



# Nature Collective

CONNECT. EXPERIENCE. PROTECT.

## **Christina Agustin** *2015 Water Quality*



Christina is excited to be part of San Elijo Conservancy as a water quality intern. During her time here Christina will be conducting the weekly water quality and assisting with continuous water quality and stream gauge activity. She is looking forward to the Conservancy mentorship and learning how coastal processes and upstream activities affect the chemistry and biology of the lagoon.

A graduate of Cal Poly SLO, Christina received a B.S. in environmental engineering and is pursuing a career in water resources management. During her free time, she enjoys the company of friends and family in the open spaces of California and Mexico.

**Where is she now?** Christina is currently working for the *City of Escondido* as a Water Utilities Education and Outreach Specialist. The Conservancy recently met with her to discuss collaboration opportunities in providing Escondido students lessons in watershed literacy and water conservation.

## **Gabrielle Barsotti** *2015 Habitat Management*



Gabrielle received her BA in Environmental Studies from Hawaii Pacific University. She has worked with several nonprofits on a variety of projects including watershed restoration, invasive species management and environmental education and outreach. Most recently for Maui Invasive Species Community's ground and helicopter crew. Gabrielle recently moved home to San Diego. In her free time she loves surfing, hiking and exploring the California coast.

**Where is she now?** Gabrielle is a restoration ecologist with *Gulf South Research Corporation* doing work on Camp Pendleton.

### **Aaron Borhegyi** 2015 Conservation Education



Aaron joined the Conservancy in January 2015 as an environmental education intern. He assists Docent Naturalists with weekly school programs. Currently he is attending MiraCosta College for his Associates of Science Degree majoring in Environmental Sciences. Born and raised in Southern California, he was introduced to the ocean environments at a young age through surfing, fishing, boating, and freediving. Over the years he has gained familiarity of native fish species and their environments within the waters of Southern California. At the age of 16 he started working in the fishing tackle industry at Charkbait in Huntington Beach. Soon after graduating from Marina High School in 2010, he moved to Oceanside where he now works part time at Pacific Coast Bait and Tackle.

**Where is he now?** Pursuing his passion of downhill skateboarding and fishing.

### **Chase Clark** 2016 Habitat Management



Chase is entering his senior year at Cal State San Marcos where he is pursuing a B.A in Environmental Studies and a Minor in Geography. He has a growing passion for ecology and enjoys watching his impact transform different areas around the lagoon, whether it is removing invasive species, working in the nursery, or processing seeds. In his spare time, you can find him kayaking, hiking, or playing for the CSUSM's Men's Lacrosse team as the goalie. After he graduates, Chase aspires to become a park ranger for the County of San Diego or for the State of California.

**Where is he now?** Chase graduated from Cal State San Marcos with a BA in Environmental Studies and a Minor in Geography. Chase is now working very locally, for *San Diego County of Parks and Recreation* at San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve.

### **Cameron Clay** 2017 Habitat Restoration



Cameron joined the Conservancy in August of 2017. A recent graduate of UC David with a degree in Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity, Cameron has experience in both the field and lab. As a high school student at San Dieguito Academy High School, he volunteered for San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, Cottonwood Creek Conservancy and other local non-profits, joining them on waterway cleanups and invasive plant removal projects. At UC David, he worked in classes focused on large-scale restoration projects, as well as assisting several research labs in projects studying the effects of fire on different habitats and the ability of plants to evolve to unique soil habitats. He is excited to be back in his home town and help the team with habitat restoration.

**Where is he now?** Coming soon.

**Andrea Cornelius** 2017 *Annie's Canon Trail | Conservation Education*



Andrea recently graduated from CSU San Marcos with a BA in Environmental Studies. She is a San Diego native who loves the local oceans and lagoons and studying coastal environments. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, dancing, running with her dog, and spending time with friends and family. Andrea monitored Annie's Canyon trail and learned about the San Elijo ecosystem and how to protect it.

**Where is she now?** Coming soon.

**Jacqueline Creedon** 2017 | *Water Quality*



Jacqueline, who goes by Jackie, graduated from Arizona State University and Loyola Marymount University in Civil Engineering and Business Administration. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering emphasizing in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering through Villanova University. In her free time, she enjoys her small dogs and two green conures. Jackie was a water quality intern for the Conservancy.

**Where is she now?** Coming soon.

**Tony Gunroe** 2016 *Native Plant Nursery*



Born and raised in Encinitas, some of Tony's earliest memories involve watching cormorants and ducks in the lagoon. Prior to his internship, Tony completed a Nursery Management & Horticultural Crop Production certification program at MiraCosta College. Most recently Tony managed his own 4-acre organic farm and nursery in Fallbrook. Tony is often be found intently observing insects and foliage along the trails of San Diego's backcountry, speaking to giving talks to the public about their gardens, or sharing stories of wildlife sightings with guests of the lagoon.

As the Community Habitat Restoration intern, Tony will be assisting Conservancy staff with Lagoon Platoon events, restoration activities, and will help develop the new San Elijo Native Plant Nursery.

**Where is he now?** Coming soon.

### **Cassie Jordan** *2017 Land Stewardship*



Cassie Jordan is a San Diego native going into her junior year at the University of Michigan. She is studying Earth Sciences and loves everything outdoors. In her free time she enjoys running, biking, traveling and swimming in the ocean with her friends. Cassie is the land stewardship intern for the summer of 2017, where she works to monitor various properties through photo monitoring and invasive species documentation. Cassie enjoys her internship with the lagoon and loves learning how to protect the beautiful world we live in!

**Where is she now?** Coming soon.

### **Amanda Leu** *2017 Habitat Restoration*



Amanda Leu studies Marine Biology at the University of California, San Diego. She enjoys working with Lagoon Platoon and the Habitat restoration team. Her favorite outdoor activities include camping, hiking, backpacking, snorkeling, and scuba diving. She has a passion for the environment and an interest in ocean ecology and its interaction with other environmental systems. She aspires to a career in conservation and looks forward to working in the field in both marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Where is she now?** Coming soon.

### **Jeannette Lizarraga** *2016 Habitat Management*



Jeannette has lived in San Diego County her entire life. She is looking forward to learning the fundamentals of a non-profit organization and the importance of restoration, preservation, and education of our fragile coastal wetlands. She also enjoys photography, gardening, biking and hiking.

**Where is she now?** Jeannette is still attending MiraCosta. She will be graduating at the end of the 2017 with an AA in Math & Sciences. Jeannette hope to attend UC Davis beginning fall 2018 to pursue a double major in Environmental Policy Analysis & Planning and Sustainable Environmental Design.

### **Weston Manor 2016 Water Quality**



Weston is a Carlsbad native that recently graduated in December 2015, receiving his B.S. in Mathematics/Sciences and a minor in Geology from the University of Wyoming. His main goal is devoting himself to restoring watersheds and water quality while inspiring others to do the same. He hopes to gain knowledge while interning at the conservancy and experience in water quality for future purposes in the environmental field. His hobbies outside of environmental work are surfing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, and just lounging around.

**Where is he now?** Weston is currently a team member on a wildfire crew based out of Wyoming.

### **Henry Markell 2016 Annie's Canyon Trail**



Henry is an eighteen-year Cardiff resident and our first high school student intern from La Costa Canyon High School. He has been volunteering at the lagoon for the duration of this year and looks forward to learning through the new trail cameras and the conservation of Annie's Canyon Trail. Henry is inspired by places of natural beauty, like the lagoon, to pursue his college commitment with focus on environmental studies. Henry looks to be a representative of the youth generations environmental consciousness.

**Where is he now?** Recent high school graduate he is in Ireland for the summer assisting in a biotech lab. When he returns he will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

### **Danielle Mingo 2017 Avian**



Danielle is a recent graduate of UC Santa Cruz who has returned to her home city of San Diego with an Environmental Studies degree from UC Santa Cruz. A lover of the natural world, her favorite places are the mountains and the sea. In a college field course taking her and 27 other students throughout California for 10 weeks, Danielle discovered a passion for birding. As the Avian Intern, you can find her out in the field with binoculars assisting our biologists or in the office helping proof the last 15 years of the lagoon's bird count data. She is happy to be a part of the SELC team and to lend a hand in protecting our precious wetlands of San Diego County. In her spare time she enjoys surfing, yoga, hiking, live music and art projects.

**Where is she now?** Coming soon.

### **Cheryl Patel** 2016 Conservation Education



Cheryl came to San Diego to attend UCSD in the fall of 2011. After receiving her B.S. in Ecology, she decided to stay in San Diego and continue exploring the region. She started volunteering with the conservancy as an Environmental Education Intern in the winter of 2016. Her love for teaching began in high school when she taught grade school kids and families in her community about marine biology and conservation. Now she wants to continue pursuing her passion for teaching through the conservancy's education program. She hopes to pass on her love for nature and effectively teach the importance of environmental stewardship to young students.

Cheryl enjoys spending time in natural spaces and participating in hiking, camping, snowboarding, and swimming. She often stops and notes the different species of plants, insects, and other animals around her – she always takes advantage of an opportunity to learn more about nature.

**Where is she now?** Cheryl is currently applying for graduate schools.

### **Izzy Santarsieri** 2017 Conservation Education



Izzy is a recent graduate of UC Davis with a degree in Wildlife and Fish Conservation Biology. At UC Davis Izzy volunteered at a raptor rehabilitation center and regularly went birding in the arboretum. She has a variety of field work experience in countries in Central America and plans to pursue a masters in primate biology, behavior and conservation. In her free time Izzy enjoys traveling, scuba diving, backpacking and camping and visiting California's national parks.

### **Erin Stone** 2016 Conservation Education



Erin began interning with SELC during the summer of 2014, and is happy to be back (summer 2016) after completing her B.A. in Environmental Studies at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. She has a passion for environmental and conservation education, and hopes to pass along her love and care for the environment through her work as an educator. Erin was born and raised in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, and is excited to teach children and families about the wonderful ecosystems she has grown up loving. In her free time, you will find Erin reading, hiking, backpacking, listening to opera, and baking cookies.

**Where is she now?** Erin is working at *Sierra Nevada Journeys*, a nonprofit that delivers innovative outdoor, science-based education programs for youth to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resource stewardship.

### **Grant Thompson** *2015 Conservation Education*



Grant Thompson joined the conservancy in the summer of 2015 as an Environmental Education Intern. With prior experience working with nature education programs in San Diego and Santa Cruz, he assists with school programs by leading activities and helping develop and test new ideas.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz in 2014 with a combined degree in Environmental Studies and Biology, Grant took a gap year to explore the world: traveling to Europe, visiting roadside attractions all over California, and backpacking in the Sierra. Grant is now working on his teaching credential and aspires to teach high school Biology. When he is not pursuing his passion for education, you will find Grant with his face pressed to the glass of one of his many planted aquariums, working on his latest and greatest costume, hiking with his dogs, or planning the next adventure.

**Where is he now?** Grant is currently working toward his teaching credential at California State University San Marcos.

### **Alex Walsh** *2016 Land Management*



Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Alex moved out to San Diego five years ago where he began an interest in restoration ecology while interning at the San Diego River Park Foundation. He will be entering his senior year at San Diego State University (SDSU) with a major in environmental science and minor in international studies. Alex is really enjoying helping out the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy through the land management program and would like to continue along the same line of environmental work. His hobbies include skateboarding, biking, swimming, and hiking.

**Where is he now?** Alex is currently in Spain studying abroad in a climate change program at the University of Alcalá as he finishes his studies at SDSU. Alex will graduate by the end of 2017.