Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Mesas
Wetlands
Preserving All of Bolsa Chica

Music from the Mesa

Newsletter 97 – Fall 2008 *Bolsa Chica Land Trust* © BCLT 2008

GET READY FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL!
2009 "Wings Over Bolsa" Goes on Sale in October

Photo by Steven Eric Smith

Our amazing Bolsa Chica photographers are again astounding us with their artistry, patience, and skill. Their stunning photos give us glimpses of wildlife that we might never see otherwise. The 2009 "Wings over Bolsa" calendar will be available in early October. Reserve yours today by mailing in the order form enclosed in this newsletter!

Our annual "Wings Over Bolsa" calendar lets you see what the photographers see through their lenses. The calendar has been made possible by the creative talents of these photographic artists. We thank them for their generosity and participation: Mark Bixby, Robert Blount, Ken Hamada, Robin Hoyland, Sam Hung, Larry Kaufman, Daniel Kee, Les Kelly, Richard Mittleman, Glenn Price, Marie Read, Steve Smith, Eric Stogner, Vince Thomas, Muntzi Verga, Jeff Wear, and Paul Wenzel.

Get ready for something special. The 2009 "Wings Over Bolsa" Calendar is on its way!

President's Message

By Paul Arms

Recently, I was elected President of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. It is an honor to be President of such an amazing organization.

Let me share a little about myself. I was born in Southern California (Whittier, as a matter of fact) and spent all my life here in Southern California. I remember coming down Beach Boulevard to Huntington Beach and the Bolsa Chica area as a young child. The most vivid childhood memories where actually the long rides home after leaving the beach with uncomfortable sandy pants and a miserable sunburn.

However another memory was more dramatic and is etched in my mind 35 years later. That was the image of a very large pelican covered with oil. I must have been about kindergarten age as it seemed that pelican stood almost up to my chin. The poor creature was helpless and wandering among the beach towels and blaring AM radios. He probably wanted to fly away, but could not. The pelican and I came eye-to-eye there on the beach. I must have been less than a foot from that helpless bird. You could see the pain in its eyes and the terror in his heart. I have never forgotten that image. That tragic image among others is one of the driving reasons I have so much passion for protecting the Bolsa Chica ecosystem.

Many years have passed since that experience near Bolsa Chica. Since then, I have gone on with the normal things of life, school, university, business, marriage. Over the last decade, I have had the opportunity to see many environmental groups in Southern California. As the former President of the Orange County League of Conservation voters, I have had the opportunity to see many amazing, incredible environmental organizations and I been able to meet many wonderful people who are dedicated to the environment. However, I am always amazed by the dedication, professionalism, creativity and passion of the hundreds of volunteers that make the Bolsa Chica Land Trust so strong and so successful. Our projects, programs, major land acquisitions and precedent setting Coastal Act decisions are a testament to our volunteers and our vision.

Whether it is on a "Miracle of the Marsh" tour where our volunteers run a top notch program for elementary school children, or a Bolsa Chica Stewarts project where we are working on one of the largest native plant restoration projects in Southern California, or on a beach clean up, I always meet someone new. Everyone I meet has a story about Bolsa Chica.

There is really nothing like Bolsa Chica and there is nothing like the volunteers that make up the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. You are part of the Bolsa Chica story. It is you that make us a success. I look forward to seeing you at the Bolsa Chica and hearing your story.

Thank you for all you do for Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust.

Paul Arms has been a Member of the Land Trust's Board of Directors since 2001. In July, he was elected Board President.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Flossie Horgan

The Land Trust receives numerous grants each year which help us fund our important programs. Here are three recent awards:

Orange County Community Foundation

The Land Trust's Bolsa Chica Stewards have received a grant from the Orange County Community Foundation to support the upcoming year's project - "The Mesa - The Future is Now." These much needed funds will be used to help restore five acres of Bolsa Chica Mesa by utilizing hundreds of our wonderful volunteers to remove non-native weeds then plant and irrigate 4,000 native plants and native grass plugs.

For more information on how to get involved contact Kim Kolpin at (714) 717-6304.

Southern California Edison

The Land Trust also thanks Southern California Edison for supporting our "Miracles of a Marsh" education program for the coming year. This Land Trust program continues to draw more schools every year and there is quite a waiting list. Since the beginning of the program in 2003, the Land Trust has educated over 8,000 students with over 160 tours, and 2,200 volunteer hours. This is a Program of great importance and satisfaction.

With the funding from SCE, we will be able to continue to educate our children about the wonders at Bolsa Chica. By the conclusion of the program each student will be able to identify the major threats to the Bolsa Chica, identify the vital nature of water to plants and animals at Bolsa Chica, describe the value to humans of natural areas like the Bolsa Chica, and describe at least three ways they can personally participate in and promote energy conservation.

We are always looking for more volunteer docents. If you are interested, contact the office at (714) 846-1001.

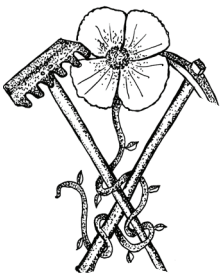
Huntington Beach Noon Rotary Club

Thanks to Bill Kettler, a "Miracles of the Marsh" docent, the Huntington Beach Noon Rotary Club donated funding for four new kiosks on the Bolsa Chica Mesa. Highlighting Native American history, modern history, the many bird species of Bolsa Chica, and the restoration work of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, these full color panels are a much needed addition for all visitors to enjoy.

Huntington Beach Noon Rotary Club members Jane Wolicki, son Benjamin, and Brenda Glim watch as Bill Kettler cuts the ribbon on the new kiosk display at Bolsa Chica.

Grab Our Tools

By Kim Kolpin



As another summer goes zipping by I am amazed at how busy the Stewards have been this year. It used to be that the summers were our quiet months, school is out and people are off on vacation and we would happily putter about on the Mesa. This year summer has been anything but quiet as we hosted 10 work days, one Eagle Scout project, and are busy planning for the autumn planting season as well as for our 10 year restoration of the Lower Bench. In the past 3 months we have used over 6,000 gallons of water and ripped out hundreds of pounds of weeds.

The Eagle Scout project for Steven McMahon carved out a new overlook for public viewing with a bench to come in soon, and repaired 300 feet of trail. Exuberant volunteers from Richoh Electronics, Disney/ESPN Zone and Rock Harbor all came out to help. All of the success of the Stewards restoration project could not happen without the volunteers who come out to help. If your company is looking for a charitable/team building event give us a call! Planting will begin on October 18th – come on out and get dirty with us!

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

LAND TRUST JOINS WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

On June 2, 2008, tribal members from the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Paiute/ Lakota, Acjachemen Nation, Chumash/ O'odham, Yaqui, Tongva and MicMac Nation, the California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust submitted a request for a revocation hearing on the archeological irregularities at the Brightwater development to the California Coastal Commission.

The recent disclosure of the presence of at least 174 human remains, 87 still to be re-buried, more than 400 cogged stones, 100,000 artifacts and thousands of archeological features of significance at the Cogged Stone site on the Hearthside property raises much larger questions.

Our concerns are echoed by the Native American Heritage Commission who in April sent a letter to the Coastal Commission stating that they also believe that "whole area may be a burial ground".

This is a serious matter to the Land Trust and we do not enter into such action lightly. It is our hope that the commission will hear the concerns of the community on this most important prehistorical site. The Coastal Commission hearing on the revocation request is currently scheduled for the week of November 12-14 in Long Beach. Please contact the Trust at (714) 846-1001 if you are interested in attending.

You may also express your opinion directly to the Coastal Commission by writing to The California Coastal Commission, 200 Oceangate, 10th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802.

JOIN THE 12TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

of the Gabrielino/Tongva & Juaneno/Acjachemem people

Saturday, October 4, 2008
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Ancestor Walk is held every October to bring awareness of the ongoing Native American commitment to traditional culture sites, burial grounds and sacred sites.

The Ancestor Walk begins in San Clemente at 7:30 am and will arrive at Bolsa Chica at noon at the parking lot on Warner avenue.

We will walk to the mesa and visit the ORA 83 site at 1:30pm. The Ancestor Walk is a pilgrimage and prayer. It is open to all.

Please stand with us as we gather as community to express our connection to the land.

For information contact: Rhonda Robles at
(562) 633-9014 or Jimi Castillo at (951) 675-3344

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE UPDATE

Executive Director, Flossie Horgan, traveled to Sacramento in August and met in Senator Harman's office with Department of Fish and Game Director, Donald Koch; Wildlife Conservation Board Executive Director, John Donnelly; and DFG Regional Manager, Ed Pert to discuss the timeline for completion of the long awaited pedestrian bridge over outer Bolsa Bay.

Here is the current timeline:

- State Architect Review will completed end of August
- Construction contract to bid September through mid October
- Construction contract awarded (assumes funds)- October
- Contractor orders/ bridge fabricated October – January
- Footings constructed - December
- Bridge installed by January 2009
- Inspection and final items completed February 2009
- Bridge open to Public Use by March 2009.
- Public dedication!!!

We will keep you posted, but we look forwarded to a great celebration at the bridge in early 2009!

JOIN THE LAND TRUST FOR COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

For twenty-four consecutive years, Coastal Cleanup Day has been one of the largest ecological events in the world. On September 20th, the cleanup will be held throughout California along bays, creeks, lakes, rivers, and, of course, the coast.

This year the Land Trust will focus on Bolsa Chica State Beach, collecting non-native materials (in other words, trash) that can cause environmental harm and often blow across the highway into the wetlands.

We will meet at the headquarters of Bolsa Chica State Beach. Free parking will be granted for participants from 8:00am to 11:00am. Please be sure to bring or wear sunscreen, shoes, a hat and gardening or heavy work gloves. Participants must sign California State Park waiver forms. Persons under 18 years must have a parent sign the waiver. Waiver forms can also be downloaded from the Coastal Commission's web site at www.coastforyou.org

Contact Bolsa Chica Land Trust board member Carrie Thomas at (714) 717-5759 for more details. . . or just show up at the Bolsa Chica State Beach headquarters and join the team!

Cool Azul says "Don't miss ..."

The Bounty of Bolsa Chica

Special Guest Speaker:

Richard T. Fitzgerald, MA, RPA
Senior State Archaeologist, California State Parks

Mr. Fitzgerald will speak about the importance of the archeological sites at Bolsa Chica, including ORA-83

Plus: See fantastic photos from the 2009 "Wings Over Bolsa" Calendar and find out which photograph made the cover!

This year the Land Trust will join with the City of Huntington Beach to celebrate the Centennial. The calendar will be a special edition including year-long Centennial events as well as important Land Trust dates.

Thursday, October 2, 2008
7pm-9pm
Huntington Beach Public Library
7111 Talbert Ave
Lower Level, Room C/D

Free Admission & Refreshments
(donations are welcome)

Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Mesas
Wetlands
Preserve ALL Bolsa Chica

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to acquiring, restoring, and preserving all of the lowlands, uplands, and wetlands of the Bolsa Chica in Orange County. For further information, contact (714) 846-1001 or visit www.bolsachicalandtrust.org.

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

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

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Huntington Beach, CA
Permit No. 837

What have you done today to make
things better than they ever were?
–– Richard Louv

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 _____