

## Board of Directors

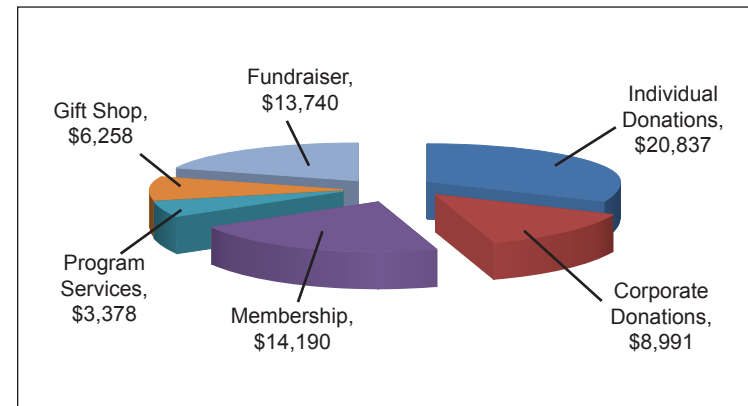
- **Suzan Hubert**, President
- **Bobbie Snyder**, Vice president
- **Carol Roelen**, Secretary
- **Ellen Peterson**, Treasurer
- **Bill Arrowsmith**, Newsletter Editor
- **Steve Giffin**, Website Liaison
- **Sarah Noddings**, Docent Tour Coordinator
- **Bob Shanman**, Birding Advisor
- **Jeanne Bellemin**, Zoology Advisor
- **Vincent Lloyd**, Inventory Control
- **Donna Wendel**, Membership
- **Melissa Loebel**, Naturalist/Manager of the Preserve and Liaison to the Board



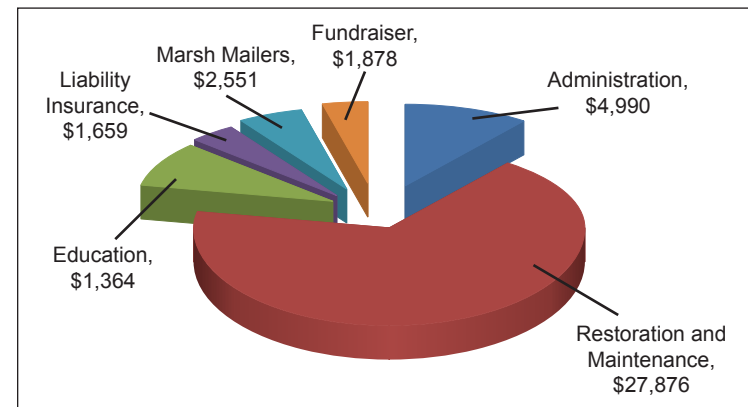
## The Numbers in 2019

- **40,656** people visited the Preserve and Nature Center
- There were a total of **4,531** volunteers contributing to the Nature Center and Preserve
- Volunteers donated **14,664** working hours to the operation and maintenance of the Preserve. At \$29 per hour, which is the standard hourly amount used by the City to calculate volunteer hours, these volunteers saved the City of Torrance the extraordinary sum of **\$425,256**.

### 2019 Income



### 2019 Expenses



### With Gratitude

*It is with sincere gratitude that we publish this Annual Report for our supporters. Many people have the chance to enjoy this magical Preserve because of support from the Friends, the City and business partners. On behalf of the plants and the animals that live on the Preserve we offer our heartfelt thank you.*



JANUARY 2020

## The Friends of Madrona Marsh

The Friends of Madrona Marsh is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Our goal is preservation, restoration, appropriate use of the Madrona Marsh Preserve as well as community environmental education.

## 2019 Annual Report



### Save the Dates in 2020

**March 28**  
Theodore Payne  
Native Garden Tour  
10:00-5:00

**April 4**  
Spring  
Extravaganza!  
10:00-1:00

**April 18**  
Earth Day  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
8:45-12:00 noon

**April 28**  
19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Nature Center  
Opening

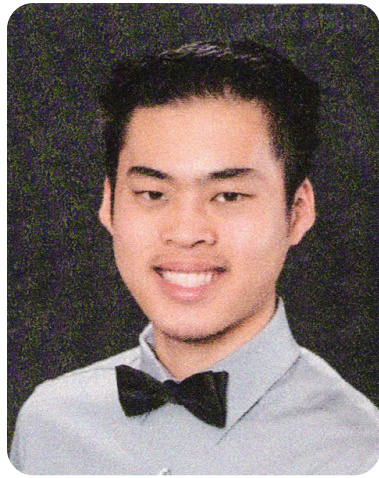
**July every Thursday**  
Smog City Brewery fundraiser  
3-10 pm every Thursday

**September 14**  
Grandparents Day Stroll  
10:00-12:00

**October 24**  
Make a Difference Day  
8:45-12:00 noon

Watch our website and newsletter for more events in 2020

California Native Plant Sale in October  
Music at Madrona. A Tongva drumming event in November



## The First Environmental Leadership Scholarship

The Friends awarded our first scholarship to Joshua Matsuda, a graduating senior at North High. During his four years at North Joshua earned Honors in Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Studies. As an Eagle Scout he earned the Environmental Science Merit Badge, Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge, Forestry Merit Badge and received the World Conservation Award. Here at the Preserve and Nature Center Joshua gave 84 hours of volunteer work.



## Outreach and Advocacy

Volunteers support promotional and educational events throughout the year. In 2019 Madrona Marsh was represented at these events:

- Torrance Antique Fair A Membership Promotion
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- 35th Whale of a Day at Point Vicente
- Deane Dana 1st Annual Wildfest Event
- Madrona Marsh Spring Extravaganza
- Ecofest, Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center
- Water Wise Garden Tour



**2019 Volunteer Honoree**  
**Margie Drake**



## MEMBERSHIP

394 members

## Community Partners

**We are proud of our community partnerships which significantly improve the Friends ability to fulfill our responsibilities.**

**Smog City Brewery** hosted a fundraiser for the Marsh in July resulting in over \$1500.

**South Bay Marriott** The Marriott's restaurant serves a Madrona Burger and donates \$1.00 to the Friends for every burger sold.

**Torrance Refinery** is a long time supporter through sponsorship of educational activities, and donations to various events.

**Sky1 Credit Union** is our newest partner. Sky1 funds a one year membership to The Friends of Madrona Marsh for new credit union members.

## Acknowledging the Nature Center Staff for taking a stand for the Environment

This summer Nature Center staff, led by Melissa Loebel, Naturalist/Manager converted all kitchen goods to compostable, non-plastic or reusable metal and china. It is significant that the Nature Center is leading the way for the City of Torrance in valuing our environment.

## Educational Programs

### Docent Tours for Student Study Trips

We really outdid ourselves this year. Our docents led 151 tours for 1769 students and 290 chaperones. That's a total of 2059 people!

Torrance Schools that participated were Anza, Carr, Edison, Fern, Hickory, Victor, The South Bay High School and El Camino College.

Schools groups also came from Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Lomita, Los Angeles, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Redondo Beach and San Pedro.

### Docents Align Tours with California Earth Science Education Standards



A group of docents worked with the Torrance Unified School District to align our docent led tours with K-5 California Earth Science standards. This creates a field experience that reinforces classroom learning for teachers and students visiting the Nature Center and Preserve.

### Participants in Docent Tours for the Community

- Audubon Bird Walks included 133 participants.
- Three Senior Strolls were offered in 2019 and 30 people participated.
- Nature Stories & Crafts for young children with 390 participants.
- Friday Fun is a weekly preschool nature science program that was attended by 2,063 children and their parents.
- Girl Scout nature related Badges were earned by 101 Girl Scouts.
- Tyke Hikes was attended by 210 infants, toddlers and their parents. Tyke Hikes is a monthly program targeting young children aged birth-3.
- 302 community members' adults and children participated in Tour de Torrance.
- 199 participated in Nature Walks.
- 139 individuals went on a Birding with Bob Shanman walk.

In addition to docent led tours for students, young children and the community, the Friends also maintain a website and publish a quarterly newsletter, The Marsh Mailer, for members. Members may continue to receive their newsletter in the mail or request a copy in full vibrant color via email.



## In Memory of Shirley Turner

Shirley is synonymous with the effort to save and restore the Madrona Marsh. For many years she attended City Council meetings and advocated for preserving the Marsh. She single-handedly wrote and published stories for the news. She contacted scout troops, Y groups, schools and more to introduce them to the Marsh. Shirley was one of the earliest and strongest proponents of restoration and persuaded many groups to participate. There is a painting of Shirley in the Nature Center lobby. You may wonder about the chain link fence behind her. It is a reminder that efforts to save the Marsh go back many years ... to when it was still privately owned and we could only walk the perimeter. Shirley passed away March 24, 2019, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



## Fundraising

**The Friends Gift Shop** is operated entirely by volunteers with 100% of the profits supporting the Madrona Marsh. \$6,258 was earned in 2019

**Walkin' thru Time** was a fundraising celebration of the renovated Nature Center and raised \$11,862