



The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF)

The Great Egret

Volume 31 April 2021

Major Habitat Restoration Underway at Eastern End of Trail

The Work to Remove Invasive Plants & Rookery Trees May Interrupt Trail Access

Backed by California's Ocean Protection Council, the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF) and Wildcoast are working to restore 33.6 acres of riparian habitat around Batiquitos Lagoon. The three-year project will improve the functionality of the lagoon as critical habitat for an abundance of wildlife and as a "carbon sink" – a resource that absorbs more atmospheric carbon than it produces. The BLF will be working with Wildcoast, The Nature Collective, members of the local community, and others to remove invasive plants, revegetate riparian areas with native species, maintain trail systems, provide community outreach and stewardship opportunities, and enhance interpretive education around the lagoon.

Restoration activities are underway at three primary sites adjacent to Batiquitos Lagoon - the area of tall trees and dense vegetation frequented by migratory birds known as the "rookery," the trail system and sand dunes northeast of the lagoon known as E2, and the Cholla Point overlook. The work will include the removal of some trees and the use of heavy equipment that could cause temporary disruptions along the eastern segment of the trail. The BLF is working hard to avoid temporarily closing any portion of the trail, but there may be times when it's necessary to keep everyone safe.

The multi-site restoration of these sites will directly benefit the Batiquitos Lagoon No-Take State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), which makes up 324 acres of some of the most valuable wetland habitat remaining in Southern California. Batiquitos Lagoon SMCA is one of 11 marine protected areas (MPAs) in San Diego County and 124 MPAs in the state of California. California's marine protected area network was established in 2012 to recover fisheries, restore ecosystem health and enhance the recreational value of some of California's most iconic coastal areas.

For more information and volunteer opportunities please visit www.batiquitoslagoon.org or wildcoast.org

—Cory Pukini, California Conservation Manager at Wildcoast



Native species planted along eastern trailhead



Above: New plants take root at the eastern trailhead.

Left: Area 1 - Known as the rookery (tree removal completed);


Area 2 - East trail (invasive species removal, planting native species);

Area 3 - Dune area (invasive species removal, planting native species);

Area 4 - Cholla Point (erosion control, invasive plant management).

Photo and graphic: Courtesy of The Nature Collective and WildCoast.

About the
Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center

Nature Center: (442) 320-7009 (NEW) 

Nature Center Location (Not Mailing Address):

7380 Gabbiano Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92011

Nature Center Hours of Operation:

M-F: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
Sat-Sun: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

*Hours are subject to volunteer availability.
Operations are subject to San Diego County's
pandemic-related health restrictions.

If you plan to visit the Nature Center, please
call ahead to verify that day's hours.

About the
Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 131741
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1741

Website: www.batiquitoslagoon.org

E-mail: info@batiquitoslagoon.org

Board of Directors & Officers
(board terms in parentheses)

Jeff Regan—President (2018-2021)
Deborah A. Mossa -Vice President (2019-2022)
Kevin Kienast - Treasurer (2018-2021)
Elizabeth (Liz) Douglass -Secretary (2020-2023)
David Hill (2020-2023)
Chris Ross (2020-2022)
Craig Rossell (2020-2021)
Lance Schulte (2020-2023)
Vacant (2019-2022)
Don Connors (Honorary - Non-voting)

Administrative Assistant - Paula Kirpalani

Volunteering

Deb Mossa, board VP and volunteer coordinator

Contact: info@batiquitoslagoon.org

Newsletter

Elizabeth Douglass, editor

Contact: newsletter@batiquitoslagoon.org

LizD@batiquitoslagoon.org

Other Numbers

City of Carlsbad Police Department:

Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (760) 931-2197
Watch Commander: (760) 937-2115

Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife:

Regional Office: (858) 467-4201
CALTIPS: (888) 334-2258

Fred Sandquist Retires

BLF President for 15+ years helped guide the foundation through rough times, adding grants & moving into the new, expanded Nature Center



As you may be aware, my lovely wife Sandi and I have been planning on moving into an independent living community, *Casa de Los Campanas*, located near Rancho Bernardo, west of I-15 in San Diego. Since moving to Carlsbad July 1, 2001 from Gaithersburg, Maryland, and living here for 20+ years, we decided the time was right to downsize and begin planning for the next stage of our *golden years*. Following a lot of research into retirement communities that had at least three levels of care, we selected *Casa* and got on their *inactive* wait list. Three years ago, I informed the BLF Board of my plans to resign from the BLF and we have been working hard together for a smooth transition ever since. We have had numerous focused meetings, most recently virtually via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

After much personal reflection, I now feel that the time is right to *pull the pin*, so to speak, and that the Board and the future health of the foundation will be in excellent hands. Board Member Jeff Regan has volunteered to assume the presidency, and he and I have been actively working on a smooth transition. Jeff has my full confidence and support, and I feel he will provide outstanding leadership as the foundation continues its long-standing tradition of stewardship for *preserving, protecting, and enhancing* Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve and associated watershed! My departure date, and appointment and installation of Jeff Regan as your new President became effective during the August 18, 2020 regular (virtual) board meeting. I am truly humbled to have had your support and to serve as your president for so long. Thank you for supporting the BLF! You guys are wonderful!

Sandi and I plan to focus on our family (among them our star granddaughter, Mira, pictured above with Sandi and me), hopefully doing some travel when Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and some normalcy returns. We also plan to become involved in new volunteer activities, continue learning new skills and activities, reading, hiking, and simply enjoying our new digs and community members. We both will continue to watch the BLF grow and the amazing things our members and volunteers do on a daily basis, especially in the post-Covid-19 era. Do stay in touch!

—Fred C. Sandquist, BLF board member (2001-2020);
BLF president (2004-2020)

From the Desk of the President...



With my recent election as president of the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF) following the retirement of Fred Sandquist in August, I'm both humbled and excited. Humbled by the immense commitment and contributions from Fred and many others over the years. Excited to bring a fresh perspective to the Board and continue the focus on our mission to help preserve, protect and enhance this wonderful ecosystem.

Being a native San Diegan and a 35-year resident of south Carlsbad, I've been witness to many changes in the "landscape" of San Diego county not the least of which being the growth and development along the coastline. As an amateur bird watcher, avid fly fisherman and retired businessman, I think I bring both a sensitivity and sensibleness to our efforts at the BLF and promise you that I will be an active listener to you, our membership, as we continue our efforts going forward.

No question, the pandemic has made it challenging to fulfill some of these responsibilities in the recent months. Particularly for those who utilize our Nature Center (NC) and the abundance of educational materials and artifacts assembled by Deb Mossa and her volunteer team of hosts and docents, we apologize for the closings. While we are pleased to have the NC open again, please know that your health and safety are our first priorities as we move ahead.

Over the next few months, you'll be seeing some activity along the North Shore trail as we prepare for some painting to be done around the deck of the NC and some planting of additional native plants along the front and back of the building. We're also excited to announce that with a grant from the Ocean Protection Council, we'll be working (with the help of The Nature Collective and Wildcoast groups) to restore a couple of areas on the eastern end of the North Shore trail. Please know that our goals are to reduce invasive plant species, increase the presence of native plants and avoid disrupting the animal and bird habitat. All the while, we are mindful of the importance of trail access for you and other Batiquitos Lagoon fans, so we will reduce disruptions as much as possible.

Lastly, I want to stress how critical volunteers are to the day-to-day "operation" of the Foundation. From those of us on the BLF Board, to the NC hosts, to those working with us along the trail to help keep the path clear and accessible for walkers and runners, **we're all volunteers.**

—Jeff Regan, BLF president

Membership Rates to Increase slightly in June *Some Membership Categories will also change*

As a volunteer nonprofit, we rely on membership fees, grants and fundraisers to finance our Nature Center, trail maintenance and other operations. In 2020, we couldn't hold our largest fundraising event, the lagoon kayak cleanup event. To help keep the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation and its programs on solid financial footing, we have revised our membership levels and slightly raised the annual fees. We did so with great reluctance, but we hope you'll see it as a reasonable step to sustain our operations. The details are outlined in a flier inside this newsletter, but if you have questions, please contact us at:

info@batiquitoslagoon.org

We Need Your Help!

We can't stress enough our dependence on folks just like you to help us achieve our mission.

From being a BLF Board member to helping us continue our educational efforts at the Nature Center, please ask yourself (and others you know who appreciate this wonderful place called Batiquitos Lagoon), how can you help us?

If you can spare a few hours a month to volunteer, please contact us at:

info@batiquitoslagoon.org

Special Thanks...

...to some of our key partners for supporting the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation by providing direct financial support, discounts, critical services, support, and products.

*Four Seasons Residence Club Aviara
Hunter Industries
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
Malk Nature Fund
City of Carlsbad
California Coastal Commission
Aviara Master Assoc. & Aviara Community
Weyerhaeuser Inc
AgriService Inc.
Waste Management
Park Hyatt Aviara
Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD)
REI Outdoor School, San Diego, REI - Encinitas
Breg, Inc.
Anderson's La Costa Nursery
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Tree of Life Nursery
2nd Street Printing
Callaway Golf
San Diego Horticultural Society
Palomar Investigative Group, Inc.
National Rental
Sunbelt Rentals
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
California Coastal Conservancy
Louise Julig Writing & Editing
HomeLife Village Realtors
Archer Johnson Foundation
Kinane Events
The Coastal Community Foundation
Marstel-Day LLC [conservation consulting]
LinkSoul
North County Advocates
Living Coast Discovery Center
Sky Hunters
Earth Island Institute
Wildcoast
Marine Life Coalition*

Update on Lagoon-Area Development Projects

La Costa 48 Project Proceeds; Permits Denied for Surfer's Point; New Hotel Plan Emerges

Development around Batiquitos Lagoon has shifted into high gear, and that's keeping BLF board members David Hill, Lance Schulte and others quite busy. The top priority for several years has been the **La Costa 48 proposed residential project** planned for 14 acres of longtime agricultural property on La Costa Avenue west of Interstate 5. The BLF appealed the City of Encinitas' approval of the project to the California Coastal Commission and was granted a de novo hearing held on July 8, 2020. It was a frustrating experience. The time for us to state our case was very short, while representatives from DCM Properties got several extra opportunities to address the commission. The company also misrepresented communications with the BLF and the lagoon's water quality—and we had no chance to correct the record. Most of the BLF's concerns remain unaddressed: The project is designed for surface water to drain into the lagoon; there is no requirement for runoff monitoring after construction; and the pesticide-laced dirt will remain buried on site, where water can seep through it and into the lagoon. In addition, it's unclear whether the developer or the HOA can restrict public access to the lagoon trail to be built on the property.

Elsewhere, the BLF is also closely watching the City of Carlsbad's actions on the Ponto-area **"Shopoff" property (Planning Area F)** that was slated for retail development. The non-profit People for Ponto is pressing for the property to become a park. The 11-acre site remains vacant and for sale.

In January, the Carlsbad City Council voted to direct city staff to return within six months "with viable strategies regarding Planning Area F and other coastal properties to preserve open space and recreation."

—Elizabeth Douglass, BLF secretary



Boutique Hotel Proposed for Next to Chevron Station

The newest development proposal for La Costa Avenue west of I-5 is for a boutique hotel on property next to the Chevron gas station.

The project, called 512 La Costa, would include a 17-room hotel with a pool, spa and public bar and restaurant on a skinny 1.18-acre lot. The application at the City of Encinitas is not yet complete.

Historically, the property was an informal plant nursery. A previous developer had proposed a 72-unit hotel on the site, according to Lindsay Brown of Brown Studio, which has a financial interest in the new proposed project.

In August, BLF representatives attended a virtual community "meeting" on the project that had very few participants. Brown said his group is not seeking any variances, waivers or density bonuses, and asserted that soil on the site isn't as contaminated as the La Costa 48 project site next door. Runoff from the project is a concern for BLF.

City Rules Surfer's Point Permits Expired

The Encinitas City Council unanimously rejected an appeal from the Surfer's Point developer, ruling in August that the project's permits had expired.

Dan Reedy, owner of the nearly 2-acre site on the northeast corner of La Costa Avenue and Coast Highway 101, proposed building a 25-unit hotel/timeshare complex. The BLF opposed the development, which overlooks Batiquitos Lagoon, because of surface water runoff and other environmental concerns.

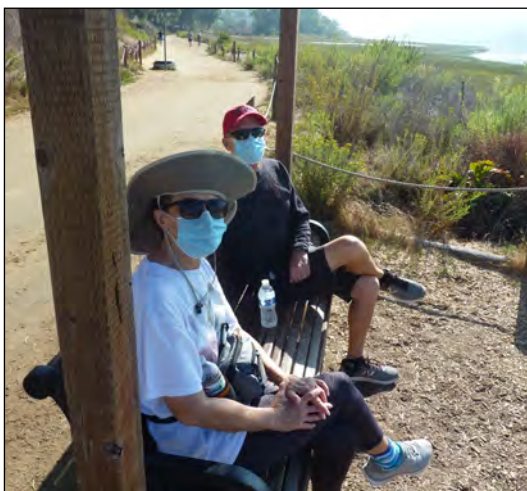
The developer can appeal the decision to the California Coastal Commission, seek new permits or sell the property. Stay tuned.

BLF suspended its public programs because of COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions.

Please watch for updates at our Nature Center and our website: www.batiquitoslagoon.org

Pandemic-Weary Walkers Hit The Batiquitos Lagoon Trail

Nature Center Struggled with County Health Closures, But the Trail Provides Respite



Top-left: A couple walks the Batiquitos Lagoon trail. **Top-right:** A mom and her three children examine displays in the Nature Center when it was open in September. **Middle-left:** A visiting group from Casa de las Companas, a retirement community near Rancho Bernardo. **Above:** Nanny Delia Stanley said she often brings Vincent (2) and Francis (4) Osterwalder to the lagoon. **Far-Left:** Visitors take a break to enjoy the view of the Batiquitos Lagoon. **Left:** Retired BLF President Fred Sandquist & Cory Pukini of Wildcoast check an area targeted for an upcoming restoration project.

Photo credits: Top-left by Terrance Rodgers; all others by Elizabeth Douglass.

Eagle Scout Projects Bring Improvements to Western Trail Head

Scouts & Volunteers Cleared Brush, Refurbished Entry Sign, Installed Trail Posts & Ropes

Several Eagle Scout candidates, along with family and other volunteers, toiled away last fall to beautify the western entrance to the Batiquitos Lagoon trail. Malik Campbell led a project that cleared a thick stretch of brush along the western trail head and the path toward I-5, then installed new posts and rope. Grant Marcucci and his team cleared brush and installed posts and rope behind the parking spaces to the entry sign, while brother Kellen Marcucci's project refurbished and re-installed the entry sign. Logan Vossler and crew continued the trailside cleanup from where Campbell left off east to the wood racks, replacing posts and rope along the way. BLF thanks the Eagle Scout candidates, their families and volunteer helpers!



Above-left: The refurbished sign for the western trail head gets set in cement.
Above-right: The work crew for for Eagle Scout projects for Kellen and Grant Marcucci.
Above: Volunteers help haul away brush. **Right:** A new post goes in by the parking spaces. Photos courtesy of Larry Entzminger.

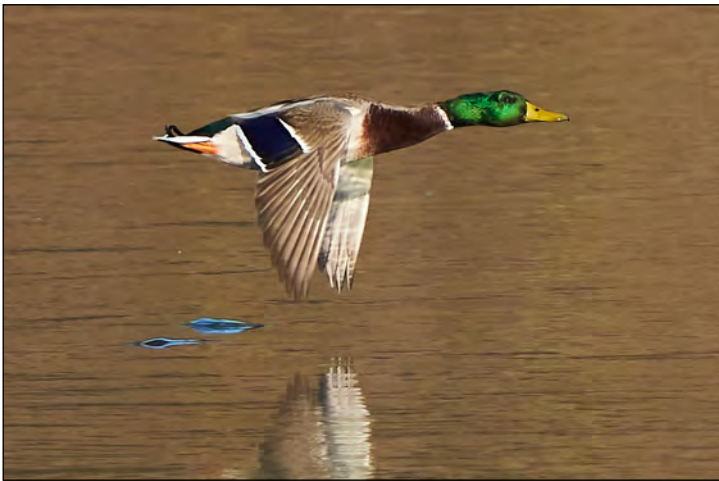
New Trail Posts and Rope, Plus Signage Showcasing Midden Site



Top-left, Center & Bottom-left: Eagle Scout candidate Logan Vossler and his crew of family and volunteers replaced trail posts and rope leading up to the wood racks by the Nature Center. **Top-right:** BLF VP Deb Mossa added signage and display fencing to the trailside midden site. **Above:** Malik Campbell's Eagle Scout project removed a big swath of overgrown brush and added posts and rope to intersection of the western trailhead and the path heading toward I-5.

Photo credits: Vossler scout project pictures courtesy of Mia Rosales; Midden sign by Elizabeth Douglass; Campbell project photo courtesy of Larry Entzinger.

Batiquitos Birds and Wildlife Carry on During Pandemic

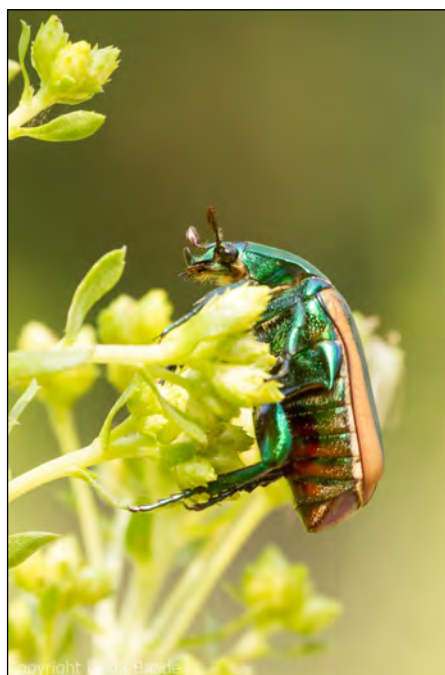


Above-left: A mallard cruising along the water. **Above-right:** A Long-billed Curlew wading in Batiquitos Lagoon. **Below:** A wild mushroom growing on a stump along the trail. **Center-right:** An osprey getting a bead on its prey. **Bottom-left:** A Royal Tern grabs a snack. **Bottom-right:** A great blue heron spreads its wings.

Photo credits: Mushroom photo by Linda Baade, all others by Jim Carver.



Local Photographers Capture Abundant Life Along the Lagoon



Top-left: A California Gnatcatcher in action at the lagoon.

Top-right: A fig-eater beetle resting on a plant.

Center-left: A chrysalis for a Swallowtail butterfly.

Center-right: An Allen's hummingbird feeding on tree tobacco flowers along the trail.

Bottom-left; An osprey picking up lunch at the lagoon.

Bottom-right: A Royal Tern dives for a fish at the lagoon.

Photo credits: Gnatcatcher by Terrance Rodgers; chrysalis, beetle and hummingbird by Linda Baade. Osprey & Royal Tern by Jim Carver.



Copyright Linda Baade



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New Faces on the BLF Board: Craig Rossell & Chris Ross

BLF Members Re-elected Three Incumbents in November

With the recent retirement of BLF President Fred Sandquist and the move out of state by board member Sterling Johnson, the BLF had two board seats to fill. After discussions with the board, BLF members Craig Rossell and Chris Ross volunteered and were appointed to the vacancies in October and November, respectively. Rossell will serve out Johnson's term, which runs through 2021; and Ross will take over Sandquist's term, which ends in 2022.

BLF's annual board election was held in November, during which Foundation members re-elected incumbents Elizabeth Douglass (secretary), David Hill, and Lance Schulte. Read on for more information about Rossell and Ross.

Craig Rossell practiced law in Beverly Hills, Pasadena and Claremont for some 38 years before moving to San Diego. A trial lawyer by profession, he brings real estate, land title, business, construction and insurance expertise to the Foundation.

While in Los Angeles, Craig also served on a nonprofit board that oversaw minor foster care and adult special needs programs in education, employment and residential group housing. He later served on another board that develops university outreach at the graduate level. He enjoys research and writing, biking and beaching.

No longer tethered to a desk, what Craig finds most enjoyable about coastal life are the moods and temperateness of each day. Part of that experience is the Lagoon. It is a precious sanctuary amid fast-moving cars and trucks.

Married nearly fifty years, Craig is father to six, father-in-law to six more, and grandfather to several exceptional young people of whom he and his wife Theresa are shamelessly proud. Many live nearby.

It's a pleasure to work with the wonderful people who enhance our Lagoon experience. Don't hesitate to get involved.

—Craig Rossell, BLF board member



Chris Ross. My wife Barbara and I have owned a home in the Spinnaker Hill neighborhood of Carlsbad since 1987. We fondly recall hiking to the lagoon from our house through the brush on rustic paths before Aviara was developed. We witnessed the lagoon enhancement project in the 1990's and have been enjoying this beautiful coastal treasure ever since.



Professionally, I am a seasoned executive with over 30 years of experience leading global operations in the telecommunications, information technology, consumer electronics, and beverage industries. I am currently the principal in an independent management consulting practice, which has helped a variety of diverse enterprises in the United States and Canada develop and execute strategies to achieve their goals. My past experience includes roles as an executive officer at three publicly traded high-tech companies. I am originally from New Jersey and I hold bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College.

My past volunteer experience has included: President of the St. Patrick School Board in Carlsbad, President of the Catholic Charities PPAS Board in San Diego, and Chairman of the American Electronics Association Manufacturing Committee in San Diego. Also, our son Joe was in the first graduating class of Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad. When he made his decision to attend PRS, there was only a dirt lot. Our family was very active in the school's early fundraising efforts.

I strongly believe in the mission of the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation and I look forward to applying my experience and skills to support it.

—Chris Ross, BLF board member

Attention: The BLF is restructuring & increasing membership rates as of July 1, so join today to avoid the higher rates!



Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation Membership/Donation Form

*The foundation needs your financial support to continue its valuable work protecting Batiquitos Lagoon and its surrounding habitat.
~ It's a precious resource for North County residents! ~*

Membership (check only one box) New Member Renewal Address Change
(If you prefer, you may join, renew or donate online at www.batiquitoslagoon.org)

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ + _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Sponsorship Level (check one)

- Kestrel \$250
- White Tailed Hawk \$500
- Red Tailed Hawk \$1,000
- Great Egret \$2,000
- Great Blue Heron \$3,000
- Osprey \$5,000

Annual Membership Dues (check one)

- Student/Senior Citizen \$20
- Individual \$25
- Family \$45
- Sponsor \$100
- Patron \$175
- Sustaining \$500

Additional donation \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT (sum of all the above) \$ _____

Paid by: Check (payable to BLF)
 Credit Card ___ VISA ___ MasterCard
 Account No. _____
 Security code* _____ Expiration ____/____
* (three- or four-digit code on back of card)

Please send this form & payment to:
 Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
 P.O. Box 131741
 Carlsbad, CA 92013-1741

Thank you for your support!

Signature _____

The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law!

~ For BLF Administration Only ~

Payment Method: _____ Cash _____ Check Check # _____ Check date _____
 _____ Credit Card Date _____
 _____ Website Date _____
 Record # _____ Date Entered _____

Nature Center Hours—Watch Our Website

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

**Subject to availability of volunteers. Please call ahead to verify.*

For more information:

Visit our Website: www.batiquitoslagoon.org

Call: (442) 320-7009 or Email: info@batiquitoslagoon.org

Membership Rates to Increase July 1

Membership in the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation is a great way to support our efforts to maintain and improve this beautiful natural resource.

Current categories for annual membership are:

Student/Senior Citizen	\$20
Individual	\$25
Family	\$45
Sponsor	\$100
Patron	\$175
Sustaining	\$500

Join & pay via Stripe, debit or major credit card through our website. Memberships and donations are tax deductible.

www.batiquitoslagoon.org

The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation was established on January 7, 1983 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, dedicated to *preserving, protecting, and enhancing* the Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its associated watershed, riparian, coastal sage and upland habitats.

Reminder To Members

Check the expiration date at the top of your mailing label to find out when you need to renew your membership.



Walk Safely on the Lagoon Trail — Wear a Mask and Keep Your Distance

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
P.O. Box 131741
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