



Lagoon Tidings

Calendar of Events

Bird Counts

Second Monday each month
7:30 am–Noon at Rios Ave trailhead
Contact birds@sanelijo.org

Docent Meetings

Regular monthly docent meetings
Second Tuesday each month
9–11 am at the Nature Center

Guided Nature Walks

Second Saturday each month
9 am–11 am at Rios Ave trailhead
Every Saturday
10 am–11 am at the Nature Center

Family Discovery Days

"Wings Over Wetlands"
January 26–27, 1–4 pm at the
Nature Center

Volunteer Restoration Events

Third Saturday each month, 9–11 am

November 17

Restoration Site Preparation

December 15

Coastal Sage Scrub Revegetation

January 19

Coastal Sage Scrub Revegetation

February 16

Restoration Site Maintenance

To attend an event, register at
SanElijo.org/restoration-events

Concerned Citizens Connect with Coastal Habitat

By Joel Kramer, Associate Biologist, and David Varner, Science Director

As a grand kickoff event to the volunteer season, more than 125 volunteers congregated at San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve on September 15 in celebration of California Coastal Cleanup Day and to introduce a new Conservancy project. The project is part of the Community Restoration Program, which seeks to restore ecosystems in the reserve while also restoring our communities' connections to them. The project, Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat, is *continued on page 4*



Conservancy Biologist Joel Kramer describes characteristics of pickleweed and explains its unusual presence in a riparian habitat. Photo: Michelle Tateyama

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
GATEWAY PARK
CONTRIBUTE NOW. CONSERVE FOREVER.

WHAT IS YOUR
eco-LEGACY?

Donor Naming Opportunity Announced for Gateway Park

In just under a year, *The Campaign for Gateway Park* has come a long way in its community-supported journey to secure the Gateway property from development—forever. Hundreds of donors and regional businesses have joined the campaign to help secure the 3.44-acre Gateway property, one of the last coastal open spaces remaining in North County. *continued on page 4*

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President's Message

By Denise Stillinger, *President*

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone? They've paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

-Joni Mitchell

No one knows what color it would have been and thanks to visionaries like you, no one ever will! Now, don't get us wrong. We like "pink hotels, boutiques and swingin' hot spots" as much as the next guy, just not at the expense of priceless coastal open space. For more than three decades various commercial developments have been proposed for the Gateway property: the Sandcastle in the 1970s, Inn Suites in the 1980s, and Gateway Hotel in the 1990s. With each iteration, stark white story poles would sprout up overnight heralding an alternate future, one where another precious slice of paradise would be paved. With your help the Conservancy has been able to do the right thing for our community and purchase this important cornerstone of San Elijo Lagoon. If you've donated to the Gateway campaign, thank you. If you'd like to be part of this generational acquisition, it's not too late to "Contribute Now, Conserve Forever." Go to SanElijo.org/gateway-park to add your name to an impressive list of Gateway guardians. What could be better than being part of an organization that takes Joni Mitchell's prophetic words to heart? As always, thank you for your continued support. We wouldn't be where we are today without our Conservancy members. ❖



Welcome New Board Members

**Nicolle Selby-Thomas**

Nicolle Selby-Thomas has lived in a home overlooking San Elijo Lagoon for nearly 20 years and is a long-time Conservancy supporter. She has worked in the high-tech sector for more than 30 years, and is currently with Qualcomm Technology, Inc. She also serves on the Solana Beach Public Arts Advisory Commission. Nicolle holds an M.S. degree in Systems Management from USC and is a former instructor for SDSU's Extended Studies Program in Contracts Management. She enjoys spending time with her family, playing soccer, and hiking.

**Edward Quinlivan**

Ed and his wife came to Solana Beach from Orange County in 1990, and soon discovered hiking in San Elijo Lagoon. With a 30-year career in bank management, he is currently a Senior Vice President at Union Bank and member of Union Bank Foundation's Local Area Committee. He enjoys nonprofit volunteering, including the Board of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (San Diego). A SoCal native, he holds degrees from CSU Fullerton and UCLA. His hobbies include freshwater fishing, golf, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Learn more about our Board of Directors online: SanElijo.org/board.

This Issue of *Lagoon Tidings* is Dedicated to Carl Biehl

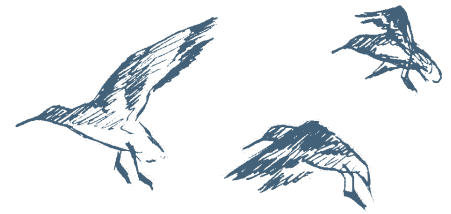


Photo: Janice Biehl

By Denise Stillinger and Doug Gibson

Carl Biehl moved to Cardiff in 1985 after completing his PhD in population ecology at UCLA. Like many North County residents, he appreciated the natural beauty of Cardiff Reef and San Elijo Lagoon. But his training as an ecologist instilled a deeper realization of the value and the importance of these natural systems. As a passionate environmentalist he didn't waste any time getting involved in the community and became a member of a local advocacy group, "People for a Clean Ocean". That involvement led to a core group of Cardiff residents who formed the non-profit San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

In need of someone to guide and direct the group, Carl stepped up and provided crucial leadership in those early years by agreeing to be the first president of the newly formed organization. He was also our scientific compass as we navigated through unfamiliar territory. In the beginning, our immediate concern was keeping the mouth of the lagoon open to the ocean. We also had a long-range goal of establishing a management plan for the reserve to guide all future projects in order to maximize the value of the habitat.

Carl understood both the short-term and long-term objectives and worked tirelessly to build the organization from a bunch of ambitious volunteers to a well-respected environmental non-profit with over 2000 members. In the 1990s, Carl expressed the desire to meet other members who, like himself, felt strongly enough about SELC's work to donate more than the basic membership. His encouragement inspired us to put on our first Major Donor Reception which we have hosted on a regular basis ever since.

Some of you may remember the billboards that loomed large in the river mouth here in Cardiff. In 2002, Carl and his wife Janice started an endowment with a \$10,000 donation that quickly grew and generated enough revenue to allow the Conservancy to remove the billboards.

Carl was always dedicated to the natural environment, a true champion of the lagoon. This year marks San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy's 25th anniversary and due in part to Carl's efforts, we have a vibrant environmental education program, a broad based scientific monitoring and habitat restoration program, and have been very successful at adding open space to the reserve. In recognition of the time, treasure and many talents he so willingly gave the Conservancy, we dedicate this issue of *Lagoon Tidings* to Carl.

Besides Carl the environmental activist and staunch scientist who insisted on objective, fact-based rationale and critical thinking, Carl was a world traveler and a voracious reader. He had a refined palette for art and music; an artist himself, he was a true renaissance man. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Carl enjoyed his great sense of humor and his love of life. A kid at heart, no matter what your mood, he had a way of making you smile by giving you a big, side-armed bear hug and not letting go until you returned his infectious grin. Most importantly, Carl cherished his family and was a loving son, brother, uncle, husband, step-father and grandfather and a loyal friend. Carl passed away on August 5, 2012. He will be missed. ❖

SELR Update

The San Elijo Lagoon Restoration (SELR) process continues to make good progress toward the completion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The SELR team has drafted and submitted the first three chapters to the reviewing agencies, and are finishing up additional technical studies needed to fully analyze the different restoration alternatives. The release of the EIR Public Draft is expected in late Spring 2013. At that point the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on all elements of the restoration plan.

The final steps in this process will be to respond to all public and agency comments, to define the Least Environmentally Damaging Proposed Alternative (LEDPA), and to finally select the Preferred Alternative. The completed EIR can then be certified by San Diego County, moving the project to the next phase of final engineering and pre-construction monitoring. This phase is expected to go from Spring 2013 to Fall 2015 when stakeholders hope to begin construction.

San Elijo Lagoon
RESTORATION
Reviving Your Wetlands

continued from page 1, Concerned Citizens

bringing community members into the reserve and training them in ecosystem restoration techniques. Already we've cleared iceplant from a site along the Escondido Creek floodplain and planted almost a hundred willow and other riparian plants.

There is an opportunity for everyone in Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat. For those who simply want to get outside and sweat a bit for the sake of San Diego's wonderful environment, the monthly third Saturday habitat restoration events are for you. Sign up on our website (sanelijo.org/restoration-events) and bring a family member or friend for a fun community bonding experience. These Saturday work sessions make for memorable parent-child experiences and nurture a healthy relationship between friends, family members, community, and the environment.

Now, for those who want to learn more, and really experience ecological restoration, you can delve a little deeper by attending our Wednesday morning Lagoon Platoon workshops for more in-depth training. These workshops are for you if you have an interest in native habitats and want to know why, and how, we are protecting them. Lagoon Platoon member Buck Osegueda recalls, "I was very excited for the opportunity to come out to the lagoon to learn more about my backyard. I had never expected mule deer to live in Encinitas and I had no idea how beautiful the cholla cactus is when it blooms. The knowledge that even in urban areas nature flourishes gives me great hope for the future." We will start you off with the basics and build technical skills and leadership responsibilities from there. For more information, email plants@sanelijo.org.

For those interested in a career in land management or conservation, come to all the events and cut your teeth at the San Elijo Lagoon



Community volunteers de-seed totalcote plants to prevent their dispersal into the restoration site. Photo: Joel Kramer

Ecological Reserve! All events and trainings are overseen by Conservancy biologists, including California Invasive Plant Council Certified Wildland Weed Manager David Varner. Volunteers have the opportunity to work alongside County Rangers as well, and learn from their years of experience managing visitors and wildlife in the reserve.

Funding for the project comes from a generous private donor, from Earth Island Institute, the US Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program, the California Coastal Conservancy, The Wildlife Conservation Board and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. The Conservancy is grateful for all contributions and for the involvement of the volunteers who make this program a community effort. ❖

continued from page 1, Donor Naming Opportunity

But your help is still needed. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy has announced its search for park naming rights on the Gateway property.

For more than 20 years, those who have traveled Scenic Highway 101 between Cardiff-by-the-Sea and Solana Beach have witnessed story poles erected for commercial development adjacent to the southern end of San Elijo Lagoon. Today, there's a bigger story developing, and it's called: "What name goes here?"

Perhaps you've passed the newest sign announcing the donor naming opportunity. The Conservancy is seeking an individual(s) interested in leaving a legacy, either in corporate, individual, or family foundation support.

The donor naming opportunity is available for a one million dollar investment. The new park will be named in perpetuity to honor the commitment of that title sponsor to secure these pristine



views and necessary habitat for wildlife in San Elijo Lagoon.

Approximately 20,000 vehicles will pass the naming rights sign along Scenic Highway 101 each day. We hope that members of our community may pause long enough to consider what a wonderful legacy this could be. We're excited to link someone's passion for nature, and our future generations, with the opportunity to name this highly visible property in their honor. ❖

The latest sign installed on the Gateway property promotes the donor naming opportunity.

Got a smartphone?



You can play a role in restoring wildlife habitat! Download the **What's Invasive!** app to your iPhone or Android to learn about invasive plants and map them around your neighborhood. Conservancy biologists will catalog your sightings, coordinate with landowners, and remove the infestations.

Visit whatsinvasive.com and select Park=San Diego County to add your observations.

Education Update

By Tara Fuad, Education Director



SELV volunteers involved in the Escondido schools program are treated to a behind-the-scenes tour at the San Diego Zoo. Photo: Tara Fuad

San Dieguito Academy. Club members participate in monthly events that include docent-led walks followed by restoration activities in the lagoon led by County Rangers. The students also assist with the quarterly Family Discovery Days, designing and staffing theme-based booths, and helping out with crafts. In 2013, we anticipate launching a high school citizen-science monitoring program at the lagoon in collaboration with the San Diego Natural History Museum.

A second high school program will include nearly 200 predominantly English language learners from schools that have typically been under-represented in science opportunities and careers. California State University San Marcos received a grant to partner university science educators, teacher candidates, students and parents with a local organization that offers outdoor educational science programs, such as SELV. Our goal is to develop a teaching model that includes hands-on science and learning opportunities in the classroom and the field, and that can be adapted by other school districts and community science centers. ♦

Docent in the Spotlight—Linda Jones

By Tara Fuad, Education Director

Linda Jones' career with the National Marine Fisheries Service took her to the Northwest where she studied killer whales and the effects of high seas driftnets on mammals and birds, and to the Arctic where she studied bowhead whales. Upon retiring, Linda returned to San Diego where she had been a graduate student at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Before long, she reunited with former graduate friend and current SELV board member and docent, Elizabeth Venrick, who encouraged Linda to join her on the monthly bird counts. That was back in 2007—fast forward to 2012. Linda not only continues to do the Conservancy's monthly bird counts, she also serves as a board member, docent, committee member for the Gateway Campaign, chair for the *Birds of a Feather Gala* decorating committee, and co-founder of the successful summer evening walks.

A scientist by training, Linda is always up for

A recent \$25,000 grant from SDG&E allows the Conservancy's education program with Escondido elementary schools to expand. Support from SDG&E adds a third elementary school to the program, offers school assemblies and in-classroom instruction, provides field trips to the Elfin Forest and San Elijo Lagoon, and sponsors a family event in Escondido. The "Escondido to San Elijo Collaboration" includes staff and volunteers from the San Diego Zoo, Olivenhain Metropolitan Water District, The Escondido Creek Conservancy, San Diego Children's Discovery Museum, and Felicita Elementary School. The San Diego Zoo generously sponsored a kickoff meeting on September 20th, inviting partners to a behind-the-scenes event. Participants were treated to a private bus tour around the zoo, and close-up animal encounters with Sammy the Hyacinth Macaw, Babba the pangolin, and Bahati the giraffe.

We are also testing projects and partnerships for high school students. New this year is a partnership with the Ecology Club at



Members of the San Dieguito High School Ecology Club remove eucalyptus seedlings near La Orilla trailhead. Photo: Tara Fuad



Linda Jones shares her birding expertise at Family Discovery Days' Wings Over Wetlands.

Photo: Tara Fuad

researching facts or carrying out mini experiments, as she did to determine the best technique for dying cloth using dried cochineal. The result became an activity at a Family Discovery Days event. "I find it fun and challenging to share my knowledge about the history, plants, and animals of the lagoon....and it's really rewarding when you hear visitors say, 'gee, I never knew that', or see them awoken and appreciate what we have right here in our backyard," noted Linda. In addition to her volunteer work with the Conservancy, Linda is a master gardener and treasurer of a committee to establish an Encinitas community garden. She enjoys photography and travel, and pursues her lifelong interest in working with flowers as founder of Flora Linda Design, which offers unique floral arrangements for weddings and special events using local flowers. We are extremely grateful for Linda's many contributions to the Conservancy's education programs and fundraising efforts. ♦

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Conservancy Honors Major Donors and Gateway Lenders

Annual Major Donor Reception doubled in attendance this fall

By Elaine Dodge, Development Director

The Conservancy's major donors were invited to an outdoor reception at a private Solana Beach residence this past October. Guests were treated to coastal views overlooking the Gateway property from the backyard deck, while enjoying delicious appetizers, wine, and classical harp music.

A short film was created for the event commemorating the Conservancy's 25th Anniversary. Six Conservancy members were profiled: Tom Clotfelter and Eric Lodge, as founders of the San Elijo Alliance, a predecessor organization to the Conservancy; Elizabeth Venrick, who is both a board member and docent; Joel Kramer, who interned after high school and post-college became one of the staff biologists; and founding board member and current Board President Denise Stillinger, along with Executive Director/Principal Scientist Doug Gibson. The video was produced by Lyon & Associates Creative Services, Inc. of Solana Beach and the music was composed by Rob Gironda of Encinitas. All services were pro bono.

Special recognition this year was given to 15 lenders who made the Gateway land acquisition possible. In her introduction, Gateway Committee Co-Chair Janie DeCelles commented, "I think it is a remarkable testament to the integrity and reputation of the Conservancy and to the power of this community at large. It took a group of 15 visionary individuals with incredible passion to make this happen." She then presented each lender with a native California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) in appreciation for their generosity.

The event was memorable, thanks to reception chair and Board Treasurer, Paul Worthington, with help from Elizabeth Venrick, Sally Foster, Linda Jones and Joyce Pickersgill. The entire event was underwritten by donations from the board of directors.

The video "We Saved This Place for You" can be seen online at SanElijo.org.



Claire Slattery and Mariette Pinchart at the Major Donor Reception. Photo: Jennifer Nelson

Grants Received



and the Mizel Family Foundation Community Grant Program

The Lauer Fund

Conservancy Seeks Your Input for New Tagline

The current tagline to our logo, *25 Years of Watershed Moments*, will be replaced by January 2013. We are searching for a new tagline that represents the Conservancy's future efforts in wetlands conservation and environmental education. We want to hear from our members. Please vote for the tagline option below that resonates most with you or make your own suggestion:

- Saving a place for you
- Your lagoon. Your legacy.
- Connecting communities. Protecting nature.
- Your suggestion:

An online survey will be sent to members who receive Lagoon eNews, and it will be linked on SanElijo.org and Facebook. If you don't have access to a computer, please call the Conservancy by November 30 to voice your opinion: (760) 436-3944 x 708. Thank you for your valued support.

Seeking Members for Outreach Ambassador Volunteer Positions

Do you enjoy community festivals? We seek your enthusiasm and dedication to help the Conservancy exhibit in regional fairs that focus on environment and community. Please contact us at info@sanelijo.org if you're interested in representing the Conservancy as an Outreach Ambassador. Help spread the word about San Elijo Lagoon and Conservancy programs.

Ways of Giving

Unique Fundraising for The Campaign for Gateway Park

During a Conservancy staff meeting, Kevin Dodson of **Shampoo Too!** delivered money raised from a Cut-A-Thon. For one day, salon stylists donated their services because they walk the Gateway grounds and want to save them.

Conservancy board member, Linda Jones, spearheads the effort to solicit corporate support for *The Campaign for Gateway Park*. First to donate with a substantial gift is local, family-owned **Hansen's Surf Shop**. Funds for Gateway were raised in recent charity events, including **Brewfest Encinitas** with board member Bill Harman, and **Flaggman Half Iron Distance Triathlon**, an ironman competition co-sponsored by Daniel Powell, Chair of the President's Council.

Donna Todd Yoga held a yoga class on the Summer Solstice and donated proceeds to save Gateway. Eleven artists donated a portion of their sales during **Arts Alive at Gateway Park**.

These, and many examples of community giving, inspire us all. You can also give through gifts of appreciated stock, and by naming Gateway Park in your estate plan. All donations are welcome, including a gift from a brother and sister who saved coins in a jar to help save places for wildlife—and for their generation growing up.



Development Director Elaine Dodge accepts jar of saved coins from young Gateway supporters.

Photo: Linda Jones



Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Appreciated stock or mutual fund shares make excellent charitable gifts to nonprofit organizations, like San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, because they give the donor substantial savings while supporting a cause the donor believes in like *The Campaign for Gateway Park*.

Under current tax law, direct transfers of stock to San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy remove capital gains tax liability that you would otherwise owe if you sold the stock. In addition, if you have held the stock for longer than one year or you inherited it, you are eligible for a charitable income tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock on the date of transfer, subject to certain tax law limits.

Stock can be used for funding any type of charitable gift, including deferred-giving arrangements that may provide a higher level of income than low-yielding securities.

Transferring securities is easy to do and San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is ready to assist in facilitating the paperwork. For further information on how a gift of stock can work to your advantage, contact elaine@sanelijo.org or call (760) 436-3944 x 708.

Before you make a gift of stock or mutual funds—particularly a significant gift—be sure to talk with your financial advisor to determine how such a gift may affect your overall financial plan.



Holiday Giving for Loved Ones with Gateway Recognition

This holiday season, consider giving a gift made in someone's honor that also supports their passion for nature, community, and for saving our last great open spaces. Donations of \$2,500 or more for *The Campaign for Gateway Park* will be recognized in onsite signage once the land is secured. Giving to Gateway is also ideal for anniversaries, special birthdays, wedding registries, and loved ones in memoriam.



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

25 years of watershed moments

P. O. Box 230634 | Encinitas, California 92023-0634

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Membership Renewal

Please check your renewal date. If it is soon or expired, use the enclosed envelope to renew your membership. Thanks!



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GO GREEN!

Conserve resources by opting for e-delivery of *Lagoon Tidings*.

Simply send an email to newsletter@sanelijo.org with 'Subscribe' in the subject line and your mailing address in the message.

Thanks for helping to save paper!



*We've come a long way in 25 years.
We hope you'll travel the next 25
with us.*



Our firm isn't the only thing that's grown over the years. We've seen our clients' children grow up, and even have children of their own. We've seen dreams become a reality. And we've seen the rewards of careful planning and investing.

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