You Make It Happen

Thank You Faculty, Donors, and Friends

Thanks to all of you who made student educational experiences possible at the SSU Preserves this year.

Special thanks to Bob Johnson, Daphne Smith, Barbara and Jake Mackenzie, Georgette Skellenger Trust, Norwich Family, William and Joan Roth, Jacques and Barbara Schlumberger, Chuck and Cathy Williamson for substantial gifts to our programs. A full list of donors is on our website.

We look forward to a new year of exploring environmental challenges!

New student opportunities this year were made possible by:
- The Georgette Skellenger Endowment to support Galbreath Preserve operations.
- Steve Norwick Memorial Fund to create student research experiences at the Osborn Preserve.
- Sonoma County Water Agency’s WATERS Collaborative to support SSU faculty engaging students in local watershed projects.
- GMC Academic Integration Fund to create the Soundscape Project.

Please Consider a Donation Today

We are grateful for the many people who share our vision of environmentally literate graduates who have the skills to address the challenges of this century. Please join us.

Visit our website or use the enclosed envelope to donate.

Contact us at 707-664-3416
www.sonoma.edu/preserves

Director’s Greeting

A “Wicked” Education

Dear Friends of the SSU Preserves,

This year, I learned the term “wicked problem.” The phrase defines a problem that is difficult to solve because of incomplete information, non-definitive solutions, and complex interdependencies. In a Policy Science journal article last year, Levin et al. coined the term “superwicked problem” to characterize the challenge of global climate change.

How do we prepare students to grapple with these complex environmental challenges? At the SSU Preserves, we are collaborating with faculty across campus to give every student, regardless of discipline, first-hand experiences with real-world regional environmental challenges. We engage students in experiences that enhance critical thinking skills and that will remain with them throughout their lives.

I hope you enjoy reading about Preserve educational activities this year and will consider a donation to our Programs. Have a superwicked holiday season!

Dr. Claudia Luke, Director

“I always reflect on how lucky I was to have worked for the SSU Preserves and how it prepared me for this and many other positions to come. I think it’s safe to say I have had the best jobs in the world. I’ve met quite a few biologists and naturalists from other colleges and EVERYONE is impressed with the Preserve[s] we have! I just can’t say enough how thankful I am.”

Zak Beltz
Research Assistant, Sea Turtle Conservancy,
Tortugero N.P., Costa Rica

Photo: Neal Ramus

SSU Preserves
1801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Sonoma State’s
Outdoor Classrooms

Galbreath Wildlands Preserve
Fairfield Osborn Preserve
Los Guillicos Preserve

December 2013
No More Silt for Steelhead

$700K Collaboration with Mendocino County RCD

Steelhead and Coho salmon are icons of the Pacific Northwest, fish that thrive in cool, clean oxygen-rich waters of forested landscapes. Over the last 150 years, habitat quality for these species has drastically declined. A primary culprit is historic logging practices that have removed shade canopies and filled creeks with sediment.

The SSU Preserves is partnering with Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to improve habitat for steelhead and Coho salmon in the upper Navarro watershed. The $700,000 project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency with matching funds from donors Bob and Sue Johnson, stabilizes 9.3 miles of road surfaces in the Gablebreath Wildlands Preserve by replacing culverts and contouring road surfaces. A riparian demonstration project will identify restoration techniques that are exportable to other watersheds in California.

Pacific Watershed Associates, known for their excellent work in the region, began work in July and plan to complete the project next summer.

Steve Norwick Memorial Scholarship

Undergraduate Boots in the Field at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve

Dr. Steve Norwick loved inquiry and discovery. His life was devoted to engaging students in field endeavors in geology, philosophy, art and music, and he set hundreds of students on career paths in ecology, environmental sciences, urban planning and teaching.

This year, with donations from friends and family, the Steve Norwick Memorial Fund was established to continue to share Steve’s love of field investigation with generations of students.

The scholarship grants five $1,000 awards for faculty to mentor students working at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve.

Projects funded this year created experiences for students in hydrological sensors and network development (Farid Farahmand, Engineering Science), insect diversity and herbivory (Nathan Rank, Biology), amphibian and reptile abundance (Derek Gorman, Biology), and tree ring analysis (Michelle Goman, Geography).

The Norwick Family plans to continue sponsoring this program next year. Please consider a donation to this program using our website or enclosed envelope.

Engaging All Students

Open Preserve Operations to Education

As SSU’s outdoor classrooms, the Preserves partner with faculty to create hands on experiences for students in all disciplines. One way we reach across disciplinary divides is to request help from classes to assist us with Preserve operations.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

MBA students in Kyuho Lee’s Strategic Branding class (BUS 563) developed a marketing plan to raise awareness about the Preserves with the SSU campus and surrounding communities. This Fall Kirsten Ely’s business class is developing a business plan for the Preserves.

HISTORY

Students in Steve Estes’ Art & Craft of History class (History 500) interviewed donors and faculty to gather information about Fairfield Osborn Preserve land use and transition of these lands into an education and research site.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Master’s student Kyle Rabellino is creating a Cultural Resource Conservation Plan for the Fairfield Osborn Preserve.

Naturalist and Land Management Trainings

- Students in our land management training program this spring will work with regional partners on a greater diversity of environmental issues. Projects include work in grasslands, watersheds, and forests.

- We welcome Naturalist Training Teaching Associate Kerry Wininger who uses her background in biology and theater arts to inspire naturalists to lead elementary school tours at the Preserves.

For more info about participating in SSU Preserve programs: www.sonoma.edu/preserves/programs

Steve Norwick

Photo: Jweekly.com

Colin Hughes (Pacific Watershed Associates) supervises work in Livingston Creek before installation of a new culvert

Virtual Tours and Data Archives now are on our new website (www.sonoma.edu/preserves).

2012-13 Highlights

With the WATERS Collaborative, the Preserves worked with SSU faculty to engage 475 students in 8 real-world watershed projects identified by the Sonoma County Water Agency.

Photo: Sandy Caveney

Kerry Wininger

Photo: Sandra Caveney