

# Music from the Mesa

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

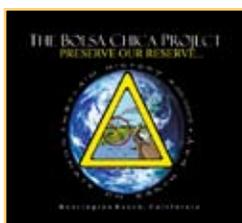
Newsletter 99

## Land Trust Launches Ambitious New Project!



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The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is launching an unprecedented new effort

to fund the restoration of the Bolsa Chica Mesa, the acquisition of still threatened lands at Bolsa Chica, and our educational outreach.

Known as the *Bolsa Chica Project*, this will be the largest single-day donation to help preserve and restore a wetland ecosystem in U.S. history. On April 22, 2009 - Earth Day - we are asking 100,000 people from across the country and around the world to donate \$50.00 or more to reach a goal of \$5,000,000 in a single day!

While this may seem impossible, you may remember that with your help, the Land Trust has done the impossible before. In 1992 we were told we could not save the Bolsa Chica from 4,884 houses, a 4-lane highway across the wetlands, and 900

houses on the wetlands themselves, but we did!

The work at Bolsa Chica is not over! More wetlands are threatened, archaeological sites are in peril, and if the land is not restored, plant and animal life can not be sustained.

Pledge to donate on Earth Day 2009 by subscribing with your email address at <http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org/>

Visit [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeviTZ\\_OY8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeviTZ_OY8) to see a short video on YouTube that explains the Bolsa Chica project. If you love Bolsa Chica, you will love this video.

There are more videos to come, so please subscribe to the BCLT channel on YouTube at this address: <http://www.youtube.com/bolsachicalandtrust> to keep up to date with the Project.

With your help, this can be the greatest day Bolsa Chica has ever seen!



### Scott Cowden 1921-2008



*Vi and Scott Cowden, dedicated Land Trust members, were married for fifty-three years.*

Scott Cowden, the wonderful husband of Land Trust Board member Vi Cowden, passed away last December.

Scott was raised in Washington and met Vi after World War II. They moved to Huntington Beach over twenty years ago in large part because they loved the ocean.

Scott was an active member of the Land Trust and was one of the first members to join up when the Trust was formed in 1992. His sense of humor and ready smile were always present.

Scott was also one of the original Land Trust beach cleanup team members. But that was not enough for Scott. For many years Scott also helped staff the monthly wetlands table which the Land Trust has at the south parking lot on Pacific Coast Highway. Scott always made himself available to help with all of our volunteer mailing parties whether for newsletters or updates to alert our members of upcoming hearings.

Scott and Vi shared 53 years of marital bliss. We will miss him.

## Welcome to Our New “Music from the Mesa”

Across the country and around the world, communities, individuals and organizations are working to make our world and our environment a better and healthier place in which to live.

One way to accomplish this goal is by changing habits and supporting businesses that have environmental products. To that end, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust has embarked on a bold new newsletter made with

vegetable inks and FSC certified post-consumer recycled paper.

In addition, we have begun to use full color in order to faithfully portray the beauty and magic of Bolsa Chica. And, best of all, we have been able to make these changes at a cost that is very close to our old one-color newsletter. This newsletter, the 99<sup>th</sup> edition printed by the Land Trust, is more beautiful and more envi-

ronmentally friendly than ever before.

We sincerely hope you like it and we would like to hear from you about our new look. Please reach out to the Bolsa Chica Land Trust at [bclandtrust@verizon.net](mailto:bclandtrust@verizon.net) with your comments. Just put NEWSLETTER in the Subject line and tell us what you think!

We'll print your comments in a future edition.

## Earth Day at Bolsa Chica

The first Earth Day in the United States was April 22, 1970. Its purpose then, as now, was to alert us to the destruction of our global ecosystems and remind us of our responsibility to preserve and protect our environment. Essentially Earth Day is about making us aware of our environment: the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land that surrounds us.

When we destroy nature, we diminish our community and ourselves. We impoverish our children and leave a devastating legacy. When we work to protect nature, we build a legacy for the future, inspire our children, and give them a sense of responsibility for their surroundings. It is this philosophy that has motivated the Bolsa Chica Land Trust since 1992.

While Earth Day is a day to build awareness of what is beyond our back yard, in the case of Bolsa Chica, the ecosystem *is in our backyard*. The Bolsa Chica ecosystem is a phenomenal place of global ecological significance. It is made up of mesas, wetlands, mudflats and beaches. It is a stopping point and resting place for thousands of migrating birds along the Pacific Flyway. It is home to countless fish, mammals, reptiles, and native plants. Look down and you will see a guitar fish. Look up and you will see a hawk. Look to the coast and you will see a dolphin. Look across the mesa and you will



see rabbits running for cover in the restored coastal sage.

The Bolsa Chica ecosystem connects us to our environment, to our history, and provides us with a sense of community. While every day is Earth Day at Bolsa Chica, Earth Day 2009 will be a day to get connected at a higher level, celebrate our success, and continue the fight to save and restore the rest of Bolsa Chica.

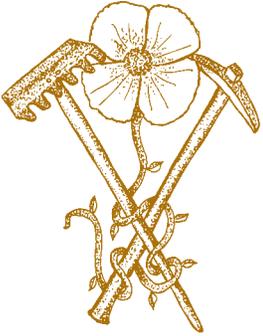
We look forward to your participation at Bolsa Chica on April 18th for native plantings and beach cleanups. We urge you to join us on April 22nd online at [www.bolsachicalandtrust.org](http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org) where we ask for your help in acquiring the rest of Bolsa Chica, restoring the mesa, and building our education programs and Nature Center.

Earth Day 2009 promises to be the best ever at Bolsa Chica. Please be part of it.



*Photos courtesy of Mark D. Bixby*

## The Stewards: Past, Present and Future



**The Past:** Although we are already well into 2009, let's take a look at how we did in 2008. The Stewards

had 1,312 volunteers who donated 4,195 hours and planted 2,337 native plants on the Mesa! We also had three recipients for the January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Kennedy-Kolpin Conservation Award. Kerry Martin and Mike and Roberta Armstrong were honored for the hard work and dedication they have given the Stewards over the past several years.

**The Present:** Now, we turn our attention to Earth Day 2009. This year the Land Trust will have two events on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to

celebrate. All participants will need to park at the Bolsa Chica State Beach (across from the Reserve). Parking is free and you will be directed to an activity once you arrive. Both events begin at 9 a.m. and go until noon. All ages are welcome.

The first 200 people who pre-register with me will be invited to plant 800 native plants on the Mesa. Everyone else will take part in a large-scale beach cleanup. Other details and fun stuff are being finalized now. Please check the web site for more information. If you would like to plant on the Mesa that morning please contact me at (714) 717-6304 or at [Kkolpin@socal.rr.com](mailto:Kkolpin@socal.rr.com).

**The Future:** This spring, we are very pleased to announce a new Junior Stewards program! Devel-

oped by kids, for kids, the Junior Stewards is a unique effort aimed at growing the natural interests and curiosities of children in a natural setting, letting them get dirty and allowing them to explore the entire Bolsa Chica ecosystem. It is designed to promote the skills and self-confidence needed so they will grow into the next generation of Stewards for all our wild lands and open spaces. This free program is open to all children, but registration is required, so please call me at (714) 717-6304 for more information.

To all a Happy Spring. We hope to see you on Earth Day!

Kim Kolpin is a Director of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, the restoration team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust.

## National Service Day Aids Beach Cleanup



*The dedicated Bolsa Chica Beach Cleanup Team worked with a special guest. Can you find him?*

On January 19, 2009 more than 13,000 National Service Day projects took place around the country. As it happened, the date coincided with our regular Beach Cleanup Day. Fueled by the President-Elect's call to service, more than 100 volunteers showed up to work with the Land Trust on beach cleanup. They were led by our crack team leaders, Carole Koelle, Eileen Murphy, Richard Valdes, and Mike McMahan. Everyone had fun a great deal of good work was accomplished.

# Cool Azul says:

Recently, students from Los Coyotes School in La Palma visited Bolsa Chica as part of our “Miracles of the Marsh” program. Afterward, they wrote thank you letters to our tour docents.

*Here's what they had to say:*

“Thank you for the spectacular tour of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, a place where animals that are endangered species can be safe....I want you to know, you docents are supreme guides.”

*Ethan*

“I'd like to tell all of the tour guides in Bolsa Chica wetlands, thank you. That was the greatest experience I've had this year. I learned not to litter. If that happens it can pollute the ocean.”

*Don*

“I am thankful for your kindness in taking care of Bolsa Chica. To help, I will stop using styrofoam.”

*Lemuel*

“Thank you for providing us with this amazing tour. I saw many different things that I have never seen before. I loved the plants and amazing different types of birds. I also learned about Native Americans. I learned about how pollution begins and how trash affects our oceans and its animals....I got to experience a great day in nature.”

*Krystin*

“I now understand to keep our area clean and stop using plastic bottles and bags. These are harmful to animals.”

*Lindsey*



“My favorite part was when I got to see the giant pelican really close.”

*Ashlee*

“Walking with you docents at Bolsa Chica was amazing....My classmates and I had a wonderful time at your beautiful wetlands. I enjoyed learning the birdcalls, especially the hawk....I now understand that I have to take care of my planet.”

*Darshanie*

## Pedestrian Bridge Still in the Works

Up until December, progress was being made on the pedestrian bridge at Bolsa Chica. The project has been put out to bid, bids had been received, and a bid was awarded for its construction.

Then in December, bond funds were frozen due to the budget

problems in Sacramento. Like hundreds of other state-funded infrastructure projects, the bridge project was halted until the budget issues were resolved. With a budget now passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, it appears that the funds will become unfrozen later this year, possibly as early as Summer.

In February, we received a status report from the Wildlife Conservation Board in Sacramento. The bridge is GOING TO BE BUILT. The WCB assures us that the bridge is a project that is going to be completed when the bond funds are released.

## We are proud to announce a new group: The Junior Stewards!

The Junior Stewards is like the Bolsa Chica Stewards, but with kids.

Our main objective is to get *lots* more kids out to the Bolsa Chica. Here are some reasons for joining:

- it's the right thing to do
- you can get dirty and your parents won't mind
- it's fun!
- you get documented volunteer hours
- pride in helping the environment
- build muscles
- make new friends
- be in a beautiful place outdoors

The Junior Stewards had their first meeting after February's workday. Present at the meeting were the group's core members: Vanessa and Olivia Bloom; Sage, Marcus and Griffyn Kolpin; Henry, Maggie and Thomas Pickett; and Oceanis and Jezebel McCarthy.

During the meeting, we talked about our logo, who was in charge of doing what, and what our goals are. We also talked about what we would teach kids who joined the Junior Stewards. We all agreed that we would teach them how to plant a plant.

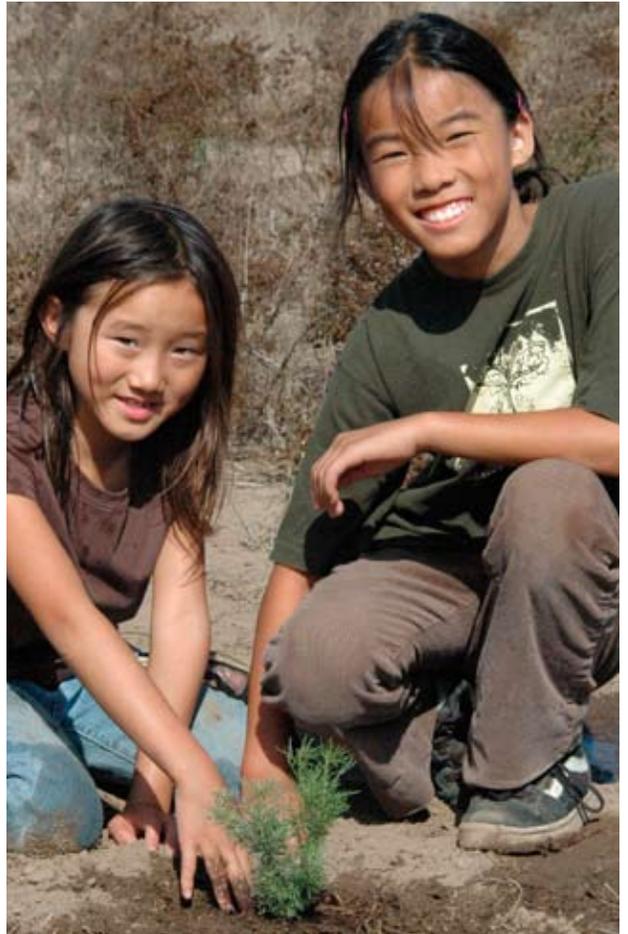
We also are discussing things like membership. For example, how to become a member (we're thinking a member should pledge six workdays per year), and member-

ship perks such as hats, shirts, and membership cards.

There was also some talk about the Junior Stewards having special projects to work on. After some meetings, the Junior Stewards might do activities such as dissecting owl pellets or a nature craft.

Look for the Junior Stewards on the Mesa!

Vanessa Bloom has been working with the Bolsa Chica Stewards since she was six. She is one of the founders of the Junior Stewards.



*Vanessa and Olivia Bloom, Stewards for the past 4 years, are the creators of the new Junior Stewards program.*

### NEW E- NEWSLETTER FOR THE ADVOCATES

If you are one of our Bolsa Chica Advocates, you have probably noticed the new electronic newsletter we now use to keep members up to date on a monthly basis.

Created by Land Trust Board member, Connie Boardman, this attractive, color newsletter will provide information on Land Trust activities in between issues of "Music from the Mesa".

If you'd like to receive the new electronic newsletter, you can do so by signing up at [connieb07@gmail.com](mailto:connieb07@gmail.com)



*Photos courtesy of Mark D. Bixby*

# Earth Day 2009

Join the Bolsa Chica Land Trust in celebrating Earth Day on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Our events will run from 9am till noon. Parking will be at the Bolsa Chica State Beach and will be free for event participants.

The first 200 people who register with the Bolsa Chica Stewards Director, Kim Kolpin at (714) 717-6304 will assist in

planting 800 native plants on the Mesa. Everyone else will participate in a large-scale Bolsa Chica Beach Cleanup project.

Come out and support a restored Bolsa Chica Mesa, a healthy environment and clean beach. Check out our new interpretive space and be a part of a very special Earth Day.



## Huntington Beach Centennial Earth Day Celebration

**Sunday April 19, 2009  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Please attend this FREE event at Rainbow Disposal Company  
17121 Nichols Street  
( off Warner between Gothard and Beach Blvd.)**

Did you ever wonder what happens to your trash after it leaves your house? Well, in Huntington Beach over 60% of it is diverted from the land fill and recycled.

Come join the City of Huntington Beach, Rainbow Disposal and dozens of community groups (including the Bolsa Chica Land Trust) at this day-long celebration of Earth Day!

There will be free entertainment, Earth-friendly prizes, activities for kids, and great Earth saving ideas about creating and living in a green community. It's all free and a great way to celebrate Earth Day.



# Bolsa Chica Land Trust

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

Website: [www.bolsachicalandtrust.org](http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org)

Email: [belandtrust@verizon.net](mailto:belandtrust@verizon.net)

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Please recycle this newsletter or share it with others.  
Cover photos courtesy of Steven Eric Smith and Larry Kaufman.*

## Scheduled 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

1st Sunday and 3rd Saturday of each month.

9AM-12noon. Meet in parking lot at PCH & Warner

Habitat restoration, trail maintenance, etc.

For information, call 714-717-6304

## Directory Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-846-1001

Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-846-4588

BC Stewards Kim Kolpin 714-717-6304

**Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items are available at the Land Trust Office**

Office Hours: 9:30AM to 3:30PM, Monday-Friday  
[www.bolsachicalandtrust.org](http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org)

## Membership Renewal/Application

I want to join the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and help preserve the whole Bolsa Chica Ecosystem.

This is a renewal membership.

Annual dues are tax deductible  
Members: Renewal date shown on your mailing label

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 + Honor Roll \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Senior/Student

\_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Your Completed Membership Application to:  
Bolsa Chica Land Trust  
5200 Warner Avenue, #108  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649