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## **San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY** *Connecting communities. Protecting nature.*

### **Birds of a Feather to Benefit Children's Nature Connections**

Advance Tickets Now Available for September 19 Conservancy Gala

SOLANA BEACH— “Peeps” of a feather will soon flock together in celebration of the nurturing of everyday and future environmental stewards. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy announces that advance tickets are now on sale for Birds of a Feather gala, themed *Growing Future Stewards*. This eco-benefit for connecting children with nature will occur on Saturday, September 19 from 5:00-8:30 pm at Lomas Santa Fe Country Club.

Online reservations for advance tickets, tables, and continuing gala sponsorships may be secured at [www.SanElijo.org](http://www.SanElijo.org).

The Lomas Santa Fe Country Club's banquet room features vaulted ceilings and expansive views of the golf course greens and tropical landscape. Peter Popping, one of our notable local musicians, will perform live contemporary and acoustic jazz. Savory tray-passed hors d'oeuvres and a plated full course menu will be paired with craft beer and wine options (full bar available).

“This is our fifth celebration to raise necessary program funds, through silent and live auctions, for the conservancy's K-12 and public programs at San Elijo Lagoon,” said Doug Gibson, conservancy executive director and principal scientist. “We are grateful to our new and returning gala sponsors and special guests who are joining in this evening of fun and fundraising. It's a benefit not to miss.”

The returning Presenting Sponsors & Honorary Gala Chairs are community philanthropists Carol Childs and Peter House. Both Carol and Peter are longtime conservancy supporters. Their motivation for giving back stems from their own childhoods spent in nature. “We love the lagoon,” reflected Carol. “What captures us is not only one plant, animal, or trail, it's also seeing the lagoon as a whole—at high and low tide, in warm Santa Ana conditions, or even when cloudy and cold.” The Honorary Chairs are joined in major gala support by: Hoehn Motors, ACS Habitat Management, and Ki's Restaurant, in addition to supporting sponsors and benefactors.

Birds of a Feather funds the conservancy's Our Living Watershed K-12 curriculum. The program's mission is to connect, educate, and engage the community to act to ensure the health and wellbeing of their watershed. Through outdoor classroom experiences, students learn about the interactions of our land, air, and water—and ways to practice resource conservation and share new behaviors with their home communities.

The celebrated environmental gathering includes philanthropists, elected officials, citizen naturalists, and supporters of kids in nature. Suggested cocktail attire.

The public can preview incoming auction packages online at SanElijo.org. Online bidding for unusual destinations and adventures, themed special events, handcrafted jewelry and art, and more will begin in late August. Those details will be made available in July.

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San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, founded in 1987, is the community-spirited nonprofit land trust for the 979-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Its mission is to protect and restore the resources of the lagoon, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. For more information, the conservancy's website is [www.SanElijo.org](http://www.SanElijo.org) or phone is (760) 436-3944.

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