

American River Natural History Association

Annual Report

2019-2020

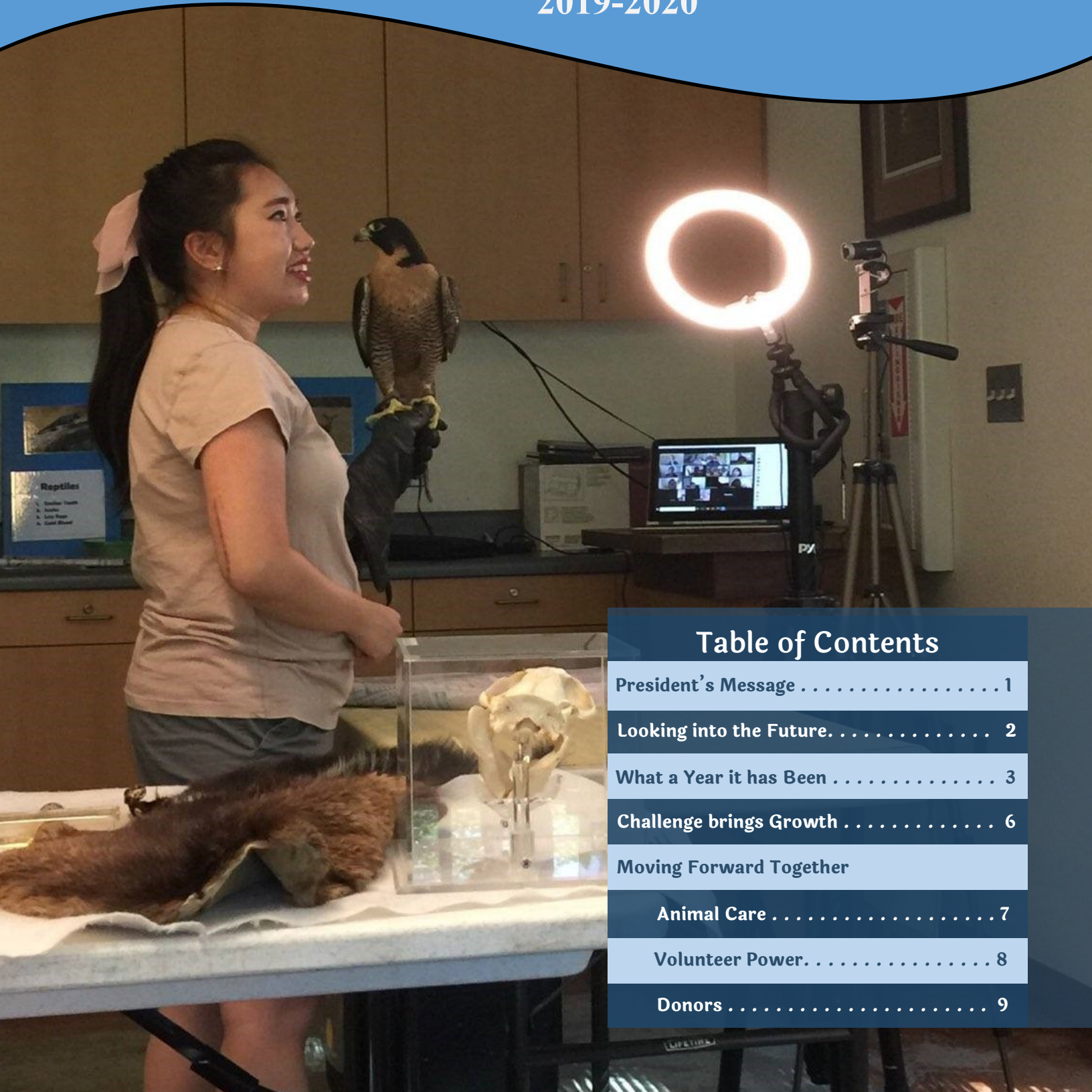


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President's Message



Board Members
as of September 2020

Laurie Weir

President

Jackie DeLu

Vice-President & Secretary

Kathy Webb

Treasurer

Joey Johnson

Past President

Bud Banker

Chuck Halnan

Michael Kwong

Bill Spaller

Associate Board Members

Paula Baldi

Dick Barbar

Kari Bauer

Kathy Fleming

Bud Getty

Lou Heinrich

Claudia Hulbe

Molly Keller

Bruce Kennedy

Peggy Kennedy

Hunter Merritt

Beryl Michaels

Don Mongeau

Diana Parker

Margaret Rogers

Jamieson Scott

Kip Skidmore

Greg Voelm

Connie Wade

Betsy Weiland

It has been my first year as President of the American River Natural History Association, and it could not have been more rewarding or challenging. I am pleased to report that the Effie Yeaw Nature Center continues to do well due to the incredible work of staff and the financial support from our membership and community. Over the past year, we transitioned a new Executive Director, accomplished key priorities, and quickly underwent significant changes to address the impacts of COVID-19.

The board and staff pivoted quickly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March the Nature Center closed and re-opened. Staff quickly secured protective gear, instituted safety measures, and worked from home to remain safe – but still performed needed work to maintain our animal ambassadors and keep the Nature Center open to the public when possible.

Staff did an amazing job transitioning our Gala and Art Auction as well as much of our program content on-line and to social media. This was an enormous effort that took time, creativity, and quick thinking. We always intended to have more of an on-line and social media presence, and now we have achieved what we thought would take months in the space of mere weeks!

While most of our Board members agreed to remain on the Board in their respective roles, we are sadly saying goodbye to Joey Johnson. Joey has served on the Board for several years, including in the role of President. Joey has been a great advocate for the Nature Center. She has the gift of speaking easily from the heart on issues big and small. With her volunteer spirit, Joey dedicated tremendous time and effort, forged strong relationships with the community and staff, and gave her time to lead the American River Natural History Association. We have been lucky to have her, and we will miss her greatly as she transitions off the Board.

In addition to the global health crisis, COVID-19 has brought hardships on many due the downturn in our economy. Nonprofits are struggling with how to help their communities while also trying to weather the impacts of the crisis. The American River Natural History Association is not immune to these impacts. While we have continued to offer programs and to fundraise online, our revenues are down significantly over this past year. The Board and staff are working closely together to identify measures we can take now in order to assure our sustainability into the future.

Now is the time that we need your assistance! Please continue your memberships and support us as much as you can. We truly appreciate that you have joined us in this journey. On behalf of our Board and staff, I would like to say thank you for your unwavering generosity.

I am proud to have the opportunity to lead the American River Natural History Association and I am confident of our continued success. I look forward to the time when we can open our doors wide and welcome all of our community back to enjoy and support our beloved Nature Center.

Sincerely,

Laurie Weir, ANHA Board President



Looking into the Future

with Kent Anderson, Executive Director.



Photo by Kari Bauer

Effie Yeaw Nature Center has been a part of my life since before I can remember. Even as a small child, I felt myself drawn to this amazing and special place, time and time again. A copy of *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* in hand, I was fortunate to spend many formative days here at the Nature Center, days that have led me back to where some of my first and best outdoor experiences occurred. With the opportunity to join the team in late 2019, I began my role as Executive Director not only with a strong sense of the deep and significant history of the American River Natural History Association and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, but also with a sincere and optimistic vision for the future!

The 2019-2020 fiscal year and the COVID-19 pandemic have thrown many challenges our way including the temporary closure of the Nature Center and Museum, the closure of schools and subsequent reduction of school programs during the traditionally busy spring, and the elimination of large group gatherings that necessitated either cancellation or reimagining of many of our signature events and fundraisers. Despite all this, the Nature Center had some real and significant positives throughout the challenging year.

Creative thinking on the part of our team made it possible to transition our Annual Gala and Art Auction from a traditional in-person event under the oaks to a fully digital online auction and event. Our amazing Naturalists and educators pivoted from in-person programs to a Distance Learning format, a challenge previously thought unsurmountable, and grew our social media presence through an amazing series of activities, presentations and educational posts, including the most popular "Ask a Naturalist" series and Facebook Live events.

When you walk the trails of the Nature Study area or sit under a tree near to the Museum, it is easy to be inspired by this place and to feel the influence and passion of our namesake, Effie Yeaw. Jo Smith, one of our long-time supporters, once said "While others sat and thought about a problem, Effie would be out, stirring others to action." In a time of uncertainty, these words serve an important purpose, calling us to take action and to inspire those around us to action as we educate current and future generations to be informed stewards of our natural environment. I see so many opportunities in our future, from restoration efforts in the Nature Study Area and improved facilities for our Animal Ambassadors, to expanded impact through our Digital Distance Learning Programs and our social media endeavors.

We will likely face some significant challenges ahead, but with the passion of our dedicated team of Volunteers and Staff and the unwavering support of our community, we are prepared to meet these challenges head-on and to deliver on our mission and the vision that started with our namesake, Effie Yeaw.

Sincerely,

Kent Anderson, Executive Director

Staff

Kent Anderson,
Executive Director

Kimberly Rider,
Administrative Manager

Dorothy Wagner,
Administrative Assistant

Rachael Cowan,
Volunteer Coordinator

Jaclyn Teofilo,
Development Coordinator

Heather Gabel,
Development Associate & Animal Care Supervisor

Tova Fleming,
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Brena Seck,
Lead Naturalist & Lead UC Cal Naturalist Instructor

Angie Cha,
Naturalist

Kelly Seck,
Naturalist

Kristen Angelini,
Naturalist

Sara Tabatabai,
Naturalist

Caden Williams,
Naturalist in training & Receptionist

Heather Gabel,
Animal Care Supervisor & Development Associate

Renée DeLu Covey,
Animal Care Specialist

Jackie DeWeese,
Animal Care Specialist

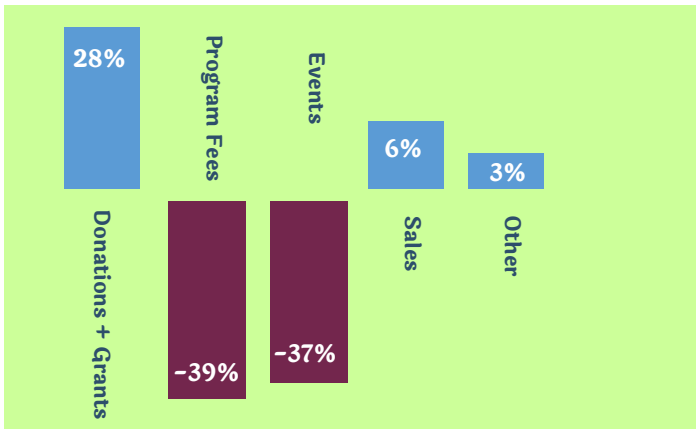
Rudy Davis,
Receptionist

Janay Sawdon,
Receptionist

Steven Wolcott,
Grounds & Building Maintenance

What a year it has been

Financials



Revenue: \$722,547.29

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, ARNHA saw a dip in revenue from the previous year, due entirely to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school and business closures that eliminated many of the already scheduled school programs that help to fund the organization and keep our staff busy each spring. These impacts can be seen in the nearly 40% dip in Program Fees and Events, both of which depend on schools, supporters and visitors being able to visit the Nature Center and participate in field trips and on-site programs, weekend programs and events like the Bird and Breakfast, Spring Gala and Auction and Used Book Sale.

But with every cloud, there comes a silver lining, and the 2019-2020 fiscal year certainly had many of both. While Program and Event revenue declined, we saw a 28% increase in Grants and Donations, as well as a 6% increase in Memberships. These increases indicate how much the community values EYNC programs and services. The requisite temporary closure of the Nature Center and elimination of in-person programs spurred the Nature Center team to quickly innovate, leading to a robust expansion of our social media presence, including weekly Facebook Live and "Ask a Naturalist" activities, as well as the development of a fully Digital Distance Learning Program covering the full spectrum of Nature Center school programs!



Expenses: \$703,569.29

ARNHA saw a very small increase of approximately 0.5% in expenses over the previous fiscal year. While overall expenses were originally expected to increase, we saw significant reductions in Program and Fundraising expenses as a result of the COVID-19 related program and event restrictions, which served to also reduce costs for the organization nearly universally.

Program costs are expected to increase in future years and will likely continue as the greatest expense and year-over-year increase for the Nature Center, especially as we expand our programs and increase our impact. These expenses represent the essential costs for delivering on our mission and providing outstanding environmental education to our community and beyond. With our expanded social media presence and Digital Distance Learning Program, we are able to take our message far and wide, beyond our local geographic community, enabling us to share our programs with an unlimited audience.

In light of the ongoing pandemic and an uncertain future, ARNHA has taken the added step of creating a Sustainability Plan as part of an ongoing, interactive process, enabling us to ensure the long-term health and viability of the organization. We are hopeful for a bright and positive future for the organization and prepared to tackle any challenges that may arise.

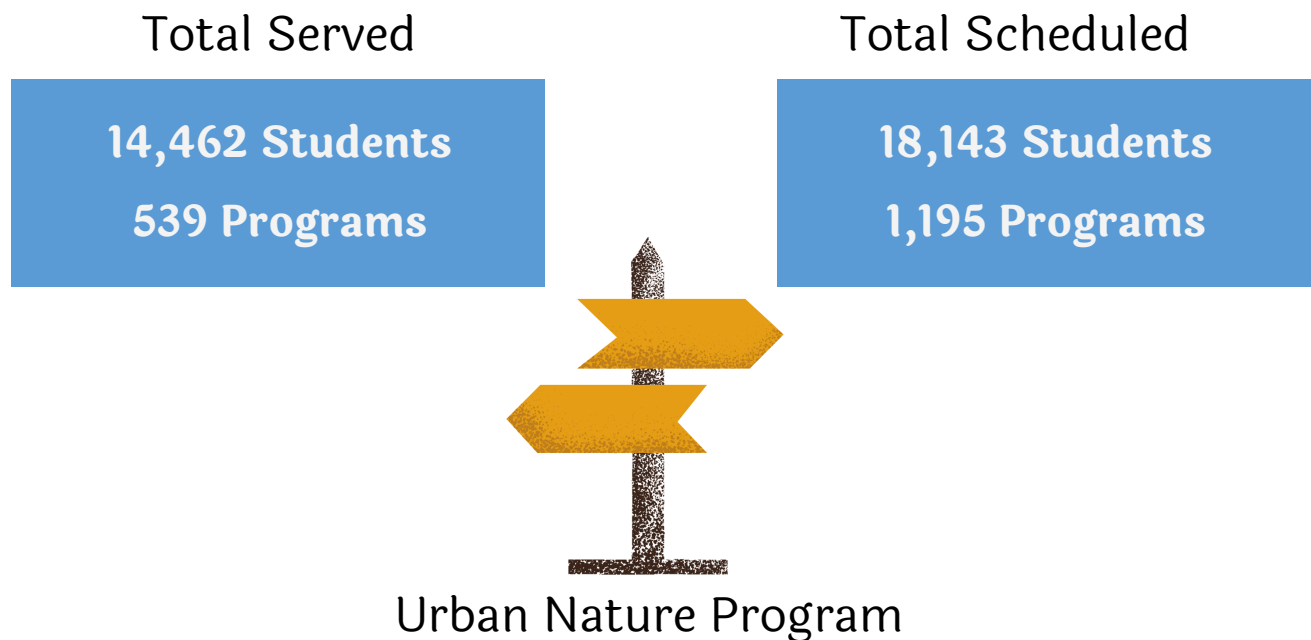
Our community has always been incredibly generous over the years and your support is needed now more than ever. We hope that you will continue your generous support, so that we can provide nature experiences that inspire investigation and excite curiosity in people of all ages into the future.

with all its twists and turns . . .

Programs

Effie Yeaw Nature Center has been a mainstay in our region for more than 44 years, delivering on our mission to provide educational and interpretive programs and information about the natural environment, principally in the American River Parkway. 2020 started with a bang and the Nature Center was on track to provide more than 500 different education programs, and even though we experienced closures and program reductions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we see great opportunity for a wide array of digital and Distance Learning programs, taking our message far beyond our geographic boundaries.

We could not deliver these amazing opportunities without the support of our members and volunteers and the contributions of our donors and sponsors. We are so thankful to share our success with all those who support the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.



Despite COVID-19 related cancellations, Effie Yeaw Nature Center still had the honor of serving **all** 3,845 students in the Urban Nature Program grant funded by Nature Center donors and members like you. This group of students attends 16 Title 1 and other underserved schools and makes up more than 21% of all scheduled students, 26% of students served, and 29.5% of all schools served in 2019-2020.

“Thank you for making it possible for us to go on our field trip. I’ll remember the decaying salmon, the deer, and the coyote. My favorite part was seeing the coyote and the deer. One thing I learned was that you have to be very quiet, respectful, and self-aware. I also really liked feeling the snake scales. It was the first time I have been to Effie Yeaw. I thought that the acorn woodpecker was really cool because it was pecking spots on the tree and putting acorns in them. Thank you so much!” ~ Student and Urban Nature Program Grant Recipient

But challenge often brings new growth



An EYNC visitor sent us this photo of their kids watching an EYNC Facebook Live Q+A.



A variety of educational content were created for digital platforms for different audiences

Left: Learn, create, activate!

Ask a Naturalist blogs with crafts and activities for the young and the young at heart answer questions frequently asked in the Visitor Center and on the trail.

Right: Behind the scenes of a Facebook Live about raptors!

Ask a Naturalist

IS IT OKAY TO FEED DUCKS AND GEESE?



The closure of the Visitor Center and the cancellation of school programs meant we had to quickly shift, pivot, and twirl in new directions to fulfill our mission. During this time, we piloted new virtual school programs which were presented to 153 students and established a pop-up Nature Center table staffed by EYNC docents who greeted visitors at entrance of the Main Trail. Additionally, staff worked together to create a host of free digital nature-focused educational content. This digital content included “Ask a Naturalist” blog posts geared toward introducing younger or newer audiences to the natural world. These posts were distributed twice a week on social media and included in our weekly emails to the EYNC community. Every Friday, naturalists presented Facebook Live Q+A’s on a various topics to live audiences. These videos regularly receive more than 500 views, and a few have received more than 1,000 views. This is a much greater reach than our traditional weekend programs which can reach up to 38 people in one weekend. Other staff members created educational content for our more experienced naturalist audience with posts like “Mystery Mondays” and “What’s That? Wednesdays”. These posts have been wildly popular and occasionally reached thousands of people and traveled across continents. *The Acorn* quarterly magazine also now goes out digitally to more than 1000 members!

Additionally, upon the limited re-opening of the of the Visitor Center, our receptionists noticed that more and more people who have never been to EYNC are discovering our Nature Center. One visitor told our staff, **“We really need places like yours right now,”** and they are right. COVID-19 has left us little to do but go outside and explore! It is a great way to connect, learn, and see people from a safe distance. More and more people are discovering the benefits and joys of the natural world.

We can keep moving forward together

Animal Care

As the Animal Care Supervisor and former Naturalist, I am often asked to speak to the effects our Animal Ambassadors have on our education programs, and they are tremendous. During the 2019/2020 school year, our raptors alone made 154 visits to classrooms. For so many, this is the first time they are discovering that our region is bustling with incredible wildlife. When that is paired with touching the scales of a snake or peering into the eyes of a hawk from mere feet away, the impact is palpable. But what must not be overlooked is the effect that the *Effie Yeaw Nature Center* has on our Animal Ambassadors.

As a supporter of the Nature Center, you probably already know many of the stories; injuries, illegal possession and a variety of other factors prevent these animals from living in the wild. Think about Wek-Wek, the Peregrine falcon, a member of the fastest species in the world. Shot in the wild, she will never fly again. Fortunately, Wek-Wek was found alive and received triage care. But that was only half of the battle. In many cases, when it is determined that an animal will most likely not be releasable, the decision is made to euthanize, in part because of limited facilities capable of caring for injured wildlife. But we are honored and thankful that Effie Yeaw could offer a permanent home; one capable of providing the necessities of food, shelter, and medical care, but also respect, appreciation, and an opportunity to inspire our community.

Without you, Effie Yeaw wouldn't be here. Without you, Wek-Wek and others would face an uncertain future.

**On behalf of staff, volunteers and all our Animal Ambassadors,
THANK YOU for making these rescues possible!**

With unending gratitude,

Heather Gabel



Wek-Wek, peregrine falcon ambassador,
and Heather Gabel, Animal Care Supervisor.

Our Animal Care Team

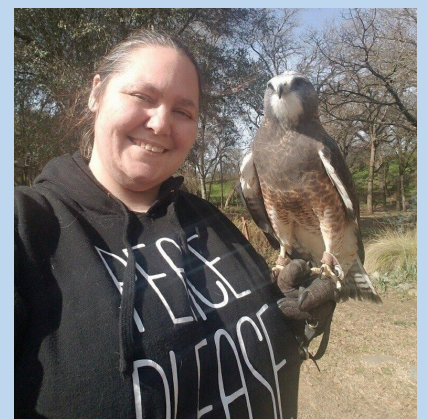
24 Non-Releasable Animal Ambassadors
in their forever home.

43 Volunteers worked **2,483** hours

3 Animal Care Staff members making
sure each and every ambassador
receives the very best care.



Animal Care Specialists Renée DeLu Covey with American Kestrel, Ke-lik-a-lik (Left)
and Jackie DeWeese with Swainson's Hawk, Orion (Right).



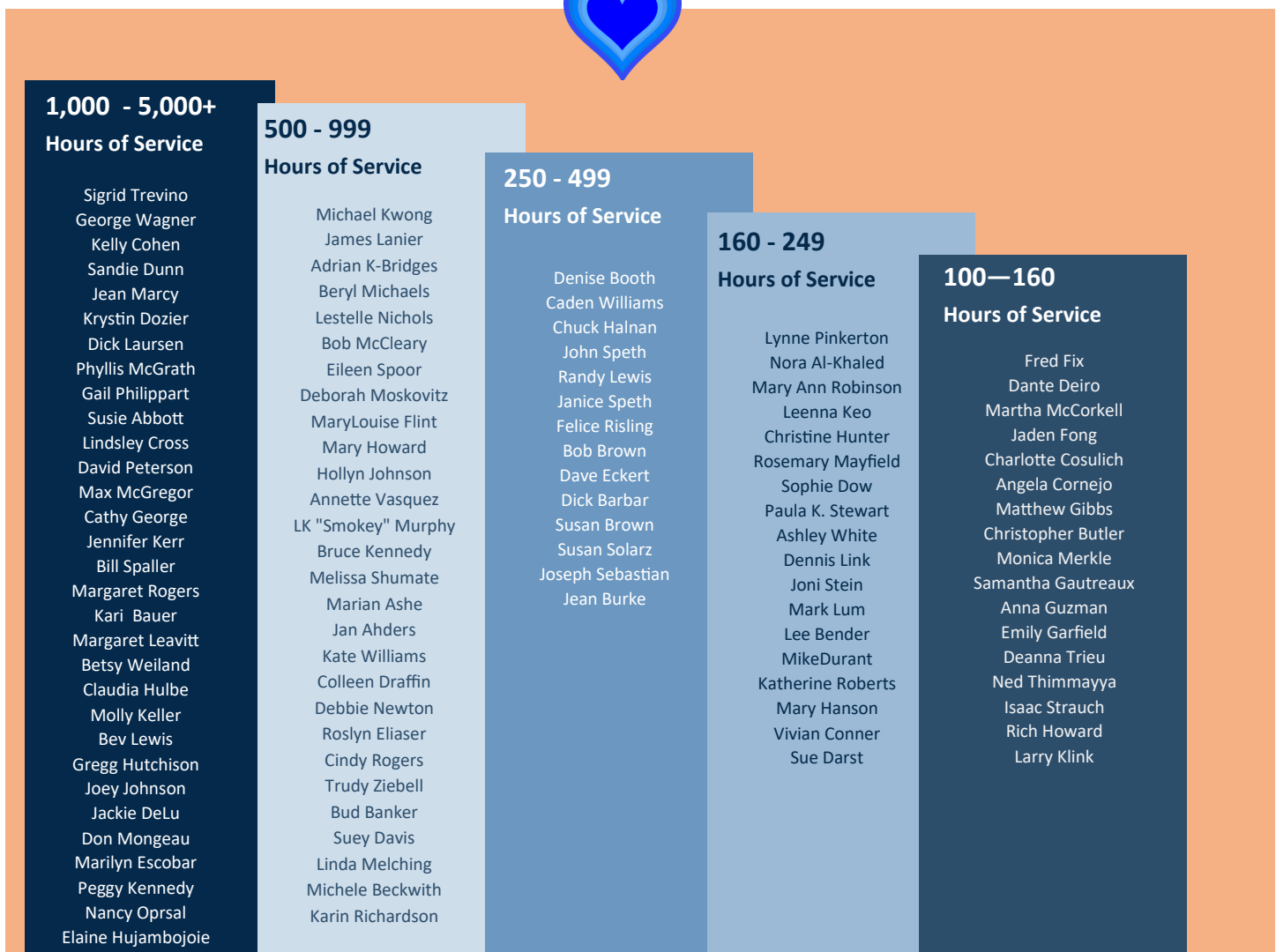
Thank you to our generous community

Volunteer Power

This last fiscal year, 236 volunteers sustained the Nature Center by greeting visitors and working the front desk, leading tours and running Pop-up Nature Centers, keeping trails clean and engaging visitors on the trails, working on exhibits, caring for our resident animals, special projects, landscaping, maintenance and habitat restoration, clerical work and data entry, leading school tours and helping with Nature Camps, assisting with fundraising, planning and hosting special events, writing, social media engagement, publishing, and distributing books and our quarterly newsletter, and other activities all of which support the Nature Center's mission of bringing people to nature and nature to people.

This year the total volunteer hours reflected the limited ability to engage volunteers during closures and cancelled events. Even with a reduced capacity our volunteers still contributed over 10,900 hours this year!

According to the Independent Sector (http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time), volunteer time in California, as of 2019, is valued at \$29.95/hour. **At this rate, our volunteers supported EYNC this fiscal year with over \$326,455!**



Your support keeps us going

Donors



Donors, just like you, came shining through during the 4th quarter of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Due to COVID-19, the Nature Center was forced to close the doors just as we were gearing up for one of our most important fundraising seasons. As the world around us became more concerning, our community's support absolutely inspired and propelled us!

You helped us reach and exceed our Spring Appeal and Big Day of Giving goals. Many of you so graciously donated your registration fees when we had to cancel our popular Bird & Breakfast and Spring Camps. You even followed when our largest fundraiser of the year, the annual Spring Gala & Auction, went virtual! The evening of food, music and silent and live auctions of art and experiences that was meant to be enjoyed beneath the oak trees, now had to be attended through a screen. But you logged on and bid, and we are pleased to say that the event was a success!

The flood of support that has come through shows us you understand the need for education and nature connection is not going away. Monetary donations and memberships are the vehicle that makes our work possible. But when you make those generous contributions, you are also telling us that you believe in the value of what we do. We took that rallying cry, dug deep, and committed to continuing our mission despite the obstacles. Thank you for continuing this journey with us!



Thank you. With your continued support ...

Donors

Valley Oak Level

Lou Ann Auble Trust
David & Maxine Clark
Jacqueline DeLu & Michael Covey
Department of Water Resources
Richard & Carol Laursen
Sacramento Water Forum
Frederick & Betsy Weiland
Frank & Helen Wheeler

Cottonwood Level

Grant Hudson/JAG Services
Luxury Manzanillo
Don & Margaret Mongeau
Cordel Stillman

Sycamore Level

Peter & Suzie Abbott
Janice & Robert Ahders
Deladier Almeida
Banner Bank
Kari & Dick Bauer
Noah & Katie Baygell
Susan Bernard Webb
Karen Binsacca
Robert & Jean Bonar
Elaine Bonnington
Jean & Greg Burke
California American Water
California Department of Water Resources
Betty Cooper
County of Sacramento
Dorothy Cousins
Susan & Rodney Davis
Helen & Tony Diepenbrock
Amy Dobbertein
Elizabeth Dolezal & Stephen Mayberg
Roger & Carol Dreyer
Sandie Dunn & Dick Barbar
Nathan Fairman & Katherine Elliott
Nathan Fairman & Katherine Elliott
Sylvia Fitzgerald
Mary Louise Flint
Marcy Friedman
Phillippe Gandiol
Barbara & Michael Genovese
Gary Gravier
Arthur & Linda Grix
Jeff & Debbie Gualco

Sycamore Level (continued)

Chuck Halnan/ US Monuments Plus
James Hargrove
Peter Hayes Family Trust
Richard & Mary Howard
Elaine Hujambojoie & Marilyn Escobar
Inside Publications
Kristina Ishihara
Ijaz Jamall
James & Susan McClatchy Fund of the Sacramento
Region Community Foundation
Joey & Kathy Johnson
Rich & Pat Jones
Gerald Jones
Peggy & Bruce Kennedy
Tom Killion
Kit Kirkpatrick
Kiwans Club Of Carmichael Foundation
Kleid Family Charitable Fund
Larry Klink
Judy Knott
Karon Larson
Margaret Leavitt & Alan Lilly
Loveall Foundation for Children
Pat Mahony & Randy Getz
Gregory & Michelle Maynard
Chris & Keith McCann
Linda Melching
Hunter Merritt
Deborah Moskovitz/ Fort Hemenway Manor
Lou & Ellen Nishimura
Dorothy Orolin
Jill & Michael Pease
Supervisor Susan Peters
Kathy & Jim Phillips
Jason & Amy Rogers
Sacfit Parkway Half Marathon
Francis Sheehan & Paula Huber
Kip & Illa & Skidmore / Sierra National Construction
Susan Skinner
Cindra Smith
Cindy Smith & Walt Packard
SMUD
Somach, Simmons & Dunn
Bill & Anne Spaller
Jim & Mary Jo Streng
Janet Summers
Paul Tebbel & Lynn Schweissinger
Dorothy & Patrick Wagner

Sycamore Level (continued)

Laurie Weir & Jacek Lisiewicz
Western Health Advantage

Red Bud Level

Diane Abbey & James McGrew
Mitch Adler
Barbara & Dennis Angelini
Marian Ashe
Bud & Karen Banker
Hilde Bly
Stacey Brown & Carl Stillman
Edward & Lisa Bubienko
California Native Plant Society
Carmichael Water District
cbec eco engineering
Caroline Colangelo
Jeffrey & Janelle Daigle
James Lanier
Melanie Loo
Jean Marcy & James Uber
Mary & Joseph Maret
Marybeth Metcalf
Judith Murray
Paula Newcomb
Deborah Newton
Diane Ramsey
Mary Ann Robinson
Cynthia Rogers
Margaret Rogers
Sacramento Area Creeks Council
Sacramento Audubon Society
Carrie Sage
Save The American River Association
Samuel & Pat Scarlett
Sierra Health Foundation
Richard Soehren
Susan Solarz
Daniel & Cindy Stone
Norma Tabatabai
Terry Tice
Diana Wallace
Kathryn Webb
Wild Birds & Gardens
Liz Williamson
Shiomi Wilson
Lucinda Woodward
William Yeates
Ray & Carol Zelinski

we will move forward together!

Donors

Elderberry Level

Robert & Doris Adam
American River Raft Rentals
Amgen Foundation
Kenneth Anderson
Laura Applebaum
Richard Archibald & Rachel Weinreb
B Street Theatre/The Sophia
John Bach & Beryl Michaels
Carolyn Bahl
Wendy Baty
Frances Baxter-Guigli & Jim Guigli
Paula Bellacera
William & Nancy Bittner
Thomas & Margaret Blankenship
Aubrey & Theresa Blue
Sharon & Steven Bogart
Kenneth & Wendy Bogdan
Cristina & Bryan Bonino
Joan Brenchley-Jackson & Kevin Jackson
Susan & Brad Bristow
Victoria Brooks
Doris Brown & William Patterson
Peggy Buckner
Donna Chipps
Kathleen Cole
James Collins
Charlotte Cosulich
Mary Cotton Myers
Lynn Cox
Lindsley Cross
Gayle Dax-Conroy
Susan Devore
Timothy Dietler & Cynthia Monday
Todd Dayton Doersch
Kathy Dona
Charles & Nancy Doval
Krystin Dozier
Roslyn Eliaser
Susan Ellis & Stephen Olivia
Kate Espinosa
Fire River Art Glass/ Design With Fire
Marilee Flannery
Kathleen Friedrich
Ruth Gay
Fatih Gencer
Catherine George
Maurice Getty
Joan & Stuart Gherini
Richard Gould

Elderberry Level (continued)

Eli Groppo
Bob & Linda Hanna
Gary & Susan Harbison
Edward Harper & Susan Scott
Julian Holt
Claudia Hulbe
Dennis Johnson
Kathleen Savidge
Kaihekoa Keauli'i
Kiene's Fly Shop
Chris Knopp
Michael Kwong
Beverly Lewis & Gregg Hutchison
Barbara & Chris Lezon
Lillian H. Nelson Living Trust
Dennis Link
Eric Liskay
Susan Lorimer & Robert Bruns
Henry Luckie
Katie Mack
Maura Madden Donovan
Donna & Paul Madeira
Nick & Kim Majetich
Linda Martin
Marty Maskall
Joan & David Matsler
Rosemary Mayfield
Stewart & Jeanie McCartney
Dan Meier
Patricia Michel-Evleth
John Moore
Smokey Murphy & Polly Murphy-Jones
Mark Nemmers
Cherie O'Boyle
Gerald & Barbara Pauly
James Pearce
Dennis & Gail Philippart
Helen Plenert
Frank And Carol Poelman
Gabrielle Rasi
Ruth Rezos
Karin & Eric Richardson
Sharon & Bob Ruffner
Steven Rutledge
Sacramento Ballet
Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op
Charles Saydah & Dean Conrad
Elaine Schaedler

Elderberry Level (continued)

Scribner Bend Vineyards
Brian Seck
Jeff Slater
Edward Smith & Mary Lou Fairweather
David & Connie Sosa
Morna Stephens
Linda & Thomas Sweetman
Diane Tharp
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Theodore Judah School
Julie Towers
Ventana Wildlife Society
Heather Vollstedt
Cheryl & Thomas Ward
Jamie & Larry Washington
Eric Webb
Gregory Wheeler
William White
Ramsay Wiesenfeld
Mary Wilkinson
Nathan Woods
Lynne Yamane

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center are dedicated to providing educational and interpretive programs and information about the natural environment, principally in the American River Parkway.

Goals

- 1) To provide opportunities for the visitor that will promote awareness, appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of the Sacramento Region
- 2) To provide awareness and understanding of human interdependence within a finite ecosystem and the need to conserve its resources and protect its quality.

**In loving memory of Sophia, Northern saw whet owl,
Effie Yeaw Nature Center Ambassador from 2008-2020**



Photo by Angie Cha

Sophia was loved and adored by everyone who met her, and she had an outsized impact on the world despite her tiny stature. In honor of Sophia's memory, we ask that you care for the natural world and all of its creatures. Carefully escort the snail across the path. Sit quietly and listen to the songbirds. Treasure and protect the wild spaces.

Thank you, Sophia. We will miss you!