The Autumn season is ripe with activities to carve out the good times.

As Director of Education, I thought you “autumn know” what spicetacular educational opportunities you can treat yourself with—no tricks. But, before I jump into the excitement, I’d like to share how the education department has grown and succeeded in the recent months. (continued on page 2)
To begin with success, I must introduce our newest Program Coordinator Emily Bonds, or as all the future lagoon stewards call her, “Miss Em”. Emily started her journey back in March which was not as much of a gourd time as we expected. Despite the trials, Miss Em still managed to carve out the good times. During what was left of the previous remaining school year, Emily scheduled 56 Awesome Agua Animal virtual programs and revived the Kids Klub program. However, her biggest success to date has been the launch of the Preschool Playdate Program. What started as 5 kids total over the course of 3 days, has turned into 12 kids and counting per day over the course of 4 days per week. The passion she has for education is beyond evident, and shines across the faces of the kids she teaches. Stay tuned to hear more about this program in her article. 

Aside from her programmatic success, Emily continues to embody the spirit of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation. She is a team player who works hard for the greater cause of the Foundation’s mission. Her background is in Integrated Education Studies with an emphasis in Leadership Studies and a Minor in Environmental Science from Chapman University. Her natural love of the great outdoors comes from growing up in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. We are thankful that Miss Em has found a home in southern California so she can share her time, talents, and treasures.

In addition to our growing team, our educational programs are also expanding. Jump into our new After School Enrichment program. Launched in September, our first month of programming was offered to kindergarteners through 5th graders on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students enjoyed learning about “Booming Biomes” and what it means to be an “Earth Protector”. In October’s programming, students will have the opportunity to learn about “Habitat Happenings” and “Myths, Legends, and Folktale” to get into the festive fall spirit. Then, in November students will learn about “Life-cycles” and “Explorers”. Do not miss out on the bushels of fun with our Discovery Center teachers every Tuesday and Thursday over the next few months!

Finally, we carve out the good times during our Discovery Camp. Our summer programming was bigger and better than ever serving 222 campers over the course of 6 weeks in socially distanced small groups outside in our Nature Nodes. This fall, “Dig into Fall Camp” is from November 23rd-25th. Discovery Fall Camp will be offered from 9:00am-3:00pm for campers in kindergarten through 5th grade. Camp will be filled with activities, crafts, and lessons all about Autumn including creepy crawlies, bats, leaves, explorers, kindness and more! Rake in the gourd times before they fill up! Camp spots are limited.

Registration is open online at our website: www.aguahedionda.org for all educational programming.
For the past nine years, the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation has been known for our Academy of Environmental Stewardship and has served many classrooms, teachers, and students from across San Diego County.

Our programs are taught through hands on nature education and we are excited to announce our newest program for our youngest lagoon stewards: Preschool Playdates. We introduced this program as a four week summer program that came with great success, allowing us to extend the four week program into something bigger. Starting September 1st, we launched our Preschool Playdates school program that runs four days a week from September 2020 until May 2021!

Preschool Playdates teaches children ages 3-5 in an entirely outdoor classroom. Each month is themed, educating the children on everything from life around the lagoon, to weather patterns and even outer space. Each day is focused on this monthly theme, and the children are able to dive deeper into many aspects of the same topic, allowing for a well rounded understanding of each theme.

Daily activities include: Hands on environmental lessons and literacy, crafts made from recycled materials, nature hikes and outdoor play.

Serving over 30 different future lagoon stewards, our Preschool Playdates program has many returning stewards on a weekly basis. We are fortunate to have an entirely outdoor space for children to safely learn, during these uncertain times. We are excited to continue carving out the good times with the youngest lagoon stewards!

By Emily Bonds, Programs Coordinator
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 9-9-2020.

**AMERICAN AVOCETS $2500**
- Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa
- Hunter Industries
- Poseidon Channelside
- SDG&E

**RESERVER $1000**
- AT&T
- Brubaker & Associates
- Edward Jones – Darcy Wolfe
- Wiegand Realty

**DEFENDER $500**
- 7-Eleven
- Berkshire Hathaway—Lynnell Talone-Honda
- Bristol Cove Property Owners Association
- Carlsbad Food Tours
- Grand Pacific Resorts
- Law Offices of Borg & Norris
- Pegasus Estate Winery
- Stifel Nicolaus – Gary Endres
- Waste Management

**PROTECTOR $250**
- Ara’s Party Rentals
- Bayshore Homeowners Association
- Carlsbad Educational Foundation
- Carlsbad Garden Club
- Crossman Landscape & Maintenance Inc.
- Develop Your Team
- Engel & Völkers - Carlsbad
- First Citizens Bank
- First Team Real Estate– Gary Nessim
- Hale & Associates
- Phillips + Co.
- Polished Images
- Print Professionals
- Terramar H.O.A.
- The Lund Team
- The San Diego Foundation
- Three Lagoons Realty Group
- Dr. Erik Stark – Ortho North County

**FRIEND $100**
- Allies Party Rental
- Cassense
- Cass Winery
- Christine Hathaway Realtor First Team Real Estate
- Coldwell Banker- Lynnette Fox
- Edward Jones– Matt Leonard
- Encinitas Bee Company
- Engage Life Care
- Design Grotto
- Hospice of the North Coast
- Live Wire Communications
- Mountain Shadow
- Solar Watt Solutions
- Venture LLP

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

**LAGOON CHAMPIONS**
- **MARBRISA**
  - Hilton Grand Vacations Club
- **POSEIDON CHANNELSIDE**
  - a Poseidon Water company
- **HUNTER**
  - Built on Innovation
- **SDGE**
  - a Sempra Energy utility

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- **GARIBALDI GIVERS**
  - Donald Wells
- **SEA STAR SUPPORTERS**
  - Jace Hansen
  - Margie & Richard Newell
  - Kathy & Lance Schulte

**GOLD: $30 MONTHLY ($360 ANNUALLY)**
- Christina & Kevin McGoldrick. Lisa & Terry Rodman.

**SILVER: $15 MONTHLY ($180 ANNUALLY)**

**BRONZE: $30 QUARTERLY ($120 ANNUALLY)**

**SNOWY EGRET $1000**
- Lin & Joe Ball. Leah Bissonette & Robert Hemphill.
- Anne Shute/Mary April & Henry Shute. Catherine & Jay Wentz.

**RED TAIL HAWK $500**

**BROWN PELICAN $250**
- Patricia & Jim Davis. Holly & Don Dutton. Yvonne & Carm Finocchiaro.
- Colleen & Dennis Williams. Robin & Don Wofford.

*Names in red refer to members from 2009-2019 consecutively and names in blue refer to members from 2014-2019 consecutively.

*Please note that misspellings of names may occur. If this is the case, please accept our apologies and let us know so that it will be corrected.
DISCOVERY $150

STEWARD $100

FAMILY $60

INDIVIDUAL LAGOONATIC $50
Don’t be afraid to carve out time in October for volunteering TO scare or attend Field of Screams (FOS) any Friday or Saturday night in October to BE scared. If you like Halloween, like I like Halloween then the Pumpkin Patch at 1050 Cannon Road is the right place for you. With activities being largely virtual right now, we do have a fun, safe, outdoors opportunity to volunteer or participate that might interest those that enjoy a good laugh/spook. The Lagoon Foundation will provide proof of hours for required community service hours, school hours etc. And the volunteers provide the spooky and “safe distance” scare to our guests.

By Lisa Rodman, Chief Executive Officer
Our Field of Screams (located at the Carlsbad Strawberry Company) is back for a three peat, and we want to make sure to scare everyone there for the love of nature. The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation partners with the Strawberry Company to provide this thrilling experience and we split the proceeds. This is one event that keeps our Discovery doors open, and our environmental programs thriving! How does this fit our mission? Well when we are able to secure funding from events like this it gives us an opportunity to invest more into our programming. We have added new areas for our community to carve out time to enjoy nature from their homes, our center and anywhere they seek to explore the great outdoors! If you’ve been feeling as if you have a bit of a “nature deficit disorder” then go to our website, aguahedionda.org and check out all the cool innovative ways you are able to get your Zen on. The cost to attend FOS is $25 per person and it is open from 7PM-10:30PM every Friday and Saturday in October. Yes, that includes Halloween night! If you want to volunteer you arrive at 6:30 PM and end at 10:30 PM. Anyone who volunteers is able to come back another night to experience the maze like a guest would FOR FREE.

Wind through this half mile long spooky and kooky cornfield and find yourself getting deeper and deeper into the maze hoping to escape before all the spooks have left for the night. On the off chance this is a repeat visit for you then hold onto to your face masks because it’s a bit more frightening this year than previous years. And we aim to continue to scare you with the “chain saw run” at the end we’ve become known for...

Want to volunteer?
contact samantha@aguahedionda.org;
want to get your October off to a ghoulish goodtime? Tickets are available at the Pumpkin Patch.
This quarter, we recognize Margie and Dick Newell as our Donor of the Quarter. The Newell’s have been long time supporters of the Foundation and personal friends to CEO Lisa Rodman. Over the years, they have personally contributed enough to be in our top 10 donors. This year alone they donated a whopping 6% of our budget. As shutdowns came and went, over 80% of the revenue expected in our budget came and went with them. Their contribution allows the Discovery Center doors to remain open and the good times to be carved out by all the members, visitors, and learners who step through.
This quarter, we recognize Sanders Tech-Ed Foundation as our Business of the Quarter for the Watermark Fall edition. Carole and John Sander's support has allowed the Foundation to carve out the good times in all things Agua. Their generosity extends from being the Title “Town” Sponsor during our Wild, Wild Lagoon Discovery Gala, to installing WiFi in our outdoor Nature Nodes for programming, all the way to the creation and development of the soon to be “Sanders Turtle Pond”. This new exhibit will feature an updated and larger turtle pond for Goonie and Sandy Grand Baker, our Red Eared Sliders, and Dorothy our Goldfish. Their devotion to our mission is inspiring and a-maiz-ing.
Lagoona Kahuna Team Challenge 2020
The Lagoona Kahuna Team Challenge, (Lagoona Kahuna), an event typically held in May, changed both dates and formats this year due to Covid-19, but it was not cancelled, and the environment appreciated it. Lagoona Kahuna is a corporate clean-up event aimed to provide local businesses a chance to get outdoors and support their local lagoon, practice environmental stewardship and build team relationships. We were able to do that this year across an entire week (September 18th – 25th), with both in-person and virtual teams participating in this engaging event, where they certainly carved out a good time.

In our pre-Covid format, all businesses participated on the same day which began with the clean-up portion with teams taking the lagoon by storm in either a kayak, paddle board or walking and picking up trash and invasive weeds along the shores. The businesses then came ashore and competed in fun team building games such as water relays, blindfolded cornhole, water tricycle basketball and volleyball. Enter 2020, where we had to adapt a bit, and we did! This year, the event was held across an entire week so each participating business was able to have their own time slot and avoid a gathering. Half of the time they were cleaning up trash, and the other half of the time they were competing in distanced games which were timed and then ranked upon the in-person competitors. Calsense returned as the “Big Kahuna”, Ryan Company, Stifel Carlsbad Gary Endres and the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce all participated in person. Virtual teams included Thermo Fisher Scientific, Easy Life Management, Hale & Associates Family Law and Develop Your Team. Instead of cleaning up the lagoon, these virtual teams became stewards of their local neighborhoods and played ZOOM environmental trivia games to gain points, instead of the in-person format.

THE RESULTS. Once again Calsense became the reigning champion and was crowned the title of “The Big Kahuna”. Their largest piece of trash collected was a loveseat couch which they paddled in via stand-up paddle board and took a quick lead with the amount of trash brought in. All in all, a total of 36.5 bags of trash and 26 bags of invasive species were collected and removed from the lagoon and beyond.

Thanks to all our sponsors:
Hale and Associates, Easy Life Management, Stifel Carlsbad, Gary Endres, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Ryan Company, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce & Develop your Team

Venue Sponsor: California Water Sports
Food/Brew Sponsor: Pizza Port
And to the Volunteers: Our Board of Directors, Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship and Otter Products

We look forward to next May with another Lagoona Kahuna challenge to keep our lagoon clean, and provide an engaging opportunity for our local business community.

~ Samantha Richter, COO
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Kimberly Holmes is recognized as the Board Member of the Quarter for the Fall edition of the Watermark. She carved out the good times all the way from Maine during our first ever virtual-hybrid Discovery Gala 2020—Wild Wild Lagoon. Every summer, Kimberly spends her time on the East Coast in Maine. This year was no different, except this time she was able to attend the event. She generously hosted a small group of her closest friends and tuned them into the event where they competed in virtual trivia, a live auction, and the Shout Out at the Ok Corral. Kimberly introduced new people to our cause and helped us go transatlantic. She also secured the most successful live auction package for attendee’s to bid on—an African Safari which was sold 3 times. Thank you, Kimberly, for continuing to celebrate our accomplishments and help us reach new heights.
The Volunteer of the Quarter for the Fall edition of the Watermark is also the Volunteer of the Year for the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation. Several months ago, George Wever and his wife joined AHLF to help on a particular trail segment. They began with picking up trash on HUBBS Trails. His magnificent talents, time, can-do attitude, and with his trusty furry helpers Scout and Smitty catapulted him into managing the entire Agua trail system! Carve out a good time with a walk on the lagoon side of nature and when you do, remember to thank George.
It’s a windmill today. Tomorrow, it’s a solution for alternative energy. Agua Hedionda Lagoon is a place where you can explore new ideas and imaginations can soar.

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation continue to encourage students’ exploration.

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The Wild Wild Lagoon
Presented by Carole and John Sanders

Discovery Gala 2020 ~ The Wild Wild Lagoon, truly was a rootin-tootin time, which resulted in an amazing success! This year’s Discovery Gala was almost entirely virtual, unlike any other event that we’ve put on before, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To maintain social distancing practices, groups of no more than ten Cowboys & Cowgirls spent the evening at one of fifteen different outdoor saloons, which were the homes of AHLF Board Members, Gala Committee members, and wonderful friends of the Lagoon. Upon arrival to their designated saloons, guests bellied up to the bar with libations provided by Texas Wine & Spirits, Venom Vodka, as well as a variety of wine provided by Pegasus Estate Winery. The evening moved swiftly, kicking off with all 129 attendees chowing down on some good grub, and bidding on their saloon’s silent auction item basket with their mobile devices. Then, we let the games begin! The entire event was broadcasted over Zoom, which was made possible by the hard-workin’ buckaroo, Mr. Mike Metts and Emcee/Cowgirl/CEO Lisa Rodman. Two rounds of a gripping Trivia game, hosted by Jared with A to Z Entertainment, brought out the rivalry between saloons, to see who really was the Head Honcho ‘round these parts. After we had each guest on their toes, Rick Grove took the reigns as our auctioneer for the Live Auction portion, which included some amazing opportunities. The night came to a close with a special twist on the Raise the Paddle portion of the evening – called the Shout Out at the OK Corral (for a fun read, google the History of the Shootout at the OK Corral).

This year was a new learning experience for all of us here at the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, and we are so happy to say that we were able to grab this bull by the horns and surpass our goal, by raising $105,409.34. We want to thank everyone who attended, donated, sponsored, 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.

We hope you’ll carve out the good times with us next year at Gala 2021 ~ GREASE ~ Lagoon is the Word on Saturday August 28, 2021, honoring Cindy & Mike Metts.

By Montana Bailey, Donor Success Assistant
Invest in us, scan the QR code.

October Scavenger Hunt!

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!

Spider Web  A Pumpkin  An Oak Tree
A Squirrel  A Pinecone  A Spider
Falling Leaves  A Beetle  A Bird

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