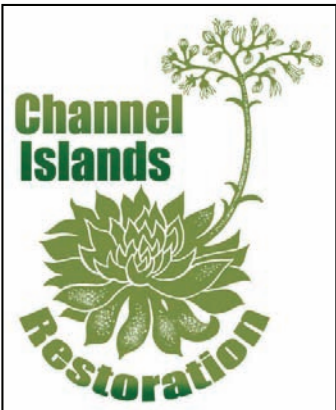


CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

Volume 6, Issue 1

December 2008



CIR EXPANDS SCHOOL PROGRAM

More than 200 school children performed service work and learned about habitat restoration on Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands in 2008, under a program sponsored by Channel Islands Restoration. CIR is expanding our schools program, and we expect to have more than 350 participants in 2009. Nearly 1,000 kids have worked with us on the islands in the last eight years!

CIR provides quality service learning opportunities to school and youth groups that emphasize habitat

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Students from Meiners Oaks Elementary and Oak Grove School with CIR staff on Anacapa Island

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PROTECTING MAINLAND CREEKS AND WETLANDS

CIR is in the forefront of important projects to protect threatened and endangered species and restore fish populations to creeks and wetlands on the mainland. Here are the highlights:

(Continued on page 4)



Volunteers plant native species at Refugio Creek

PROTECTING ENDANGERED ISLAND SPECIES

CIR is working to protect three rare plant species that are on the federal endangered species list on Santa Cruz Island in conjunction with a coalition of agencies.

At Pelican Bay we are removing periwinkle (*Vinca major*) where it is encroaching on sea-cliff bedstraw (*Galium buxifolium*). We are removing common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) near Trident Cove where it is threatening Santa Cruz Island lace pod (*Thysanocarpus conchuliferus*). We are removing two other invasive weeds that are threatening Hoffmann’s rockcress (*Arabis hoffmannii*) at two locations in the island’s Central Valley. All of these rare plants are only found in a hand full of locations (all on the Channel Islands) and removal of the invasive weeds is designed to protect the natives from extinction.

These projects are funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are done in conjunction with our project partners (see sidebar). In addition to our rare plant work, CIR continues to carry out other important restoration projects in environmentally sensitive areas on Santa Cruz Island.



Pelican Bay at Santa Cruz Island has been a popular destination for nearly a century. CIR is removing periwinkle (*Vinca major*) at Pelican where it is encroaching on sea-cliff bedstraw (*Galium buxifolium*), a federally listed endangered species.

SANTA ROSA ISLAND PROJECTS

CIR is working closely with the Park Service to protect rare plants on Santa Rosa Island. On recent trips to the island, volunteers worked with CIR staff and park personnel to set up fencing around sensitive plant populations and to plant native species. Non-native deer and elk threaten native plant populations on the island, and the fencing is needed to protect the plants from disappearing.

In November, volunteers spent seven days on the island, camping and working in remote locations. CIR also recently finished a project near Bechers Bay on the island to remove highly invasive plants that are found in few other locations in Santa Barbara County.



Volunteers from the North Face and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden on Santa Rosa Island planting native *Dudleya* species near Carrington Point (left) and hiking in Lobo Canyon (right).

CIR School Program
(Continued from page 1)

restoration and island ecology. Kids make single-day or multi-day trips to the islands, often visiting areas not normally open to the public. They receive hands-on restoration experience while learning about conservation biology and the unique ecology of the Channel Islands National Park.

We also provide pre-trip instruction, including PowerPoint presentations and nature walks that excite and educate the participants and prepare them for their trip. We work closely with teachers to complement school curriculum.

Anacapa Island Project

We lead school groups on exciting day trips to Anacapa to remove non-native ice plant that threatens the island's sea bird nesting habitat and native plant communities. We gather seeds from native plants and prepare restoration sites for planting. This is a popular day-trip, particularly for younger kids.

Santa Cruz Island

We remove non-native plants and collect seed in sensitive habitats on Santa Cruz Island, including areas not normally open to the general public. Participants either visit for just the day, or they stay overnight in a campground or university housing. On overnight trips participants perform service work at several important restoration sites and have the opportunity to hike on interesting trails, swim and take kayak excursions.

“Our collective experience on Santa Cruz Island was so extraordinary that we rode the wave of feeling connected to the island all the way home...”

Karen Hesli, Oak Grove School



4th graders hand-removing iceplant on Anacapa Island

Pre-trip Activities

CIR provides a variety of pre-trip educational services designed to prepare students for their trip and to reinforce what they learn while on the islands. Our popular PowerPoint presentations cover the unique nature of the Channel Islands and nearby marine sanctuary, Native American and European ranching history, island ecology and why islands are particularly vulnerable to human disturbance, the impacts of non-native species, and native plant and animal restoration projects among other topics.

CIR also provides educational walks at the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and visits to the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center prior to many trips. This is a great opportunity to teach ecology in detail in a natural setting, while seeing many of the endemic plants that grow on the islands.

Visit CIR’s School Programs web site:
www.channelislandsrestoration.com/schools.htm



Students from Meiners Oaks Elementary and Oak Grove School in Ojai learn about island ecology and habitat restoration on Anacapa Island



Students from Dunn Middle School remove invasive plants on Santa Cruz Island

Protecting Mainland Creeks and Wetlands
(Continued from page 1)

At Refugio Creek on the Gaviota Coast, CIR is close to finishing a major project to remove giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and to plant nearly 3,000 native species along the bottom two miles of the creek. The creek provides habitat to the endangered California red-legged frog and once supported a thriving steelhead trout population. Removal of the *Arundo* will enhance habitat for the frogs and will pave the way for the return of the trout. More than 100 volunteers have helped with the project, including a group from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Our *Arundo* removal project at Carpinteria Creek is all but completed, and we will start a project to remove ice plant at Carpinteria State Beach in 2009. Removal of the *Arundo* is the first step in restoring trout populations to Carpinteria. Our project at the state park will provide an opportunity for campers and residents of Carpinteria to learn about wetland and dune habitat and the value of restoration.

CIR has completed a large project to remove invasive trees and other invasive plants around Devereux Slough near UC Santa Barbara. The Slough is located at Coal Oil Point Reserve, and our invasive tree removal is designed to allow for the recovery of this sensitive wetland and to support the threatened western snowy plover that nests at the reserve. CIR has also led work to plant native species at the Reserve.

CIR also completed removal of large stands of *Arundo* at Lookout Park in Summerland, Mission Canyon and Montecito. We will soon start projects to remove invasive plants from three locations at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve on the Gaviota Coast. CIR is slated to plant native species at Lookout Park in the winter of 2009.



Volunteers from Vandenberg Air Force Base and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service plant native species at Carpinteria Creek



Teens from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History TEEN program plant native species with CIR personnel at Coal Oil Point Reserve

More than 300 CIR volunteers contributed 6,520 hours on the Channel Islands in fiscal year 2007/2008

Our Restoration Partners:

**County of Santa Barbara
Agricultural Commissioner's Office**
Santa Cruz Island/Santa Rosa
Island/Carpinteria Creek/Lookout
Park

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Santa Cruz Island/Refugio Creek

Channel Islands National Park
Anacapa, Santa Cruz and Santa
Rosa Islands

The Nature Conservancy
Santa Cruz Island

**The Land Trust of Santa Barbara
County**
Refugio Creek/Arroyo Hondo
Preserve

**University of California Santa
Barbara**
Santa Cruz Island/Coal Oil Point
Reserve

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Coal Oil Point Reserve

The North Face
Santa Rosa/Santa Cruz Islands

Once Upon a Wetland Project
Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island

Sierra Club
Santa Cruz Island

**USGS Western Ecological Research
Center**
Santa Cruz Island

Wetland Recovery Project
Carpinteria State Beach

**Cachuma Resource Conservation
District**
Refugio Creek

City of Santa Barbara
Parma Park

Montecito Fire Department
Monecito Arundo Removal

South Coast Habitat Restoration
Carpinteria State Beach

Please join Channel Islands Restoration
at the annual
South Coast Earth Day Festival in Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Courthouse Sunken Gardens
Sunday, April 19
10 am - 5:30 pm



CIR's Earth Day Booth 2008

Duke Loses Home In Tea Fire

On November 13, CIR Board President Duke McPherson lost his home in the Montecito Tea Fire. Duke and his wife Paule had very little time to evacuate, and they lost just about everything. This has been a devastating loss for the McPhersons, who lived in their small home for more than 40 years. Duke has been a certified arborist for more than 30 years, and has lead CIR's contracting work on the islands and the mainland.

CIR staff and many friends from Channel Islands National Park and elsewhere spent more than two weeks helping to clean up Duke's property, and the McPhersons are now settling in to temporary housing. Duke is planning on rebuilding.



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Sylmar

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Laguna Hills

CIR's Holiday Wish List

If you like what you see in this newsletter then please consider helping CIR purchase any of the items in our "wish list" below. Most granting agencies do not pay for these kinds of items, and we REALLY need these for our big upcoming spring 2009 work season!

We hope that you can please look the list over and generously help CIR purchase these needed supplies. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, and we survive and thrive on your tax deductible donations!



*Be a sparkplug
in our restoration
machinery!*

Here's how:

Write a check today
made payable to:

Channel Islands
Restoration
P.O. Box 91414
Santa Barbara, CA
93190

Or

Donate Online!

Item	Cost
Professional emergency aid kit	\$137.00
12 containers 30 SPF sun screen	\$84
Consumer defibrillator for heart emergencies	\$1,200
Administrative supplies (paper/ink)	\$98
Two Action Packers storage containers	\$198
Brush cutter (gas)	\$149
Five water jugs (5 gallon)	\$105
Five Felco folding hand-saws	\$124
Four Felco F5 pruning shears	\$99
Stihl MS260 16" chain saw	\$510
Canon Powershot digital camera	\$189
Dell Laptop computer	\$599
Four-wheel drive vehicle (preferably a pickup truck)	\$10,000 +

Donate online at: www.channelislandsrestoration.org/donate.htm

CIR Hats and ORGANIC T-Shirts!

Greening up this holiday season? Consider gifting a CIR organic T-shirt, in light blue or burnished gold.

Shirts are US-made, from organic cotton, with eco-friendly green and purple inks. Sizes are M-L-XL (true sizing, no shrinkage), and donation cost is \$20.

Shirt front has the traditional CIR Dudleya logo, and the back shows a detailed map of Santa Cruz Island watersheds. Buy one on your next CIR trip, or order by mail (add \$4 for postage) by emailing cgnpark@yahoo.com or calling 805 376-3036.

To complete the CIR ensemble, buy a CIR hat, also for a \$20 donation.



TRIMBLE DONATES GPS

The Trimble Company, a leading provider of advanced positioning solutions, has generously donated high-end equipment to CIR to assist in our work mapping weeds and rare plants.

The GeoXH is advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment and is valued at more than \$5,000. It is designed for specialized work that integrates location information with complicated computer databases.

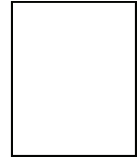
This equipment will enable CIR to map our work, find previously mapped plant populations and survey new areas where work will be started.

For more information about Trimble, and to view the complete line of their projects visit their web site at www.trimble.com



Channel Islands Restoration

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