



**State of the Bay 2010 – A Conference about Tomales Bay and its Watershed**  
**October 22-23, 2010 at the Inverness Yacht Club**  
Presented by the Tomales Bay Watershed Council

**Biographies of Presenters at the State of the Bay Conference 2010**

(in alphabetical order)

**Dr. Sarah Allen** has studied marine mammals in central California since the 1970s. She started volunteering and then working at Point Reyes Bird Observatory and then was employed with the National Park Service after acquiring graduate degrees at UC Berkeley. She worked at Point Reyes National Seashore as a science advisor, and her current position is regional coordinator for the Pacific West Coast and Oceans Program.

**Dr. Ben Becker** holds numerous positions Senior Science Advisor for Point Reyes National Seashore, National Coordinator for National Park Service Research Learning Centers, and Director and Marine Ecologist positions with the Pacific Coast Learning Center at Point Reyes National Seashore. After earning an undergraduate degree at UC Los Angeles and a Master's from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science, he received his doctoral degree from UC Berkeley in 2001. He has published widely on the ecology of the fish, seabirds and mammals of the Point Reyes area.

**Bob Berner** has led Marin Agricultural Land Trust as its Executive Director since 1984. He is a founding member and current co-chair of the California Council of Land Trusts and a member of the steering committee of the Bay Area Open Space Council. Before joining MALT, Bob was Executive Director of The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and prior to that, he was Vice-President, Finance, of The Nature Conservancy. He holds degrees from Duke University (L.L.B., 1965) and Wharton Graduate Division, University of Pennsylvania (M.B.A., 1971).

**Robert Carson** has worked as the Water Quality Program Manager for the Tomales Bay Watershed Council since the Fall of 2007. He has worked to implement a water quality program that documents long-term trends, seeks to identify sources of pollution and integrates wetland restoration into watershed health. Rob came to the council after several years with the National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program where he implemented water quality monitoring program across seven NPS units in the Bay Area. He has a master's degree in ecology and conservation biology from Columbia University and undergraduate degree from Boston University.

**Eric Ettlinger** has a Master's Degree in Wildland Resource Science from the University of California at Berkeley, and has been working as the Aquatic Ecologist for the Marin Municipal Water District since 1999. His major responsibilities include monitoring populations of endangered coho salmon, threatened steelhead trout, and other aquatic species, and enhancing aquatic habitats, particularly through the installation of large woody debris.

**Jules Evens**, naturalist and writer, has been living and birding in the Point Reyes area for more than three decades. He is the founder and Principal of Avocet Research Associates and a long-time research associate with PRBO Conservation Science and Audubon Canyon Ranch. His primary research focuses on tidal wetlands and avian population trends. He is the author of The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula and An Introduction to California Birdlife (both University of California Press), as well as various scientific papers and natural history articles.

**Thomas Gardali** is the Associate Director of the Terrestrial Ecology Division of PRBO Conservation Science (founded as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory). For over 15 years, Tom has worked on avian research and conservation with this major non-profit organization. His research focuses on the long-term dynamics of bird populations in relation to natural and human caused changes in the environment including weather/climate, vegetation succession, and habitat restoration. Tom leads the research at PRBO's Palomarin Field Station where monitoring has been conducted year-round since 1966 and hundreds of young ornithologists from around the world have been trained. Tom has published widely on a diversity of topics including an article on managing field crews, and most recently, a monograph he co-edited on California's most at-risk birds – *California Bird Species of Special Concern*. Tom is actively involved in bridging the gap between research and management: He is an active participant in California Partners in Flight and works on several Joint Ventures.

**Ted Groholz** is Professor and Swantz Chair in Cooperative Extension at UC Davis. He received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Brown University, and received his Ph.D. Zoology (1990) University of California, Berkeley in 1990. His fields of interest include population dynamics and community ecology, invasion biology, conservation biology, biodiversity of marine and estuarine systems, and applications of ecological theory to coastal management problems. His approach involves field and laboratory experiments that answer basic ecological questions and provide solutions to management problems. He accepts graduate students through the Graduate Group in Ecology.

**Kathleen Jennings, PhD** is a Staff Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response who began with CDFG-OSPR in 2001 as a member of the Northern Field Response Team. She has responded to numerous petroleum spills since then and been tasked with identification and protection of resources and habitats at risk and selection of appropriate response technologies. Prior to joining OSPR she taught full time in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of San Francisco, where she continues to teach part time in the graduate program. She has worked in environmental consulting, conducting human health and ecological risk assessments for hazardous waste sites and water quality monitoring. Kathleen holds a Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science (emphasis Wildlife Ecology) from U.C. Berkeley, and an M.S in Environmental Management and B.S. in Biology and Theology from the University of San Francisco.

**Dr. John Kelly** serves as the Director of Conservation Science and Habitat Protection for Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR; <http://www.egret.org>). He develops and oversees programs in conservation research, ecological restoration, and natural resources management in several areas of central coastal California, including ACR sanctuaries in Marin and Sonoma counties and associated systems such as Tomales Bay and San Francisco Bay. John has published numerous scientific articles on birds, with special interests in habitat selection, foraging relationships, energetics, and breeding biology of coastal and estuarine birds. He holds a PhD in Ecology from UC Davis and an MS in Wildlife from Humboldt State University. His office and home is at ACR's beautiful Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay.

**Neysa King** became the first Coordinator for the Tomales Bay Watershed Council in December 2000. Among her accomplishments are the development of the Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan for Tomales Bay Watershed (2007), and the Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan (2004). Prior to her tenure with TBWC, she served as a Watershed Coordinator for the Upper Eel Watershed Forum, and while in Montana she assisted with the start-up of the Rock Creek Watershed Council and related planning activities. Neysa also provided support to the Mineral County Conservation District and Natural Resources Program Management to remedy non-point source pollution of surface waters, and to plan riparian restoration projects. Neysa completed a Coordinated Resource Management Plan for Tamarack Creek, Montana in November 1998 addressing watershed resource management issues, planning objectives, and implementation strategies. She also worked for the Missoula Redevelopment Agency and as an environmental consultant for McLaren-Hart Environmental Engineering in California. She received a B.A in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1995, and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana in 1999. Among her many other activities at the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, Neysa is the project manager for the Chicken Ranch Beach/Third Valley Creek Restoration Planning Project, and she lives in the Tomales Bay watershed with her family.

**John Largier** is Professor of Coastal Oceanography at the University of California Davis (UCD), resident at Bodega Marine Laboratory. Prior to 2004, he was Research Oceanographer at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He has also held positions at the University of Cape Town and the National Research Institute for Oceanology (CSIR) in South Africa. His research, teaching and public service is motivated by contemporary environmental issues and centered on the role of transport in ocean, bay, nearshore and estuarine waters. His work has addressed transport of plankton, larvae, contaminants, pathogens, heat, salt, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and sediment – and he places this work in the context of issues as diverse as marine reserves, fisheries, mariculture, beach pollution, wastewater discharge, wildlife health, desalination, river plumes, coastal power plants, kelp forests, wetlands, marine mining, coastal zone management and impacts of coastal development. At UCD he heads the 16-person Coastal Oceanography Group. Dr Largier is a leader in developing the field of “environmental oceanography” through linking traditional oceanographic study to critical environmental issues. Dr Largier serves on the Science Advisory Team for the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), the Governing Council for CeNCOOS (Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System), the Sanctuary Advisory Committee for the Gulf of Farallones, and several other advisory boards. He is president of the California Estuarine Research Society. In 2002-2004, Dr Largier played a significant role in advising the state on beach pollution and in the late 1990’s, he played a key role in developing the knowledge foundation for the new coastal zone management policy in South Africa. He is an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow. Following undergraduate studies in Math and Physics, he obtained a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Cape Town (South Africa) in 1987.

**David Lewis** is Director of University of California Cooperative Extension Marin County and Watershed Management Advisor focusing on watershed management in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino Counties. In this position, he directs all research and extension programs in Marin County and develops and implements projects that integrate resource conservation with land use management across all three counties. He works with agriculture and natural resource managers to improve water quality and watershed functions through research and education. His training and background are in geology, as well as water quality and quantity in California oak woodlands. Prior to this work, David was a consulting environmental geologist for a private California

consulting firm and a program development and training specialist for the US Peace Corps in Albania, Niger, and Zimbabwe.

**Cicely Muldoon** is the Superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore. Prior to that appointment, she had served as a deputy regional director of the National Park Service's Pacific West Region since 2005. The region encompasses more than 50 national parks in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. Muldoon began her career with the National Park Service in 1985. She has worked at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Presidio of San Francisco, and Pinnacles National Monument in California; San Juan Island National Historical Park in Washington State; Sitka National Historical Park in Alaska; Buffalo National River in Arkansas; and the National Park Service headquarters office in Washington, DC. Muldoon served as superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument and San Juan Island National Historical Park prior to her posting in the Pacific West Regional Office. Muldoon is a native of Sausalito, California, and is a graduate of the University of California, Davis.

**Lorraine Parsons** is the Chief of the Vegetation Resources Branch of Point Reyes National Seashore where she manages, planning and implementation of invasive plant removal, rare plant monitoring, conservation, and management and restoration. She manages the Abbott's Lagoon Coastal Dune Restoration Project and the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project. In this and previous positions, she was instrumental in all aspects of planning and implementation for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration project. Prior to joining the National Park Service, she was a Wetland and Riparian Ecologist for the Sonoma County Water Agency. She has also worked for Wetlands Research Associates in San Rafael and the Pacific Estuarine Research Laboratory of San Diego State University. She received undergraduate degrees in both Biology and Journalism from the University of Southern California and obtained her Master's degree in Biology from San Diego State University.

**Michael Reichmuth** currently works for the National Park service and manages the Coho and Steelhead long term monitoring program based at Point Reyes National Seashore. During his time with the National Park Service, Michael has collected over six years of data on juvenile, smolt and adult coho and steelhead within Olema, Redwood, Pine Gulch, and Cheda Creeks. Michael also assisted in both restoration and monitoring activities for the Giacomini restoration project on Lagunitas Creek and the lower Redwood Creek restoration project. Both of these projects have increased habitat for juvenile salmonids as they migrate from the creek to the ocean. Prior to his arrival to Point Reyes, Michael worked as a fishery biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service coordinating and assisting in salmonid monitoring activities on the Trinity River. Michael first started in the field of fisheries as a high school student as a member of the United Anglers of Casa Grande High School. He graduated with a B.S. in Freshwater Fisheries from Humboldt State University during which time he worked for the California Conservation Corps Salmon Restoration Project.

**Dr. Dominique Richard**, a native of France, received the equivalent of a dual Master's in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering with a Bachelor in Mathematics. He also holds a master's degree in engineering acoustics from the Pennsylvania State University and a doctorate in System Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He is an expert in the use of mathematical programming, numerical optimization, simulation and statistical analysis. He has also in depth experience in database management and data mining. For the past 19 years Dominique has been an independent consultant specializing in problem solving using techniques in applied mathematics

and data mining. He applied this expertise to a number of fields ranging from manufacturing and distribution to financial services and education. As an independent scholar, Dominique's academic research focuses on the cognitive and social aspects of system thinking. For the past 7 years Dominique has focused his interests on the analysis of ecosystems to help resolve environmental problem in the most optimal way. His involvement with the National Marine sanctuary, first as a citizen scientist (Beach watch) and as a member of the Sanctuary Advisory council was the first step of this latest turn in his career.

**Dr. Ann Russell** earned her BA and MS from the University of Arizona, and received her PhD in Oceanography from the University of Washington in 1994. She conducted post-doctoral research at both the University of Washington and UC Davis, and is currently an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Geology at UC Davis. Her research interests include developing geochemical proxies for changes in past ocean pH and temperature and using these proxies to understand the role of climate in controlling ocean conditions over geologic time scales. She is also interested in climate effects on biogeochemical processes in modern, and future, ocean and estuarine ecosystems.

**Amelia Ryan** is a wetland and plant ecologist at Point Reyes National Seashore. She has worked at least part time on the Giacomini Project since 2003, and has also worked on several other wetland and plant ecology projects for the Park Service. Prior to working at Point Reyes National Seashore, she worked on a stream habitat restoration project for State Parks in Sonoma County. She received her undergraduate degree in Plant Biology from U.C. Davis and a master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology and Systemic Biology from San Francisco State University.

**Chris Van Schaack** recently joined the Salmon Protection And Watershed Network as Land Steward, and has been working to implement a variety of watershed enhancement projects. Chris enjoys working with landowners empowering them with new management skills to meet their needs while improving system function and wildlife habitat. Chris has worked with a variety of land managers ranging from the Los Angeles Departments of Public Works restoring areas along the Los Angeles River to working with rural ranchers along rivers in Southern Oregon.

**Nancy Scolari** is the Executive Director of the Marin Resource Conservation District (Marin RCD). Nancy received a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Planning at Sonoma State University before enlisting in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps National Service Program. It was during this time she assisted landowners with the development, implementation, and monitoring of their ranch conservation plans. She then went on to work for the Southern Sonoma RCD, assisting in the development and implementation of the Stemple and Sonoma Creek Watershed Enhancement Plans. She has been with the Marin RCD for eleven years, during which time she has facilitated the implementation of the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program which has resulted in the construction of over 127 on-the-ground conservation practices.

**Andrea Williams** received her B.S. in Biology from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon in 1996. As Vegetation Ecologist for the Marin Municipal Water District, she works to implement the District's Vegetation Management Plan on watershed lands and develop long-term vegetation monitoring in light of climate change, Sudden Oak Death, and other landscape-level changes. Prior to her work with MMWD, Ms. Williams worked for the National Park Service at Redwood National & State Parks and the San Francisco Bay Area Inventory & Monitoring Network managing and monitoring invasive plants, rare plants, and plant communities. She co-founded the Bay Area Early Detection Network and is an expert in early detection of invasive plant species.