

**The Vannevar Bush Retreat
at
Inverness, California**

User's Manual



Bush Retreat at Inverness

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At Inverness, California**

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A Short History

Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington from 1939 to 1955, and head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development during World War II was the author of numerous publications and books. Dr. Bush placed the royalties from one of his books in a fund (The Bush Fund), which was designated solely for the enjoyment of the scientists and staff of the Carnegie Institution. The money was specifically restricted for this use and was to be divided among the different departments of the institution. By 1966 the Departments of Terrestrial Magnetism and Geophysics jointly established a vacation retreat on a 35 acre woodland site fronting Deep Creek Lake in Maryland. This facility is available to all Carnegie employees but is used predominantly by Carnegie people living essentially near Maryland.

The Department of Plant Biology discussed what to do with its share of the funds, about \$15,000. Suggestions ranged from upgrading the coffee area in the main laboratory to a swimming pool behind the greenhouses to cabins at Lake Tahoe, the Santa Cruz Mountains or at Inverness near Point Reyes National Seashore at the Tomales Bay State Park.

In February, 1968, Jan and Walter Brown investigated various lots in the Inverness region and came up with three or four choices. One was a 2/3 acre plot in Rancho Punta de los Reyes subdivision offered by C. Asman Realty at Inverness for \$9,000. The lot was located on a gently sloping, heavily wooded area with bishop pine, madrone, and California bay laurel and overlooked Tomales Bay State park, which was only a few hundred feet away. After considerable discussion and several trips by various people from the department to inspect these lots, it was decided that the property offered by the Asman Realty was the best choice.

On March 20, 1968, at its meeting in New York, the Executive Committee of the Carnegie Institution approved \$16,600 to be expended from the principal of the Bush Fund for the purchase of the lot and construction of the cabin. It was decided among the staff to build a 28 x28 foot mountain cabin that was offered as a package by Lumberman's Mercantile in Fremont, California. The structure of the plan chosen had a high, steeply pitched roof with a main floor space of 784 square feet and an open loft above with 374 square feet.

Towards the end of October 1968, a contract for about \$8,200 was made with Earnie Gilmore to erect the cabin to its shell state, the cabin to have siding but no roofing or decking. It was agreed that members of the Department would finish these parts of the cabin, as well as install the wiring, inside paneling, and plumbing.

The winter of 1968-69 was one of heavy rains; nevertheless, as of the beginning of April 1969 the foundation was in place and framing of the cabin had commenced. During construction the contractor lived on the site. The site appeared in the Marin County Assessor's Office as parcel 112-080-07 and was given the address of 420 via del Vista, Inverness.

Around the middle of May the roof boards were installed and insulation put in place. As of June 1, the shell state was complete. The remainder of the work was completed by

Carnegie staff and their families as well as postdoctoral fellows who wished to help with the work. The entire project was shepherded through its various phases under the direction of Dick Hart and Frank Nicholson – the Hacholson Corp. as it became known.

By mid - June the cabin was completed and 180 feet of water line was run from the meter near the main road to the cabin. Shingling the steep roof presented a challenge, but with a roof seat support, constructed from slotted angle iron by Dick Hart, it was possible for Frank Nicholson, Lars O. Bjorn, Dave Fork – with Norio Murata and Ken Mantai as shingle bearers – to cap the roof ridge by July 15. The 1,200 gallon septic tank was installed by midsummer and rough wiring put in place by Mark Lawrence in November. The cabin passed rough inspection January 1970.

During the first half of 1970, all the interior work was done and on June 22, the final inspection was approved. On July 18, 1970 the official cabin christening took place and was attended by most of the Carnegie staff, fellows, and respective families. Much fun, lots of hard work, and the generosity of Vannevar Bush made the realization of the Western Bush Retreat a reality. The total cost of the project was about \$24,300. In order to enhance the site and protect the view towards Tomales Bay, the 2/3 acre lot below the cabin was purchased from the Ferguson estate for \$14,000.

The following people had a major hand in the realization of the Bush Cabin project: Clara and Dewey Baker, Olle and Monika Bjorkman, Lars O. Bjorn, Jan and Walter Brown, Dave Fork, Stacy French, Dick and Clavia Hart, Jan Kowalik, Mark Lawrence, Eckliard Loos, Ken Mantai, Norio Murata, Frank and Vi Nicholson, Malcolm Nobs, Bob Percy, and Lillai Prager.



Abbotts Lagoon

Paul Sterbentz

Welcome

The land, building and initial equipment of the retreat are the gift of Dr. Vannevar Bush, former president of the Institution. All operating and maintenance expenses however must come from the user fees.

To keep use fees low, each user is asked to treat the facility as if it were their own – make small repairs where practical and promptly report damage before major repair is necessary. Follow the Campers Golden Rule – leave it in better shape than you found it!

Reservation Procedures

Requests for reservations are accepted bi-annually for formal scheduling of the January through June and July through December periods. The call for January through June reservations is done at the end of November. July through December reservations are collected at the end of May. Every weekend is booked during the year so you are urged to follow the reservation process. There are many weekdays open and reservations may not be as critical for weekday stays; however, if you have weekday dates in mind it is recommended to submit your reservation during the sign-up periods to guarantee you get the dates you want. Since many personnel cannot reserve during the weekdays, if you plan a weekday reservation it would be courteous if your stay were from Sunday (noon) through Friday (noon) leaving the weekends for another user. Under no circumstances will a reservation be given covering both weekends.

The reservation assignments take time since we check records to assure the policy below is followed, usually the calendars are released and notification sent of reservations a week or two before the reservation period starts.

BUSH RETREAT RESERVATION POLICY

The Carnegie (Bush Retreat) Cabin at Inverness is a benefit for **all employees, postdocs/fellows, retirees** and **visiting investigators** of the Institution. Over the years the use of the cabin has been extended, as a courtesy, to include **predocs** and **students** on a space available basis. During the past few years the number of employees, postdocs/fellows and retirees, as well as the number of visitors, has increased to the extent that it is now impossible to accommodate all those who want to use the cabin - especially on weekends. At the beginning of each sign-up period, preference will be given to those who have not been to the cabin in the prior 12-month period. In order to have the cabin remain a benefit to employees, postdocs/fellows, and retirees and still extend the use privilege to visitors, predocs and students the following policy applies:

1. Sign-up calendars for the cabin will be posted on the website for 6 months at a time.
2. **Employees**, and **postdocs/fellows** should not sign-up for more than two (2) weekend periods per calendar year, with only one (1) weekend in any 6-month period.
3. **Visitors, predocs** and **students** may sign up for 1 weekend per calendar year.
4. **Retirees** are encouraged to take advantage of the weekdays available.
5. Weekends – This is considered noon Friday through noon Sunday. If there is no reservation following your weekend you may stay longer on Sunday but you **MUST** check with Registrar to confirm when you pick up your key.
6. Weekdays (Mon. - Fri.) will be available to both regular employees and visitors on a space available basis after assignments from reservations have been given. Weekday reservations may be requested at any time if the cabin is available.

7. Guests – the person with the assigned reservation MUST BE present at the cabin during their assigned reservation dates. The cabin cannot be “loaned” to friends and family to use. Violators of this rule will be permanently barred from use of the cabin.

Cancellations: If an individual has signed up for the use of the cabin and is unable to go, he/she will be charged for use of the cabin unless that person has notified the registrar (Business Manager @ the Stanford departments) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled cabin stay. A waiting list of people unable to secure a weekend during sign-ups will be kept and those people on the waiting list will be given first preference when notification of a cancellation is sent to the departmental lists.

An individual may trade their weekend with another individual who has been assigned a different weekend during the same six-month period. However, an individual cannot give their weekend away to another Carnegie individual who has not signed up for a weekend. Any cancelled weekends will first be filled by those people on the waiting list if an early responder to the vacancy email, if none respond then the reservation will be given to the first to respond. The Registrar must be notified of all trades prior to occupancy for insurance purposes.

Guest Responsibility: All persons using the cabin are responsible for any damages to the property beyond normal wear & tear. Failure to follow the written procedures for the cabin may result in loss of privilege for the next sign up or indefinitely. Failure to report damage will result in loss of privilege.

RATES: Weekend (Friday night to Sunday noon) - \$75.00
Weekdays (Sunday noon to Friday noon) - \$35/night

KEYS: Keys to the cabin will be issued by the Registrar upon receipt of a check made payable to Carnegie. The Carnegie individual to whom the keys are issued MUST BE at the cabin during the reserved period of use.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE

The cabin is an A-frame cabin with a main floor and loft area overlooking the main floor. The main floor has one bedroom with a queen bed. The loft has a semi-private bedroom (no door on the room) with a queen bed and an open bedroom area with 3 twin beds. Blankets are stored upstairs for all of these beds in a trunk and drawers under the twin beds. All beds have mattress pad coverings. There is one bathroom. Maximum accommodations for 8 guests. **We're sorry but pets are not allowed.**

There is a full kitchen with dishwasher, cooking utensils and dishware. There is a Weber BBQ. There are games and a bookcase full of paperbacks. There is no television or radio at the cabin but there is a phone, for emergency calls. Cell service is problematic.

Things To Bring (or buy after arriving):

Bath towels and toiletries

Sleeping bags or linens for those beds you will be using.

Food. There is a store in Inverness plus there are several restaurants in the area.

For Wood Fires: Newspaper and kindling. Larger wood is provided at the cabin.

Some items, such as charcoal and lighter fluid **for the BBQ**, cleaning supplies and paper goods may have been left by the previous users (but don't count on it). You may find it wise to do an inventory upon arrival and do some shopping after you have arrived.

Things That Occasionally Need Replenishing – donate if possible

In order to keep the expenses of the cabin down donations of supplies is always welcome. Some items that need replenishing can include:

Toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, foil, saran wrap

Cleaning supplies, dish soap (sink & dishwasher), hand soap, Windex, 409

Sugar, salt, pepper

You may discover other supplies that would be welcome to the guest following your visit.

Where to Shop: There are several small grocery stores located on the road to the cabin where food and goods can be purchased.

DIRECTIONS TO THE RETREAT

The cabin is located approximately 2 ½ hours north of Stanford. You may cross the Golden Gate Bridge or the San Rafael Bridge. Either way, you will end up heading north on 101. Take the San Anselmo exit off of 101. Go left and you will be on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Stay on Sir Francis Drake Blvd all the way to Olema. When you reach Olema, turn right. You will now be on HWY 1 heading north. About ¼ miles, before you come to the town of Pt Reyes Station and before the bridge, you will turn left

to Inverness. Follow this road going north along Tomales Bay past the Inverness Store, and the Inverness Yacht Club. Eventually you will round a big bend going left. After that, turn right on Camino Del Mar, then first left on Via Del Vista. You will pass Drake Way, then Escondido Way. About .3 mile past, look for the wood **CARNEGIE 420** sign on the right telephone pole (if you come to Via Sobronte, you have gone too far). Turn right, then first left at the tree with another wood **CARNEGIE** sign on it. The cabin is at the end of the driveway.

The address is: Vannevar Bush Retreat, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 420 Via De La Vista, Inverness, CA 94937

It is recommended that you use MapQuest or Google Maps for more explicit directions.

ARRIVAL – OPENING THE CABIN

Keys

Your set of keys will open the back door, electrical box, and downstairs storage. Always remember to latch the front sliding glass door and exit through the back door when leaving.

Water, Electricity and Phone

When arriving, unlock electric panel to the left of back door and turn on all **red** handled breakers.

Do not touch anything in the water heater closet, especially temp setting or on-off switch.

Do not replace energy saving light bulbs with regular bulbs.

When departing, turn off all **red** handled circuit breakers, leave the rest in the “on” position. Turn off only those circuits you turned on when you arrived.

The telephone is provided for use during an emergency. You will be billed for any out of area calls made during your stay. The phone number is 415-669-7650.

Dishwasher

Please do not put dishes in the dishwasher that have sand on them, this will clog the machine and the plumbing! No dishes should be left in the machine when you depart from the cabin after your reservation.

Wood Burning Stove

Whenever possible, heat the cabin with the wood stove. The electric wall heaters cost quite a bit to operate and do not heat the cabin as quickly. The firewood in the cabin should be the driest, most seasoned. We have installed a storage building at the end of the driveway near the cabin to hold the firewood stack. Please move some firewood from the storage building to the cabin to keep the wood stack in the cabin full.

Experience tells us that 90% of the time you will need to burn some wood. Moving wood from the storage building to the cabin is **mandatory**. If you are in good health, please make sure you move as much wood as you use and MORE if you are so inclined. **No firewood should be stored on the outside decking.**

Bring newspaper and small kindling with you to help start the stove. Follow all instructions on the wall to the left of the stove.

PRESTO LOGS CANNOT BE USED IN THIS STOVE and DO NOT use lighter or charcoal fluid to start the wood stove!

Never split wood or bang anything on the tile hearth.

DRENCH ASHES AND DISPERSE ON SURROUNDING CARNEGIE LAND AT THE BACK OF THE CABIN DECK. MAKE SURE ALL ASHES ARE COOL TO THE TOUCH.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Medical Emergency

The closest medical facility is Coastal Health Alliance, Point Reyes Station, 65 3rd Street, Point Reyes Station. Their phone number is 415-663-8781. If you have a serious medical emergency call 911, the CABIN address is 420 Via De La Vista, Inverness CA 94937.

Fire Emergency

There is a fire extinguisher located near the wood burning stove. If using this extinguisher for a small fire, make sure the fire is completely out. If the fire is out of control, **evacuate the building immediately**. Try to use your cell phone to call 911 or ask a neighbor to call 911. The address CABIN is 420 Via De La Vista, Inverness CA 94937.

CABIN USAGE RULES

In response to recent events, we are compelled to state and enforce these common sense rules. Please think of the person coming in behind you who also wishes to arrive to a clean and well kept cabin. Those who ignore these rules will be barred from future use.

Cleaning is mandatory. There is no maid service. If you leave the cabin a mess, you will be put on a “No Return” list which is now strictly enforced. Please read and follow **Bush Retreat Cleanup and Closing Procedures**. If you walk in and FIND the cabin a mess, you MUST report it to the Plant Biology Business Manager upon your return, detailing the problems found. **Under NO circumstances are you authorized to contact the previous tenant, doing so will bar you from future visits. All complaints/problems are handled by the Business Manager at Plant Biology.**

No dishes in the dishwasher when you close up. Start the dishwasher early enough so you can empty it before you leave. No one wants to empty YOUR dishes when they arrive. Clean all **sink stains** with cleanser. Check the **garbage disposal** for obstructions (we found an entire potato rolling around in there). **No rice** down the disposal – it will clog the drain. Check and **empty the vacuums** if full of dirt, we now have bagless vacuums, please leave the catch container empty when you leave.

No food or toiletries left behind - PERIOD. No one is going to eat your moldy lettuce. If you brought it with you, **haul it out**. This includes used bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hand lotion, medicine, and body oil. If you wish to donate open hand disinfectant, liquid soap, or toys, these items are acceptable to leave behind.

Leave Things As You Found Them. Visitors like to put their “stamp” on the cabin by moving furniture, pictures, dishes, kitchen utensils, floor mats, tools, vacuums - you name it. Before you depart, please **put everything back** where you found it. If you are a repeat visitor you will come to appreciate this rule. If you want to “**donate**” items for the cabin you must ask the Business Manager. Replace burned out **light bulbs** with low watt energy savers, these **can be found in the closet in the main entry hallway**.

Take excess garbage with you – don’t use neighbors’ bin. If garbage does not fit in our small garbage bin on the road, simply take it with you. **No ashes in garbage bin – disperse wet, cold ashes on surrounding Carnegie land near the back of the cabin.**

Keep It down outside. The Carnegie person holding the keys needs to control their flock – meaning **no loud noise** (read partying) outside **after 9PM**. If a neighbor calls us to complain, you will not be returning in the future. Deck lights should be off by 9PM, the lights disturb the neighbors.

Neighbors are not park rangers. Sure they’re nice people, but they aren’t being paid by the park service to answer your questions – let them be unless it is an emergency.

OUTSIDE ON THE DECK AFTER 9 PM?

Quiet Please & turn lights off after 9 PM!

Although the Inverness Cabin *seems* isolated, neighbors are situated above the cabin and below the cabin - close enough to be affected by after-hours partying and lights on our decks. They are full time occupants and “watch over” our cabin.

Please remember, access to The Bush Retreat is a privilege. If one of our neighbors calls us with a valid noise complaint, you **will not be allowed future use**.

It is easy to forget this rule when you’re having a good time with family and friends, so if you anticipate problems, please lay out the ground rules ahead of time with your group. The person who signs for the cabin key is responsible for reminding their guests about this policy.

Thank you for your understanding, and we hope you fully enjoy this beautiful and serene area.

FIREARMS

The use of firearms of any kind (e.g., guns, air guns, pellet guns, rifles, bow and arrow, etc.) is strictly forbidden at the Retreat. If violation of this rule is reported or documented, the offending individual will be banned from future use of the Retreat.

Employees and fellows are responsible for their guests.



Tomales Bay

Paul Sterbentz

Please Be Aware Of Beach Hazards That Exist At Point Reyes

Condensed From The Point Reyes National Seashore Website ©

Rip Currents

Beach goers, **particularly children**, can quickly be caught in the rip current, **even close to shore**, and pulled out to deep water. If the person cannot escape the current, they may drown. This has occurred numerous times at Point Reyes.

If caught in a rip current:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Never fight against the current.
- Think of it like a treadmill that cannot be turned off, which you need to step to the side of.
- Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle--away from the current--towards shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arm and yelling for help.

If you see someone in trouble, don't become a victim too:

- Have someone call 9-1-1.
- Throw the rip current victim something that floats--a lifejacket, a cooler, an inflatable ball.
- Yell instructions on how to escape.

Remember, many people drown while trying to save someone else from a rip current.

Sneaker Waves

Visitors to Point Reyes beaches are advised to be aware of sneaker waves. A sneaker wave is an **unexpectedly large wave**, higher, stronger and reaching farther up the beach to levels far beyond where the normal waves reach. Sneaker waves also have the ability to toss around large driftwood logs that may fall on a person, injuring or even killing them.

Even though the ocean may appear calm, there is still the potential for sneaker waves. Larger waves, moving fast, pick up smaller waves and carry them toward the beach. **They can occur at any time**, day or night, during incoming and outgoing tides, during storms and during sunny calm weather.

How to avoid sneaker waves

- **Never turn your back on the surf**
Stay at least thirty yards away from the water on beaches facing the open ocean, particularly the **North and South beaches, McClures Beach and Kehoe Beach**. Watch out for sneaker waves. Sneaker waves are often preceded by a sudden lowering of the water level. Supervise children at all times. **Two children died at the South Beach after being hit by sneaker waves in 2001.**
- **Avoid slippery rocks**
Rock outcrops can be slippery from mist, rain, or spray. Large waves can knock people off rock outcrops and severely injure them or knock them unconscious. Stay away from rocky areas, particularly during storms, high tide, or tidal changes. **In early 2004, a person at McClures Beach was killed when she was knocked off a rock by a sneaker wave.**
- **Avoid logs and debris**
Sneaker waves are strong enough to take the biggest log and toss it on you. Stay away from logs in surf or wet sand. Do not sit or stand on logs. Keep children away from logs and large debris.

Contaminated Water

Lagoons, such as those found at **Abbotts Lagoon, Kehoe Beach**, and occasionally at **Drakes Beach**, and similar bodies of water can be hazardous areas for swimming. Rainfall runoff and stream flow from surrounding agricultural and cattle grazing areas flows into the lagoons, potentially carrying harmful **bacteria** with it.

Hypothermia

The <http://www.nps.gov/pore/index.htm>

The coastal **water temperatures** at Point Reyes **rarely exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit**. Prolonged exposure to these temperatures can result in hypothermia (abnormally low body temperature) or death. **Do not stay in the water for more than a few minutes unless you are wearing a wetsuit**. Don't wait until you start to shiver. If you start to shiver, you are already suffering from mild hypothermia. Get out of the water and try to warm up.

Hot Coals

Hot coals may exist on the beach surface or just below the sand due to improperly extinguished beach fires. Put all fires out with water. Do not attempt to extinguish fires or cover the coals with sand.

Departure – Your Responsibilities

Cleanup and Closing Procedures

- Take **ALL** food with you!
- Clean kitchen thoroughly.
- Beds should be made up with mattress pad and bedspreads provided.
- Shades should be closed when locking up to leave.
- Damp mop kitchen and dining area floors.
- Sweep or vacuum hard floors. Shake out or vacuum throw rugs. Vacuum upstairs rugs. Empty bagless receptacle if at “FULL” mark.
- **Clean bathroom floor, toilet, tub and sink.** Leave the exhaust ventilator over the bathtub open. Remove all toiletries. Empty and reline trash can.
- If too full, remove ashes from stove and put in ash bucket. Secure lid tightly. Note that some ashes are OK as they promote easier start next time.
- Sweep off the deck and stairs.
- Check to make sure wall heaters and lights are off.
- Lock all windows and doors, especially the sliding door.
- Leave refrigerator on. Remove all food. Make sure refrigerator door is closed.
- Put a new plastic liner bag in the kitchen trash can.
- Use the key to turn off red handled breakers in electrical panel to left of back door. Leave all other breakers on!
- Take trash and recyclables with you and put in the marked Carnegie garbage and recycle bins on the corner of Via De la Vista. Before driving off, make sure the the bungi cords are holding the lids closed on both containers to keep animals out. Take excess trash with you.

Although this list looks time consuming it should not take long to complete the tasks since everyone before you has done so as well so there should not be a mess to handle.

Garbage

There is a garbage can and larger blue recycle bin marked “Carnegie” on the corner at Via Del Vista where the wood “Carnegie 420” sign is located. Please check these containers each time you drive by ensuring they have not been toppled over. Make sure you **FASTEN THE BUNGI CORDS** that hold the tops down. If either container is full, please take garbage or recyclables with you. **DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON THE GROUND!** Please do not put garbage in the recycle bin or vice versa!

If you are feeling thankful and energetic

Clean windows inside and out

Wipe down interior of refrigerator

Empty both vacuum cleaners

Clear debris from driveway, if any

There are some dish towels or other washable items left in the cabin and from time to time a guest will donate or forget a towel or two. Please bring any soiled items back to the department to be washed and returned by the next guest.

RECYCLE

CANS, BOTTLES, PLASTIC,
CLEAN PAPER, AND MILK
CARTONS

ON THE STREET, USE THE BIG **BLUE**
BIN FOR RECYCLABLES

IMPORTANT: TO KEEP ANIMALS
OUT, MAKE SURE BOTH BIN LIDS
ARE COMPLETELY CLOSED AND
SECURED WITH BUNGI CORD
BEFORE DRIVING OFF.

THANKS!

You are encouraged to visit the Point Reyes National Seashore Web Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/pore/index.htm>

We hope that your stay at Inverness is most enjoyable and that everyone will pitch in to keep the cabin in good condition.

You are urged to call or E-mail the Facilities Manager at Carnegie Institution if you find any items needing repair or attention:

650-862-0436

Theo van de Sande
Carnegie Institution
260 Panama Street
Stanford, CA 94305

tvandesande@carnegiescience.edu

For reservation information you may contact the Business Manager at Carnegie Institution:

Business Manager
Carnegie Institution
260 Panama Street
Stanford, CA 94305
650-325-1521

If you have an emergency or urgent situation requiring attention while you are at the cabin during non-work or after hours, please contact the Facilities Manager at 650-862-0436

IN CLOSING

There is a guest book at the cabin. Be sure to sign before you leave and include a narrative about your visit to the Vannevar Bush Retreat at Inverness for future guests to read.

When returning key to office give a brief report of the conditions you found at the cabin. If you found the cabin in disarray we need to learn about this so corrective actions can be taken. **Suggestions for improvement are always welcome.**