Two years ago on June 30th, 2022

the Aggua Family grew as we added our Preschool Playdates program for our youngest future lagoon stewards.

Never could we have imagined how this program would grow and flourish over the last two years, and we feel so fortunate to have such a wonderful Preschool Playdates community. Two years ago, when this program began, we had one teacher with up to 12 children, three days a week. Fast forward only two years, and we now have 4 teachers and 40 students five days a week! Over the past two years we have welcomed well over 100 families into the Aggua family. ~ Emily Bonds Director of Education

(continued on page 2)
I, Sara Steffen, have only been part of the Aggua Family since January of 2022, but I have watched our Preschool Playdates program transform immensely in these six short months. Each day, we start our morning getting our wiggles out in the sand area. After heading back to our educational nature node for a snack, we teach an environmental themed lesson paired with a craft made out of natural or recycled materials. On hot days, we bring out buckets for water play. The kids love making “yucky soup” out of dirt, sticks, and leaves. The most important and my favorite part of Preschool Playdates is being outside and providing a safe environment for children to connect with nature and our lagoon ecosystem. Ask any of our students’ what kind of plants we have surrounding the Discovery Center, and I guarantee they will respond with “Lemon berries” or “California Sage!” It’s been a wonderful experience teaching, learning, playing, and exploring with our future lagoon stewards and I can’t wait to see how our program develops in another two years!

I, Lissa Schroeder, have been with the Aggua Family since October of last year. However, I didn’t become a part of the Preschool Playdate community until December of 2021. As I was teaching school programs, I would often see the preschoolers walking by with sticks, leaves and other natural materials in their hands, as happy as can be. That is what I love most about this program. Everything we do is centered around nature and learning how to be good environmental stewards. I grew up living my life very much outdoors. I learned from a young age that being in nature was one of the most important and beneficial things we can do for ourselves. Working here at the Discovery Center, I have the opportunity to try to instil that in even our youngest students. The topics we learn about and the activities we do are all centered around our lagoon ecosystem and local area. Seeing the children’s eyes light up when they find out we are making owls out of recycled toilet paper rolls or nature paintbrushes made from nothing but sticks and leaves is always the highlight of my day. I am so proud to be a part of such an amazing program with such amazing students and families. I can’t wait to see this program grow even more!
Summer is a time for new growth, new plans, and new adventures. In this season of change, where you live matters. A home is not just four walls—it’s a treasure trove of memories, a place to launch big plans, a source of daily hope and joy. If you’re considering buying or refinancing a home, I’ll use my knowledge and experience to support you every step of the way.

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karla.patino@wellsfargo.com
NMLS ID 448603
We are grateful for the support of new and returning members of the Foundation. This list includes all new members and renewing members received through 7-1-2022. We apologize for any misspellings or errors in member acknowledgment. Please let us know if you see a mistake to your recognition.

**LIFE MEMBERS**
- Richard Andrews
- Bruce Bandemer
- Judy & Kent Bricker
- California’s Own Native Landscape Design
- Bonnie Dominguez
- Debra Douglas
- Ramona Finnila
- Randi Fjaeran
- Alexandra Govorova
- Genie Hansen
- Denise & Gary Hill
- Sara Huber
- Inger Huber
- Carol & Tom King
- Judith & Wesley Marx
- Jeanne & Robert McFadden
- Mario Monroy
- Jim Naegeli
- Julianne & Paul Nygaard
- Hunter Phillips
- Carlsbad Country Day School
- Kathy & Lance Schulte
- Robert Wilkinson
- Barbara & Thomas Wood

**2022 LAGOON CHAMPIONS**

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  - Kathy & Lance Schulte

**PLATINUM: $83.33 MONTHLY ($1000 ANNUALLY)**
- Rachel & Cole Ivanovich

**GOLD: $30 MONTHLY ($360 ANNUALLY)**
- Maureen Simons . Lisa & Terry Rodman

**SILVER: $15 MONTHLY ($180 ANNUALLY)**
- Jill Baker . Lorie & Ernie Chapa . Kelly & Edward Desmond

**BRONZE: $30 QUARTERLY ($120 ANNUALLY)**
- Emily Bonds . Janet & Craig Correll . Catherine Hanham
- Jenna Hough . Elizabeth Mersereau . Jessica Stickel

**GREAT BLUE HERON: $2500**
- Andrew Hughes

**SNOWY EGRET $1000**
- Sheri Edmonston . Leah Bissonette & Robert Hemphill
- Joann & John Johnson . April & Henry Shute

**RED TAIL HAWK $500**
- Jodi & Russel Wallis . Mike Weseloh . Knox Williams

**BROWN PELICAN: $250**
- Brooklyn & Kelly Cardenas . Suzie & Andrew Concors . Patricia & Jim Davis
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- Denise & Raymond Patchett . Sally Penso . Dee Dee & Joe Polzin
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**AMERICAN AVOCETS $2500**
- Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa
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- Poseidon Water
- SDG&E San Diego Gas & Electric
- The Bumble Bee Seafood Company

**PRESERVER: $1000**
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- Brubaker & Associates
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- Hunter Industries
- Law Offices of Borg & Norris
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Visit Carlsbad

**DEFENDER: $500**
- AT&T
- Ara’s Party Rentals
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- Bristol Cove Property HOA
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**PROTECTOR: $250**
- Bayshore Homeowners Association
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- Clean Air Specialist - Pam Lewko
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- Lynette Fox - Coldwell Banker
- Print Professionals
- Santianna Oakmont Signature Living - Carlsbad
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**THE WATERMARK | SUMMER 2022**

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation | 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad CA 92008 | (760) 804-1969 | www.aguahedionda.org
A Message from the C.E.O.

Lisa Rodman, Chief Executive Officer

In the afternoon on June 28th, 2022, one of our chickens laid their very first egg.

Environmental education fosters critical and creative thinking skills as it additionally inspires kids to be much more community minded within their backyards. Through this learning to love nature, children grow to live eco-friendly and sustainable lives. Together it provides them with the building blocks to embrace and be responsible to nature as they have firsthand experiences to draw from. I’m certain that my own mother would agree I spent a great deal of time in nature building forts, floating down the creek and finding ways to trouble shoot for success. Sometimes she was not happy with my time spent exploring the great outdoors.

At the Discovery Center we teach nature in nature. The curriculum building and the associated administrative needs are done inside the center. We pack bags chalked full of exciting and engaging tools on the daily topic and cart them to the educational nodes for the campers, preschoolers and even birthday party guests to enjoy.

Our field trips are increasing once again in popularity. We are excited to have all our students back on campus with us. We are expanding our program offerings for the visitors that have found us to embrace daily lessons of nature as well.

All this is exciting, and extremely fulfilling for our entire team. Its getting a little tight inside. We are 2-3 people per office and plan to move our education department closer to the action. We need to expand our brick-and-mortar office

Right next door is a Preschool Playdate play area/drop off zone. The Aggua Family has grown to accommodate the expanding numbers of students who come to have a taste of nature at our Discovery Center daily. We have 40 preschoolers every day of the week: Monday thru Friday. These young minds are the future stewards of the watershed and our world. Personally, I find these inquisitive minds extremely inspiring. Is nature education important to our community?

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space for more programming offerings to be implemented. The space for storing all the educational needs is great. As “the Aggua Family” grows so must our creative spaces for teachers and administrators to design the magic that our mission asserts to achieve: to energize our community through education and outreach to preserve the Agua Hedionda Lagoon as an accessible and healthy watershed. I think we all can realize the enormous benefits of nature for our mental wellbeing, from a more vibrant active lifestyle, to improving your daily mood. Nature helps you take time out and feel more relaxed while helping you to meet and get to know new people in beautiful settings.

We are fired up about our Discovery Gala on August 27th, 2022, at our beloved community nature center. We invite you to join us in our journey to accomplish our vision to be Stewards of the Watershed as we inspire future generations, so we all have access to a healthy lagoon. A safe place in nature...for all.

Once upon a time, not so long ago, fairies moved into their new homes in Fairyland at the Discovery Center.

To be safe, they all stayed inside...but then an evil spell was cast that trapped them all indoors! Oh no! We need YOU to help us by adopting a fairy door to break the magic spell and set them free to frolic once more!

Here’s how you do it:
• First you choose a door;
• Then you name your fairy: your name(s), your family name, your business name, or any name(s) you like) – keep in mind the signs are teeny tiny!
• Once the name sign is placed on their door, the spell is broken and the fairies can once again come and go!

If you really look closely and are very, very quiet, you just might be able to see them!

Fairy Island has over 25 fairy homes that need YOU to name them!
There are only TWO extra-large doors – DONATE $400 ea. (up to 4 names)
There are only SIX large doors – DONATE $300 ea. (up to 3 names)
There are only SIX medium doors – DONATE $200 ea. (up to 2 names)
There are only EIGHT small doors – DONATE $125 ea. (1 name)
There are only FOUR extra small doors – DONATE $75 ea. (1 name)

If you are interested, we will arrange a small “Sign Ceremony” for you and your family upon installation.

Contact lisa@aguahedionda.org to sponsor.
The Aggua Family is embarking on its fifth year of frights at the Carlsbad Strawberry Company’s Haunted Corn Maze. Friday and Saturday Night’s in the month of October, you will find Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation’s (AHLF) energetic volunteers supplying scares to all willing guests. The Haunted Corn Maze is a fundraising event for the AHLF where volunteers provide the labor, and the AHLF receives a portion of the proceeds. To date we have netted $298,751. Some key volunteers make this event come to life: Terrell Rodman with his ingenious decorating, Mike Metts and his animatronics, Sam Ross with his continual commitment to chasing and chainsaws, and current AHLF Board Member Chris Shaver, who brings his whole family out for nights of scares.

We are actively recruiting volunteers for this event (must be 18+); you can email madison@aguahedionda.org if you are interested. Monies raised from this event provide much needed funds to bring new and changing exhibits onsite at the Discovery Center, expand our environmental educational programs, and continual monitoring and restoration of 3.1 miles of coastal public access trails along the lagoon. Thank you to the Carlsbad Strawberry Company for allowing this partnership event. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a night of frights’ in October. We would love to say hello to you so make sure to stop by and receive an AHLF hug from one of us on site that night.
values our partnership with the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation to promote a balanced and accessible use of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, and providing sustainable practices for generations to come.

Jimbo’s Naturally

Jimbo’s Naturally Carlsbad generously hosted a Community Giveback Saturday on President’s Day, where 5% of the proceeds from their sales on that day went toward the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation. This event not only helped us with our fundraising efforts, but also allowed us to market our organization and increase awareness of our programs and Discovery Center to their customers. We received a $3,812 donation from their Giveback efforts.

They also recently donated food for our 2022 Volunteer Appreciation Event, the hearts of our organization. Jimbo’s offers options to fit anyone’s diet so all 30 volunteers in attendance were able to enjoy a delicious and healthy dinner. This helped us to express our appreciation for the volunteers that allow the Agua Family to thrive.

Jimbo’s is famously known as the home of the plastic free waster aisle. We are lucky to have the support of a sustainable store that shares one of our core values: “Sustainably Minded”.
Lagoon Clean Up –
1,570 Pounds of Trash and Invasive Plant Species Removed!

We LOVE the Agua Hedionda Lagoon – the only lagoon in San Diego County’s lagoon systems that is open to the public; combining recreation, water desalinization, energy generation, a research fish hatchery, mussel farm, as well as AHLF’s ongoing watershed stewardship. On Friday, May 6th businesses and individuals came together for a little friendly competition to clean trash out of the lagoon, pull invasive weeds, and compete for the Kahuna trophies.

We are happy to announce that Calsense amassed the most points in Division I to win the title of 2022 Big Kahuna! They were up against Teams Ryan, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Otter Products, CleverMade, Dual, Republic Services, and last year’s winner Bitchin’ Sauce. Carlsbad Young Professionals, sponsored by Grand Pacific Resorts, were the big point winners for Division II becoming the 2022 Little Kahuna! Their competitors included Elm Tax, Develop Your Team, Intesa, Dynamic Space Solutions, and Grand Pacific Resorts. The Mini Kahuna was awarded to National Charity League-Moonlight Division, sponsored by NRG! They were challenged by Kids for Peace, Kawecki Family, Mindpath Leadership, NRG, and Harmony. Thank you to EVERYONE who participated for making the Agua Hedionda Lagoon the BIG WINNER due to all of your clean-up efforts!

Oh my, what a day! With three divisions participating in the clean-up and friendly competitions, teams began first thing in the morning heading out on kayaks or paddleboards supplied by California Water Sports to different shores within the inner lagoon, on the lookout for trash and invasive plants. Teams pulled old carpeting out of the muck, sets of tires lodged in the mud, rusted pipes and plastic chairs tucked away on shore, and returned with bags full of cigarette butts and beer cans.

172 bags of trash and weeds were collected and removed by 200 participants!

It wasn’t all work – plenty of fun was had after scouring for garbage! Teams participated in word games, memory games, blindfold cornhole, and water relay races. Sunburned and muscle-sore, each division’s event ended with pizza and beer supplied by Pizza Port. Handel’s Ice Cream was on hand to satisfy everyone’s sweet tooth. Republic Services hauled all the trash away. Brue Endres created the beautiful trophy paddles and Ray Pearson was our awesome announcer.

We couldn’t have done any of this without the support of our Event Sponsors: California Water Sports, Pizza Port, Poseidon, NRG, Grand Pacific Resorts, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Republic Services, Brubaker & Associates, Ryan, Calsense, CleverMade, Otter Products, and Dual.

Each year Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation hosts the Lagoon Clean Up and Lagoona Kahuna Team Challenge to help the lagoon, build team spirit, and raise funds for AHLF’s stewardship programs. With divisions for corporate participation, small businesses, and individuals/families, we want EVERYONE to be able to participate - Do Good, Have Fun! Won’t you join us in 2023?

By Melony Vance
Arbor Day by the Aggua Family

On Arbor Day, April 29, 2022, volunteers showed up early at the Discovery Center to plant ten native Torrey Pine trees on the campus.

Thirty additional “foster families” arrived to pick up their “foster” seedlings to take home and nurture until October when permanent planting locations will be found to place them into their new home ground. The program was expanded by the support of Thermo Fisher Scientific who sponsored lucky groups of third graders at Pacific Rim Elementary with an additional 100 seedlings for their school site.

This pilot program was spearheaded by our team member, George Wever, who was concerned that the survival of Torrey pines was very grim. Torrey Pines are native to the area, drought resistant, and endangered! We have 18 healthy Torrey Pines at the Discovery Center indicating that our campus is a fertile place for them to thrive. There are many groups like us robustly planting Torreys, and other native trees, as they help fight the complications brought on by Climate Change by sequestering carbon.

By Melony Vance

Our Members Make it Happen!

With our Discovery Gala 2022 ~ The Aggua Family rapidly approaching, we can’t thank enough our Member’s that make events such as this happen. As a way to thank Members for their spectacular dedication to the Mission, here is a jingle about our Members Inspired by the Addams family theme song.

They’re generous and tremendous, They visit the Discovery Center,
Gracious with donations, Ring the bell when entered,
They’re all together marvelous, We can’t do this without them,
The Aggua Family. The Aggua Family.

Thank you, Members, our Champions of Environmental Stewardship, for your continuous support. If you know someone that wants to be a part of the change, invite them to become an Aggua Member today. Refer a friend and we all win!

Madison Coleman, Engagement Manager
California WaterSports

on the Carlsbad Lagoon

Come on by to the Carlsbad Lagoon.

We have everything from standup paddle boards to electric speedboats. It’s a great family friendly environment and has equipment that everyone will enjoy.

Open 7 days a week from 9am -7pm.
carlsbadlagoon.com
760-434-3089
The first phase of our Compost Chicken and Climbing Courtyard was the perimeter fence. The second step, the Chicken Coop and Run, and third – shade! Shazeebo is no stranger to the Agua Family, and this company generously donated their third Covered Shade Sail Structure to our campus, allowing our students and chickens to have respite from the sun. Shazeebo is a custom shade installation company with Patrick Howe as the generous and smiling leader. We treated their team to an onsite picnic with sandwiches from Board and Brew, for their very kind work. If you need a custom Shade Sail Installation, look no further than Shazeebo. Their commitment to community, including the Agua Family is unmatched, or should we say un-shaded. (Visit them at shazeebo.com). You can also listen to our podcast, natureallaroundme.org, as they were a featured business!
HOLLYWOOD IN SAN DIEGO

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022
CARLSBAD FLOWER FIELDS AT 6PM

FARMTOTABLEAUX.COM/SAN DIEGO

JOIN US TO... Feast on farm-to-table cuisine • Enjoy creative Tableaux Vivants inspired by movies filmed in San Diego • Indulge in artisan cocktails, craft beer and boutique wines • Enter the Mystère Box Raffle • Bid on artful auction items

Support our mission to provide compassionate personalized care to patients and families during the end-of-life transition.
Frank Ortega

Fabulous Frank started volunteering with us in March and has consistently arrived with a positive attitude since then. Frank has been Al’s right-hand man on and off-site. Frank is eager to assist with any task given, from sweeping, to pulling weeds, to heavy lifting and beyond. Frank reminds Al to work smarter, not harder and takes great pride in his work. He has played an integral part in the creation of our Compost, Chicken & Climbing Courtyard, and helped build the attached chicken run. Frank has been assisting with the construction of the Hubbs trail fence, which is allowing us to combat erosion on this public access easement. Frank and Al spent countless hours together building and transporting heavy bridges to remote sections of the lagoon in order to assist with our Algerian Sea Lavender removal project. He has devoted many hours to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, and we are grateful to have him as part of the Aggua Family.

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info@halefamilylaw.com

LWD’s Mission: To serve the public by collecting, transporting, recycling and treating wastewater in a safe, reliable, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner, while providing excellent service to our customers.

LWD’s Vision: To be a recognized leader in wastewater services, water recycling, and environmental protection.

Leucadia Wastewater District works around the clock to protect our local neighborhoods, lagoons, and beaches.
The San Diego Foundation through their Level-Up SD Programs, granted the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation funds to run two, one-week coastal exploration camps for 60 students in the San Diego Unified School District. Students will participate in a variety of activities including hiking and kayaking and visit a different section of the local watershed each day. The camp focuses on Watershed Education, Hydrology, Coastal Ecology, and Flora/Fauna Species along the Coast. Campers will have several opportunities to learn how to operate an Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle to view beneath the lagoon; providing a unique experience to explore terrestrial ecosystems on the coast and see underwater communities in a fun way. Thank you to the San Diego Foundation for helping us educate and build appreciation for our coastal waterways; this emerging technology will offer an experience that only trained scuba divers could experience before.
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Serving Carlsbad,
Serving Community,
Serving YOU!
The Aggua Family Aquariums

Have you been to the Discovery Center Lately? If so, you have probably seen some fresh faces in our aquariums. Thanks to previous funding by the Sanders Tech Ed Foundation, we have added many marine friends to the Aggua Family! Our touch tank has always been a huge draw to our guests, allowing them to learn about native sea life in a hands-on, immersive experience. This exhibit is even more popular now that we have added sea hares, sea cucumbers, bat stars and hermit crabs.

In one of our aquarium tanks, we have welcomed Logan and Larry, two California Spiny Lobsters, who share their home with wavy turban snails. Above the lobster tank, you will see Gary the Garibaldi showing off his bright orange scales (Garibaldi’s are the Ca State Marine Fish, their freshwater counterpart being the Golden Trout). Gary shares his home with 3 Calico Bass, a few Opaleye and a Kelpfish! All of the creatures in our tanks are native to Carlsbad and swim with us every time we play at the beach or the lagoon, although many can be found in kelp forests a bit past our swimming line. Our aquariums display how different species coexist to create a balanced ecosystem, from carnivores like Beeps our Horn Shark, to filter feeders such as the sea cucumbers. If you would like to learn more about the sea creatures that call the Discovery Center home, come to the Center on Mondays at 3:00pm for Marine Mondays! During this weekly event, we will feed the sea life and teach you more about their diet, behavior and habitat.

Let the Gala Season Begin!

April 28th launched a preview of the Discovery Center Gala 2022 ~ The Aggua Family (a Speakeasy) with our Addams Family themed “Mansion”, craft cocktails, and appetizers by our Gala caterers, Farm House Catering. Our exclusive guests were greeted by Lurch, then gave their “secret password” in order to join the party on the patio. The evening unfolded with Addams Family trivia, the AHLF team sang the event theme song, and we introduced our Gala guests of honor – Carole and John Sanders. As always, the Lagoon showed off her majesty as the event backdrop.

On June 3rd, the second in the series leading up to the Gala took place outside on the sand flats below the Discovery Center – no dark and dingy room for our California Style speakeasy! Wednesday (AKA Emily Watts) checked guests in through the Addams Family Conservatory before directing them to the party in the “Cemetery” below. The evening unfolded with amazing appetizers, craft cocktails, and the sultry sounds of Celeste Barbier.

While members and guests socialized near the Lagoon, a group of serious (and not so serious) poker players were testing their luck in the Rotunda at the first ever Discovery Poker Tournament. Professional dealers and tables set the scene, poker players brought their skills, beer/wine/vodka lubricated the flow, and the tournament ended with Josh Cantor as the big winner and Michael Bacon in second place!

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Poker Table Sponsors: California Watersports, Engel & Volkers, The Inspectors of Election, Thomas Stewart, and The Silva Group – Lynnell Talone-Honda. Additional sponsors who helped make all of these events possible, include Fred Hale Family Law, Stacy Hall, Pegasus Estate Winery, Pizza Port Beer, Senor Grubby’s, Tom Stewart, Jimmy Ukegawa, and Venom Vodka.
Invest in us, scan the QR code.

July Scavenger Hunt!

Explore in and around the Discovery Center! Circle what you see and when you are done, bring it to the Discovery Center desk for an amazing award!

- A Sea Star
- A Monarch Butterfly
- A Garibaldi
- A Torrey Pine
- A Red Eared Slider
- A Fuzzy Leaf
- A Giant Shell
- Pick up a Piece of Trash
- A Native American Basket

GET THE WORD OUT

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- A Garibaldi
- A Torrey Pine
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- A Fuzzy Leaf
- A Giant Shell
- Pick up a Piece of Trash
- A Native American Basket