

Fall–Winter 2018

LAGOON TIDINGS

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Cover Image

Cardiff State Beach was replenished with 300,000-cubic yards of sands during Reviving Your Wetlands lagoon restoration (see page 3).

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President's Welcome

Nicolle Selby-Thomas, Board President

What does it mean when we say that we are "Connecting Communities. Protecting Nature" in our tagline? My reflections this fall season are about you — our community — along with the species of plants and animals in our interconnected communities.

With the conservancy's growth in our education programs, and with the addition of significant lands and our steps toward restoring them, it brings me to the central focus that we need YOU. Our volunteer program has been enhanced to mentor and train a dedicated group of people of all ages. We continue to be both excited about and grateful for the expertise and passions that all of you bring to our lagoon community.

It's hard to believe I am mentioning **Birds of a Feather**, scheduled for Fall 2019, but time moves very quickly. We are a year away and are securing volunteer leadership for this celebration. We would like to invite you to join committees in this important fundraiser for lands, water and people.

We would also like to encourage your **volunteer participation** in our work to protect nature and connect communities. Our core programs need the skills of everyone, from our High School mentees, to those of you in retirement, or who have just a bit more giving to add to your week. **Visit SanElijo.org/Volunteer on how you can get involved.**

I look forward to seeing you in our lagoon community – whether it is on the trails, in the field, or in our Escondido watershed "outdoor classroom". Thank you for your continued support!—Nicolle

Skittish Stingrays

They may not have the "nicest reputation" of our cartilaginous fishes, yet stingrays are an important part of the ocean web of life. **Round stingrays are the most common stingray species off California's coast.** These relatives of sharks can be seen in the shallow tidal channels of San Elijo Lagoon. They conceal themselves in fine sediment, striking out to catch smaller critters, including fishes and clams. They are easily disturbed, even by our shadows.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which tracks the status of species, cites that Southern California populations of round stingray are stable. Round stingray ranges from Humboldt Bay in Northern California to Panama in Central America, but appears to be most common between Southern California and Baja California.

In summer, stingrays are feeding within a few inches of water because they prefer warmer weather. When winter comes, they venture away from shore in search of warmer patches of water.

Round stingray
(*Urobatis halleri*)



Robin Miller



Cardiff State Beach was awarded one of the nation's BEST RESTORED by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

Director's Welcome

Doug Gibson, Executive Director | Principal Scientist

AWARD & LAND NEWS

When **Reviving Your Wetlands** beach sand replenishment projects wrapped up we were notified of a very special honor. Cardiff State Beach is one of the nation's best restored beaches, selected for 2018 by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA). *What news!* Cardiff was the only beach selected along the West coast.

Restoration changes week-to-week as crews dredge channels in the Central & East basins. They are dredging to remove accumulated high-nutrient sediments so that tidal flows will reach deeper and farther East. Follow our blog for the latest updates.

Since we brought you the news of our **77-acre Encinitas land acquisition**, we have made significant progress. We spent the last two seasons clearing overgrown vegetation, greatly supported by CalFire's Conservation Camps and our newest partner, American Conservation Experience (ACE), a nonprofit dedicated to restoring America's natural wonders. Volunteers from around the world are working with us to clear the trail.

We submitted plans to the California Coastal Commission this summer for the permit to move forward in designing the **Harbaugh Seaside Trails** donor monument and native habitat and trail enhancement.

Here's to sand castles, your tracks on the trails, and the future of saving the lands we love. —Doug



Doug Gibson, Conservancy Executive Director | Principal Scientist & Kim Garvey, ASBPA California Chapter President

ACE volunteers clear overgrown vegetation for the connecting trail in the 77-acre Lake Drive property.



Follow **Lagoon Connections** for the latest restoration news and views: SanElijoConservancy.blog

Events & Tours

NOT-SO-SCARY ESTUARY

Family Discovery Day

Free

Sunday, October 28: 10 am–3 pm

Have a howling good time in nature this Halloween season with the return of our 7th Annual Not-So-Scary Estuary. Our theme is Changing Climate, with performances about sea level rise, a zero-waste activity and animal encounters. Kids in costume can join the parade with prizes awarded, and more fun inside and outside at San Elijo Lagoon. When nature is more familiar, it's not-so-scary after all! *Co-presented by: San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy & County Parks & Recreation*



New! Fall Nature Series

Reception & Presentation Series

\$60 Members | \$80 Public

theNAT comes to North County San Diego!

Presented by San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, join this first-time opportunity to learn from experts about the incredible plant and animal diversity throughout San Diego County, with a focus on species within San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve.

The Nature Series Fall program includes Thursday wine and cheese meet & greets, followed by a slide presentation at MiraCosta College San Elijo campus.

INSECTS

September 13: Michael Wall, PhD, Curator of Entomology

REPTILES

October 18: Brad Hollingsworth, PhD, Curator of Herpetology

MAMMALS & BIRDS

November 15: Phil Unitt, Curator of Birds & Mammals

BOTANY

December 13: Jon Rebman, PhD, Curator of Botany

In Partnership with:

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Events & Tours

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Family Fun Days Series

Sep 2 | Oct 7 | Nov 4 | Dec 2: 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Free

Each month, kids learn about lagoon life through hands-on fun, craft making, discovery stations and animal encounters. We give nature the spotlight and invite our younger generations to safely, and delightfully, explore the world outdoors with naturalists, rangers and family.

SEEDS: Learn how they “pack their bags” and travel.

SPIDERS: With spiders all around us, explore who lives in different spider webs.

BEES: Get an up-close look at local bees and learn why they are important to our planet.

REPTILES: Meet our resident reptiles before they take a long winter nap, called *brumation*.

Co-presented by: *San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy & County Parks & Recreation*



Rooted in Soil: Community Habitat Restoration

Sep 15 | Oct 20 | Nov 17 | Dec 15: 9 am–12 pm

It's a wild world out there, and you are helping it thrive by joining this fall for native plantings at the Santa Carina restoration site. It's a great way to be rooted in soil and meet others with your shared outdoor interests. **Have Time Wednesdays?** Learn and apply habitat restoration practices in the serenity of San Elijo Lagoon. Help behind the scenes to prepare habitat sites throughout the reserve.

California Coastal Cleanup Day is September 15! Our local partner is I Love a Clean San Diego. Volunteer to make the lagoon an even better place for nature, and for you.



Reviving Your Wetlands Open House

Tuesday, December 10: 6–8 pm

Free

Encinitas Senior & Community Center

Conservancy members and the public are invited to our 3rd **Reviving Your Wetlands Open House**. Learn about the newly created mudflats and continued tidal dredging in the East and Central basins. Meet restoration team members in this comprehensive habitat enhancement project.

RSVP: SanElijo.org/RevivingWetlands

Our Partners

We thank the **Our Living Watershed** conservation education partners for their committed support to current and future generations of environmental stewards and leaders. Using Next Generation Science Standards in our school partnerships, kids are connecting with nature by honing their observation skills using research-based approaches and tools to improve learning.

Our youth are exploring their natural world at San Elijo Lagoon and in partnership sites throughout the Escondido watershed. **Cultivating the love of the outdoors and environmental stewardship begins with youth.** And it's not just for kids: Families are enjoying weekend field trips and Family Days together. They begin to understand the connections between inland and coastal communities through real-life discoveries and actions that improve our impacts on ecosystem health.



Beverly Moazed's Legacy for Future Environmental Stewards



I think it's important to keep in touch with the younger generation because they provide a window into our future.

— Beverly Moazed, former Conservancy volunteer and retired educator

For years, kids at San Elijo Lagoon were getting to tour in nature with Conservancy naturalist Beverly Moazed. As a retired middle school teacher, inspiring youth on the trails came naturally to Beverly.

Beverly's estate was realized last fall. It is the estate gift that inspired our new endowment for conservation education.

Her school tours opened the window into the fascinating worlds of plant and animal adaptations; who is eating whom in the lagoon, and the importance of protecting our wetlands.

"It's rewarding to see kids get excited about nature, and even if the response isn't immediate with some of the students, I still think we are helping to plant a seed that may blossom in the future," shared Beverly.

The Conservancy is grateful to have worked with Beverly. Her legacy for education will continue with her estate gift to endow the future of children who will grow up loving nature, just like she did.

We invite you to start a conversation about the ways you can leave a legacy now, and for all generations.

Visit: SanElijo.org/YourLegacy



Left: Santa Carina Habitat Restoration before restoration, and Right: native plants now thrive

Have you noticed more pollinators, more plant life at the Santa Carina restoration site? You are watching the transformation of these former agricultural lands, once overrun with grasses and eucalyptus from earlier eras. **Native views are shaping these lands and providing habitats for the lagoon’s birds and other animals.**

Native plants are adapted to live in specific habitats, and our San Elijo Nursery is producing most of our seedlings, cultivated by seed collection that volunteers help us accomplish. Native plants hold down the soils and help prevent erosion. Even more: they are creating a space for endangered species and other animals that live in the Santa Carina area.

We thank our habitat enhancement partners for their committed support to connect communities and protect nature and connect communities.

Our Partners



The Solana Beach Fund
Working to brighten lives for our community



I’m much more resilient and stronger than I thought. I really love nature. And I have learned that everything in the watershed is interconnected and it’s so much more complicated than I thought it was.

—Eveny, San Pasqual High Senior & Conservancy mentee



Consider a gift membership to honor and celebrate someone special: SanElijo.org/JoinRenew



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY
Connecting communities. Protecting nature.

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Our vision

is a world where biodiversity is preserved and
people act to conserve nature and embrace it
as central to a healthy community.

Our mission

is to protect and restore the resources of San Elijo
Lagoon Ecological Reserve, its watershed, and related
ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

Egrets at Sunrise, by Nicollet Overby
2018 Love Your Lagoon Photo Contest
People's Choice Award

