



Nature Collective

CONNECT. EXPERIENCE. PROTECT.

Past Interns

Christina Agustin 2015 Water Quality

As a water quality intern, Christina continuously monitored water quality by conducting weekly water quality reports and assisted with monitoring stream gauge activity. Christina received a B.S. in environmental engineering from Cal Poly SLO and hopes to continue pursuing a career in water resources management and education.

Where are they now? Christina is currently working for the City of Escondido as a Water Utilities Education and Outreach Specialist.

Gabrielle Barsotti 2015 Habitat Management

Gabrielle received her BA in Environmental Studies from Hawaii Pacific University and has worked with several nonprofits on projects ranging from watershed restoration to environmental education and outreach.

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

Aaron Borhegyi 2015 Conservation Education

A Southern California native, Aaron always had a love for aquatic environments and was interested in learning about native fish species and their habitats. He

pursued his Associates of Science Degree with a focus on Environmental Sciences from MiraCosta College. As an intern he assisted Docent Naturalists with weekly school programs.

Where are they now? Pursuing his passion of downhill skateboarding and fishing.

Grant Thompson 2015 Conservation Education

Grant Thompson joined Nature Collective in the summer of 2015 as an Conservation Education Intern. With prior experience working with nature education programs in San Diego and Santa Cruz, during his internship he assisted with school programs by leading activities and helping develop and test new ideas.

Where is he now?

Grant is currently pursuing a masters in freshwater conservation ecology at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. Alongside his studies he is an English teacher for an international kindergarten in Tokyo.

Chase Clark 2016 Habitat Management

As an intern, Chase enjoyed watching his impact transform different areas around the lagoon, whether it is removing invasive species, working in the nursery, or processing seeds. He holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a Minor in Geography from Cal State San Marcos and hopes to continue helping maintain the natural beauty of San Elijo Lagoon.

Where is he now? Chase is now working very locally, for San Diego County of Parks and Recreation at San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve.

Alex Walsh 2016 Land Management

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Alex moved out to San Diego where he began an interest in restoration ecology while interning at the San Diego. During his internship, Alex enjoyed helping out Nature Collective through the land management program.

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.

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. He manages his own 4-acre organic farm and nursery in Fallbrook, and holds a certification in Nursery Management & Horticultural Crop Production. During his internship, Tony assisted with Lagoon Platoon event, restoration activity, and helped develop the new San Elijo Native Plant Nursery.

Where is he now?

Tony is the Director of Horticulture at the San Diego Botanic Garden where he has developed a new ex-situ native plant conservation program. He continues to collaborate with Nature Collective as well as other partners like San Diego county parks and rec and the California department of fish and wildlife.

Jeannette Lizarraga 2016 Habitat Management

Jeannette has lived in San Diego County her entire life. While interning at Nature Collective she learned the fundamentals of a non-profit organization and the importance of restoration, preservation, and education of our fragile coastal wetlands.

Where is she now? Jeannette graduated with an AA in Math & Sciences from UC Davis.

Weston Manor 2016 Water Quality

Weston is a Carlsbad native that 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.

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

Throughout 2016, Henry volunteered with Nature Collective and learned about the conservation of Annie's Canyon Trail through new trail cameras. Henry is inspired by places of natural beauty, like the lagoon, and hopes to be a representative of the youth generations environmental consciousness. Upon completion of high school he aspired to pursue environmental studies in college.

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.

Cheryl Patel 2016 Conservation Education

Cheryl started volunteering with Nature Collective as an Environmental Education Intern in the winter of 2016. She hoped to pass on her love for nature and effectively teach the importance of environmental stewardship to young students.

Erin Stone 2016 Conservation Education

Erin began interning with Nature Collective during the summer of 2014, and returned in 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 passed along her love and care for the environment through her work as an educator for Nature Collective.

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.

Cameron Clay 2017 Habitat Restoration

Cameron joined Nature Collective in August of 2017. He was a recent graduate of UC Davis with a degree in Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity, and has volunteered with Nature Collective and other local non-profits in the past. With his experience in waterway cleanups and invasive plant removal projects, Cameron was able to help out the habitat restoration team.

Where is he now?

Cameron is pursuing a masters program in Biology at Virginia Commonwealth University. During this program he will be working on a long term NSF funded project looking at the effects of disturbance on forest ecosystem nutrient cycling.

Andrea Cornelius 2017 Annie's Canon Trail | Conservation Education

Andrea is a San Diego Native who holds a BA in Environmental Studies from CSU San Marcos and loves the local oceans and lagoons. During her internship, Andrea monitored Annie's Canyon trail and learned about the San Elijo ecosystem and how to protect it.

Jacqueline Creedon 2017 | Water Quality

Jacqueline, who goes by Jackie, was a water quality intern for Nature Collective back in 2017. She graduated from Arizona State University and Loyola Marymount University in Civil Engineering and Business Administration, and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering emphasizing in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering through Villanova University.

Cassie Jordan 2017 Land Stewardship

Cassie was a land stewardship intern for the Summer of 2017. She has a great love for the outdoors and enjoys learning how to protect the beautiful world we live in. During her internship she assisted with monitoring various properties through photo monitoring and invasive species documentation.

Amanda Leu 2017 Habitat Restoration

During her internship, Amanda worked with the Lagoon Platoon and Habitat Restoration team. Studying Marine Biology at the University of California, San

Diego, Amanda has an interest and passion in ocean ecology and its interaction with other environmental systems.

Danielle Mingo 2017 Avian

A lover of the natural world, Danielle's favorite places are the mountains and the sea. As an Avian intern, she was 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.

Izzy Santarsieri 2017 Conservation Education

Izzy holds a degree in Wildlife and Fish Conservation from UC Davis, where 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 hoped to pursue a masters in primate biology, behavior and conservation.

Where is she now? Izzy now works for Nature Collective as our Wildlife Conservation Biologist.

Domenique Buchanan 2018 Conservation Education

Domenique graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Social Science with an environmental Emphasis. While teaching English in Inner Mongolia, China, she set up a school recycling program, which combined her love of teaching with her passion for the environment. Domenique taught her students the benefits of recycling and not wasting food, energy, and water.

Gianni Denson 2016-2019 Trail Monitoring

Gianni graduated from San Dieguito Academy, and continue to pursue his goals in a science career. During his internship he assisted with water quality and fish monitoring, while gaining hands-on trail monitoring experience.

Elizabeth Hazard 2019 Trail Monitoring

Elizabeth is currently a senior at San Dieguito High School Academy. Her interest in California native plants has led her to be the president and founder of the California Native Plan club, a docent for the San Diego Pollinator Alliance, and a reoccurring volunteer with Nature Collective.

Aidan Littman 2019 Trail Monitoring

During his internship, Aidan took part in habitat restoration activities such as invasive plant removal and trail management. He attended San Dieguito High Academy.

Kristina McCowin 2019 Geographic Information Systems

Kristina graduated from San Diego State University with a bachelors in Biology and San Diego Mesa College with an associates in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Her passion for conservation has led her to pursue discovering how her knowledge of GIS programs and technology can be applied to the environmental science field.

Koby Nguyen 2019 Water Quality

Koby is a Bay Area native who attended the University of California, San Diego, receiving a degree in Environmental Systems/Ecology, Behavior & Evolution. Prior to his internship he gained field work experience interning at NOAA Fisheries in Santa Cruz. Koby enjoyed working in the field and is grateful for the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience through the water quality internship program.

Where is he now? Koby is a Stormwater Management Intern at the City of San Diego

Issac Vallejo 2019 Integrated Internship: Habitat Restoration | Water quality | Land stewardship

Issac obtained is Master's degree from California State University, San Marcos, where he studied Biological Sciences. During his internship he was on the ground

with Nature Collective mentors who led him in best practices in conducting community habitat restoration, water quality, and land management.

Where is he now? Issac is a Research Assistant at California State University San Marcos.

Linden Amundsen 2019-2020 Integrated Internship: Habitat Restoration | Water quality | Land stewardship| Volunteer | Trails

Linden holds a BS in Environmental Studies from Soka University of America, in California. While pursuing her degree she carried out research on preserving wildlands and acted as Communications Chair of Climate Reality Corps Campus Chapter. During her Integrated Internship Linden learned best practices in conducting community habitat restoration, water quality, land and trail management, and volunteer outreach.

Emerson Peluso 2020 Trail Monitoring

Emerson graduated with a bachelors in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography from California State University San Marcos University. During his internship he took part in habitat restoration activities such as invasive plant removal and trail management.

Hannah Bigelbach 2020 Education Internship

Hannah obtained her bachelors in Kinesiology from California State University San Marcos. During her internship shed enjoyed helping students of all ages experience nature by assisting with our education programs.

Max Gibson 2020 Data Science Internship

Max became familiar with using computational skills to analyze data from Nature Collective field studies, during his Data Science Internship.

Garret Bishop 2020 Water Quality Internship

Garret enjoyed working in the field and is grateful for the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience through the water quality internship program.

Amy Arsenault 2019-2020 Integrated Internship: Education | Trails | Volunteer

Amy obtained a bachelors in Anthropology from California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), where she focused on California's native plants and people. This research assisted her in helping design and install the native plant habitat in CSUSM Community Ethnobotany garden. During her internship she assisted with our education programs, as well as learned best practices in trail management and volunteer outreach.