expanding our young adult ministry with the camp staff as they share their talents with us. Do you have a child, friend or parishioner who could dedicate time to campers and community? Check the Ranch website in January for complete employment details, camper registration forms, and scholarship information. For more information, contact andrea@bishopsranch.org.

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The Bishop's Ranch

Don't miss out, save the date for SUMMER CAMP 2013

Some changes have been made to the summer camp calendar for 2013, so mark your calendar now. Forms are available on our website, www.bishopsranch.org

Camps for Youth & Children

Sr. High B.R.E.A.D. July 7 - 13
Jr. High B.R.E.A.D. July 14 - 20
Music Camp July 29 - August 3

Intergenerational Camps

Family Camp June 30 - July 6
Generations July 21 - 27

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to the Ranch and, during high school, worked with Fr. Joe Pummill, the Ranch Manager, helping care for the Ranch grounds.



Dan Dale stands at continuation of arbor

Part 2, the excavation and preparation of the site, began in April. This work was more challenging than anticipated. The moisture content and soil type required the removal of the earth from four to eight feet deep over the entire site. The earth was taken to the nearby pasture and spread out, mixed with dry soil, then taken



Digging out the old pool

back to the pool area. The hole from the old pool and the surrounding area was then refilled. Spread into place in eight inch "lifts", the earth was carefully brought to 90% compaction by diligent equipment operators under the watchful eye of our geologist and county inspectors. The plans had called for a footing along the eastern edge of the pool area to support the pool and deck. The condition of the soil caused this footing to be redesigned. A retaining wall 90 feet long and 8

feet deep was built to ensure that the pool and the site would remain stable in any conditions. It took nine concrete mixer trucks to fill the extensive forms for this wall.

Part 3, the accessible restrooms, begun in November 2011, have been completed and will be available for swimmers as well as tent campers. A laundry that will be available to guests is also in this building.



New restrooms

Part 4 went smoothly and the interesting shape of the new pool can be seen from the Great Lawn.

Part 5 is mostly complete, with decks poured, pool equipment housed and installed and miles of pipes and wires placed while the construction of two sidewalks, arbors, fence and the parking lot are underway.

Thousands of people enjoyed the old pool at the Ranch. Please consider carrying on this tradition -- a donation to the pool project will ensure that the sunny new pool is ready to refresh and relax thousands of families and young campers into future generations. As with all projects at the Ranch, donations of all sizes are welcome and needed as

the Ranch relies on the support of the many people who find respite here. The more extensive site preparation, the unexpected size of the



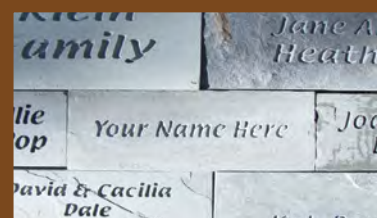
Retaining wall being poured



Work on extensive accessible walkway

necessary retaining wall, the challenge of making the pool area accessible on a sloping hillside site have added additional costs of \$250,000 to the project so that an additional \$350,000 is needed for completion. The good news is that over \$580,000 has been raised from more than 130 generous contributors and construction has progressed without a construction loan. These extra costs, while causing organizers to take a series of deep breaths, are all necessary steps taken to ensure that the pool is on a solid foundation and will be ready to provide refreshment to guests for generations. An added incentive now is that making a gift today will help the Ranch minimize the amount needed for a construction loan to complete the project.

Now is your chance to be a part of the new pool at the Ranch. A donation of \$1,000 or more gives you the opportunity to have an inscribed stone installed at the new entry to the pool area at the bottom of the grape arbor. The handsome bluestone paving stones will welcome swimmers to the pool area and are ideal for honoring friends or family, or making an inscription in memory of a loved one.



Help us to our goal and put your name or group name in the picture!

Toy Legacy

In the warm summer of 1947, grapevines hung low over the grape arbor near the Ranch House, casting deep shade. Frances Yee, a young member of the first Diocesan Youth Conference ever held at the Ranch, discovered the sheltering arbor with its massive redwood beams, deep green grape leaves, and twisting wisteria vines, and suddenly felt the closeness of God.

Today the young woman is the Rev. Dr. Fran Toy. Sitting recently on one of the grape arbor benches, Fran reminisced about that first summer. Dreaming about a place where church members could gather in the country for refreshment, shortly after Bishop Karl Morgan Block had recently purchased the Ranch from the White family. The young women of the conference slept on bunks placed on the upstairs outdoor porch of the Ranch House. The young men slept in kennels recently converted into dormitories. In those days Westside

Road was lined with prune orchards and all was watched over by the hills and Mt. St. Helena, as the vineyards are today. Fran found the open spaces of the Ranch inspiring and spiritually renewing. For her, it was an early



*Fran Toy, long time Ranch supporter
& Legacy Circle member*

experience of a 'thin place', a place where earth and heaven scrape together and one can just feel the closeness of God. Her experience led to many return visits to the Ranch throughout

her life: with her husband, Art (having met at Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, in Oakland's Chinatown); with her children; with many groups in her active and ongoing life of service in the Church.

Fran's experience of God in nature led her to an opinion of the Ranch as "one of the most wonderful parts of God's creation." In a characteristic spirit of generous service, she has taken steps to ensure similar opportunities are available to young people today. Building on early experiences in busy and successful lives, Fran and Art Toy are providing scholarships for both Asian and Asian-American youth to attend camps, conferences and retreats. In addition, the Toys are leaving a legacy to support The Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest into the future. Thus, the benches beneath the grape vines will be there for future hearts to discover. An hour of closeness with God in a grape arbor leads to a thoughtful, open-hearted vision of sharing God's creation with others.



You, too, may have left or want to leave a lasting legacy and remember The Bishop's Ranch in your will or estate plan.

Contact the Advancement Office at 707.433.2440 x105 or visit www.bishopsranch.org/planned_Gifts.html for additional information.

Upcoming Ranch Programs

- Silent Days in Advent
December 7-14, 2012
- Benedictine Weekend
December 14-16, 2012
- Epiphany Day
with Bishop Marc Andrus
January 5, 2013
- Encaustic Collage Retreat
with Lisa Thorpe
January 11-13, 2013
- Ranch Quilt Retreat
February 10-14, 2013
- Lenten Quiet Day
with the Dean of Grace Cathedral,
The Very Rev. Dr. Jane Shaw
February 23, 2013
- Writing the Inner Life
with Roger Housden
March 8-10, 2013
- Song and Silence with
Devi Mathieu
March 15-17, 2013
- Wild Walk at The Bishop's Ranch
March 16, 2013
- Silent Days in Holy Week
March 25-29, 2013
- common/life: a retreat for
young adults
April 19-21, 2013
- Enneagram Workshop
with Bill Glenn
April 20, 2013
- Water to Wine – A Week for Adults
April 29-May 3, 2013
- Ranch Service Day
May 4, 2013

Program brochures were recently mailed out. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive information about Ranch sponsored programs, or to sign up for a retreat, please contact Shannon Reilly at 707-433-2440 ext. 106 or shannon@bishopsranch.org for assistance, or sign up online at www.bishopsranch.org.

Thank you for gifts to the Ranch's annual operations and development!

Gifts and pledges were made to the Annual Fund, pool area renovation, Diocesan stained glass window in the Chapel, the Spiritual Life Fund, Partnership (scholarship) Fund, Swing Pavilion project and more...



Clark & Demi enjoy the shade after lunch

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Women's Quest doing yoga in the Swing Pavilion

These names reflect gifts or pledge payments received between March 1 and August 31, 2012. If you sent in a contribution during this time and your name is not here, we apologize. Please contact us to let us know. If we received a contribution after August 31, 2012, your name will appear in the next issue.

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Michael Lemaire and Joseph Delgado
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Ron Johnson
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*Demi and
Ranch dog
Lucky*



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Elizabeth Honig
Dr. Suzanne M. Lowe
David Myles
Erik Puknys and Colleen Kavanagh
Lee Thorn

DONATIONS OF REAL GOODS
Bryce Austin, plums
Paul, Yael and Zureal Bernier, red onions, arugula, garlic, radishes
The Very Rev. Don and Carol Anne Brown, special event in historic home
Rachel Conerly and Liz Agnew, book, "The Invisible Church: Finding Spirituality Where You Are"
Richard and Meg Coons, linens
Jack Dowling, hand-forged accessories
Jim and Janelle Fazackerley, 6-foot folding tables
Hale and The Rev. Beth Foote, linens, aluminum ladder
Mr. Fred Goff and Rebecca Wrangham, linens
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, special event and meeting space
Catherine Graves, antique brass ship bell
Jan and Jack Grimes, linens
Nigel G. and Jane A. Heath, linens, photos
Gary and Joan Lawrence, bees and beekeeping supplies
Candace and James Martin, repair of chapel organs
Material Girls, quilt for raffle
John McComas and Shari Salis, fan
Bill and Betsy Nachbaur, Acorn Winery wine
Ms. Rebecca Nelson, kayak
Ray and Bill Riess, ping pong supplies
The Rev. Richard L. Schaper and The Rev. Anita Ostrom, rowboat
Sandra Sommer, kayak and supplies
St. John's, Ross, meeting space
St. Luke's, San Francisco, meeting space
Brian Sullivan and Gayle Okumura Sullivan, peaches
Lisa Thorpe, quilt for raffle
Norman and Martha Wohlken, espresso maker

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The Belvedere Tiburon Museum Auxiliary
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Christ Episcopal Church, Sei Ko Kai, San Francisco
Church of the Resurrection, Pleasant Hill
East Bay Community Foundation
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Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto
St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Scotts Valley
Trinity Episcopal Parish, Menlo Park
United Way of the Bay Area

Gifts given to The Bishop's Ranch in Honor, Memory or Thanksgiving

Jim and Janet Armstrong in honor of
Caroline Putnam
Dorothy W. Buechy to thank Sean
and all who keep the Ranch alive
Gloria Bayne in memory of
Henry G. Bayne
Elaine W. Betts in memory of
Rev. Darby Betts
Sybil Boardman in memory of
Florence Rosenberg
Carlos Bordignon
Barbara H. Cadwalader in loving
memory of Burns Cadwalader
The Rev. Justin R. Cannon in honor
of our creature companions
Wendy A. Cavin in memory of
Ron Wells
Walton Chang and Linda James, Deanna
and Kam Chang in memory
of Daniel James
Duncan and Ann Clarke in memory
of Tara, Gus, Red, and Peggy Hooker
and Vinton and Thayer Clarke
Dennis and Phyllis Edmondson in
memory of Robert Wood
George W. Enderlin in memory of
Charlotte Carcot

Chip and Kay Filak in honor of
Bill and Mary Swing
Barbara B. Girard in memory of
Jerry Girard
Nancy and Max Grandfield in
thanksgiving for the blessings of
The Bishop's Ranch
Patricia and Philip Jelley in honor of
Tom Trutner for 25 years of service at
St. Stephen's, Orinda
Patricia and Philip Jelley in honor
of and thanksgiving for Carol Anne
and Don Brown's generosity and
hospitality
Rima Kittner in memory of
Cara Nicole Banducci
Ron and Linda Leach with thanks to
Jack and Jan Grimes
Janet Messman in memory of
Phyllis Phelps
Will and Stuart Pettygrove in
memory of Leslie Bowman Marcus
Timothy and Alice Pidgeon in honor
of Nigel Heath's birthday
Ranch Hands retreat group in warm
and loving memory of dear friend
Lorraine Sevilla

Joy L. Robinson in memory of
Morton and Emilie Robinson
Jane G. Schubert in honor of
the Rev. Richard Fowler
Dan and Marti Sundeen in honor of
the Reverend Ted Ridgeway
Jennie O. Tracey in honor of
Elizabeth Tracey
Jeptha and Elizabeth Wade in honor
of Lloyd and Margaret Aubry
Margery A. Ward in memory of
Herb Ward and in thanksgiving for
family



On Being Prayer Resident - by Laurie Glover



Each year, I find myself constantly defining my job as Prayer Resident. This year, I thought a lot about what it means to lead something called a 'prayer service'. It's not worship, though that happens. It's not about celebrating a sacrament, though it brings us right up against the sacred. It's about entering into and holding a place of prayer. That's it. Whether friends or strangers or just I sat in the dim or kaleidoscopic light of the chapel, the task at hand was to be empty for and filled with prayer. Prayer has little to do with making sure that everybody says the right words in the right order, yet, even alone, I held to the form of the service, standing and sitting, striking the bowl to begin and end silence, holding it for five minutes after each scripture reading and meditation. Sometimes birdcalls kept me company; sometimes the morning fog made everything still. If it seemed no one was coming and the clock had struck, I might sing the service, as I do at home, and have done for several years now. But then sometimes I would be in the middle of a sung part and someone would arrive.

I would finish whatever I was singing and, as if what I had been doing was just a prelude, would go back to the opening words, so the person who had joined me had a chance to enter into the service through them. If people came in almost at the end of the silence preceding the service, I would hold it longer, start later, so that they had time to sink into quiet within themselves. Holding the place of entry open. One week, a woman arrived each morning as I was already sitting in the silence that follows the scripture reading. I at first left it up to her to find her place in the program. A few days in, I let her know (with humor, I hope), "You've come in on the scriptural silence again." I asked her if she wanted to read the scripture, meaning, read it to herself during the silence, but she read it aloud. So it was read twice that day. So what! If she came into a place of prayer, a double reading hardly mattered. After that, I just waited for her and started when she got there.

But this is a job not only to take quite seriously, it has to be held very lightly. I was helped in the holding lightly part by the constant changes to the chapel furniture during the summer camps: chairs

stacked and unstacked themselves, odd objects appeared, art projects expanded across the chapel walls, and recreational chaos poured in through the windows.

The service bulletin suggests that people may sit, once the spoken service is ended, in silence until the meal bell rings. I held to this when those who joined me returned to silence themselves. But sometimes, someone's need to talk, to connect, overrode that practice. I wanted to honor the bond formed by praying together in whatever way was asked for. Holding a place open for prayer even sometimes meant making an opening in the middle of the service for something not the service. Visitors might come into the chapel just to see the windows, unaware that something formal might be going on. If I was alone in those instances, I would simply get up and welcome whoever had come, then finish once they'd left. Making an opening in the service like a door. Sometimes the point of entry is not solely attention to the Holy One but to one another.

If you wish to learn more about serving as a Prayer Resident at The Bishop's Ranch, contact The Rev. Pat Moore at revpat@bishopsranch.org.

Film Features Ranch Advisor



Marty Griffin

Dr. Martin Griffin's book, *Saving the Marin-Sonoma Coast*, was an inspiration for a new film, *Rebels With a Cause*, by award winning filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto, which premiered October 5th at the Mill Valley Film Festival. Marty is a Ranch Acorn Society Member and longtime Ranch advisor, generously sharing the experience of his inspiring and foundational record of environmental education, activism, and preservation. Besides being instrumental in the founding of Audubon Canyon Ranch and the protection of the Marin Coast, Marty worked tirelessly to protect the Russian River, especially the Middle Reach adjacent to The Bishop's Ranch, and protecting water quality throughout the North Coast. Marty also founded Hop Kiln Winery and he and his wife, Joyce, were the Ranch's dear neighbors for decades. Marty and Joyce provided the Ranch with access to Gina's Orchard, the astoundingly beautiful nature preserve and watershed education center named after their granddaughter, Gina, who died of leukemia at age 15. Marty's book is highly recommended for an understanding of the importance of natural lands for our health and happiness and how environmental work is really done. The book can be purchased at the Ranch and guided nature walks in Gina's Orchard can be arranged.

Raffle Update



Detail of art quilt donated by Lisa Thorpe

Eight hundred forty dollars were raised for the 2012 Annual Fund from ticket sales for the beautiful quilt raffled off by Lisa Thorpe in June. The lucky winner was Jan O'Brien! Thanks to Lisa and all the ticket purchasers for supporting The Bishop's Ranch.

Diocesan Window Complete

Many thanks to the generous contributors who made the beautiful Diocesan window installation complete at the Chapel of St. George. Come take a look on your next trip to the Ranch.

The Rt. Rev. Marc and

Ms. Sheila Andrus

Anonymous (2)

Ms. Ruth Baney

Dr. Dorothy Davis

Bolding

Charles W. and Ann

Gidden Bowman

Wendy A. Cavin

Mary Jane Chetelat

Elmore F. Chilton III

and Elizabeth H.

Chilton

Duncan and

Ann Clarke

Liza Colton

Carolyn Cooper

Kitty and Don de Brauwere

Joan Dedo

Carol Driscoll

Dennis and Phyllis Edmondson

Eleanor Errante and Bobbe Rockoff

Episcopal Diocese of California

Mr. James Forsyth

Gail Griesmer

The Rev. Stacey Grossman

Willa and Stuart Pettygrove



Fred Hansen and

Lauran Pifke

Kathie J. Heller

Mary Kelley

Karen Kipling

Idamaria Knights

Rev. Martha and

Ron Kuhlmann

Frank Macan

Jim Miller and

Torrie McAllister

Rod and Mary McAulay

Sarah McGowan

The Rev. Patricia Moore

Theresa A. Nagle

Martha Olmstead

The Rev. Elizabeth

Rosen and Martin Rosen

Christine Sacino

Charles and Susan Savage

Eunice K. Shephard

Deborah Sorondo

Sean Swift and Caroline

Draper Swift

Paul and Priscilla Thut

Susan Topf

Yvonne Ah You

Icon of St George



Chapel icon of St. George

Iconographer

Betsy Porter of

St. Gregory-

of-Nyssa wrote

the lovely

St. George

icon for the

Chapel at the

suggestion of

Bishop Marc

Andrus. Betsy's

sacred icons are in the Byzantine style.

They are written in the traditional egg tempura paint and gold leaf on a wooden board covered with natural gesso. Sacred symbolism and the contemplative method infuse her work with beauty and reverence. With the addition of the stained glass windows in recent years, the chapel has become a place of great beauty; and now we are honored to have this exquisite icon of the chapel's patron saint. Betsy has spent time at the Ranch this fall as iconographer-in-residence. You may learn more about her icons and the classes she teaches in iconography at www.betsyporter.com.

Acorn Society Annual Forum



Acorn Society members, Board members, and other friends gather to celebrate and socialize. Nine new members were inducted into The Bishop's Ranch Legacy Circle at the June 2012 Annual Forum.



Executive Director, Sean Swift, leads a tour of the pool area renovation.

Even Ranch Kids Grow Up



Calen Swift, sailing high on Papa Sean Swift's shoulder in 1991, now climbs the rigging of the Lady Washington.

Calen Swift, daughter of Executive Director Sean Swift and Caroline Draper Swift, is serving a tour of duty on the Lady Washington, a full-scale reproduction of the original 1750's tall ship built in the British Colony of Massachusetts. She is living on board, coordinating activities and programs aboard the vessel for its many stops along the Northern Pacific coastline.

Ivan Thorpe, son of Operations Director Jack Dowling and Lisa Thorpe, is shown here at 4 behind the wheel of the Ranch tractor; now he's behind the wheel of a hand-me-down Cabriolet heading off for school. He is a junior at Healdsburg High School. Besides driving the backroads he spends his time playing trombone in the band, acting in a theater ensemble, swimming on the swim team and doing all the regular teenage stuff.



continued from page 1

member's eyes identified our quarry, we fell into a silence, alone with our own thoughts. The mysterious object was a small, apparently abandoned, raft; an inflatable dinghy. As we came closer we saw it had no oars, no motor—just a broken seat and forlornly sloshing seawater that partially filled it. Instinctively we scanned the sea for any sign of color – a buoy or floating marker to tell us why this raft was here, of all places. We saw nothing but the rising and falling of the cold water.

This day on the ocean was a great adventure for me. I love geography, and to see the familiar California coast from a completely different perspective was pure pleasure. I enjoyed the companionship of a handy crew and a patient captain willing to teach the skills of sailing. One of the reasons I have to take time out to be alone in the woods, and even sometimes why I go to church, is just to have an hour when I am silent before the immensity of creation. In that time I don't attempt to explain or answer any of the huge questions I have for myself, but instead just recognize that I can't answer them. The immensity and restlessness of the ocean gives a strong dose of this kind of medicine. For me, this need to fit the small questions of my life into something larger has a strong correlation with the purpose of the Ranch. Close to 8,000 people came to the Ranch this year. A very rewarding part of my job is listening to stories about how people feel when they are here, away from their filled-up daily lives. Certain things come to the fore in their minds; often bigger picture things that under the spell of hill, river valley, farm and oak tree fall into perspective.

That is why I feel it is so important that a visit to the Ranch is financially available to as many people as possible. The Ranch is self-supporting; the fees paid by guests do not entirely cover the necessary costs of operations. To make up for that there is an Annual Fund and people donate to the fund to make up the difference between the income of guest fees and the actual cost of operations. So far in 2012, 321 people have donated to the Annual Fund. We have a dream that 525 households will donate to the fund this year. That's a lot to do in the last part of the year. In this way of supporting Ranch hospitality, all sizes of donations are very, very important and have a direct impact on the level of service the Ranch can offer. I hope you will consider making a donation to the 2012 Annual Fund. Your money is doing good work by supporting a place where important questions can fall into perspective.

There is a second part to this life raft story. If you make a donation to the 2012 Annual Fund, I'll send you a letter telling how a little boat came to be drifting on the ocean off of Point Reyes. In the meantime, I hope to see you at this place of perspective.

Sean Swift

Sean Swift

Keep the Home Fires Burning

"The Bishop's Ranch continues to be a place of reflection and human connection utilized by many groups throughout the year. Guests gather around a fireplace, watch the fog roll away across the Russian River Valley as the sun rises, or talk together about the future and find an invaluable resource at the Ranch: renewal. Increasing numbers of people are discovering firsthand the beauty of the 340 acres surrounding the Ranch. The thousands of guests who visit here each year praise the comfortable buildings, the delicious food, and the beauty of the property. Renewal in people's lives comes through The Bishop's Ranch."

-Sean Swift, Executive Director

Guests gather and chat around a fireplace, and children and adults alike love the fire circle, which has been improved for the roasting of marshmallows. What a great joy to spend a rainy morning next to the crackling fire in the Refectory, just listening to the rain on the roof, content with the luxury of unscheduled time. How exhilarating to walk up Hawk Hill and admire the view of the rolling hills, perhaps to pause and watch the raptors soaring on a thermal, perhaps to write a prayer for the Peace Pole, perhaps to continue on to Lower Lake and do a bit of contemplative fishing.

Let us look behind the scenes. The firewood for all the fireplaces and fire circle is harvested as much as possible from fallen property trees, but the labor, additional wood and the propane for heat and hot water is provided in part from the Annual Fund.

The beauty of these 340 acres requires careful maintenance. A new remote campground was built by youthful volunteers with materials paid for by the Annual Fund. Major new trail improvements, including plantings and erosion control, were accomplished thanks to AmeriCorps, volunteers who require room and

board and who have said they would gladly work for free at the Ranch just to be fed in our Refectory. Extensive dry rot outside St. John's Meeting House



Volunteers and staff haul, stack & split wood at Fall Service Day.

has been repaired, and the exterior of Webb Lodge was painted this year. The Refectory roof has been patched, patched, patched, until it can no longer be patched and even so, it will need replacement soon. The azola weed on Lower Lake entwined its tentacles six inches deep, and was not an easy chore to remove but eventually became a first-class fertilizer. All of these projects cost money and are paid for through gifts to the Annual Fund.

The Acorn Society Forum this year included a fabulous demonstration by our kitchen's own Robin Miller on cooking with quinoa, including chocolate-quinoa cake and quinoa bread. The healthy and hearty meals prepared by Refectory staff not only sustain our bodies but also offer inspiration for preparing Ranch-quality meals at home. This year we were treated to meeting the neighbors who grow the fruit and vegetables that are so carefully prepared for our abundant table. Because the Annual Fund is so important, the Acorn Society was formed as a resource of

pledging members specifically for its renewal.

We are preparing for another year of providing this unique, natural setting where renewal of the spirit, mind and body occurs in a way to foster individual growth and strengthen community.

The Future Flows from Today's Generosity to the 2012 Annual Fund. Gifts to the Annual Fund are an indispensable part of the operations budget and the continued success of the Ranch ministry. Guest fees are kept intentionally low in order to make the Ranch available to as many people as possible; therefore, guest fees do not cover the entire cost of a person's experience at the Ranch. Support in the form of financial contributions is essential in order to cover the day-to-day costs of a person's experience at the Ranch. The Annual Fund has a direct and immediate impact on the quality of each guest's visit.

Thank you for your gifts to the Annual Fund this year. So far just over \$118,000 has been raised toward a goal of \$200,000. The Annual Fund may not be flashy, but it keeps the lights on and the home fires burning. Come home to the Ranch. Please remember to make a donation for the Annual Fund to support hospitality and renewal at The Bishop's Ranch.

Contributors to the 2012 Annual Fund whose gifts or pledge payments are received by December 31, 2012 are listed by giving group in the Annual Fund Report which will be published after January 1, 2013.

"The water that I shall give will be an inner spring always welling up for eternal life." John 4:14

Want to jump in and help?

May 4th, 2013 is our Spring Hands On Service Day. Spend a day at the Ranch in service to and with your community. Bring your family, youth group or friends; lunch is provided. Please find the registration form on the Ranch website.

From “*the abundant table*” - Recipes from The Bishop’s Ranch Kitchen”

Cranberry MUFFINS

MAKES 12 MUFFINS

Frozen or fresh cranberries work just fine in this recipe and make a moist muffin that keeps well for days.

- 2 cups unbleached flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter, cut in very small pieces
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon zest of orange
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (pecans or walnuts)
- 1 1/4 cup cranberries

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease muffin tin.

Sift dry ingredients together in a bowl. Cut butter in small pieces, zest the orange and squeeze for juice. If using large frozen or fresh cranberries, we often pulse them briefly in the food processor just to make them a

little smaller so they distribute more evenly throughout the batter. Small, wild berries may be left whole.

Add the butter to the dry ingredients and cut in with a pastry blender or 2 knives until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Beat the egg and combine with the orange juice and zest. Pour all at once into the dry ingredients and mix just to moisten. Carefully fold in the nuts and cranberries.

Using a 2-ounce ice cream scoop or spoon, divide the batter into the greased muffin tins.

Bake for 25 minutes.



The Bishop’s Ranch Wish List

Maintenance/grounds:

- Belt grinder, metal working
- Blacksmithing tongs & hammers
- Chainsaw – Stihl MS261, 20” bar
- Landscape materials: large boulders, soil, pavers
- Lumber, good quality new or reclaimed
- Water trailer, 500 gallon
- Wood planer, 12” electric

Housekeeping:

- Sheets, twin or double, in excellent condition
- Towels and washcloths, in excellent condition
- Vacuum cleaners
- Carpet shampooer

Camps and Programs:

- Costumes or unique clothing items for costume room

- Nine passenger Suburban
- Ten-passenger vans
- Canoes or kayaks, in good condition
- Adult life vests

A monetary or in-kind gift for an item on the Wish List helps Ranch guests have a more comfortable and productive stay, and helps the Ranch staff improve services to guests.