



Music from the Mesa

Newsletter 85

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Fall 2005

Grab Our Tools!

BOLSA CHICA STEWARDS CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

By Kim & Thierry Kolpin

Ten years ago, the Bolsa Chica Stewards put their first hundred native plants in the ground when the Department of Fish and Game offered us some leftovers. That day the light bulbs went on over our heads and they've been shining brightly ever since.

We never envisioned such success and we have a lot of people to thank for it! First, a sincere thank you to goes each and every Land Trust member who has so generously donated funds. You have come through for us again and again, providing everything we need to do our work.

There have also been thousands of volunteers, of all ages and walks of life, who have come together to help us. Without these volunteers, we could not have accomplished what we have, creating a thriving coastal sage scrub habitat with over 8,000 native plants.

The next chapter in the Mesa's history will be very exciting as we anticipate the lower bench's purchase by the state and its future restoration. We are proud to be your Restoration Team and are looking forward to the "golden years", the years we will work on the lower bench in its entirety.

We have two special events coming up in October and you're invited to both.

First, on Monday, October 10th at 7 p.m., the Land Trust will hold a Town Hall meeting at the

Huntington Beach Central Library. The meeting will celebrate the work of the Stewards with guest speakers, presentations about our work with native plants, and refreshments for one and all.

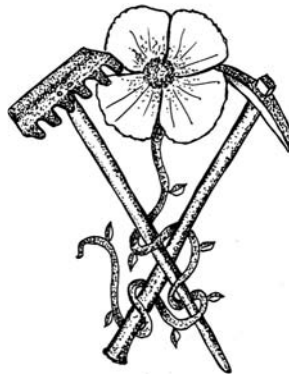
Then on Saturday, October 15th we will celebrate our actual 10th Anniversary with a very special work day from 9 a.m. until noon. We will meet in the Reserve parking lot at the corner of PCH and Warner Avenue. We will be honored by members of the Tongva Tribe of Native Americans who will bless our work with a Sage Ceremony. We will attempt to plant 1,000 plants – maybe a world record – and we'll have a special treat for all our volunteers at the end of the day.

We want you to join us out on the mesa.

If you've never been with us before, we guarantee you'll have at least one good laugh, meet some awfully nice people, see some very interesting critters, and – most importantly – make a difference. When you go home, the Bolsa Chica will be a little better than when you got there. And the next morning when you drive past, we promise you will not be able to keep from smiling.

For more information call us at (714) 717-6304, email at Kolpin@Stanford.edu, or call the Land Trust office at (714) 846-1001.

Kim and Thierry Kolpin are co-founders of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, the restoration team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust.



COOL AZUL GETS EXTREME MAKE-OVER!

by Marinka Horack

If you're a long-time member of the Land Trust, you're familiar with "Cool Azul" the great blue heron who is our mascot.

This way-cool bird first made his appearance on September 21, 1996 on a flier advertising the Bolsa Chica Land Trust Beach Rally. At that time, he had no name, but he showed up on posters and banners for the celebration and concert that featured Bonnie Raitt, Graham Nash, and Pierce Brosnan.

In the winter of 1997, the Land Trust launched a "Name the Bird" contest in our newsletter. More than a hundred entries poured in. Among the many names submitted were "Big Blue," "Huey Bluey," "Bolsa Chico," and "Seymour."

But when the Board of Directors reached a final decision, the winner was seven year-old Austin Deuel of Huntington Beach. Austin submitted "Cool Azul" because he thought the bird's sunglasses looked cool and because he knew that "azul" was the Spanish word for blue.

In April 1998 and 1999, a buff, new Cool Azul appeared on Walkathon I and Walkathon II fliers. Designed by Land Trust member, Stan Krutsick, this version served as the model for the costume which was designed and built by Kimberli Steel.

On July 4, 1999, Cool Azul marched for the first time in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade with Austin Deuel and the rest of the Land Trust participants. Cool Azul has appeared in every 4th of July parade since, and was most recently brought to life by Ted Dowding of the Bolsa Chica Stewards.

But now, Cool Azul is once again undergoing an make-over. . . an extreme make-over you might say. Designed by character artist Greg Guler, this new version of our mascot will soon be found on our website and in our educational materials. It is hoped that his friendly – but still cool – personality will appeal to kids and motivate them to learn more about the Bolsa Chica.

So say hello to the new Cool Azul. We hope you like him!

Marinka Horack has been a Board Member since 1998 and is a Land Trust docent.



Cool Azul sez:

Wetlands are important because they filter pollutants, reduce flood damage, and provide habitat for native plants and animals.

2006 "WINGS OVER BOLSA" CALENDAR GOES ON SALE



This is one of many dazzling photos in the 2006 "Wings Over Bolsa" calendar which goes on sale in October. Photo by Steven Eric Smith

"Wings Over Bolsa," the Land Trust's annual calendar, goes on sale in October and the photos are more spectacular than ever. For the third consecutive year we feature the work of local photographers with every stunning picture taken at Bolsa Chica.

The calendars make wonderful Christmas gifts and this year the price has been reduced to \$10 per calendar or five for \$39.95.

They can be ordered by calling (714) 846-1001, by emailing the Land Trust at bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org, or by using

the order form enclosed with this newsletter. Checks are preferred but Visa and MasterCard are welcome. There is an additional charge for shipping or they can be picked up in person at the Land Trust office: 5200 Warner Avenue, Suite 108, Huntington Beach, near the corner of Warner Avenue and Bolsa Chica Road. Free parking is available behind the building.

Proceeds from the calendar go to further the Land Trust's preservation efforts at Bolsa Chica. Make sure you have several for the holidays!

JOIN US FOR THE GREAT EARTH WALK

On Saturday, September 24, 2005, thousands of people like you will take part in the Great Earth Walk – a very special event designed to raise funds to support organizations dedicated to protecting the precious resources that so many of us take for granted.



You can walk on one of many guided tours sponsored by non-profit environmental organizations throughout Orange and Los Angeles counties or join us at the Bolsa Chica. Our Great Earth Walks will leave at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve parking lot on Warner Avenue near Pacific Coast Highway. Additional parking will also be available across Warner Avenue from the Interpretive Center.

Our tours of the Bolsa Chica mesa and wetlands are an easy two-hour walk on level ground and are ideal for children and those who don't want to participate in a strenuous hike. You can sign up by using the form on the Great Earth walk insert included with this newsletter or on-line at www.GreatEarthWalk2005.org.

Make a difference. Join the Great Earth Walk.

VOTERS SUPPORT ORANGE COUNTY MEASURE TO FUND CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY

By Marc Stirdivant
Executive Director

Recently, a survey was taken of 600 registered voters in Orange County who are likely to cast ballots in upcoming elections. The goal of the survey was to assess public attitudes toward enhanced funding for the protection of water quality and the preservation of open space in Orange County. The results showed that Orange County voters are highly willing to support increased efforts to protect water quality, open space, parks, and wildlife – even it means a small increase in County taxes.

The poll, taken by Fairbank, Maslin, Maulin & Associates on behalf of the Orange County Green Vision Project, revealed that this support cuts across all demographic groups in the County and appears to be driven by significant existing concern about problems relating to development, loss of open space, and water pollution.

When asked if they would support a hypothetical County ballot measure to expand programs to protect rivers, clean up toxic contamination, preserve natural areas, improve and expand parks, and protect fish and wildlife resulting in a small increase taxes, more than two-thirds of County voters (69 percent) said they would support it. 43 percent would “strongly” support the measure, while 26 percent would support it “somewhat.”

What does this mean for Bolsa Chica? The Land Trust is committed to the ongoing preservation of the wetlands and mesas including the historic Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands and the archeologically significant Cog Stone site. The results of the survey make it clear that the people of the county value places like Bolsa Chica and are willing to pay to preserve them.

JOIN THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE PEOPLE

On Saturday, October 1, the 9th Annual Pilgrimage of the Gabrielino/Tongva and Juaneno/Acjachemem people will be held for the purpose of carrying prayers and honoring the spirits of their ancestors. The public is invited to join all or part of the pilgrimage.

A significant portion of the event will take place at Bolsa Chica. At 12 noon there will be a gathering at the Bolsa Chica Mesa Point Memorial Garden, established by the Land Trust and Native Americans. At 1:30 p.m. the pilgrimage will move to ORA 83, behind the Bolsa Chica mesa, where over 25 graves were plundered by the Koll Company. This area was occupied for over 6,000 years by Tongva/Acjachemem ancestors and is being considered by the national Registry of Historic Places for its cultural and scientific significance. (See the President’s Message on page 5).

For more information, contact Jimi Castillo (909) 606-5000 ext 2366 or Rhonda Robles (562) 633-9014.

President's Message

By Gerald Chapman



sacred cog stone

What would you do. . .

- If you knew there is an 8,000 year-old archeological site in your area?
- If you knew it has never been fully excavated?
- If you knew some of its artifacts have only been found in two other places in the world?
- If you knew it was considered a Native American sacred site?
- If you knew the State of California felt it is one of our most important archeological sites?
- If you knew it could be lost to development?

This place actually exists in Huntington Beach and is known as ORA 83, the Sacred Cog Stone site. It is a six-acre parcel on the Bolsa Chica Mesa that remains privately owned. The owners of the proposed Hearthside project have already destroyed an adjacent portion of ORA 83 and there has never been an accounting for the artifacts recovered from the site.

The time to act is now if you feel that the Sacred Cog Stone site should be saved for future generations. Please call the Land Trust office at 714-846-1001 to find out what you can do to preserve this wonderful treasure from the past.

Remember, the Land Trust motto has always been

SAVE IT, DON'T PAVE IT!

UPPER BOLSA CHICA WETLANDS

By Julie Bixby

It's been déjà vu for the Land Trust.

Just like the Hearthside/Brightwater application before it, so, too, has the Shea Parkside Coastal Development Permit application been unable to find a timely spot at a Coastal Commission meeting before the required deadline. Thus, the Coastal Commission staff had to ask the developer to officially withdraw and resubmit the application.

That action restarts the clock for scheduling a hearing, with San Diego in October now the first opportunity. The Land Trust will utilize this additional time to gather information on the property's wetland and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area values.

Julie Bixby is a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands Committee

TOWN HALL MEETING CELEBRATES WORK OF THE STEWARDS

Help us celebrate ten years of native habitat restoration on the Bolsa Chica Mesa with this special event on Monday, October 10th. The meeting will be held in Room C/D of the Huntington Beach Central Library at 7 p.m. There will be presentations by experts on native plants, a slide show about the Stewards' work, and refreshments for one and all.

As a special added attraction, we'll have a sneak peak at the spectacular photos from our 2006 "Wings Over Bolsa" calendar.

The Library is located at 7111 Talbert Avenue just east of Golden West Street near the Huntington Beach Sports Complex. A donation of \$1.00 is encouraged.

See you there!



BOLSA CHICA STEWARD TO APPEAR ON RADIO SHOW



Guy Stivers, nationally recognized landscape architect and a director of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, will appear on NewsTalk 870 KRLA's "Home Wizards" on Saturday, October 1st at 3 p.m. The show, hosted by veteran Los Angeles radio personality Cindy Dole, focuses on "do-it-yourself" projects for the home and garden and provides the know-how to make any listeners' project a success.

Guy will talk about the use of drought-tolerant native plants in the home garden, large-scale landscaping with California natives, and the work of the Land Trust's restoration team, the Bolsa Chica Stewards, over the last ten years to restore coastal sage scrub habitat at Bolsa Chica.

Don't miss it!



WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER! (have you got ours?)

The phone number for the Land Trust office is
(714) 846-1001.

Our old 960 number will soon be discontinued.
We don't want to miss your call, so please make a note of it!

WESTERN ALLIANCE FOR NATURE PRESENTS "CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR ENDANGERED BIRDS"

Dr. Robert Ridgely, a leading ornithologist in the study of endangered species of birds in the Americas, will make a rare visit to Southern California to discuss "Conservation Strategies for Endangered Birds" to benefit the conservation programs of the Western Alliance for Nature and Jocotoco Foundation.

This outstanding program will take place on Sunday, October 23rd at the Zoological Society of San Diego's Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Conservation Research (CRES). The Center is located at 15600 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido (next to the San Diego Wild Animal Park).

Doors open at 2 p.m. with exhibits from sponsors and tours of the CRES facility. The program begins at 3:30 p.m. with presentations by Larry Wan of the Western Alliance for Nature, Alan Lieberman of the Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program, and Dr. Ridgely. A buffet dinner and reception follows at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 per person (tax deductible). Please make checks payable to the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and send them to our office at 5200 Warner Avenue, Suite 108, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Indicate Western Alliance for Nature on your check.

*The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is an NGO Sponsor of
"Conservation Strategies for Endangered Birds"*

LAND TRUST RECEIVES GRANT FROM BOEING



The Board of Directors wishes to thank the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California for the generous grant they recently provided to the Land Trust.

The grant will go to support our "Miracles of the Marsh" elementary school education program which brings children from around Orange County to the Bolsa Chica for a docent-led tour. Thanks to Boeing, the Land Trust can help pay for bus transportation for schools in underserved communities. And for some of these children, this is the only opportunity they will have to visit the wetlands.

Over 3,600 students have participated in this Land Trust program since its inception three years ago. The employees of Boeing have supported the project every year.

Thank you, Boeing!



Bolsa Chica Land Trust

5200 Warner Avenue, #108, Huntington Beach, CA 92649

Website: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org

Email: bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit #837

Membership Renewal/Application
Mail Your Completed Membership Application to
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
5200 Warner Avenue, #108
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
I want to join the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and help
preserve the whole Bolsa Chica Ecosystem.
Annual dues are tax deductible
Members: Renewal date shown on your mailing label

This is a Renewal Membership

_____ \$50.00 + Honor Roll
_____ \$20.00 Family
_____ \$15.00 Individual
_____ \$10 Senior/Student

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
E-Mail _____

Directory
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Exec. Director Marc Strdivant 714-846-1001
Educ. Program Linda Wolfe 714-846-4588
BC Stewards Kelly Keller 562-920-4215
All Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items available at Land
Trust Office: Office Hours: 9:30AM to 5:30PM, M-Th

Regular Land Trust Events
BCLT Board Meetings
2nd Thursday of each month. 7PM
Call 714-846-1001 for location
BCLT Wetlands Table & Wetlands-Mesa Tour
3rd Sunday of each month. 9AM-3PM
Free Guided Tour 10AM-12noon
PCH Parking at BC Wetlands
For info & to help call 714-964-8170
Bolsa Chica Stewards
3rd Saturday of each month. 9AM-12noon
Meet in parking lot at PCH & Warner
Habitat restoration, trail maintenance, etc.
For information, call 562-920-4215

**Study nature, love nature,
stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.**

Frank Lloyd Wright