
SANTA ROSA ISLAND RESEARCH STATION

2020-21
ANNUAL
REPORT



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WHERE WE ARE NOW

Although COVID-19 hit hard, we were able to use the time wisely

The Santa Rosa Island Research Station prides itself on the interdisciplinary nature of our programs and partnerships. During this unprecedented time, we have expanded our virtual presence through various forms and projects. These projects include collaborating on the VirtualField.org project funded by NSF, hiring a student engagement intern, curating a virtual art show, and boosting our social media presence.

In this report you will find a breakdown of the SRIRS user days, academic programs, research, internships, and other projects supported.

During the 2020-21 academic year, the SRIRS again saw greatly reduced user days due to the COVID-19 Pandemic that effected everyone worldwide. We turned this negative into positives of proactive maintenance and revamping long term research.

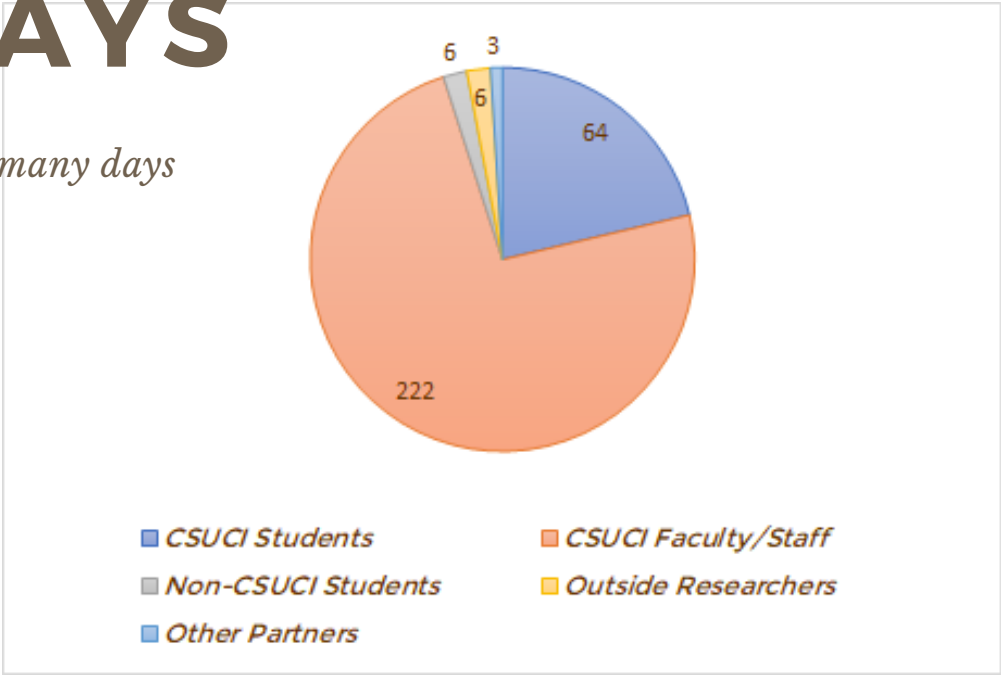
Thanks to some long-term donors, we were able to use the funds to improve island facilities. Some projects include replacing sheetrock and creating more shelving space in the bunkhouse kitchen, more efficient use of storage space, preventative maintenance, along with numerous improvement projects aimed at supporting students and their research.



USER DAYS

Number of visitors by how many days they visited

14



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS SUPPORTED

- CSUCI: Anthropology, Biology, Center for Integrative Studies, Communications, English, Health Sciences, History, Library Sciences, Math, Office of the Provost, Performing Arts, Psychology, Sociology, Studio Arts.
- Outside Organizations: Isbell Middle School – BWET Instructors (Santa Paula Unified School District), Westmont College.

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STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

- Daniel Solis (Digital Arts/Computer Science) – Website development and curation for “Santa Rosa Island: Gateway to Expression” SRIRS sponsored Virtual Art Show.
- Siomara Zendejas (Biology) – San Clemente Island Insect Inventory, Working with Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Researchers.
- Brian Larson (ESRM/Chemistry) – Began in March 2021 - Marine Debris.
- Jennifer Jones (Environmental Communication) – SRIRS Social Media and Community Outreach – Increasing awareness and engagement with regards to the SRIRS, Channel Islands National Park and the greater island and local communities
- Natalie Gula (Cermaic Arts) - Rengaging Student Committee and Speaker Series to include Industry Professoinals and Alumni.

STUDENT RESEARCH

Student Capstone/Independent Research Projects

Biology (4 Students)

- **Intertidal Ecology:** Continued long term monitoring of intertidal species and ocean conditions at Becher's Bay and Skunk Point Sites. This work supplements and expands upon the Channel Islands National Park long-term monitoring program (CI Faculty Mentor: Geoff Dilly; NPS Collaborator: Steve Whittaker).

FACULTY RESEARCH

Biology

- **Geoff Dilly:** Investigating the impacts of climate change (i.e., sea level rise, ocean acidification, etc.) on the intertidal and sub-tidal habitats of Becher's Bay, Santa Rosa Island (NPS Collaborator: Steve Whittaker).

Studio Art/Ceramics

- **Marianne McGrath:** Curation of the Inaugural Virtual Art Show "Santa Rosa Island: Gateway to Expression".

ESRM

- **Clare Steele:** Marine Debris deposition rates and plastic typing – in collaboration with SRIRS.

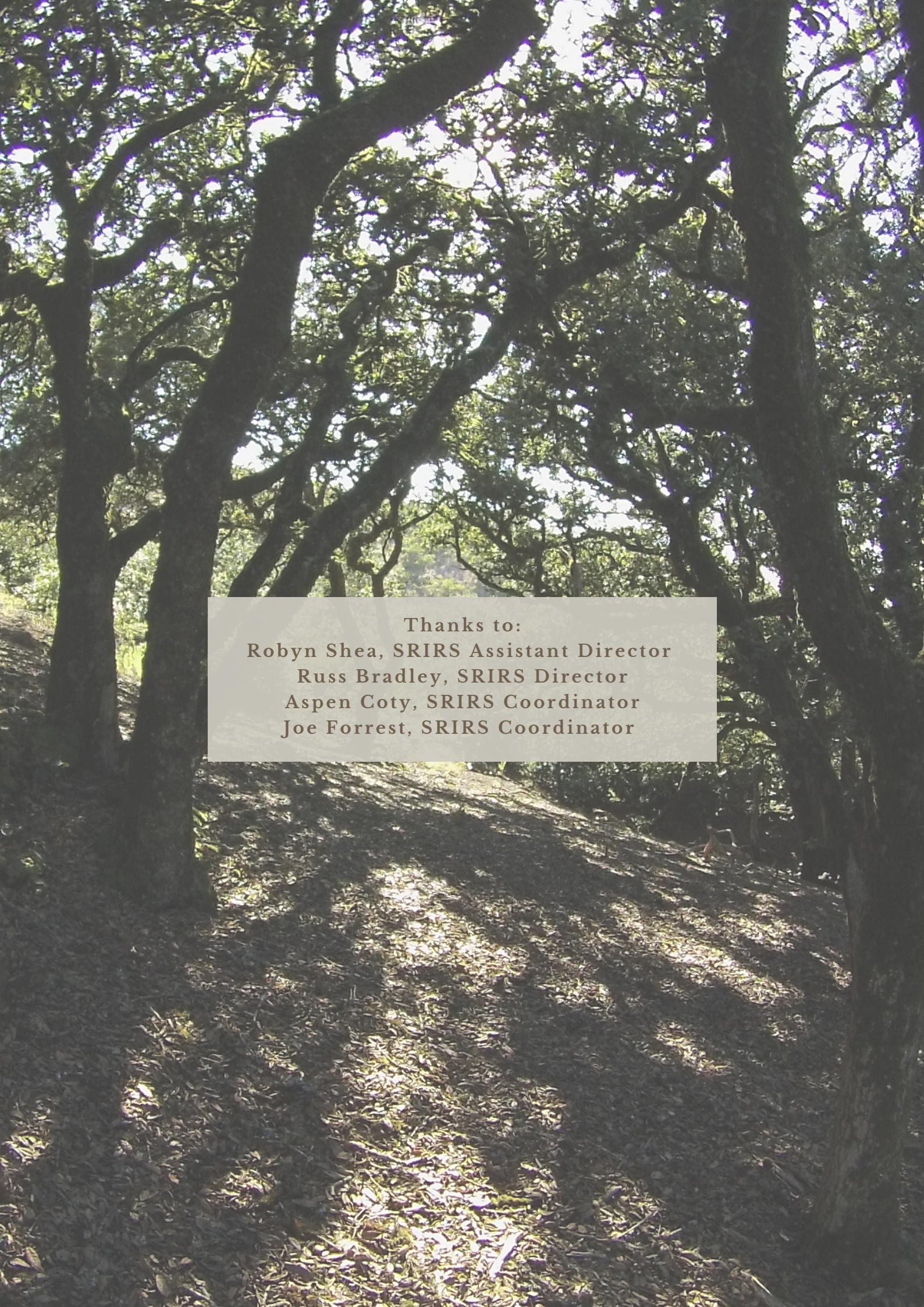


OTHER RESEARCH

Additional Research Supported by SRIRS

- Westmont College: Examining the herpetology ecology & evolution on Santa Rosa Island.
- University of Nevada, Reno: Excavating limited column samples from the West End region of Santa Rosa Island, to better understand patterns of human mobility and subsistence in an interior region of the Channel Islands.
- Santa Barbara Botanical Garden: Ecological Network Collaboration – Santa Rosa Island; Native plant identification and seed preservation/collection; Terrestrial Invertebrate Survey on San Clemente Island.
- National Park Service - Inventory & Monitoring Program, Mediterranean Coast Network: Lagoon Monitoring – maintained new sensor array and finalized protocol for assessing changes in size, water chemistry, and depth of East End Lagoons on Santa Rosa Island – All field work conducted by SRIRS Staff.
- The Nature Conservancy – Santa Cruz Island Preserve: Monitoring for and delineating remaining population of Argentine Ant in remote canyons of SE Santa Cruz Island – eradication cleanup.
- Channel Islands National Park: Biosecurity – Invasive Species survey and removal (*Plecostachys serpyllifolia*, *Foeniculum vulgare*).
- NOAA, Channel Islands National Park, The Nature Conservancy, Island Packers Company, University of California Natural Reserve System, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Marine debris removal on the California Channel Islands: improving critical habitats.
- NOAA: Crossing the Channel: Natural Systems & Stewardship (BWET Logic Model incorporated into take-home lesson kits). – Santa Paula Unified School District.
- Islands of the California's Botanical Collaborative Workshop: Re-introductions and Translocations – Santa Rosa Island, re-scheduled for Spring 2022.
- California Islands Symposium: Week-long event re-scheduled for Fall 2022.



A photograph of a forest path. The path is covered in fallen leaves and is flanked by large, mature trees with thick trunks. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy, creating a dappled light effect on the ground. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

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