

FOR RELEASE—January 28, 2014
Attention Event Calendars, Arts, Nature & Entertainment

Media Contact: Lydia Cobb, PR for San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
cobblydia@gmail.com • (760) 230-1355



FREE SPRING PROGRAMS AT SAN ELIJO LAGOON

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Connects the Wonders of Wetlands with All Ages

Encinitas — No visit is the same. With daily tides and seasonal changes, San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve holds new discoveries each time. Spring is a wonderful season in which to explore one of San Diego's largest coastal wetlands. Join us for naturalist-led walks, family days, and spring planting events:

San Elijo Lagoon Guided Walk: Greening of the Lagoon

Saturdays: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center: 2710 Manchester Avenue in Cardiff-by-the-Sea

With twigs in beak, busy birds prepare to nest at San Elijo Lagoon. Birdsong is carried along coastal breezes. Plants begin to revive from winter dormancy. The lagoon is abuzz with crawling, whizzing and fluttering insects and birds over emerging blooms.

This guided walk is an overview of life between the tides at San Elijo Lagoon. The ¼-mile loop trail is ADA compliant. Visitors might see mullet splash from the surface of the water, or glimpse Osprey and Egrets hunting fish and invertebrates in the salt marsh. Recommended all ages.

Spring Wildlife Walk

March 8 and April 12: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Rios Avenue Trailhead at San Elijo Lagoon

Blue-eyed grass, lupine and California sunflower begin to splash the hillsides with color. Focus binoculars and cameras for opportunities to see Cormorants on the power poles at the inlet, Osprey, waterfowl, and the rare Clapper Rail. This is San Elijo Lagoon's south side, featuring riparian woodlands and coastal sage scrub, with intimate views of the salt marsh. Wildlife Walks are held on 2nd Saturdays. Recommended ages 9+

Public walks are made possible by membership in San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, and environmental education sponsors: SDG&E, Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal

Commission Whale Tail Grant, Qualcomm, Union Bank, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, City of Encinitas and County of San Diego.

Spring EGG-ucation (Family Discovery Days)

March 29-30: 1-4 p.m.

San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center: 2710 Manchester Avenue in Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Crack open clues to the secret lives of egg-laying animals in San Elijo Lagoon, through free events, arts and crafts, and nature hikes for all ages. Kids will get an up-close look at all kinds of critters that hatch from eggs. Families will discover an egg-themed Trivia Hunt around the Nature Center Loop Trail.

Family Discovery Days is presented by: San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy & County of San Diego Parks & Recreation. Funding made possible by City of Encinitas and Mizel Family Foundation Community Grant, and Coastal Conservancy.

Lagoon Platoon

March 15 and April 19: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve

Join the thrill of hands-on conservation at San Elijo Lagoon. Lagoon Platoon is a community habitat restoration event held on 3rd Saturdays. Participants learn about local wildlife and how their efforts contribute to ecological restoration. Conservancy biologists demonstrate techniques and lead a nature hike. Gloves, equipment and training are provided. Activities include planting native species, invasive weed and debris removal, and trail maintenance. Ages 13+

Register: www.SanElijo.org/restoration-events to receive confirmation of location and activities.

Lagoon Platoon is made possible with funding from USFWS Coastal Program and Earth Island Institute, and support from California Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

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San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy protects and restores San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve for community and for nature. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, County of San Diego, and State of California manage the 915-acre reserve, located between Solana Beach and Cardiff-by-the-Sea, and inland to Rancho Santa Fe.

Images for publication are online: www.SanElijo.org/press-releases