



# Music from the Mesa

Newsletter 90

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Winter 2006

## BOLSA CHICA STEWARDS START EXCITING NEW YEAR!

Grab Our Tools  
By Kim Kolpin



*Craig Brown, Director of Operations for Alcoa Fastening Systems, presents Kim Kolpin of the Bolsa Chica Stewards with a check for \$10,000 from the Alcoa Foundation.*

**Question:** What do airplanes and The Bolsa Chica Stewards have in common?

**Answer:** Alcoa Fastening Systems keeps them both running at top speed!

How, do you ask? Well, Alcoa Fastening Systems is the company responsible for millions of nuts and bolts which hold airplanes together (and people, I had no idea what went into that, but after a very enlightening tour of their Fullerton facility I know now it's not as simple as a trip to Home Depot).

The wonderful people of Alcoa Fastening Systems supported a grant from the Alcoa Foundation to fund the Stewards restoration efforts for the entire planting season of Fall 2006/Winter 2007. And on October 14<sup>th</sup>, at their open house, we were presented with a check for \$10,000 and a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congressman Ed Royce.

The best part of our relationship with Alcoa is their employees, who not only support us financially, but also with their time and devotion. On October 7<sup>th</sup>,



*Kim Kolpin receives a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for the work of the Bolsa Chica Stewards from Young O. Kim on behalf of Congressman Ed Royce.*

we hosted a private work day for Alcoa employees where they planted 288 native plants on the Mesa edge overlooking the Pocket Wetland. Not only did this part of the Mesa finally get some lovin', but Alcoa will give us an additional \$3,000 in the form of an Action Grant for helping to involve their employees in the community.

We extend a sincere 'Thank You' to the Alcoa Foundation and to Craig Brown and his employees at Alcoa Fastening Systems for this fantastic gift which will keep us working hard for the next 7 months. And, next time you're on a plane give a little wink to the bolts holding it all together!

October is always a fantastic and crazy month for us, and this one was better than ever. The grand total of plants we put on the mesa this October stands at 1,000. We hosted a private work day for one hundred Connelly High School students on October 4<sup>th</sup> (312 plants, 2,000 gallons of water), followed by Alcoa on October 7<sup>th</sup> (288 plants and about 400 gallons of water). Then, on October 21<sup>st</sup> we kicked off our official planting season with 400 plants and another 2,000 gallons of water. And not only did we put in plants, but also hosted Matt Wiseman's Eagle Scout project which put in over 40 lengths of split rail to protect the bare and vulnerable bluff edges at the Mesa Point.

Another highlight of this past October followed the Alcoa workday ~ the Native American Ancestral Walk. I was asked to represent the Land Trust and present a copy of a Bolsa Chica Cog stone to Rhonda Robles at the beginning of their ceremony. The stone was then gently taken from its pouch and sent around the circle of 70 or so participants who each held it and prayed in turn. A humbling moment, and to my surprise I was given a gift by the Native American peoples of a bag of raw tobacco to be scattered around the newly planted Coastal Sage, a blessing to strengthen the plants. What a joy it was to share it with some of the Stewards core team members and then watch the beautiful Sage Ceremony performed at the Point. We are so blessed to be able to share in the wonders of Bolsa Chica with these people whom have such a deep personal and cultural connection with this land.

Please join us for one of our next work days; November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. If you belong to a company or group and would like an exclusive work day just for you, please give us a call and we will make it happen!

Happy Holidays everyone ~ our wish of peace and joy to you all.

*Kim Kolpin is a director of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, the restoration team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. She can be reached at (714) 717-6304 or at [Kolpin@Stanford.edu](mailto:Kolpin@Stanford.edu).*

President's Message  
By Gerald Chapman

# LAND TRUST OFFERS VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

Have you ever thought about volunteering with the Land Trust, but just didn't think you knew enough about Bolsa Chica or the Trust?

In very short order, this will no longer be an excuse because the Land Trust is embarking on a new program, "The BCLT Volunteer Workshop." We're putting together a two-hour program that will be chock full of everything you need to know.

- You'll receive a general background on the history of the Trust and an update on current issues, such as the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands and the Sacred Cogged Stone site.
- You'll hear about our elementary school education program, "Miracles of the Marsh," which runs each year between January and May and brings third grade students to Bolsa Chica.
- You'll find out about the work of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, the Land Trust's restoration team, who have spent ten years planting native plants at Bolsa Chica.
- You'll see a slide presentation on the nearly completed Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration Project
- You'll discover the fascinating history of Bolsa Chica from the days of the Native Americans, through the Spanish ranchos, the establishment of the Gun Club, the discovery of oil, and to fight to preserve Bolsa Chica from development.
- And, of course, you'll learn about the wonderful array of birds and plants that make Bolsa Chica so special.

What kind of volunteer programs do we offer?

Our docent program is always seeking interested individuals to work in our "Miracles of the Marsh" program or to lead our Bolsa Chica Tours on the third Sunday of every month.

Our Bolsa Chica Stewards would love to have you join them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month to plant native plants at Bolsa Chica. No experience is necessary. Just wear a hat and closed toe shoes, and we'll provide the tools, the gloves, and the snacks.

Our Table Volunteers work at our table at Bolsa Chica once a month, handing out information and selling Land Trust merchandise. They also join us when we take our information table out to community events.

Our Office Volunteers come in as little as one day a week for an hour or two and take care of membership donations, filing, and merchandise sales. And our Mailing Party Volunteers get together five or six times a year to prepare our newsletter and other membership mailings for the post office.

If you are interested in our volunteer programs, please call Executive Director, Marc Stirdivant at 714-846-1001. I know you'll find the workshop beneficial, our programs rewarding, and the Land Trust a great place make friends who are dedicated to a wonderful cause.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Marc Stirdivant



## GREAT GIFT IDEAS FROM THE LAND TRUST

If fighting the crowds, waiting in long lines, and paying high prices are ruining your holiday spirit, then the Land Trust has the answer. Let our Bolsa Chica Store be your one-stop shopping spot during the holidays.

This year all our favorite gift items are back including our spectacular 2007 “Wings Over Bolsa” calendar which is once again selling for \$10 each, or five for \$39.95.

New this year are t-shirts featuring our mascot, “Cool Azul,” the Great Blue Heron of the Bolsa Chica. This newly created design has appeared in our newsletter and on our website, but now this hip and lovable bird is available for you to take home.

Also new are two fabulous DVDs. The first, “Bolsa Chica: the Beautiful Dream,” is the ten-minute history of the Land Trust which had its premiere at our Bolsa Chica Celebration party last March. It’s a must for anyone who ever cared about saving Bolsa Chica.

Also new is the truly breath-taking “ “ featuring the photos of Larry Kaufman, whose amazing work is also appears in our calendar. Larry first showed these photos at our Town Hall meeting in October. The stunning images and stirring music left everyone who saw it clamoring for more.

Both are on sale for \$10 each.

Our classic “Save the Bolsa Chica” t-shirts and sweatshirts are available again this year. Made of 100% cotton, their colorful message will let everyone know you support preserving all of Bolsa Chica.

Our handy note cards come in two sizes and feature either a beautiful watercolor of the Bolsa Chica Mesa or watercolor prints of the birds of Bolsa Chica.

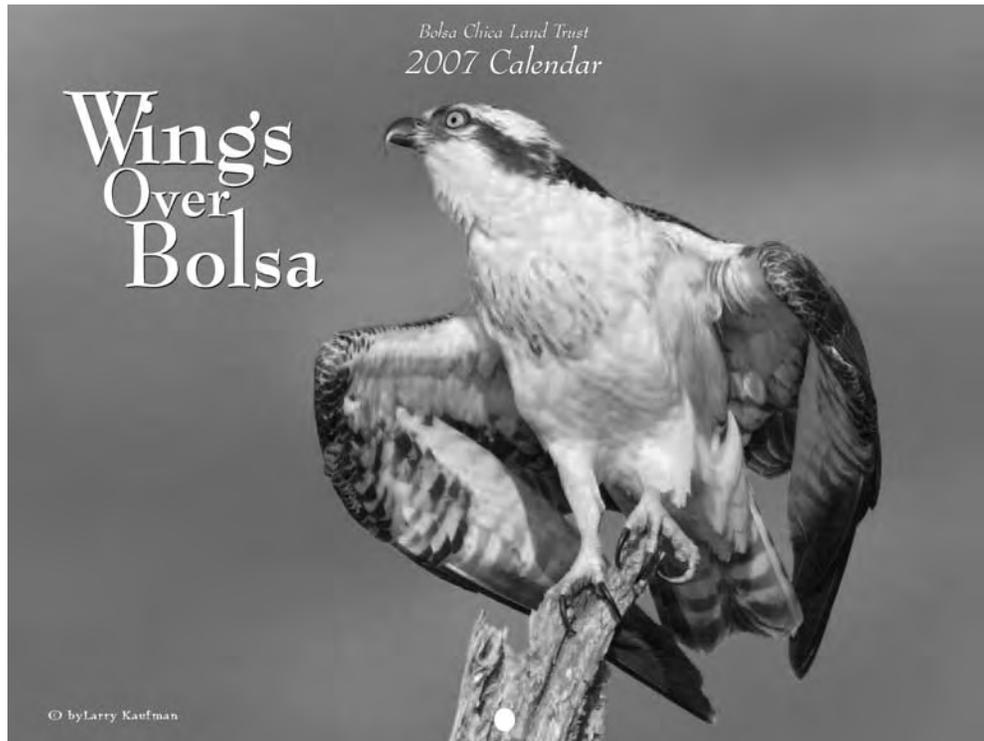
It’s easy to order gifts from the Land Trust. You can call us at (714) 846-1001. Or email us at [bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org](mailto:bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org). Or visit our website at [www.bolsachicalandtrust.org](http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org). Just click on Bolsa Chica Store for color photos and descriptions of all our items. You can print the handy Order Form at the bottom of the page, fill it out, and mail it to us. Checks are preferred and shipping is available.



Or drop by the office. We’re open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 5200 Warner Avenue, Suite 108 in Huntington Beach, near the corner of Warner Avenue and Bolsa Chica Road. There’s free parking behind the building.

Let the Land Trust make your shopping easy. Happy Holidays!

## 2007 "WINGS OVER BOLSA" NOW ON SALE!



With each breath-taking photo taken at Bolsa Chica, the Land Trust's 2007 "Wings Over Bolsa" calendar is the most beautiful in its four-year history. The calendars are here in time for the holidays and cost only \$10 each, or five for \$39.95.

They can be purchased at the Land Trust office on Warner Avenue or at these fine retail outlets in Huntington Beach: Wild Birds Unlimited, Bill's

Camera, Jan's Health Bar, Jose McCoy's, California Greetings, Cards and Gifts, and at the Bolsa Chica Interpretative Center. They are also available at Acorn Naturalists in Tustin.

Last year the calendars were completely sold out. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase several as gifts for family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Order yours by calling (714) 846-1001 or by using the Order Form enclosed with this newsletter.

## REI PROVIDES A GIVING TREE!

This holiday season, shoppers at REI's Huntington Beach store will have an opportunity to give donations to local nonprofit environmental organizations that will go toward providing gear for their restoration and education programs. Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, shoppers can buy gift tag certificates in one, five, or ten dollar increments. They will then be given a choice of which nonprofit they would like to see benefit from the tag.

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is one of those organizations participating this year. Our gift tags will go toward the purchase of water bottles for our docents in the "Miracles of the Marsh" environmental education program.

It's easy. Just shop at REI. Purchase a gift tag. And donate to the Land Trust.

# LAND TRUST MEMBERS WIN H.B. ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD AWARDS

Last month Paul Horgan and Dick LeGrue, who were instrumental in the founding and early success of the Land Trust, received Huntington Beach Environmental Board Awards for their work on behalf of the environment. The awards were presented by Mayor Dave Sullivan at the Huntington Beach City Council meeting. Dick LeGrue's award was accepted posthumously by his wife, former Huntington Beach Mayor and Land Trust board member, Connie Boardman.

Attorney Paul Horgan is a past president of the Land Trust and has served as its legal counsel for fourteen years. One of his most significant accomplishments occurred in 1996 when, as co-council for the Trust, he filed a lawsuit against the California Coastal Commission. The resulting decision, today known as the "Bolsa Chica decision" established a statewide precedent that Public Resources Code Section 30233 specifically bars construction on wetlands.

The case also established the importance of protecting ESHAs (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas), and held that they can not be moved around like chess pieces, torn down in one area and reconstructed somewhere else. This decision prevented the building of 900 houses on the wetlands at Bolsa Chica, as well as the destruction of Warner Pond.

Dick LeGrue was a member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust for thirteen years, until his passing in July of this year. He served on the Land Trust's board of directors and edited and published our newsletter, "Music from the Mesa". Dick also worked with the Art League and a group of Laguna Beach artists to co-sponsor the Bolsa Chica Land Trust Plein Aire Festival and Art Show. In 1999 he oversaw the publication of "Celebrate the Bolsa Chica" a book of poetry and local history that has been widely read and is still sold by the Land Trust today.



*(Left to right) Blanca and Jeff LeGrue, Connie Boardman, Paul Horgan, Huntington Beach Mayor Dave Sullivan, Stephanie Barger and Ray Hiemstra are on hand for the Huntington Beach Environmental Awards.*

## UPPER BOLSA CHICA WETLANDS REPORT

By Julie Bixby

**PACKED HOUSE FOR LAND TRUST TOWN HALL**

Our “Bolsa Chica’s Extreme Makeover” town hall forum drew over 100 attendees to the Huntington Beach Library on October 3rd. Executive Director Marc Stirdivant gave a recap on the wetlands restoration, culminating in the tidal inlet opening this past August. Board member Julie Bixby explained how the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands must go through a public hearing with the Coastal Commission and how the Land Trust is working to keep the property open space. Larry Kaufman, who contributed several photos to the Land Trust’s latest “Wings over Bolsa” calendar, capped off the evening with a stellar slide show of bird photos, drawing appreciative murmurs and applause from the crowd.

**UPPER WETLANDS HEARING DELAYED TO 2007**  
The Coastal Commission has set a new tentative date of January 10-12, 2007 for the Local Coastal Plan Amendment hearing on the Shea/Parkside property at Bolsa Chica. If the date holds, the hearing will be in Long Beach. This is good news for the Land Trust, for we might get a few rain storms in before the hearing, regenerating the seasonal ponds. Check the Land Trust website after New Year’s for a hearing update.

Julie Bixby is a member of the Board of the Land Trust and is the chair of the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands Committee



*Caption: Land Trust Board Members Vi Cowden and Eileen Murphy sell “Wings Over Bolsa” calendars at the recent Town Hall Meeting.*

# SUPPORT THE LAND TRUST – BECOME AN ADVOCATE!

By Connie Boardman

There are many ways to support the Land Trust and one of the easiest, yet most important, is to become a Land Trust Advocate.

The Advocate's Program began in the late 1990s as a way to quickly communicate with our membership. Among the important early tasks was getting people to write letters to the Coastal Commission, to the Governor, to County Supervisors, or City Council. We also provided information on where and when hearings would take place that related to Bolsa Chica. We also provided talking points and information for those who wanted to participate in making public comments. Hundreds of people signed up because they literally wanted to advocate for Bolsa Chica.

Over the years we have added email addresses as members have joined the Trust. All in all, we have about 500 Advocates now. But with 5,000 members in the Trust, we know there are a lot of you have not yet signed up. We want to increase our ability to communicate with you. Because the battle to save Bolsa Chica is not over, we want you to have the latest information on hearings, letter-writing campaigns, and public events.

While the Advocates have been a very effective way to communicate with our members, the communication tends to be one way. Keep in mind there is a real live human being on the other end of the Advocates messages, and you are always free to reply directly with any questions you might have.

To join the Advocates, just email the Land Trust as [bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org](mailto:bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org). We'll be happy to put you on the list and you can become an Advocate for Bolsa Chica.

Connie Boardman is a member of the Land Trust's Board of Directors, a former Mayor of Huntington Beach, and the director of the Advocates program

## WE LOVE YOUR DOGS – BUT NOT AT BOLSA CHICA



*Signs prohibiting dogs – on leash or off – at Bolsa Chica are prominently displayed throughout the Ecological Reserve.*

With the opening of the Tidal Inlet and the re-opening of the Loop Trail, Bolsa Chica is enjoying more visitors than ever before. However, some visitors are not following the rules that pertain to an Ecological Reserve, especially when it comes to their pets.

Dogs are not allowed, even on leashes, at Bolsa Chica. This is because Bolsa Chica is an Ecological Reserve with a primary purpose of providing habitat and preserving wildlife. While many dog-walkers keep their dogs on-leash, it's important to note that dogs do not have to chase birds to have an effect on their behavior. The sight of dogs, even on a leash, as well as their odor can actually disturb wildlife.

The situation is worse when it comes to off-leash dogs. Many birds use Bolsa Chica as a rest stop during their migration along the Pacific Flyway. The presence of dogs interrupts their feeding habits and requires them to use valuable energy whenever they have to fly away from pursuing canines.

The Department of Fish and Game's Wardens are now patrolling Bolsa Chica and will issue citations

to people with dogs. We don't want anyone to receive a fine, so we are reminding all our members about this rule.

Dogs are welcome off-leash at the Huntington Beach Dog Park in Central Park at Talbert and Edwards and at Dog Beach between 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Seapoint in Huntington Beach. They are also welcome on leashes at any city park in Huntington Beach.



*Off-leash dogs – like these three plunging into the Wintersburg Channel – are especially troublesome as they scare the wildlife that Bolsa Chica is designed to protect.*

