The last two weeks in July, we had the pleasure of partnering with A Step Beyond and The California Coastal Conservancy to provide two, one-week camps for students with no formal coastal experience. Forty students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities around the lagoon, including hiking and kayaking. During these activities’ students visited a different section of the local lagoon/shore line/coast/watershed every day and truly explored the coast. The campers participated in hands on learning with lessons focused on Watershed and Hydrology, Coast Ecology and Flora and Fauna in the ecological lagoons surrounding the lagoon.

One of the hands-on learning activities the campers participated in was having several opportunities to learn how to operate an Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle, (uROV) to see underwater. This provided a unique experience to explore terrestrial ecosystems on the coast and view underwater communities in a fun way. Jeff Cooper of UnderSEE, provided the uROV’s and taught the campers how to properly operate the ROV’s. A uROV is a small remote-controlled submarine with multiple underwater cameras and monitoring devices. The uROV is launched from any coastline and streams its underwater viewpoint back to students on shore. Campers were able to see the underwater feed through multiple video screens and virtual-reality goggles. Virtual reality goggles provided 360 degree monitoring. 

(continued on page 2)
As the students moved their head, their viewpoint changed (just as if they were underwater). All footage was recorded and our campers used footage collected during the trip to make scientific progress and direct their learning. Their findings included seeing rock bass, sand fish, schooling fish and they were able to use the ROV to collect trash that had collected at the bottom of the lagoon! Campers also ran random transects, tested water quality and participated in beach cleanups. These students became community scientists who contributed data while exploring the lagoon’s unique habitats. After a full week of exploring the lagoon via hiking and underwater viewing, the campers had the opportunity to get out on the water via kayak with California Watersports. This allowed the students to explore the lagoon and the places they had been throughout the week through a different lens. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to share our great outdoors with these incredible students that otherwise may have never had the opportunity to explore the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

For our next education endeavor, we are embarking on an exhibit and safety expansion project here at the Discovery Center - The Compost, Chicken and Climbing Courtyard. With 40 preschoolers attending our Preschool Playdate Program daily, on top of our visitors daily and Academy of Environmental Stewardship Field Trip attendees, we need extra security fencing around our property to ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for our young learners. This will give our preschool teachers more space to use our outdoor educational nodes bordering Cannon Road, and thus expand our program and offerings. The composting center, which will feature a chicken coop, composting bins, vermiculture bins and interpretive signage will be used daily in our programs to teach about the importance of composting, a living example of sustainable practices, and reduce our waste. The chickens will provide hands-on care and learning opportunities, and become the newest Animal Ambassadors to welcome guests at the Discovery Center and interact with them. The natural play area, will feature permeable surfaces to provide another example onsite of water percolation into the soil, filtering out pollutants and recharging the water table. In addition, this area will have ample “play features” such as tree stumps, safe climbing surfaces, an outdoor “mud” kitchen, natural foliage and native plants. We strive to garner the interests of young environmental stewards, and give them the stepping stones to become our next environmental engineers, climate scientists, naturalists, biologists, conservationists and so much more. They are our future and we invite you to invest in their experiences today. This Giving Tuesday (November 30th, 2021) and our end of the year campaign will focus on making this dream a reality; please consider donating to our efforts in preserving the great outdoors for all to enjoy! We thank you for your continued support of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation.
The more children learn, the wider their world becomes

With new knowledge comes opportunity, purpose, and fresh perspectives. When children gain the ability to look at the world in a new way, they discover the power of curiosity. Vistas open up, and the road is paved for important questions, collaborative discovery, and innovative solutions.

Wells Fargo is honored to recognize The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation for helping children see the wonder in every day.

Karla Patino
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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 9-22-2022.
We apologize for any misspellings or errors in member acknowledgment. Please let us know if you see a mistake to your recognition.

AMERICAN AVOCETS $2500
Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa
Poseidon Resources Channelside
SDG&E San Diego Gas & Electric
The Bumble Bee Seafood Company

LIFE MEMBERS
Susan & Richard Andrews
Bruce Bandemer
Judy & Kent Bricker
Bonnie Dominguez
Debra Douglas
Ramona Finnila
Randi Fjaeran
Alexandra Goverova
Denise & Gary Hill
Inger & Sara Huber
Diane Kahler
Carol & Tom King
Judith & Wesley Marx
Jeanne & Robert McFadden
Mario Monroy
Jim Naegeli
Julianne Nyagaard
Lance Schulte
Bob Wilkinson
Barbara & Tom Wood
California’s Own Native Landscape
Carlsbad Country Day School

LAGOON CHAMPIONS
MarBrisa Hilton/Grand Vacations Club
SDG&E
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Wiegand Realty

DEFENDER $500
AT&T
Pangea Biological
Believe in Signs
Bristol Cove Property HOA
Pegasus Estate Winery
Sarkhosh Insurance Agency
Edward Jones – Darcy Wolfe
Stifel Nicolaus
Grand Pacific Resorts
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The Silva Group - Lynell Talone-Honda

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HERON HELPERS
Julie & Peder Norby

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Design Grotto
Edward Jones – Matt Leonard
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Mountain Shadow
Venture LLP

GARIBALDI GIVERS
Donald Wells

GOLD: $30 MONTHLY ($360 ANNUALLY)
Cathy Fitzpatrick . Lisa & Terrell Rodman

SEA STAR SUPPORTERS
Jace Hansen
Margie & Richard Newell
Kathy & Lance Schulte

SILVER: $15 MONTHLY ($180 ANNUALLY)
Crystal & Rusty Calder . Kelly Cardenas
Lorie & Ernie Chapa . Maureen Simons

BROWN PELICAN $250
Shirlene Barnes . Becky & Bill Clearwater . Suzanne & Andrew Concors
Patricia & Jim Davis . Carm & Yvonne Finocchiaro . Leslie Gaudreau-Richter
Laurie & Jeff Lindeneau . Sandy & Carlton Lund . Michele & John McCoy
Kathy Kinane & Gary Nessim . Denise & Raymond Patchett . Sally Penso
Anne Spindel . Sarah Tochterman . Cynthia & James Williams
Bev Patton & Barry Williamson . Robin & Don Wofford

BRONZE: $30 QUARTERLY ($120 ANNUALLY)
Emily Bonds . Janet & Craig Correll . Jenna Hough
Jessica Stickel . Shanna & Shawn Wells

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

SNOWY EGRET $1000
Leah Bissonette & Robert Hemphill . Nerice & Fred Kaufman
Mary April & Henry Shute . Catherine & James Wentz

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

By Lisa Rodman, Chief Executive Officer

I often marvel at the natural learning space our community has graciously created here at the Discovery Center (D.C.) campus.

Today my “taste of nature” is focused on the Orb spider family. You see the orb spiders of Agua are spectacular this time of year in size, color, and quantity. They are everywhere throughout our gorgeous grounds. My question is where are they the rest of the year and why is it now that they decide to spin these amazing webs in such well traversed arenas around the garden? Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful by Ralph Waldo Emerson is so true, and when it comes to a spider’s web, well they are just breathtakingly beautiful! I want to stop and take their picture, stop and watch them weave and stop and watch them hunt for food. For me I’m not sure if it is more fun watching them weave or marveling at the finished product. There is one thing we all agree on though and that is it is no fun walking into one. Ugh! It only takes our spiders a few times to realize where they build their web is either a good idea or bad one. Here at the center we knocked our main walkway Orb web down every day for 4 days before it realized it was going to have to build higher if it wanted to achieve its personal web goal.

So why do spiders seem to be most prevalent this time of year? “Most spiders will emerge in the fall in search of a mate so they can lay their eggs before winter sets in for hatchlings in the spring. ... Spiders also move indoors for the winter. Spiders come into our homes in search of warmth, food, and shelter during the cold winter months.” According to askwet.com article dated September 18, 2018. Here at Agua the benefits of nature are what we strive to teach our youngest lagoon stewards. We have consistently witnessed spending time outdoors improves both mental and physical well-being and the bright eyes of young learners are very enthralled with the spiders of Agua. The very idea that we stop, pause and contemplate the nature all around us is the beginning. It really becomes an adventure when in fact you share it with someone else. Thanks for being a part of our adventure. And to think it is the Great Outdoors that provides nature to everyone in various forms. It goes without saying the spiders are scary and creepy but they teach us too, and for me it is a moment to pause and reflect on their beauty that happens every fall when the days begin to shrink and the nights cool off.

In closing, please consider us as one of your green retreats in Carlsbad for a great outdoor experience. None of our programs, exhibits and gardens could happen without our community. A heartfelt thanks to Our Members, who Make it Happen! At the time this article was written our membership is 652 strong and growing. See you at the D.C.

Lisa Rodman, C.E.O.
My first encounter with Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation was through service learning while attending Cal State San Marcos. Through service learning, I experienced the great outdoors such as the trails, the critters and the shared love of the Lagoon. Two years later, after graduating with my B.A. in Communication, I was drawn back to the Agua Family as a full-time employee.

What I love about the AHLF and the Discovery Center is the direct access to nature, and the education and outreach which inspires people to preserve the lagoon as a healthy and accessible watershed. If it wasn’t for our members, we would not be able to preserve and enjoy the great outdoors at AHLF. We wouldn’t be able to provide our youth with a personal relationship to nature. Being a member isn’t just furthering the mission, it’s being a part of a family, the Agua family.

I write this with immense gratitude, as our members really do make it happen!

Do you know anyone that would enjoy the great outdoors at the AHLF? Share this with them and become a member today.
Rachel Ivanovich

Rachel Ivanovich is recognized as the Board Member of the Quarter for the Fall edition of the Watermark. Rachel is our Board Chairwoman and we thank her for her hard-work and devotion in all things Agua. For Discovery Gala 2021, she assisted in securing silent and live auction items, getting us a working Juke Box for the event, helping with behind the scenes work including set up the day of and having her business, Easy Life Management as a table sponsor. There is never a challenge or opportunity that Rachel shies away from and she is always there, in any capacity, for the betterment of this Foundation. Thank you Rachel, for your commitment and enthusiasm towards all things Agua and for helping us preserve the great outdoors!
This quarter, we would like to recognize five local businesses who donated food for our Gala volunteers: Tip Top Meats, Knockout Pizza, Senor Grubby's, Bitchin Sauce and Cafe Elysa. Senor Grubby's fueled our setup volunteers with their award-winning breakfast burritos, and Cafe Elysa provided the sweet counterpart with their assorted pastries, which are just as delicious as they are beautiful! Tip Top Meats provided 3 different trays of fresh sandwiches for lunch, which were complimented with chips and dip donated by Bitchin' Sauce. Finally, Knockout Pizza disappeared as quickly as it had arrived, giving our team of volunteers the last push of energy they needed to “knockout” cleanup at the end of the event. I would like to thank each and every one of these businesses for helping us make our Gala such a huge success!
Our much-anticipated live Gala held at the beautiful Carlsbad Westin Resort & Spa occurred Saturday August 28th after being a hybrid event in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Discovery Gala Grease ~ Lagoon’s the Word welcomed back attendees, performers, and entertainment of all kinds as we made the set of Grease, come to life. Presented by Dudek, The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, The Sanders Tech-Ed Foundation and SDG&E, 4 separate “scenes” provided attendees the option to spread out, have options, experience the great outdoors and choose their event of choice. Our honorees, Cindy & Mike Metts (aka Sandy & Danny) bounced between The Carnival, Malt Shop, School Dance and Drive-In showering their fellow Rydell High students with their moves. A Step Beyond students kicked off the School Dance with a wonderfully executed Hand Jive rendition, and Rick Grove returned once again as our Auctioneer.

164 individual attendees moved around their scenes of choice, and helped us to raise $100,000 at this event. We want to thank everyone who attended, donated, sponsored, was on the planning committee and volunteered; with your help we are able to continue inspiring people through education and outreach to preserve the Agua Hedionda Lagoon as an accessible and healthy watershed. And we were able to inch towards our newest expansion project: The Compost, Chicken and Climbing Courtyard, which you can read more about on our website here: https://www.aguahedionda.org/compost-chicken-and-climbing-courtyard or scan this QR code. We can’t wait to be able to construct this new exhibit allowing our preschool playdates students and visitors to continue to experience the great outdoors.

A Classic Car provided by the Heart Beat Classics

AHLF Chairwoman Rachel Ivanovich with Advisory Board Member Wendy Wiegand

Mayor Pro Tem Keith Blackburn and Karen Baird

AHLF Board Member Jennifer Summers with Husband Chris

Auction Items

The Kings of La Jolla

School Dance Scene

Drive-In Food Server

Carlsbad Educational Foundation, C-Birds

Gala Committee Chair Lynnell Talone Honda (right) with friends

Mary Jane Reith and Teri Haskins, Soroptimist of Oceanside-Carlsbad Members

The Pink Ladies of Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary

Presenting sponsors Carole and John Sanders

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Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club
Carole and John Sanders have been continuous supporters of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation and our mission and programs, and this quarter was no different. Known as the Sanders Tech-Ed Foundation, Carole and John stepped up to be a presenting sponsor of our Discovery Gala ~ Grease Lagoon is the Word. When our Gala concluded and we were short our fundraised goal numbers for the evening, they happily stepped up to be a matching donor which motivated many others to “raise their paddle”. With their generosity, we successfully hit our Gala numbers and look forwarding to moving onto our next fundraiser ~ The Haunted Corn Maze at the Carlsbad Strawberry Company’s Pumpkin Patch! We thank Carole and John for their generosity, friendship and guidance to this organization and allowing us to continue educating the future lagoon stewards in the great outdoor spaces we provide.
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We're proud to work with the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation.

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Bill Milligan

Bill Milligan is one of our new Raptor Interns and has been volunteering at our Discovery Center for the last 3 months helping us with landscaping, gardening and trail maintenance. He has shown dedication to our Foundation as a reliable and hardworking volunteer. We would like to congratulate Bill as he moves onto the next phase of this internship and begins caring for our four Raptors. Three months from now, he will have the opportunity to learn how to handle our Birds of Prey for presentations and outreach. We are lucky to have Bill on our team and look forward to watching him grow with us.
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In the beginning of the year, the Lagoon Foundation was contacted by the Munday Family regarding the possibility of putting a memorial bench in their son Jack’s honor overlooking the water, his favorite place, and favorite surf spot. With the collaboration between famed Carlsbad artist Bryan Snyder, the Munday Family and the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, this vision became a reality. We would like to highlight their new non-profit the Jack Munday Surf Foundation Inc. as our non-profit of the quarter. We are humbled the Munday Family is able to have a beautiful spot on the lagoon to remember Jack and promote the loving, kind and friendly legacy he left behind to all of Carlsbad. As well as watch his favorite activity, surfing the Carlsbad waves and enjoying the great outdoors.
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This summer, we were invited to bring our raptors to the Laughing Pony Rescue’s summer camp. Their students were able to experience local wildlife they may see flying above their outdoor lessons. The Laughing Pony Rescue has also brought their farm animals to our Wacky Wednesday programs here at the Discovery Center for our After-School Enrichment students. This has opened our young lagoon stewards’ minds to farm animals like chickens that we do not (yet), have here at our Discovery Center.

We continued our partnership with Carlsbad Seapointe Resort, where every Wednesday throughout the Summer we were able to bring some of our animal ambassadors to their outdoor terrace. This encouraged many Carlsbad tourists that were staying at that resort to slither down to our Discovery Center to meet the rest of our animal ambassadors. Going into the Fall, we will continue to visit The Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa every Saturday to present animal interactions to their guests.

We have also had the opportunity to bring our raptors to the grand opening of the San Dieguito Lagoon Ranger Station, and to the Retired Teachers Association’s September meeting. This Fall, we will be bringing our animal ambassadors to various schools in the North County area and exploring other outreach opportunities that will allow us to open young minds to the many wonders of the great outdoors.

Emily Watts, Discovery Center Director
Invest in us, scan the QR code.

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

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Falling Leaves  A Beetle  A Bird

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