



ANNUAL IMPACT 2026



*Celebrating 20 Years of the
Discovery Campus*

Impact Numbers FY 2025/2026

(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

78,000 individuals
served through hands-on,
excellent environmental education

Of this total, the following areas contributed to our reach:

Trails, Conservation and Sustainability:

- Expanded Team: Through a partnership with CA Climate Action Corps and CA Conservation Corps, AHLF hosted **(2) full-time fellows** to boost stewardship, conservation and sustainability practices, provide education, and increase volunteer engagement.
- Trail & Access: Maintained and monitored **3.5 miles** of recreational public access easements.
- Open Space Monitoring: Oversaw stewardship of **132 acres** in the Coastal Zone.
- Erosion Control: Created and installed **40** recycled oyster wattles—repurposing **1,375 lbs.** of landfill-bound oyster shells from participating restaurants Jeune et Jolie, Herb & Sea and Vigilucci's to protect coastal bluffs and prevent erosion. 45 lbs. were given to USFWS to support their Least Tern Habitat projects.
- Habitat Restoration: Planted and monitored **317** native plants to support biodiversity.
- Invasive Species Management: Treated approximately **12,100 sq. ft. of native habitat** by removing **1,025 lbs.** of invasive Algerian Sea Lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*) plants using a combination of solarization, flame treatments and manual hand-pulling techniques.
- Pollution Control: **212 lbs.** of trash removed from the lagoon through weekly trail checks.
- Wildlife Protection: Removed **3 lbs.** of discarded fishing line from Hubbs Coastal Trail.
- Sinkhole Repairs: Imported approximately **35 yards** of rip rap rock, recycled base, and DG to repair a sinkhole, maintaining our trails and preventing erosion.
- Native Plant Propagation: **45 native plants** were propagated in our greenhouse and given away to the public.
- Community Cleanup: Collected **1,494 lbs.** of trash and invasive plants during the Lagoon Kahuna Clean-Up Challenge.
- Organic Waste Diversion: **Collected 181 lbs.** of unsold produce from Jimbo's to use for our animal feed.
- Citizen Science: Volunteers and fellows utilized **iNaturalist** to tag and map 498 individual invasive plants around Agua Hedionda Lagoon to better target removal and regrowth.

Education:

- Served **10,129 students** through the Academy for Environmental Stewardship school field trips.
- Attended **57 outreach opportunities** with educational lessons on general information about the Foundation, or animal ambassador visits **totaling 1,725 people.**
- Partnered with **Grand Pacific Resorts'** MarBrisa, Solea, Carlsbad Seapointe Resort, and San Clemente Inn properties to provide Animal Ambassador outreach experiences for more than **1,834** resort guests.
- Provided **30 unique groups** with **concentrated raptor experiences** through our raptor outreach program totaling more than 961 individuals.

Discovery Campus:

- Our Discover & Learn Series served **3,385 guests.**
- **33,550** people walked through our Discovery Campus doors as guests to engage in environmental educational activities.
- Expanded our hours to **9am – 5pm daily** in 2026.

Volunteers:

- **6,139 volunteers** hosted through all programs and opportunities.

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Dear Friends

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

This year, we celebrated an extraordinary milestone: 20 years at the Discovery Campus.

For two decades, this special place has grown alongside our community. What began with a vision to connect people to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon has become something far greater because our community and region saw that vision, believed in it, and wholeheartedly embraced it. Because of you, we continue to provide Excellent Environmental Education while looking ahead to the next twenty years and beyond.

And we are not standing still.

We continue to march forward with new programs, deeper community connections, and expanded opportunities to share the history, culture, ecology, and significance of this remarkable watershed. Just before the close of our fiscal year, we ordered Discovery Island, an important investment in protecting and strengthening our campus as we prepare for the rains ahead. At the same time, our membership continued to grow, reaching 1,441 members, an incredible reflection of a community that believes in this place and our mission.

But when I think about our impact, it really comes down to something much simpler: one person at a time.

It is every person who walks through our doors. Every child who meets one of our animal ambassadors. Every volunteer who restores a trail, tends a garden, or gives their time to care for the Lagoon. Every interaction creates another connection to nature and another person who understands that this beautiful gem of Carlsbad belongs to all of us and that each of us has a role in protecting it.

My favorite moments are watching our youngest stewards begin to make that connection. You can see the wonder in their eyes and hear the excitement in their voices as they discover something new about the natural world. That excitement is infectious. It reminds our entire team why we bravely and passionately do this work every day: connecting individuals, one by one, to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

Twenty years brought us here. Our community will carry us forward.

Here's to twenty more years and generations of Lagoon Stewards still to come.

With gratitude,

Lisa L. Cannon-Rodman
Chief Executive Officer/President
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

Financials

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026: JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

As part of our continued commitment to transparency and financial stewardship, the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation has completed its transition from cash basis to accrual basis accounting, in alignment with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The figures below are reported on an accrual basis and are unaudited.

Our formal audit for this fiscal year is currently underway. Finalized, audited financial statements are anticipated in January 2027.

INCOME

Donations	\$ 450,115.28
Educational Programs & Educational Grants	\$ 568,283.13
Events/Fundraising/Sponsorships	\$ 526,070.98
Other Grants	\$ 64,046.53
Membership Dues	\$ 185,830.17
Other Income	\$ 187,136.03
	\$ 1,981,482.12

EXPENSES

Administrative	\$ 145,189.24
Community Outreach	\$ 283,003.46
Discovery Campus	\$ 615,180.02
Educational Programs	\$ 494,099.03
Fundraising	\$ 196,300.94
Trails and Conservation	\$ 233,366.90
	\$ 1,967,139.59

Net Income **\$ 14,342.53**

LAGOON LEGACY SOCIETY

This list includes individuals who have added AHLF as beneficiary to their will or living trust, allowing them to leave a legacy of support for our environmental education and stewardship programs. **We have a goal to reach 12 Lagoon Legacy Society Members by 6/30/2027 – will you join us? (There is no minimum amount required.)**

Sunny Blende & Randy Hixon
Stacy & Adam Ryan
Diane Kahler
Colleen & Ian McDaniel
Cindy & Mike Metts
Wendy Wiegand

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Susan & Richard Andrews
Bruce Bandemer
Judy & Kent Bricker
Leslie & Jim Brubaker
California's Own Native Landscape Design
Component Concepts
Bonnie Dominguez
Debra Douglas
Ramona Finnilla
Randi Fjaeran
Alexandra Govorova
Denise & Gary Hill
Inger Huber
Sara Huber
Carol & Tom King
Judith & Wesley Marx
Jeanne & Robert McFadden
Julie & Paul Nygaard
Sanders Tech-Ed Foundation
Kathy & Lance Schulte
Barbara Wood

MAJOR GIFT MEMBERS

Major Gift Members are individuals and families who have made philanthropic gifts of \$1,000 or more in support of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's mission and commitment to excellence in environmental education and stewardship including unrestricted donations, memberships and end of year gifts. This recognition reflects a donor's cumulative giving to the Foundation over time, including all donations, sponsorships, and other contributions that advance our work in the community, not only major gifts. To be included on this list, you must have given a Major Gift qualifying donation within the past year. This list includes Major Gift Members who have given a major gift (\$1,000+) from 10/01/2025 - 09/30/2026 organized by totality of gifts given to Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation over the course of their entire giving history.

Janean & Tim Stripe. Margie Newell. Carole & John Sanders. Michelle & Matt Ginn. Stacy & Adam Ryan. Robert Beard. Liz Carnes. Joann & John Johnson. Lin & Joe Ball. Leslie & Jim Brubaker. Elizabeth & John Leonard. Carla & Thomas Applegate. Kathy Issa. Sandy & Carlton Lund. Ken Richter. Michelle & Tom Schlehuber. Valerie & Jake Olson. April & Henry Shute. Julie Gibbs. Kathy Kinane & Gary Nessim. Barbara & Bill Weiler. Rachel & Cole Ivanovich. Susan & Bill Hoehn. Cindy & Mike Metts. Shelley & William Wong. Elaine Nielsen. Janie & Andrew Hughes. Laura & Jeff Segall. Laurie Gonzalez. Jody & Rocco Ciesco. Bev & Barry Williamson. Karen Bond. Donald Wells. Michelle & David Peters. Demos Anagnos. Randi Fjaeran. Jodi & Russell Wallis. Robin & Don Wofford. Traci & Rick Grove. Vinit Ahoaja. Jodi & Jon James. Dawn & Jeff Van Siclen. Patti & Steve Baker. Rebecca Brown & Ed Rose. Lori & Art Barter. Carolyn & Mark O'Malley. Jaidene & Roby Viglucci. Alison Gilbert. Vicki & Neil Black. Lorie & Ernie Chapa. Laurie & Mike Weseloh. Kent Zapata. Sunny Blende & Randy Hixon. Frank Ortega. Lynn & Neal Fogelhut. John Rodenhausen. Patricia & Bruce Klier. Beth Schmeiser. Mary & Robert Meigs. Andrea & Kurtis Peterson. Janet & John Kister. Lacy & Tim Metcalfe. Dr. Catherine Hanham. Catherine & Jos Magana. Melanie & Shawn Burkholder. Cindy & John Wallace. Terry & John Thalasinis. Brooke & Brandt Riedman. Ray Adler. Paul Kartzke. Ingrid Weibust & Jacen Grant. Scott Lincoln. John White. Jeffrey Wall. Sheila and Al Rodbell. Michael Christman. Skyler & McKenzie Sutton. Deborah Rogers. Mike Herman. Lynn & Jim Krieg. Deborah Schwartz Lowenthal. Tony Ross.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

AMERICAN AVOCETS \$2,500

Food Allergy Institute . Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa . NRG Energy Inc

PRESERVER \$1,000

2051 Cucina Italiana . Hunter Industries . NeoGenomics Laboratories, Inc. . Pacific Ridge School . SDG&E San Diego Gas & Electric . The Lund Team . Thermo Fisher Scientific

DEFENDER \$500

Bristol Cove Property HOA . Certified EOS Implementer - Ray Adler . Grand Pacific Resorts . Hospice of the North Coast . Print Professionals . The Silva Group - Lynnell Talone Honda . Weis Environmental LLC

PROTECTOR \$250

Advanced Brokers Insurance Services . Allie's Party Rental, Inc. . Apta Motors . Au Technology Solutions . Bayshore Homeowners Association . Beery Group Inc. . Carlsbad Educational Foundation . Carlsbad Garden Club . Clean Energy Alliance . Cove Work LLC . Develop Your Team . Diamond Environmental Services . Edward Jones - Matt Leonard . Enact Partners . League of Women Voters of North County San Diego . North County Student Transportation, Inc. . Olive Catering . Ooly . Polished Images . Poppy Bank . San Diego Bird Alliance . Senor Grubby's . Serenity Skin & Body Care . Silvergate Retirement Residence . TERI . Terramar H.O.A. . Terravana Adventures, Inc. . The San Diego Shell Club . Three Lagoons Realty, Inc. . Venture LLP . WWM Financial

INDIVIDUAL RECURRING MEMBERSHIPS SUSTAINER'S CIRCLE MEMBERSHIPS

BLACK DIAMOND: \$250 MONTHLY (\$3,000 ANNUALLY)

Elaine Nielsen

DIAMOND: \$100 MONTHLY (\$1,200 ANNUALLY)

Tony Ross

PLATINUM: \$83.33 MONTHLY (\$1,000 ANNUALLY)

Alpenglow Counseling Services, LLC . Julie Gibbs . Traci & Rick Grove . Rachel & Cole Ivanovich . Frank Ortega . Beth Schmeiser

GOLD: \$30 MONTHLY (\$360 ANNUALLY)

Moriah Adamick . Amber & Tyler Bass . Kathren Escobar & Robert Burns . Katherine & Al Cerdá . Wendy & Rich Clarke . Tracy Sereiko & Brian Crummy . Mario Cuneo . Barbara Franks . Jodi & Jon James . Graham Klehr-Keyes . Emily Kuhnel . Denise Mueller . Kimberly Pence . Lisa & Terrell Rodman . MaryAnn Rogers . Maureen Simons . Gale & David Tweedy Ph.D., MHA . Joseph Ward

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

David Almandsmith . Malena Bennett . Lynn & Robby Campbell . Jody & Rocco Ciesco . Marian & Richard Clancy . April & Max Crystal . Erica & Noel Ellis . Jose Enciso . Jennifer & Robert Fuchs . Lauren & Kevin Gibbons . Emilia Greenstein . Taylor & Jordan Hindle . Esther & Chris Jones . Kathleen Kennedy . Alice & Michael Leonard . Maria & Douglas Meeuwssen . Laura & Nick Mitchell . Mariya Nill . Patricia Paschall . Nita Rodriguez . Stacy & Adam Ryan . Julia Simone-Herbert . Hannah Snider & Richard Sherman . Ruth Triglia & Jim Stewart . Susan Uhler . Sarah Wright

Beginning January 2027, our monthly Steward Membership will increase from \$10 to \$12.

The new rate takes effect with the auto-renewal that runs on December 30, 2026, and will be reflected in your January 2027 monthly Steward Membership. This small adjustment fully covers the repairs from this year's water leak and helps us keep up with daily operations, exhibit upkeep, and our members' extended hours and extra nights. The \$120 annual membership is still available when paid in full up front. Thank you to all of our members for your understanding and your membership. You make it all happen.

[Click here to join or renew your membership.](#)

INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

GREAT BLUE HERON \$2,500

Karen Bond . Janie & Andrew Hughes . Brooke & Brandt Riedman

SNOWY EGRET \$1,000

Vinit Ahooja . Patti & Steve Baker . Liz Carnes . Lynn & Neal Fogelhut . Joann & John Johnson . Lynn & Jim Krieg . Mary & Robert Meigs . Carolyn & Mark O'Malley . April & Henry Shute . Skyler & McKenzie Sutton . Dawn & Jeff Van Siclen . Jaidene & Roby Viglucci

RED TAIL HAWK \$500

Lin & Joe Ball . Christine & Douglas Evans . Julie & Richard Janss . Maho Jordan . Michele & John McCoy . Suzanne & Bill O'Connell . Ken Richter . Rick Ryberg . Joe Sheffer . Linda & Dick Sterrett . Sandra & Sean Sweeney . Jodi & Russell Wallis . Laurie & Mike Weseloh

BROWN PELICAN \$250

Emily Ambler . Carla & Thomas Applegate . Sherry Baker . Shirlene Barnes . Lauren & Mark Brimmer . Katie & Jonathan Bringuier . Suzie & Andrew Concors . Cheri & Ron Dixon . Danielle & Benjamin Duckett . Kyan Foley . Megan Hall & Mary Spinharney . Lauren Kearney & Craig Zelen . Laurie & Jeff Lindeneau . Elizabeth McGill . Sabrina & Andrew Partlow . Lisa Peterson . Dee Dee & Joe Polzin . Carmen Rene . Julia German & David Richards . Leslie Richter . Kelly Loyd & Jeffrey Schafer . Kristine Svarcas & William Sheffler . Sandy & Frank Silva . Jennifer & Michael Skinner . Anne Spindel . Allie & Chad Williams . Cynthia Williams . Bev & Barry Williamson

STEWARD \$120

Deniell & Peter Aadland . Elaine Aadland . Amy Abed . Laura & Neema Abedini . Jessica & Rich Ackerman . Erin & Joshua Adams . Michelle Adler . Krystin & Tanner Agor . Deborah & Stephen Ahle . Nazir Akil . Elisabeth Albaba . Laura & Todd Albiston . Katie Albritton . Danielle & David Alfego . Tara & Bryce Allen . Christa & Stuart Alleyn . Dona Alpert & Fred McKee . Bertha Alvarez & Ian Lujan . Jill & Ron Anderson . Jillian & Ashley Anderson . Megan & Eric Anderson . Erin Anderson . Alexis Anderten . Rachel & Chris Andrews . Lilian Angel . Alyssa & Henry Antolak . Apex 365Workforce Solutions, Inc. . Jenn & Nick Arlas . TK Arnold . Ian Arroyoavila . Christina & Jon Paul Ayres . Eriko & John Bailey . Margaret Balleza . Betty Bannigan . Claire Barclay & Missy Thompson . Wesley Barnett . Summer Basile . Kristen & Brian Bateman . Robert Beard . Deb & Kevin Beddoe . Pamela & Frank Beirne . Sarah Bell . Stephanie & Andrew Benn . Sandrine & Ryan Bennett . Emily & Adam Beu . Prerana Bhatia . Elizabeth Bigham . Yolanda Bishop . Liz & Charlene Bisordi . Jennifer Blackwell & Ed Lombardi . Caroleann Blackwood . Heather Blanco . Cecilia Goehner & Everol Blavet . Michelle & Kim Blaylock . Sunny Blende & Randy Hixon . Shauna Bligh . Shauna & Tom Bloomquist . Jill & Thomas Boggs . Stacy & Aaron Booth . Andrew Boushka . Brooke Brinson . Julia & Nick Brischler . Michelle Brook & Peter Ackley . Mary & Thomas Brouillette . Fernando Brown . Kim & Bill Bue . Mary & David Bunker . Marissa Buntz . Devin Burke . Ashley & Rob Burke . Laura & Patrick Bursey . Eleanor Burton . Patty Ten Boom & Andy Byrnes . Ashley Cahill . Ellen Cain . Heather Caliendo . Audrey & Gabriel Calzada . Brianna & Adam Camacho . Josh Cantor . Janet & Greg Cantor . Kristine Arquero & Mark Carolino . Amanda Carroll . Lindsey & Jason Caskey . Quinn Cassi . Lisa & Brian Castillo . Megan & Matthew Ceppi . Kathleen Chambers . Courtney Chandler . Chris Chapek & Christina Hernandez . Emily Cheung .

Punam Chowdhury . Vicki & Glen Christensen . Michael Christman . Rene & Stuart Clark . Jan Clausen & John Lohr . Susan & Steve Cleveland . Christianne Coffey & Mara Valdez Buelna . Nataliaia Cohen . Liz & Chris Cohn . Andrea Cohon . Andrew Colbert . Oletha Coleman . Ann Collins . Nicole Collins & Patrick Lavelle . Sasha & Kenton Collup . Melissa & Brian Conrey . Lani & Rod Conti . Katherine & Raymond Contreras . Alysse Cooper . Lisa & Mike Cornette . Calvin Cosoe . Jenny Costello . Connie & Gary Cote . Cathleen & Kevin Coyle . Emilia & Caleb Crail . Greta Lebo . Angel & Chris Crespo . Kendall Lyon & Ian Crick . Colleen Crouch . Susan & Charles Currey . Ashley Curry . Kellie Cuttrel . Shirley & Donald Dahlquist . Shirley DahlquistBursvold . Sydney & Bryan Dalla Betta . Angela & Carl Dargitz . Steffanie Davis . Jennifer Davis & Eric Van Esselstyn . Terri Day . Joy & David De Korte . Liz de Roulet . Luciano De Santiago . Diana & John Dean . Lauren & Joe Deavenport . Silvia & Christopher Del Riego . Karla Cordero & Mario DeMatteo . Oliver De Michele . Tara & Ryan Denner . Lauren Denuo . Nicole & Tony Derose . Pooja & Shivan Desai . Laura & Chris Dinanno . Emily & Michael Diorio . Dara Ditsworth . Kelly Dixon-Kelly . Jason Do . Callie & Caleb Donnelly . Gina & Steve Donohue . Katie DuBois . Marsha & Paul Dufour . Jennifer Dufresne . Sharon & Connor Duncan . Sage Dunne . Christie & Emmett Durnan . Melissa Eads . Janna & Lee Bryant Edleson . Lydia Ekoko & Joeri de Gooijer . Cathy & Gary Elgas . Susan Elmore . Rosemary & David Eshelman . Karen & Brian Estrada . Tania Faruque . Meredith Fashouer . Samantha Dean Fauce & Michael Fauce . Taera & Sonny Felkins . Randy Ferren . Christina Filia . Kirsten & Kevin Fisher . Patty & Bill Fister . Devin Fitzsimmons . Bo Fjaeran . Sibi & Gunnar Fjaeran . Dayna Flasch & Ryan Ferry . Samantha & Kate Fletcher . Jane Forrester . Gloria Fortin . Misty Franco . Dana & Jake Friedman . Akasha Frye . Paul Fullao . Marrel Gallet & Brian Schutz . Francisco Garcia & Amanda Guy . Lori & Tim Garcia . Andrew Garcia . Julia Garrido . Ruth & Greg Gazda . Phi & Eric Gerber . Margaret & Daniel Gibson . Marylou Gibson & Cheyenne Durham . Chelsea & Richard Giesen . Alison Gilbert . Sara Giles . Melissa & Dean Gillespie . Nicole Giordani & Tyson Vonderfecht . Rochelle & Jeff Glenn . Bob Glenn . Beverly & Pete Goedert . Kirsten & Michael Goessman . Lindsay & Josh Goldman . Lisa & Alec Gonzalez . Monica Gonzalez . Grace & Peter Goodwin . Rachelle Gordon . Megan & Sean Gosselin . Donna Gray . Sue Marie & Lenny Green . Gary Greening . Amanda & Chris Greenwell . Lane Gregg . Lauren & Brad Greider . Kelsi Greider-Sidens . Donna & Glen Gross . Kate & Greg Guillen . Carole & Bryan Gunner . Beth Anne Gutierrez . Chelsea & Jack Haden . Lauren & Seth Haller . Meghan Halsey . Stephanie & Nolan Hamilton . Andrea & Steve Hamilton . Linda Hammond Ph.D . Joan & Russell Hampton . Margaret & John Handfield . Joan & Gary Hanel . Dr. Catherine Hanham . Lindsay & Chris Hart . Rachel & James Hart . Jamie Hartnett & John Magnus . Kelly & Kevin Haugh . Elizabeth & Kyle Hausmann . Meghan & Rachel Hawkins . Marie & Jim Hayes . Lindsay Hedlind & James Vasquez . Stephanie & John Hein . Merima Helic & Dan Gutierrez . Liliana & Raul Hernandez-Arvizu . Caitlin & Tyler Hershey . Pamela & Stan Herskoritz . Elizabeth & Nathaniel Higgins . Argentina & David Hill . Alexis Hill & Jacob Davis . Sabrina & Shane Hohnstein . Monica & Michael Hopkins . Roz Broas & Mike Howes . Erick Hu . Jessi & Matt Hubbell . Ashley & Patrick Hudson . Travis Hutchinson . Katie Iredale & Kevin Kuhn . Susan & Bill Irely . Ashley & Andrew Irvine . Jani Jackson M.Ed . Nicole & Connor Jackson-Shaw . Heidi & Ryan Jacobs . Maria Shahmoradgoli

& Paymaan Jafar-nejad . Monica Janowicz . Caitlin & Mike Jensen . Taylor & Taylor Johnson . Patty & Jeff Johnson . Karen & Greg Johnson . Terry Johnson . Sabina Jorgensen . Latha Kannan . Matthew Kaplan . Larry Karagheusian . Erika & Arthur Karell . Paul Kartzke . Binita Katheria & Steven Kuntz . Hayley Katzenberger . Marissa & Claudio Kaweck . Tamara & Bob Keefe . Tracy Keir . Jacqueline & Alex Keller . Rose Ann & Donald Keller . Mariah Kempf . Alexa & Kyle Kennedy . Joan Kercher . Sabha Khan . Carol & Skyler King . Tahnee Klemencic & Clifton Martinson . Alexander Klippel & Zara Solakhyan . Amanda & James Knapp . Anne & Richard Koike . Jared Kolar . Jennifer & Patrick Kramer . Robert S Kreisberg . Megan Farina & Justin Kriney . Avani & Sid Kulkarni . Montana & Justin Kuntz . Ashley Kunzelman . Brittany Kuzmanic . Claire La Breche & Ryan Johnson . Rebecca & Ryan La Londe . Jennifer & Nick Lacuaniello . Veronica LaFemina . Jessica & Aaron Lamoree . Andi & Wesley Landes . Courtney & John Langan . Julie Lantz . Robyn Lass . Sydney Laubach . Janis Leahy & Sergio Sastre . Hanna & Jerry Lee . Sarah & Steve Lee . Carlye & Will Leonard . Caitlyn & Lance Lerum . Eileen & Larry Letts . Tricia & Drew Lewandowski . Dana & Jon Lighthill . Allison Lin & Hayden Black . Lucy Lin . Amanda & Alex Linder . Melinda & Brian Lintner . Kellen Lockwood . Christie & Ryan Logan . Annaleise & Greg Lohr . Megan Londerholm . Megan Lubesnick . Maria Francisco Luciano . Lori & Patrick Ludeman . Laura White & Matt Ludvik . Chiara & Brian Luna . Joy Lyndes . Janet Ma . Angela & Jordan MacCollam . Thomas MacFarlane . Christy & Alfonso Macias . Lizette Mada & Eric Huerta . Judy & Richard Maddox . Joe Magro . Shannon & Ian Maitland . Anne Majer . Barbara Makatura . Michelle Malkind & Steven McArdle . Kathleen Malley . Margaret Mankus . Rachel Marano . Joyleen & Derek Maravilla . Danielle Marenburg . Elysia & Sam Marsh . Loretta Martin . Cynthia Martin . Linnee Martin . Nora & Luis Martinez . Nadine & Evan Martini . Amber & Jordan Masciorini . Gretchen & Bradley Massey . Anne Masty & Michael Dreebin . DLee & Paul Mayberry . Jessica Mayeux & Benjamin Siddoway . Shanon & Scott McCarthy . Natalie & David McCaughin . Lisa & Matt Daniel . Paige & Shayne McInnis . Shelley & Miles McLennan . Linh & Russell McQuiklin . Natilee Meacham . Dorine Meade . Kelsey LaPlante & Raul Medina . Nicole & Richard Medrano . Roy Meenes . Deanna Meier-Brown & Michael Brown . Janice & Charles Meliska . Samantha & Scott Meritt . Rae & Gary Merritt . Lucy & Tim Metcalfe . Cindy & Mike Metts . Antoinette & Darin Mingo . Sophia Monaco & Erik Holtan . Raquel & Adam Monroe . Dr. Colleen & Jonathan Moore . Elise Morales . Rita Morgani . Ashley & David Morris . Jenna & Ali Mortazavi . Audrey & Joseph Moyer . Erica & Devin Muna . Rosie Muschenheim . Kinsey Myer . Laura & David Nakamura . Denise & Danny Nava . Holly Nelson & Hamed Nademi . Teresa Nelson . Kelsey & Adam Neumeister . Alexandra Neuroth . Sharon Neward . Thuan Ngo . Elyse Nguyen . Lisa & Steve Nicholes . Laurie Nocer . Julie & John Nute . Michael O'Tousa . Colleen O'Harra . Holly & Kevin O'Neill . Pamela & Matt Ober . Jane Offerman . Ashley & John Olsen . Melinda Olson . Jamie Orlando . Diane Otto . Kathleen & Paul Pace . Catherine & Greg Pacos . Liza & Ilshun Park . Pat & Terry Parsons . Lexy & Alex Pasharikov . Nikita Patel & Diego Vasquez . Melanie Paterson & Wade Lippert . Stephanie Paul . Sheila & Zeljko Pavlic . Karen & Ray Pearson . Beatrice & Ronald Pedroza . Ella Pelteteci . Bree & Bill Pendergast . Elia Perez-Tessicini . Bailey Perry . Don Peterson & Judy Mitchell . Caitlin Petrush . Hollyce &

Robert Phillips . Nicole Piano-Jones . Sarah Piccollelli . Margery Pierce . Kelly & Kevin Popp . Meg & Alex Preston . Ashley & William Price . Alyssa & Parker Price . Tracy Quinn . Linda Ralston . Narisa Ratar-Chen & James Chen . Stephanie & Brian Reagan . Kristie & John Reed . Mara Reese . Sheryl Reiner . Melissa Riba . Kim Rietfors & Kendall Warden . Lauren Rivelli & Soren DeOrlow . Cipriano Rivera . Chelsea & Kevin Roach . Erin & Ian Roberts . Ruth Robinson . Zach Robinson . Sheila and Al Rodbell . Preston Rodman . Carolyn & John Rodosta . Charlie & Taylor Rogers . Jaquelyn & Nick Rojas . Ivy & Steven Rose . Rebecca Brown & Ed Rose . Marie & Erik Reitz . Krista & Sam Russell . Marcy Ryan . Jake Ryan . Arvind & Sumanta Saini . Charlie & Taylor Sais . Leslie & Rolando Saldana . Susanna Samaneki . Hoa Sanchez . Marla & Jose Sanchez . Mayra & Javier Sanchez . Gladys Sanders . Carole & John Sanders . Heidi & Ian Salsbury . Lynda & Phillip Savage . Jess & Kendall Saville . Nico Saxten . Katharine Sayre . Joleen & Bret Schanzenbach . Colleen & Steve Schick . Leah Scott . Najma Sepper . Lauren Severs & Brian McNeely . Sierra & Spencer Seyb . Linda Shafer . Kannan Shah . Michelle & Christopher Shaver . Christy & Rachael Shearer . Renee Sheppard . Sherri & Bill Shovers . Ryan Shuman . Krystle & Alex Silva . Jennifer & Brian Silvers . Brittany & Aaron Simkin . Caroline & Michael Sinai . Anna Singery . Charlene & Patrick Sippl . Michelle Sjodin & Samuel Blakesley . Jordan & Stanley Skwarlo . Kelley Slingerland . Bunnie Smith . Ryan Smith . Julia & Canon Smith . Heidi Smith . Chez Snyders . Cindy & Mike Solich . Dakota Speas . Alexis Spina . Tamara Stark & Ashley Axello . Cara Stelzer . Lexi Stephenson & Ryan Madsen . Nicole & Zach Stewart . Jen & Chris Stewart . Lynn Stine . Amy Stoehr . Rosario & Mike Stoliker . Judith & Charles Stoopack . Bridget Stringham . Dana & Mark Sturzbecher . Susan & Tim Sullivan . Pamela Sutton & Russell Roopenian . Jane & William Svec . Barbara Swearingen . Lu Ann Hall & Allen Sweet . Tami Swisher . Mary Sydlík . Amanda & Andrew Tabarracci . Marguerite & Sean Talbott . Justin Tallio . Ashley Taylor & Edward Adam Brooks . Patty Tejeda & Richard Navarrette . Christine Tenpas & Matthew Miller . Michele Terry . Jill Thiede . Anne-Marie Dao & Raphael Thiriaux . Sandi & Brent Thorne . Amanda Tijerina & Andrew Weber . Chris Tivel . Owen Toefer . Anthony Tominna . Maria & Aaron Toney . Rica Tony & Lia Bohora . David Toone . Diane Topolski & Kinsley Johnson . Savannah & Mitchell Toth . Sheila & Steve Trebbin . Faith Triandos . Anna Trimboli . Nicole & Chris Turney . Sandra & Jeffrey Unalp . Jen & Travis Van Treese . Kathryn & Joseph Van Wetering . Elise & Wongaletu Vanda . Jessica & Craig Vanoni . Anna Vanpaepgheem & Nathan Hubbard . Ethel & Phillip Varela . Nicole Stadnick & Loring Veenstra . Michelle Vega . Jessica Villaume . Andrea & Paul Villyard . Ted Viola . Samantha Visone & Alex Levine . Kaily & Christer Wakefield . Nancy Wang . Amy & Bastel Wardak . Debby & Jeffrey Weiner . Renee & Brian Welch . Tamara Wells . Kris & Steve Westland . Jean & George Weyer . Yajaira & Samuel Whitehead . Jill & Nels Wiegand . Carol & James Wilkinson . Jorie & Kent William . Sally & William Willis . Wendy Wilson . Mitzi Wilson . Amanda Wirtz . Paula Woods . Julia & James Wren . Glory & Gino Wylie . Britinee Yasukochi . Samantha & Mark Yeilding . Stefanie & Peter Yerkes . Joni & Ben Yribe . Haley Zahner & Michael Melzer . Agnes & Jae Zammit . Shahnaz Zarif & Roberto Robledo . Shannon Zerwekh . Xinxin (Cindy) Zhou & Noah Kagan . Melissa Zonne & William Barrett . Monica & Chase Zwissler

Recognition



BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR: STEVE BAKER

We are proud to recognize Steve Baker as our Board Member of the Year! From the moment he joined the Board, Steve stepped up, taking on the critical role of Treasurer and joining the Executive Board without hesitation. A true master of the details, Steve brings invaluable guidance, a thoughtful perspective, and genuine enthusiasm for our mission to everything he does. Beyond the boardroom, you'll often find him out on the trails, showing up for as many events as possible and engaging with the community we serve. We are incredibly grateful for Steve's leadership, dedication, and willingness to jump in wherever he is needed.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: VINIT AHOOJA

We are proud to recognize Vinit Ahooja as our Rookie Board Member of the Year! Vinit wasted no time getting involved, taking on leadership roles across multiple committees and stepping up to join the Executive Board as Secretary. His experience in operations brings a valuable perspective to the Foundation, helping turn ideas into action while keeping people, priorities, and projects moving forward. Vinit's willingness to jump in, take on responsibility, and contribute wherever needed has made an immediate impact, and we are grateful for the energy and leadership he has brought to the Board.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: MIKE METTS

A huge thank you to Mike Metts, past Chair of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, whose dedication to our mission continues well beyond his years of leadership. Mike generously gives his time, talent, and treasure to make the Discovery Gala come to life year after year. As our resident AV master, he's the magic behind the music, visuals, and energy that keep us all in the groove. We are incredibly grateful for Mike's creativity, generosity, and longstanding commitment to the Foundation.

Grantor Spotlight

Grants make it possible for the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards through hands-on science, conservation, and outdoor education. We are deeply grateful to the following grant partners whose support during our 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) helped expand access to meaningful learning experiences, habitat restoration, and community programs.

ACADEMY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Our year-round NGSS-aligned field trip program connects students to environmental science, local history, and sustainability through hands-on learning at the Discovery Campus.

- The Conrad Prebys Foundation – **\$75,000**: Supports the Healing Through the Arts & Nature Initiative, providing three immersive program segments and transportation for 1,000 returning students.
- Carlsbad Educational Foundation – **\$18,528**: Funded participation for all third-grade students in Carlsbad Unified School District, including raptor outreach to attend two segments.
- Access Support – **\$23,750** Combined: The John & Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation (\$10,000), The SUNDT Foundation (\$5,000), Hunter Industries (\$5,000), Employees Community Fund of Boeing – Southern California Chapter (\$3,000), and San Marcos Community Foundation (\$750) helped provide subsidized or free field trip access for students.
- Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation – **\$2,165**: Supported educational supplies for the program.

COASTAL EXPERIENCE STEAM CAMP

A free week-long summer day camp introducing underserved middle school students to coastal ecology, marine science, technology, and nature-based wellness.

- Slaggie Family Foundation – **\$5,000**: Supported the full camp experience for participating students.

TRAILS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Supports stewardship of 3.5 miles of recreational trails through habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and volunteer-powered conservation.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program – **\$65,000**: Funds a multi-year Algerian Sea Lavender removal project through habitat restoration and invasive species management.
- 2026 Climate Action Event Microgrant Award (Keep California Beautiful) – **\$1,500**: Supported native plant refurbishment throughout the Discovery Campus, enhancing habitat value and showcasing climate-resilient landscaping.

DISCOVERY ISLAND (EDUCATIONAL EXPANSION)

A future weather-resistant outdoor classroom and exhibit space designed to expand experiential learning through sensory gardens,

archaeology, literacy, and STEAM exploration.

- Mission Federal Credit Union – **\$5,000**
- Youth Friends Association – **\$5,000**
- John & Elizabeth Leonard Foundation – **\$2,500**

BROAD SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & ACCESS TO NATURE

- Sanders Tech Ed Foundation – **\$11,000**: General support for equitable environmental education and stewardship programs.
- Bessie Minor Swift Foundation – **\$5,000**: Funded Ozobots and hands-on STEM activities for the Discovery Campus' Discover & Learn series, inspiring literacy, problem-solving, and technology exploration for learners of all ages.
- The JEM Project – **\$5,000**: Unrestricted support for organizational priorities.
- Sempra Energy – **\$5,000**: Expanded access to inclusive environmental education, community engagement, and outdoor experiences that connect people of all ages to nature.
- Thermo Fisher Scientific – **\$4,800**: STEM engagement, employee volunteerism, trail restoration, and community programming.
- San Diego Foundation (Hans & Margaret Doe Fund) – **\$2,700**: Supported the adult lecture series Watershed Wisdom, expanding community learning around water, conservation, and historical use.
- Starbucks Foundation – **\$2,000**: Community environmental programming.
- Walmart Spark Good – **\$1,800**: Expanded access to Foundation programs, including the Academy for Environmental Stewardship and Grow With Me, connecting children and families with hands-on environmental learning.
- Elwyn Heller Foundation – **\$1,500**: Support for environmental education and community access.
- California Green Business Network / Intuit Grant – **\$1,000**: Funded smart thermostats at the Discovery Campus to support sustainability.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- San Diego County Community Enhancement Program – **\$9,500**: Funded recycled art enhancements and displays in the Native Garden and the Gift Shop Secure Closure project, enhancing the visitor experience while improving the functionality and sustainability of the Discovery Campus.

Events

DISCOVERY GALA 2025 – BARBIE'S DREAM LAGOON

Discovery Gala 2025: Barbie's Dream Lagoon

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HERE
to read the
full article

was a glamorous evening of sparkle, celebration, and impact. Guests stepped into a glittering pink-and-blue world featuring live music, signature cocktails, immersive décor, dancing, and exciting games. The night began with an exclusive VIP Patron Party honoring the Carlsbad Educational Foundation as our 2025 Hero on a Quest before guests enjoyed a lively cocktail hour, a surprise AHLF flash mob performance, and a spectacular four-course dinner.

The Live Auction inspired spirited bidding on incredible travel experiences, while our Impact Video highlighted the vision for Discovery Island, a future classroom and exhibit space. We also honored Heather and Jimmy Ukegawa for their extraordinary commitment to environmental education and our community.

The evening concluded with casino games, dancing, and unforgettable memories to last a lifetime.

As we look ahead to **Discovery Gala 2026: DC Disco**—and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Discovery Campus—we honor two decades of inspiring future generations through environmental education and stewardship. ♦



HAUNTED CORN MAZE 2025

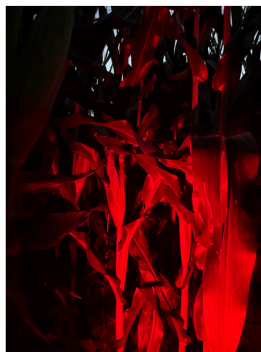
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The **2025 Haunted Corn Maze**, presented in partnership with the **Carlsbad Strawberry Company**, was another thrilling success! Thousands of brave guests navigated the twists, turns, and terrifying surprises awaiting in every nook of the spooky stalks, all while supporting environmental education at the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation. Every ticket purchased for our annual Haunted Corn Maze helps inspire the next generation of environmental stewards through hands-on programs at the Discovery Campus.

This unforgettable event would not have been possible without our incredible volunteers, whose creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication brought the scares to life night after night. We are equally grateful to our volunteer security team for helping ensure every guest had a safe and memorable experience.

Thank you to the **Carlsbad Strawberry Company** for once again being an outstanding partner and host, and to everyone who donated to support our volunteers throughout the season.

As we gear up for **Haunted Corn Maze 2026**, we're excited to pair the screams with a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Discovery Campus, marking two decades of environmental education and another unforgettable season of spooky fun, community, and impact. ♦



Events

LAGOONA KAHUNA FAMILY CLEAN UP 2026

Lagoona Kahuna Clean Up Challenge Recap, brought to you by Capture the Impact Sponsor: Ryan Foundation

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HERE**
to read the
full article

The 2026 Lagoona Kahuna Family Clean Up was more than a cleanup—it was a day of adventure, connection, and stewardship. Families, friends, and community members explored the shoreline together, built sandcastles, kayaked, paddleboarded, and enjoyed the beauty of the lagoon while working toward a shared goal: creating a healthier watershed for everyone.

The day was filled with laughter, teamwork, and lasting memories, proving that caring for the environment can be both meaningful and fun. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who helped make a cleaner, healthier Agua Hedionda Lagoon possible. ♦



AVIAN ADVENTURE DAY 2026

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HERE**
to read the
full article

More than 90 guests celebrated Father's Day at Avian Adventure Day, enjoying a morning of birdwatching, wildlife education, and family fun at the Discovery Campus—the perfect setting as we celebrate its 20th Anniversary and two decades of connecting our community with nature.

Guided by local birding experts Bobby Brett and Rick Grove, participants explored the Discovery Trail, identified native birds, and viewed wildlife through high-powered spotting scopes.

Guests then gathered on Newell's Terrace for an engaging presentation by Hillary Hankey and Avian Behavior International, featuring a Swainson's Hawk, White-faced Owl, King Vulture, and the crowd-favorite White-necked Raven, whose playful personality delighted attendees.

The day concluded with opportunities to meet the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's Raptor Ambassadors, interact with staff and interns, and enjoy hands-on activities for children.

With a hands-on craft station for children, beautiful weather, and a meaningful way to celebrate Father's Day surrounded by nature, Avian Adventure Day delivered the perfect blend of education, exploration, and fun for the whole family. ♦



Education



GROW WITH ME

By **Deniell Aadland**, Education Manager

Grow With Me is our newest program offering for children ages 2-5. This program invites children and their grown-ups to explore the wonders of nature together. Monday through Thursday from 10-11 am, participants get to make music, meet animals and have a sensory experience they get to share with their loved ones. Our members benefit from discounted rates for registration, and we also have a referral reward program. What a great way to celebrate 20 years of the Discovery Campus! ♦ [Click here to register.](#)

LITTLE AGUA LEARNERS

By **Deniell Aadland**, Education Manager

Every Friday, our Little Agua Learners get to explore the natural world around them here at Agua Hedionda Discovery Campus. Each week focuses on a different theme: music, animals, sensory subjects, literacy, and life around the lagoon. Our young adventurers leave with new knowledge, new friends, and memories to last a lifetime, all as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Discovery Campus. ♦



LAGOON LEARNING FOR ALL

By **Deniell Aadland**, Education Manager

Nature is for everyone! Our campus celebrates everyone who wants to learn and explore—including adults with disabilities. Every Thursday, our Adult Learners in the Lagoon Learning for All program get to spend quality time together at the Discovery Campus. They walk with Bingo the pig, help make her dinner, and build new friendships that make them part of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon community. As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Discovery Campus, we're thrilled that our program has doubled in size, bringing the wonders of the lagoon to more people than ever. ♦



DISCOVERY SUMMER CAMP 2026

By **Kate Corirssi**, Education Manager & Summer Camp Coordinator

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Agua Hedionda Discovery Campus and we are honored to celebrate two decades of inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards alongside our incredible community. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support, trust, and dedication — we would not be where we are today without you!

It is a true privilege to spend each summer teaching and exploring the wonders of the lagoon with our campers. We appreciate the confidence you have placed in us year after year! From nature hikes and animal encounters to hands-on science experiments and outdoor discoveries, these experiences have sparked curiosity, nurtured a lifelong appreciation for the natural world, and fostered a deep sense of environmental stewardship in us all. The enthusiasm, wonder, and passion of our campers continue to inspire us as educators, reminding us each day of why this mission matters. ♦

Celebrating 20 Years of the Discovery Campus



This year, the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's Discovery Campus proudly celebrates its 20th anniversary! Twenty years of connecting people with nature through hands-on environmental education, conservation, and community.

What began as a vision to create a place where everyone could experience the beauty and importance of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon has grown into a vibrant destination that reaches more than 78,000 people each year.

For two decades, families, students, volunteers, and supporters have explored our trails, met our animal ambassadors, discovered local wildlife, and been inspired to protect our watershed.

As we celebrate this milestone, we honor our partners, donors, volunteers, members, and staff who have made this journey possible. Together, we've empowered thousands of Future Lagoon Stewards and Watershed Warriors — and we're just getting started. Here's to the next 20 years of education, conservation, and building a safe space in nature for all! ♦



Trails & Conservation

By **Riley Millan** and **Sophia McGovern**, California Climate Action Corps (CCAC) Fellows, and **Patty Ten Boom Byrnes**, Trails and Conservation Coordinator



This year our team welcomed California Climate Action Corps (CCAC) Fellows, Riley Millan and Sophia McGovern, along with a new Trails and Conservation Coordinator, Patty Ten Boom Byrnes. The team has continued to maintain and enhance our existing trails around the lagoon while also taking on new projects: expanding organic waste diversion to include produce from Jimbo's to feed our animal ambassadors; growing and giving away native plants to help Monarch butterflies; ramping up removal of invasive Algerian sea lavender from the wetlands; and clearing invasive pampas grass around the lagoon. As of June 2026, 1,375 lbs of oyster shells and 181 lbs of produce have been diverted from landfills; 45 native plants have been grown in the greenhouse; and 1,025 lbs of Algerian sea lavender and 15 pampas grass plants have been removed. Best of all, 255 new volunteers attended our trails and conservation volunteer programs!

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Discovery Campus, be sure to view the beautiful new native plants installed on campus! Our team has been replacing non-native plants with Southern California natives with 317 native plants installed so far. By planting more native milkweed and nectar plants, we have enhanced our Monarch Waystation, attracting more monarch butterflies to lay eggs and leading to an explosion of hungry caterpillars this year. Through these efforts, our team hopes to inspire visitors to plant native species in their own backyards to help maintain a thriving Southern California ecosystem. ♦



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