

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

User's Manual



Bush Retreat at Inverness

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 mid 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

Vannevar Bush Retreat

At Inverness

420 Via De La Vista
Inverness, Ca 94937
415-669-7650

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!

Reservations

The retreat is for use by present or retired employees, Fellow, and Visiting Investigators of the Institution. Family and guests may share facilities reserved by an Institution member. Inasmuch as the member is responsible for the proper use of the facilities, he or she must be present during the period of reservation.

Payment of \$60.00 per night should be made to the office at least 3 days before your reservation at the Bush Retreat Cabin. Checks should be made payable to Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Reservations are taken during an open reservation period held twice a year and the calendar will be released before the reservation period begins. The periods are January through June and July through December, the open reservation period is usually held in November and May for the following six month period. Once the reservation calendar has been posted, open dates are available on a first come, first served basis by contacting InvernessCabin@carnegiescience.edu. Weekend reservations beginning on a Friday or Saturday require a 2 night minimum stay. Failure to cancel a reservation at least 3 days prior to the reserved period will result in the forfeiture of the entire fee.

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. 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 and a propane BBQ. There are games and a bookcase full of

paperbacks. There is no television or radio at the cabin but there is a phone. Cell service is problematic.

There is a wood burning stove in the cabin. Dry firewood is stacked in the cabin and more can be found in the woodshed at the driveway end. **Move some firewood into the cabin at the end of your stay so there is a dry stack for the next guest.** Experience tells us that 90% of the time you will need to burn some wood. **Moving wood** from the driveway to the deck **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.

Things To Bring (or buy after arriving):

Bath towels and toiletries

Sleeping bags or linens for beds you will use. There are 2 queen and 3 twin beds.

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, propane 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

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

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

Sugar, salt, pepper

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

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.

Phone

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.

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.

Bring newspaper and small kindling with you. Larger wood is available at the cabin.

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.

Follow all instructions on the wall to the left of the stove.

DRENCH ASHES AND DISPERSE ON SURROUNDING CARNEGIE LAND

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Medical Emergency

The closest medical facility is Coastal Health Alliance, Point Reyes Station, 3 6th Street, Point Reyes Station. Their phone number is 415-663-8666. If you have a serious medical emergency call 911, the 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 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 Business Manager upon your return, detailing the problems found.

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.

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 bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, toys, hand lotion, medicine, body oil, hand disinfectant, liquid soap, washrags etc.

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 first. Replace **light bulbs** with low watt energy savers.

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.**

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

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.

Pull the shades on the windows facing the neighbor uphill or they may call you as late as 10PM to complain.

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.

OUTSIDE ON THE DECK AFTER 9 PM?

Quiet Please! Lights OFF by 10PM!

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. 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 coming back**.

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.



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 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.

Bush Retreat

Cleanup and Closing Procedures

- Take **ALL** food with you!
- Clean kitchen thoroughly.
- 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. Replace full vacuum bags.
- Clean bathroom floor, toilet, tub and sink. Leave the 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.
- Leave refrigerator on. Make sure refrigerator door is closed. Remove all food.
- Put a new plastic liner bag in the kitchen trash can.
- 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.
- Turn off red handled breakers in electrical panel to left of back door. Leave all other breakers on!

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!**

If you are feeling thankful and energetic

Clean windows inside and out
Wipe down interior of refrigerator
Empty both vacuum cleaners

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>

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 Dept. of Plant Biology if you find any items needing repair or attention:

650-862-0436

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

theo1@stanford.edu

For reservation information send email to InvernessCabin@carnegiescience.edu

The Department of Plant Biology is the steward of the Inverness retreat. You may call the Business Manager at DPB if you have questions:

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

IN CLOSING

There is a guest register at the cabin. Be sure to sign before you leave and include a narrative about your visit to the Vannevar Bush Retreat at Inverness!

Suggestions for improvement are always welcome.