



OCH News

Quarter 3 - July-September 2022

Environmental News

Environmental Nonprofits in OC

By: Vanessa Jorgensen

It's no secret that Orange County, California, abounds with natural beauty throughout its wide area of habitats. The region's allure has meant a great deal of development to meet the demands of those that call the region home. Sadly, the development of land can often cause severe impacts on the natural environment and disrupt the balance of ecosystems. As society has become increasingly aware of the impacts human development causes on the environment and the species found therein more effort has



Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy and OCH Restoration
Photo Courtesy of Stacey Chartier-Grable

been made to restore native habitats. California's awareness of the importance of biodiversity has allowed it to become a leader in conservation in the United States. As of 2016, the US Geological Survey concluded that 22% of California's 100-million acres are under a protected status. California is also a leader in the 30x30 initiative which calls for 30% of land and 30% of oceans in the United States to be protected by 2030. In October of 2020, governor Gavin Newsom enacted executive order N-82-20 making California the first state to commit to protecting 30% of its land and water by 2030. A huge part of the reason that California has become such a leader in conservation is because of the great work local environmental non-profits have done to ensure that native habitats are protected. ...Read more at <https://www.ochabitats.org/post/environmental-nonprofits-in-orange-county>

Species Spotlight: Coyotes in OC

By: *Tiffany Chao*



Despite intense eradication efforts, coyotes have survived. Photo courtesy of Peggy Honda

A long, drawn out howl. High-pitched, and sometimes two or three in harmony. Whether you live in the open countryside, the quiet suburbs of Orange County, or the freezing cold of Alaska, it is possible to hear this signature vocalization of *Canis latrans*, the coyote.

Surprisingly, this common canid was not always so widespread. When modern coyotes evolved 10,000 years ago, they were restricted to the prairies and deserts of Mexico and central North America. By the early 1900s, their range extended to the western United States, Alaska, and the Midwest. Today, coyotes can be found all across Mexico, the U.S., and southern Canada. ...Read more at <https://www.ochabitats.org/post/coyotes-of-oc>

Sequoias of the Sea

By: *Wendy Berube*

There is a plant that is not really a plant. It photosynthesizes, but has no roots. Some people eat it deliberately. Most of us eat it without knowing it.

It can be farmed or harvested naturally. It is incredible to explore, and provides food and shelter to a vast diversity of animals, but you probably don't want to sit next to it on the beach. It forms huge forests that have been compared in height and awe to the Giant Sequoias of Northern California. It is seaweed. More precisely, it is Kelp.

There are two main types of kelp that grow along the California coast. North of Point Conception, the dominant species is bull kelp, or *Nereocystis luetkeana*. Here in Southern California, we have *Macrocystis pyrifera*, or giant kelp. Both of these species are fast-growing marine algae that form large "forests" off the coast. However, unlike trees, seaweeds are not plants. They are part of an entirely separate kingdom called protists. They are considered plant-like protists, along with other algae because they contain chloroplasts, an organelle that enables them to photosynthesize. Multicellular algae, or seaweed, can have plant-like structures like roots and stems. These roots, though, are different from plant roots. Plants absorb nutrients and water from the soil through their roots, whereas kelp absorbs nutrients directly from the water around it. The "roots" of kelp are called holdfasts, and their job is to anchor the kelp to the rocky substrate on which it grows. ...Read more at <https://www.ochabitats.org/post/sequoias-of-the-sea>



Photo Courtesy by Douglas Klug | National Science Foundation

More from our Blog!

Interested in these articles? Want to read more about our local habitats, species, conservation and environmentalism? Click this link, <https://www.ochabitats.org/blog>, to read the fascinating articles on our blog! Some that were published this quarter include articles on estuaries, green space and mental health, B corps, sea turtle conservation, birds of prey, and more. Keep your eye peeled for our new blogs every other Friday!!

Volunteers of the Quarter

Marjorie and Jo King have been with OC Habitats since the beginning of 2022. They moved to California after they retired from their respective careers and both of their daughters now live in Orange County. Marjorie was a cardiologist in Rockland County, New York who always had a love for gardening; she enjoys volunteering for our restoration events because doing so gives her an outlet for her impulse to “pull out any weeds” she sees.



Marjorie and Jo King

Through her gardening experience in NY, Marjorie learned that native plants were hardier and more resistant to predators compared to non-native plants, which is similar to what we observe in native vs. non-native plants here in Orange County. Jo dedicated his career in marketing fragrances prior to his retirement. He has always enjoyed doing landscaping, so volunteering for OCH allows him to get his hands in the soil and help restore the landscape of our native habitats. Since volunteering for OCH, Marjorie and Jo have learned a lot about our native habitats. As part of our OCH Crew, Marjorie and Jo are valuable members of our restoration and blog editing teams. For their future goals, they both want to enjoy their time with their family (especially their grandchildren!) and to learn more about California habitats. Jo wants to learn more about trail maintenance and to get better at identifying birds while Marjorie wants to learn about plants and birds.

Volunteers of the Quarter

Andreana Chou



Andreana Chou graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. degree in molecular environmental biology. She became an active OCH Crew member in May 2022. Andreana learned about OCH through our work in wetlands restoration in Upper Newport Bay and Huntington Wetlands Conservancy. She is interested in learning about the effects of global climate change on the biodiversity in our native habitats. Andreana has written an OCH blog on the importance of B-corps to our natural environments and is an active member of our Social Media Committee. As an active volunteer, Andreana enjoys the positive energy from our crew and continues to work with OCH to be involved in our conservation and restoration work in Orange County. As for her future goals, Andreana would like to be more involved in climate action work.

We are proud to highlight the work that Marjorie, Jo, and Andreana have done with OCH. We hope to continue working with all of them, who have all become a valuable addition to our OCH Family.

What's New

Interns

OC Habitats welcomed 4 new interns in September 2022: Evie Andrade (UCI graduate student); Eric Peña (UCI undergraduate); Cameron White and Katarina Sielen (Vanguard University undergraduates). Our new interns will be working on various projects from creating the Indigenous Peoples of Orange County segment on our website to overseeing sea urchin population surveys along our local intertidal habitats.



Restoration Projects

Wetlands restoration at Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy is held on every third Saturday of the month. We continue to do great work at restoration and mitigation projects in the salt marsh habitat. OCH also partners with Turtle Rock Nature Center and the City of Santa Ana for restoration work. We continue to look for committed volunteers. Interested in collaborating with us? Contact volunteer@ochabitats.org! We love collaborating with other organizations to recruit volunteers.



Education & Outreach

Coffee & Conservation (C&C)

OC Habitats continues to host C&C talks. These talks are typically hosted Saturday morning where we go over many different topics regarding our organization, environmentalism, and sustainability. [Check out our previous live streams](#) and join our email list to know when the next live stream is scheduled!



Habitat Video Series

Enjoy the most recent contents from our [Habitat Video Series](#), where we share information about our local habitats in Orange County and the issues that these habitat are facing as population rises and climate change issues increase. Check them out to learn more about the native habitats around you!

What's New



OCH Crew and our public attendees during the Laguna Canyon Trail Hike on October 2022.

Hiking Program

Our guided hikes are back! We have a goal of doing at least one hike per month at different locations in Orange County, with the exception of summer months due to extreme heat. One of our hikes include a 2.5-mile MPA hike along Little Corona del Mar beach to learn about the habitat and the different species living therein. We are always developing and expanding our hiking program to include new nature hikes, such as the Laguna Canyon, Skyline Hagador Canyon Trail, San Joaquin Marsh, and more where you can learn about the various species living in the area and learn about the history and biology of the area. If you're interested in joining us on our hikes, space is limited, so register through [Eventbrite](#)! All hikes are free but donations are welcome!



Upcoming Events & Opportunities

October 2022

October 29th, 8 - 11 AM: [Guided Hike at Skyline Hagador Canyon Trail](#)

November 2022

November 5th, 8 - 11 AM: [Guided Hike at O'Neill Regional Park](#)

November 12th, 9 - 12 PM: Hungtington Beach Wetlands Conservancy Restoration

November 29th: Giving Tuesday & OCH Annual Fundraiser Kickoff - [Donate here](#)

December 2022

December 3rd, 10:30 - 1 PM: Marine Protected Area (MPA) Hike at Crystal Cove

December 6th, 6 - 10 PM: [OCH Dream Gala - Fundraiser](#)

December 17th, 9 - 12 PM: Hungtington Beach Wetlands Conservancy Restoration

*Please check our website or your email for updated event information.

[*Sign Up for Our Events*](#)



Join our OCH Crew!

OC Habitats is looking for people who want to share their skills, knowledge, and time to improve their local environment and habitats. We have many opportunities to get involved and some are listed below. [*Join Our Crew!*](#)

Volunteer

- Become a Habitat Monitor
- Join our Habitat Education Team
- Help with Administrative Tasks
- Help with Outreach and Marketing
- Become a Nature Hike Guide
- Work on OCH's Social Media Outreach
- Help with ongoing Restoration Projects
- Work with our Grant Writing Team to secure funding for our organization, programs, and projects.

Internships

- College Level Students earn credit through CSUF, CSULB, Saddleback, UCI, and more
- Gain experience in the conservation field, a grassroots nonprofit, environmental blog writing, business administration, public speaking, education, and more.
- Become a film or art intern for OCH.
- Click Internships above for application.

Join our Board

- We are always looking for people to help us reach our goals and mission. Submit your resume, references and cover letter to och@ochabitats.org



Volunteers of the Year

2021



Cheryl Dyas &
Michelle Lee

2020



Ross Griswold

2019



Trevor Stocking &
Crystal Ryan

2018



Bianca Borja

2017



Tom Gee