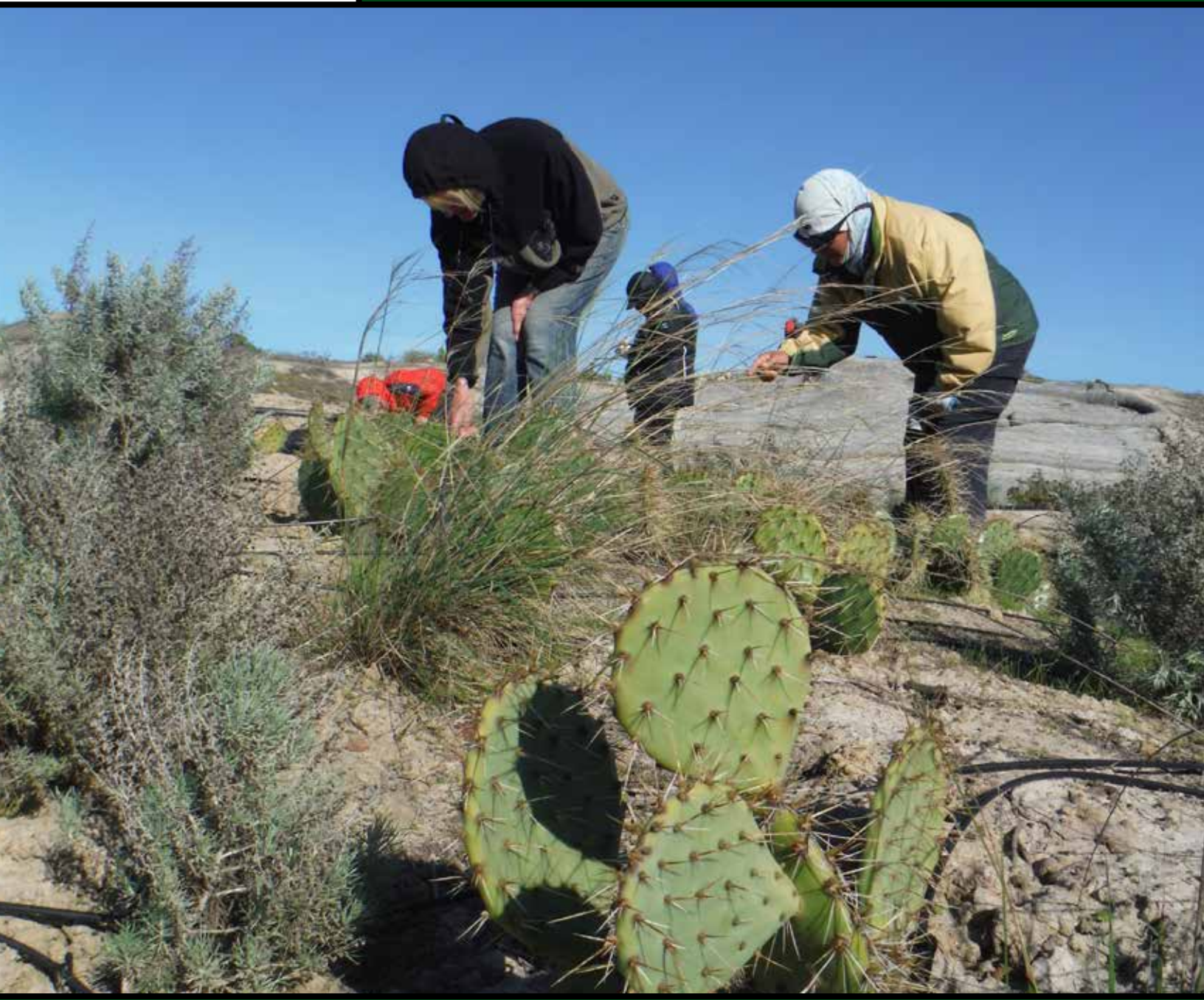
THE ISLAND INSIDER

Volume 16, Issue 2: Summer 2018

A PUBLICATION OF CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION



Channel Islands Restoration
928 Carpinteria St. Ste. #3 Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 448-5726 contact@cirweb.org
cirweb.org

THE ISLAND INSIDER SUMMER 2018

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Vol. 16, Issue 2 - Summer 2018

Editors: Tanner Yould and Elihu Gevirtz
Design: Tanner Yould

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Past newsletters can be found at cirweb.org/newsletters

Cover photo:
Volunteers plant prickly pear cactus to restore island night lizard habitat despite high winds.

NORTH SAN NICOLAS ISLAND
Kevin Thompson

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friend,

Spring is always a busy time of year for us at Channel Islands Restoration. Scattered winter showers bring an explosion of life here on the Central Coast and it's all we can do to stay on top of it. Invasive weeds begin to sprout and threaten to overtake newly planted natives. Plants from our nurseries are ready to go in the ground. Irrigation and erosion control need to be installed, and so much more. There are a dozen things to do at every moment, and when our work is spread from the Los Padres National Forest to San Nicolas Island and everywhere in between, we can't do it all alone.

Our work at Channel Islands Restoration is only possible because of you and people like you. CIR's work is supported and made possible by hundreds of volunteers who donate their time by strapping on their boots and getting into the field to pull weeds, dig holes, get plants in the ground, and ultimately do whatever needs to be done to get the job done. Because of you, we can restore critical habitat and provide quality service learning projects for younger generations all throughout the Central Coast.

As the scope of our work expands, so has the scope of our support team. Our team is made of volunteers from all walks of life – some with time enough to join us on the islands for a week or others with just enough time to carve out an afternoon. Critically important to our team as well are the people who support us through their charitable giving and memberships.

With your help, we can take on and stay on top of projects throughout the Central Coast. Over the past months, we were able to take weekly trips out to San Nicolas Island to get 12,000 native plants in the ground and we hiked more than 200 miles of the San Rafael Wilderness and treated more than 700 adult tamarisk trees and pulled more than 94,000 tamarisk seedlings. Because of your continued support, we can continue to control weeds at Hammond's Meadow and the San Marcos Foothills, we can continue upkeep at our Camarillo Nursery, and ultimately, we can continue to grow as an organization and expand the capabilities of CIR.

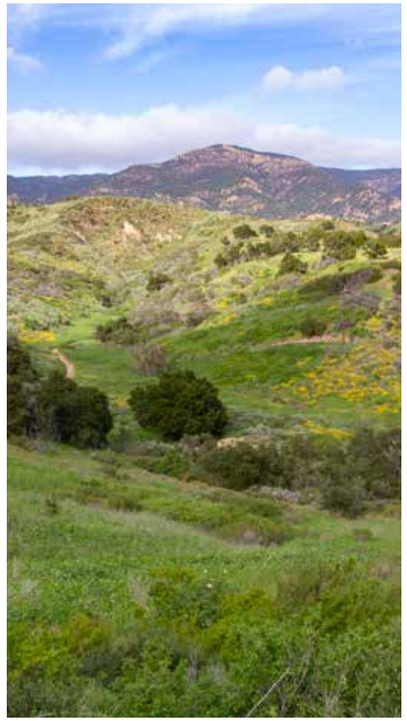
Channel Islands Restoration is on the front lines to save our native habitat in an era where public lands are under attack and funding pools are drying up. More and more, people like you are standing up to say 'our land is worth protecting' and filling in any cracks that appear. Every time we pull a weed, get a plant in the ground, or take kids to the islands, we are standing up for our values as citizens who believe in conservation.

Channel Islands Restoration only exists because of your support and we could never accomplish our mission without you. I encourage you to read on through this newsletter with the understanding that these are your accomplishments, and these are projects that you have made possible.

Thank you,

Ken Owen,
Executive Director

Select Current Projects



Restoration of Native Grasslands on the San Marcos Foothills Preserve

Native grasslands previously covered millions of acres in California, but since the 19th century, they have been drastically reduced to a small fraction of this number as they were converted to farms, cities, and towns. This is also true in the Santa Barbara / Goleta area, where most of the grasslands have been converted and are no longer available as habitat. As a result of habitat loss and possibly other factors, birds that are dependent on grasslands (grasshopper sparrow, western meadowlark, burrowing owl, white-tailed kite, and others) have declined precipitously.

Burrowing owls were formerly common in the coastal area of southern Santa Barbara County, but is now decreasing to very low numbers in all seasons, and is nearly extirpated as a nesting species in the County. Now there is an average of only 1 to 3 individuals seen each year along the South Coast east of Gaviota. Favored sites over the past three decades have been More Mesa and the San Marcos Foothills (Lehman 2017). White-tailed kites used to be common, but drought conditions and loss of habitat on the south coast has resulted in only a small number of birds in our area. Grasshopper sparrows occupied the San Marcos Foothills in high numbers while the property was being grazed by cattle (Holmgren, Stone, and Kelly 2001) but since the removal of cattle grazing, these numbers have plummeted to zero.

We are currently writing a restoration plan and hope to begin restoration of grassland on the San Marcos Foothills Preserve this coming winter. CIR is excited to announce that we have been awarded three grants to fund restoration on the Preserve, and we need additional funding to restore 60 acres of native grassland.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh

We are currently propagating plants for a restoration project on the edge of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Planting is planned for November and we'd love to have your help!

Habitat Restoration in Thousand Oaks and Hidden Valley

We are working with the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency and a private landowner on several sites, weeding out invasive plants. We have also collected seeds and are propagating native plants for later planting for a private property owner in the Hidden Valley area of Ventura County.

After the Thomas Fire: Native Plants for Ventura County

Last year, we collected an extensive amount of seeds from native plants in Ventura County. We did not know at the time that the Thomas Fire would burn so much vegetation in the area. Now, we are beginning to propagate these native plants and will have them available for sale this winter. If you're interested in buying some of these for planting on your private property or if you would like to make a financial contribution to this effort, please let us know.

Controlling Invasive Sea Lavender in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh

By Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC and Andrew Brooks, UCSB Marine Science Institute

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh is a special spot along California's south-central coast. Migratory waterfowl stop at the marsh, and the estuary includes extensive wetland, sub-tidal channel, and emergent upland habitats that support many sensitive plant and animal species.

Large population of endangered salt marsh bird's-beak (Chloropyron maritimum) *growing in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh.*

Several species, such as Belding's savanna sparrow, are listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern; and there are plans in the works to re-introduce Light-footed clapper rails. Located next to a sandy beach, subtidal rocky reef, and kelp beds, the 230-acre marsh is also an important regional nursery for California halibut, diamond turbot, and other species of marine and estuarine fish.

The predominant vegetation in the marsh is estuarine emergent wetland dominated by pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*). The flora of Carpinteria Salt Marsh has been of interest to scientists for at least 90 years. Eleven species growing presently at the estuary are regionally rare plants, and two species - salt marsh bird's-beak (*Chloropyron maritimum*) and Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*) are endangered.

One of the top invasive plant threats to the marsh is European sea lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*), which is one of the few plants that can displace native plant species in salt marsh habitat. (Cal-IPC is on its third year of funded work to remove invasive sea lavender from salt marshes around San Francisco Bay, where it has become a significant problem.) In August 2017, a grant from UCSB Coastal Fund enabled staff and volunteers from Channel Islands Restoration and students from UC Santa Barbara to perform a survey of the endangered salt marsh bird's-beak and Coulter's goldfields in the marsh. Teams of two or three individuals walked parallel lines in a systematic grid, circumventing meandering channels and deep mud as needed. The teams also mapped the distribution of European sea lavender.

Not only did they find more sea lavender than had previously been mapped, they also found extensive co-occurrence of European sea lavender and salt marsh bird's-beak, which is a parasitic plant. They recommend that tarping and herbicide applications, though effective, not be used in areas where the two species co-occur because the methods are likely to cause too much collateral damage. In these areas, hand-pulling is recommended as the best method for removing invasive sea lavender.

Reprinted with permission from the Spring 2018 issue of Dispatch, the newsletter of the California Invasive Plant Council (www.cal-ipc.org).

CIR staff and UCSB Coastal Fund-sponsored interns spread out into a line and walked the entire length of the marsh.

We are excited to announce that the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District has just announced that Channel Islands Restoration has been awarded funding to eradicate a non-native invasive species European Sea Lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*) from Carpinteria Salt Marsh over a five-year period. Work is anticipated to begin in November 2018 and will continue through 2023. Our work surveying the marsh last year for the endangered species salt marsh bird's-beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*) and reporting our results using a thorough scientific method, combined with our many years of experience and reputation of excellent work and going "above and beyond" contributed to our success in being awarded this contract.

Wrapping up the Season on the Sisquoc River

Between March 2017 and March 2018, we surveyed the entire length of the Sisquoc River main stem from the headwaters below Alamar Saddle to the Forest boundary, all of Manzana Creek from Davey Brown Creek to the Schoolhouse, all of Judell Canyon, Logan Canyon, Sweetwater Canyon, Forester's Leap Canyon, and the lower portions of Water Canyon, Rattlesnake Canyon and South Fork Sisquoc River. We conducted one scouting trip March 6-10, 2017, and six Tamarisk treatment trips between October 2017 and March 2018. As we finished more surveys and entered the data into a GIS database, we created a project map, and fine-tuned the data recording methods. All told, we surveyed 97 stream miles, hiked more than 250 miles, treated 707 adult Tamarisk trees (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and pulled out 94,869 Tamarisk seedlings.

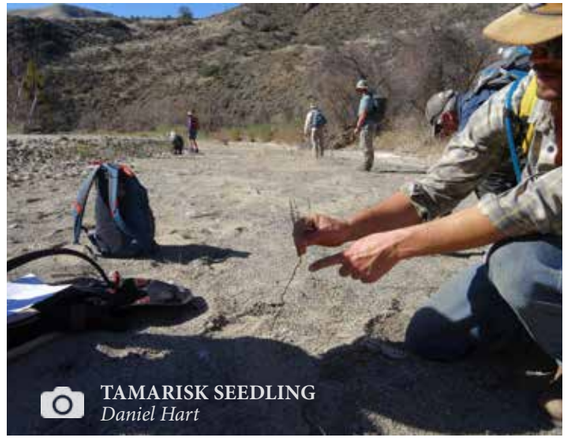
A big thank you to the 26 volunteers who hiked many miles of rugged terrain and pulled thousands of seedlings!

Invasive Species Profile: Tamarisk

Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) is one of the most detrimental and troublesome invasive plants of the Southwestern United States. These large, deciduous shrubs were brought from the Middle East to the United States as ornamental plants, prized for their showy plumes of pink flowers, and then later used as windbreaks and hedges. Their hardiness, drought tolerance, and ability to grow in poor soils makes them a popular, low-maintenance shrub to cultivate. Unfortunately, their resilience is exactly what makes it such a troublesome invasive plant. Once established, tamarisk can spread quickly and dominate entire riparian (streamside) ecosystems with devastating consequences for plant and animal life alike.

Once established, tamarisk severely affects native plants in a number of ways. Tamarisk is also called salt cedar because it is able to pull salts from the soil and excrete them through their leaves. Native birds and grazing animals may avoid stands of tamarisk for this reason. When these leaves drop, they create a thick, salty mat that negatively affects soil and water quality, and impedes new native plant growth. This means new trees like cottonwoods or sycamores cannot sprout, therefore reducing available nesting habitat for birds, roosting areas for raptors, and opportunities for other animal species.

SISQUOC TAMARISK TEAM
Channel Islands Restoration



TAMARISK SEEDLING
Daniel Hart

Additionally, a single tamarisk tree can drop as many as 50,000 seedlings in a season, flooding a streambed with seedlings that can potentially grow to choke out streams. Tamarisk also is able to sprout from their deep root systems, meaning a single tree can grow into a dense thicket that pushes out any other plant life and individuals can quickly recover from being cut down. Thickets can sometimes grow so thick that larger animals like deer, bears, and mountain lions cannot move through them.

Tamarisk also affects streams and rivers themselves. By creating thick walls on either side of a stream or river, the plants channelize the river, reducing the number of eddies and pools available for fish and amphibian spawning. By crowding out taller native plants, they expose rivers to more sunlight, warming the water and reducing its oxygen content, which can be devastating for aquatic life.

Once tamarisk is established in an ecosystem, it's near impossible to eradicate, but here in the Los Padres National Forest we have a chance to do it.

Quotes from San Nicolas Volunteers

For me the best part is getting to be in a place very few get to go. It's a bittersweet experience knowing the damage caused to the island, but I am humbled & honored to do some good on our sacred islands. It is very inspiring to see the progress organizations like yours have made.

- Dan C.

The beauty and remoteness (and wind!) of the place made for a once in a lifetime experience. It was most gratifying to be a part of CIR's conservation efforts.

- Sidney S.

Wind, hard satisfying work, a comfortable bed, good company, good vistas, and a beer with dinner at the club! I get a lot of satisfaction planting plants that I have helped raise up in the nursery. I also really enjoy going out and seeing how our other plantings are coming along.

- Nancy N.

My trip to SNI was incredible. It was such a contrast with all the comforts of home surrounded by raw natural beauty on an isolated island in the Pacific. I found it incredibly peaceful and enjoyed the hard work and chance to connect with nature. I learned a great deal about natives, irrigation, and CIR's work. I met wonderful, like-minded people, and look forward to volunteering more for CIR in the future.

-Elizabeth S.

Our adventure began early one Thursday morning; some of the volunteers were new like me, some returning. For the first two days, the strong winds created difficult working conditions. Luckily, by the third day the wind had granted us a reprieve. The air was now filled with the sound of chirping birds, distant chatter, and frequent laughter. We had quickly become a strong, cohesive team, making great strides in the work. It was an amazing group of very dedicated, hardworking, and kind people. What I enjoyed most, aside from the comfortable accommodations, was what I learned thanks to the CIR team. Their knowledge of the island, passion for the work and good humor really made the difference in creating a great experience.

- Alexis M.

Being able to go to San Nicolas was a wonderful adventure for me. As a teacher, I have used the book Island of the Blue Dolphins while teaching Language Arts. To be able to actually go to the island that inspired that story was a very special experience.

- Steve A.

CORRAL HARBOR
KEVIN THOMPSON

Voluntourism Restoration Project on San Nicolas Island

By Gudrun Kleist

This winter, Channel Islands Restoration installed over 11,000 plants on San Nicolas Island over the course of 50 trips to the island, with the help of 337 volunteers.

Gudrun joined us as one of those volunteers and wrote up her experience for the newsletter of her local chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

From April 12-16, nine Bay Area volunteers spent an unforgettable five days on San Nicolas Island (SNI), one of the eight Channel Islands.

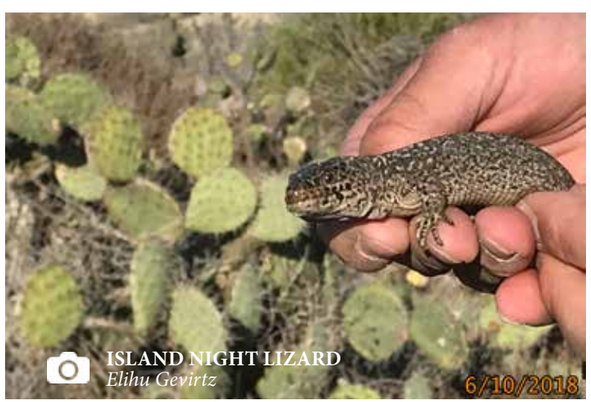
At Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, we were greeted by CIR's Project Manager Kevin Thompson and Nursery Manager Kelle Green. We were joined by long-time CIR volunteer Robin Birney. Robin had been to the island on many occasions and was very helpful in getting us situated.

After a short flight, we arrived on SNI, checked into our comfortable rooms at the hotel in "Nictown" and were ready to go to work by 10am. Our objective was to plant many of the 11,000 plants grown specifically to re-vegetate a 3-mile stretch along a road that had been severely impacted by a pipeline project as well as by overgrazing.

All the plants had been grown in the nursery from seeds and cuttings collected exclusively from the island by CIR's Nursery Manager Kelle Green and her crew. Cuttings were collected from as many different populations as possible and interplanted to ensure biodiversity among their offspring.

The nursery itself was impressive: long benches covered with many different types of plants from grasses to cactus, an automated watering system, and ant moats on all legs, to prevent introduced pests like Argentine ants from infesting the pots and being spread beyond Nictown.

Adjacent to the nursery is a garden, where Kelle is growing many plants to be used for future propagation. She is especially proud of her healthy little forest of *Lycium brevipes* (desert boxthorn). In the fall of 2015, cuttings were collected from 10 plants and propagated. They thrived and from these plants, 400 more were grown to be planted for this project.



On our arrival, we were greeted by gale force winds of 40 miles with gusts up to 50 miles, which made the job on our first day difficult. We were issued goggles to keep the sand out of our eyes and we wore most of our clothing layers. Holes needed to be dug (chiseled) deep enough for the top of the root ball to be at least 1.0"-1.5" below grade (deeper is better said Kevin). This helps to prevent the incessant winds from blowing away the soil and exposing the roots and creates a nice bowl to contain the irrigation water.

We saw our first island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) that is endemic to all but the two smallest Channel Islands (Anacapa and Santa Barbara). With its expressive face, long bushy tail and weighing only 5 lbs. it is adorably cute. During our stay, we saw several more cute little foxes in their natural environment.

By the next morning the wind had died down to a comfortable breeze, a meadowlark was providing background music with his sweet song and Kevin was using an auger to help dig the holes. We greatly benefited from Kevin and Kelle's extensive knowledge and organizational skills. We learned to use a simple but effective jig to mark the placement of the planting holes with the first row set back from the road about 8 - 10 feet. The first couple of rows were short plants like grasses and *Achillea millefolium* that can tolerate the occasional tire or being mowed. This will also allow for better visibility of the foxes; their greatest threat on the island is being hit by a vehicle.

Thorny plants like cactus and boxthorn were planted in the back rows. These are the preferred habitat of the Island Night Lizard (*Xantusia riversiana*), another cute island native. This species is endemic to only three islands (SNI, San Clemente, and Santa Barbara) and was recently delisted. We were able to see one up close and personal when SNI's Natural Resources Manager William Hoyer showed us one he was preparing to relocate from Nictown to a more natural environment. We also learned the reason for the BBQ tongs in the toolbox - they make planting a cactus a cinch.

In 4 1/2 days, and together with CIR's Kevin, Kelle and Robin, we managed to plant almost 1,700 plants including: *Achillea millefolium* (yarrow), *Artemisia nesiotica* (Island sagebrush), *Chenopodium californicum* (California goosefoot), *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass), *Eriogonum grande* var. (San Nicolas Island buckwheat), *Frankenia salina* (alkali seaheath), *Lotus argophyllus* var. *argenteus* (Southern Island silver lotus), *Lupinus albifrons* (silver lupine), *Hordeum brachyantherum* ssp. *californicum* (California meadow barley), *Lycium brevipes* (desert boxthorn), *Lycium californicum* (California boxthorn), *Opuntia* spp. (coastal prickly pear), *Stipa cernua* (nodding needlegrass), and *Stipa pulchra* (purple needlegrass).

Volunteers often wear face masks to protect themselves from sand and dirt whipped up by the high winds.

As a desert island SNI gets an average of only 7" of rain a year; these plants would not survive without additional water. Thankfully, there are fire hydrants at regular intervals along the roads. Our last job was installing a drip system, one dripper for each planting hole. The drip system is hooked up manually to a fire hydrant and run for 45 minutes to an hour, first every 2 weeks and then at longer and longer intervals until the rains (hopefully) start. All the fresh water to the island is supplied by a surprisingly small reverse osmosis desalination plant.

One plant that recovered remarkably well from decades of uncontrolled sheep grazing is *Leptosyne gigantea* (giant coreopsis). Many areas of the island are covered in a miniature forest of these "Dr. Seuss" plants. Robin told us that flying in after a wet winter the whole island was yellow. Their main bloom season is February, but there was one late bloomer right by the road looking like a big cheery sunflower bouquet. It made us smile every time we drove by.

However, our time on SNI was not only work. We were given tours every late afternoon to see different parts of the island. SNI has one of the largest breeding colonies of northern elephant seals in California with 20,000 animals crowding the beaches in winter. Kevin told us that during the height of the breeding season there is not a spot of sand visible. The bulls and the newly pregnant females had already left for their northern feeding grounds, but there were still plenty of younger seals on several beaches, including the aptly named Bachelor Beach. A few sea lions mingled with the elephant seals.

We saw several examples of CIR restoration projects, including an impressive dune planting. A gully at the edge of Nictown had been planted a year ago with similar plants we were planting. It was amazing to see how much these plants had grown in just one year. We hope ours will look as happy in another year. What a contrast to the landscape at the South side of the island: a badland with deep gullies severely eroded from decades of overgrazing.

On our last day, we had the opportunity to spend time at Rock Crusher at the West end of SNI. Here the crashing waves had eroded away the softer rocks leaving columns of dark rocks, creating an almost alien landscape.

We left on the afternoon plane just as the wind was picking up again. We were tired and sore, but also very thankful for the opportunity for such an enlightening experience.

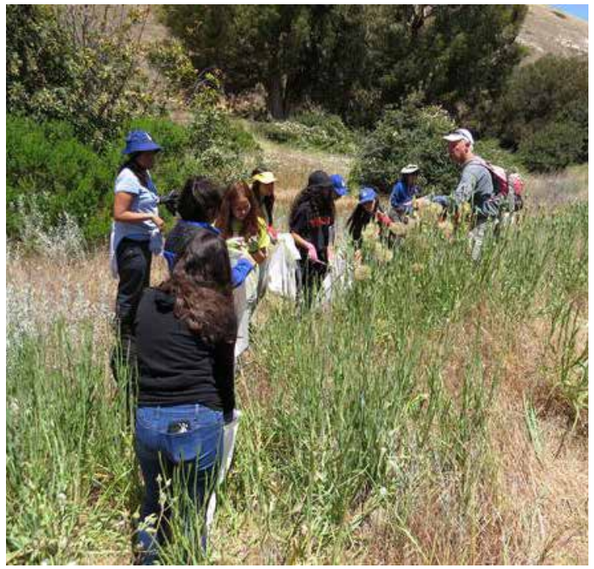
We learned so much from Kevin and Kelle about the flora and fauna of the island and about restoring a badly damaged desert island. It was a privilege to work alongside such dedicated people as Kevin, Kelle, and Robin. Most important, we had a small part in helping create habitat for those cute island critters.

Reprinted with permission from the June 2018 issue of the Bay Leaf, the newsletter of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (www.ebcnps.org).

Educational Service Trip to Santa Cruz Island

By Cindy Kimmick

Along with Channel Islands Restoration's mission to restore habitat on the Central Coast and Channel Islands is our goal of providing environmental education to under-served students through environmental service trips. Near the end of May, CIR coordinated with the National Park Service to bring students from Academia Advance (a public charter school with a 100% minority student body, 92% of which are classified as low income) out to Santa Cruz Island for an overnight service trip. The CIR grant-funded Academia Advance trip was arranged to coincide with a non-CIR funded trip for Yuba River Charter Middle School, enabling CIR to work with twice the number of students on the same trip, doubling the impact of our grant funding.



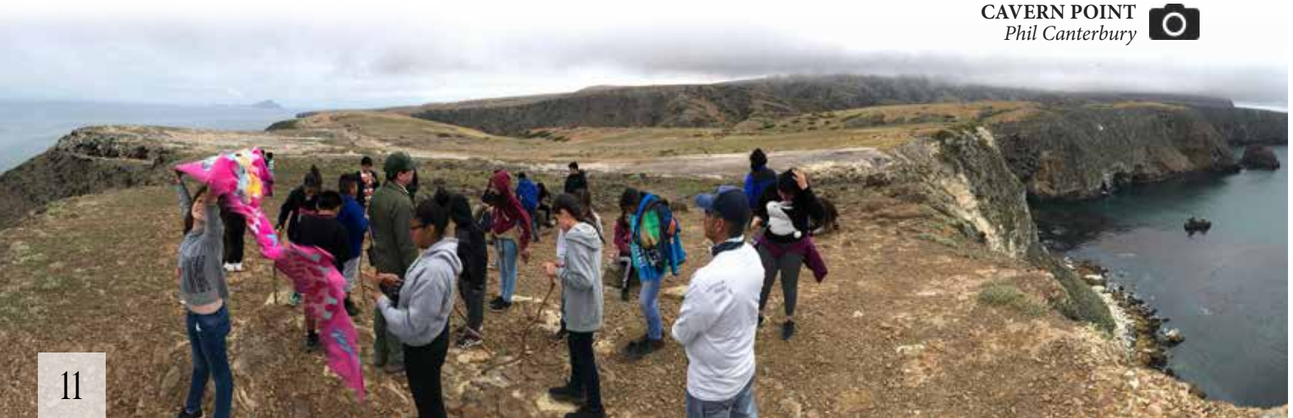
Dennis Kulzer CIR/NPS work leader instructs students on how to collect oyster plant seed heads.

Many of the Academia Advance students had never been to a national park, been on a boat, or seen a dolphin prior to this trip. On their first day, the students went on a Cavern Point hike, and set up camp with help from CIR volunteers. Many of the students had never put up a tent or been camping, and so some extra education on care of equipment, camping etiquette, and the art of preserving their food from the inquisitive island foxes and ravens was needed. That evening, the students were eager to go on a night hike down to the beach where they persuaded their teachers to let them play in the surf.

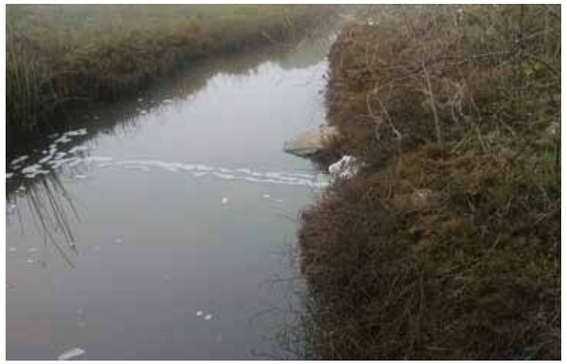
Over the course of the trip 27 sixth and seventh graders from Academia Advance (Lincoln Heights in LA County) and 29 eighth graders from Yuba River Charter (from Northern California) worked to remove oyster plant (*Tragapogon porrifolius*) that was beginning to overtake an oak woodland full of lupine and morning glory near the Upper Scorpion Ranch Campground area. With the help of CIR and NPS work leaders Ron Nichols, Dennis Kulzer, and Cindy Kimmick, the students removed over 100 pounds of buds and seed heads from the perennial forb by carefully snipping off the dandelion-like seed heads with bandage scissors and placing them in trash bags so the seeds could not spread. In addition, the students all received an on-island, interactive natural history presentation. In a first for CIR, volunteers brought out a selection of plant and animal artifacts plus several items loaned from Friends of the Island Fox, including golden eagle skull and talons. These displays and specimens engaged the students' tactile senses as CIR educator Caitlin Kimmick told the island fox story, emphasizing the problems caused by human-introduced non-native species. After packing up for the return trip, the students toured the visitor center at Scorpion Ranch before loading their gear and returning to the mainland.

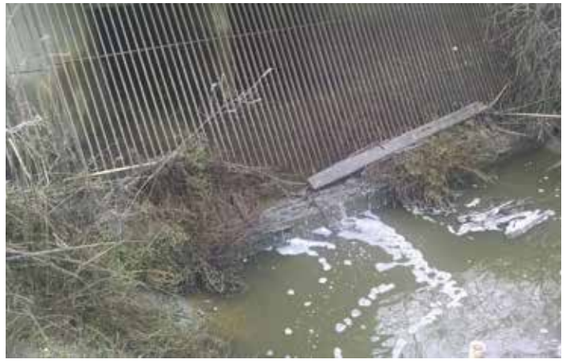
Inspiring future generations to care about our environment and educating them on how to do so is one of our core objectives at CIR. To date, we have worked with more than 3,600 kids accompanied by 400 adults since 2004.

CAVERN POINT
Phil Canterbury



Salt Marsh Restoration in the Goleta Slough

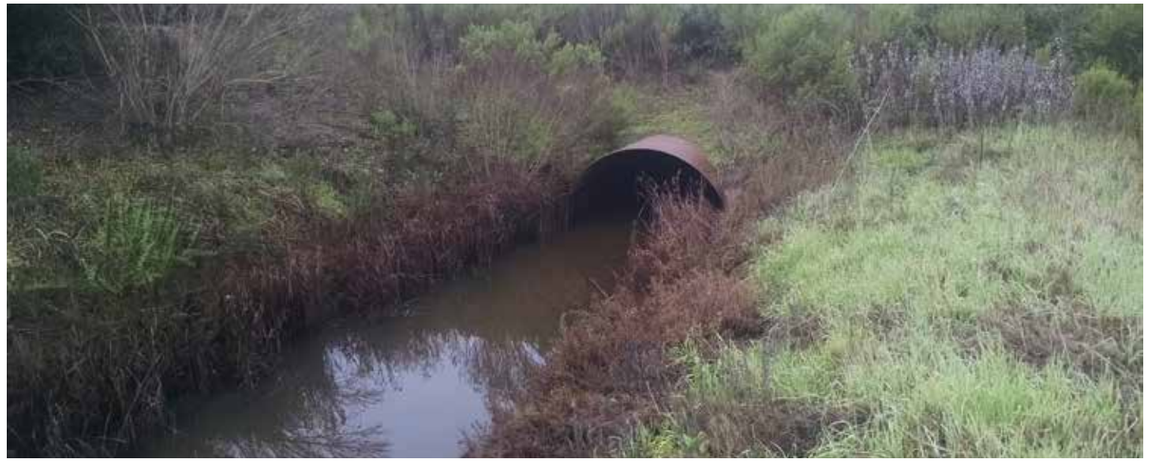




The Goleta Slough is a large salt marsh (estuary) located around the Santa Barbara Airport and UCSB. In a healthy estuary, saltwater from the ocean goes into and out of the estuary twice each day with the tides. However, in one of the estuary's channels, "tide gates" were installed sometime before 1942 in order to prevent tidewaters from moving up into the upper part of the estuary. Years ago, the original tide gates were replaced with smaller ones, and have been frozen shut for decades. Some tidewater gets through the gates, but most tidewater cannot move up into the upper wetlands of the estuary. This has reduced the value of the estuary's wetlands for native plants and animals there because they don't flood as often as they used to do before the tide gates were installed. We want to move or remove the tide gates to restore the wetlands, in hopes that an endangered bird, Belding's Savannah Sparrow will breed in this area, along with other species.

Relocation or outright removal of the tide gates has been on the wish lists of local and state agencies for many years. These include the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the City of Santa Barbara, the Airport, the Goleta Slough Management Committee, the Coastal Commission, and UCSB. Estuary restoration was implemented by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, including removal of fill that had been placed in the estuary and planting more than 17,000 native plants. That was followed by moving a sewer line that was near Los Carneros Road out of the estuary. Now all that is needed is saltwater.

CIR is currently raising money to fund a hydrologic engineering study. The study will determine whether it is feasible to move the tide gates to the west or to remove them entirely without causing flooding of roads, buildings and other infrastructure. If the study finds that no flooding would occur, then we will request authorizations from the landowners and agencies to move or remove the tide gates. Once we move or remove them the saltwater will be able to flow in and out with the tides and more than 15 acres of estuary wetlands will be restored. The UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund has kick-started the effort by giving us a large grant. Funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service have been secured for the project as well. However, your contributions still make a huge difference in ensuring that this project is a success! Can you help us by donating to this cause?



Volunteer of the Year

Robin Birney

This year's "Volunteer of the Year" award goes to Robin Birney!

Robin's help this season on San Nicolas Island has been invaluable. She has helped with every aspect of our work on the island, from propagating plants to getting them in the ground. Robin has spent 44 days on the island, some of which have been multi-day trips, but most have been single-day trips.

When asked about her time volunteering, she had this to say: "*It was an honor to take part in the restoration of the native habitat on San Nicolas Island. I had such a great time, meeting so many people from all across our state and country. All of us were so excited to be on SNI. We also went to world class sites to observe nature in its wildest forms. Very few people have spent time at Rock Crusher, Red Eye Beach, Mineral Canyon, or Flat Rock, where we saw an octopus, black abalone, island foxes, elephant seals, sea lions and cormorants. Thanks to Kelle, Kevin and Sarah we learned a wealth of information about SNI, natives and how to plant them in rock hard earth. Our leaders' patience and sense humor provided the bases for all the successes. I had the time of my life!*"

We are incredibly grateful to have the help of Robin and all of our wonderful volunteers. Our work simply would not happen without you all.

Memberships

Memberships help support CIR, but they also get you a ton of exclusive benefits.

On May 20th, CIR members met up at Rincon beach State Park for the annual Membership Picnic. CIR co-founder, Duke McPherson, was grilling up his famous chicken in addition to veggie burgers. Members contributed to a potluck with salads, sides, and desserts. There were plenty of drinks to go around as well, with a hearty selection of beer, wine, and soft drinks.

During the picnic, we held a raffle with prizes from Patagonia, Island Packers, Santa Barbara Adventure Company, Barbara Hale (a CIR member and pilot), and more!

Afterwards, members were treated to an exclusive guided tour of the Carpinteria Bluffs by renowned local naturalists.

Thank you to everyone that attended! We had a great time, and we hope you did too!

Over the course of the year, Channel Islands Restoration holds four events for our supporters. For donors of $40+, we have the Spring Membership Picnic, donors of $100+ receive an invite for two to the CIR Social in the late summer, donors of $500+ are treated to an exclusive natural history day tour, and donors of $1000+ are invited to the CIR Benefactor's Banquet.

Channel Islands Restoration relies on the support of members to continue our mission to restore habitat and promote environmental education. With as little as $3 a month, you can become a member of Channel Islands Restoration and contribute towards sustaining our current work and creating new projects, new volunteer opportunities, and new educational opportunities.

To learn more and become a donor, head to cirweb.org/donate

The Channel Islands Restoration Team

Staff

Ken Owen, Executive Director

Elihu Gevirtz, Operations Manager, Senior Ecologist

Kevin Thompson, Project Manager

Daniel Hart, Project manager

Kelle Green, Nursery Manager

Sarah Spellenberg, Nursery Technician

Nancy Diaz, Volunteer Coordinator

Tanner Yould, Outreach Coordinator, GIS Technician

Field Technicians:
Stephen Bednar, Emily Chase, Sean Clark, Ryan Fass, Bobbi Kolstad, Riley Kriebel, Brad Meiners, Erin Merrill, Doug Morgan, Cooper Wall, Jack Woolf, Holly Wright

Board of Directors

Cindy Kimmick, President

Geoffrey Jewel, Vice President

David Chang, Treasurer

Diane Kirchner, Secretary

Dr. Tanya Atwater

Keri Dearborn

Dave Edwards

Wayne Ferren Jr.

Duke McPherson

Ken Owen

Dr. Charles Rennie III

Mike Watling

Phil White

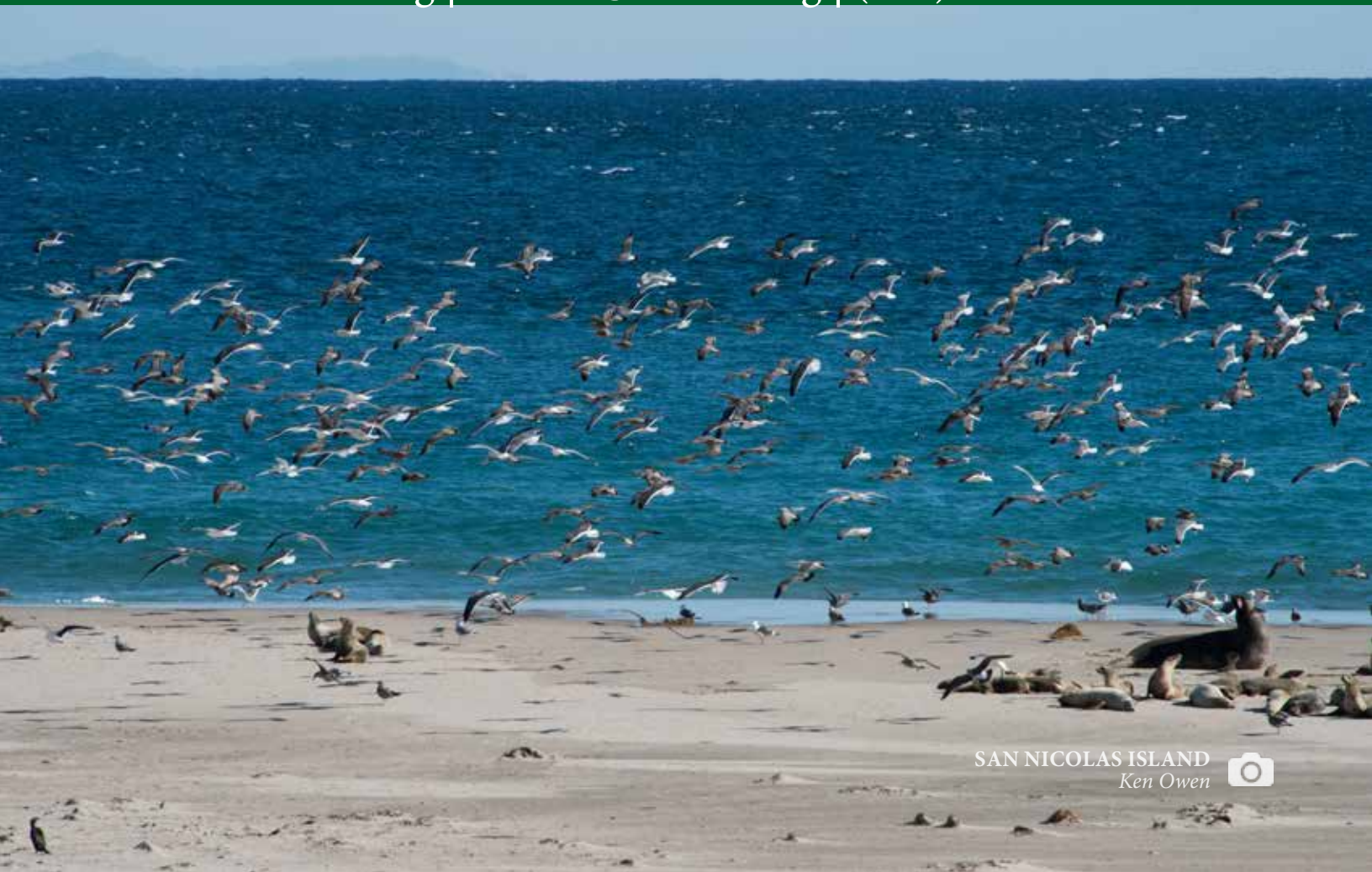
Volunteers of 2018

Academia Advance Students & Parent Chaperons, Nancy Acosta, Stephen Alnwick, Lauren Amundson, Lisa Anderson, Anita Arnold, Romy Barber, Debra Barringer, Daniel Begalla, Christina Bianchi, Robin Birney, Anne Bittner, Robert Black, Alex Bozic, Debbie Brenner, Garrett Briggs, Natalie Buckley-Medrano, Beverly Burr, Daniel Carey, Brittany Carlisle, Mardi Caruso, Louise Casey, Timothy Casey, Antony Chapman, Russ Charvonia, Kris Clapper, Ryan Clarke, Daniel Coller, Kathi Connally, Mark Connally, Laura Crain, Katherine Curtin, Kathryn Cutaran, Steven Danziger, Sam Deen, Michael Delaney, Beverly Delarosa, Daryn Dodge, Nicholas Duenas, Jarrett Dutra, Aaron Echols, Robin Elliott, Deborah Emmanuel, Harold Epstein, Victoria Erhart, Dawn Ericson, Leesa Evans, Phillip Fanchon, Debra Fedaleo, Troy Finger, Katharina Fischer-Zernin, Seth Fisher, Elizabeth Flint, Victoria Foraker, Shawn Fortman, Nicole Frank, Thomas Fusek, Michelle Gados, Amanda Gallup, Robert Garcia, Cheryl Garrett, Rolando Garrett, Madison Gibney, Greg Giloth, Celeste Giuffre, Patrick Gorey, Judi Gould, Carol Gravelle, Jennifer Guerrero, Lynne Haavaldsen, Barbara Hale, Tanis Hammond, Heather Hanna, Joe Harvey, Thomas Harvey, Virginia Harvey, Janet Heinritz-Canterbury, Thomas Hervey, Per Hoel, Hillary Holt, Alex Hom, Kristen Hopper, Jazmin Horvet, Daniel Hough, Read Howarth, Jon Huber, Teresa Huber, Bruce Hunter, Laura Ingulsrud, Connie Jenkins, Tom Jenkins, Geoffrey Jewel, Doreen Jones, Lorraine Jones, Benjamin Kanevsky, Debbie Kaskus, Tacy Kennedy, Diane Kirchner, Andrew Kirmse, Gudrun Kleist, Natalie Koski-Karell, Aaron Kreisberg, Dennis Kulzer, Lisa Lackey, Kriss Larson, Karen Lassen, Marie Laule, Juowei Lee, Stan Lefkowitz, Amber Lessing, Sarah Levitt, Virginia Lomerson, Donn Longstreet, Maria Lourie, Josephine Lynch, Karen Lyons, Gary Mabry, Ingrid Madsen, Kevin Mallon, Larry Marcus, Juan Martinez, Scott Mattchen, Alexis Matus, Mike McCabe, Carolyn McCleskey, Montana McLeod, Ricky Medrano, Elise Minichiello, Paige Minney, Marshall Monley, Kimberly Moses, Dan Najera, Nancy Nazario, Bradley Newton, Arthur Christopher Nichols, Ronald Nichols, Margaret Norman, Judith Oberlander, Isabelle Orlosky, Scott Orlosky, James Peet, Joel Peter, Karl Peterson, Susan Pilj, Richard Pisor, Diane Pressman, Donna Rabin, Stephanie Ranes, Angela Rauhut, Jeffrey Reidl, John Buzz Reyes, JoAmy Rice, Kathryn Rich, Christopher Richard, Patricia Ridenour, Inge Rose, Susan Rosenthal, Sean Rossignol, Owen Sanders, Terry Schuller, Joanne Schwartz, Kathleen Scott, Nadya Seal Faith, John Shaheen, Elizabeth Sieglinger, Sherri Sisson, Mike Sobol, Penny Spear, Jeffrey Storey, Elaine Sweet, Sidney Symington, Alyssa Syverud, Richard Tarnutzer, Ben Thomson, Stephanie Um, Jamie Uyehara, Julie Uyehara, Jo Ann Van Reenan, Patricia Waldron, Patrick Walker, Janet Wall, Dennis Wasserman, Olivia Watt, Susan Weisse, Eric Werner, Gregory Williams, Theodore Williamson, Doug Wilson, Janine Wilson, John Woodard, Huai Lan Yan, Yuba River Charter Students & Parent Chaperons Kim Zsembik, Margery Zweizig

Thank you for being a part of the team!

Channel Islands Restoration
928 Carpinteria St #3
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

cirweb.org | contact@cirweb.org | (805) 448-5726



SAN NICOLAS ISLAND
Ken Owen