

The Inn at Newport Ranch

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Will Jackson – Founder

Many people ask how a Connecticut Yankee like Will Jackson ended up with a ranch in California. Well it happens that even as a youngster, open space and scenic landscapes resonated with him. He enjoyed reading about the explorers, the opening of the West and the land rush. He was excited by the idea that, even in the late 1800's, you could still go west and lay claim to vast tracts of some of the most beautiful land in the world.

As an adult working in New York City from 1956 to 1989 and living in the heavily populated suburbs of Connecticut, the allure of the West continued for Jackson. But as an Easterner and Long Island Sound, on which Connecticut fronts, was his open space, and a sailboat became Jackson's covered wagon. Eventually he bought an acre of land on the Sound, built a house and happily raised a family there.

One Friday in 1985, Jackson saw an ad in the "Wall Street Journal" for an 850-acre cattle ranch with over a mile of oceanfront in Mendocino County, California. He had no idea where Mendocino was, but was intrigued. Jackson and his wife, Marty (who passed away in 1996) called a friend who lived in the area and asked him to check out the property. He called them back and said, "It's beautiful. You'd better come out here and take a look."

When they arrived at the ranch, they stayed in a little cottage, which was part of their B & B operation. They were shown around in a dune buggy and with just two days to explore, could only see a small slice of the property. When they finally reached the top of one of the hills with a view of the coast that was absolutely breathtaking, they knew they had to buy the property.

The ranch now totals over 2,000 acres with a mile and half of oceanfront and three miles of contiguous ridge lines with panoramic views. Over the years, they have forged twenty miles of trails through the redwoods and along the streams and rugged coast. You can now explore most of the ranch comfortably by horseback, hiking or on UTV's.

After many family discussions and lots of planning, they decided to build a small but special Inn to give the property a more meaningful purpose and to leave something tangible and beautiful

for future family members and guests to enjoy. Thus, the Inn at Newport Ranch was created for those wishing to explore old trails and the magical coast.

Blair Foster – General Manager

Foster took the helm at The Inn at Newport Ranch on January 1, 2020 as General Manager. She has been involved with the property in many capacities for years, as a consultant. With extensive experience in hospitality on both coasts, Foster has managed such lauded landmark spots as Zuni Cafe and the celebrated Masa's restaurant in San Francisco.

Migrating to the North Coast of California, Foster landed in Mendocino in the 1990's where she watched and aided in the development of the Inn of Newport Ranch. She has a long love of food and has served in all aspects of the restaurant business, both in the front of the house and in the kitchen. Her passion is for local fresh farm to table cuisine and is excited to highlight the bounty of Mendocino County, both via the food and wines.

Her love of hospitality has been present throughout her entire life. She loves bringing gracious hospitality to the North Coast, focusing on details and luxury but sans pretension. Additionally, she has a long history of producing events in Mendocino from stunning weddings to multiple day mountain bike races, as well as being President of the Mendocino Film Festival

Dave Sellers – Architect*

Dave Sellers is founder and president of Sellers and Company Architects in Warren, Vermont, an internationally recognized leader in environmental and community related designs. Known for his innovative architectural design involving the development and implementation of cutting edge sustainable technology and his improvisational approach to modern architecture (which eventually led to what is known as design/build), his work focuses on designing and building with nature, with special emphasis on custom craftsmanship and a preference for sustainability. Named one of the world's top 100 architects by *Architectural Digest*, his work in town and community planning has received national recognition for pedestrian and human-scaled settlement patterns.

Jim Sanford – Architect*

Jim Sanford of Sanford/Strauss Architects, a practicing architect for the past 30 years, has extensive construction experience that results in the personally crafted quality that separates his work from the rest. Featured in the "New Americans" exhibition in Turin, Italy, his work has been published and exhibited widely, most recently, in a one man show "Dreams Come True" at Norwich University. He has taught architecture extensively and regularly acts as a critic at architectural schools throughout the US. Sanford/Strauss is licensed in New York, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, N.C.A.R.B. registered, and a member of A.I.A.

** The work of both architects focuses on designing and building in harmony with nature, with a special emphasis on custom craftsmanship.*

Robin Cannell Baker – Design Consultant

Robin Cannell Baker's design career began in Los Angeles in her family's interiors business, Cannell and Chaffin. Robin is a 3rd generation Southern California designer influenced by nature's beauty, early California artists and architects and regional cultures. Robin has lived and designed in the majestic mountains of Telluride, CO and on California's Mendocino Coast, with its craggy shoreline, as well as in the sculptural Sonoran Desert of Tucson, Arizona (which she now calls home). Robin's designing efforts extend to her work in glass, clay, paint and gardens, and her aesthetic is casual elegance with an old-world flair that envelops your senses. Robin is a Professional Member of the American Society of Interior Design (ASID).

Brent Anderson – General Contractar

Brent Anderson first entered the construction trades in 1962, at the age of fourteen, working alongside his stepfather. By the age of eighteen he was running construction crew and building homes, room additions and remodels. He became a licensed contractor in 1986, involved in both the physical and intellectual demands of owning a successful business. The Inn at Newport Ranch is the latest accomplishment in a long list of custom homes, additions and remodels along the Mendocino coast over the past forty years.