# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

89 Alder Street Central Point, OR 97502 541.423.6158

www.rogueriverwc.org



Working to restore healthy waters for fish and people in the Rogue River watershed since 2015

90 % OF SUBMITTED PROPOSALS APPROVED FOR FUNDING

**1.8** Miles Made More Accessible to Native Fish

126 Individual Donors

18
PROJECT
FUNDERS

**5** SATELLITE OFFICES ESTABLISHED

536 RIPARIAN ACRES STEWARDED

243 Social Media Posts \$546,530 GRANT FUNDING AWARDED 4 RESTORATION PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED

HELD OUR FIRST VIRTUAL CELEBRATE THE ROGUE!

84% OF RRWC EXPENSES SPENT ON PROGRAMS

295 PIECES OF LARGE WOOD INSTALLED

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Table Rock, South Obenchain, and Almeda Fires overshadowed everything in the Rogue River Watershed Council's (RRWC) line of sight during 2020.

No matter the trying circumstances that presented themselves in 2020 with board and staff meeting virtually and working from their kitchen tables or home offices—regardless of how the RRWC overcame those obstacles to implement high-quality projects in strategic locations—despite valiant efforts to engage community members with our messages on the benefits of healthy watersheds—we will remember those horrible days from early September that continued into late October as the Almeda, South Obenchain, and Table Rock Fires burned. RRWC and our partners will continue to address the impacts of those fires along streams in the Bear, Big Butte, Little Butte, and Reese Creek watersheds for many years to come.

The fires of 2020, particularly Almeda and Table Rock, highlight our central tenant - healthy and resilient communities depend on healthy and resilient watersheds. Too many of the watersheds in the Rogue Basin are neither healthy nor resilient. Low flows during the summer months lead to warm stream temperatures, and high nitrogen and phosphorous levels contribute to algae blooms. Flourishing populations of bacteria prohibit "contact recreation" along Little Butte Creek in Eagle Point. Numerous fish passage barriers result in small populations of migratory native fishes like Klamath Smallscale Suckers and juvenile Coho Salmon. And vast expanses of blackberry hide mountains of trash and lend fuel to fires along stream corridors.

Rogue River Watershed Council will continue to address the root causes of our troubled watersheds. We are working hard to effectively address these challenges by expanding our capacity in a way that will allow us to continue delivering habitat restoration projects in streams like Elk Creek while increasing our ability to work with partners on the socially complex urban issues that confront towns like Grants Pass, Shady Cove, Talent, and Wolf Creek. September and October of 2020 drove home the message that urban as well as rural parts of the Rogue Basin are susceptible to wildfire. Improved watershed health will reduce the risks of fires, water quality degradation to municipal water supplies, and flood damage to communities while providing native plants and wildlife with the conditions they need to sustain or recover their abundance and diversity.

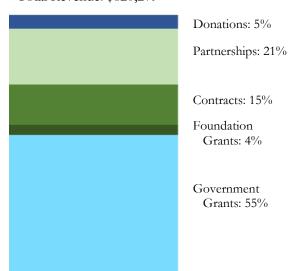
Thank you for your contributions to our efforts. We do this for you. And after 2020, the watersheds of the Rogue need you more than ever,

Brian R. Barr Executive Director

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

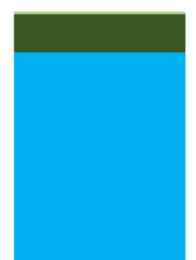
#### 2020 REVENUE BY SOURCE

Total Revenue: \$820,279



#### 2020 EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

Total Expenses: \$868,826



Fundraising: 1% Management: 15%

Programs: 84%



Bird's eye view of our largest project in 2020 at Elk Creek river mile 5.6 where large wood placements and strategic excavation allows side channels and the floodplain to reconnect with the stream channel.



Volunteers place straw over recently burned, freshly seeded areas along Bear Creek in the footprint of the Almeda Fire (done in cooperation with Jackson County Parks and Rogue Valley Council of Governments).



Trask Design and Construction implements Cascade Stream Solutions' design to improve fish passage and irrigation efficiency in Salt Creek.

# THANKS TO OUR MANY SUPPORTERS

Donors: Paul Ancell, Brian Barr, Diane Barr, Michelle Bashaw & Miguel Tajada-Flores, Bob and Kimberly Bath, Kirsten Beck, Stephen Beck, Timothy Bolling, Jean Byrne, Robert & Simone Coffan, Kent & Catherine Dauterman, Daniel Dawson, Stan Dean & Katharine Bronwen, Dan and Christol Delany, Tessa DeLine, Kathleen Detweiler, John DeVoe, Eric Dittmer, Beverly Ducey, Conor Duffy, Abigail Eaton, Richard & Carla Eaton, Keith Emerson, Laura Franco, Randy Frick, Full Circle Real Estate, Markie Germer, Pete Gonzalves, Dave Grosjacques, David & Tanya Haight, Don & Cory Hamann (Hamann, Inc.), Craig Harper & Theresa Selvy, Haskell Family Trust, Rich & Elizabeth Higgs, Laura & Eric Hodnett, Bob & Gretchen Hunter, David Hunter, Thom & Ann Idema, Paul & Barbara Jackson, Bob & Lynn Jones, Jan Jones, Ronald Jones, Ryan Jones, Jacob Kann, Thomas Kara, Dan & Lynn Kellogg, Kerry KenCairn, Chris & Rebecca Kline, Arnie & Terri Klott, Chrysten Lambert, Suzanne Lavine, Jeffrey Lo, John & Julie MacDiarmid, Susan Maiyo, Constance & Kevin Marr, Betsy Martin, Steve Mason, Chris Matthews, Ed & Nancy Mayer, Pete Mazzini, Phylis McIntosh, Bill Meyers, Jennifer & Michael Morgan, Becky Nankivell, Ginny Niebuhr & Chip Lewis, David Nilson, Sonja Nisson, Michelle Ochenkoski, Edward Olson, Markus Opel, Michael Parker, John F. Patterson, Linda Piehl, Timothy & Sandy Place, Sheri Preskenis, Stewart Reid & Holli Hanalei, Bill & Lena Richardson, Paul Rickerson, John & Sharon Roberts, Donald Rubenstein, Terry Ruiter, Laurel Samson & Scott Swindells, John Schuyler & Priscila Franco, Randy & Karla Self, Amie Siedlecki, Christi Siedlecki, Dave Strahan, Bob Strosser, Ray & Judi Tharp, Bela and Julie Toledo, Paula Trudeau & John Williams, Diana Glenn Wagner, The Walker Family, John & Anita Ward, Tim & Diana Weaver, Dave & Ginger Wedin, Rachel Werling, Jack & Cindy Williams, Jolyn Williamson, Bob Wisseman, Lance Wyss

Sponsors: Melissa C Taylor Cottage, Bella Union, Bi-Mart, Blue Ridge Timber Cutting, Camas Consulting, Cascade Stream Solutions, Grants Pass Golf Course, Jacksonville Inn, Jacobson, Thierolf & Dickey, P.C., Katz Family Foundation, KenCairn Landscape Architects, L&S Rock Products, Ledger David Cellars, Lillie Belle Farms Artisan Chocolates, Lone Rock Resources, Lost Creek Lake Marina, Martolli's Pizza, Phylis McIntosh, McMichael & Toledo, CPAs, M & M Services, Medford Water Commission, Montgomery Meats, Mt. Ashland Ski Area, Naumes Crush & Fermentation, Neilson Research Corporation, O'Connor Law, LLC, Plant Oregon, Pronto Print, Quady North, RH2 Engineering, Richard Stevens and Associates, Inc., River Design Group, Rogue Creamery, Rogue Flyfishers, Silver Butte Timber Company, Shooting Star Nursery, Solid Ground Landscaping, Terra Science, Inc., Timber Turnings, Watchable Wildlife Foundation, Wooldridge Creek Winery

# Volunteers

Board of Directors: Terry Ruiter - Chair, Jack Williams - Vice Chair. Bela Toledo - Treasurer, Phylis McIntosh - Secretary, Tom Dover, Keith Emerson, Dave Grosjacques, Bob Hunter, Bob Jones, Kerry KenCairn, Susan Maiyo, Ray Tharp

Board Liaisons: Randy White (Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District), Craig Harper (Medford Water Commission), Crystal Nichols (Southern Oregon University Environmental Education) Festival on the Rogue Organizers: Chuck Huntington, Laura Huntington, Laura Huntington, Laura Huntington, Laura Huntington, Crystal Nichols (Southern Oregon University Environmental Education)

Grantors and Partners: Amazon Smile, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management – Medford District, C2 Cattle Company, City of Ashland, City of Grants Pass, City of Medford, City of Phoenix, City of Shady Cove, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, The Freshwater Trust, Hancock Forest Management, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, The Kroger Company, Medford Water Commission, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Mountain Meadows Owner's Association, Mountain Meadows Community Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries, National Resources Conservation Service, One Percent for the Planet, Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, PacifiCorp, Rogue Flyfishers, Rogue Basin Partnership, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Schwemm Family Foundation, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, US Forest Service – Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, WaterWatch of Oregon, Wild Salmon Center

Photo by RVCOG

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Working to restore healthy waters for fish and people in the Rogue River watershed since 2015

86% of Submitted Proposals Approved for Funding

2 MILES MADE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO NATIVE FISH 92 Individual Donors

20 Project Funders

10 MUNICIPALITIES

10 Riparian Acres Planted

5
FEATURE
NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES
ABOUT RRWC

\$477,987 AWARDED IN GRANT FUNDING 3 RESTORATION PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED

4 Plans Developed to Improve Watershed Health

83% OF RRWC EXPENSES SPENT ON PROGRAMS

\$673,936 IN ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

**5** STAFF MEMBERS

10 BOARD MEMBERS

1.641 MILLION
ACRES IN
WATERSHED

2 SIGNATURE EVENTS WITH 25 SPONSORS

OVER 22
OUTREACH
EVENT
APPEARANCES

>75 WATER QUALITY LIMITED STREAMS

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gone are the days of finishing good projects started by the merging councils. RRWC's strategic project development and landowner outreach efforts are concentrating current and future activities in priority watersheds. The Bear Creek Restoration Initiative focuses on ten projects addressing streamside forest habitats and public safety along the Bear Creek Greenway. The Upper Rogue Coho Strategic Action Plan identifies 65 instream and near-stream habitat restoration projects, mostly in the Elk and Little Butte Creek watersheds. We finalized a water quality improvement plan for Little Butte Creek and a Pesticide Stewardship Partnership for Bear Creek. In November, we held two landowner outreach workshops in the South Fork Little Butte and Elk Creek areas, which drew a total of 14 landowners, sparking immediate interest in several large-scale restoration projects. You should see a steady stream of restoration projects in Elk, Little Butte, and Bear Creeks over the next five years (now, if only we could break through in Grave and Jumpoff Joe Creeks).

We *acted* strategically in 2019, too. Our talented staff implemented a fish passage project on Ashland Creek that makes two miles of habitat easier for fish to reach. We started implementing streamside forest restoration projects on Kitchen Creek (Ashland) and Bear Creek (in Phoenix) and finalized designs, pursued permits, and sought funding for four fish passage projects on Salt Creek (complementing the removal of two others in 2018). And we worked closely with Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District to help a horse rescue facility in Ashland reduce their water quality impacts to Neil Creek.

Finally, 2019 saw great strides in engaging the communities of Josephine and Jackson Counties. We started with the second annual Fish Migration Day celebration at North Middle School (Grants Pass) and ended with 180 of our friends at the third annual Celebrate the Rogue! fundraiser. Between these events, we helped organize and implement the Bear Creek Fall Festival in Medford (100 visitors) and Festival on the Rogue (650 visitors).

Both the board and the staff were productive, accomplished important results, and had fun. At the end of the day, if we can continue delivering those three things, we'll be just fine.

Thank you for your contributions. We do this for you. And we couldn't do it without your support.

Brian R. Barr Executive Director

Shady Cove Elementary School students get their hands dirty planting native trees and shrubs to protect the banks and shade the water of Indian Creek

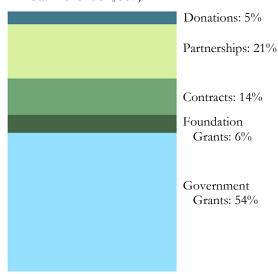


A future fisheries biologist gets an up-close look at juvenile Pacific Lamprey during one of the many outreach events RRWC attended in 2019

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

#### 2019 REVENUE BY SOURCE

Total Revenue: \$887,921



#### 2019 EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

Total Expenses: \$874,518

Fundraising: 1%

Management: 16%

Programs: 83%



M&M Services implements the design of Cascade Stream Solutions to improve fish passage at the Smith-Myer-Roper diversion site on Ashland Creek

# THANKS TO OUR MANY SUPPORTERS

Donors: Paul Ancell, Timothy Armitage, James Barfield, Brian & Diane Barr, Ryan Battleson, Paul Belson, Max Bennett, David & Marjorie Bernard, John Bissey, Timothy Bolling, Gail Borst, Steve Boyarsky, Connie Boyko, Cascade Stream Solutions, Richard & Wanda Crook, Kent & Catherine Dauterman, Stan Dean & Katharine Bronwen, Dan Delany, Kathleen Detweiler, Eric Dittmer, Don Hamann, Inc., Tom Dover, Clint Driver, Laura Franco, Priscilla Franco, Randy Frick, Full Circle Real Estate, Markie Germer, Pete Gonzalves, Scott Goode, Brian Grimshaw & Consuelo Montoya, Dave Grosjacques, Ron & Joyce Hailicka, Don Hamann, Jake Hamann, Craig Harper, Hank Hohenstein, Bob & Gretchen Hunter, Chuck Huntington, Jane Iwahashi, Kate Jackson, Paul Jackson, Bob Jones, Janice Jones, Sapna Kandwala, Thomas Kara, Dan Kellogg, Kerry KenCairn, Kent Knock, Tammy Kreutzer, Susan Krupa, Laird Norton, Chrysten Lambert, Suzanne Lavine, John MacDiarmid, David Maher, Susan Maiyo, Elizabeth Martin & Raimond Peterson, David Mauer, Pete Mazzini, Phylis McIntosh, Kristi Mergenthaler, Rebecca Monroe, Jennifer Morgan, Russel Morrison, Ginny Neibuhr & Chip Lewis, Markus Opel, Tim & Sandy Place, John Pogue, Kimberly Ramsay, Stewart Reid & Holli Hanalei, Paul Rickerson, Manon Robertshaw, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Donald Rubenstein, Terry Ruiter, Laurel Samson & Scott Swindells, Tamara Schmedemann, Bob Strosser, Robert & Danny M Swanson, Ray & Judi Tharp, Richard Thomas, Neil Thuresson, Arlo Todd, Bela Toledo, Tom Treece, Paula Trudeau, Dan VanDyke, Karelia Ver Eecke, Teresa Vonn, Doug & Beverly Walker, John Ward, Eugene Wier, Jack & Cindy Williams, Susan Williamson, Lance Wyss, Diane & Perry Yorks

Sponsors: Camas Consulting, LLC, Cascade Stream Solutions, Century 21 JC Jones, The Fishin' Hole, Flycaster RV Park, The Freshwater Trust, GSI Water Solutions, Hancock Forest Management, Jacobson, Thierolf & Dickey, P.C., Lucky 's II, McMichael & Toledo, CPAs, Mac's Diner, M & M Services, Medford Water Commission, Morrisons Rogue Wilderness Adventures and Lodge, Neilson Research Corporation, O'Connor Law, LLC, Robert G Pinnell Insurance, Plant Oregon, Pronto Print, Roe Motors, Rogue Basin Partnership, Rogue Fly Fishers, Rogue Law Firm, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Royal Coachman Motel, Shady Cove Edgewater Inn, Shady Cove Family Dentistry, Shady Cove Hardware, Shady Cove Market, Shady Cove Mobile Home Park, Shy's Café & Lounge, Silver Butte Timber Company, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Steward's Porta Potties, Terra Science, Inc., Upper Rogue Auto Care, Windermere Trails End

Volunteers: Board of Directors: Tom Dover, Keith Emerson, Bob Hunter, Bob Jones, Susan Maiyo, Terry Ruiter, Ray Tharp, Bela Toledo, Jack Williams; Board Liaisons: Stan Dean and Randy White (Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District), Craig Harper (Medford Water Commission), Crystal Nichols (Southern Oregon University Environmental Education); Others: Middle Rogue Steelheaders: (Joe Bosnitch, Leo Chilton, John Gaskill, Tim Griffin, Elizabeth Higgs, Richard Higgs, Ken Lollich, Keith Miller, Hollis Oberg, Richard Swanson, Tom Tschol), Deb Berg, Josiah Biddlecome, Doug Bolgiano, Nicole Ferer, Emilee Frisbee, Sandy Gilman, Amanda Huffman, Mark Kelley, Judy Klein, Kirk Kowalke, Nick Mantheakis, Max McClarnon, Marshal Moser, Crystal Nichols, Laina Rose, John Ward, Erin Wheeler

Grantors and Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management – Medford District, Cascade Stream Solutions, City of Ashland, City of Grants Pass, City of Medford, City of Shady Cove, Four Way Foundation, Grants Pass School District 7, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Medford Water Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, Reser Family Foundation, Rogue Basin Partnership, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Schwemm Family Foundation, The Freshwater Trust, US Forest Service – Rogue Siskiyou National Forest, Wild Salmon Center

The close of the Rogue River Watershed Council's (RRWC) first fiscal year marks the end of the first 18 months of the organization's existence. This first full fiscal period was an important one for RRWC. It was full of opportunities, challenges, difficult decisions, and lots and lots of questions. But the path that RRWC has put itself on by making very intentional choices at moments of intense pressure scribe a trajectory that will yield improvement in water quality, instream and near stream habitat quality, and community engagement in those parts of the Rogue Basin in which we are active.

Most of the activities that we've undertaken during this time period have borne the fingerprints of the councils that merged to form the RRWC. For example, we continued the work that the Stream Restoration Alliance of the Middle Rogue began to improve fish passage on Jones Creek; we continued a planting project initiated by the Upper Rogue Watershed Council - all good and important work. But beneath the surface of those actions and results, RRWC has been gathering information, developing relationships, and growing reach so that in the coming years, more work will be concentrated in areas of high priority and focused on the most important limiting factors. The end result that RRWC is shooting for is that our streams will flow with higher quality water ensuring that community members and visitors will have better recreational opportunities and salmon, steelhead, and other wildlife populations will grow stronger and more resilient.

Many thanks are owed to our donors, friends, grantors, partners, and volunteers for helping us get to where we are today. We ask all of you to join us as we look forward to an even more productive period for our next fiscal year.

Brian R. Barr Executive Director

# **Financial Summary**

# Revenue



Donations & Memberships: 3.2%

Partnerships: 14.6% Contracts: 11.1%

Foundation Grants: 4.5%

Government Grants: 66.6%

Total Revenue: \$459,853

# **Expenses**



Fundraising: 4% Management: 13%

Programs: 83%

Total Expenses: \$347,740





# Annual Report July 2015 - June 2016









# Selected Highlights of the Year

- Rounded out our personnel with the hire of three new staff members: Donna Chickering, Outreach & Education Program Manager; Anna Johnson, Administrative Assistant; and Sarah Sauter, Water Quality Program Manager
- Submitted 15 competitive grant proposals, 7 of which were awarded
- Awarded \$538,320 in competitive grant funding
- Held our first ever joint strategic planning session to coordinate programming between RRWC staff and those of our partner, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, with whom we are co-located
- Served as lead entity for four outreach events; co-lead for two outreach events; and sponsored / participated in ten outreach events
- Removed three fish passage barriers, restoring access to 92 miles of Pacific Lamprey, salmon, and steelhead habitat
- Installed 1,300 plants at two sites covering a total of 0.65 acres
- Monitored water quality and stream flow in three stream reaches; monitored fish use at the site of past and planned restoration projects in four additional stream reaches
- Awarded scholarships to two area high-school youth to aid them in their pursuit of careers in the natural resource field

# Thanks to Our Many Supporters...

# Friends

Paul Ancell, Mike Backen, Brian & Diane Barr, Bob & Kimberly Bath, Donna Chickering, Robert & Simone Coffan, Stan Dean, Dan Delaney, Tom Dover, Scott & Laura Garrett, Peter Gleysteen, Pete Gonzalves, Brian Gottwald, Dave Grosjacques, Craig Harper & Theresa Selvy, Bob & Gretchen Hunter, Chuck & Laura Huntington, Dave & Mary Hussell, Anna Johnson, Bob & Lynn Jones, Thomas & Mary Ellen Kara, Rebecca Lorang, Betsy Martin, Steve & Maria Mason, Kristi Mergenthaler, Jennifer & Michael Morgan, Tom & Sharon Morris, Natasche O'Brien Legg, Markus Opel, Kim Parara, Linda Piehl & David Schorran, Dave Pritchett, Terry & Dave Ruiter, Sarah Sauter, Dave Strahan, Robert & M. Danny Swanson, Lori Tella, Ray & Judi Tharp, Bela Toledo, Thomas & Marian Treece, Paula Trudeau, John Ward, Tim & Diana Weaver, Rachel Werling, Patricia Whitney, Jack & Cindy Williams

# Donors (Individual & Business)

Brian & Diane Barr, Ken Crocker, Clint & Mary Driver, Dennis Goldstein, Pete Gonzalves, Bob & Lynn Jones, Thomas & Mary Ellen Kara, Steve & Maria Mason, Jennifer & Michael Morgan, Markus Opel, Steve Pickett, Terry & Dave Ruiter, Phillip Segal, Robert Swanson, Jack & Cindy Williams

Big 5 Sporting Goods, Bobbio's Pizza, Don Hamann, Inc., Human Bean, Kohl's Corporation, Laird Norton Corporation, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Opposition Brewery, Pizza Schmizza, RH2 Engineering, REI, Shari's Café and Pies, Southern Oregon Sanitation, Watershed Systems Consulting, Wild River Pizza

#### **Grantors and Partners**

Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners, Bureau of Land Management, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development, Geos Institute, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Laird Norton Family Foundation, Medford Water Commission, Meyer Memorial Trust, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Oregon Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Patagonia, Rogue Basin Partnership, Rogue Flyfishers, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, U.S. Forest Service

# Volunteers

Jennifer Absher, David Ancell, Paul Ancell, Bob Bath, Homer Brisbane, Bob Budesa, Butch Chilton, Carl Cole, Dan Delany, Stan Dean, Tom Dover, Jacob Fountain, Peter Gleysteen, Pete Gonzalves, Dave Grosjacques, Reg Heth, Jake Hoyman, Marty Hunt, Chuck Huntington, Dave Hussell, Bill Jackson, Bob Jones, Ron Jones, Sara Landall, Steve Mason, Ethan McAnally, Rob McEnroe, Keith Miller, Jennifer Morgan, Doyle Nelson, Markus Opel, Emily Outfleet, Amy Sager Patton, Sarah Rockwell, Terry Ruiter, Diane Seitz, Jakob Shockey, Bob Stafford, Dave Strahan, Mike Strahan, Lori Tella, Judi Tharp, Ray Tharp, Bela Toledo, Tom Treece, Paula Trudeau, Rachel Werling

Stewardship through restoration, education, and community involvement