



2026 Community Report



Slowly, like a recovering landscape, we continue to grow.

Previously led by Jim Elias, and now with a new

executive director, Helen Pataki, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy's core staff continues to perform duties previously accomplished solely by volunteers, freeing our board of directors to focus on guiding our direction and creating newer opportunities for community involvement. What a difference. For those of us who want to give back, but have neither the time nor the stamina, it feels luxurious having the right people in place to nurture our blossoming. We're gearing up to take on more.

Happily, I can report that RCLC is on firm financial footing to continue its mission, in no small thanks to the incredibly generous donors in our community. Blended with grants from public and private sources, we turn individual donations into people's labor that goes towards enhancing the properties we steward. Additionally, through outreach and collaboration, we continue to identify and evaluate conservation-worthy lands within the Gualala River watershed and beyond in both Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.

Our future is secure and that's something for which we are grateful. On behalf of our board and directors—Bob Rutemoeller, John Walton, Rich Trissel, Andrea Lunsford, Vice-President Jennifer Dumpert, Max Hess, Treasurer Susan Winston, and myself—thank you all.

Mark Escajeda
President, RCLC Board of Directors



I am delighted to join RCLC and build on the remarkable growth this organization has achieved over the past several years. Having spent many years visiting the Mendonoma coast

before making Gualala my full-time home, I feel privileged to help care for this extraordinary place. As Mark wrote, we now have talented staff focused on stewardship, restoration, and outreach, strengthening our ability to build on the decades of work by our board of directors, volunteers, members, and community supporters.

At Mill Bend Preserve, restoration efforts are in full swing. Thanks to your support, combined with grants from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Coastal Conservancy, we are advancing plans to restore habitats within the Gualala River estuary while improving opportunities for education and recreation, including extending the California Coastal Trail through the preserve. On almost any day, you'll find our staff—and often dedicated volunteers—removing invasive plants, not only at Mill Bend, but across the properties we steward, helping native habitats thrive and reducing wildfire risk.

At the same time, RCLC is looking toward the future. Thanks to your generous support, we have strengthened our organization and expanded our capacity to conserve more of the lands and habitats that make the Mendonoma coast so special. We are excited to put those resources to work for the benefit of our community and future generations.

Preserve. Restore. Share. In a time of growing challenges for the natural world, these three words guide everything we do. Together, we can ensure these extraordinary landscapes remain part of the Mendonoma coast's legacy for generations to come.

Helen M. Pataki
RCLC Executive Director





Youth kayaking event in the Gualala River estuary. Photo: Jim Elias

At Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, we have made great progress on our mission to preserve, restore, and share the natural wonders of coastal southern Mendocino and northern Sonoma Counties.

Every week, you'll find community members at the Gualala Bluff Trail, Cooks Beach, Hearn Gulch, and Mill Bend Preserve working hard to meet the needs of native plants, wildlife, and visitors. From kayaking the Gualala River estuary with local students, to crafting holiday wreaths at Mill Bend Preserve, RCLC's community events in 2025 brought people of all ages closer to the landscapes we work to protect.

Every trail maintained, every invasive plant removed, every acre restored, and every conservation project undertaken serves one purpose: permanently protecting the extraordinary landscapes and habitats of the Mendonoma coast. Thanks to a dedicated community of supporters, volunteers, and partnering organizations, native flora and fauna can thrive here once again, and a new generation of visitors are offered opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of why it is important to protect this landscape.



Mill Bend wreath-making event. Photos: Carol Escajeda



Gualala Bluff Trail

In downtown Gualala, the Gualala Bluff Trail is a short segment of the California Coastal Trail and provides stunning views of the estuary and Pacific Ocean.

Along the Gualala Bluff Trail, volunteers monitor the trail twice a week, picking up trash and addressing problems as they arise. Every autumn, new native plants are added—both to beautify the trail and, over time, to crowd out invasive species and reduce the need for weeding.

That weeding remains a weekly effort. Last year, it included stopping the persistent spread of capeweed behind the Surf Market. Volunteers covered the area with cardboard and wood chips, generously provided by local businesses and community members. The cardboard blocks sunlight and kills plants naturally, while the wood chips hold it in place and improve the soil. But capeweed is tenacious, and kept pushing up through the gaps in the cardboard. Harmony Susalla, a dedicated regular volunteer, made it her weekly mission to dig out every sprout coming through, getting down to the roots. Harmony describes it as a beautiful place to spend a few hours: “Your troubles melt away. You feel progress, and powerful.” Nearly a year later, the capeweed is gone from the area she tackled.

Volunteers and RCLC staff have also worked to stabilize the trail against storm damage. Sandbags were added to the drainage channel from Highway 1 to redirect flow, preventing erosion during heavy rainfall. A wooden fence was also added along an exposed portion of the trail for safety. Visitors walking the trail today will find it safer and increasingly free of invasive plants—giving native species room to take root and thrive.



Gualala Bluff Trail. Photo: Bob Rutemoeller



Sunset at Cooks Beach. Photo: Don Hess

About two miles north of Gualala, Cooks Beach is a flat crescent beach with fine sand in a small protected cove. The viewing area along the bluff features a redwood bench with views of the rock outcroppings and islands of the California Coastal National Monument. Bonham Trail connects the bluff top to the beach.



Restoration Technicians Dylan Freebairn-Smith and Ethan Widner planting trees. Photo: Joel Chaban

Cooks Beach has faced significant challenges over the past decade, and ongoing volunteer and staff efforts have been essential to keeping this beloved coastal destination accessible and healthy.

Annual maintenance continues as well: wood chips are spread on the trail each spring ahead of the busy summer season to protect against foot traffic erosion, native trees are planted as needed for trail stabilization, and the stainless steel handrail on the concrete stairs is repaired each year after winter storm surf damage. These improvements help ensure that thousands of visitors can continue to safely enjoy one of the coast's most beloved beaches while protecting the surrounding ecosystem.

Hearn Gulch

Protected Properties

South of Point Arena, Hearn Gulch overlooks the Saunders Reef Marine Conservation Area, which protects a complex and highly productive rocky reef and kelp habitat. A trail at the north end of the bluff provides access to a small pocket beach.

Because of its coastline location and topography, a visit to Hearn Gulch is shaped by the nature of the day's weather. Sunny days can still be cool if strong coastal winds are blowing. Warm days with only light breezes can be sublime, particularly in the spring and early summer when the ground cover comes alive with flowers and new growth on hardy native plants, low-slung to withstand the sometimes powerful winds. In winter, visitors will see the Pacific Ocean's awesome storm waves that pound below the slumbering headlands. To the south are small offshore islands frequented by shore and ocean-faring birds and to the west is Saunders Reef—namesake of the surrounding Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area. To the north are the headlands of Mendocino Land Trust's (MLT) Saunders Landing Preserve. The beach between Hearn Gulch and Saunders Landing is shared by RCLC and MLT. The beach between Hearn Gulch and Saunders Landing is shared by RCLC and MLT.

While the headlands of Hearn Gulch can be strolled by most everyone, the steep trail to the beach requires the attention of even the surefooted. RCLC staff and volunteers steward this special place year-round, maintaining the trails, removing invasive plants, and caring for native vegetation. The trail continues to be a work in progress and requires that visitors use caution when making their way down. Once on the sand of Hearn Gulch's beach, the rest of the world may seem to fade and, with time, disappear. Visitors may find themselves the only people enjoying the beach for hours.



Hearn Gulch. Photos: Sophia Pisciotto (top) and Mary Sue Ittner (bottom)



Mill Bend Preserve, RCLC's 113-acre property near the mouth of the Gualala River, has seen remarkable progress over the past two years in wildfire resilience, habitat restoration, and community stewardship.

A Wildfire Resiliency Grant from the State Coastal Conservancy has funded significant work to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Because of Mill Bend's history of industrial use, invasive plants had overtaken large sections of the property, crowding out native vegetation, degrading habitat quality, and dramatically increasing fire risk.

The RCLC restoration crew focused on tree thinning and ladder fuel removal during the winter months, when birds are not nesting, using chainsaws to open up the Preserve's dense forests and keep access roads clear. During the rainy season, the restoration technicians tackle French broom, clearing acres of mature plants and painstakingly removing thousands of seedlings to protect prior years' progress. In summer, they shift to removing jubata grass seedheads, cutting English ivy vines before they can overtake tree canopies, and weed-whacking fennel before it sets seed.



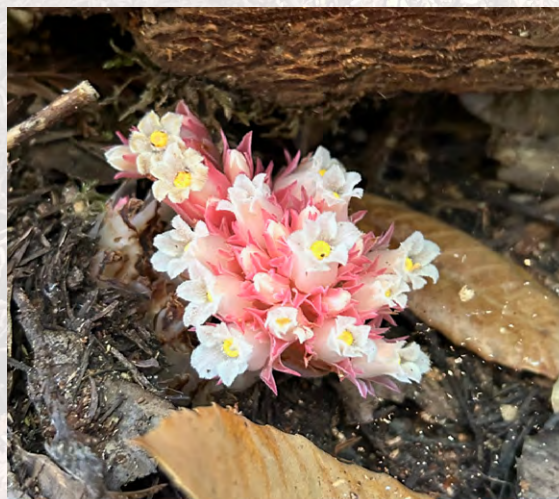
Mill Bend Preserve. Photos: Don Hess

The results are becoming visible. In areas where invasive plants have been cleared, native species like honeysuckle and California blackberry are beginning to reestablish, slowly returning wildlife habitat to these forests.



Top: Restoration Technicians Dylan Freebairn-Smith and Ethan Widner clearing invasive French broom. Bottom: Removing low branches, or ladder fuels, is one component of the work conducted at Mill Bend Preserve to improve forest health and improve wildfire resiliency. Photos by Sophia Pisciotta

Right: Mill Bend Preserve native plant species. Photos, from top: Unknown, Mark Escajeda, Lynn Walton, Unknown.





Community volunteers are vital to the success of RCLC. They participate in several events to help with ongoing invasive plant removal—an essential complement to the restoration technicians' year-round work. Volunteers also maintain the historic Gualala Cemetery, where dozens of local pioneer families are laid to rest. Our dedicated volunteers weed, clean headstones, mow, repair wooden family plot borders, and maintain the fence.

These projects demonstrate what makes Mill Bend Preserve so distinctive: it is a place where ecological restoration and community history are cared for equally.

*Volunteers maintaining the historic Gualala Cemetery.
Photos: Sophia Pisciotta*



Restoring the River community event at Gualala Arts Center. Photo: RCLC.

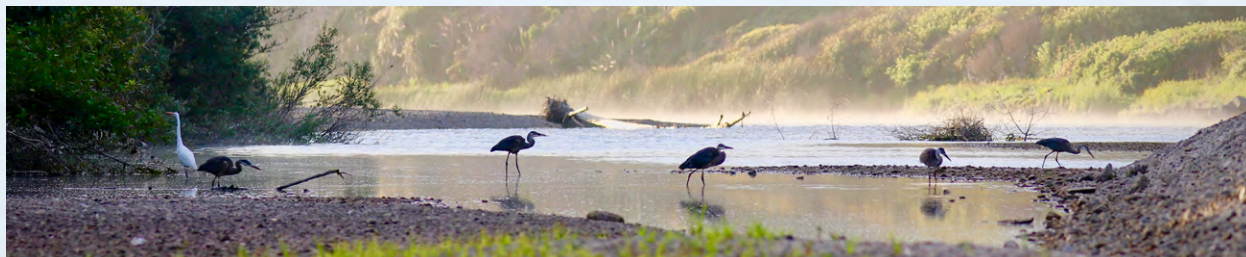
Last October, it was standing-room-only at the Restoring the River event, as more than 120 community members gathered to affirm a collective commitment to protecting the Gualala River. They were united by a shared vision: restoring the estuary to support the return of native fish, including threatened coho salmon and steelhead. The importance of the work echoed throughout the room: in conversations between neighbors, in discussions with scientists and community partners, and in a Kashia Pomo song honoring the river's cultural and ecological significance. Funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, the event marked the beginning of a long-term effort to restore estuary habitat.

Just a few weeks later, that vision was reinforced. During the Gualala River Watershed Council's annual habitat monitoring, a juvenile coho salmon was spotted in Dry Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of the Gualala River. Snorkel surveys also confirmed six to eight juvenile coho in three separate pools. This is the first documented sighting in the Gualala River in more than 20 years, underscoring exactly why estuary restoration matters. Estuaries provide critical feeding habitat for juvenile fish, supporting their growth and improving their chance of survival before they reach the ocean.

Coming Soon

RCLC is hosting a special community event to celebrate its major multiyear initiative, **Pathways to Mill Bend Preserve**, made possible by a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. Join us on Saturday, October 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Gualala Arts Center.

Attendees will learn about two miles of improved trails to explore in majestic redwood forest, including areas to enjoy river and ocean views, and future opportunities to experience restored forest, meadow, and wetland habitat. More details to come!



Great Egret and Great Blue Herons, Gualala River Estuary at Mill Bend Preserve. Photo: Gail Jackson

Over the past year, RCLC seized an opportunity to partner with Caltrans on a culvert replacement project at China Gulch on Highway 1. Drawing on technical data and modeling from Prunuske Chatham, Inc., and funded by CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, RCLC advanced the restoration of a pocket wetland at China Gulch. In order to revegetate the project site, volunteers spent a morning potting hundreds of plant divisions—bulrush, flatsedge, smartweed, and other marsh species—propagated from nearby, site-specific locations to maximize their chances of establishing successfully. The area was hydroseeded with a native plant mix, and native shrubs are planned for the upper access road. Recent monitoring shows that the native marsh plantings at the culvert outlet are pushing out new growth.

Through strong partnerships and a shared commitment, RCLC is working toward a healthier, more vibrant Gualala River estuary, one project at a time.



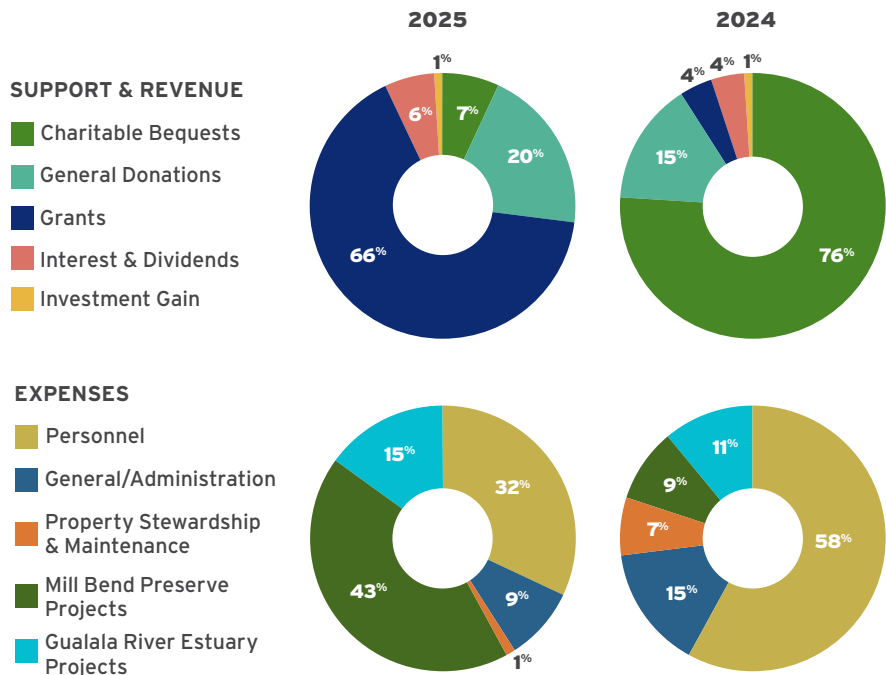
China Gulch wetland restoration. Photo: Sophia Pisciotta

Finances + Funding

RCLC continues to be financially well positioned to achieve our current and long-term conservation goals, including making nature more accessible to everyone. This financial stability is made possible by the ongoing generosity and dedication of our donors. Additionally, the support we receive from public agencies ensures we can continue the important work of habitat restoration and the development of trails and public access.

The following statements summarize RCLC's financial results for the two years ending December 31, 2024 and 2025. The 2024 amounts are from audited financial statements; the audit of our 2025 financials will be completed in September.

	2025	2024
SUPPORT & REVENUES		
Charitable Bequest Donations	\$87,500	\$1,144,058
General Donations	\$247,253	\$222,694
Grants Received:		
Gualala River Estuary Habitat Enhancement	\$156,459	\$33,986
Mill Bend Public Access & Restoration		
Planning	\$449,864	\$23,465
Fire Resilience at Mill Bend	\$175,274	\$5,184
Other Grants	\$22,500	\$0
Interest & Dividend Income	\$73,265	\$60,203
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$10,028	\$16,438
	\$1,222,143	\$1,506,028
EXPENSES		
Personnel Expense	\$342,937	\$186,627
General & Administration Expense	\$98,681	\$49,850
Property Stewardship & Maintenance	\$12,766	\$22,553
Mill Bend Preserve Projects	\$457,580	\$28,649
Gualala River Estuary Project	\$160,022	\$33,986
	\$1,071,986	\$321,665
NET RESULT - CHANGE IN EQUITY	\$150,157	\$1,184,363
TOTAL EQUITY - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$5,124,376	\$3,940,013
TOTAL EQUITY - END OF YEAR	\$5,274,533	\$5,124,376



PUBLIC & AGENCY PARTNERS

California Coastal Commission
California Conservation Corps
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Coastal Conservancy
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Sonoma County Regional Parks

NONPROFIT & LAND TRUST PARTNERS

The American Society of Genealogists
California Council of Land Trusts
California Native Plant Society
Friends of Gualala River
Gualala Arts Center
Gualala River Watershed Council
Land Trust Alliance
Mendocino Coast Audubon Society
Mendocino Land Trust
North Coast Resource Partnership
Northern Region Council of California Land Trusts
Sonoma Clean Power
Sonoma Land Trust
The Sea Ranch Association
Together Bay Area

TRIBAL PARTNERS

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
Manchester Band of Pomo Indians

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERS

All Things Connected
Arena Theater
Chris Severson
Coasting Home
Further Reach
Gonzalez Tree Service
ICO Community Newspaper
Jane Kelley Bookkeeping
Kennedy & Associates
Mar Vista Farm + Cottages
Prunuske Chatham, Inc.
Queridomundo Creative LLC
River Bend Kayaks
South Coast Fire Protection District
Tempra Board

How You Can Help

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy relies on community support. No gift is too large or small.

We welcome donations online at **rclc.org/give/donate** or scan below to give:



Checks may be mailed to:

RCLC

PO Box 1511, Gualala CA 95445-1511

Supporters can donate stocks, mutual funds, IRA/retirement distributions, and personal property. **Email rclc@rclc.org for more information** about these and other options, or if you are considering including RCLC in your estate plans.

RCLC also invites your gift of time. To learn how you can join a work party, provide pro bono professional services, or help us reach out to the Mendonoma business community, email **volunteers@rclc.org**. **Thank you for your support!**

Every gift—whether \$10 or a transformational bequest—helps protect the lands and waters that make the Mendonoma coast so unique.

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy is grateful for the donors who generously supported us between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025:

BEQUESTS

DePaoli Estate & Trust • Hiskes Family Trust

DONORS \$50,000+

Bob Rutemoeller and Mary Sue Ittner • Andrea Lunsford

\$25,000 - \$50,000

Susan Clark • Sally W Crane Cox / Crane Family Foundation • Jennifer Dumpert and Erik Davis
Brad and Janice Santos • Connie Schimbor

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Jim Blomgren • Charles Bouril • Kenneth and Marian Brown
Caryl Carr & David Presotto • Lennox Foundation • Lois Lutz • James Nybakken
Lynn Walton Friends of Gualala River • Pearl Watts

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Gary Bialis • Carol and Mark Escajeda • Rosemary Gamblin • Don Hess • Monica Morris
Jeff Sengstack • William S Thomas • Sidney M Wolinsky and Pat Kirkpatrick

\$1,000 - \$4,999

James Adrian Adams and Janet Pierucci • Gayle Alexander and Wanda Swenson
Gary and Judy Amado • George and Kathie Anderson • Tamera and J Kendall Anderson
Laura Baker and Lewis Lubin • Gary Beall • Gary & Mary Ann Blomgren
Deanna and Christopher Boettcher • Peter and Carsley Brown • Su Corbaley • Alison Cormack
Annette Daroczi • Teresa & Richard Denniston • David and Kristine Donadio
Tracy and John DuPont • Jim Elias and Melanie Parker • Nicole and John Forte • Cathy Garza
Dorothy Gregor • Katherine and Lance Gyorfi • Doug Hammerstrom and Diane Harris
Cheryl and Elmer Harris • Randall and Beverly Hawks • Max Hess • Robert & Carolyn Heywood
Nancy and John Hoogendyk • Bob and Linda Ittner • Bruce Jones • Irene Leidner
Philip Lightstone • Harry Lindstrom • Alyssa Lutz & Mark Thomas • Tom Lyon & JoAnn Kahn
Harold Mann and Kathy Kretchmer • Norman Marck • Lichter-Marck Fund of Liberty Hill Foundation
Amanda Martin • James and Patrice Mitchell • Mark Petersen • Bill and Mary Retzer
Carl Shapiro • Julia Sherwin and Michael Haddad • Peter and Mary Kay Sidell
Sara and Bill Snyder • James Suhr • Harmony and Sus Susalla • Christopher Swarth
Marc Tarpinning and Dr. Erika Schillinger • Rich and Nancy Trissel • Chris and John Wall
John and Lynn Walton • James Weigand • Wilma West Chamberlin
Katherine Anne Wheelock and Barbara Elizabeth Triol • Red Barn Wine Partnership

\$500 - \$999

Max Ballantine and Diane Phillips • Robert and Judith Biehler • Stephen Bohn and Monica Mastin • Chris Braley
Kathleen and Lloyd Chasey • Cathleen Crosby • Ken and Martha Fischer • Mary Louise Flint • Douglas Forsell
Jesus and Carole Garcia • Penny Gardner • Pete and Harriet Hanauer • Carolyn Hand and Steve Bennett
Leslie and Bob Harrison • Diane Hichwa • Charles and Susan Higgins • Ann Howald • Fred and Barbara Ilfeld
Randall & Janis Jones • Hall and Jane Kelley • Marianna Leuschel & Peter Langlois • Janet and Neville Luhmann
Fred and Janet McElroy • Carole McQuarrie • Laurie & Leigh Mueller • Paul Nordstrand
Ocean Sanctuary League • David and Evelyn Osteraas • Douglas and Elke Paul • Harriet & William Pecot
Bryan Plude • Richard Ragaini • Diane and Todd Regonini • Mike Reinhart & Dorothy Yerxa
Alan and Katherine Reinke • Lynn & Toshie Reynolds • Ginny Rubin and Richard Warmer • Elizabeth Schenk
Carolyn Sherwood Call and Gregory Call • Fuqiang Shi • Lois Talkovsky • Lynn and Laurel Thorpe
Linda Vieira • Ron Wagner and Christopher Japp • Mary S Wall • Robert Widi

\$250 - \$499

Gail Arnold • Maria Bardini-Perkins • Christina Batt & Robert Doyle • Nancy and Joe Bono • Lena Bullamore
and Jeff Gyving • Dinah Lee Carl • Bill Clement and Dayle Farina • Ramona Crooks • Michael Ellerin
Heidi Endemann • Gareth and Grace Fong • Dianna Garrett • Barbara Gomes • Joni Goshorn • Bob Hanlon
Colleen Hutchings • Cindy Kennedy Kennedy & Associates • Sarah Kilpatrick • Mr & Mrs Daven Lowhurst
Maureen Maring • Pamela Martin • Sophia and Bob Mitchell • Susan Moreschi • John and Jackie Petersen
Don and Brenda Phillips • Paul Radosevich and Elise Thomas • Susan and Jon Sandoval
Ken and Maybeth Shockey • Cyndy Solomon and David Mayer • Dorothy Spalding • Bess and Steve Sternberg
James and Bridgit Strachan • Elise Thomas • John and Janet Tweedie • Amy and Bob Van Syoc • Susan Winston

\$10 - \$249

Beatrice Acosta • Marilyn Alderson • Ward and Betsy Anderson • Robin and George Applegarth
David Arkin and Anni Tilt • Gail Blalock • Tempra Board and David Yager • Janice Bonora and Chris Pohlmann
Frank Boyle • Craig Brestrup and Lynn Cuny • Sandra Bush • John Allen Cann • Carolyn Case
Jeanette Cassano • Seeta Chaganti • Steve and Carol Chell • Doug and Anna Cook • Allen and Camille Cox
Robin and James Cunningham • Eric and Leslie Dahlhoff • Millie Davis • Susan and John Dean • Janis Dolphin
Neil and Jenny Donnelley • Devin Dougherty • Art Dreyer • Dr Jeff and Caroline Duckham • Jack Dupre
Brian Erwin and Christine Hunsicker • Frank & Susan Field • Laurie and Tom Flynn • Pledgeling Foundation
Rod Freebairn-Smith • Debbie Freed • Valerie Freeman • Kathleen Fusek • Rachel Gagnon • Diana Gibson Pace
Marilyn Green • Shelley and Russell Guidi • John Gurley • Katharine Harer • Mary Heibel • Anne Hendricks
Patricia Hitchcock • Joan Hoffman and Tim Balambao • John Holland • Stephen Hood & Melissa Lisbon Gale
Hooper • Mary and Dard Hunter • Mary Inouye • James Jackson • Jay Jacobs • Robert Jacobs
Lisa Joakimides • Jennifer Jones • Linda Kennedy and Andy Lang • Chris and Mary Kerosky
Richard and Judy Knarr • Michael and Christine Kreyling • Julia Larke • Sara & Eric Lautenbach • Candy Lodge
Elise Lomenzo & John Holmgren • Jim Lotter • Marcia Lotter • Jerome and Carol Lucey
Kathy and Dennis Massara • Larain and Ralph Matheson • Pat and Roger Maxwell • Lewis May • Michael Mayda
Jerry Meral • Scott and Theresa Mercer • Patricia Jean Minor • Mark Moelter • Susan Moore • Marcia Munson
Kathleen Nangle • Marshall Newman • Eileen Nolan • James Noss • Anne O'Donnell & Loren Adrian
Fiona O'Neill • Jack O'Rourke • Kathi Oram • Clara Owen • Marion Patterson • Chris Pechal & Mike Crook
Linda and Tony Perez • Sophia Pisciotta • Richard and Shelley Priest • Erin Riley & John Crowley
Massomeh and Phillip Roberts • John G Rosenberg and Diane Gerstler • Mary Rozenberg • Phyllis Ruffer
Astrid Ruhrmann and Allan Hogle • Kathryn Schubeck and Monroe Robinson • David and Susan Schultz
Jane Seck and Jim Orenberg • Chris Severson • Larry and Susan Seymour • Debra Sharkey & Michael Schmandt
William Shaw • Richard Shoemaker • Doug and Jane Simmonds • David Simon • Mark Sindt
Theresa & Theodore Slaman • Paula Smith • Anita Soost and Patrick Schafer • Mike & Lynn Spurlock
Susan Stephens • Margo Tarver • Ginger Thompson-Veys and Maurie Veys • Barbara Thrush • Karen Tracy
Roberta Van de Water • Katrina van Walterop • Pamela Vetrano • Elisabeth Watson and Nigel Blair-Johns
Michelle Welch • Thomas White & Tina Arnold • Bill and Sandy Wiemeyer • Jeffrey Wilson & Anne Scheer
Patricia Wilson • Martha Wohlken • Amy Wolitzer • Debra Woods • Mark Woolbright & Edith Uber
Harriet Wright • Tiffany Yuen • Conservation Partners LLP • Give Lively Foundation

MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Chris Braley • Mary Louise Flint • Carolyn Hand and Steve Bennett • Cheryl and Elmer Harris
Leslie and Bob Harrison • Ann Howald • Randall & Janis Jones • James and Patrice Mitchell • Susan Moreschi
Laurie & Leigh Mueller • James Noss • Robert Widi



PO Box 1511
Gualala, CA 95445-1511



Gualala Bluff Trail
Stewards
Bob Rutemoeller &
Mary Sue Ittner



Cooks Beach
Steward
Joel Chaban



Hearn Gulch
Steward
Mark Escajeda



Mill Bend Preserve
Stewards
MBP Working Group

Staff & Board

Helen M. Pataki, Executive Director
Sophia Pisciotto, Stewardship Director
Shayla Workman, Communications Coordinator
Ethan Widner, Restoration Technician
Dylan Freebairn-Smith, Restoration Technician
Amy Wolitzer, Technical Support
Joel Chaban, Webmaster

RCLC Board of Directors

Mark Escajeda, President
Jennifer Dumpert, Vice-President
Susan Winston, Treasurer
Andrea Lunsford, Secretary
Bob Rutemoeller, Director
Rich Trissel, Director
Max Hess, Director
John Walton, Director

Key Volunteers

Chris Braley, Outreach and Database Management
Nicole Forte, Wreath-Making Event Preparation
Bruce Jones, Invasive Plant Removal at MBP
Perk Perkins, Gualala Cemetery Steward
Kelly Richardson, Cemetery Researcher & Recorder
Harmony Susalla, Capeweed Eradication

Join Us • Volunteer
Attend An Event • Donate
Leave A Legacy



Property photos above, from l-r: Bob Rutemoeller, Querido 'Tito' Galdo, Harriet Pecot, Andy Kiehl. Background photo: Anne Hanlon. Front cover photo: 'A Break in the Storm' by David Bradbook, 2025 Restoring the River photo contest 1st place winner.