



# The Bagpiper

Fall-Winter 2017



## The Gables

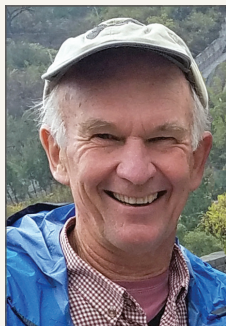
Imagine Inverness without a library. Without a place to store, organize, research and display its history. Hard to imagine Inverness without The Gables, isn't it?



In 1985, nearing the end of his life, Jack Mason stood on his front porch, looked at the single car garage on the bay that housed the library, and knew darn well the County would close it unless we found a larger, more substantial building.

### Meet our newest Board Member

Tom Gaman has lived in Inverness since 1986 with his wife, Barbara. He is a semi-retired consulting forester and an advocate for Chicken Ranch Beach, healthy bishop pine forests, our many walking trails and a clean and a sustainable Tomales Bay. He is chair of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation. He will be helping with the Wildfire Confab in March and with our trails committee.



He also longed for his lifetime collection of local documents to be housed and cared for. So, after conferring with his daughter Barbara, he came to the IF with an offer. Within months, the IF raised funds within our community to purchase the Gables, sustaining the Inverness branch of the County library and making the Jack Mason Museum possible.

In 2012, the IF faced another challenge: bring The Gables into ADA compliance to continue its use as a public library and address considerable deferred maintenance. The IF again succeeded. This Spring, the IF needs to reroof the Gables, increase insulation and replace the failing heating ducts; \$26,000 is our best estimate. The rent

we receive from the County (and we bargained hard) isn't adequate to repair and maintain the Gables.

### The Gables needs your financial support.

All contributions sent to FOG (Friends of the Gables) c/o The Inverness Foundation (PO Box 382, Inverness CA) will be used exclusively for the Gables: re-shingling the roof, insulating it, and replacing heating ducts. And, of course, your contributions will be tax-deductible.

The Gables belongs to us. It is our library and place to preserve and share community history. Large repairs are a once in 30 years expense. Please be generous. No gift is too small...nor too large.

Thank you for your contribution.

Francine Allen, Board Member,  
The Inverness Foundation and Association,  
Chairman, Friends of the Gables (FOG)

## Message from the President

The IF has great news to share with its members. We are the beneficiaries of the Leah Crane trust and have been given her property on Aberdeen Way...a property with two dwellings and a large marshy wetland garden. The will requires us to agree to take care of the wetland garden, which we will do to the best of our capacity.

Since the IF, while enjoying being the County Library's landlord at the Gables, is not in the business of housing, we set out to work with CLAM to ascertain its interest in managing the two one-bedroom units as affordable housing, while returning to us sufficient funds from the rentals to cover insurance, property taxes and garden upkeep. As of the date of writing this, the details are still underway, but both organizations are enthusiastically collaborating and will soon have an approved contract to spell out responsibilities and obligations of both organizations. We will be having an attorney with real estate expertise review the agreement prior to signing.

I will be mentioning this in my list of "Gratitudes" at the Thanksgiving table. Gratitude that Leah Crane thought well-enough of the IF to leave her precious gardens to us, as well as her two small dwellings. Gratitude that CLAM is happily working with us to forge the management/legal tool needed. And gratitude that this will preserve two, albeit small, residential units in the community which will be rented at an affordable rate.

I wish you a safe and joyful season of holidays with your family.

Kathy Hartzell  
President  
Inverness Foundation/  
Association

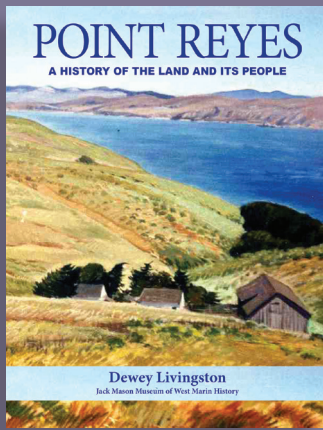


## Fiscal Report

At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2017, the Inverness Foundation, including the Jack Mason Museum, wrapped up its year with a net gain of \$19,986 of revenue over expenses. Given the fund raising for Dewey's book and a good year for modest contributions to the IF in general, this is a good "profit". Obviously, we're not in business to make a profit, but in order to accomplish our work, whether it's tending to the precious historic archives or tending trails, pedestrian bridges and the Gables, we need to aim for a positive balance at year's end. Electrical improvements will benefit from the surplus.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll read of major work that warrants us asking you for support. While we have reserve funds invested to tide us over in a pinch, we aim to support the renovations and ongoing maintenance through annual campaigns and membership. As past president Julie Monson reminded me when we met in the early days of my membership on the Board, the reserve funds are for a very rainy day – a day when we might experience a setback in membership due to catastrophe in our midst: fire, flood or quake damage that prevents our residents from sharing as generously as is common or even joining the Foundation. She pointed out that after the last big floods, the IF managed grants from outside agencies and used some of its own funds to make infrastructure repairs and conduct stream/beach restoration – funds available because the Board had guarded those reserves. Anyone who wishes a full report is welcome to contact me or visit [www.invernessassociation.org](http://www.invernessassociation.org)

Kathy Hartzell, President  
[president@invernessassociation.org](mailto:president@invernessassociation.org)



## Dewey Livingston Writes a Local History

Dewey Livingston is currently working on a comprehensive history of Point Reyes and the Tomales Bay area. These areas have long attracted a variety of people: visitors and wanderers, farmers and dairymen, scientists and entrepreneurs, artists and nonconformists, hunters and conservationists. Today it is a well-known magnet for people from around the world seeking natural beauty, peace and quiet, cultural trends, and the latest in good food. Point Reyes has been an innovative place since the mid-1800s, and its allure is legendary.

However, the history of this area has never been consolidated into a comprehensive, detailed and entertaining book. While Jack Mason's works of the 1970s and '80s are good and valuable resources, they are works asking for follow-up. With thirty years as Jack's appointed heir as local historian, Dewey Livingston is now writing this overdue major history book on the area. Other books currently available are brief overviews or are specific to recent events, while Dewey's new book will offer detail and perspective not found in shorter works.

With an estimated 300 pages, the book will be fully illustrated with both historical and contemporary photographs, maps, and graphics. The book will include the natural environment, Coast Miwok Indians, exploration, development of local culture, agriculture and ranching, transportation, recreation, commerce, government facilities and the communications industry, land conservation and—most importantly, through extensive use of journals and oral histories—the stories of people, both prominent and ordinary.

### Funding

Total costs for research, editing, production and printing are estimated at \$76,000. Dewey has already raised much of that amount through donations from supporters as well as through several fundraisers. Special events such as Dewey's October 1st talk at the Dance Palace have been quite successful, with standing-room-only crowds. The Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History, in association with the Inverness Foundation, will act as publisher, research support and fiscal agent, and receive a percentage of profits. All research materials will be deposited with the Jack Mason Museum's archives.



Dewey is now in the final stages of writing to meet his Spring, 2018, publication goal. We would ask you now to join the Inverness Foundation, the Jack Mason Museum, and Dewey's many friends and supporters in providing your financial support to finish this worthy project.

**Please send your checks to The Inverness Foundation, Dewey's book fund, P.O. Box 382, Inverness, CA 94937. Thank you!**

Do you have *this pest*  
on your property?



Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

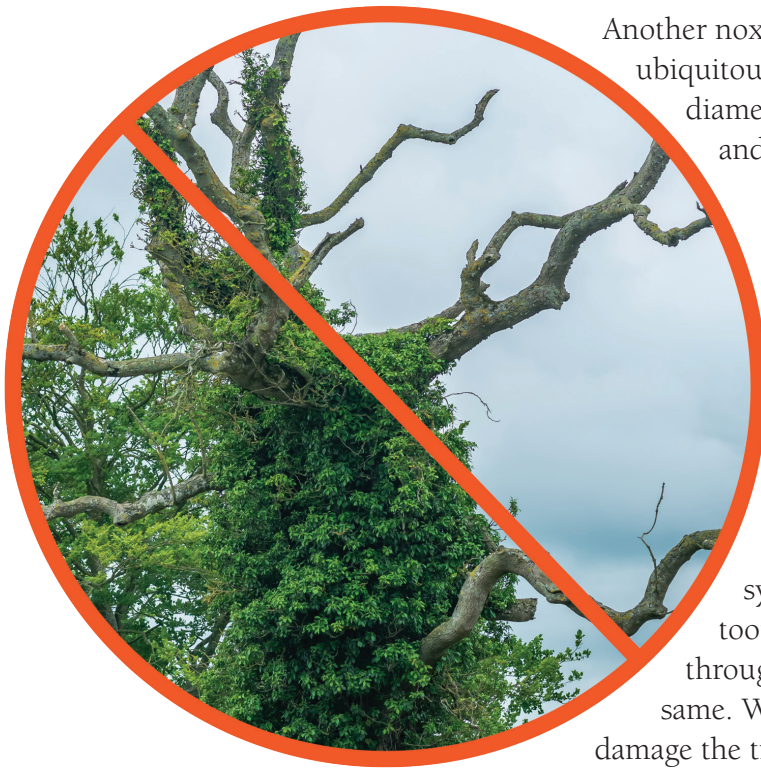
# Vegetation Management

Here in Inverness, there's a long history of Inverness Association involvement in vegetation management. An extensive program took place about seven years ago, when the IF sought and received grants from MCF and local organizations and the County to enable hiring Inverness Gardening Services to conduct a widespread invasive plant eradication project. With permission of private landowners as well as the County, the program focused on the pampas grass along SFD from Inverness Park to Camino del Mar. Today, I only see a few clumps that have returned. And, we will endeavor to see those eradicated using the methods approved by the County and Seashore.



Do you have Pampas Grass on your own property? If so, you'd do the local environment a great service if you would contact me at [president@invernessassociation.org](mailto:president@invernessassociation.org) to learn how to tackle eradication. If you have only one or two small clumps, and it's on land where you can safely stand, the process is relatively simple, if tedious.

Pampas grass is invasive, crowds out native plants, and provides no forage for native birds and wildlife. Rats, however, seem to enjoy nesting in it! It's on the California Native Plant Society's radar as a significant pest.



Another noxious invasive plant is ivy. Everyone knows ivy. It's ubiquitous. And sometimes, its vines can mature to the diameter of a significant tree. Ivy suffocates other plant life and it suffocates the trees it girdles.

A local group of residents has begun a project called Free the Trees and you can learn more about it at <http://tinyurl.com/freeourtrees>. On this website, you'll see sample announcements of neighborhood projects to free a few trees in a work party day.

Essentially, the program they have followed, successfully, is to locate a section of the tree where you have access to work all around, and systematically cut all the vines. It might take a large toothed saw, even a well-managed "sawsall" to get through the ivy vines. Then about 8 inches above, do the same. With a pry bar or other creative tools that won't damage the tree bark, pull off the segments that remain in between. It might not be pretty, but it will stop the vines in their tracks

for some time, and allow the tree to breathe and receive sunlight as the dead ivy above the cuts decomposes from around the trunk of the tree.

This group of citizens takes clippers with them on walks on our trails, and works on one tree at a time. What a brilliant public service! The trees that are most important and vulnerable are our native trees, of course.

# Workshop on Wildfires

As we go to press with this Fall/Winter edition of *The Bagpiper*, we are all still grasping for an understanding of the impacts of the raging wildfires to our north, the loss of life and property that will leave an imprint on families and the community for decades to come.

Many what ifs have been postulated...much information and misinformation spread via all sources. We know, living in the shadow of our own Vision fire, surrounded by State and National Parklands, that we are just as vulnerable. Our emotions are raw as we observe and assist our friends and neighbors coping with loss of home, jobs and family members. As we do what we can to provide comfort and support, let's bring to the forefront our own preparations for disaster.

There are neighborhood programs in various parts of our community that conduct disaster drills, and have rosters of volunteers and equipment on hand

for self-sufficiency, yet most of us are not adequately prepared. We are confused about evacuation protocols, defensible space, and notification of evacuation.

The Board will sponsor a community meeting at the Dance Palace on Sunday afternoon, March 11, 2018 from 1-4pm on wildfires in West Marin, to bring experts on all this and wildland vegetation management together.

At the time of this printing, invitations have only gone out to a few of the logical participants and co-sponsors, but the enthusiasm for the topic is high.

We will have a panel of experts, including but not limited to, the Marin County Fire Dept., UC Dept. of Forestry and Cal Fire, to present information about fire history in West Marin, the Marin Community Wildfire Protection Plan, agencies and collaboration, community vegetation management/fuel reduction programs, fire danger ratings, and evacuation routes. There will be a Q&A session after the presentations.

If you would like to help plan and run this event, please contact Kathy Hartzell at [president@invernessassociation.org](mailto:president@invernessassociation.org)



Image: National Park Service

# Membership

The Inverness Association & Foundation membership year goes from July 1 to June 30. Please look at your mailing label, which tells you when your membership expires...or if it has already expired! If your membership expired on 6/30/17 or earlier, it's time to rejoin.



It's easy to renew your \$30 individual membership or \$45 family membership. You can put a check in the enclosed envelope or go to our website [www.invernessassociation.org](http://www.invernessassociation.org) and donate through PayPal, which is easy and safe.

Please make all checks out to the Inverness Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law. Your membership in the Inverness Foundation includes membership in the Inverness Association.

When you renew, please include an up-to-date email address. We will only use your email to send IA & IF communications and to let you know of important developments in a timely manner. And we will never share your email with anyone else, even other members. We

understand that some members do not have email, but to the extent possible, we would like to be able to send renewal reminders and other important announcements via email. And, in the future, we'd like to send shorter Bagpiper newsletters by email, as so many other local organizations do today. It would represent a cost savings to the IF to be able to do this from time to time. And, it saves trees!

Your support enables the IF and IA to continue its work on behalf the Inverness community: maintaining our beloved Inverness trail system and local parks; supporting The Gables, our HQ and the home of the Inverness Library and the Jack Mason Museum; putting on the annual Inverness Fair, where the community has fun and local non-profits raise funds; providing support to local children's swimming, sailing, and tennis programs; and working with the Tomales Bay Watershed Council to stop water pollution at Chicken Ranch Beach. Without the Inverness Association and Foundation, there would be no local forum to address issues of importance to our community.

Thank you for continuing to support the Inverness Association and Foundation.

Catherine Caufield, Membership Secretary  
[membership@invernessassociation.org](mailto:membership@invernessassociation.org)

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*The Bagpiper*

INVERNESS ASSOCIATION  
INVERNESS FOUNDATION

The Inverness Association /  
Foundation meets on the 4th  
Wednesday of most months  
at 7 p.m. at the Jack Mason  
Museum. The agenda is posted  
in advance on our website:  
[www.invernessassociation.org](http://www.invernessassociation.org)