



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,
August–September
Second Tuesday each month 9–11 am
at the Nature Center

Docent Training

Begins September 30–November
Contact Elayna@SanElijo.org

Guided Nature Walks

Every Saturday 10–11 am at the
Nature Center
Wildlife Walks—Explore new habitats
Second Saturday each month 9–11 am
July–September: Santa Helena Trail
October–December: Rios Avenue Trail
Family Fun Days—First Sunday of the
month, 11:30 am–1:30 pm at the
Nature Center
Sunday Strolls—Third Sunday of the
month, 3–4 pm at the Nature Center

Family Discovery Days

“Not So Scary Estuary”
October 18–19, 1–4 pm at the
Nature Center

Community Habitat Restoration

Volunteer Restoration Events
Third Saturday each month (no August
event), 9 am–Noon
July 19, September 20 (Coastal Cleanup
Day), October 18, November 15
RSVP@SanElijo.org/restoration-events

Stewards Restoration Workshops

Every Wednesday 9:30 am–Noon
Contact Platoon@sanelijo.org to join

San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Public Meetings

Tuesday, August 19, 6–7:30 pm
La Colonia Community Center
715 Valley Avenue, Solana Beach
Wednesday, August 27, 6–7:30 pm
Encinitas Community Center
1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas

Environmental Document is Readied for San Elijo Lagoon Restoration

Two public meetings will be held August 19 and 27

By Doug Gibson, Executive Director/Principal Scientist



The conservancy is pleased to announce the completion of the environmental document that will guide the full enhancement of the wetland portions of San Elijo Lagoon. This milestone is marked by the release of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the general public for comment.

These two reports are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and represent your opportunity to help us choose the alternative that's best for the lagoon and its wildlife. During the 60-day comment

period, it's important for the lagoon's stakeholders, neighbors, and supporters to remain engaged and active throughout the process.

The draft document is expected by late July. We have scheduled two public meetings: August 19 from 6–7:30 pm at La Colonia Community Center in Solana Beach, and August 27 from 6–7:30 pm at Encinitas Community Center. These meetings are designed to help you understand the different alternatives and how to best interpret the details involved in this large-scale project. Conservancy staff and directors are here to help you synthesize the technical information and understand what is being proposed.

A key concept to understand is the difference between the Proposed Project and the Preferred Alternative. *continued on page 4*



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President's Message

By Scott Griffiths, President

A few years ago it was time to remodel the garden at our Cardiff home and my wife, Eileen, suggested we ask our neighbor, Roland Martinez, for some advice. Up to that point Roland was known for his Hawaiian tropical designs on display annually at the Del Mar Fair, but now he is all about water wise Mediterranean climate and native California plants. In fact, he suggested we turn that hill of red apple and Bermuda grass into the Native Slope.

With some help from our mutual friend, former conservancy Board President Andy Mauro, we soon had a flourishing garden anchored by toyon, ceanothus and lemonade berry. Andy calls these evergreen chaparralians "bulletproof" selections for amateur gardeners. They require very little water, weeding or fertilizer, attract birds, butterflies and native critters, and they are beautiful all year round.

These pockets of home garden native plants become ever more important to our natural neighbors as the coastal sage and chaparral of coastal north San Diego County are replaced by an urban and suburban environment.

So if you have one of those unkempt slopes and would like to enjoy your garden more and fuss with it less, contribute to our natural community: Go Native! And if you want to jump start your understanding and skills, visit the folks at SELC's Lagoon Platoon, sanelijo.org/restoration-events, for a free lesson in the planting process. ❖



Scott Griffiths

INLET DREDGING



Throughout the year, incoming tides and surf create a buildup of sand at the mouth of the lagoon that mutes tidal circulation. In June, annual inlet dredging and dispersal relocated approximately 25,000 cubic yards of accumulated sand out of the lagoon and back onto Cardiff State Beach, reconnecting San Elijo Lagoon to the Pacific Ocean with significant ecological and recreational benefits.

Photo: SELC

A Growing Future — Native Plant Nursery at San Elijo Lagoon

By Nick Regoli, Associate Biologist

As the Habitat Management Program expands its capacity to restore native habitat in the reserve, we want to share our vision of establishing a native plant nursery. Our goal is to create a space where staff and community members come together to learn and propagate native plants, which will aid habitat restoration efforts throughout the reserve.

We envision staff and community volunteers working side by side in the building and operation of the native plant nursery. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy plans to leverage staff, contractors, and San Elijo Lagoon Platoon volunteers to collect seeds and cuttings of native plants in the reserve. Using appropriate collection techniques will ensure source plants continue to flourish. Regular workshops and planting parties will be held to connect the community and care for nursery plants. Our education department will provide opportunities to engage students and community members in hands-on demonstrations at the nursery, inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders. Once reaching a suitable size, young nursery plants will be installed in restoration sites around the reserve by Lagoon Platoon volunteers to reclaim habitat degraded by past land uses and invasive weeds.

We are thrilled to launch this endeavor to increase the capacity and



The Grauer School students learn to propagate lemonade berry for coastal sage scrub habitat restoration. Photo: SELC

sustainability of SELC's habitat restoration efforts. A reserve-based nursery will help to maintain genetic integrity of locally native plant populations, decrease our reliance on purchasing plants from outside nurseries, and reduce fuel consumption transporting plants. Working in our community-based nursery will encourage stewardship of the reserve and inspire neighbors to use native species in home gardens. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy staff is currently working to secure funding, acquire appropriate resources, and identify a suitable location for the future nursery. If you would like to support this project by supplying nursery equipment, expertise, or funding please contact Elaine Dodge at (760) 436-3944 x708. ❖

Steward of the Season — Jim Elliott

By Nick Regoli, Associate Biologist



Most Wednesdays, Jim Elliott can be found hard at work restoring native habitat with San Elijo's Lagoon Platoon. Pulling invasive weeds, planting native species, removing litter, and leading groups of volunteers are all important tasks Jim takes on as an outstanding Lagoon Platoon Steward. Over the past 18 months, Jim contributed more than 150 hours enhancing native habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. "I'm inspired and pleased at the extraordinary work Lagoon Platoon volunteers have accomplished to restore native habitat in the reserve," states Jim. "Getting the community involved in the control of invasive species is important for our local ecosystems." As a frequent visitor to the reserve Jim takes pride in the work he accomplishes alongside his fellow volunteers. "I love working with Jim because he brings a hard-working attitude

Jim Elliott

and isn't afraid to sweat a little to get things done," explains Resource Management Director David Varner. "Instead of hesitating, Jim dives right in."

For over four decades Jim has worked as a marine biologist on projects in Southern California, San Francisco Bay, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Seychelles. Currently he is conducting a study along the Encinitas coastline investigating the persistence of intertidal surf grass. In his free time he enjoys photography, woodworking, gardening, and exercising. Lagoon Platoon is fortunate to have such passionate and hard-working volunteers like Jim to protect and restore our beautiful reserve.



This document is written with Alternative 2A as the Proposed Project, which is the alternative with the biggest impact to the ecosystem. We identified this alternative as the Proposed Project so that the lesser-impact alternatives can be analyzed against it. Our ultimate goal is to determine whether an alternative with a smaller impact meets the enhancement objectives—the goals of this restoration.

When the 60-day comment period ends and we have reviewed and responded to all the

comments, the conservancy will select the Preferred Alternative for the Final EIR/EIS. The Preferred Alternative will be the project that will actually be constructed. As part of selecting the Preferred Alternative, we have guidance from the Army Corps of Engineers, the federal lead agency, in a formal review that will identify the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA). This process is designed to select the alternative that does the best at meeting our goals, while having the least impact to the existing environment.

SELC understands the importance of this project to the future of the lagoon's health. We rely on your involvement to ensure that this remains a community-based project. Your comments do matter, and we will ensure that they're addressed prior to selecting the final restoration plan.

When the document is released, you may review it online: SanElijo.org/Restoration. There, you can also review goals, FAQs, restoration alternatives maps, and more on this website. We look forward to seeing you in August. ❖

Lagoon Restoration Survey Highlights

In May we conducted an online survey to help us better plan the summer public meetings for San Elijo Lagoon Restoration. Of the 218 respondents, approximately 75% reside in the lagoon's coastal communities of Encinitas, Solana Beach and Cardiff-by-the-Sea, with other coastal/inland areas and out-of-state represented by the remaining 25%.

We learned that views and access to the lagoon are highly valued by all. Other consistent suggestions/comments include:

- Endangered species and trail creation/trail access are two topics respondents indicated as being of most interest.
- While many respondents prefer to receive news online, newspapers and magazines still rank high.

- We received more than 100 comments, suggestions of groups to reach, and emails for those who would like to stay in touch with restoration news.
- A majority of participants (60%) indicated they're likely to attend a public meeting.
- The top five topics of interest to learn about at public meetings include, in order: the restoration timeline, impacts on wildlife, construction impacts, the criteria used to select the best restoration option, and trail access.

There is much support for the conservancy's leadership and for restoring the lagoon's resources to benefit native plants, animals, and our quality of life. Your opinion matters as we develop the full presentation for summer and invite community participation. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

Plant This, Not That!

Heart-leaved kekiella / Cape honeysuckle

By Angeliqe Herman, Restoration Ecologist and David Varner, Resource Management Director



Heart-leaved kekiella (*Kekiella cordifolia*) Photo: Keir Morse



Cape honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis*) Photo: Luigi Rignanesi

Having trouble finding shade-tolerant, drought-resistant landscaping? Consider heart-leaved kekiella (*Kekiella cordifolia*), a coastal California native. Like other native plant species, heart-leaved kekiella is adapted to natural rainfall patterns in San Diego County, so once established does not require additional irrigation. Its evergreen, heart-shaped leaves and striking bunches of deep-red tubular flowers make it an attractive option for home landscaping that also lures hummingbirds and Chaldean checkerspot butterflies (*Euphydryas chalcedona*). Like other native plants, when you plant heart-leaved kekiella you are creating a little piece of habitat for native fauna and conserving water. Plant it near a fence-line or trellis to create a climbing effect.

Cape honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis*) has a very similar growth form to heart-leaved kekiella but is native to South Africa. It is known to escape garden plantings and dominate natural areas in Southern California, Hawaii, and Florida. Though it is not (yet) classified as an invasive species by some U.S. organizations, other countries including New Zealand and Australia have invasive species management plans for Cape honeysuckle. Like other non-native species, Cape honeysuckle has limited ecological value since it did not evolve alongside the local flora and fauna. Without active management, Cape honeysuckle takes over hillsides in the reserve, choking out native vegetation and degrading habitat. Help keep the Cape honeysuckle from taking over native vegetation in Southern California and plant heart-leaved kekiella instead!

Docents in the Spotlight—Norma and Steve Chodos

By Tara Fuad, Education Director

Shortly after moving from Brentwood, near Los Angeles, to San Diego in 2010 to be closer to their kids and grandkids, Norma and Steve Chodos signed up to become docents. With a recently purchased home overlooking the lagoon near the Santa Carina trailhead, they were curious to learn more about what was happening in their “backyard.” Norma, a retired English teacher, and Steve, a retired physicist, admit they knew little about the outdoors prior to becoming docents. “We’ve made a lot of progress in four years,” notes Norma. “Now Steve and I keep a pair of binoculars at our kitchen table and we can easily identify many of the plants and birds in the lagoon.” Norma adds, “If something is meaningful to you, it makes it much easier to learn, and Steve and I really enjoy knowing what is all around us.”



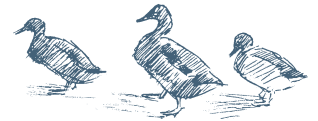
Steve and Norma Chodos

Avid runners, Steve and Norma run in the lagoon regularly and have completed multiple marathons; they continue to clock upwards of 30 miles per week. “Running is so good for the body and mind,” notes Norma. “Your problems fade away, and you can come up with some really fantastic ideas. It helped me a lot when I was teaching.” Rarely seen apart, Norma and Steve tend to take up each other’s interests, whether they are running, skiing, or becoming docents. They do part ways on occasion when Steve volunteers with the Encinitas Division of the San

Diego Sheriff’s Department, while Norma volunteers with the North Coast Hospice Retail Shop. They are also seasoned travelers and have been to every continent except Antarctica. An inspiring, active, and kind couple, the conservancy is fortunate that the Chodos’ purchased a house overlooking the lagoon!

High School Students Inspired to Keep Escondido Creek Litter-Free

By Tara Fuad, Education Director



During a stroll on campus for a water lab, biology students at Escondido High noticed that a creek bordered their schoolyard, and that the creek was adjacent to the school’s handball court, where students leave an inordinate amount of trash, some of which was making its way to the creek. After returning to the classroom, they learned that the creek is the Escondido Creek, and that it winds its way

“Habitat loss is the one true enemy of our animal friends.”

Ismael Murillo

to San Elijo Lagoon and the ocean. “This discovery took place in September 2013, and from that point on, the students became fixated on keeping the creek trash-free,” noted Natalie Vargas, the students’ teacher. Natalie added, “The students were immediately excited about their discovery because they had made the initial connection themselves, and what started as a simple observation turned into a year-long project.”

One thing led to another, and Vargas secured a grant that covered transportation to the lagoon. “The field trip was definitely one of the highlights of the year,” noted Vargas, “and the students never stopped

“We realize our actions here in Escondido affect so much beyond our immediate surroundings and I’m astonished by our impact.”

Chelsea Carter

talking about it.” Upon returning to campus, the students experimented with ways in which they could get their peers to stop littering. Not surprisingly, they learned that having a discussion with their peers about not littering was much more effective than *continued on page 6*



Students from Escondido High School visit the lagoon after discovering its connection to Escondido. Photo: SELC

Continued from page 5, High School Students

getting angry with them. But all of their techniques, which included offering a treat when they spotted a

“If we don’t keep our campus clean, we are literally polluting the lagoon.”

Jose Rodriguez

student picking up someone else’s trash, did not immediately result in a clean campus.

While some students became frustrated, it also forced them to

explore and discuss what kinds of techniques would inspire behavioral change in the long run. As the school year came to an end, the students knew that they had made a difference, and also realized that behavioral change would take time...but there is always next year!

Welcome Angelique Herman

We welcome Angelique Herman who recently joined the conservancy staff. As restoration ecologist, she works on the Invasive Vegetation Control Program in the reserve and Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit. After obtaining a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from Virginia Tech, Angelique re-located to California in 2010. She is a botanist and International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist. Her background is in habitat restoration, rare plant surveys, and environmental compliance consultation. She has experience assisting ornithologists with avian point count and nesting bird surveys, herpetofauna monitoring, as well as banding passerines and assessing small mammals, including Stephens’ kangaroo rat and Mohave ground squirrel. She is an active member of California Native Plant Society, San Diego Audubon Society, Society of Wetland Scientists, and California Society for Ecological Restoration. Angelique also enjoys heirloom gardening, traveling abroad, and spending time at the ocean and mountains.



Angelique Herman

Ways of Giving

Planned Giving

Ten Things You Can Do Now To Leave a Legacy

- Make a will! Almost half the people in the U.S. die without one, thus missing one of the best and easiest ways to leave a legacy. If you die with no will, state law determines how your assets are distributed and your favorite charity will receive nothing from you.
- Having written your will (with appropriate legal advice), be sure to include a paragraph which describes each bequest (a specific gift) to a family member or friend or to your favorite charity.
- As an addition to having a will, you may set up a living trust (with a lawyer’s help and advice) in which you can list specific gifts from your estate to the charitable organizations you wish to benefit.
- Your estate consists of all your property and possessions at the time of your death. You may leave any possession to a charity such as securities, jewelry, art, a vehicle, boat, home or real estate.
- You can donate an existing (or new) life insurance policy by making the charity you select the policy’s owner or beneficiary.

- You can leave a legacy by establishing a permanent endowment fund with SELC. Its future income will go to meet a specific need or provide for the programs you have designated in advance.
- You can donate funds now to pay for a building, improvement or other major capital need to serve SELC far into the future.
- You can establish a “planned gift” with SELC which gives you (and another person if you wish) lifetime income and an immediate tax deduction, and the gift will benefit SELC when you (both) die.
- You may name SELC as beneficiary of your IRA or other pension account and receive a number of favorable tax benefits.
- You can leave a legacy by encouraging family and friends to make their own wills and include bequests to their favorite charities.

To request a brochure or become a legacy donor, please contact Elaine Dodge, Development Director at (760) 436-3944 x 708 or elaine@saneliyo.org.



Welcome New Legacy Circle Members:

Bob & Lois Chaddock
Margaret Griffith



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Foundation for World Health Pledges a Major Gift for Gateway Park

By Lydia Cobb, Communications

The Anthony Cerami & Ann Dunne Foundation for World Health has recently pledged a \$300,000 gift toward *The Campaign for Gateway Park*. “These spaces, once developed, are gone forever,” shared Ann Dunne. “We feel honored to be able to help preserve our local natural beauty for all to enjoy.”

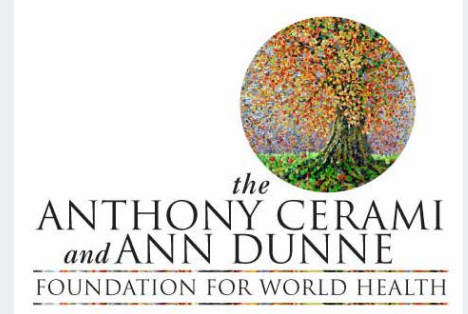
She and her daughter Sage (who’s now in college) walked daily through the lagoon trails to Skyline Elementary. “We enjoyed the cries of the seabirds, watching great blue herons hunting, the beautiful patterns the tides made in the lagoon. And most of all, the quiet and clean air scented with sage,” she added.

The Anthony Cerami & Ann Dunne Foundation supports solutions that help

to create a healthier world, with a focus in medical research, education and care. The Foundation’s \$300,000 gift pledge sponsors a variety of native sages that will be planted at Gateway. These planted sages are an extension of the foundation’s work in early childhood health, called The Sage Garden Project. This project brings hands-on gardens, cooking classes, and nutritional science to elementary schools, with the pilot program at Ocean Knoll Elementary in Encinitas.

Ann Dunne was raised in San Diego with a wild canyon as her backyard. Ahead of her time, her mother planted an all-native garden. Anthony Cerami is from New York City, and they both feel that Central Park, a natural sanctuary, is its crowning feature.

“We hope that our last-in gift will inspire



others to help preserve this jewel of nature from development,” said Ann about Gateway Park. We are grateful for The Foundation for World Health’s support. For more information about the Foundation for World Health’s Sage Garden Project, please visit SageGardenProject.org.

Grants Received

Baumgartel DeBeer Family Fund

Coastal Community Foundation

Lauer Fund

John and Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation



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Membership Renewal

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



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!



Please Join Us!

We look forward to seeing you at the

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