

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXVI, Number 1, Spring 2019



New Strategic Plan for State Parks and Stewards

Michele Luna, Executive Director and Terry Bertels, District Superintendent

California State Parks and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods have worked together to develop an important strategic partnership plan that leverages our individual and collective strengths to address the challenges and opportunities that we collectively face over the next 3 years. The plan builds on the unique partnership between State Parks and Stewards that allows both entities to work together to extend our reach, providing opportunities to access and enjoy parklands, participate in educational programs, and steward the parks' abundant natural and cultural resources in the Russian River Sector State Parks: Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Austin Creek State Recreation Area and Sonoma Coast State Park.

Including 3-year objectives and indicators of success, along with year-one actions, the strategic partnership plan encompasses preservation, restoration, stewardship, education, operations and maintenance of parklands, watersheds and facilities. The partnership planning process, which took place between July 2018 and January 2019, was designed to be active and participatory, and included the convening of three stakeholder workshops, two board meetings, and one Stewards member meeting, along with the administration of online surveys to six stakeholder groups.

This process resulted in the identification of six priority areas for the 3-year plan, with statements of intent, objectives, indicators of success, and detailed action agendas developed for each. In addition to those for the State Parks/Stewards partnership, several priorities emerged that are primarily Stewards-focused.

The six priority areas and accompanying statements of intent for the State Parks/Stewards partnership and for Stewards-focused efforts are as follows:

STEWARDS AND STATE PARKS PARTNERSHIP

I. PARTNERSHIP / COLLABORATION: Identify new ways for Stewards and State Parks to work together that leverage our individual and collective strengths to address the challenges and opportunities we face over the next 3 years.

II. PROGRAMS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE: Consider value and feasibility of current programs and prioritize/reduce/suspend/merge based on benefits, cost, needs, demand and State Parks/Stewards resource availability. Ensure that programs provide the highest quality visitor experience.

III. UPGRADED FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS: Develop and implement short-term and long-term projects to maintain, upgrade and improve facilities and operations based on State Parks/Stewards co-managed priorities and pooled resources.

STEWARDS-FOCUSED

IV. STEWARDS INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY: Ensure a strong leader-driven Stewards organization with the highest quality staff, board and committee members.

V. STEWARDS ADVOCACY / POLICY ENGAGEMENT: Work with state park advocacy organizations and public officials to ensure that our parks receive the resources (people and funding) to operate sustainably into the future.

VI. STEWARDS RESOURCE GENERATION: Develop sustainable resources (people and funding) to ensure a stable future for Stewards and our environmental and cultural programs, including Stewards-managed State Park Volunteer In Parks Program.

Stewards and State Parks look forward to moving forward with this important roadmap as our guide and to keeping you apprised of our progress along the way.

CAL Report

Greg Probst, State Park Ranger and Cooperating Association Liaison

Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores & Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the link between people and their parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

Contact

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On February 27th, the Russian River crested over 13 feet above flood stage. State Park facilities, employees, and volunteers were all significantly impacted by this natural disaster. Fortunately, there were no reported deaths caused by this recent flooding. State Park lifeguard staff immediately jumped into action and assisted allied agencies here in the western Sonoma County. Lifeguards successfully rescued four people (and one dog) after motorists drove into flooded roadways and then found themselves trapped by the swift moving water.

It appears that 2019 is shaping up to be just as successful as 2018 was for the Russian River Sector aquatic safety program. In 2018, State Parks partnered with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods to purchase the first lifeguard tower north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The lifeguard tower now sits on Goat Rock Beach. The first Junior Lifeguard Program at Sonoma Coast State Park was also instituted in 2018. In 2018, There were 8 ocean rescues and approximately 16,000 aquatic safety warnings along the 55 miles Sonoma County coastline all made by State Park lifeguards.

Lifeguard II Scott Kwon received the CA Park Rangers Association's Medal of Valor, for his heroic actions last year. On March 18, 2018, at around 8:15 AM, a man fell into the ocean off Salt Point State Park and was swept approximately 200 yards from the shore. The victim's friends and State Park Peace Officer helped keep an eye on the man in the water, who lay motionless. Kwon responded, donned a wetsuit and swam 250 yards out to the victim from a difficult location. When Kwon got to the victim, the man was unable to speak or move, his muscles were rigid from hypothermia. Kwon secured the victim with a rescue buoy and began to swim him to shore. At the same time, a US Coast Guard Helicopter arrived on scene and lowered a USCG Rescue Swimmer to assist with the victim. The USCG Helicopter hoisted the victim into the helicopter and transported him to medical resources on shore.

That man is alive today due to Kwon's lifesaving efforts, skill and training. As a result of this heroic rescue, Kwon was nominated by his peers and selected by the Park Rangers' Association to receive their Medal of Valor.

Moving forward in 2019 State Parks is committed to continuing this history of excellence with our aquatic safety programs in the Sonoma Mendocino Coast District and throughout the entire state of California.

Picnic Table Donor Program

Stewards is now offering supporters an opportunity to donate an ADA picnic table in one of our state parks. Your table can have your family name, a memorial designation or be engraved to honor a loved one. Tables are 8 foot long and 3 inches thick and made out of con-heart redwood.



For info contact:

michele@stewardscr.org



Pond Farm Artist in Residency

Current Application Timeframe:

For Residencies from August through December 2019

Submittal dates - 3/1/19 to 5/1/19

Selection timeframe - 5/2/19 to 6/5/19

Artist notification - 6/15/19

This is a unique opportunity for artists of all kinds to be immersed in nature, to be inspired by the spirit of past Pond Farmers (Marguerite Wildenhain's former students), and to have the space and time to create.

A partnership between California State Parks and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods.

For More Information: www.pondfarmpottery.org

Programs Update

Kat Rawhouser, Volunteer Programs Manager

We have had a very exciting winter with our atmospheric river bringing intense rain and floods. We have also had a very exciting time with our programs. From examining herpetological species such as the California Slender Salamander to the brilliant red and yellow of the Scarlet and Yellow Waxy Caps, participants of our seminars, trainings and orientations have been out exploring the wonders of our State Parks. Looking forward into spring and early summer, we are excited to continue this exploration with a variety of upcoming events.

Our annual Pinniped (Harbor Seal) Monitor Volunteer Training took place at the Jenner Community Center on March 12th in cooperation with the Sonoma County Water Agency. This training

gives access to the lives and drama of our active and breeding harbor seal colony. On **March 16th**, we have an exciting opportunity to hike with Meghan Walla-Murphy at Bodega Dunes to learn about seeing the patterns that tracks leave on the landscape. On the 29th of March, we will join Peter Werner, former National Parks Ecologist, on a walk through Armstrong Redwoods while he educates participants about plants found in the understory of these giant and majestic trees.



Starting off the month in April, the **5th of April** to be exact, the first of two “Hike with Mike” offerings will take place. Mike Roa, author of “Redwood Ed, A Guide to the Coast Redwoods for Teachers and Learners,” will lead a group into the woods to learn how to develop effective curriculum in the context of redwoods and forest ecology. The second offering will be on a weekend in the fall. The following day, **April 6th**, will see us at the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District for the annual Sonoma Coast Volunteer Orientation for an entire day of speakers and educational talks. Speakers for this include State Parks personnel, experienced State Parks Volunteers, renowned National Park Scientist Dr. Sarah Allen, Whale Entanglement Rescuer Ryan Berger, the Marine Mammal Center’s Phil Warren, the BLM’s Bill Standley, NOAA Marine Sanctuaries and Seabird Protection Network’s Paul Hobi, and board member and veteran volunteer Hollis Bewley. This is followed on **April 23rd** by a training specific for those interested in assisting with events, outreach and interpretation through our Marine Education Van; the “Steward Ship.” This orientation will cover the ways you can make a difference at schools, fairs, festivals and community events through education and outreach! We are also excited to see the return of Laura Morgan’s (author of The Three Jewels) Sonoma Coast Wildflowers hike along the Kortum Trail this spring on **April 27th**.

In **May**, we look forward to welcoming a plethora of school groups for our Redwood Ecology, Tide Pool, Climate Science and Watershed Education programs. Also in May we have our docent training for Pond Farm Pottery, a program in which docents educate the public about the inspiring history and life’s work of Marguerite Wildenhain, first woman master potter of the Bauhaus in Germany. We are hosting a seminar focused on Exploring the Intertidal with experts from our docent program as well as Karl Menard from the UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab on **May 26th**. Capping off the spring is the first of three camps: the first annual Austin Creek Teen Backpacking Camp where we will welcome 15 youth, ages 13 to 15, for an extended weekend of engaging curriculum in outdoor education, survival skills and leadership. (See page 5 for more details)

We look forward to the many programs, opportunities and both new and returning faces we are sure to encounter! We invite you to register online at: <https://www.stewardscr.org/upcoming-events-programs.html>



North to Alaska!

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Coordinator

Whale Watch saw its first northbound Gray Whale on February 17th. This is right around the time we usually see the first northbound whales, based on dates recorded for many of our 33 years of Whale Watch. This was most likely a newly pregnant female, impregnated while migrating past southern California, or in the mating (and calving) lagoons on the Pacific Ocean side of Baja. Now, she is headed north to the Bering, Chukchi or Beaufort Sea to eat! Having fasted, living off their blubber for months, the whales will seek their main food source, amphipods, that live in the bottom sediments of their preferred feeding grounds. Swimming 5-6,000 miles from Mexico, they will reach Alaska to benefit from the ice melt that allows them to feed during the Arctic summer's 24 hours of light. The next time we see these females, mostly in November December and early January, they will be headed south to have their calves, after a 13 month gestation period!

We expect the number of sightings of northbound migrating whales to increase over the next months as all of the approximately 26,960 (NMFS 2015-2016 estimate) Eastern Pacific Gray Whales head north to feed. Join Whale Watch volunteers Noon to 4 on weekends, weather permitting, at Bodega Head.

We hope to assist you to be able to say - There she blows!



Photo Credit Guy Mohr

~ Save these Dates ~ Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods' 2019 Annual Events



JUNE 22 - FAMILY DAY IN YOUR PARK
ARMSTRONG REDWOODS SNR, 12:00 PM - 4:00
Family nature activities, live music, food & drinks,
"Steward Ship" marine van & more.



JULY 20 - SUNSET DINNER
AUSTIN CREEK SRA
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Benefit for Pond Farm Pottery
with studio tour, gourmet dinner
& sunset views.



SEPTEMBER 14 & 15 - OLD GROVE FESTIVAL
ARMSTRONG REDWOODS SNR
4:30 PM - 9:00 PM, each day
Two days of music in the historic forest theater
Saturday: The Sam Chase & The Untraditional
Rainbow Girls
Sunday: TBD

For event details: www.stewardscr.org • stewards@stewardscr.org • (707) 869-9177

Exciting New Camping Opportunities this Summer

Kat Rawhouser, Volunteer Programs Manager



We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting not one, but three camps this coming Summer season. Reduced tuition and scholarships are available for all programs. A \$20 discount for an entire day of adult chaperoning is available for the Forest to Sea Day Camp, one discount per participant.

The first **backpack camp will take place from June 18th through June 21st in the Austin Creek State Recreation Area for 13 to 15 year-old youth** and be headed up by Hut Wade, an experienced outdoors youth provider with assistance from Kat Rawhouser. This Austin Creek Teen Backpacking Camp will cover Leave No Trace, safety and backcountry survival, and an introduction to camping skills. Hikers will participate in nature walks, swimming in Gilliam Creek, workshops on climate and ecology (including fire ecology)

and learn about human impacts on the ecosystems. Participants will also participate in a service project. Journaling, team building, leadership, land navigation exercises and challenges will be integral to the week's program, as will putting what campers have learned into practice. Reflections during an evening program will cap off each day.

Our second camp of the season will be our **annual Forest to Sea Day Camp for 9 to 12 year olds** headed by Kat Rawhouser with Hut Wade assisting. This camp will be held from **July 8th to July 12th and run 8:30 AM to 4 PM daily**. Join Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for an exciting week-long summer program combining learning and play in the outdoors! Forest to Sea campers get to explore nature, make new friends, do arts and crafts, and experience an optional night of tent camping at Bullfrog Pond Campground. Activities will take place in a different park each day, including Armstrong Redwoods, Sonoma Coast and Austin Creek. Topics will include ecology, biology, geology and natural history of our beautiful parks.

The final of our camp offering is the **Sonoma Coast/Pomo Canyon Teen Backpacking Camp for 13 to 15 year old youths**. This camp runs from **July 30th to August 2nd** with Hut Wade and Kat Rawhouser assisting. With Pomo Canyon Campground as home base, this program will invite 15 participants to focus on the interrelationships among redwoods, watersheds and coastal ecology. Program components include hikes and naturalist-led walks to explore and compare redwoods forest and oak woodland ecosystems and interconnections to marine environments through intertidal exploration and kayaking, with learning to understand the human impacts relation to marine debris. Journaling, photography, team building and leadership opportunities will abound.



For more information on our camps please visit www.stewardscr.org and look for the camp of your choice under the Public Education tab.



**STORM DAMAGE
in Austin Creek
SRA - Week of
February 25th**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a program?
Call Stewards at
(707) 869-9177 or email
kat@stewardscr.org!

PROGRAMS

Armstrong Redwoods/ Austin Creek

Visitor Center Staffing
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Crew/Maintenance
Pond Farm Docent Tours
Roving Docents/Public
Assistance
Lizzie Armstrong Welcome Ctr

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tide Pool Program
Watershed Program
Sonoma Coast Trail Crew
Willow Creek Trail Crew
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring
Roving Docents/Public
Assistance

Other Projects

Mobile Marine Van
Forest to Sea Nature Store
Office Help & Special Events

VOL. PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Vacant, Watershed
Greg Armstrong, Seal Watch
Joyce Bacci/Dori Heath, ARVC
Bill Bambrick, Trail Crews
Hollis Bewley, Seabird &
Tidepool Programs
Julie Cross, Seal Watch
Linda Fisher, JVC
Mary Follis, Seal Watch
Norma Jellison, Whale Watch
Rich & Colleen Draffin, Whale
Watch
Michael Murphy, AC Mounted
Assistance Unit
Keary & Sally Sorenson,
Marine Debris

Upcoming Events ~2019

Register & get details at stewardscr.org/upcoming-events-programs.html or (707) 869-9177.

[Our new Docent and Community Education Brochure is now available on our website.](#)

DOCENT ORIENTATIONS & TRAININGS

GENERAL SONOMA COAST VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

April 6, 10:00 am - 4 pm, FREE
This orientation covers all of our Sonoma Coast programs, including Whale Watch, Pinniped Monitoring, Seal Watch, and more! Registration required.

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

April 23, 10 am -12 pm, FREE
Attend this orientation to learn how Stewards' Staff and Steward Ship Volunteers instruct. Registration required.

POND FARM DOCENT TRAINING

May 18, 9 am -12 pm, FREE
Learn about the inspiring history of Pond Farm Pottery and the life and work of Marguerite Wildenhain, first woman master potter of the Bauhaus in Germany. Docents will be trained to give tours at Pond Farm. Registration required.

POND FARM POTTERY TOURS

POND FARM POTTERY TOURS

Upcoming dates: 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 6/15
9:30 to noon, \$20/\$16 for members
Meet at the Stewards office/Vol. Center
Registration required

GENERAL VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS ORIENTATION

May 25, 10:00 am - 12 pm, FREE
This FREE General Orientation covers available volunteer opportunities in the southern Russian River Sector of the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast State Parks District. Meet our program coordinators and learn about the perks of volunteering. Registration required.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION SEMINARS AND CERTIFICATIONS

PLANTS OF THE REDWOOD FOREST

March 29, 10 am-1pm, \$20/\$16 for members
Peter Warner, Botanical Consultant
This talk will cover how to identify the plants growing in the understory of the Redwoods. Registration required.

HIKE WITH MIKE

April 5, 9:30 am -12 pm,
\$20/\$16 for members
Mike Roa, Ex Teacher and Author
This workshop is designed for Armstrong Docents and participants who have taken a Redwood Ed workshop. Others are welcome too. Registration required.

2019 EARTH DAY BEACH CLEANUP

April 20, 9 am- 12 pm, FREE
Join Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and Partners for our annual Earth Day Clean Up of North Jenner Beach and the Lower Russian River in Jenner, which is part of Sonoma Coast State Park. Registration required.

LAURA MORGAN'S WILDFLOWER WALK

June 1, 9 am - 12 pm
Dr. Laura Morgan, Author and Naturalist
A great opportunity to join naturalist Laura Morgan for a Wildflower Hike on Sonoma Coast. The hike will go up to 3 miles north, to Blind Beach. Participants can hike as far as they feel comfortable. Registration Required.

NOLS WILDERNESS MEDICINE CERTIFICATION COURSE

June 29 - June 30, \$235.00
Daniel De Kay (WEMT)
You'll learn how to provide effective first aid treatments for injuries and illnesses common in the outdoors, how to manage environmental emergencies, and how to make appropriate evacuation decisions. You will spend half your time practicing skills and participating in realistic scenarios. Registration required.

In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders ~ 2017-2019

\$40,000 plus

Carmen J. Finley, Ph.D.
Estate of Josephine C. Marks

\$15,000 to \$25,000

California State Parks Foundation
Ocean Protection Council
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
Sonoma County Vintners

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Marcy & Jim Beck
Kristin Hite
Jacque Mielke
State Coastal Commission
Save the Redwoods League
County of Sonoma

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
CA Council for the Humanities
Clay And Glass Arts Foundation
PG&E Corporation Foundation
Redwood Credit Union
Russian River Recreation & Park
District
Angela Thompson
Westamerica Bank
Neil & Amelia McDaniel Charitable
Trust

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Clif Bar Family Foundation
Community Foundation Sonoma
County
Terry & Joanne Dale
Clare Dorfman
Euphrat Family Fund
First 5
Dennis Martino
Leonard A. Fisher & Risa Teitelbaum
Russian River Getaways

\$1,000 to \$1,999

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Barefoot Wines
Rhonda Berney
Hollis Bewley
Big Indie-Beautiful Boy, LLC
Glen & Terri Blackley
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The Campbell Foundation
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Don Dickenson
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Gaffney Insurance Services, Inc.
Terry Grant
Michael Hofman & Janet Moyer
Greg Lanctot & Jenny Lopez-Lanctot
Aileen Liu

Lennox Foundation
Jim Maresca
J Mullineaux
Laura Morgan & Jim Seward
Bill & Karen Nay
Old World Winery
Courtney Prather
Donna Roper
Rotary Club of Sebastopol
Mary & Christopher Szcsey
Dale Wannan
Wild Hog Vineyards
Julie Zigoris
Elizabeth Zitrin
Zitrin Foundation

\$500 to \$999

Suzanne Abrams
Jeff & Barb Basham
Lauren Bayersdorfer
Alyssa Benedetto
Jennifer Bice
Lori Bruhner
Orin Burgess
Art Carter
Dwight Cary
Laura Close
Creative Ceramics & Glass LLC
John & Ethel Cole
Dorothy Cournale

Margo Eachus
Greg Groeneveld
Karen Guenther
The Heck Foundation
Nolan & Darcy Hughes
Brittany Kelly
Eileen Keremitsis
Beth Lamb
Sheralyn Listgarten
Ellen Matics
MJZ Productions
Mitchel Family Fund
Kathi Moore
Moshin Vineyards
Arthur & Judith Slater
Pacific Coast Trail Runs LLC
Diane & Paul Perry
Roland Pesch
Joe & Kathy Reidel
Betty Riess
Leslie Risbrough
Joe Rogoff
The Rotary Club of Russian River
Rick Royer
Heather Smith
Kat Stephens
Karin Trenkenschu
Keith Volkerts
Warren & Janis Watkins
David Westphal

Ways to Leave a Legacy ~ more info at www.stewardscr.org/leave_a_legacy.html

In the [Summer 2018 newsletter](#) board member Jeff Edmonds presented information about Donor Advised Funds and about Beneficiary Designations on page 5 of this newsletter. A Bequest example is also included on page 8.

Board member Dale Wannan would like you to consider these giving options as well:

Gifting Appreciated Stock - If you're fortunate enough to own stock that has gone up in value since you purchased it, you may consider a gift to Stewards. This will not only help a good cause, but enable you to reap substantial tax savings.

Designate Stewards as a Beneficiary on your IRA - These days, many people have a large percentage of their wealth in the form of traditional IRA accounts. Consider designating Stewards as one of the beneficiaries of your IRAs.

New Members ~ 1st Quarter

Gray Whale Patron

Bart Sefton
Theo Park
Jeffrey Wong

Contributing Harbor Seal

Sean Hoyer
Bonnie Faigeles
Stewart Stroeh
Naomi Fuchs

Bob Miller
Patricia Biocini
Pete Biocini

Otter Family

Gina Wagy
Melanie Gallagher
Simone Masson

Individual Trillium

Kim Contrevo
Stefanie Freele

Billie Sessions
Roland Sanford
Andrew Scott
Steph Sharpe

M DuBose
Sarah Brady
Christina Kellogg
Wendy Walsh
Kate Ecker
Ryan Tamborski
Marci Vogel

Owl Senior & Student

Stephen Dominic III
Knaze
Andrew Groves
Don Jackson
Marie LaBarron
Arlene Dean
Carolyn Thompson
Nancy Gifford
David Delgado
Lucy Aron

Sharon Cottrell
Nadia Stafford
Elisabeth Fletcher
Cook
Werner Berry
Patricia Bird

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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includes a copy of this quarterly newsletter by email or mail, a 20% discount on retail items, special events & community educa-

TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION CALL: (800) 320-0476

For more info on how you can contribute to Stewards' Endowments, please contact:
Michele Luna
(707) 869-9177 X 4#
michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- RENEWAL
- \$25 Owl Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual Trillium
- \$45 Otter Family
- \$100 Contributing Harbor Seal
- \$150 Bobcat Business
- \$250 Gray Whale Patron
- \$500+ Osprey Circle

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV #: _____

Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

With your gift of a bequest, future generations will enjoy the State Parks in the Russian River District, including education and stewardship programs supported by Stewards. A gift to Stewards is a rewarding form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Example: I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, (____) percent of my estate, (or) the sum of (____) dollars, (or) the following assets (____). Tax ID # 94-3039895

For more information and other planned giving options, please contact Michele Luna at michele@stewardscr.org and your legal advisor.