



## PERL Alumni & other collaborators

This PDF file provides short notes about many of the researchers mentioned in the e-book on the left, (see [trnerr.org/SaltMarshSecrets](http://trnerr.org/SaltMarshSecrets))

Students who wonder how training in science, specifically ecology, might influence one's career: Please note the wide range of jobs and professions that began with research in salt marshes!

The e-book chapters are listed on the left as PDF file names. Each can be downloaded separately. All are posted by the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, where much of the research was done. All files can be downloaded without charge.

Thank you for your interest.

Joy B. Zedler

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### Preface

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# The Pacific Estuarine Research Lab

## PERL alumni and co-authors: Where are they now?

Dozens of students, postdocs, and staff conducted research as part of PERL and went on to careers in the science and practice of restoration. Dozens more worked part time and gained skills that led to employment as restoration practitioners. A few joined the agencies that protect wetlands or became professors to continue researching wetlands and training students. All expanded the capabilities of the Pacific Estuarine Research Lab (PERL) and added strength to our science-based, adaptive restoration. Some have escaped my radar but are still remembered for their unique contributions.



**Cathi Bonin** (photo on left) received her MS at SDSU in 2007 and went on to the PhD program at Virginia Tech, where her dissertation focused on agroecology. She had a short postdoc at Ohio State University, working on carbon sequestration under bioenergy crops. She is currently a postdoc at Iowa State University, where she is studying the agronomic and ecological impacts of bioenergy grasses.

**Stacey Baczkowski**, center of photo on right, received her MS from SDSU in 1992. Current whereabouts unknown.

**Pam Beare** worked for Caltrans while we were monitoring the Sweetwater Marsh mitigation efforts. I believe she moved to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and is now retired. Current whereabouts unknown.



**Kathy Boyer** finished her MS at SDSU in 1994, then managed the monitoring and experimentation with nitrogen to grow tall cordgrass in our San Diego Bay mitigation project. She then worked with Dr. Peggy Fong at UCLA, where she obtained her PhD. She is now a professor at San Francisco State University – Tiburon Lab.

**Max Busnardo**, far left in the above group photo, completed his MS degree at SDSU in 1992. After graduate school, Max joined the US Peace Corps and taught high school science (in French!) in Benin, West Africa. His many jovial, content African friends taught him that happiness comes from inside, especially by contributing to family and community. On returning to the US, Max taught elementary students until he felt the call to return to wetland ecology. For the past 18 years, Max has been a restoration ecologist at H. T. Harvey & Associates, in the San Francisco Bay Area. There, he helps design, construct, and monitor restoration projects, all aiming to heal damage to the land and improve conditions for plants, animals, and people.

**Dr. John Callaway** completed his dissertation with Dr. William Patrick on sedimentation in wetlands at Louisiana State U before joining PERL. Years of working in mud made him appreciate good field collaborators, and he found many soul mates (soil mates?) at PERL. He carried out many studies in Tijuana Estuary and took primary responsibility for conducting and writing up the Tidal Linkage experiment and setting up the Model Marsh experiments. Without his talents and expert skills, those projects would not have achieved support from the National Science Foundation. After my move to UW in December 1997, John led PERL to continue providing new knowledge and scientific advice to coastal managers. He facilitated our *Handbook for Restoring Tidal Wetlands*. In 1999, John became a professor at the University of San Francisco (USF) Environmental Studies Dept. He teaches courses for undergraduates and graduates and conducts research on San Francisco Bay wetlands. He has earned my highest praise as a scientist and long-term collaborator. In 2014, he became USF's Distinguished Researcher. John advises organizations and agencies on

how to restore wetlands.

**John Cantilli** completed his MS degree at SDSU in 1989. Current whereabouts unknown.

**Michelle Cordrey** began working with PERL after excelling in the invertebrates course she took as an undergraduate at SDSU. If she had a dollar for every invert she has counted, she'd be a billionaire. When PERL moved from the SDSU campus to the TRNERR, Michelle maintained the monitoring programs while working toward an MS degree in remote sensing and geographic information systems. Her skills expanded as she mastered new technology and new land care challenges. In 2014, Michelle married another PERL collaborator, Gary Sullivan.

**Julie Desmond** completed her MS degree in 1996, while learning how fish use tidal creeks. She then worked at PERL until moving to Los Angeles to help develop the Ecosystems gallery at the California Science Center. She now teaches 7th and 8th grade science in Altadena, CA.



**James Doherty** received his MS in 2010 and his PhD in 2014, both from UW-Madison. Dr. Doherty then moved to Stanford University to develop online courses for gifted college and high school students around the world. His route to this job began at SUNY-Binghamton, where he received his BS degree and decided to go to graduate school. That brought him to UW-Madison and then to Tijuana Estuary, where he documented salt marsh dynamics for his MS thesis. Jim's subsequent dissertation projects in Madison all tested diversity-function theory in restoration ecology. As in the salt marsh, freshwater wetlands did not provide greater functioning where there were more species. Instead, Jim found a strong pattern of lower mass production with one strong dominant (as in the salt marsh). Jim is responding well to the warm winters of the Bay Area.

**Meghan Fellows**, now **Meghan Noe**, received her MS from SDSU in 1999. She then worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations and local governments directing citizen science and volunteer land management actions to protect natural ecosystem functions. She has restored endangered species in Florida, defined "local population" in the West, and planted riparian forests in Virginia. She is currently coordinating volunteers to remove non-native invasive plants in the mid-Atlantic. In June 2014, she returned to Sweetwater Marsh to help re-census the endangered bird's beak population.



**Brian Fink** completed his MS degree at SDSU in 1987. He developed his own nursery and restoration-consulting business in San Diego County. I think both of his thumbs are green—he was always interested in growing native plants. Brian provided the seeds for the reintroduction of salt marsh bird's beak to San Diego Bay, and he worked to restore high marsh vegetation in sandy dredge spoil, using irrigation where possible. He moved to the Lake Tahoe area, where, last I heard, he continues his work.



**Peggy Fong** is now a Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC-Los Angeles. Her focus is disturbance ecology, and she continues to work on factors that control the magnitude, duration, and composition of algal blooms. To accomplish this, she uses field studies, manipulative experiments in the field and lab, and numerical simulation modeling. She obtained her MS in 1986 and PhD from SDSU, the latter offered jointly with UC-Davis. Next, she fulfilled a post-doctoral position at the University of Miami, where she experienced Hurricane Andrew first hand and studied the damages that it caused in nearby shallow waters. She returned to SDSU for additional postdoctoral work until hired by UCLA.

Dr. **Rick Gersberg** remains a Professor of the Graduate School of Public Health at SDSU, where he has also served as the Director of the Marine Science Program. His background in biological wastewater treatment was critical to our research on nutrient and heavy-metal removal in mesocosms with bulrushes and varied hydroperiods. He serves as a technical consultant on health risks in impaired waters.

**Ted Griswold**, Esq., received his MS degree from SDSU in 1988, then worked with Chris Nordby and me at PERL while attending law school. He obtained his law degree from the U. of San Diego. He is now an environmental lawyer and partner of Procopia, a regional law firm. His environmental practice includes wetlands law, state and federal endangered species laws, NCCP, land use permitting, water quality compliance and natural resource management plans.



Dra. **Silvia Ibarra-Obando** conducted research on seagrasses and received her PhD in Ecology from Aix-Marseille II, Marseille, France. I don't recall how we met, but it was inevitable, because she was a marine biologist at the *Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada* in Ensenada, and she was eager to exchange information about coastal wetlands in Baja California. Especially notable is her long-term study of tidal vs. nontidal salt marsh in Estero de Punta Banda, carried out with her graduate student, Miriam Poumian-Tapia. Besides her friendship, I value her insights and generosity in sharing access to Mexico's less-damaged coastal ecosystems.

**Matt James** completed his MS degree at SDSU, took a position at UC Santa Barbara where he managed campus natural areas, taught Fieldwork in Restoration Ecology for several years, and helped plan and implement several wetland and upland restoration projects on campus. Matt left UCSB in 2005 and teamed with a colleague to form Coastal Restoration Consultants (CRC), a firm that specializes in planning and implementing ecological restoration projects. With CRC, Matt has helped with conceptual restoration planning for the Los Cerritos Wetlands, one of the best opportunities for large-scale salt marsh restoration in southern California. Since 2008, Matt has served as a board member for the Society for Ecological Restoration - California (SERCAL), including a term as president in 2012-13. Thanks for your service!



**Janelle Johnson** (now Janelle West) completed her MS degree at SDSU in 1999. She played a big role in monitoring fishes and invertebrates after I left in '98 and then discovered a passion for teaching. She enjoys sharing her love of science with a wide variety of students. She is now an associate faculty member both in the Biology Department at Mira Costa College and the Environmental Science Department at Saddleback College. Janelle teaches ecology, environmental science, zoology, and organismal biology for majors. She frequents tide pools and beaches with her family and can often be seen excitedly scrambling over rocks at low tide or snorkeling in coves with her favorite creatures, fish. Lucky students! Janelle also helped with the June 2014 re-census of bird's beak at Sweetwater Marsh.



**Georgeann Keer** spent many hours in the field and greenhouse assessing canopy architecture for her 1999 MS degree from SDSU. Her next stint concerned NYC salt marshes with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Group, then wetlands and bogs of NJ through the NJ Pinelands Commission. She joined the MA Wetlands Restoration Program (MWRP) in 2001. There, she restores coastal wetlands by removing tidal restrictions, such as undersized culverts and channel crossings. In 2009, MWRP merged with the Riverways Program to form the MA Division of Ecological Restoration, where Georgeann is a manager of projects to restore aquatic habitats and ecosystems for fish and wildlife habitat and ecosystem services across the State. Keep up the great work!

Dr. **Mary Kentula** spent 1984 studying effects of shade on epibenthic algal mats as a postdoc, then returned to Oregon in fall 1985. Via email, we finished the Wetland Research Plan for the US EPA. She then worked for EPA (Corvallis Lab) to implement the research. After over two decades of leading many projects for the Agency's wetland research program, she became the technical lead for the National Wetland Condition Assessment. The first assessment, which will be repeated every five years, was completed in 2011. Included are 1138 sampling sites in the conterminous US (the "lower 48"). Watch for the results in late 2015 on EPA's website. Such important work; such talent and dedication!



Dr. **Tom Kwak** joined PERL as a postdoc in fish ecology and described the aquatic food web using multiple stable isotopes. Tom is now a professor in applied ecology, wildlife and fisheries at North Carolina State U.

**Nathan Kuhn** came to SDSU to earn an MS degree in conservation and restoration science, which he completed in 1995. Next he went to Baton Rouge, LA, to help Dr. Irv Mendelsohn with research to restore Gulf Coast marshes. When offered a coastal ecologist position “back home” with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, he couldn’t say no. He now supervises a team charged with studying and conserving Texas coastal ecosystems.

Dr. **René Langis** completed his post-doctoral work at SDSU and shifted his wetland work toward environmental permitting and mitigation. He worked for 5 years with a Canadian engineering firm, then joined CH2M HILL where he is a senior environmental scientist. René is also involved in local environmental issues as a member of his Vermont Town Conservation Commission and as a citizen scientist with the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.

**Dan Larkin** completed his PhD at UW-Madison in 2006, then moved to Loyola University at Chicago for a postdoc position. From there, he became the Restoration Scientist at the Chicago Botanical Garden and adjunct faculty at Northwestern University. Dan’s interests broadened from fish and inverts, to cattails, tracking invasive plants using herbarium records, phenotypic analysis of communities, and denitrification. Awesome!



**Roberto Lindig-Cisneros** received his PhD from UW-Madison in 2001. He is now a Professor of Restoration Ecology at UNAM-Campus Morelia, in the State of Michoacan, Mexico. There, he conducts research and teaches restoration ecology. Roberto has developed large field experiments to restore degraded sites, and he has collaborated with rural and indigenous communities who benefit from the resources of the restored lands.

Dr. **Sharook Madon** brought his bioenergetics modeling approach to PERL and then carried on the work of PERL after Dr. Callaway moved to USF. Later, Sharook joined the San Diego office of the consulting firm, CH2MHill.

**Bruce McIntyre** received his MS from SDSU in 1977. Current whereabouts unknown.

**Hem Nalini Morzaria-Luna** obtained her PhD at UW in 2004) and then became an Associate Researcher at the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans, Inc., a binational (US/Mexico) research and education organization. She is currently a Visiting Scientist at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center- NOAA in Seattle, WA. Hem spent many months studying the wetlands of the Gulf of California, documenting species composition and helping to prioritize conservation needs.

**Greg Noe** completed his PhD in 1999 in SDSU’s joint doctoral program with UC-Davis. After a postdoc working on phosphorus dynamics in Florida freshwater marshes (the Everglades), he joined the US Geological Survey’s National Research Program as a Research Ecologist. The USGS office is in Reston, Virginia. Greg conducts research in wetlands around the US with many collaborators. Here’s Greg “deep into a project” in wetlands along Chesapeake Bay.





**Chris Nordby** completed his MS at SDSU in 1982 and became our PERL Manager. He also led the monitoring of fish and invertebrates in local coastal wetlands. He then worked as an environmental consultant for SAIC and then Woodward-Clyde Consultants, before he co-developed Tierra Environmental Services in 1993. There, he created restoration plans for Ballona Wetland and implemented three projects at Tijuana Estuary. These were the Tidal Linkage, the Model Marsh (cordgrass plantings and monitoring), and TETRP II, a plan to restore 500 more acres of upland to tidal wetlands. In 2008, he established Nordby Environmental Consulting, where he has projects for restoring San Elijo Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, San Diego Bay's western salt ponds and D Street Fill, the Otay River Floodplain, Los Penasquitos Lagoon, and Aqua Hedionda lagoon, as well as monitoring of the San Diego Bay western salt ponds, and other riparian restoration efforts. I look forward to reading his history of restoration projects, which is in progress. Write on!

**Erin O'Brien** received her MS degree from UW-Madison in 2003, after switching careers from fundraising for non-profit organizations to field ecologist! Always interested in the human side of restoration, she was a natural for the position she now holds as Wetlands Policy Director with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. Erin promotes wetland ecosystem services, working to protect those that are threatened, and advising on policy for local to national audiences. We rely on her to alert us when wetland decision-makers need science-based advice.

Dr. **Chris Onuf**, an "honorary PERLite," was a researcher at UC-Santa Barbara in the 1980s and a super salt marsh colleague (a person who always offered good advice or information on salt marshes). After completing several projects about Mugu Lagoon, including *The Ecology of Mugu Lagoon*, he moved to Corpus Christi, TX, to work with USGS and study seagrasses in BIG lagoons (Laguna Madre). Very helpfully, Chris left me his unpublished monograph on pickleweed growth. At the time, his extraordinary study was too detailed to excite peer-reviewers. But the work is too good to be omitted from this tribute to the region's salt marshes.



**Lorraine Parsons** completed her MS degree at SDSU in 1994. She is now the Wetland Ecologist at Point Reyes National Seashore, where she is responsible for documenting the progress of Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project (below). It was great to reconnect in 2014 during the bird's beak census!

Giacomini Wetland, restored from pasture to tidal influence. Photo by Galen Leeds Photography



**Stuart R. Phinn** received his PhD in Geography at SDSU with Dr. Doug Stow. His work on remote sensing in salt marshes helped him earn a faculty position at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Now, as Professor of Geography, he directs research and teaches others how to map vegetation using remote sensing. “Good on yer!”

**Abby Powell** (see Abby White)

**Donna Ross** received her MA degree from SDSU in 1994, then went to the U. of Washington for her PhD in Teacher Education. Next, she joined the faculty of SDSU, where she is an Associate Professor in Science Education.

**Regina Rudnicki** (now **Donohoe**) earned her MS degree at SDSU and then shifted toward toxicology for her PhD. Degree at Oregon State U. She is now a toxicologist with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, in Monterey. She helps assess damages to natural resources. She ensures that several military bases remediate contaminated areas as part of her job to protect fish and wildlife. She uses her expertise in petroleum toxicology to assess damages to wildlife from oil and other chemical spills. “There is always something new to work on, and it’s nice to play a small role in restoring polluted ecosystems” she said. After Chris and Regina were married, they had a son, Jack, who followed in his parents’ bootsteps by doing a project on marine debris and winning a trip to the State Science Fair.



**Sue Rutherford** (now **Sue Scatolini**) got married and changed her name before she published the study from her 1989 MS degree from SDSU. Thus, her thesis and published paper have different surnames. Sue worked for Ogden Environmental consulting firm--5 years in San Diego and 4 years in Hawaii, primarily doing Ecological Risk Assessments on Navy Bases in the Pacific. In 2000, she shifted to CalTrans as a biologist performing wetland delineations, endangered species surveys, and environmental impact documents. At this writing she is working on two mitigation sites that will create >50 acres of new salt marsh--part of a larger package to mitigate impacts from railroad and freeway projects in northern San Diego County.



**Sue Scatolini** (see Rutherford)

**Kendra Swift** completed her MS degree from SDSU in 1988. No update.

**Theresa Sinicrope** (see Theresa Talley).

Dr. **Doug Stow** is an innovator in remote sensing, which was integral to the evaluation of clapper rail home ranges in San Diego Bay. He continues his important work as Professor of Geography at SDSU.



Dr. **Gary Sullivan** came to PERL as a postdoc. He brought important skills to our restoration of the Tidal Linkage, as well as greenhouse experimentation and extraordinary ability to grow plants and manage large data sets. Now, in Chicago, Illinois, he manages prize-winning wetland restoration projects for The Wetlands Initiative, LLC. This non-profit organization restores wetlands along the Illinois River. He and Michelle Cordrey are now an official team.

**Theresa Talley** (nee **Sinicrope**, also far right in the group photo with Max Busnardo) completed her MS at SDSU in 1992. She married Drew Talley and completed her PhD at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. Talley is now a Marine Advisor for the California Sea Grant Program, based in La Jolla, CA. She brings many talents and interests to the job.

**Sally Trnka** is a consultant with Helix Environmental in San Diego.



**Alison Varty** received her MS degree from UW-Madison in 2007. Then, after two years assisting research at Loyola U. in Chicago, Alison accepted her current position as a faculty member at College of the Siskiyous (COS) in northern California. She teaches Biology and Environmental Science classes for COS and spends her summers at the University of Michigan Biological Station helping scientists connect their research with a broader audience through outreach projects.

Dr. **Gabriel Vivian-Smith** received her PhD from Rutgers U., under the guidance of Dr. Steward Pickett. After a year with PERL bringing us up to speed on topographic heterogeneity, she returned to Queensland, Australia. For many years, she researched invasive species and managed large research programs on invasive species in Queensland. She then moved into broader policy and research program management for invasive species and emergency responses. This was during a difficult period in Queensland with many incursions and natural disasters. In 2012, she accepted a new opportunity in Victoria concerning plant pests, diseases and other invasive species. She is now the State's Chief Plant Health Officer. She says, "I am really enjoying the role and the challenges it brings. It is biologically very interesting and exciting working on new incursions caused by a wide array of organisms and applying the general spatial ecology thinking around dispersal, persistence, host matrix and interactions, climate and risk etc. to come up with response strategies."



**Kristin Ward**'s first visit to SDSU was the day we began planting seedlings in 87 2s2-m plots at the Tidal Linkage. Her introduction to the salt marsh was a "total immersion". She volunteered to help with the immense task of planting 7830 seedlings, and she kept up with the best of us. This was serendipity—a capable field ecologist wanted an MS degree, and PERL needed someone to study cordgrass expansion. She completed that work in 2000 under the mentorship of Dr. John Callaway. After leaving San Diego, Kristen moved to San Francisco to become a Wetland Ecologist with the National Park Service, where she plans and monitors wetland restoration projects in San Francisco and Marin County. Kristen has assessed the effectiveness of restoration projects by monitoring changes in wetland geomorphology over time and evaluating how those physical changes affect species and habitats.

**Katy Wallace** studied freshwater wetlands (tussock meadows) in Wisconsin and received her MS degree from UW-Madison in 2001 (as Katy Werner). She then worked for PERL for a year as a researcher uncovering the secrets of geomorphological change at Tijuana Estuary's Model Marsh. A multi-talented person, Katy then opened her own consulting business focused on natural health (Human Nature) in Madison, WI.

**Janelle West** see Janelle Johnson)

**Abby White** (now **Abby Powell**) is currently a professor at the U. of Alaska, Fairbanks. Abby obtained her MS from SDSU in 1986 and then moved to Minneapolis for her PhD in Wildlife Conservation at the U. of Minnesota. As Dr. Powell, she returned to San Diego to help me establish a new SDSU office of the US FWS/GS Biological Research Division. She continued her research in avian ecology and then moved to the U. of Alaska in 2005, where she has a joint appointment with the Wildlife Department and the Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

**Phil Williams** finished his MS degree at SDSU in 1979 and moved to Washington, DC, where he entered a career of government service with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He worked in the National Ocean Service and was instrumental in establishing coastal and marine protected areas in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Of particular significance to Phil was the development of partnerships with government and local citizens to designate the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve in 1981. Later, in the Protected Resources Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, he worked with communities to protect and recover endangered species threatened by human activities. There, Phil worked to develop conservation regulations to modify the operation of commercial trawl and long line fisheries to eliminate their accidental drowning of marine turtles. Well done, Phil!



**Greg Williams** continues his fish-focused career as part of the ecosystem science program at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Greg was no stranger to Seattle, having received his MS in Fisheries from the U. of Washington, studying effects of large-scale intertidal habitat modification on estuarine fishes. After leaving PERL, he worked with DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Sequim, WA, then moved to NOAA in 2005. Greg is currently investigating effects of land use on nearshore ecological function, using innovative technology (e.g., acoustic tags, stable isotopes) to clarify patterns of marine animal movement (e.g., herring, sardines) and resource use, as well as developing ecosystem assessments for the California Current. What a career—being hired to work in Pacific Coast waters from Baja California to Puget Sound (including scuba diving!).

**Ted Winfield** was an environmental consultant before, during and after receiving his PhD in 1980 from SDSU (jointly offered with UC-Riverside) in 1980. That was before PERL became PERL. As Dr. Winfield, he formed his own consulting firm in the east bay of San Francisco Bay, now in Walnut Creek. His consulting work has taken him around the US, and from wetlands to deserts. Thank you Ted for all you learned about productivity and nutrient imports and exports and all the knowledge you shared so early in this long journey toward understanding salt marsh structure and functioning!

**Isa Woo** received her MS from UW-Madison in 2000. Now, she restores marshes as a Wetlands and Wildlife ecologist with the US Geological Survey, at the San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station. Camaraderie among wetland graduates from UW and SDSU has been facilitated by jobs in the Bay Area and conferences that bring restorationists together (sometimes including me, too).

**Lisa Wood** received her MS degree at SDSU in 1987. She was an intern for the City of San Diego and an environmental consultant, then returned to help the City fulfill the California Environmental Quality Act. For the past 20+ years, Lisa has guided the Environmental Services Department on policy, legislative and regulatory issues concerning topics ranging from non-native plant removal to regulating single-use bags at retail stores and helping regulatory agencies reduce and manage waste. Lisa loves horses, and her equestrian feats include a long ride across the Tibetan Plateau on a Mongolian pony, a long ride along the California Coast on her own gelding, Chaco (read her book *Chasing the California Dream*), and a 3000-mile ride, along the historical trails from San Diego to Santa Fe, Saint Louis, Pennsylvania and Virginia (read her book, *Mustang Journal*). It's no surprise that she lives on a ranch, keeps her own horses and boards others, teaches riding, and still works, full time at the City. What next? A long ride in 2020 on the Old Spanish Trail, through canyons in Utah. Happy trails!

**Margaret Zalejko** received her MS degree from SDSU in 1989. No update.



## In memory

**Jordan Covin** continued field research with PERL until he lost his battle with Hodgkin's disease. He was a colleague and friend and the most determined individual I have ever known. His legacy remains an inspiration to all.

## PERL Director

Dr. **Joy Zedler** received her MS and PhD degrees in Botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After a year of learning and teaching about algae at the University of Missouri, she moved to San Diego State University, where she was a lecturer, then professor, in the Biology Department. In 1986, she formed the Pacific Estuarine Research Lab at SDSU to fulfill a regional need to improve salt marsh restoration. In 1998, she became the first Aldo Leopold Chair of Restoration Ecology at her alma mater, UW. Several of her UW students continued studies of salt marshes, trading stories with those who worked on inland freshwater wetlands. In all, some 80 graduate students obtained graduate degrees (~68 MS and 12 PhD graduates). Nearly all published the "secrets" revealed by their research. To those who didn't; well, it's probably not too late...