



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

Second Tuesday each month,
 10 am–Noon, at the Nature Center
 Contact docents@SanElijo.org

Free 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

Volunteer Work Parties

Third Saturday each month,
 9 am–11 am
 Contact Geoffrey Smith
 (760) 436-3944 or
 workparties@SanElijo.org for location
 and signups

LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, December 5

9 am–Noon
 “Climate Change, Lagoon Ecosystems”
 by Doug Gibson, Conservancy
 Executive Director/Principal Scientist
 Part of 3rd Annual Torrey Pines
 Association Symposium, “Los
 Peñasquitos Lagoon: From Waters
 to Wildlife”

Sumner Auditorium, Scripps Institution
 of Oceanography. **FREE**

Friday, January 29

1 pm
 “Wintering Birds at San Elijo Lagoon—
 Who, Why, When?” by Andy Mauro,
 Conservancy Board Member
 (Offered through LIFE, Learning is for
 Everyone, program)

MiraCosta College, San Elijo Campus.

FREE

San Elijo Lagoon Day 2010

Saturday, May 15. Save the date!



Restoration Progress Report

By Doug Gibson, Executive Director/Principal Scientist

I am pleased to report that funding has been secured from the Coastal Conservancy and SANDAG to complete the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and permitting applications that are necessary prerequisites to the restoration work that is called for in our strategic plan. This represents a significant milestone towards the full restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon.

As far back as 23 years ago, a plan existed for the restoration of the Lagoon’s ecological systems.

The San Elijo Reserve Enhancement Plan served as the original baseline, recording the then-current condition of the Lagoon and laying out a plan for what needed to be done. But there was no funding for the EIR—a legal prerequisite for all large scale projects with potential environmental consequences. When I came to the Conservancy in 1996, Dr. Alan Thum and I began to create small, discrete proactive habitat management projects in the San Elijo Lagoon. The end result was the San Elijo Lagoon Action Plan - 1998, which was further refined in San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy’s 2000 Escondido Creek Watershed Restoration Action Strategy that provided for restoration of the entire watershed. *See Restoration on page 6*



Aerial view of the lagoon, ca. 2001. Photo: Bill Wechter

Barbara Moore and Bob Chaddock Recognized



The accomplishments of two outstanding individuals were recognized at the *Birds of a Feather* Gala on September 26. Long-time Conservancy members Barbara Moore and Bob Chaddock have made extraordinary contributions of their time and talent to the Conservancy’s environmental education program. We honor their achievements and are grateful for their commitment.

See Barbara and Bob on page 3

Barbara Moore, recipient of the Conservancy’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and Bob Chaddock, Docent of the Year for 2009. Photo: Janine Free

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Vice-President's Message

By Celesd F. Willoughby, Board Vice-President

This time of year always lends itself to reflection and anticipation. Perhaps it has to do with the many reasons for celebration and communion the end of a year may bring as well as the hope that emerges from the promise of a new beginning.

2009 began with the Conservancy recognizing that true and lasting success in protecting the Lagoon and Reserve is dependent upon our building solid connections to the land and to each other. With this in mind, we set out to help people discover or rediscover why and for whom we are protecting this land. We touched more people than ever before through our environmental education program, our dedicated docents, the new Nature Center, the use of social media and through every-day conversations. We also started reaching out to groups and organizations outside our normal scope and found our message received with both interest and respect. We sent out an invitation to expand our community and you responded with open minds and willing hands.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy has accomplished so much in this unlikely, difficult year. Little of it would have happened without YOU. New members, renewed members, volunteers, corporate partners, civil servants, children, adults and so many, many more – all walking and working together on the common ground of environmental consciousness and responsibility.

Thank you. Thank you for embracing the “Whole Communities” approach. And thank you for getting involved so that current and future generations alike will know the richness of this treasure and feel compelled—as we all do—to safeguard its existence. ❖



FEATURED PHOTO



‘Egret Frenzy’ by Elizabeth Venrick, taken April 3, 2009. This photo captures the complexity and vitality of the Lagoon, with diverse habitats, and a community of inhabitants.

The Conservancy's web site features images taken by community members throughout the reserve. You can submit images for consideration to photos@SanElijo.org.

Coastal Cleanup Day

On September 19, more than 130 volunteers descended upon MiraCosta College to participate in Coastal Cleanup Day. Two hours later, the numbers told the story:

- 400 pounds of trash collected over two linear miles of roadway and beach
- 12,803 cigarette butts
- 1,208 food wrappers
- 403 paper bags, and much, much more!

See a complete list, and more photos, in the October 3 edition of Lagoon News, posted on the Conservancy website. Photos: Geoffrey Smith

1. 400 pounds of trash filled the dumpster to the top!
2. Plenty of trash discarded by motorists on Manchester Ave.
3. The family that picks up trash together stays together! The Kennedys: Bob, Nolan, Amanda, Sheri
4. Sally, a local high school student, tallied every item of trash collected by her team. It's fun!



Barbara and Bob continued from Page 1

Barbara's involvement with San Elijo Lagoon began many years ago when she joined the San Elijo Alliance, the first group to promote the preservation of the Lagoon. Since the formation of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, she has served on the Board of Directors for almost fifteen years.

During this time, Barbara created the docent program, personally training more than 200 docents, and initiated the Second Saturday Walks. She has volunteered countless weekdays and weekends on the trails sharing her vast knowledge of the natural world with local school children, community members and out-of-town visitors.

Professionally, Barbara was Director of Programs for the Chula Vista Nature Center for twenty years. Additionally, she has taught natural history classes for San Dieguito Adult School, co-authored "Walking San Diego" (The Mountaineers Books, 1989) with Lonnie Hewitt, and led numerous birding trips for San Diego Audubon.

For these accomplishments, Barbara was named the first recipient of the Conservancy's **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Congratulations, Barbara!

When Bob Chaddock retired from his career as an engineer, he knew he wanted to spend more time outdoors. In addition to being an active community member and avid cyclist, Bob decided to become a docent for San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, graduating from docent training in 2001. Since then he has concentrated his efforts leading walks for high school and college students and other community groups. Bob also enjoys sharing his knowledge and expertise as a consistent leader of the popular Second Saturday Walks and as a regular participant in the monthly Bird Counts.

Bob is a tremendous asset to both the Conservancy's environmental education program and to our community. We sincerely appreciate his commitment, dependability and leadership.

Congratulations, Bob, on being named **Docent of the Year** for 2009!

Qualcomm Global Volunteer Week

By Doug Gibson



Qualcomm recently launched a new program called Global Volunteer Week designed to "expose their employees to the rewards of volunteerism, inspire continued community involvement and foster leadership, teambuilding, and morale." October 30th was Qualcomm Volunteer Day at San Elijo Lagoon. Led by Conservancy Board Member and Qualcomm Team Captain Steve Fitch, 25 volunteers from Qualcomm turned out at the old sewage treatment site. Four hours and four hundred holes later, the Qualcomm volunteers had also planted as many native plants. Not only did the employees donate their time and effort, Qualcomm donated \$5,000 towards the purchase of the plants, as well as gloves and shovels for the volunteers. If you haven't seen it recently, check out the old sewage treatment site west of the Rios Avenue trailhead and then north along the Pole Road. It looks great! ❖



Doug Gibson greeted the Qualcomm employees as they planted hundreds of native plants. Photo: Steve Fitch

Congratulations to Docents of the Quarter Kathy Dickey and Barbara Wallach

By Tara Fuad, Education Director

After retiring from a successful career as a Clinical Microbiologist and Research Scientist with Gen-Probe Inc. in 2005, **Kathy Dickey** turned her attention to pursuing her longtime interest in the archaeology and natural history of the San Diego region. She took courses at Palomar Community College, began volunteering at the Archaeological Center, and became a docent at Torrey Pines, Batiquitos Lagoon, and San Elijo Lagoon. In 2008, Kathy played a significant role in helping put together the Docent Manual and participated in the docent training as a trainer. She will be returning as a trainer this year teaching the archaeology and Kumeyaay sessions. “I really enjoy turning the kids on to nature—and it’s especially rewarding when they express enthusiasm for the Lagoon and their experiences during the field trip,” noted Kathy. After shadowing Kathy on a recent walk, new docent Kaveh Barjesteh said he was humbled and inspired by Kathy’s depth of knowledge. “Her ability to seamlessly talk about the flora and fauna of the Lagoon is something to aspire to,” noted Kaveh, “I hope to reach that level some day.” When not volunteering at one of many organizations, Kathy enjoys traveling and has visited Australia, New Zealand, Alaska and Yosemite in the past year. She also enjoys peaceful weekends away at her cabin in Idyllwild.

A relatively new kid on the block, **Barbara Wallach** literally dove into Docent Training in 2008 with much to offer and little need to



Kathy Dickey on a July 2009 trip to Juneau, Alaska, with binoculars at the ready. Photo: Lisa Franovich

learn. Having run the children’s program at Torrey Pines for over ten years, Barbara seemed to know every trick in the book to keep kids engaged and interested in a nature walk. She is always willing to share her years of knowledge with others, whether it’s describing the life cycle of the green lynx spider or explaining how the Kumeyaay lived off the many resources found in and around the Lagoon. Barbara has many fond memories of the literally thousands of children she has led on walks, but one thank you note particularly struck a chord. A fifth grader wrote “Thank you for teaching me so many things about nature because I can’t get anyone at home to talk about these things.” “As docents, I know we make a difference in the lives of young children,” said Barbara, “many of whom do not have the same opportunities we had to spend time in nature.” A former elementary school teacher turned volunteer extraordinaire, Barbara was honored with the Southern California Volunteer of the Year Award by the California League of Parks Association in 1998. When not leading walks, Barbara enjoys hiking, gardening, photography, tennis, and behaving a little like our local packrat—collecting interesting objects.

The Conservancy would like to thank Kathy and Barbara for their time and expertise, and for inspiring and serving as mentors to new docents. ❖



Barbara Wallach (left) showing docents Carol Rayes (center) and Bryan Jacobson a Green Lynx spider guarding her egg sac on a Goldenbush in October 2009.

Photo: Tara Fuad

e-COMMUNICATIONS

The Conservancy is leading the way with new e-media technologies. The next time you take a break from hiking or bird watching in the Lagoon, look for these changes on-line:

Lagoon News e-update, our popular monthly email message, is changing to twice-monthly publication, thereby assuring that you have the most up-to-date information on events, news, and general goings on delivered directly to your inbox. Back-issues of *Lagoon News* are now archived at www.sanelijo.org. Subscribe today!



Our Facebook page is looking for fans! Find us at www.facebook.com/sanelijo. This ‘viral networking’ technology is revolutionizing the way we communicate!

Our popular **Featured Photo** contest has had a facelift. Photos are now hosted through the popular Google Picasa system. See the sights from the link on our home page.

Feathered Friends of the Lagoon

By Tara Fuad

If you like birds, winter is a great time to visit the Lagoon. Many birds come from cold weather in far away places like Alaska and Canada. They're seeking mild temperatures and lots of food. These "winter" guests join the year round "resident" birds, adding to the diversity of shorebirds and ducks you'll see in the Lagoon.

Make sure to get out this winter. Our feathered winter guests will head back north in spring to breed, nest, and raise their young. You'll have to wait an entire year before they return!

Become a bird expert

Play the matching game using the hints provided. When you have time, head out to the Lagoon and see if you can identify the field tips!



Draw a line connecting the hint with the bird

My long upturned tail sets me apart from other ducks+

Field tip = males have white breast, and longer tails



I am all white, elegant, and beautiful with a long "S" shaped neck*

Field tip = yellow bill



I am a large shorebird and have a long slightly upturned bill+

Field tip = black legs



I am a medium sized shorebird with a straight bill+

Field tip = fast up and down sewing-machine-like eating style



*Year round resident +winter guests

Docent Training

22 students enrolled in the Docent Training course, which kicked off on October 6 under the guidance of Tara Fuad, Education Director. Already 'shadowing' other docents, these students will soon be conducting interpretive walks of their own around the Lagoon. We thank them for their commitment!

Photos: Geoffrey Smith

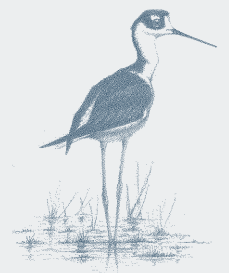
1. Maryanne Bache, former Conservancy Education and Outreach Director, imparted her extensive knowledge of the avian community.



2. Noted entomologist, Mike Klein, delivered a captivating talk on insects—or were they bugs?



3. Barbara Wallach led a fascinating ethno-botany walk on the south side of the Lagoon.



In 2001, the City of Encinitas hired consultants to test and analyze components of the restoration project, but again we couldn't move forward on the required EIR absent necessary funding. In 2002, the federal government got involved in the restoration idea, charging the Army Corps of Engineers to research and fill in the gaps from all the past studies. A baseline biology document was created, as were potential alternatives and extensive modeling, but again there was no funding to go forward, thereby stalling the project.

In 2008, the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy was selected from among the three managing Reserve partners (the County of San Diego and the California Dept. of Fish and Game are the other two) to oversee the EIR and the grant from which the EIR will be funded. These three partners will be collaborating with the other stakeholder groups

including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Caltrans, North County Transit District, the Cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

As fall of 2009 gets underway, we have contracted with engineering firm Moffatt and Nichol and environmental design consultants EDAW to finish the EIR for the project. Over the next 36 months I will be updating you on our progress and soliciting you for your comments. We will have many community meetings that I hope you can attend. And please be looking for our new San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project website, which will be up and running in early 2010. ❖

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

“Birds of a Feather” Flock to Support Lagoon

By Lynne Friedmann

Some 250 guests attended the *Birds of a Feather* Gala on September 26 on the magnificent grounds of the 10-acre Clear Spring Farm in Rancho Santa Fe, owned by Elizabeth Keadle. In a nod to the equestrian property, the botanical-themed table centerpieces featured mini blue ribbons. Cuisine was provided by Ki's Restaurant & Catering. The contemporary jazz ensemble **Endangered Speciez Project** provided musical entertainment throughout the evening.

Proceeds from ticket sales, silent and live auctions, Fund A Need donations, sponsorships and underwriting will benefit the Conservancy's environmental education program that annually provides docent-led tours of the Lagoon to thousands of school children and adults.



Master of Ceremonies Loren Nancarrow and Host Elizabeth Keadle. Photo: Janine Free

Newest Legacy Circle Member

We're honored to welcome Conservancy board member and docent educator Elizabeth Venrick, Ph.D. to our Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle members are those donors who have included the Conservancy in their estate plan. Other Legacy Circle members include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Elaine Dodge & Martin Staubus | M. Alberta Kruger Declaration of Trust (realized) |
| Lynne & Marc Friedmann | Andy & Kathleen Mauro |
| Doug & Lauren Gibson | Brys & Rita Myers |
| Bill Gish | Craig & Jeanne Olson |
| Tom & Donna Golich | Mariette Pinchart |
| Rev. Bill & Patti Harman | Janet Placido |
| Tom Heywood & Stephanie Wilde | Dave & Denise Stillinger |
| Robert Jensen & Erin Thomas | Marjorie Waldroop |
| Mayme Kline | Ret. Col. Harold Wright (deceased) |
| Peter & Marge Kohl | Art & Sandy Yayanos |
| James Lauer | |

Excerpt of an article published Oct. 2, 2009 in the *Solana Beach Sun*. Used with permission. © 2009 MainStreet Media Group.

Grants Received

Funding for our proposal “Our Living Watershed: Teaching Scientific Literacy in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve” has been generously provided by:



Qualcomm Corporate Giving Program—Educated Communities



Sempra Energy Foundation—Environmental Champions

Ways of Giving



Dine at Ki's and Help the Conservancy

By Elaine Dodge, Development Director

Ki Holcomb and her family are well-known in our community for serving tasty meals made with locally grown organic produce. But not everyone knows their story. It began in 1980, when Ki and her son Barry opened a juice bar, organic produce and vitamin shop on Birmingham Avenue in Cardiff. At first using only a hot plate, Ki began making her now famous veggie stew. "Word got out that Ki was an amazing cook" says granddaughter Nikki Holcomb, "and pretty soon there was a line out the door and around the corner."



Nikki Holcomb of Ki's.

By 1994, Ki's had outgrown its Birmingham location and the family business had grown too. The restaurant was moved to its present location on Highway 101, where they continue to serve tasty, fresh, organic and nutritious fare. "Barry and his wife, Lorraine, are now co-owners, sister-in-law Kris manages the corporate catering and school lunch program, and Nikki—Kris and Tim Holcomb's daughter—is the dinner manager and takes care of all their event catering.

Ki's Restaurant has spectacular views of San Elijo Lagoon on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. Everyone at Ki's values the beautiful, natural setting afforded by the Lagoon—employees often take walks along the Reserve trails. We hope you'll support Ki's, and in doing so support the Conservancy, by taking advantage of the coupon found on the back of this issue of *Lagoon Tidings*.

Matching Endowment Gift Challenge

Ilse Epprecht and Frances Hamilton White are this year's sponsors of our matching endowment gift challenge. An 'endowment' is a fund from which only the earned interest is used for the intended purpose; the principal cannot be used. Ilse and Frances have each agreed to donate \$10,000 for a matching gift challenge of \$20,000. If we raise \$20,000 for the operating endowment, Ilse and Frances will match with their \$20,000 gift. To date we've raised \$13,000. Please help us raise the additional \$7,000 so we can respond to their generous matching gift challenge. Remember all endowment donations are held for us in perpetuity at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation and The San Diego Foundation. To donate to the Matching Endowment Gift Challenge, please use the remittance envelope attached to this newsletter, and specify that the donation is for the endowment. All donations are gratefully appreciated.

FALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Many of you recently received your fall membership renewal letter in the mail. As a member, you know what a special—and important—role the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve plays in our local and global environment. With over 700 plant and animal species right here in the Reserve, it's a major contributor to making our region one of the top 25 biodiversity hotspots worldwide.



The support you provide by renewing your membership makes it possible for us to:

- Remove invasive plants that out-compete our native flora and cause millions of dollars of riparian damage.
- Weigh in on proposed new construction projects, lessening their density.
- Acquire adjoining properties or easements for preservation in the Reserve.
- Keep the Lagoon's inlet open. Winter storms necessitate annual dredging.

We can't do this essential work without your membership support. In this time of economic uncertainty, your membership means more than ever before to the continued existence of the plants and animals in the Reserve.

Please renew today!



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed

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Simply send an email to newsletter@SanElijo.org with 'Subscribe' in the subject line and your mailing address in the message. You will then receive all future editions of *Lagoon Tidings* paperless delivered directly to your inbox, *wherever you are!*

Thanks for helping save paper!



KI'S

RESTAURANT

is working with



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed

to raise money for the Lagoon!

Come to *Ki's* any time between Nov 20 and Nov 30
(excluding Thanksgiving Day) with this coupon
and *Ki's* will give 20% of the sales
(regularly priced items only)
to the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

This offer is good upstairs only after 4:30 and
may not be combined with any other discounts.