

CALENDAR RELEASE—October 4, 2013  
Attention Event Calendars, Arts, Nature & Entertainment

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

### **Fall Events at San Elijo Lagoon**

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

ENCINITAS – An increasing number of migratory birds, early winter arrivals, are touching down to rest, nest and feed in one of San Diego’s largest estuarine reserves. The parasitic dodder plant hints toward the Halloween season. Its orange twining stems tangle onto host plants, giving it the reference of “witch’s hair.”

Free, public programs will occur in the serene environment of San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve this fall:

#### **Not-So-Scary Estuary**

October 19-20: 1-4 p.m.

San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center

Meet creepy, crawly, and hooting animals this Halloween at San Elijo Lagoon. Costumes are encouraged. Kids can create lollipop spiders and animal facemasks, feel animal pelts, and make animal tracks in the sand. Go trick-or-treating along the “Haunted Hike” nature trail, where clues help families look and listen for resident wildlife. You’ll learn about nocturnal creatures and their wanderings in live animal presentations at 2 p.m. each day.

Not-So-Scary Estuary is part of the free, seasonal Family Discovery Days program. 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. San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center, open daily, is located at 2710 Manchester Avenue in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. More info: [SanElijo.org/family-days](http://SanElijo.org/family-days)

#### **Fall Wildlife Walks**

October 12, November 9, and December 14: 9-11 am (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays)

La Orilla Trail

Enjoy a stroll through four distinct plant communities along La Orilla Trail in San Elijo Lagoon. Walk in the shade of riparian woodlands, farther down to the marsh, along

hillside chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Listen for the tapping of woodpeckers, or watch for mule deer grazing vegetation along creek banks.

Conservancy walks are free, and are made possible through membership support. Wildlife Walks occur 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays from 9-11 am, rotating to a different trailhead each season. More info: [SanElijo.org/walks](http://SanElijo.org/walks)

### **Saturday Walks at San Elijo Lagoon**

Saturdays: 10-11 am

San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center

Bird and marine invertebrate sightings provide an up-close view of life between the tides. This easy walk, led by conservancy naturalists, loops along San Elijo Lagoon's salt marsh habitat. The ¼-mile trail is ADA-accessible. More info: [SanElijo.org/walks](http://SanElijo.org/walks)

### **Lagoon Platoon**

October 19, November 16, December 21: 9 a.m.-Noon

Locations Vary

Lagoon Platoon is an all-volunteer community habitat restoration event for San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Restoration activities include: invasive weed removal, planting native species and trail maintenance. Conservancy biologists teach participants about the surrounding plants and animals on a site tour. Hundreds of volunteers each year contribute to better habitats and improved water quality at San Elijo Lagoon.

Lagoon Platoon is part of Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat, made possible with funding from Earth Island Institute and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program, and support from California Coastal Conservancy, The Wildlife Conservation Board, and Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

Register (ages 13+): [SanElijo.org/restoration-events](http://SanElijo.org/restoration-events)

### **About San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy**

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (SELC) is a community-spirited nonprofit land trust dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. This county and state regional reserve protects nearly 1,000 acres of habitat that hosts more than 700 species of plants and animals, many of them sensitive or endangered. Eight trails wind through diverse vistas including salt marsh, riparian, and coastal sage scrub habitats.

**[SanElijo.org](http://SanElijo.org) (760) 436-3944**

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**Print/web images are available online: [www.SanElijo.org/news-releases](http://www.SanElijo.org/news-releases)**

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