



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

Summer Evening Walks

June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18,
5:30–7 pm at Santa Carina trail
RSVP @ SanElijo.org/eve-walks

Guided Nature Walks

Second Saturday each month, 9–11 am
Wildlife Walks—Explore new habitats
July 13, August 10, September 14:
Rios Ave Trail
October 12, November 9,
December 14: La Orilla Trail
Every Saturday
10–11 am at the Nature Center

Volunteer Restoration Events

Third Saturday each month, 9–11 am
July 20, August 17, September 21
To attend an event, register at
SanElijo.org/restoration-events

Docent Training

Become a trained docent naturalist
at San Elijo Lagoon
Training starts October 1, 2013
Register at SanElijo.org/docent-training

• • • **BUY TICKETS NOW!** • • •

Birds of a Feather Gala 2013

Saturday, August 17, 5–8:30 pm
Fundraising gala for SELC's
Environmental Education Program
- Sponsorship opportunities available
- Volunteers welcome
- Auction items now being accepted
Contact Nichole Joseph, (760) 436-
3944 x 711 or nichole@sanelijo.org
(Further details on page 7)

Birds of a Feather Gala Growing Future Stewards on August 17

By Lydia Cobb, Communications

Birds of a Feather is a fun-filled evening featuring natural and organic cuisine, live jazz and sophisticated swing by Randy Fontaine and the Swingers, and captivating auction opportunities for unique destinations, art, and one-of-a-kind experiences. This biennial benefit raises funds for the conservancy's environmental education programs. The 2013 gala theme is *Growing Future Stewards*.

Make your reservations today for tickets or tables online at SanElijo.org/Gala or by calling (760) 436-3944 x 711. *Birds of a Feather* will be held on Saturday, August 17 from 5–8:30 pm at the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club.

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Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club, venue for the 2013 Birds of a Feather gala.

Photo: Debby Strauss

Conservancy's 3-4-5 Program Receives High Marks from Participating Teachers

By Tara Fuad, Education Director

Over a two year period, the conservancy conducted a pilot evaluation of its signature elementary school program which brings nearly 1,000 students from Escondido to experience field trips at the lagoon for three consecutive years in grades 3, 4, and 5. The evaluation was conducted by Ruzic Consulting, Inc. in collaboration with conservancy staff and volunteers. Following are some

continued on page 4

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President's Message

By Denise Stillinger, *President*

*"In the end, we will conserve only what we love,
 we will love only what we understand
 and we will understand only what we are taught."
 ~ Baba Dioum, Senegalese conservationist*



**ENVIRONMENTAL
 EDUCATION**
 SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY

San Elijo Lagoon is an amazing piece of nature, one of Southern California's largest remaining wetlands. Would you like to learn more about this dynamic natural system, one that touts some of the highest biodiversity in the world? Do you have some free time during the week and are looking to give back to the community? Well, here's your chance. Every fall we offer a nine-week docent training course which meets once a week in the morning. We cover a wide range of topics relating to the physical, historical and ecological aspects of the reserve. The program also provides training in how to engage with your audience, usually school-aged children, using a variety of successful techniques. Over the years our program has grown to incorporate many hands-on activities that have been enthusiastically received. Most importantly, you will quickly become a part of a wonderful group of individuals who donate their time in many ways: leading walks during the week, providing public walks on the weekends, or helping with our popular "Family Discovery Days" weekend events held three times a year. Through all these activities, which are dependent on docent naturalists, SELC engages the community and nurtures the environmental stewards of tomorrow. For more information contact our education director Tara Fuad, tara@sanelijo.org or (760) 436-3944 x 701. ❖

FEATURED PHOTO



Anna's Hummingbird with baby

Photo: Laura Straus/San Diego
 Audubon Society

Submit your own photos taken in the lagoon! Send as an attachment with a description and your name in the subject line to photos@sanelijo.org

Images for submission: We prefer RGB files with minimum pixel dimensions of 2100 x 1600, minimal image manipulation and no recompression before submission.

Please see image submission info at SanElijo.org/lagoon-image-drop-box

SELRP Update

By Barry Lindgren, Associate Director

The San Elijo Lagoon Restoration team passed a significant milestone this spring with its publication of the first administrative draft of the environmental document that will guide the restoration of San Elijo Lagoon. After responding to comments from CEQA* and NEPA* leads (San Diego County and Army Corps of Engineers, respectively) and making suggested revisions, the draft intended for public review and comment is expected to be available in late summer/early fall. Restoration may begin in late 2015.

The purpose of San Elijo's restoration is to re-establish tidal flow to the East Basin, and to stabilize habitat conversion in the Central Basin. If not restored, the lagoon will ultimately transition from open water and mudflat habitats to salt marsh and riparian habitat. Highways, a railroad, and nearby urban infrastructure all contribute to restricted tidal flushing and degraded water quality in the reserve.

The CEQA/NEPA process is highly detailed and draws upon the expertise of many technical disciplines, including biology, hydrodynamics, archaeology and atmospheric sciences, to identify impacts to both the restoration site and its bordering neighborhoods. Construction methods must be carefully chosen to not only achieve the goals of the project, but to protect delicate biological resources and human trail access during restoration. The 600-plus-page report will summarize data from numerous technical studies and outline the analytical approach that will be used to determine a construction approach that both meets restoration goals and identifies the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA).

The restoration's environmental document will actually be a joint *Environmental Impact Report* and *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIR/EIS), which means it will be compliant with both State of California and federal environmental protection acts (CEQA and NEPA).

All of these designs and their potential impacts on nature and community must be described and analyzed in the EIR/EIS. The restoration team has spent considerable time, for example, responding to specific agency questions about Clapper Rail and Belding's Savannah Sparrow habitat in the Central Basin, and ensuring there will be adequate habitat for existing birds as construction proceeds. During restoration, the project team will also need to ensure that clean sand removed during channel dredging, to increase tidal circulation, can be reused on area beaches with an analysis of volumes and distribution points for each alternative.

Four restoration alternatives will be presented in the public draft document, representing the different choices, potential impacts, and their respective analyses to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. Restoration project managers have been working to create not only a sound and science-based project, but a transparent public process that keeps our community informed. In the event that public meetings are held before the next issue of *Lagoon Tidings*, we will communicate with our members through SanElijo.org/SELR and monthly Lagoon eNews.

*CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act

*NEPA – National Environmental Protection Act

GOOD BYE & WELCOME

As many of you are aware, Joel Kramer left the conservancy in the spring to pursue a year of world travel. His involvement with the conservancy began as a child selling lemonade to support conservancy programs and culminated, after college, with a staff position as Associate Biologist. Joel will be missed and we wish him a safe journey in his travels. We are pleased to welcome two new employees to the Habitat Management Program.

Michelle Tateyama

Michelle Tateyama began as an intern with SELC in fall 2012, and was hired this spring as GIS and Database Manager. She works with Habitat Management Program staff managing the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) database, developing maps, and performing tasks related to the Invasive Species Program. Michelle graduated *cum laude* from UC Irvine with a BS in Earth & Environmental Science. She brings

enthusiasm and specialized academic GIS training to the Habitat Management Program, where she is receiving career experience in natural resource conservation. In her free time she enjoys cooking, hiking, surfing, and spending time with her family.

Nick Regoli

Nick has joined the Conservancy as Associate Biologist to work with the Habitat Management Program. While growing up in Solana Beach, you could find him exploring the lagoon and surfing. After attending Torrey Pines High School, Nick went on to earn his BA in Environmental Studies from San Diego State University. He worked to restore a variety of native San Diego habitats before joining the Conservancy. Nick brings his passion for protecting and restoring sensitive native habitat to San Elijo Lagoon. In his free time he enjoys biking, surfing, cooking, and exploring farmers markets.



Michelle Tateyama

Photo: Joel Kramer



Nick Regoli Photo: Joel Kramer

continued from page 1, 3-4-5 Program

excerpts from the final report's executive summary. The full report can be viewed on the conservancy's website at SanElijo.org/publications-library.

The goals of the evaluation were to determine how effective the program, also known as "Our Living Watershed", was in helping participating urban students increase their knowledge of science and stewardship behaviors and increase their interest and comfort in natural spaces, while providing a rewarding experience for both students and teachers. To determine the program's levels of success in these areas, data were collected from students, teachers, and docents. Students who participated in the evaluation displayed wide variation in academic knowledge and abilities and English language skills. Teachers consistently reported that their students had a positive experience during the program and were comfortable and engaged during the visit.

"The hands-on participation made the lessons I taught so much clearer." —Classroom teacher, 3rd grade

On average, students in 3rd and 5th grade performed better on a test of science-related concepts and knowledge after completing SELC's 3-4-5 program, while students in 4th grade performed well on the science assessment, on average, both before and after the field trip.

"This followed perfectly with our science curriculum. It really reinforced the standards." —Classroom teacher, 4th grade

One hundred per cent of teachers (14 of 14) reported that their students were better able to achieve the goals associated with the California Science Content Standards after participating in the conservancy's 3-4-5 program. Teachers cited the hands-on engaging, real-life quality of the program, the organization, knowledge,

and patience of the docents, and the intersection of the program with the current science curriculum as positive aspects of the program.

"The information booklet [SELC Teacher Guides]...with all the background information was really helpful and beneficial to us. And I know the pre-activities really got the kids engaged, and I think it prepared them for the field trip." —Classroom teacher, 5th grade

One hundred percent of the teachers across grade levels reported the 3-4-5 program was a positive experience for them, that the program was a positive experience for their students, and that they would use a program at San Elijo Lagoon in the future.

In response to the positive results of the pilot evaluation, the conservancy anticipates continuing this program in the academic year 2013/2014, and expanding the program at a third school in Escondido. This program is supported by generous grants from SDG&E, Qualcomm, California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail License Plate Grant Program, and the County of San Diego. ❖



Docent Suzanne McAllister demonstrates how vegetative cover helps absorb pollutants in a watershed. Photo: Kelly Gage



Security Mirror

Photo: Michelle Mateo

Ecology and Public Culture

A UCSD visual arts class re-imagines San Elijo Lagoon

By Lydia Cobb, Communications

What if security mirrors were installed near bird nesting sites? What if you could "lock" a bike in the tangle of a prickly pear cactus? Dr. Kyong Park, visual arts professor at UC San Diego, collaborates with the conservancy every two years in his Ecology and Public Culture undergraduate course. Students present hypothetical installations that focus on the intersection of natural and developed spaces.

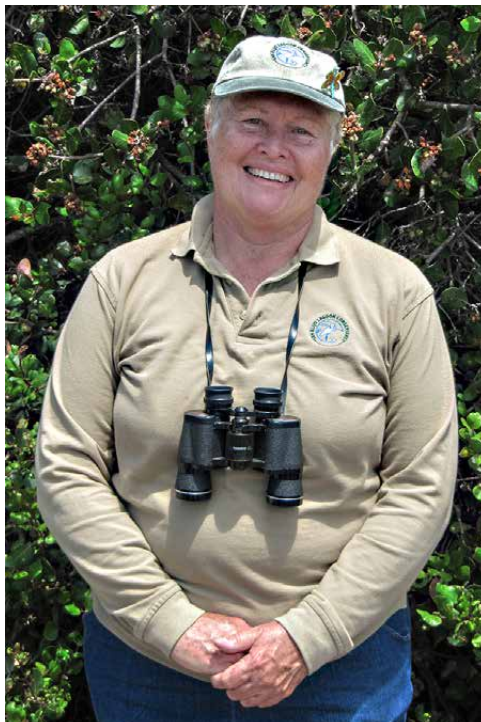
Seven students were graciously hosted on a tour along Rios Avenue trail by board member Dr. Elizabeth Venrick. She pointed out native plants and animals, and discussed infrastructure impacts, such as the highway and railroad, to the lagoon's tidal flow.

"You have to understand natural ecology to understand social ecology," said Dr. Park, as the installations were unveiled in slideshows to Venrick and guests in March. The students presented varying interpretations blending everyday community symbols with natural elements, many with a flair for the unusual: a one way sign pointing into dense sage scrub (it's a way for some animals), and a spoof horror movie poster titled "Invasion of the Wild Cucumber!" We invite you to see highlights of the projects online at SanElijo.org/ecology-culture-UCSD. ❖

Docent in the Spotlight—Beverly Moazed

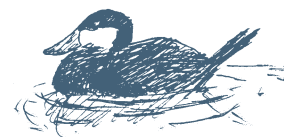
By Tara Fuad, Education Director

If you happen to be at the Nature Center or the Rios Avenue trailhead on a Thursday morning, you are likely to see Beverly Moazed, Docent in the Spotlight, engaging students about the fascinating world of plant and animal adaptations, who is eating whom in the lagoon, and the importance of protecting our wetlands. Having made Thursdays her volunteer day, Beverly spends her mornings at the lagoon and her afternoons at Red Cross helping coordinate a disaster work force program. Beverly recently retired as a middle school science teacher, making her supremely qualified as a conservancy docent. “Even though I’m retired, I still substitute teach a couple times per week,” noted Beverly. “I think it’s important to keep in touch with the younger generation because they provide a window into our future.”



A graduate of the 2011 docent class, it didn’t take Beverly long to hit the trails given her comfort with children and her knowledge of nature through her hobby as a birder. “Volunteering as a docent has worked out very well for me,” said Beverly. “It’s rewarding to see the 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.” In her free time, Beverly enjoys traveling to national parks, and indulges in her crafty pursuits of quilting, knitting, and creating gifts for family members. The conservancy is fortunate and thankful to have such a reliable and regular docent like Beverly sharing her love of teaching and nature with the young visitors to the reserve. ♦

Beverly Moazed
Photo: Tara Fuad



K–2 Guide Update

By Tara Fuad, Education Director

The last of a series of elementary school teacher guides, “Living Lagoon: Exploring Habitats,” was recently completed and is the first of the series to focus on grades K–2. With nearly 500 students visiting the reserve from those grades annually, it was critical to ensure that the teachers had the necessary background information to prepare their students for a field trip, and that the students were provided with pre- and post-field trip activities to ensure they would get the most out of their visit. For kindergarten, the guide focuses on activities that help students use their observation skills when in nature, while first grade activities introduce the students to some of the animals of the different wetland habitats of the reserve. Finally, since second graders learn about life cycles, the guide introduces the students to the fascinating life cycle of a fiddler crab and how it is dependent on both the ocean and the lagoon to survive. The complete guide can be viewed on our website by going to SanElijo.org/teachers-place.



Docents Carol Sharpe and Karen Larsen Gordon enjoy a photo opportunity with 2nd graders from Foothill Oak Elementary.

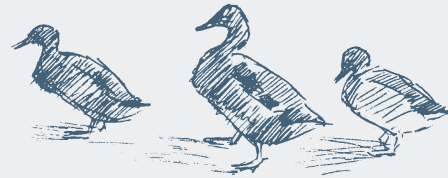
Photo: Tara Fuad



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



We wish to thank Wardell Builders of Solana Beach for their generous donation of materials and installation for the newest Gateway sign.



Continued from page 1, Birds of a Feather Gala

“We are grateful to our gala sponsors and guests for joining San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy to help provide meaningful nature experiences for students and conservancy members,” said Doug Gibson, conservancy Executive Director. “Here in coastal North County, we have one of the most amazing wetland ecosystems. It’s important for today’s children to be familiar with nature, so we pass on stewardship through the generations.”

As a biennial benefit for environmental education, the gala raises funds to create early childhood connections to our rare wetland environments. The conservancy is “growing future stewards” by providing science-based field trips and free public walks, and co-producing seasonal family weekends with county rangers, reaching 6,000 area students and visitors during the year. Field trips are offered free of charge to

schools, although donations are accepted, so that students can bond with nature—necessary for childhood development.

This celebrated North County gathering includes our dedicated members, environmental philanthropists, elected officials, media personalities, and citizen naturalists. Gala tickets are \$150 per person. Tables for six or eight can also be reserved while available. Suggested attire is garden cocktail.

Please join us for a memory-filled evening dedicated to *Growing Future Stewards*. Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club is located at 17025 Avenida de Acacias in Rancho Santa Fe. If you would like to attend the gala but are unable to, you can make a donation to support the conservancy’s environmental education program online at SanElijo.org/Gala. We’ll see you very soon! ❖



Images from Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club.

Photos: Debby Strauss

Ways of Giving



Birds of a Feather

2013 BIENNIAL GALA

Carol Childs & Peter House,
Honorary Gala Chairs of
2013 *Birds of a Feather*

2011 Honorary Gala Chairs: Doug & Libby Scott
2009 Honorary Gala Chair: Elizabeth Keadle
2007 Honorary Gala Chairs: Jack & Patty Queen

Thank you to our generous supporters. All supporters will be recognized in the Gala program and upcoming issues of *Lagoon Tidings*.

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Birds of a Feather Sponsorship Levels

Great Blue Heron	\$25,000
Peregrine Falcon	\$15,000
Osprey	\$10,000
Black Skimmer	\$ 7,500
Kestrel	\$ 5,000
Kingfisher	\$ 2,500
Underwriter	\$ 1,500

For sponsorship details, please visit our website
SanElijo.org/Gala or contact Elaine Dodge
elaine@sanelijo.org or (760) 436-3944 x 708.

Birds of a Feather Requested Auction Items

The *Birds of a Feather* auction committee requests donated items for our silent and live auctions. Contact Nichole Joseph at nichole@sanelijo.org or (760) 436-3944 x 711 for more information.

- One-of-a-kind opportunities/experiences
- Unique merchandise
- Original art
- Concert tickets
- Sporting event tickets
- Golf packages for private courses
- Hotel accommodations
- Condo/time-share accommodations
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Gift certificates to local businesses
- Spa treatments
- Catering for small party or event
- Wine tasting
- Specialty services
- Airline ticket vouchers
- And the list goes on...



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Connecting communities. Protecting nature.

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

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Thanks for helping to save paper!



Buy Tickets Now! San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy's Biennial Gala

Birds of a Feather

**Saturday, August 17, 2013
5-8:30 pm**

Proceeds benefit the Conservancy's Environmental Education programs.

Seating limited!

SanElijo.org • (760) 436-3944



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Connecting communities. Protecting nature.



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