



**FIRE/LAND**

EL DORADO COUNTY

**KNOWING THE TERRITORY  
INSPIRING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

CO-PRESENTED BY  
**AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY + MYRTLE TREE ARTS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023  
WAKAMATSU FARM, PLACERVILLE**

# FIRE/LAND:

## KNOWING THE TERRITORY

### INSPIRING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

#### Community Forum Agenda, Farmhouse Garden

- 4:25 PM **FIRE/LAND: Welcome**  
Melissa Lobach, American River Conservancy & Ameera Godwin, Myrtle Tree Arts
- 4:30 PM **On Stewardship:** Elena DeLacy, American River Conservancy
- 4:45 PM **Panel 1: FIRE: Resilience and Recovery**
- Mark Egbert, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
  - Ken Pimlott, EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
  - Susan Kocher, UC Cooperative Extension
- 5:30 PM Break
- 5:45 PM **Spoken Word:** On Survival: Rina Wakefield and Indigo Moor
- 6:00 PM **Panel 2: LAND: Ecological Health and Interconnection**
- Becky Estes, US Forest Service
  - Malissa Tayaba, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
  - Kit Veerkamp, CA Native Plant Society
- 6:45 PM **American River Headwaters:** Autumn Gronborg, American River Conservancy
- 7:00 PM **Transition** to Upper Meadow Stage and Native Plants Garden  
**Meditation** in Native Plants Garden with Rev. Dr. Ryoei Tyler

#### Evening Performance, Upper Meadow Stage

- 7:30 PM **Laika's Last Wish** performs *Acres Burned*, composed by Zack Dowell & Dustin Koupal  
(15 minutes)
- 8:00 PM **Main Street Collective** plays **Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of The Moon***  
A 50th Anniversary Tribute (45 minutes)
- 9:00 PM **FIRE/LAND: Knowing the Territory, An Art Rock Opera for the Forest**  
(45 minutes)

## FIRE/LAND Community Resilience Forum Speakers

### **Elena DeLacy, Executive Director, American River Conservancy (ARC)**

Elena has worked with ARC since 2003, when she completed an internship to restore habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog. During her four-year tenure as Executive Director, the organization has permanently protected 3,500 acres of riparian habitat and forested lands in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds. Ms. DeLacy holds a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Management from UC Davis. She serves as the Board Secretary of the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council and is current President of the non-profit Friends of Sly Park. Elena is an active musician (violin, vocalist), performing with local bands Hither & Yon, Flannel, and Main Street Collective.

### **Mark Egbert, District Manager, El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts**

Mark Egbert is a Resource Management Specialist with over 25 years of experience working at all levels of government and community. An EDC native, he provides guidance on planning, policy, administration, program development and technical assistance for programs from K-12 education to landscape-scale watershed management. His experience includes Dam Remediation, Soil and Water Resource Management, Forest Landscape Restoration, Ecological Monitoring/Assessment, Community Resource Management, and Biomass Utilization.

### **Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE Director (Retired); EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience**

Ken started with CAL FIRE in 1987 as a seasonal fire fighter, and ultimately worked his way through the ranks to Director and California's State Forester, a position he held from 2010 until his retirement in December 2018. Chief Pimlott has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Humboldt State University and is a Registered Professional Forester in CA. Ken continues to work on fire and forest management initiatives and is currently working with EDC and the Fire Safe Council to implement wildfire preparedness and resilience programs.

### **Susan Kocher, Extension Forester/Forestry Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Central Sierra Nevada**

Susie Kocher provides forestry advice to private landowners throughout CA through the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative. She has founded a Post-fire Forest Resilience education program to help forest landowners learn about restoring forests and connecting to supports. She has been doing prescribed fire education since 2018 and founded the El Dorado/Amador and the Motherlode PBAs in 2021 to help private landowners learn how to use prescribed fire on their own property. She is a Registered Professional Forester and lives in South Lake Tahoe.

### **Becky Estes, PhD, Central Sierra Province Ecologist, US Forest Service**

Becky Estes has served as the USDA Forest Service Central Sierra Province Ecologist with the Region 5 Ecology Program, a boundary-spanning organization that provides expertise fundamental to sustainable, science-based, multiple-use land management. Based in Placerville, she has spent 10 years working with the Eldorado, Tahoe and Stanislaus National Forests and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit providing assistance on complex management needs such as forest resilience, climate change and guidance on inventory/monitoring.

### **Malissa Tayaba, Vice Chair, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians**

Malissa Tayaba serves on the governing Tribal Council of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe whose mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life of its members by preserving, protecting and promoting its history, culture and traditions; promoting self-sufficiency and a strong work ethic; exercising the powers of self-government and sovereign immunity; while providing social, health, economic and educational resources, opportunities and services that contribute to the well-being of the tribal community.

### **Kit Veerkamp, Licensed Landscape Architect (retired); CA Native Plant Society**

Kit is a UC Master Gardener with over 40 years of experience designing residential, commercial, institutional, and public works projects throughout the region. While serving on the Sacramento District's Board and the Chapter's Advocacy Committee, she is also the Horticulture Chair and Plant Sale Coordinator for the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and California Naturalist. She teaches courses on improving soils, pollinator gardens, natural pest management, water-wise gardening, habitat gardening, and fire-resiliency.

### **Rina Wakefield, Writer and Poet**

Rina has written and produced for Ms. Magazine.com. Her poetry has been featured in The Mt. Democrat, the literary journals Community Soliloquies, Lantern Magazine, and Coalesce. She is a Master's Degree candidate in Library Science in Rare Book Curation at San Jose State University. She holds a B.A. Degree in English Literature from CSU Sacramento. She is working on a book based on the female lineage of her Indigenous and Native American heritage, descending from the Purepecha people of the Michoacán region of Mexico.

### **Indigo Moor, Poet, Writer; Poet Laureate Emeritus, Sacramento**

Indigo Moor's 4th book of poetry *Everybody's Jonesin' for Something*, took 2nd place in U. of Nebraska Press' Backwater Prize. His 2nd book, *Through the Stonecutter's Window*, won Northwestern U. Press's Cave Canem prize. His 1st and 3rd books, *Tap-Root* and *In the Room of Thirsts & Hungers*, were in Main Street Rag's Editor's Select Poetry Series. He is an adjunct professor at Dominican Univ. and visiting faculty for Dominican's MFA program. He is a former Stonecoast MFA program faculty, where he earned an MFA in poetry, fiction, and scriptwriting.

### **Autumn Gronborg, Forest Restoration Manager, American River Conservancy**

Autumn has worked with the American River Conservancy since Jan of 2015, managing the American River Headwaters Acquisition and Restoration Project as well as writing and planning forest management plans for the extensive lands held by the Conservancy. Autumn holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Natural Resources Management from the University of Georgia.

### **Tamara Johnston, (Forum MC) Chair, Georgetown Divide Fire Safe Council**

Tamara Johnston is a 10-year resident and business owner in Kelsey, California, on the Georgetown Divide. As the volunteer Chair of the Georgetown Divide Fire Safe Council, she has raised nearly \$8 million for fuel reduction projects in Kelsey, Garden Valley and Georgetown, and organizes community events related to fire prevention and education.

### **Rev. Dr. Ryohei Tyler, Chair of the Int'l Division of Enryakuji Issan Gyokobo; Abbot of Tendaisyu, USA**

Dr. Tyler has a Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics from UC and Honzan Tokudo ordination at Enryakuji, principal temple, Tendaisyu, Shiga, Japan. As Grand Ajari and Chief Overseas Missionary of Enryakuji, she helps propagate Tendai Buddhism outside of Japan. She trains Tendai Priests, confers Tokudo Ordinations, and offers sutra chanting, study and discussions for all those who seek the teachings of Buddhism.

# FIRE/LAND: KNOWING THE TERRITORY

## An Art Rock Opera for the Forest

“A tree is a solid and constant being, free of human weaknesses like discontent and striving.” So wrote John Muir, environmental philosopher and early advocate for land preservation. A tree is not an isolated being but part of an interconnected network on which life everywhere depends. That’s where the FIRE/LAND begins, with notions about survival, including our own.

We inhabit. We get lost. But, we must remember:  
“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.” -*FIRE/LAND Libretto*



FIRE/LAND’s **Act 1**, a blend of historical fact and fiction opens in 1910 at the official birth of the US Forest Service, led by Gifford Pinchot, buddy of Teddy Roosevelt. In contrast to John Muir’s pure conception of conservation, U.S. government and industries put policies in place for fire suppression and timber extraction, as well as mining, water, agricultural use. “Wild,” “exploited,” “settled”—these are European concepts of land. Wildfire, like nature more broadly, was ignorantly assumed to be under human control. From the Montana/Idaho “Big Burn” fire of 1910, to the mega-fires in our midst, we arrive at the present moment around wildfire and climate grief and recovery.

**Act 2** commemorates the Caldor Fire and honors local Native American approaches to land and using fire to revitalize it. An Oracle who can see our past, present and future guides **Act 3**. From Svante Arrhenius, Swedish scientist who, in 1895, accurately calculated global warming, to today’s climate scientists whose predictions have yet to be heeded, and finally, to updated strategies for using prescribed fire for protection and restoration, this art work aims to offer hope and resilience for the land and for our future.

### FIRE/LAND: Knowing the Territory

#### Act 1: Overture

**Discontented Tree**

**A Moral Dilemma**

**Big Burn**

#### Act 2: Burn Scar

**Memoriam for Caldor**

**Spirits of The Land**

#### Act 3: The Seer and The Seed

**Oracle of Scientists**

**Epilogue: We All Play a Part**

### Characters & Cast

John Muir: Paul Godwin

Gifford Pinchot: Dylan Punturo

President Taft: Evan Taylor

Storyteller: Kimberly ShiningStar Petree

The Seer: Mae Flores

Svante Arrhenius: Evan Taylor

Opera Aria: Caitlyn Miller

Ensemble: Haley Nicole Woodward, Caitlyn Miller,  
Mae Flores, Evan Taylor, Dylan Punturo

### FIRE/LAND is created by:

Concept/Libretto	Ameera Godwin
Music Direction	Paul Godwin
Theatrical Direction	Gavin Sellers
Original Storytelling	Kimberly ShiningStar Petree
Video/Projection	Ameera Godwin
Drone Photography	Rob Kurk
Music Performance	Main Street Collective
Executive Producers	Myrtle Tree Arts

### Original Music Composed by:

*FIRE/LAND Overture:*

*Hills, Dreams, Secrets* by Miguel Noya

*Discontented Tree* by Paul Godwin; Lyrics, Ameera Godwin, adapted from John Muir

*Big Burn* by Aron Faria

*Burn Scar: Salvagers* by Paul Godwin and Miguel Noya; *Talking Tree, A Chair* by Miguel Noya

*The Seer and the Seed & Moral Dilemma/We All Play a Part* by Paul Godwin; Lyrics, Ameera Godwin

## Who's Who In FIRE/LAND

**Ameera Godwin, (Concept/Libretto/Original Video & Projections) Co-founder, Myrtle Tree Arts.** In 2022, she was artistic director/video artist for *Earth Dayta: Media, Music, and Real World Data in Performance with Nature*. She earned a B.A. in Media Study, Art & Performance from the Center for Media Study, U. of Buffalo and a Master's Degree in Interactive Telecommunications, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. She directed documentaries, garnering film festival awards and her artwork has appeared in performances and exhibitions in Latvia, Estonia, Portugal, and the US. She received a Sacramento Region Community Foundation Arts Fellowship to create *FIRE/LAND*. Ameera is a certified UC Climate Steward.

**Paul Godwin, (Composer/Music Director/Keyboards/Vocals/John Muir) Co-founder Myrtle Tree Arts.** With over three decades of international experience creating and empowering musical events, with Miguel Noya he formed Dogon in 1985. They have recorded and performed eight albums on NEWDOG Records, been praised in WIRED, Billboard, Keyboard and Spin Magazines and were nominated for a California Music Award as Best Electronic Artist. Paul is the recipient of the Bay Area Critics Circle Best Composer Award for his theatrical score of Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* in its West Coast Premiere at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. He holds a B.A. in Music Production & Engineering from Berklee College of Music, Boston.

**Miguel Noya (Composer)** Venezuelan musical pioneer and educator. Miguel Noya has over 15 albums to his name and continues to collaborate and release ground-breaking electronic music worldwide. His concerts in Europe and South America feature his design for surround sound psycho-acoustic environments. In 2021, he was awarded a musical residency in Berlin by The Goethe Institute. He presented *Possible Horizons* for Venezuela at the XLI Venice Biennale and *Sailing Future* at World Expo Lisboa. Noya is a composer and electronic musician working with Paul Godwin (Dogon) since 1981 and Ameera since 1989, his family with whom he shares the power of The Muse. He loves running up that hill.

**Aron Faria (Composer/Guitar)** is a local composer/musician who moved to El Dorado County 5 years ago. After receiving a degree in music composition from CSU Stanislaus, Aron spent many years performing with music groups large and small across the state. He has released material with Freedom to Forage, Strange Brew, and An Epic Theory in the progressive, jazz, classical, and post-rock genres. A lifelong student and teacher, Aron welcomes any chance to create new music with like-minded individuals. In 2020 Aron joined Dogon for their release, *Fragments/Far Journeys*. Now a regular member of the Main Street Collective, Aron is happy to have settled into the Foothill life with his wife Jessica.

**Gavin Sellers-Norman (Theatrical Director)** is the full time Theatre Arts Instructor at Meristem and Adjunct Professor of Acting at Folsom Lake College and CSU Sacramento. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Sacramento State University, is a graduate of Dell'Art Int'l School of Physical Theatre and of Mime and Contact Improvisation Training with Pilobolus and PUSH Physical Theatre. Gavin is an avid LGBTQIA+ advocate in El Dorado County, and founded and produced APPECORE Fringe Festival (2017-18) bringing over 21 original theatrical production emphasizing queer experience and leadership from across the US to venues in Placerville CA.

**Kimberly ShiningStar Petree (Storyteller)** is direct descendant of the Indigenous people of El Dorado County, the Tume'lay Nisenan Miwok, aka the El Dorado Band of Miwok Indians and the Executive Director of Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays. She is a professional storyteller with a unique ability to intertwine history, science, and traditional stories to inspire personal responsibility.

**Zack Dowell, Laika's Last Wish (Composer/Synthesizers)** is a lifelong tinkerer, musician, and maker, who for over 20 years has coordinated the efforts of the Folsom Lake College Innovation Center, discipline-agnostic makerspace and hub for innovation. He provides training, resources, and energy for the development of new approaches to teaching and learning. The Center's projects include explorations of bioacoustics, infrasound, and data sonification/physicalization.

**Dustin Koupal, Laika's Last Wish (Composer/Synthesizers)** is a Placerville-based data engineer, tinkerer and musician who uses quantitative data as source material for meaningful data-mapping and creation of interpretive explorations of sound.

**Robin Mayforth (Violin)** is honored to be participating in this amazing Art Rock Opera for the Forest! A professional violinist, she is Concertmaster of Symphony San Jose and a member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra. She lives in Pacifica, CA with her two kitties and loves being in nature.

**Caitlin Miller (Vocals/Opera Singer)** is a music teacher and director at the Crocker House Creative Arts Center in El Dorado. When she is not teaching or performing you can find her backpacking in the mountains.

**Evan Taylor (Vocals/President Taft/Svante Arrhenius)** is a local stage performer in regional theaters in the greater Sacramento area. He's thrilled to be contributing to the powerful FIRE/LAND performance. When not performing, Evan attends class as he finishes his degree, works his 9-5 grind, or does creative writing in his spare time.

**Mae Flores (Vocals/The Seer)** is an award-winning Filipina-American Actress, TED Speaker and Global Community Advocate. As a survivor of sexual assaults, Mae has turned her adversity into power, advocating for survivors of sexual violence. She has won global humanitarian service awards and commendations for her efforts from EuropeAid, UN Women, the UN, Lions Clubs Int'l, the Consulate General of the Philippines, the WNBA. Mae is a singer with Main Street Collective and works on creative projects that focus on storytelling, advocacy, theater and film.

**Dylan Punturo (Vocals/Gifford Pinchot)** is a songwriter and musician who performs regularly around the Gold Country with bands such as The Phantom Spires, Main Street Collective and as a solo performer. In his spare time he enjoys traveling, rock climbing and spending time with his family.

**Haley Nicole Woodward (Vocals/Actor)** is a singer/songwriter who loves playing across multiple genres in multiple projects, including the bands Mookatite & MSC, and solo performing. She enjoys spending time amongst friends and traveling around to new cities.

**Jonathan Punturo (Drums)** is a self-taught musician, composer and producer based in Garden Valley, CA. He has performed and recorded with acts in underground and niche music communities, including Main Street Collective and Find Yourself. In his spare time he enjoys hanging out with his dog and contemplating the nature of reality.

**John Sellers (Cello)** is a local songwriter, producer, recording artist and eclectic musician who spends his "music" time as the guitarist for a metal band in Denver and teaching cello and guitar in his studio in Placerville. John is absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to play with Paul and the amazing talent pool in Main Street Collective.

**Brett Neuman (Bass)** is a bass player and singer with Main Street Collective by night. By day he works with Gold Rush Energy, drives Subi's and studies progressive rock by Steven Wilson.

**Charlie Baldwin (Saxophone)** is the Director of Sac Area Sports Inc., and an addiction counselor. He plays in original and tribute bands all around Sacramento and is particularly fond of adding juice to Pink Floyd tributes such as with Main St. Collective.

**Joey Beatty (Drums)** is a songwriter, guitarist, and drummer who really loves playing music, especially with his buddies in MSC. He writes, records, and performs as Dark River. Aside from music, Joey is also into video games, literature, whittling, and doing cool stuff outside.

**Verlander Design (Brand/Graphic Design)** Mark Verlander is a founder of Verlander Design, independent identity + brand design services for global, local and non-profit clients. He has taught art and design to grade school and college students and supports non-profit and social community.

**Jameson Randall (Video Projection Tech)** has been working in the video production field for 18 years on national television shows, documentaries and feature films, has been creating music videos for local bands and specializes in bringing emerging video makers along in their careers through training and interning.

**Lawson Productions (Lighting/Audio/Stage Tech)** led by Cameron Lawson, audio expert for local bands and supporting venues and events with AV, lighting and staging throughout the region.

**Main Street Collective (MSC)** was founded in 2021 as a continually expanding group of talented and passionate musicians around Placerville, CA who love to re-interpret classic music from the 20th and 21st centuries. Choosing from favorite arty bands like Pink Floyd, Radiohead, David Bowie, Talking Heads, the Beatles & The Doors, the band has been creating standing-room only performances that blow the collective mind! More: [mscband.com](http://mscband.com).

**Myrtle Tree Arts (MTA), Event Co-Producer**, is an arts collaborative focused on the intersection of art, media, music, nature, and community. With a mission to develop and present creative works and performances especially around environmental awareness, MTA hosts local and international musicians, artists and writers in artist residencies. Our events are invitations to share and encourage community engagement. More: [myrtletreearts.com](http://myrtletreearts.com).

**Melissa Lobach, Development Director, American River Conservancy, Event Co-Producer**

As ARC's development professional since 2016, Melissa serves multiple roles, including fundraising, special event planning, public relations, donor cultivation, general marketing and communications, and volunteer coordination. She is a certified NAI Interpretive Guide, UC California Naturalist, and UC Climate Steward. She holds an MA in Education and a BA in English and Speech Communications. Since 2011, she has been a docent at Wakamatsu Farm where she has led countless public and private tours.

**Myrtle Tree Arts expresses deep thanks for the support:**

American River Conservancy  
 ARC Volunteers  
 The Latrobe Fund  
 Sac. Region Comm. Foundation  
 Arts and Culture El Dorado  
 EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience  
 El Dorado and Georgetown RCDs  
 EDC Fire Safe Council  
 US Forest Service  
 El Dorado Historical Museum  
 CAL FIRE  
 UC ANR Climate Steward Program  
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 Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays  
 Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
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 National Interagency Fire Center  
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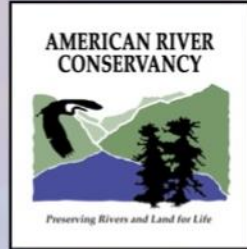
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In partnership with



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Now Visit:

**FIRE/LAND: THE EXHIBITION**

An installation of digital prints and videos by Ameera Godwin  
Switchboard Gallery, Arts and Culture El Dorado

June 8<sup>th</sup> – August 6<sup>th</sup>

525 Main St., Placerville, CA

**ABOUT AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY (ARC):**

We serve our communities by ensuring healthy ecosystems within the upper American and upper Cosumnes River watersheds through land conservation, stewardship, and education. Operating as a land trust since 1989, we have preserved over 29,000 acres in El Dorado and Placer Counties in perpetuity. As the owner and operator of Wakamatsu Farm, we are committed to fulfilling the vision of the property as a community place to experience natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and cultural history. ARC also acknowledges that we work within the land and waters that make up the ancestral homeland of the Miwok, Nisenan, and Washoe people. We pledge to honor, learn from, and actively engage local tribes in our work. ARC's Nature Center and office is located in the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, CA. Discover more about ARC at [ARConservancy.org](http://ARConservancy.org).