Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Mesas
Wetlands
Preserving All of Bolsa Chica

# Music from the Mesa

Newsletter 94 | *Bolsa Chica Land Trust* | Fall 2007

**Executive Director's Report**

## THE LAND TRUST CONTINUES TO ROCK!
## $75,000 Raised for the Footbridge in Three Months!

**By Flossie Horgan**

*"This footbridge will be built because Land Trust members stepped up and made it clear that was needed."*

Just over three months ago, the Land Trust announced it would seek to raise $75,000 to help pay for the much-needed footbridge at Bolsa Chica. Although the project was worthwhile, the Trust had never attempted anything like it and no one was sure it could be done. But now we know it can! On August 13, 2007, the Trust reached its goal of $75,000. WE did it!

Under the guidance of our campaign co-chair, Carrie Thomas, the "Walk to the Wild Side" campaign started in May at our Town Hall meeting when seven year-old Madison Makoff delivered her birthday money to the Trust, the first of many significant donations. Then, after reading our last newsletter, **Chuck and Barbara Steel made an incredibly generous offer to the Trust. If the Trust could raise $25,000 by the end of September, the Steels would match it with a $25,000 donation**. We followed that up with a brochure to our members and the response was overwhelming!

**One such response came from the family of Harold and Ellen Pazanti and Jayson and Rochelle Pazanti- Ruth. They donated $5,000 to the campaign and took the goal over the top**. Jayson and Rochelle served on the Board of Directors while still in college. They created Bolsa Chica Bingo and were involved with the 1996 concert with Bonnie Raitt and Pierce Brosnan. Now, they have two children of their own, Jayden and Hudson, and live and work in Huntington Beach. Jayson teaches biology at Huntington Beach High School and Rochelle is Vice President of Pazanti Home Mortgage.

This wonderful achievement is due to the countless contributions made by members of the Land Trust – the greatest membership any organization could hope to have. Thank you!

## President's Message

# DEVELOPER ATTACKS LAND TRUST IN LOCAL PRESS

**By Gerald Chapman**

In full-page color ads that appeared in the Huntington Beach Wave and Huntington Beach Independent newspapers, Shea Homes recently attacked the Land Trust for defending the Coastal Act.

"Look who won't have to pay mandatory flood insurance -- if only the Bolsa Chica Land Trust would put your safety and pocket book ahead of their interests," the ad stated. "Rebuilding the levees to bring greater flood safety could begin soon – but the Bolsa Chica Land Trust is standing in the way."

How sad to see a major corporation stoop to attack a grassroots nonprofit with far fewer resources than they have. The Land Trust has NEVER been opposed to improving flood control. The Land Trust IS opposed to development that does not conform to the Coastal Act.

When asked by a reporter if Shea's claims were true, an Orange County Flood Control District spokesperson said Shea is overstating the case. Shea's improvements alone would not be sufficient for adequate flood control, and the OCFC is also required to make improvements to the Wintersburg channel, which they are currently planning.

As so many of you know, the Land Trust is committed to the community. Our Bolsa Chica Stewards is a popular, long-term restoration program that has planted over 10,000 native plants at Bolsa Chica. Our Miracles of the Marsh education program brings 1,200 elementary school kids to Bolsa Chica each year to learn about the environment. The BCLT has fought – and won – on numerous occasions to protect the Coastal Act, the law of California. The Land Trust has even worked with a developer, Hearthside Homes, to acquire the lower bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa and preserve it for eternity.

We believe Shea Homes' resources could be put to better use by designing a project consistent with the Coastal Act, rather than attacking a volunteer community organization.

# MIRACLES OF THE MARSH COMPLETES ITS 5TH SEASON

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust has completed its fifth season of elementary school educational tours. Since the tours began in 2003, we have given 132 tours to more than 6600 school children. This year we had an exceptional team of 23 docents whose enthusiasm sparks the program. More than 30 schools have signed on for the BCLT tours, and the majority of the schools return year after year. Participating schools are as nearby as SeaCliff School which is in Bolsa Chica's back yard, and as far away as Carson and Fullerton.

The Miracles tour program provides docent training. Linda Wolfe, our Education Coordinator, schedules the tours and docents, and sends study materials to the teacher and classroom. Bus funding is provided by the Land Trust. Each tour is set up to allow for small group learning, since there is a docent assigned for every fifteen students. Tour topics include Bolsa Chica history, wildlife, native plants, and water quality.

If you are interested in becoming a Land Trust docent, please call the office at (714) 846-1001.

# PUBLIC HEARING A "NO GO" IN S.L.O.

## CCC Caves in to Shea's Cry of "Unfair!"

**By Julie Bixby**

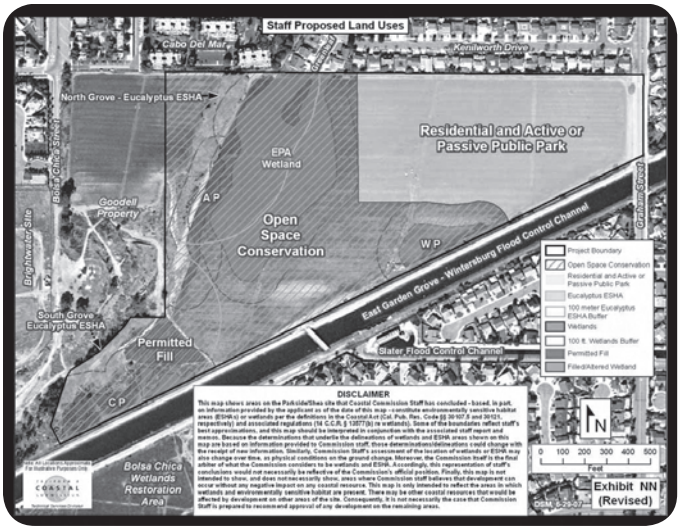



*Exhibit NN from the June 29, 2007 CCC Staff Report caused Shea to postpone the hearing*

On July 11, the California Coastal Commission postponed the public hearing on the City of Huntington Beach's LCP Amendment for the Shea/Parkside project until November. While a delay was not totally unexpected, the manner in which Commissioners granted the delay was highly disturbing.

Shea asked the City to request a delay due to insufficient time for them to review and respond to the latest CCC staff report and technical memorandums. The June 29, 2007 Staff Report states that a formerly unprotected area known as the "EPA wetland" should indeed be protected as a wetland. It further states that the unpermitted fills of dirt that the Land Trust illustrated at the May hearing in San Pedro were indeed improper fills. These changes reduced the residential footprint from 38 acres down to 17 acres.

The Coastal Act contains deadlines for the CCC to act on applications. Since the CCC took initial action on Shea/Parkside in May, denying the Land Use Plan as originally submitted, the CCC legal counsel explained the options for going beyond the deadline of July 12 while complying with the Coastal Act.

However, Shea didn't want to follow the Coastal Act because doing so would require a public hearing on the LCP since it had been more than four years since such a hearing had been held. Shea wanted a delay, but not one that would require them to go back to the community for public input.

The Commissioners talked about "due process" and "fairness", that the staff report came out during a holiday week, and certainly the City and Shea should have more time to digest the significant changes in the new report. So on a 9-3 vote, the Commissioners decided to simply grant a delay without following their legal counsel's advice, without following the Coastal Act.

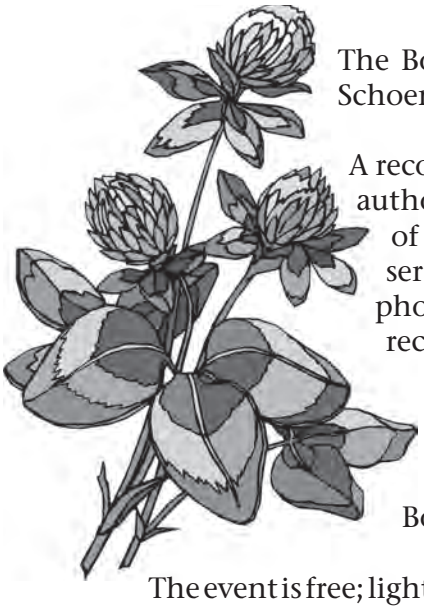
While dismayed that the Commissioners chose to ignore the Coastal Act, and that many people traveled to San Luis Obispo in vain, the Land Trust is encouraged by the fact that with every delay Shea seems to lose more ground, both figuratively and literally.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next hearing on Shea/Parkside will be November 14-16 in San Diego. The Land Trust will once again be organizing transportation to the hearing. Please keep an eye on our website for the exact date and time.

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

# BOLSA CHICA TOWN HALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19



The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is pleased to present lecturer and author Dr. Allan Schoenherr. His topic is "Bolsa Chica: The Importance of a Complete Ecosytem."

A recognized authority on the natural history of California, Dr. Schoenherr is the author of several books and articles, including scientific writings on the ecology of the Bolsa Chica wetlands. He has lectured around the world and currently serves as an Ecology Professor at Fullerton College. An accomplished nature photographer, he provided the photographs to illustrate his books and has received awards for his images of California Gray Whales.

In addition to Dr. Schoenherr's presentation, the evening will also include an update on the status of the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands, a "Walk to the Wild Side" pedestrian bridge update, and news about the 2008 "Wings Over Bolsa" calendar.

The event is free; light refreshments will be served. The Town Hall begins at 7p.m. at the Huntington Beach Public Library, 7111 Talbert Ave, Room C/D. For more information please call 714-846-1001.

# SAVING THE UPPER WELANDS—HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

1) Send a letter to the California Coastal Commission,
attn: Meg Vaughn,
200 Oceangate, 10th Floor,
Long Beach, CA 90802.
Tell them you SUPPORT the June 29, 2007 STAFF REPORT concerning Huntington Beach LCP Amendment 1-06. Tell them it is the most thorough report to date on this issue, and that you appreciate the Staff's hard work and due diligence.

2) Keep searching those garages and closets for photos and videos of Smoky's Stables, the bean field, and the pole yard! We know there are more photos and maybe even some videotapes out there. What might seem insignificant to you, could reveal information critical to saving the Upper Wetlands. Please call Mark Bixby at (714) 625-0876 with anything you find.

# JOIN THE 11TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

## OF THE GABRIELINO/TONGVA & JUANENO/ACJACHEMEM PEOPLE

Saturday, October 6, 2007
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Arrival at Bolsa Chica is expected around 12 noon
In the parking lot on Warner Avenue

For more information contact:
Jimi Castillo (951) 675-3344 or Rhonda Robles (562) 633-9014
Or go to www.sacredsitescal.org for details

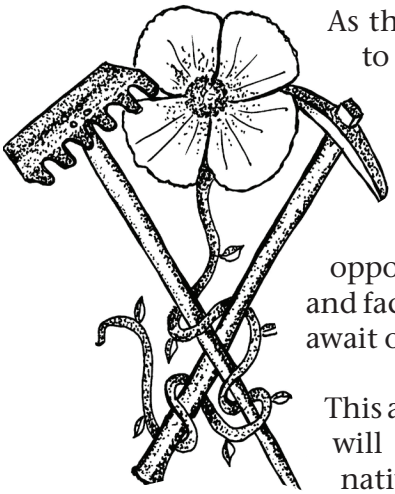
# LAND TRUST RECEIVES BOEING GRANT

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust education program *Miracles of a Marsh* has received a generous grant of $10,000 from Boeing Employees Community Fund program. The funds will be used to create a full color workbook for the children to use as an educational tool before and after their visit to Bolsa Chica. We are excited to have Laurel Telfer, National Elementary School Principal of the Year 2005 on our Workbook committee. Her expertise is greatly appreciated.

We want to the thank Boeing for their continued support for the Trust's educational programs. Many of our members are employees of Boeing and we thank them for supporting our funding requests.

# Grab Our Tools

**By Kim Kolpin**



As the Stewards get ready to celebrate our 12th year, we look back on wonderful success and special friendships, and forward to many opportunities to grow and face the challenges that await on the Lower Bench.

This autumn, the Stewards will begin test plots for native grass species in the hopes of one day welcoming the return of Coastal Prairie to a bit of the Mesa. We will be installing four new kiosk displays courtesy of a generous grant from the Huntington Beach Rotary Club. These new kiosks will be seen by thousands of visitors and will educate them on the many interesting facets of Bolsa Chica's history. We will be hosting Boy Scout Eagle Awards as well as Girl Scout Gold and Silver Awards. Our work days will be busier than ever and we shall have our eyes looking towards the skies hoping for rain!

Now, more than ever, we urge you to consider inviting a native plant or two into your home landscape this autumn planting season. Please check out www.TreeofLifeNursery.com for inspiration and information. Global warming affects even your back yard, and right there you can help make a positive difference. Imagine if we took every HB grass lawn and put it all together, how much land that truly is – how much habitat we truly have lost. Native and drought tolerant plants are an important part of California's history – and a wise choice for a healthier future.

Come on out and help on our workdays – the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month – to get a hands-on education of just how important plants are to Bolsa Chica and our world. We could use your help!

*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@standford.edu*

# LAND TRUST PARTICIPATES IN *COASTWEEKS*

Each Fall, people from all over the United States participate in *Coastweeks*, a three week celebration of our coastal resources that begins on the third Saturday in September. The kickoff for the celebration is *Coastal Cleanup Day*, when tens of thousands of Californians come together across the state to keep our coasts and inland water ways free of debris. In California, *Coastweeks* is sponsored by the California Coastal Commission and the Land Trust will be participating in the following *Coastweeks* activities.

**Saturday, September 15** – Bolsa Chica Stewards volunteer day. Meet at 9 a.m. in the north parking lot on Warner Avenue.

**Sunday, September 16** – Tour of Bolsa Chica. Meet at 10 a.m. in the south parking lot on Pacific Coast Highway.

**Wednesday, September 19** – Town Hall Meeting. Meet a 7 p.m. at the Huntington Beach Central Library to hear noted biologist Dr. Allan Schoenherr speak about "Bolsa Chica: the Importance of a Complete Ecosystem."

For more information, visit the Land Trust website at www.bolsachicalandtrust.org or the Coastal Commission's website at www.coastforyou.org.

# LAND TRUST INTRODUCES NEW NOTE CARDS

Connie Boardman, former mayor and current Land Trust Board member, is also an avid birder and photographer. Recently, she donated several full color images to be used as note cards. The birds featured on the cards are great blue heron, brown pelican, Forester's tern, snowy egret, and Belding savannah sparrow.

The note cards are a beautiful way to support Bolsa Chica Land Trust and keep in touch with your friends and family. Sold in two sizes for $10.00 a packet, they come in either 3 by 5 inches with ten cards and envelopes; or 5 by 7 inches with five cards and envelopes.

The cards can be purchased at the Land Trust office or at our Land Trust table at Bolsa Chica on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

They make great gifts and will be perfect for the holidays!

*This image of a Great Blue Heron is one of five beautiful images on our new note cards.*

# BCLT UNSUNG HEROES **JIM SADLER – COMPUTER KING**

*Jim Sadler is one of the many unsung heroes of Bolsa Chica.*

Jim worked for McDonald Douglas/ Boeing for 39 years, and retired in 2001. While reading the "Music from the Mesa" he noticed a plea for help with our database. "Having played with database and computers for years, I felt I was uniquely qualified to help,"Jim says. So he called the Trust and offered his assistance. And that was the beginning of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust coming of age in the computer world.

Jim built our membership/ management software. He trains our office volunteers and continually updates our computer system. Jim and his wife, Ruth, moved from Huntington Beach to Fullerton in 2006, but he still manages to come to the office every other Friday to keep an eye on things. The Land Trust is ever so grateful for his volunteer spirit and generosity of his time.

P.S. Boeing still calls Jim to come back to work and take care of them, too.

# Bolsa Chica Land Trust

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

Website: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org
Email: bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org

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All civilized governments are now realizing that it is their duty to preserve, unharmed, tracts of wild nature…

Theodore Roosevelt

## 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
- 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 562-920-4215

## Directory

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Exec. Director | Flossie Horgan | 714-846-1001 |
| Educ. Program | Linda Wolfe | 714-846-4588 |
| BC Stewards | Kim Kolpin | 714-717-6304 |

All Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items available at Land Trust Office: Office Hours: 9:30AM to 3:30PM, Monday-Friday

## 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

_____ $50.00 + Honor Roll

_____ $20.00 Family

_____ $15.00 Individual

_____ $10 Senior/Student

This is a Renewal ____ Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____