

Coming Home

News from The Bishop's Ranch

Winter 2013

His Name Is Edgar

by Sean Swift, Executive Director



Edgar was a white duck of uncertain origin who was brought to live in the pond here at the Ranch. He arrived in the company of two other ducks of the domestic variety, displaying conventional brown and gray duckish plumage.

I must say the two brown ones looked more competent as ducks than Edgar. They seemed to swim well, preened their

feathers industriously and gave entirely acceptable duck quackings. Edgar, whose stained white feathers looked a bit bedraggled, made you wonder if he would be able to take care of himself. He was to prove this first impression completely wrong, however.

Maybe I should take a little side-trail here to give some background on the pond. I'm talking about the water near the parking lot. In the recent past guests would ask us questions like: "What is that swamp doing there?"

Well, I have it on good authority, that the pond has been there since the 1930's, if not before. It has a spring on the bottom that perhaps does not emit as much water as it used too. Still, the spring is viable as we discovered when we cleaned the pond of silt in 2012. For many years, it was primarily a watering hole and bathing site for the cows, which didn't help it in the esthetics department. However, we all have potential, do we not?

In the last few years, Doug Wade and the maintenance staff, with the leadership and energy of Lynn McLaughlin, have made great strides to restore the pond. The vision is to help it become again a wildlife haven, as well as viewing and study place. Open water is scarce and wildlife flocks to it. Always a place for hundreds of native frogs, the pond is currently also teeming with tiny fish, tadpoles and insect life. Planted willow trees are beginning to grow

Continued on page 10

Sacred Moments

by Jack Dowling, Operations Director

The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace... - The Book of Common Prayer

One summer during BREAD camp, the Rev. George Silides, trying to distill the meaning of sacrament, told the campers that a sacrament is in essence a sacred moment. I am remembering this now as we at the Ranch head into the new-year, guided by our theme "Sacred Stories, Sacred Space."

In my eighteen years at the Ranch I have collected



Jack and infant Ivan 18 summers ago

many sacred stories, those that have affected me in a deep and lasting way. Some of those I would say could even be called sacramental, being a visible sign of the spiritual grace that can be found when people participate in community. I would like to share two of those experiences.

Just two months after moving to the Ranch in 1996 our son Ivan was born. His due date was July 11 and this excited the group at the Ranch that week, the Benedictine Experience, because that happened to be the feast day of St. Benedict. As the day came and went, Lisa got many expectant looks from the silent participants.

Finally on July 13 we rushed to the birth center in Santa Rosa where Ivan was born late in the evening. Early the next morning we came back to the Ranch and I brought Ivan to the dining hall. In my embellished memory, I held him in the air like the proud father in The Lion King as the crowd roared. What really happened is that as I stood there cradling my new son, the Benedictine group, still in silence, raised their hands

Continued on page 6

What's Inside?

Camp dates.....page 2
Prayer Resident letter.....page 4

Pool fundraising update page 3
Many thanks for your support! page 8

"Unplug @thebishopsranch #camp2014"

by Andrea Foote



Silly songs and lots of campfire fun led by camp staffers Joe, Will, Colby and Nate

A stroller-bound toddler with a "lifeproof" cased iPad has become as common a sight as a group of teens, heads down, silently scrolling their devices' screens.

Recently I've noticed increasing awareness on the amount of time toddlers, kids and youth spend with electronic devices. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests children ages 3-5 have only one hour of exposure to technology per day, with two hours suggested for 6-18 year olds. We know that's not happening.

As our world increasingly relies on ubiquitous technology, I offer camp as a respite to devices. A week at camp gives the opportunity to trade your individual screen for small group initiative games; forgo Google Maps and try deciphering a trail map together on a summer afternoon. Tune your ear to guitar and ukulele duets around a campfire, and share stories with one's cabinmates at night.

Devices are happily addicting. I am rarely without my phone, and enjoy sending snapchat photos of found objects at the Ranch, or posting to Instagram (@thebishopsranch). There are conveniences of digital companionship, but they can take us out of our present time. Having the Prayer Book app at your fingertips is compact, but can't compare to a candlelit compline led by middle schoolers under the stars, or a joyous Family Camp Eucharist with dancing. Camp offers a realtime community that can't be found on social media.

Put down the devices; pack your swimsuit and some clothes you can be outside in. Give yourself or your child the best gift of all, being present at camp.

In 2013 the Ranch used "Creation Speaks" as the theme for our retreat season and summer camp program. "Sacred Stories, Sacred Space" is the 2014 theme. We will learn sacred stories of the Church, share our own, and hopefully investigate how we can take the sacred space of summer camp out into the world.

Family Camp and Generations offer rich

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2014

Camp Staff Training- June 23-28

Family Camp- June 30-July 5

Generations- July 6-12

BREAD 1- July 14-19

campers entering 4,5,6 grades

BREAD 3- July 20-26

campers entering 10,11,12 grades

BREAD 2- July 27-2

campers entering 7,8,9 grades

For more information and registration forms go to <http://www.bishopsranch.org/programs-retreats/summer-camps/>

opportunities to immerse your family into the larger camp community. Playing and prayer, singing and talking, swimming and hiking together build inter-generational bonds that have lasted for decades, and new families are welcomed every summer. Activities are appropriate for all ages, and families of every shape from all walks of life are encouraged!

BREAD Camp is a chance to explore oneself in a group of friendly peers. Campers live in cabin groups, sing at all-camp music periods, swim and play pool games, and choose daily from a variety of afternoon workshops. Every camper is assigned a Discovery Group with which they explore the hiking trails, plan compline, and minister to the Ranch through service projects, for example. Chaplains lead a morning program that weaves the summer theme with Biblical stories and real life experience. The day concludes with a surprise evening activity, campfire and compline.

New this year is BREAD 1 for campers entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades! We are excited about this program, please help us publicize it in your community.

Noelle Huey returns as Assistant Camp Director. We both look forward to welcoming campers in June.

Claim a space for yourself, your family, or a youth in your life at The Bishop's Ranch this summer. Come share your story in this sacred space, share the gift of camp.



Campers just the right age for the new BREAD 1

You Did it, The Bishop's Ranch Pool Fundraising is Complete!



We are excited to announce that the new pool at the Ranch has been fully funded. The new pool has been open for a year now and we have had nothing but positive feedback about people's experiences there. Thank you to everyone who made this great project possible.



We hope you'll come take a dip soon!

The Bishop's Ranch Staff

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Robert Olsen
Ivan Thorpe

Coming Home

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

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On Being Prayer Resident by Laurie Glover

When everyone thanked me so beautifully on the day I left, my reply was to say that I was “only doing my job.” I surprised myself when I said that and have been thinking more about what I meant. What did I think was my job as Prayer Resident?

Saying Morning and Evening Prayer is maintaining a chain of prayer.

That's for the whole world. Other people in other communities say these prayers, have been for a long time; when I say them, I'm linking us—the Ranch—to that whole shining net of prayer. But also, I thought of myself as holding the Ranch in prayer, and doing that meant knowing the Ranch. But what is this thing called “The Bishop's Ranch”? I think asking this is a kind of analog for asking what God

is. The Ranch is all that acreage, the land. The hillsides, steep slopes, meadows. It's how the water moves and what trees do to hold their places. It's every component of those things and infinite others I couldn't possibly name: leaves, living and fallen, photosynthesizing cells, crystals in the basalt, water molecules, slugs, turkeys, pigs, ants, stars, particles of dust. And it's the people who hold the Ranch together by their labors at counters and desks and before the washing machines and on their knees in the dirt or on the wooden floor. And those people are in relationship with other people, their families and friends, vendors, the postman, and Steve the floor buffer and Norm and Jesus and Bob the pig hunters.

“Holding the Ranch in prayer” was always interesting and took all my attention because each day the Ranch was a new thing, in the same way

that what a parish is—regulars, people making the service happen, guests—changes every day, every Sunday. The guests that are the focus of the Ranch's hospitality became, as soon as they arrived, part of the “thing” held in prayer, whether they attended or not, and when they left, they were still part of that thing. So, I was also holding in

the net of prayer every boy in the choirs, the teenagers, counselors, grandmothers and grandsons. Even after they left. The chapel was the place that I sat, but I was connected, sitting there, to more people and creatures and systems than I could possibly know. In a certain way, my job was to be connected. Sometimes without knowing, but within the realm of possibility, striving to know: names, lives, jobs, humans' relationships to each other, the land, the place, and all the relationships constantly and dynamically playing themselves out. And then

holding them in the silence and the sung or spoken words. As I did that holding, I began to be held myself, still feel held. Even after I've left. And I am still doing the same job.

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.



Chapel window



Prayer candles in the chapel

AmeriCorps Report by Cassy Whitaker, Green 5 team leader



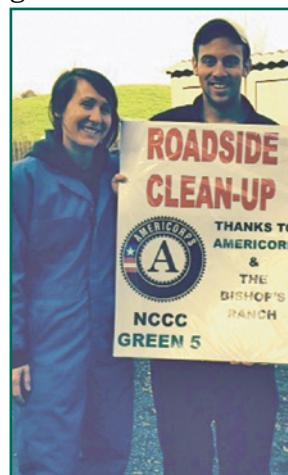
AmeriCorps Green 5 helps at the February Evensong event at Grace Cathedral

members of the maintenance crew. The team worked rain or shine to complete a wide variety projects. We learned from and worked alongside Ranch staff to:

complete trail work and bridges in Gina's Orchard, prepare the backcountry campground for guest use, mitigate erosion throughout the Ranch property, manage water runoff, remove standing fuels to reduce fire hazards in Keepo Canyon, propagate and preserve native grasses, remove invasive species, and painted Kip Cottage. The team was also a part of everyday maintenance that included upkeep of tools, recycling and waste removal, pruning, and landscaping. A lot goes into keeping The Bishop's Ranch in tiptop shape!

Our team is grateful to have spent an extended period of time at such a beautiful establishment. During our stay Green 5 took advantage of the surrounding trails to relax and spend time in nature. The Ranch is designed to foster quiet reflection and opportunities for community development. Green 5 took cues from our new environment and the community on site to build a strong team dynamic. The group departs as more confident leaders and a stronger team. Our next assignment is with the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative in Los Angeles, CA. We are grateful for all that we have learned and the opportunity to serve at The Bishop's Ranch. Green 5 is the fifth AmeriCorps NCCC team to live and work at the Ranch. For more information on AmeriCorps NCCC visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>

AmeriCorps NCCC team Green 5 arrived at The Bishop's Ranch in January. Before coming to the Ranch we lived in Bandon, Oregon and worked with the Washed Ashore project, transforming ocean trash into art. While at the Ranch, Green 5 spent nine weeks working with



AmeriCorps and Ranch staff team up for a community service project cleaning Westside Road

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The Bishop's Ranch

Save Paper, Get Color

Switch to the electronic version of Coming Home and green up your mailbox. Over 3,000 people are now receiving our electronic newsletter. This saves paper and other resources, and also benefits recipients of the digital version with full color photos and links to information in that issue. The Ranch is committed to reducing the amount of printed material it produces. Won't you join the movement and provide us with your name, address and email at info@bishopsranch.org? Thank you!

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, or to update your contact information, please email info@bishopsranch.org with your mailing information.

The Bishop's Ranch Wish List

- Electric golf car
- Front load HE washer & dryer
- Sheets, twin or double, new or in excellent condition
- Towels and washcloths, new or in excellent condition
- Trailers:
 - 500 gallon water, hydraulic dump
- Vacuum cleaners
- Vehicles in good working order: Mini van, 9 passenger Suburban, Full sized pick up truck

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.



Created in Community - The Annual Fund 2014

Our beautiful Ranch is a specific place on the earth and has an essential identity through its unique nature and geography – an identity that is also expressed in the experience of the people who come here. Like nature, that community is as various as the story told by each person who comes to the Ranch; experienced differently yet held commonly by all. Being essentially created in community, the Ranch theme for 2014 – Sacred Stories, Sacred Space - was chosen to remind us of this reality.

Part of the Ranch story is hospitality: the staff and volunteers strive to offer well maintained and comfortable buildings and grounds so guests can relax and find refreshment together and individually. Savory, sustaining food is prepared fresh and served so guests are nourished. Care is taken to understand, honor and restore the environment so the Ranch is here for the inspiration of future generations.

That retreats, conferences and camps are available to people from all walks of life is a major Ranch goal. To accomplish this, guest fees are kept low. Those fees, however, do not cover the entire cost of a guest's experience. Like many non-profit organizations, the Ranch relies on the generosity of donors to bridge the gap between fees collected and actual operating expenses. Gifts at every giving level are effective and provide essential support for the realization of the Ranch's mission of hospitality. A financial gift to the Annual Fund encourages new and different sacred stories to be told and gratitude is due to all who help this sacred space be offered generously.

Thank you!

Sacred Moments, continued from page 1

and wiggled their fingers in a silent cheer. This action, and the gleeful look in their eyes was that visible sign of the spiritual grace that said, "welcome, you are part of this community, we love you."

My second story happened in 1999 when two unlikely groups shared the Ranch. My brother-in-law in New York City, Andrew Robinson, was running an after school program called Fresh Youth Initiatives. To participate, teens were required to participate in service projects in the Washington Heights neighborhood, which has a large immigrant population from the Dominican Republic. Teens with the most service hours at the end of the year were eligible for a trip during spring break to learn more about another place and to do a little community service. That year Andrew asked if he could bring the group to The Bishop's Ranch and we were happy to host them.

Most of the kids on the trip had not been out of New York City before, and none had been to the west coast, so for them it was a trip full of new experiences. They saw the Pacific ocean, the Golden Gate Bridge, redwood forests and dairy cows being milked, and while they were here they worked hard making a positive impact on the Ranch.

At the end of their week here the FYI group was joined by the annual San Francisco Scottish Fiddler retreat that happens here each President's Day weekend. Ninety fiddlers playing traditional Scottish fiddle tunes all around the Ranch and at all hours of the weekend. At dinner on Saturday, the night before the FYI group was heading home, most of the fiddlers brought their instruments to play an impromptu concert for the New Yorkers and Ranch staff.

The kids listened politely, but were starting to show signs of boredom when Alasdair Fraser, a renowned fiddler and leader of the group, stood up and asked the kids what music they listened to. He heard their answers and asked them to "give us a beat". The FYIers started pounding out a beat that had a hip-hop vibe, then Alasdair started to play his fiddle, adapting a traditional tune to this new beat. Some of kids started to dance, and some of the fiddlers who knew some Scottish dance moves joined them. In that moment a new community was formed. Strangers came together, learned from each other and became one. For me it was sacred, and I experience strong feelings when I remember it.

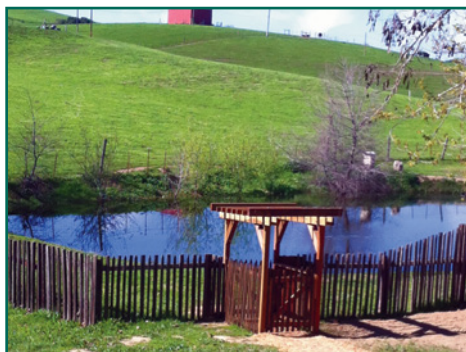
The Bishop's Ranch is a place where the Sacraments are celebrated. We share the Eucharist, people have been baptized here and there have been those who have entered into sacramental matrimony. Because of our ability to bring people together, feed them, and make them feel comfortable and welcomed, we have the special ability to share the sacrament of community. Those are the sacred moments, when people enter into deeper relationships with each other creating stories that will last a lifetime.

We will be sharing more of our sacred stories throughout the year with the groups we serve and through the programs we offer. We would love to have you share yours with us.

Sacred Sites



The Pond is becoming a place of respite for many forms of life. Lynn McLaughlin, a former Ranch board member and current Ranch volunteer extraordinaire, installed a spring box, piping and pump to provide an additional water source from a nearby spring. Lynn was aided by volunteer Dave Householder and by the expertise of Juvenal Mercado. Lynn also built a new arbor gate and a table has been placed near the pond under adjacent oaks. In the future we hope to place wildlife friendly plants and direct rainwater from the roof of Webb Lodge into the pond as well as install a small dock.



The pond area now has a picnic table and new child safe double gate entrance. The pond itself is healthy and teeming with new life, tad poles, wee fish, wild ducks, red wing black birds, the occasional heron, and much more.

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

The Rev. Susan Allison-Hatch in memory of those who died on the streets
 Anonymous in honor of Kay Bishop
 Anonymous in honor of 60th birthday
 Anonymous in memory of Nancy Vital
 Lloyd W. Aubry, Jr. in honor of Lloyd Aubry's 90th birthday
 Wade and Suzanne Aubry in honor of Lloyd's 90th birthday
 Machrina Blasdel in memory of Matilda Tom and Margaret Bowman in honor of Scott and Kendace Denman
 Adam Bernstein and Valerie Frederickson in memory of Daniel and Anne Bernstein
 Tom and Margaret Bowman in memory of Leslie Bowman Marcus
 Mimi Bupp in loving memory of Randy Bupp
 Cheryl Keller Brooks in memory of Wendell Brooks
 Robert and Susan Brunson in memory of George Enderlin
 The Rev. Robert and Nina Close in honor of the Ranch staff
 Carolyn Cooper in honor of Phyllis and Inge
 Melissa Counsell in memory of Merlyn C. Counsell
 Christ Episcopal Church Altar Guild in honor of the Rev. Stephen McHale and staff of Christ Church, Alameda
 The Rev. Margaret Deeths in honor of the ordination of the Rev. Julia McCray-Goldsmith
 Dennis and Phyllis Edmondson in thanksgiving for Carolyn Cooper's 80th birthday



Young guests embrace friendship on a sunny Ranch day

The Rev. Dwight and Rosi Edwards in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. Richard Ford
 The Rev. Dwight and Rosi Edwards in honor of Sean Swift
 Arlene Finn in memory of Mary Katz Cecil and Leah Forbes in honor of Kay Homsey Wells
 The Rev. Canon David R. Forbes and Mr. Toby Wiggin in honor of Jim Brown
 The Rev. and Mrs. Richard B. Ford in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. Dwight Edwards
 The Rev. Jeffrey Frost and Mr. Shelton Ensley in memory of Timothy Ingham and The Rev. Henry Bayne John and Nan Gallagher in memory of Donald D. Harger and The Rev. Richard P. Fowler
 John and Nan Gallagher in memory of The Rev. Donald P. Sullivan
 Marty and Joyce Griffin in honor of Sean and Caroline Swift
 Grown Up Ladies Book Group in honor of Patti White

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD I. PURVIS:
 The Rev. Tom Chesterman
 Gifford Combs
 Greg Klink
 Frank T. Kyte
 George Mason
 Michael and Sandra Sidwell
 Norman J. Smith
 Brad Wait
 Roger and Patty Williams

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

Gifts and pledges were made to the Annual Fund, Pool Area Renovation, Partnership (scholarship) Fund, the Chapel Chair project, the Pond Restoration project, new Treehouse Fund and much more...

Sandra J. Ahn
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 Lloyd W. Aubry and Margaret N. Aubry
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 The Rev. Davidson Bidwell-Waite and
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Generations Campers

These names reflect gifts or pledge payments received between October 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014. 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 February 28, 2014, your name will appear in the next issue.

Sandy and Christiana Macfarlane
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 Richard and Janet Tarlov
 Cathy Thompson
 Ken and Elizabeth Thompson
 John Thorn
 Valerie Tigert
 The Rev. Cn. Frances C. Tornquist and
 Mr. John Tornquist
 Karin Tredrea
 Peggie M. Trei
 Tom and Roxanna Trutner
 The Rev. Maurice E. Turner
 Nina Tychinin
 Ivette Ulloa and Ivan Santacruz
 Paul von Stamwitz
 Carlene Valentine
 Dan and Rachel Wagner
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Wagner
 Nancy Warfield
 Rock and Marni Warner
 Alice P. Watson
 Jerry and Nora Webster
 Kay Wells
 Mr. Herbert and the Rev. Jan H. West
 William C. Whiteside
 Steven and Sally Winn
 Jane and Craig Wirth
 Meg Withgott
 Brian Wittenkeller
 Norman and Martha Wohlken
 J. Wong
 Mary and Lance Wood
 Mary-Jane Wood
 Loring and Beverly Wyllie
 Dickson Yeager
 Hildred Yost
 The Rev. Shari Young and
 Mr. Robert Hartnett
 Marisha and Paul Zeffer

GIFTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS

Absolution Brewing Company
 The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Inc.
 Church of the Resurrection, Pleasant Hill
 Episcopal Diocese of California
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Fidelity Roofing Company and
 Monte Upshaw
 The Beverly M. Folger Foundation
 Maria Kip Orphanage Foundation
 The San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal/Lutheran
 Mission, Gualala
 St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Fremont
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto
 St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Danville
 Verizon Foundation

DONATIONS OF REAL GOODS

Bryce Austin, apples, pears and wreath
 Mimi Bupp, linens
 Joan Dedo, wind chimes and jar openers
 Laurie Glover, gardening tools
 Barbara Judd, music stand
 Alson Kemp, tables
 Jack and Carolyn Klemeyer, linens
 Ernest and Julie Knell, linens
 Dick McCray, mosaic artwork
 W. Lynn McLaughlin and David L. Webb,
 pond restoration and maintenance
 equipment
 Pedro and Erika Morales, dessert plates
 Judy Peak, linens
 Ray and Bill Riess, ping pong equipment
 Marjorie Sun, linens, hammock, and
 patio furniture
 Suzanne and Russ DeVore, linens
 Carolyn Weil, linens



DONATIONS OF TIME AND TALENT

Sandra J. Ahn
 Alan Beber
 Bishop's Ranch Board of Directors
 Francois Gerard Bleu
 Scott Cauchois
 Chapel of St. George volunteers
 Ken Fuller
 Stanley Gwyn
 Ron Johnson
 Richard Kaye
 Bianca Márquez-Sanabria
 James Martin
 Anne Ware Meyer
 Nancy Milholland
 Ben Miralles
 Gary Jennings
 Wayne Rash
 David Sherman
 Catherine Secour
 Michael Secour
 Susan Sutton
 Brian Wallace

Bishop's Ranch New Employees By Shannon Riley

In the past year we have welcomed three new full-time employees to The Bishop's Ranch team. Our new Reservations Coordinator Bianca Marquez has been with us since May of 2013. Born and raised in Mexico City, Bianca came to the Healdsburg area at the age of 17 to pursue her independence and educational goals. Having obtained a degree in Communications from San Francisco State University, she is currently working on a certificate in Human Resources, with the ultimate goal of earning her Masters in Business Administration. Joining our facilities and land crew as Ranch Hands towards the end of 2013, are Johncaleb Sarsfield and Matt Kissmann.

Johncaleb discovered the Ranch through his connection with former director of the Ranch, Mark Farmer. He brings a great amount of experience to his new position, including a degree in Energy Management and Design, and an extensive background in farming.

Introduced to The Bishop's Ranch by his longtime friend Johncaleb, Matt is our newest maintenance crewmember. Along with a comprehensive background in construction, Matt has a degree in Biology with an emphasis in Aquatic Ecology. Also, his history as an AmeriCorps participant has made him well suited to work with our latest AmeriCorps crew on a wide variety of projects.

We're also happy to introduce you to and welcome our new part-time employees:

Kitchen:	Housekeeping:
Kara Briggs	Maria Enriquez
Tracy Cook	Angelica Ortega Torres
Austin Missner	Sierra Rea
Ivan Thorpe	



Johncaleb Sarsfield, Bianca Márquez, Matt Kissmann.

His Name is Edgar, continued from page 1

up around it. Catherine Secour, for one, remembers with me when multi-thousands of tiny baby toads, no bigger than your thumbnail, would come hopping out of the pond after completing metamorphosis every June (I guess that is their form of graduation). Some would survive to grow into handsome and useful garden toads. So I have to confess I wasn't thrilled that here were Edgar and his friends, in the recovering pond, being all domestic and everything. As is often the case, my judgement wasn't the best reaction.

Within a short time of the three ducks taking up residence at the pond, the local coyote posse took an interest. Soon the two competent-looking ducks were warming coyote bellies. This was our first surprise from Edgar: under his bedraggled air he hid a wily streak. The coyotes couldn't catch him, at least not for a long time.

Luckily, some wild mallards stopped in at the pond around that time. We hoped it was the same pair that often comes to try to raise a batch of young each year. Edgar took up with them, in his way, and was happier with the company. But then the mallards left, and Edgar took to looking for the only company around: the human kind.

He'd keep a sharp eye out for whoever was passing and if he spotted you, he'd waddle madly over, making a sound that is difficult to describe as any kind of quacking. It was more of a harangue that would rise in pitch as he got going and then drop down to lower notes before trailing off, somehow managing to sound

demanding yet vulnerable all in one. His bleating became a regular punctuation of the soundscape around the Ranch. A guest asked Jack Dowling, "What is that sound that sounds like a duck?" Jack answered, "A duck. His name is Edgar." But many of us got to where we'd always look for him, maybe bring a bit of bread for a treat.

In the course of events it is natural that a coyote would study upon things, to see whether the situation could be improved for that tribe. Apparently one did and came up with a way to outwit Edgar. A morning came that did not begin with one of his harangues.

If Edgar was a person, he might have worn a soiled waistcoat, bulging in the middle. His awkwardness wouldn't prevent him from waddling across the street, waving and dodging traffic, to come puffing up to you on the sidewalk. He wouldn't visit with a lot of humor, but you would sense the intensity of need. It would be hard not to admire his individuality, his pluckiness, his willingness to display his neediness, even to demand attention. Visiting with Edgar I had to admit to myself, that I can feel like that sometimes. But I knew I wouldn't have the courage to waddle across the street, putting it all on the line as Edgar did.

As it turns out, we all miss the bedraggled duck. We assume he furthered the race of *Canis latrans*. We don't really know, though. Maybe one morning, with the white mist on the pastures and the edges of the woods, Edgar's need showed him how to fly like the wild ducks.

Legacy Circle - Joan Dedo



Joan Dedo

When my sons joined Grace Cathedral's Men and Boys' Choir, they began an exceptional experience and training with the opportunity to begin each school year at The Bishop's Ranch. Thus their parents were introduced to that very special piece of real estate that in my older years, I think of as God's hill, a community that I treasure.

The first trip was for a picnic with the choir families; many visits followed with Grace Cathedral programs and parish retreats, each bringing something special into my life, be it a new concept in spirituality, a new appreciation of my church family, and some very wonderful life-long friends.

It was a "given" during the San Francisco years, but now after many special times there, I know it is a blessing and a treasured gift.

Anticipation does NOT exceed realization! But it is certainly a nice part of my experience. I savor the trip north with a very happy heart, mentally shedding a lot of worries and concerns along the way. Turning in at the sign and driving up the hill to where the buildings first come into view, I have a sense of elation sweep over me at how thankful I am to be there once again!

From the first time I stood by the Ranch House looking down through the arbor, to the last time I stepped inside the chapel with its windows hinting at the Holy Spirit's presence in Technicolor, I knew this was a place that really spoke to me.

My appreciation of the "special places" in my life turned my thoughts toward how I could give support, despite limited resources. The concept of land trusts opened my eyes to how I could join others collectively to make a difference in protecting beloved areas. That, and my added years, made me see the need for some planned giving. It was a great comfort to realize that I could do something to support favorite places for future generations, while I was still around to enjoy them, too. How WIN/WIN is that!!

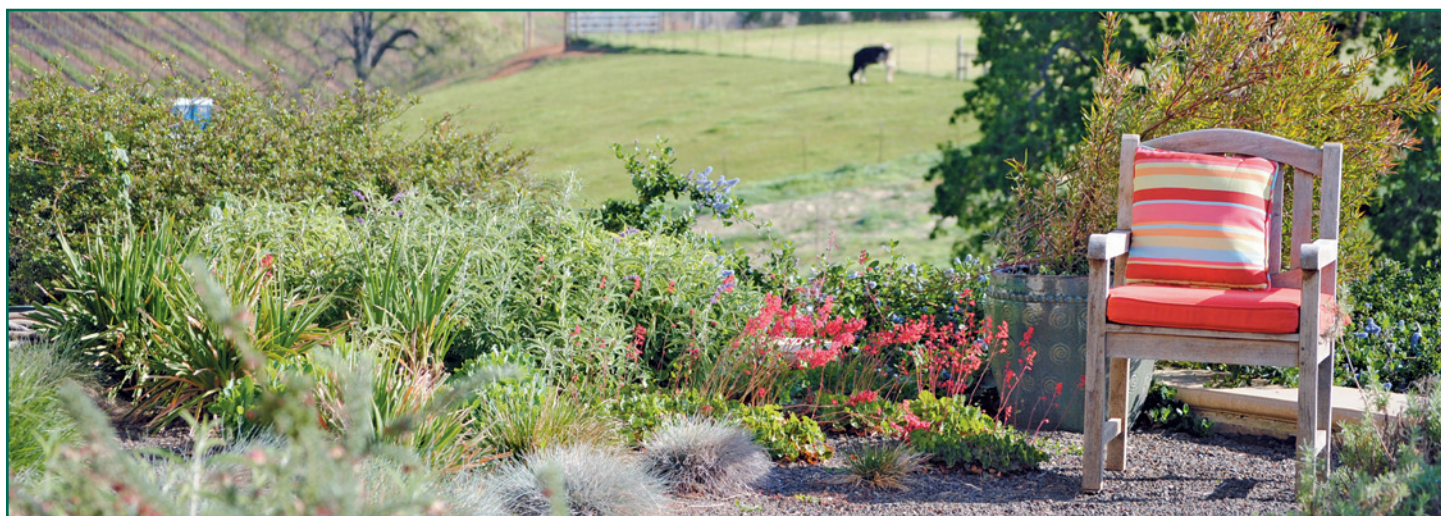
Written by Joan on retreat at the Ranch:

Thoughts in the Moment

Life moves too fast in the world;
No time to savor, nor feel.
Time at the Ranch
Gives God a chance
To show me what really is Real.



You, too, may wish 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 <http://www.bishopsranch.org/support-us/the-legacy-circle/> for additional information. New members will be inducted into the Legacy Circle during the Acorn Society Annual Forum weekend May 30 to June 1, 2014.



View from Pavilion patio looking north toward Bucher Dairy and beyond




The Bishop's Ranch

of the Episcopal Diocese of California
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From "*the abundant table*" - Recipes from The Bishop's Ranch Kitchen"

blueberry BUCKLE



We often use frozen blueberries for this breakfast treat but fresh blueberries or huckleberries are even better when in season and shorten the baking time a little. If using frozen blueberries don't thaw them.

1/2 cup unsalted butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 egg
2 cups unbleached flour
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
1 1/2 to 2 cups fresh or frozen berries (see note above)

Cinnamon Topping:

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup unbleached flour
1/2 ground cinnamon
1/4 cup unsalted butter

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter and sugar. Add the egg and beat well. Sift the flour, baking powder and salt together and add to the butter mixture alternating with the milk. Spread this thick mixture in a greased 11x7x1-1/2 inch Pyrex pan. Scatter the blueberries over the top.

To make the cinnamon topping, mix the sugar, flour and cinnamon together. Cut in the butter until the mixture is the size of peas. Sprinkle this evenly over the buckle.

Bake for about 1 hour, until the top springs back when lightly touched and a toothpick inserted comes out clean. It may take up to 1 1/2 hours depending on your oven and if the berries were frozen. Cut into square and serve warm.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.