

The Watermark



Saving Our Birds

by Nikki Weaver

(This is the first in a series of Watermark articles focusing on the efforts over the past 150 years to preserve the world's bird population.)

The worldwide celebration of International Migratory Bird month takes place each May. This year the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation participated in the global festivities by hosting its 1st Annual Migratory Bird Day on Saturday May 9th. Over 250 children and adults participated in the event which highlighted the debut of the Discovery Center's latest exhibition – "The Birds of Agua Hedionda Lagoon." This beautiful display includes photos of 30 different migratory birds visiting our lagoon – all taken by AHLF Board member and amateur wildlife photographer Bill Kloetzer.

The International Migratory Bird Festival is the latest of many organized efforts held over the past 150 years to enhance public awareness of the plight of many of the world's declining bird species. The National Audubon Society was formed in 1886 when plume hunters were decimating North American bird populations in the interest of fashion. During that era, it was common for ladies to trim their hats and clothing with birds' exotic feathers. In fact, even entire bodies of birds including bluebirds, woodpeckers, orioles, blue jays, terns, owls and incredibly even some small mammals were used to "decorate" women's hats, proving just how bizarre women's fashion can become! The Audubon Society's founder, George Bird Grinnell, was not your typical animal activist. He published "Forest and Stream" a hunting and fishing journal and was himself a big-game hunter. But the senseless, unmitigated slaughter of birds for their feathers disturbed even the most avid of hunters. Grinnell was able to attract thousands of followers which led to

Continued on page 4



The rise of the bird preservation movement at the end of the 19th century was in response to the slaughter of birds to adorn women's hats and clothing.

Chair's Message

Members:

The Fuel of our Foundation

As a non-profit organization, the Foundation's Board of Directors and members participate in a volunteer capacity. We are all involved because of an unshakable connection to the lagoon and related coastal resources. Membership can take two basic forms: one is a passive mode of membership, where your dues and membership add to overall volume of our resource base to take care of the lagoon.

The other form of membership is a more active mode: volunteering, promoting our mission, participating in events, generating income or funding, trail teams, etc. We want to develop opportunities for more active membership and the way we can do that is through the Foundation's committees.

Volunteer opportunities truly do abound if you ask us or seek them out. But our committee work is another avenue for participation in a very meaningful way. Per our by-laws, we have four committees: Board Governance, Budget/Finance, Programs and Development.

Continued on page 2

Chair's Message

Continued from page 1

We have Board members that chair each committee and we are inviting the members of the Foundation to indicate interest in serving on a committee. You can do this by phoning the Discovery Center and asking for contact information for the committee you may be interested in. The idea is to spread the work of the Foundation beyond the Board of Directors and our capable staff. With more involvement by more of our membership, our efforts should attain more efficiency and relevancy within more of the community.

When joining the lagoon foundation, a new member is sending out a signal that they care about the lagoon and its future. The leadership of our Foundation is now trying to respond to the signals of support that all of you are giving us via your membership.

Participation on Foundation committees is a tangible way to actualize that signal of support and concern for our lagoon. Please consider how you can be the best member you can be: whatever your skills, social and professional networks, experiences, funding sources,

volunteer preferences, or committee interests may be, the lagoon will be better with your active participation.

Finally, with more membership involvement, the membership base will grow because more community engagement will accelerate our coastal stewardship focus. A sustainable lagoon organization like ours can only succeed if we properly tap our membership to serve as fuel for the foundation.

*Eric Munoz
AHLF Chair
June 2009*

The California Marine Life Protection Act

What is the MLPA initiative?

The California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) became law in the state of California in 1999. Its purpose was primarily to protect and restore coastal marine life and habitat and secondarily to improve recreational and educational opportunities in marine science. Under the Department of Fish and Game, (DFG) a group of scientists created a plan designating the large area off the coast of Santa Barbara as a marine reserve and sanctuary. This plan was strongly opposed by sport fishing interests and others resulting in a overwhelming rejection.

Some years later another effort was mounted by DFG, this time including

in the planning panel a broad range of stakeholders and interested parties in hopes of achieving consensus. This diverse group devised yet another plan providing for a variety of levels of protection and restoration ranging from the most to the least restrictive.

What are the different categories of MLPA protection?

Marine areas and estuaries that are considered in need of restoration will be assigned one of several protection levels :

- **A State Marine Reserve** is designed to protect resident (threatened, endangered and outstanding) species and their habitats. The area is to be maintained in an

undisturbed and unpolluted state (no fishing or power boats allowed); access and use (walking, swimming, kayaking and diving) may also be restricted in these areas.

A small area of Agua Hedionda Lagoon bordering the Ecological Reserve is presently designated a State Marine Reserve.

- **A State Marine Park** is also designed to protect resident species and habitats but may allow certain "spiritual, scientific, educational and recreational" activities that do not jeopardize this protection. All of Batiqitos Lagoon located west of I-5 at La Costa Avenue, plus a small portion of the lagoon located between I-5 and the Pacific Ocean is

Continued on page 3

The California Marine Life Protection Act

Continued from page 2

designated a State Marine Park. A similar area of Buena Vista Lagoon where I-78 intersects with I-5 is also a State Marine Park.

- **A State Marine Conservation Area** is more loosely designed to protect resident species and habitat from destructive uses but may allow certain commercial and recreational harvesting (i.e., fishing) of marine species. The beach extending from San Elijo Lagoon north to Cardiff is designated a State Marine Conservation Area.
- **A State Marine Cultural Preservation Area** is designed to protect sites of historical, archeological or scientific interest. Most water activities are typically allowed but the removal of artifacts is not permitted.
- **A State Marine Recreational Management Area** generally has unrestricted uses unless otherwise specified by "local community needs".

- **A State Water Quality Protection Area** allows most activities except those that would cause "an undesirable alteration in natural water quality".

What is the current status of the MLPA process?

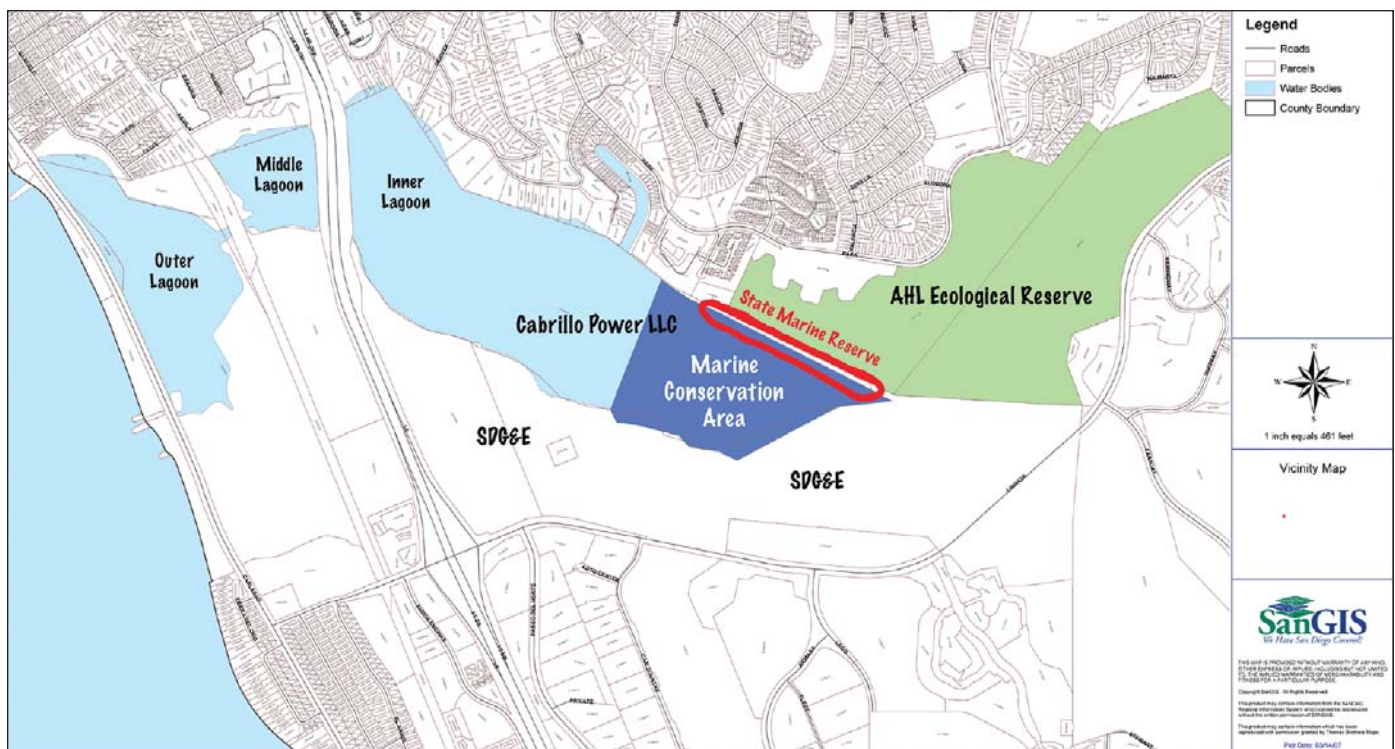
The second and third phases involving Marine Life Protected Areas along a section of North Central and the Southern coastal segments are now underway. It is likely that the boundaries for our existing marine protected areas, including those in Agua Hedionda Lagoon, will be quite different upon completion and approval of the MLPA Master Plan.

What area of Agua Hedionda Lagoon is currently protected under the MLPA initiative and what is the recommendation of the AHL Foundation?

The map of Agua Hedionda Lagoon shows that the lagoon is owned by

Cabrillo Power, the south shore is owned by SDG&E, and the north shore is a mix of private and state (DFG) ownership. The narrow area circled in red designates a State Marine Reserve which essentially borders the shoreline of the AHL Ecological Reserve (green shaded). The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation has issued a position statement and recommendation on the MLPA initiative (dark blue shaded area):

"The AHLF Board recommends that the portion of the Agua Hedionda Inner Lagoon east of the buoys (the north/south alignment of existing buoys that currently divides active water use to the west/seaward from passive water use to the east/inland) be designated as a Marine Conservation Area exclusively for passive uses as determined by local Carlsbad authorities".



Life and Death in a Cliff Swallow Colony

by Nikki Weaver

While many San Diegans were mildly annoyed with this year's prolonged "May gray/June gloom" weather conditions, it was another story at the Discovery Center. For the staff and volunteers at the Center the unusually long period of damp, cool and overcast days resulted in a deeply moving first-hand experience of the profound impact climate change can have on delicate ecological systems. Those of you who have visited the Discovery Center know that we have a very large colony of cliff swallows who nest here in the spring and summer, at times numbering as high as 500 birds. These busy birds have been a source of awe and delight for Center visitors, passersby and cars driving past on Cannon Road. However, our daily dose of entertainment was severely impacted one day in early June when staff arrived to find over a hundred dead birds – babies, fledglings and

adults - on the grounds and garden around the Discovery Center. While we were able to save about a dozen birds, in the ensuing days close to 1/3 of the colony's population of approximately 500 birds were found dead. After many phone calls, internet research and consultations with wildlife experts, we learned that the die-off was called "colony collapse" and was a result of the prolonged cool weather and accompanying moisture. Swallows must catch and eat a thousand insects a day to feed themselves and their babies. While the Center's native garden and the nearby wildlife preserve offer an ample supply of insects, in cool weather insects stay near the ground where it is harder for swallows to catch them. Even in warm weather, some swallows do not catch enough insects to survive. In prolonged cool weather, starvation can occur with 48 hours. In addition, the light rain and

sustained moist air resulted in the collapse of many of the mud nests containing the baby birds, causing them to fall to the concrete below. All in all, it was an emotional experience that reminded us of how life in the wild hangs in a balance so delicate, that an event only slightly inconvenient to the human species can result in death on a massive scale for others.



Industrious swallows at the Discovery Center have already built replacement "bottoms" for the nests that collapsed in early June.

Saving Our Birds

Continued from page 1

the production of an independent publication entitled "Audubon Magazine" in honor of the renowned bird illustrator John James Audubon. Several years later influential Boston socialite Harriet Hemenway decided to take her own stand against the still-



AHLF Board member Diane Richards helps out with bird origami crafts at the Migratory Bird Festival.

rampant practice of plume hunting. She and a cousin scoured the Boston Blue Book, an index of the city's social elite, marking names of fashionable women who dressed in plumes and inviting and **persuading** them to join a society for the protection of birds. Hemenway united the ladies with naturalists and amateur ornithologists; the group called itself the Massachusetts Audubon Society. By the turn of the century, the society had expanded across the country, unified under a national committee and actively encouraged federal and state legislation against plume hunting. The Audubon Society helped create the first Federal Bird Reserve which ultimately led to the formation of the

National Wildlife Refuge System. The Audubon Society was instrumental in the passage of laws banning the sale of feathers of native wild birds and also of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918 which enacted a widespread network of federal laws protecting birds. If not for the actions of the original Audubon Society members, countless species of birds and waterfowl would have become extinct in the early decades of the 20th century, including the American and snowy egrets, and many species of terns and gulls so familiar to us in the Southern California area.

Attention All Chocolate Lovers!!

Did you know that a tiny fly no bigger than the head of a pin is responsible for the world's supply of chocolate? When you bite into a scrumptious piece of chocolate do you ever wonder about the biological processes that produced it? Chocolate, derived from the seeds of the cacao tree, is an excellent example of a product dependent on the critical, and often under appreciated, work of pollinators.

Join us the week of June 22-27 as we celebrate our 2nd Annual Pollinator Awareness Week at the Discovery Center. Learn all about the world's hard-working pollinators and why some of our most cherished fruits and vegetables could be in short supply due to increasing biodiversity threats such as land development, pollution and pesticides. See the Upcoming Events section of this Watermark for more details.



Legoland staff help with "Underwater Habitat Build" display at the World Water Day Festival held on Sat March 21st. Over 800 visitors attended this year's Water Day Festival at the Discovery Center.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Spring Events Sponsored By The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

For more information, call us at (760) 804-1969 or visit www.aguahedionda.org

Pollinator Awareness Week June 22-27

Monday June 22,
Wednesday June 24,
Friday June 26 10AM-4PM

Activities and crafts for children and adults focusing on the pollinator theme – at the Discovery Center – continuously during open hours all week. Free Haagen-Dazs honey/almond ice cream bars! Free pollinator face-painting

Admission: Free to AHLF members; otherwise \$2 per child

Insects: Nature's Helpers in Pollination Thursday June 25

7pm-8:30pm at the Discovery Center

Special presentation by Dr. Michael Wall with the San Diego Natural History Museum. Admission: Free

Pollinator Awareness Day Saturday June 27 10AM-4PM

Pollinator activities, crafts and booths throughout the day, including:

- All about bats, including why bats are important pollinators
- Live hummingbirds, why hummingbirds are important pollinators
- Free Haagen-Dazs honey/almond ice cream bars!
- Free pollinator face-painting!

Admission: Free to AHLF members; otherwise \$2 per child

Lagoon Day ~ Saturday July 18

Check our website for more details: www.aguahedionda.org

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR AHLF MEMBERS ONLY:

Mussel Farm Tour & Tasting - Members Only

Friday, July 17 5PM - 7PM

Join us for this always popular event as we tour the mussel growing operations and visit the seahorse culture. Snack on as many fresh mussels as you can eat. Advance sign-up is required for security clearance. Enter at the main gate of the Cabrillo Power Plant on Highway 101 in Carlsbad. Reservations with full names of all attending are required for security reasons. Call Nancy Jane at the Discovery Center for reservations or more information at (760) 804-1969.

Hubbs-Seaworld Bass Hatchery Tour

Friday, August 7
10AM - 11AM
Friday, August 28
10AM-11AM

A unique opportunity to enjoy an up-close educational tour of this very successful white seabass hatchery. Please wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes and enter the hatchery at the gate at the south end of Garfield Street off Tamarack Ave. in Carlsbad. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged. Space is limited – call Diane Richards at (760) 434-4193 for reservations.

The Discovery Center is located at 1580 Cannon Road in Carlsbad, 1.3 miles east of the I-5.

AHLF Welcomes Green Board Member

The AHLF is pleased to announce the addition of two new Carlsbad citizens to our Board of Directors – Peder Norby and Farrah Douglas. In this issue of the Watermark, we will highlight Peder Norby and in the Fall issue we will feature Farrah Douglas.

Peder Norby is a large, jovial man with an incredibly small carbon footprint. He and his wife Julie live in a 4,600 square foot, solar-powered home overlooking Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad – a “zero-energy” home that produces as much energy as it uses. His electric bill is about \$20 a month. The house was nicknamed “Heron’s House” in honor of a Great Blue Heron that landed on the property the day Peder first stepped foot on it.

In addition, Peder drives an electric car that he plugs into his outlet to re-charge – an outlet that is powered by the 21 solar panels on his roof. But the Norbys are not just saving electricity, they are also conserving water. Most of the front and backyard are planted with native plants and shrubs that don’t require much water. Even their vineyards – the Norbys love to make their own wine – are irrigated by pipes that funnel rainwater directly from the roof to the vines.

Peder’s water bill is a whopping \$15 a month. For all of their conservation efforts, the Norbys were awarded a San Diego Excellence in Energy award in 2008 from the California Center for Sustainable Energy. Although less than 30 homes nationwide generate as much power as they use in a 12-month period, what the Norbys are doing may be more commonplace in the near future as more and more states move towards zero energy homes and even “positive energy” ones that produce more electricity than they consume.

Peder’s contributions to the laid back North County lifestyle are equally impressive. He was the founder and co-owner of a chain of successful Danish bakeries for 15 years. In the 1990’s he was largely responsible for the successful bid to bring the Legoland theme park to Carlsbad. Peder served 10 years as the Executive Director of the Downtown Encinitas MainStreet Association and is currently the Highway 101 Coordinator for the City of Encinitas. He also serves on the County of San Diego Planning Commission and is an avid kayaker and cabinet maker.



Peder Norby enjoys drinking wine from his own vineyard.

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

Board of Directors 2009

Eric Munoz
Chair

Al Cerda
Vice-Chair

Sylvia Pauloo-Taylor
Interim Secretary

Lori Ruiz
Treasurer (Officer only)

Ken Alfrey

Ken Alfrey

Farrah Douglas

Bill Kloetzer

Peter MacLaggan

Peder Norby

Diane Richards

Jim Strickland

Staff

Nikki Weaver
Discovery Center Director
Newsletter Editor

Nancy Jane Sevitz-Poarch
Administrative Assistant

Gail Rosemeyer
Program Assistant

AHLF

1580 Cannon Road
Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-804-1969
info@aguahedionda.org

Public Hours:

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, Friday
11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday noon – 4:00 pm
Private tours
by appointment

www.aguahedionda.org

We are grateful for the support of new and returning members of our Foundation!

*This list includes all new members, membership renewals, donations and sponsorships received since the last newsletter.
If you feel your name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact Nancy Jane Sevitz-Poarch at 804-1969.*

Defender Level (\$500 annually)

Peder & Julie Norby
Pelican Glass – Tim Skeer
Poseidon Resources Corp.
Rotary Club of El Camino Real

Protector Level (\$250 Annually)

Bill & Phoebe Biggs
Shelley & Gary Smith & Family

Steward Level (\$100 annually)

Dr. Sherill Ladwig
Diane Nygaard
Jenny Rigby

Friend Level (\$50 annually)

Dr. Diane Barbolla

Family Members (\$35 annually)

William Alston
Noemi Bahler
Stacy Bermingham
Joanie Boyd
Stephen & Cathy Brendel
Kasey Cinciarelli & David Kaplan
Miriam Cisternas
Guy Clossey
Susan & Gary Duerst
Richard & Carol Duffey
Kathy & Kirk Easterbrook
Eileen Free
Kirk Fujimoto
Eric Germundson
Kathy & Doug Gilmore
Jeanne Gruenwald
Joe & Bea Hraca
Katrina & Daniel Keddy
David Laube
Tracy & Jason Marks
Harold & Dolores McBeth
Caroline Miller
Jane Molina
Tamara Moody
Sylvia Munoz
Cynthia & David Norall
Theresa O'Leary
Sudhir Patil
Don Rideout
Melodie Robinson
Michael & Mary Roper
Steve & Margy Rubinstein
Dr. & Mrs. John Safarik
Sue & Eckehardt Schulze
Susan & Everett Shull
Ed Simpson
Jeannie & Sean Sprague
Maxwell Wuthrich
Lisa Yon
Karen Yung
Ed & Diane Zahn

Individual Members (\$25 annually)

Alan Agualls
Julie Ajdour
Lauren Brown
Corinna & James Bush
Linda Crothers
Daschle Dunne
Catherine Fedor-Vnaerp
Franz Fischer
Elaine Gurvitch
Barbara Hallman
Patricia Hewett
Stan Hogan
Sara Huber
Muriel Isis
Mary Jackson
Jay Klopfenstein
Myra Kupchin
Mary Lancaster
James McCarthy
David McFeaters
Nadine Melbo
Joni Miringoff
Michael Schmitt
Nancy Jane Sevitz-Poarch
Anne Spacie
Kris Sterne
Pru Sweeney
Alan Sweet
Ruth Voreck
Nikki Weaver
Jim Whitaker
Jackye Willis
Tanya Worrall
Jeanne Ziebold

Life Members

Susan & Richard Andrews
Bruce Bandemer
Margaret Bonas
Kent & Judy Bricker
Carlsbad Country Day School
Bill Dominguez
Craig & Pat Elliott
Ramona Finnila
Randi Fjaeran
Gary & Denise Hill
Hillman Properties
Sara & Inger Huber
Tom & Carol King
Wesley & Judith Marx
Robert & Jeanne McFadden
Mario & Marge Monroy
Julianne Nygaard
Diane Richards
Greg Rubin
Lance Schulte
Bob Wilkinson
Tom & Barbra Wood

We thank the following generous corporate sponsors for their support of our 2009 Lagoon Calendar and Education/Outreach Programs:

World Water Day Festival

City of Carlsbad
County Water Authority
Kohler Company
Metropolitan Water District
Myron L. Company
NRG Energy
Poseidon Resources
Sempra Energy

Migratory Bird Festival

The Heller Family Foundation
Pelican Glass
Coastal Environments
Sempra Energy
National Wildlife Foundation

Pollinator Awareness Week

Peder Norby
Haagen-Dazs Ice-Cream
Sempra Energy

AHLF Membership Form

Return this page with check to: **Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad, CA 92008**
(760) 804-1969 • www.aguahedionda.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

MasterCard/Visa payments: Name on account _____ Amount _____

Account number _____ Expiration date _____ Security code (on back of card) _____

General Membership

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Eco Hero | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Steward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Protector | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Defender | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Protector | |

Business Memberships

- \$1,000 Business (over 15 employees)
- \$500 Small Business (less than 15 employees)
- \$250 Nonprofit

Donate a percentage of your purchases at participating stores with the eScrip program. Register at www.escrip.com. Click the **Sign Up** button. Search for "Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation" (Group ID 500017904), then follow the registration process. You can "double" your contributions by signing up for an eScrip Visa Platinum Card. Visa will match 2% of every purchase you make - no matter where you shop.

Newsletter Options

- Email my quarterly newsletter (PDF format)
- Mail my quarterly newsletter

Thank you for your generous contribution!
The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation
is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Your contribution is fully tax deductible.



Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation
1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad, CA 92008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation in 1990, to help conserve, restore and enhance the environmental features of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, marsh wetlands and watershed area, to protect sensitive land through acquisition or other means and to promote balanced recreational and commercial uses consistent with assured future lagoon vitality. The Foundation serves as an advocate for the lagoon and is a strong supporter of public access, trails and recreational opportunities.

It co-promotes twice annual clean-up days. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, *The Watermark*, and can enjoy Foundation sponsored tours of the Carlsbad Aquafarm mussel growing facility and the Hubbs-Seaworld sea bass nursery. The Foundation welcomes volunteer participation on its committees, including the Trails, Lagoon Discovery Center, Recreation, Dredging, Fundraising and Communication committees, and, of course, on clean-up days!

Enjoy this complimentary copy of *the Watermark*, and consider making a donation today!

A special thank you goes out to Design Group West for design and layout of this edition of the Watermark!