

# Music from the Mesa

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Newsletter 110

© Vince Thomas

© Vince Thomas



## In This Issue

1

BOLSA CHICA'S FIRST NEST CAM

2

FOLLOWING THE BCLT ONLINE

3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
SPECIAL COMMENDATION

4

JUNIOR STEWARDS HAVE BIG PLANS

5

STEWARDS LOOK FORWARD

6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

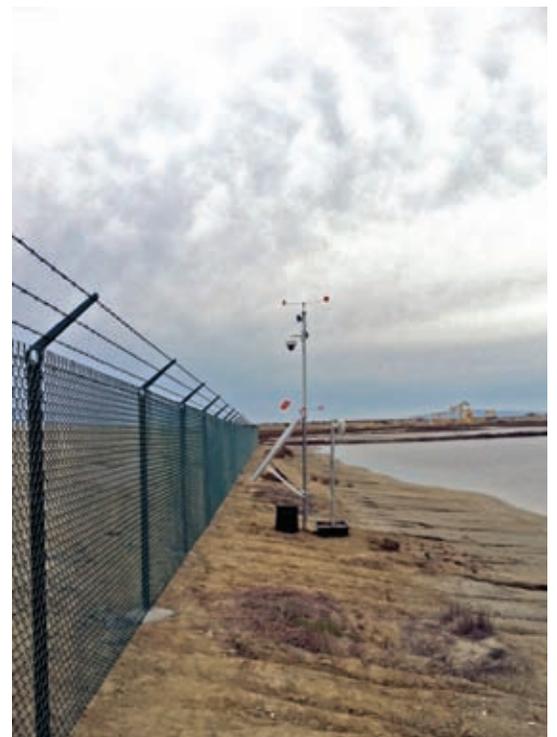
7

KENNEDY-KOLPIN BOLSA CHICA  
CONSERVATION AWARD



## Announcing Bolsa Chica's First Nest Cam!

The Land Trust has exciting news! For the first time ever, we will be hosting a live streaming camera of a critical nesting site for two threatened birds of Bolsa Chica. The Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern will be the focus of this unique nest camera project. The video and audio will be streaming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the next couple of months and will offer anyone from anywhere in the world the opportunity to experience the splendor of Bolsa Chica. This will all be accessible through the Land Trust's website [www.bolsachicalandtrust.org](http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org). We look forward to going "live" in the first week or two of March.



Just like the Bolsa Chica ecosystem, and what it offers to the public, this camera will benefit the public in a multitude of ways. Researchers will have an opportunity to make long term observations of this nesting colony without

disrupting the normal activities of the birds. School children will be able to visit a protected and off-limits part of the wetlands without leaving their classrooms. Birding enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the birds anytime, even at night thanks



Fish and Wildlife who manage the reserve. Their staff will be able to track, record and analyze data in an entirely new approach. We are also looking forward to hosting a discussion board and blog so that visitors to the website will be able to ask questions and discuss the events unfolding at the nest site. It will be a place where the public will be able to post questions about the birds' nesting behaviors, ecology as well as general info about the Bolsa Chica ecosystems.

Land Trust board member Jayson Ruth, who is the Oceanography Teacher at Huntington Beach High School, has been pulling together all the resources necessary to make this project happen. He says it all started with a simple idea. "I wanted to use technology to merge together my deep respect for nature and the responsibility I have as a teacher to inspire my students to value the natural environment and the importance of preserving open spaces such as the Bolsa Chica wetlands and mesas." The end result is a remote operated, solar powered, high definition and wireless system that will be capturing and sending the footage to be viewed by way of the BCLT website.

to the night vision capabilities of the camera. You will even be able to check in on the nests from your smart device or tablet!

The major driving force of this project is education. We want to provide insight as to the lifestyle of these two threatened birds of Bolsa Chica. Through the live streaming video, students of all ages will become more aware of the indigenous inhabitants of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and the overall value of protecting this vital resource. Additionally, the nest camera will provide many benefits to Department of

The plovers begin nesting in March and the terns should arrive a bit later. The camera will be streaming until the end of the nesting season which is usually around the beginning of summer. We hope that you make it a habit to check in regularly and learn all you can about these special birds and the habitat they call home. In general, the closer we can get to a subject matter, the more we begin to understand and appreciate it. Nowadays, it is not enough to simply know that these animals exist but to look more closely at their unique lifestyles so that we can gain better understanding.

The Land Trust looks forward to sharing the unfolding story of the plovers and terns this breeding season of 2013.

Because this project is the first of its kind in the wetlands and involves many different entities, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust would like to extend a heart felt thank you to the following:

- Brian Pavloff of Variable Speed Solutions for his engineering and expertise that was critical to making this happen.
- Southern California Edison/ Edison International and the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California for their generous grant support of this project
- State Lands Commission California Department of Fish and Wildlife, especially Kelly O'Reilly for her guidance.
- Surfline for rebroadcasting the nesting camera footage for the world to see.
- Verizon Wireless 4G LTE
- Mitch Mitchell of Trinnos Technology
- Pazanti Home Mortgage

## Following the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. . .



Find us on Facebook for the latest updates on Land Trust issues, activities, and events:

[www.Facebook.com/bolsachicalandtrust](http://www.Facebook.com/bolsachicalandtrust)



Join us on our website for in-depth information, educational materials, and historical data:

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

# Your Membership Matters

By Joe Shaw

There are many exciting things happening with the Land Trust and everything we do is a result of the support of our members. We want to thank everyone who so generously contributed through our year-end letter. Every dollar is put to work advancing our projects and programs, and working to acquire the last pieces of open space at Bolsa Chica. *Thank you* for helping to set the course for a successful 2013.

We make a strong statement when we can say that we have over 5,000 current members. This helps us in many ways to continue to pursue our mission. So please, if you have not renewed your membership for 2013 now is a great time to do so. Not sure when your

membership is due? Please take a look at the mailing label on the back cover. The date in the upper right hand corner is the date your membership is due for renewal. The remittance envelope enclosed lists the membership levels. Please renew today!

This January our Miracles program began its 10<sup>th</sup> year. The students come from Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Long Beach, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Westminster, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, and for the first time this year, Los Angeles. Our goal is to gradually spread to other communities in hopes that the beauty and wonder of the natural open space which is Bolsa Chica will be enjoyed by many.

Since 2003 through 2012 seasons, there have been 15,626 students, and 303 tours to the wetlands. Last year 18 schools took trips to the Bolsa Chica. This year, there are 23 schools scheduled with 43 tours to be done with an estimated 2,246 students and 84 teachers. What a wonderful gift to the children of Orange County, and beyond! Thank you to all of the docents who help us open up so many young minds to the wonders of Bolsa Chica. If you would like to become one of the special docents who work with the students please call us at (714) 846-1001 today!

## The Land Trust Receives Special Commendation

At the Huntington Beach City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mayor Connie Boardman presented a commendation to the Bolsa Chica Land Trust recognizing our twenty years of work to preserve, restore and maintain the Bolsa Chica ecosystem. Our work is supported by thousands of members in the local community and we are honored to receive this formal recognition from the City. We appreciate our relationship with the City of Huntington Beach and look forward to working together to secure the acquisition of the Sacred Cogged Stone Site and ensure the restoration of the Lower Bench.



Land Trust board members Mike McMahan, Marinka Horack, Jim Anderson, Executive Director Kim Kolpin, and board member Carrie Thomas receive Special Commendation from Mayor Connie Boardman (third from right) and Councilmember Joe Shaw (far right)

## The Jr. Stewards Have Big Plans for 2013!

By Mark Hay, Jr. Stewards Coordinator

The Jr. Stewards are currently in the process of updating our webpage as a way to reach out to families, donors, and potential Jr. Stewards. The kids are directly involved in the process of determining the overall goals for the webpage as well as its basic layout and content. A huge 'Thank You!' to Jr. Steward dad Larry Cone for helping us to make the page informative and fun.

In addition, the Jr. Stewards have been given their own planting area on the mesa. This area is just before the first park bench along the trail to the Point, between the trail and the bay. The Jr. Stewards will be preparing, planting, watering, weeding, and tending this area through 2013. By close observation and interaction with this area, we hope to have 100% success rate with all the native grasses we are planting!



Jr Stewards spend extra time building donut berms around newly planted native grasses to capture rainwater and focus it toward the plant. Photo Credit: Katrina Cone, Jr. Steward



Jr Stewards Michelle and Olivia teach first time kids and their families how to properly plant and berm native grasses. Photo Credit: Robert Cone, Jr. Stewards parent

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust mourns the passing of a dear friend, Gus Ayer, a staunch protector of our local environment. Gus, you are missed.

## Let's Dig It!

# Stewards Look Forward to a Big 2013

By Erin Chin

2013 has started with a great, big bang for the Bolsa Chica Stewards. We were registered in Washington DC as an official volunteer event for the MLK National Day of Service, and as a result, we had over 200 volunteers help weed, plant, water and tend the Mesa trail on January 19th. The volunteers came from all over California and as far as South Dakota! We were able to plant 5 species of grasses and wildflowers totaling 800 plants along the Mesa trail. The weather was warm and beautiful, and because the tide was low many shorebirds were visible feeding on the Outer Bolsa Bay mud flats.

It was also noted that some of the previously planted Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) has started to bloom with lovely blue-violet flowers. To see a picture gallery of this successful event go to: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/chica-388136-bolsa-native.html?pic=2>. We want to thank all the volunteers who attended and who continuously chose to spend their time working hard to restore the valuable Bolsa Chica to its native habitats!

This year we will continue to restore the native grasses and wildflowers to the Mesa. We have already seen some of the previously planted grasses starting to become established and hope more will flourish on the Mesa trail this year. Keep an eye out during the spring for the beautiful wildflowers blooming throughout the Mesa giving the bees opportunity to feed on and pollinate the native plants. The CPR for the Mesa project is moving forward and we hope to eventually start implementing this project to restore the Lower Bench to native habitats like our ever successful Mesa trail restoration.

2012 was our most successful year to date, with 2,079 volunteers who gave 6,691 hours of help to plant 4,014 native plants on the Mesa. We look forward to all the exciting work in this upcoming year and want to thank everyone for all the support you give the Bolsa Chica Stewards each year. Here's to a successful 2013!



Erin Chin is the new Coordinator for the Bolsa Chica Stewards. She can be reached (949) 500-0946 or at [erchin85@gmail.com](mailto:erchin85@gmail.com)



Recently planted blue-eyed grass is now blooming on the Mesa

## Comings and Goings

By Kim Kolpin

Our Board of Directors is a very special group, and we are always sad to see anyone leave. Two members have recently moved on and we need to give them a huge THANK YOU for all of their wonderful efforts and friendship.

Julie Bixby has stepped down from the Board after ten years of passionately working to save the Upper Wetlands (Shea property). Julie, and her husband Mark, gave so much for so long – countless hours reviewing permitting documents, attending meetings, and serving as powerful representatives of the Trust – that Julie now needs to take a break. Julie and Mark's efforts were intense, and largely to thank for the 13 acres of wetlands that will be saved and restored as habitat on the Shea property. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and continuing friendship.

Gay Infanti is also moving on, and up to the Central Coast. Her tenure on our Board was short, but her insights and willingness to jump into some of our most complex issues made her a valuable member of the team. We will miss you, Gay. As you explore your new stretch of coastline give a wave to those feathered friends as they head down here to Bolsa Chica.

And, last but certainly not least, please join me in welcoming Erin Chin as the new Stewards Coordinator. Erin has a Masters degree in Biology from Cal State Fullerton and has done research here at Bolsa on the Tern Islands in addition to spending three years studying hummingbirds in the Sonoran Desert. Erin brings her scientific background, love for the environment, and a passion to connect the community to projects like ours. Erin will now lead our work days with our amazing Stewards Core Team and Jr. Stewards.

After all these years at the helm of the Stewards I am profoundly grateful to the Core Team; Mike, Marinka, Guy, Connie, Roberta, Mike A, Kelly, Luis, Mae, Vicki, Roger, Jeff, Natalie, Holly, Larry, Kerry, Ted, Babs, Mark, Laura, Galen, Beverly, Rene, Lisa, and my ever patient husband Thierry. I am also so thankful to the Board of Directors of the Trust for the unwavering support of the Stewards and for supporting a bright future to come. I look forward to working with Erin and the Core Team to put all our plans into action – to restore the entire Lower Bench. As Guy recounts from time to time, when we first met 17 years ago he asked me “So, what part do you want to restore?” and I answered “All of it.” With each plant, we are getting closer to that goal.



Photos this page © Jane Lazarz

# Kennedy-Kolpin Bolsa Chica Conservation Award

Each January 1<sup>st</sup> a group of Land Trust members join together in the dark, cold of the dawn to watch the first sunrise of the New Year. We toast the achievements of the past year and the potential of the year to come. We also celebrate a few individuals whose efforts specifically aided the Stewards' restoration project. This year, the Kennedy-Kolpin Bolsa Chica Conservation Award recipients were Rene and Jodi Thorn, and Carla Navarro-Woods.

Jodi joined the Jr. Stewards a few years ago with her mom Rene. Jodi always has enthusiasm and energy in abundance, along with practical ideas, focus and determination. Jodi took it upon herself to contact local businesses to raise funds and supplies for our Coastal Clean Up efforts and Rene brought out dozens of her union coworkers to help maintain the Mesa trail and plant hundreds of plants. Together, they are an amazing combination and we are so grateful that they are part of the Stewards team!

Carla is one of Bolsa Chica's Reserve Managers for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Carla has worked tirelessly to help make our CPR for the Mesa plans as good as they can be. Part of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into each one of our successful Stewards work days is the coordination between DFW

and BCLT. Carla has really helped us move our project forward. We truly appreciate her dedication and support.



Kennedy-Kolpin Award recipients Rene and Jodi Thorn



Land Trust members greet the New Year at Bolsa Chica



# Bolsa Chica Land Trust

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

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

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Huntington Beach  
Permit #837

Editor: Marc Stirdivant  
Design: Susan Groetsch Davis  
Printed with vegetable inks on FSC certified post-consumer recycled paper.  
Please recycle this newsletter or share it with others.

**“Surely our people do not understand even yet the rich natural heritage that is theirs”.**

**Theodore Roosevelt.**

## 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	Kim Kolpin	714-846-1001
Docent Coordinator	Ron Krasnitz	714-846-1001
School Coordinator	Bev Nogy	714-962-0300
BC Stewards	Erin Chin	949-500-0946

## 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	_____ \$10.00 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