

# Talega Life

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*Meet David  
& Pamela  
Jackson*

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# David & Pamela Jackson:

## "Blue Is the New Green!"

BY JOANNA LARSON | photographs by JAMIE B PHOTOGRAPHY

**T**alega residents Pamela and David Jackson have taken their deep, abiding love and respect for nature and were inspired to start a company in 2014, aimed to educate and empower others to preserve our oceans and its inhabitants.

Pamela, a self-described "Cephalopod Queen," received a degree in Aquarium & Aquaculture Science from Saddleback College, at the time the only hands-on aquaculture program in the state. She has worked as an Aquarist at the Ocean Institute and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, and has given countless talks and lectures on ocean related subjects.

David has a business management degree from Purdue University, and also attended University of Wisconsin and Northwestern University studying corporate finance. He worked as a personal financial consultant before opening his own investment advisory management firm. Today, he is the businessman behind their startup company, EverythingOceans®, motivated with the mission to "engage, educate and empower" people about our oceans.

As the scientist and educator of the two, Pamela's love of the ocean is contagious. Her expansive knowledge motivated her to write and publish her first children's book, *Ocean Adventures with Jax*, in 2016. Written from the viewpoint of a young bottlenose dolphin and geared at introducing children (grades K-3) to the fascinating world under the sea, the book was just awarded the prestigious gold seal from "The Mom's Choice Awards."

We sat down and discussed David and Pam's new venture of starting a business in their 50s and life in Talega.

### What made you start EverythingOceans® together?

D: The idea came to us when Pam was working as an aquarist at the Ocean Institute and was giving countless presentations on the different creatures housed there. We realized we could reach a more expansive audience if we made the content internet-based. Pam is so curious. She is a born educator and can really dial in on something, observe it, learn from it and convey it to others well.

### What exactly does an aquarist do?

P: Everything from checking on the animals to preparing their food, treating them if they're sick, and putting them in quarantine to acclimate them as a species when they first come into the facility. I





“ There are eight billion people on the planet and you are unique in all the world. Share your talents and gifts because this world needs you. Find your inner spark and light it; become all you are meant to be! ”

-Pamela Jackson

also monitored and maintained the water quality in the tanks. To me, I was doing the ultimate job every single day—wearing shorts and a t-shirt—working and playing with animals. It's truly my passion.

### Do you keep aquariums at home?

P: Surprisingly, we do not. When you're working as an aquarist and busy taking care of animals and tanks eight or more hours a day, the last thing you want to do is take care of your own tank when you get home!

### Prior to moving here, you lived in Colony Cove. What brought you to Talega?

P: After many months of searching for a new home we decided on Talega. Here we enjoy the fabulous warm weather and cool ocean breezes. We found a house in Mirador with a wonderful view of open space, the hills and nature. The amenities in Talega are unmatched and we love to walk the trails, swim laps at the resort-style pools, shoot baskets and play tennis at the courts or golf close by.

### Do you like to travel? Have you been on any recent trips?

D: We love to go to Hawaii to snorkel. Pam will stay out there for five hours or more. Also we love the Yucatan in Mexico. Recently we went to Las Vegas and stayed at the Bellagio to see their summer exhibit “Under The Sea” which featured two, 1,500 gallon tropical aquariums. Pam studied the tanks and we spoke with the curator of the exhibit, which is connected with the shark reef aquarium at Mandalay Bay.

P: The exhibit was created by one of my favorite shows on TV called Tanked. The guys were commissioned by the Bellagio to do this walk through exhibit. To us, the strange thing was that here are all of these people from around the world looking

at this huge exhibit and there was no signage explaining the animals swimming around in the tanks or coral reefs. Literally there was no education connected to that exhibit! So I called the curator and said, ‘I would love to help you with the education part. It would make the experience so much more meaningful and valuable for guests, and for the hotel to be able to leverage the opportunity to stand out as an educational resort as well.’

### You recently put on a presentation for kids at the Talega Swim and Athletic Club. How did that go?

P: We had a great outcome! I read my book, the kids were able to color in coloring pages from the book and we had a visit from Jax the Dolphin. Each child received a certificate with a gold seal stating they completed the workshop and titling them “Ocean Champions.”

### Where did your passion for the ocean and from educating others come from?

P: I grew up frequenting an aquarium in Chicago and became fascinated with marine life. Talking about the oceans and sharing my knowledge with others just makes my heart sing. Although we don't have children of our own, we are dedicated and spend much of our time teaching children about the oceans and the animals that call the ocean home. The oceans need to survive in order for us to even be alive. I always say ‘Blue is the new green!’

D: It's really important for us to engage and educate the next generation. Kids really do want to learn about and also care for the environment.

### Will you write more books?

P: You bet! At the end of Ocean Adventures with Jax, Jax finds a golden key at a shipwreck and falls asleep wondering what the key is for. I already know the next five stories. I'm working them out in my head now!



Pamela holding Ocean Adventures with Jax



Visiting Angels at Dana Point Harbor



Speaking at Saddleback College's Presidents' Roundtable 2013