



Welcome to SPLASH!

Volume 12

June/08

Welcome to Aquatic Adventures



"I would like to be a scientist to make people happy and show them how fun science can be."

Aquatic Adventures 5th Grade Student

INSIDE SPLASH!

It's not a Job...It's a Lifestyle!.....	Pg 2
Staff Spotlights	Pg 3
A True H2O Adventure.....	Pg 3
Kids Take Back Swan Canyon!.....	Pg 4
Students Travel to Florida to Accept Environmental Award	Pg 5
The BAHÍA Program	Pg 6
Announcements	Pg 7
Making a Difference: The Board of Directors	Pg 8

Participants, partners and supporters! SPLASH provides brief biannual updates on Aquatic Adventures programs and events. To learn more about Aquatic Adventures check out: www.aquaticadventures.org or call 858.488.3849.

Our Mission: Living Labs for Youth

Aquatic Adventures educates urban youth about science, the ocean and nature through tuition-free programs, creating the next generation of scientific and environmental leaders.

Our Vision: Engage, Experience, Empower

- A scientific community that reflects the diversity of our society
- Urban children and youth are empowered to reach their goals
- People from diverse communities have an understanding of the sciences, a personal connection to the natural world and a commitment to steward the environment

JUST THE FACTS IN 2007

- Served 2,898 individuals.
- Provided over 12,400 hours of education.
- Provided 98% tuition-free programs.
- Provided professional development for over 25 San Diego City School teachers.
- Mobilized over 900 volunteers to translate environmental awareness into action through an event which restored two acres of degraded habitat and planted more than 2,500 native plants and created a school garden on Hamilton Elementary School's campus.
- 81% of Aquatic Adventures intensive program graduates are attending college and greater than 58% are attending four-year universities. 100% of our 2008 graduating participants have been accepted into four-year universities.
- Program participants in our classroom and field-based formal education programs increased their science content knowledge by 35% or greater.
- In January, 2008 Aquatic Adventures was selected as the National Environmental Excellence Award winner by SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm.
- In February of 2008 Aquatic Adventures co-produced an Electronic Field Trip on gray whales reaching over 68,000 youth nationwide.

Wish List

- Airline tickets for student travel to conferences and universities
- Aquarium chiller to keep live marine specimens healthy \$600
- Healthy snacks for students in after-school programs \$300
- Microscopes and Microscope Lamps \$150 each
- Foldable hand cart \$100
- Model Magic for one geology unit at a local middle school \$50
- Sea star dissection specimens for one class \$25 (total of 15 classes)
- Your volunteer time!

It's not a Job...It's a Lifestyle!



Living Science Legend and World Renowned Oceanographer Walter Munk with Aquatic Adventures Students

Dr. Walter Munk Shares His Incredible Career with 40 Students

Dr. Walter Munk, an oceanographer who has been affiliated with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at the University of California, San Diego since 1940 is considered by many to be one of the world's greatest living oceanographers.

On April 9, 2008 the Aquatic Adventures Students Empowering Students (SES) participants were invited to attend a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend an afternoon with this amazing living science legend at his home in La Jolla. More than 40 students and program staff were treated to Dr. Munk sharing inspiring real stories while gleaning

scientific knowledge and words of wisdom. "It's pretty cool that we got to be here," said Marlem Rivera, "I want to be a scientist when I grow up!"

Walter Munk received a Ph.D. in oceanography in 1947 from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He continues to inspire many scientists through his passion and commitment to his life work.

"This was an incredible gift to the organization. The students were absolutely mesmerized by Dr. Munk's stories. They sat in awe as he shared how he had developed methods to predict wave height to assist the military in their planning of their landing strategy at Normandy in World War II and how he was on a raft in the Pacific watching the testing of an H-Bomb and determining the effects to ensure the safety of local people," said Shara Fisler, Executive Director of Aquatic Adventures.

Walter Munk is a living legend of Ocean Science. He holds the Secretary of the Navy Chair in oceanography and has served on many university, national, and international committees as well. Over the course of his long career, he has written nearly

300 scientific papers and has received numerous awards for his work in science and discoveries in physical oceanography.

He shows that his job is truly a lifestyle, because even though he is now in his nineties, Walter Munk has no intentions of retiring from this work. "I hope to continue working as long as I am alive," says Munk. "I have the world's best job!"

This program was made possible through the support of AmeriCorps VISTA, Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Aqua Lung, Cox Communications, Cubic Corporation, Harriet E. Pflieger Foundation, HD Supply, La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club-The Marine Room, Laird Norton Family Fund, Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Fund at The San Diego Foundation, San Diego Futures Foundation, San Diego Padres, Satterberg Foundation, Schubach Aviation, Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, Inc., Soroptimist International of Mission Bay, Stanley/Stearns Fund at The San Diego Foundation, The Blanchard Foundation, The Orca Fund at The San Diego Foundation, The Pratt Memorial Fund at Union Bank of California, The Sierra Club Foundation, Tiger Woods Foundation, and United Development Group.



Staff Spotlights



Welcome to Jeri Nolan, School Programs Coordinator and newest member of the Aquatic Adventures team!

Jeri recently moved from Florida, where she received her Masters in Science Teaching from Florida State University, to join our team. Nolan also holds a B.S. in marine biology. She is responsible for managing Aquatic Adventures' field and classroom-based programs operated in partnership with local schools. She brings a strong expertise in curriculum development, knowledge of ocean sciences and great interpersonal skills to manage an incredible team of staff and volunteers.



Introducing Elizabeth Horpedahl, Aquatic Adventures' Habitat Stewardship Coordinator!

Elizabeth came on board with Aquatic Adventures in the fall of 2007. She has a background in environmental and coastal issues and volunteer management. This April, she led the Wetland Avengers event, and helped to mobilize over 900 volunteers to restore 2 acres of habitat and create a school garden. Those that have worked with Elizabeth know that she has a wonderful leadership style that makes volunteers and partners want to do more!

A True H2O Adventure

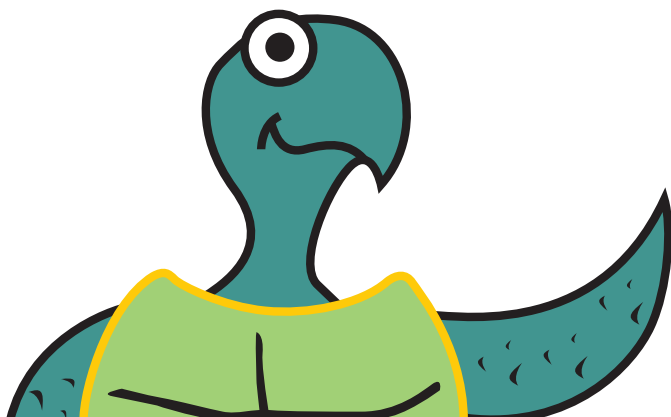
"The most beautiful thing I saw today was the amazing sight from up the mountain. I saw Lake Cuyamaca and the sun going down. It was so beautiful. When I return home I will tell my best friend about our journey through the watershed." – Cielo Corado, Mentor in Training (MIT), 8th grade

Amazing beauty was just part of the fun for Cielo and nearly 40 other youth from the Aquatic Adventures Students Empowering Students (SES) program who participated in a fun-filled overnight adventure called "H2O Challenge: An Aquatic Adventure!" During the H2O (Headwaters To Ocean) Challenge, students examined the San Diego watershed through a series of adventures, activities and experiments beginning at the headwaters of the San Diego River and ending at the Pacific Ocean. The program, created in partnership with the San Diego River Park Foundation, included two nights of camping and two days filled with hiking, astronomy, cultural experiences, surfing, snorkeling, water quality analyses and more! The trip concluded at the Aquatic Adventures lab with a fiesta for students and their families and a photo presentation of the exciting journey through the watershed.

This program was made possible through the support of Hike, Bike and Kayak, Jeff Pasek, REI, and Richard Spehn.



Enthusiastic about their adventurous two night camping trip and hike to the headwaters of the San Diego River, H2O Adventure students from "Team Blue" take a rest from their group challenge to enjoy some of the fantastic views.



Kids Take Back Swan Canyon!

Aquatic Adventures youth leaders mobilized over 950 volunteers in the restoration of Swan Canyon in City Heights on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Hamilton Elementary School. The 6th Wetland Avengers/ Campeones de los Cañones event reinforced the connectivity of the watershed and the community, highlighting urban-natural interfaces. The event restored two acres of wildlife habitat as children and families planted 2,500 native plants and enhanced a school garden.

“Canyons are so important because they’re an escape from everyday life. Right now the canyons are diamonds in the rough, but once they are restored, they’ll be healthy and safe places for our community,” said Sonya Vargas, an Aquatic Adventures student from Hoover High School in City Heights.

Youth from many organizations including Hoover High School, the Aja Project, Barrio Logan College Institute, and Paradise Creek Educational Park helped to lead the charge by providing entertainment and education, documenting the event and leading volunteers.

The event resulted in 2 acres of restored habitat and an outdoor classroom for local students to experience science and nature. “Science is our final frontier. Through science, students have the desire to learn to read, do math and explore, and

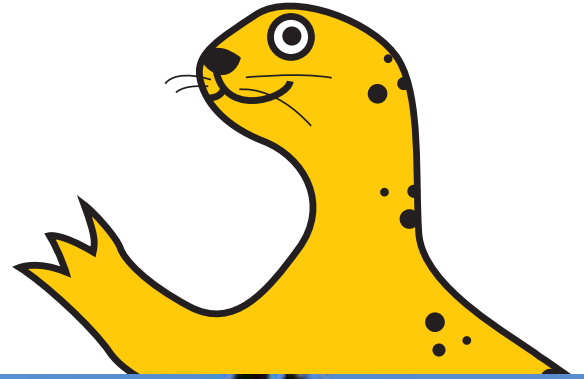
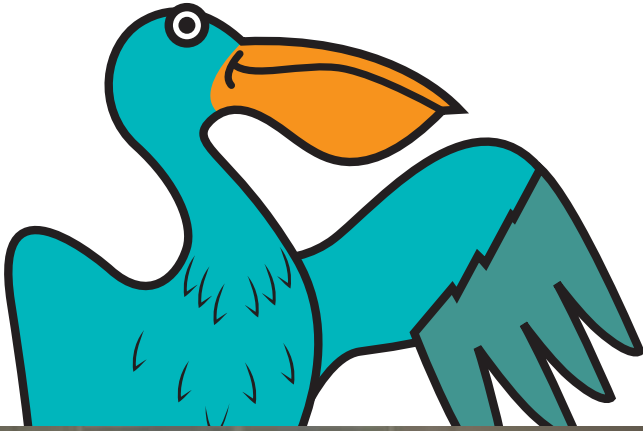
build toward the future. The canyons are a great resource in making science come alive,” said Sheila Jackson, Vice President of the San Diego Unified School District Board.

The area of Swan Canyon was selected as this year’s focus because of the canyon’s location at the headwaters of Chollas Creek, a sub-area of the Pueblo Watershed. Decades of development and negative human impact have rendered the watershed unhealthy for wildlife and people. For many years the highly urbanized City Heights neighborhood, has had little access to natural environments. “It won’t be, let’s go to the park, but let’s go to the canyon and enjoy nature in our neighborhood,” said Joel Urbina, an Aquatic Adventures student from Hoover High School in City Heights.

This program was made possible through the support of California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter, Carey Construction and Design, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department, Open Space Division, Cox Conserves, Hamilton Elementary School, Institute for Public Strategies, Linnie Cooper Foundation, North Swan Canyon Neighborhood Association, Project C.L.E.A.N, REI, Sempra Energy, Sierra Club San Diego Canyons Campaign, Swan Canyon Neighborhood Association, and The Sierra Club Foundation.



Students Travel to Florida to Accept Environmental Award



Aquatic Adventures staff and students receiving the 2008 Environmental Excellence Award, from SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Fujifilm.



Roberto "Beto" Ocaña Fuerte feeding a giraffe while on a behind the scenes safari.

This year, Aquatic Adventures was thrilled to receive the National Environmental Excellence Award, from SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Fujifilm, marking the second occasion to receive this recognition. Aquatic Adventures students were acknowledged for their environmental-service and conservation-based research projects in Baja California. Six students were selected to travel to Florida where they accepted this award, interfaced with leaders from international conservation organizations, and participated in unique behind-the-scenes environmental experiences at Busch Gardens.

One of the six students chosen to participate, was Roberto "Beto" Ocaña Fuerte, a student in JABA, a youth environmental group facilitate by Pronatura.

Each year, JABA students partner with Aquatic Adventures students to conduct projects that provide environmental education and action opportunities for the local community of Bahía de los Angeles. Pronatura, assisted the Ocaña family in getting all necessary paperwork so that Beto would be able to travel to the United States for the first time. Beto was selected because of his strong commitment to the environment and charismatic and energetic personality and this was evident as he charmed all of the participants and event organizers.

Together the students gave an excellent presentation in English and Spanish, interacted with endangered wildlife species, and learned more about international conservation through

discussions with their sponsoring organization, World Wildlife Fund. This was an incredible experience, not soon forgotten by any!

This program was made possible through the support of Dr. Paul and Linnea Dayton, JABA (Jovenes Ambientalistas de Bahía de los Angeles), Pronatura, Soroptimist International of Mission Bay, Sea World/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards, and World Wildlife Fund.



The BAHÍA Program



Ahram Rodriguez is one of 21 Hoover High School students preparing for five weeks of intensive research on the Sea of Cortez this summer.

The BAHÍA program has begun and this year's students, twenty-one 9th through 12th graders from Hoover High School are looking forward to their upcoming journey to Bahía de los Angeles, Mexico.

This year's students all bring significant experience, as either past BAHÍA participants or graduates of our middle school programs. "We've got a very energetic and dedicated group of students this year," said Travis Kemnitz, Director of Student Relations at Aquatic Adventures. "I can't wait to see them at work alongside scientists as they work on authentic conservation research. For many of our students, it is truly a life changing experience."

BAHÍA is our most intensive program and provides experiential education in the sciences, conservation field research opportunities, and a series of academic and personal supports.

Are you adventurous and want to experience what this program is about first-hand? You are invited to join us in Bahía de los Angeles for "Partner Weekend" on July 17th -20th. For more information please contact Shara Fisler, Executive Director, at 858-488-3849 or sharafisler@aquaticadventures.org.

Visit the BAHÍA Homepage at <http://www.aquaticadventures.org/bahia06/BAHIA/Welcome.html> between June 22nd and July 26th and click on the "SEALog" link at the top of the page. Visitors will be able to follow the students' discoveries about nature, science, and themselves as well as interact with the students by posting questions and comments.

This program was made possible through the support of AmeriCorps VISTA, Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Anonymous, Aqua Lung, Cox Communications, Cubic Corporation, Harriet E. Pflieger Foundation, HD Supply, JiJi Foundation, La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club-The Marine Room, Laird Norton Family Fund, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), PADI Foundation, Project AWARE, Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Fund at The San Diego Foundation, San Diego Futures Foundation, San Diego Padres, Satterberg Foundation, Schubach Aviation, Sea World/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards, Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, Soroptimist International of Mission Bay, Stanley/Stearns Fund at The San Diego Foundation, The Blanchard Foundation, The Orca Fund at The San Diego Foundation, The Pratt Memorial Fund at Union Bank of California, The Sierra Club Foundation, Tiger Woods Foundation, and United Development Group.



Announcements

Students Making the Grade

We are very excited and proud to announce that 100% of this year's Aquatic Adventures graduating seniors have been accepted into four year universities!

In addition, we are celebrating an enormous success, as Betty, one of our 2008 graduates will attend Brown University in Providence, RI next year. This marks the first time in more than 15 years that a student from Hoover High School has been accepted into an Ivy League University!

Students in the News

An Article written by current Aquatic Adventures student Marlem Rivera, about her experience in Baja California, was published early this year in Baja Life. Read the article at <http://www.aquaticadventures.org/news.html>

Terry Singleton, BAHÍA program alumni and sophomore at the University of California, Davis, was featured in UC Davis Magazine for his leadership in recycling and conservation efforts on campus.

<http://www.aquaticadventures.org/news.html>

Introducing a New Cookbook Which Raises More Than Dough!

Jane Brown has done it again! Drawing on the energy and creative ideas for her efforts, this amazing volunteer has published two cookbooks full of her very own savory recipes. Each page highlights Aquatic Adventures' students and great supporters. Seafood Collection and Legumes, s'il vous plait can be obtained exclusively through Aquatic Adventures and all proceeds will go to support our programs. For more information or to order your cookbook, please contact Jamie Weed at (858) 488-3849 or jamiweed@aquaticadventures.org.

Dates to Remember

August 4th-6th - H2O Challenge: An Overnight Aquatic Adventure!

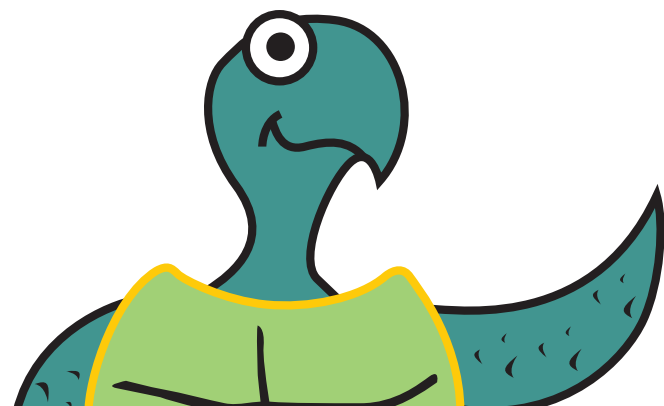
At an all-inclusive cost of \$550 per adventurer, this is one activity your family won't want to miss! Students ages 9-14, will travel from the San Diego River Headwaters to the Ocean, experiencing scientific, environmental and adventure challenges along the way! To register or for more information, please call Jeri Nolan at Aquatic Adventures at (858) 488-3849 or email jerinolan@aquaticadventures.org.

September 13th - Bubble Up!

Save the Date! The 2008 Annual Gala and Auction, Bubble Up!, will take place on September 13th. This year's event will once again be at the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla. Guests will enjoy amazing ocean views, while savoring a delicious meal, experiencing student lead tours of the aquarium and bidding on fabulous and one of a kind auction items. This event is a cornerstone in Aquatic Adventure efforts to educate urban youth about science, the ocean and nature through tuition free programs, creating the next generation of scientific and environmental leaders.



Savory Cookbooks



Making a Difference: The Board of Directors

Ileana Ovalle, Chair	Government and Community Relations Manager, Cox Communication
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Kurt Gering	Training Manager, Great Call, Inc.
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Theodore J. Griswold	Attorney at Law, Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch
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John Murphy	Vice President Mortgage Lending Division Manager, San Diego National Bank
David Salisbury	Director of Business Development, Mintz Levin
Ex-Officio Board Member: Kaye Stambaugh	Vice President of Customer Care, HD Supply

The Staff

Shara Fisler	Executive Director
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Matt Kansteiner	Director of Program Operations
Travis Kemnitz	Director of Student Relations
Dr. Drew Talley	Science Director
Jamie Weed	Office Manager
Jeri Nolan	School Programs Coordinator
Annie McBride	Events Coordinator
Elizabeth Horpedahl	Habitat Stewardship Coordinator
Jennifer Best	Lead Instructor
Cody Hooven	Lead Instructor
Margaret Ortega	Lead Hoover High School Instructor
Margaret Beardsworth	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anne Correia	AmeriCorps VISTA
Seton Edgerton	Facilities Assistant
Sarah Wozniak	Database Administrator
Vanessa Sandoval	Internship Coordinator

