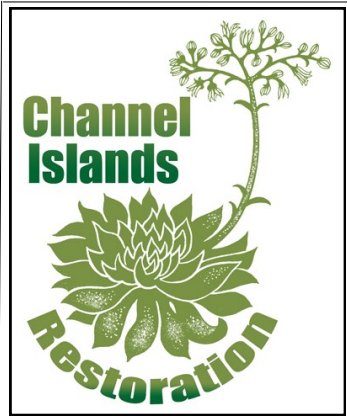


CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

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Since last summer, in the wake of a tragic accident, the number of volunteers who can be accommodated on the National Park Service boats has been greatly reduced, for safety. These volunteers generally need to have had some previous experience boarding and debarking small boats, and must be able to demonstrate the motor skills,

balance and physical confidence needed to do this safely. As a result of the reduction in passenger capacity, CIR's volunteer program on Anacapa has needed to transition to smaller groups and less-frequent trips, with priority given to experienced volunteers. We are planning to offer alternate transportation options to accommodate more volunteers in the future.

After three years of concerted effort, restoration and recovery of East Anacapa Island has progressed very well, in spite of the continuing drought. There are no more acres of dense iceplant to pull and haul away! Instead, we are now doing more specialized work, concentrating on eradicating multitudes of small iceplant seedlings, while also observing and sparing seedlings of native plants emerging from

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CIR GEARING UP FOR BUSY EARTH DAY EVENTS

Join CIR and hundreds of other environmentally friendly organizations at any of the multiple Earth Day celebrations happening in April (and beyond) in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The Earth Day celebrations are CIR's best opportunity to reach out to members of the public who want to become involved with environmental conservation. In fact, many of our volunteers first heard about CIR at an Earth Day event.

Earth Day began when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson witnessed the ravages of the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara. The first event took place in 1970 when 20 million Americans all over the country demonstrated for the environment. It has since become a global event, held on weekends and centering on April 22nd, the anniversary of the first Earth Day.

CIR has participated at the Santa Barbara Earth Day event since 2007, and our booth has evolved from a couple of simple displays into a showcase of habitat restoration work on the Channel Islands and mainland. We prominently display maps and photos of the Channel Islands, and talk to many hundreds of visitors throughout the two-day event. CIR Board member Cindy Kimmick provides a fascinating display of verte-



brates for young people and adults alike, and many people learn about the Channel Islands for the first time at these events.

The Santa Barbara event features two full days of live music, speakers, family activities and interesting exhibitors, including many environmental non-profits. CIR has become a contributing "sponsor" of this very worthy event.

Since these events keep us very busy, we increasingly rely on volunteer "ambassadors" to help us staff the booths. We pair less experienced volunteers with experienced ones or CIR Board members, so no one will feel overwhelmed. Being a CIR ambassador at Earth Day is a lot of fun, and it's a great opportunity to share your experiences of the islands and environmental volunteerism with the public. We even provide soft drinks and snacks to those who help out.

Become a CIR Earth Day Ambassador! Volunteer at these events:

April 5:	Thousand Oaks/Oxnard
April 19:	Ojai
April 26:	Ventura
April 26 - 27:	Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Zoo
May 18:	WorldFest (Lake Balboa, Los Angeles)

End-of-Year Holiday Party Brings Big Winners to CIR!

On the evening of December 6, 2013 the CIR administrative office was transformed into a festive holiday gathering place with food stations, a wine pouring station, a photo gallery displaying the many entries in our first annual photo contest, a raffle table brimming with great prizes, and at the top of the stairs: the CIR reception table and friendly welcoming brigade!

If you missed this party, we hope you'll attend in 2014, as it was a wonderful time enjoyed by over 70 people and included volunteers, members, friends, and family – all gathered together for an evening of good food, conversation, and fun!

Our dazzling “Holiday Queen,” was none other than CIR Board Member Tanya Atwater who, dressed in a festive gown and crown, was the one to thank for organizing the delicious eats that night. Her food stations were filled with delightful offerings and had something for everyone. She was joined in the kitchenette by food table “tsarina” and Board Member Monica Jones and assisted by CIR Treasurer Karen Telleen-Lawton.

Board Member Joel Fithian helped hang lights and greeted party-goers, and CIR President Duke McPherson brought his world-famous guacamole and helped at the reception table.

Board Member Dave Edwards and his wife Wanda brought finger sandwiches and decadence in the form of See’s Candy...who can resist!? There were so many helping hands pitching in that night to ensure everyone enjoyed themselves, and we are grateful to them all!

The wine station was manned by Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Benedik (since it was at her desk, after all!), along with volunteer Tim Kenney, a wine connoisseur who also poured at the CIR Social in September.

CIR Accounting Department, Jane O’Dell, created the seasonal ambiance with her merry décor, and volunteer Jane Lumsdaine helped energize raffle ticket sales. Our Execu-

tive Director, Ken Owen, gave a rousing speech about CIR that got the crowd cheering and together with Tanya, judged the first annual CIR Natural History Photo Contest and announced the winners!

The photo contest was a great success and we can’t wait to do it again next year. So keep a camera handy on all your natural adventures...you never know when that “Kodak moment” could turn into a prize-winning photo!



Photo contest 1st Place:
Tommy Wasden
 “Island Bush Mallow and Hummingbird”

Congratulations to our 2013 Raffle Winners:

- Trip for 2 on Island Packers to Anacapa/Santa Cruz/Whale Watching: Jon Huber
- Collection of CIR Natural History Posters: Dale Parks and Susie Bartz
- Wildflowers of Santa Monica Mountains Gift Baskets: Phil Andrews and Jon Huber
- Wine & Candles Gift Basket: Greg Archbald
- Equestrian-Themed Gift Basket: Jarry Bartz
- See’s Candy: Dale Parks



Photo contest 2nd Place:
Gretchen Ingmanson:
 “Back to the Saddle”



Photo contest 3rd Place:
Roland Holzwarth,
 “Stranded”



Honorable Mention:
Roland Holzwarth,
 “Rodrigues in Nature”

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carpets of dead iceplant. We continue to produce native plants in the island nursery, and plant them in place of iceplant, limited only, again, by lack of water. From November 2012–October 2013, we planted over 11,000 plants! So far, our nursery production has focused primarily on native plants that grow quickly to produce cover, and that tolerate exposed, salty conditions. Now we are able to add nectar and larval food plants to the palette, as we broaden our restoration goals to re-establish natural habitat structure and food webs.

On December 8th, CIR volunteers from REI spent a day helping with the Anacapa restoration project. Employees from both the Santa Barbara and Oxnard stores put nearly 300 plants in the ground! Their trip was, surprisingly, CIR's only Anacapa volunteer trip throughout December into January, as adverse marine conditions, park operations, and the holiday season precluded additional trips. To prepare for their arrival, CIR field staff Aaron Echols and volunteer John Reyes worked on Anacapa for several days, joined briefly by volunteer work leader, Mike Buratti. Together they planted, watered, and repaired damage to the shade house, caused by high winds. Aaron and John continued by scouting areas for additional plantings, and auguring and staking hundreds of holes to facilitate the volunteer planting day.

Aaron remains heavily involved in the island's habitat restoration. He directs volunteer field leaders, and oversees occasional NPS volunteer groups. He keeps the irrigation system maintained and operational, makes repairs, assembles shade screens, and continues to keep invasive species at bay. In late January, Aaron even discovered a new weed species *Urtica urens* on the North side of the Anacapa lighthouse trail, taking a herbarium sample for the Park's assessment.

Meanwhile, CIR's volunteer trips to Anacapa on the park boat resumed in February. In 2014, we will now recruit handfuls of experienced volunteers for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Additionally, CIR has received numerous trip requests from volunteer groups. There are already a few calendared this Spring, with a few more in the works! Student groups, Rotary groups, and corporate groups are all interested in helping to restore Anacapa, and volunteer trips are being planned with Island Packers transportation.

CIR also plans to offer Anacapa restoration trips on Island Packers! While involving a trip fee, these trips would be open to our ever-growing volunteer list, and they would occur on *weekends*—something our volunteers have been requesting for years! Weekend trips would allow more volunteers the opportunity to experience the satisfaction and fulfillment in helping restore Anacapa's precious, unique natural habitat.

Nearly 200 CIR Volunteers Help with Refugio State Beach Project

Nearly 200 CIR volunteers of all ages have helped plant natives at Refugio State Beach since January, and the work should continue for the next several months. The project will increase native habitat at the mouth of Refugio Creek by removing non-native flora and planting natives along the creek banks, in an area covering about 30,000 square feet. Starting in October, non-native trees, shrubs and grasses were removed by the State Park and CIR. These include Palms, Myoporum, Arundo, Black Acacia, Pampas Grass, Fennel, Castro Bean, Pepper trees, Eucalyptus, and annual grasses. In January, the planting of 3,000 container plants began, including native riparian trees and coastal scrub species.

The project is led and managed by our partner, South Coast Habitat Restoration, a local non-profit organization. CIR is providing assistance with the removal of non-native plants, and is arranging for the bulk of the volunteer help. California State Parks is another partner, and funding from the project has come from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Earth Island Institute, the Wildlife Conservation Board and Southern California Edison. The last scheduled planting day is March 8, but volunteers may also be needed to help water the plants until they become established.

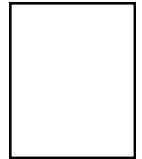


California brown pelicans nesting on Anacapa Island
(Photo taken by permission, by a monitoring biologist)





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