Cogged Stone Site Declared Eligible for National Registry of Historic Places!

Last month officials with the Department of the Interior concurred with the State Office of Historic Preservation that the Cogged Stone site at Bolsa Chica is important enough to be eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. This designation is something the Bolsa Chica Land Trust has been working on for move then ten years. The Land Trust has collaborated with archeologist Dr. Patricia Martz whose documentation and hard work contributed greatly to make this listing possible.

"What made all this possible is that these early people with simple tools such as these (milling slab) were able to subsist rather well on a mixture of plants, shellfish, fish, birds, and apparently to much lesser degree large mammals such as deer, antelope, and elk. This truly unique adaptation that relied upon foraging and some degree of residential mobility was non-gender specific in which both men and women actively participated in a group effort."

The application process was very complex and required the input of many different officials along the way. Here is what Senior State Parks Archeologist, Richard T. Fitzgerald, had to say about the site at Bolsa Chica:

"The advantages of this type of existence at this very early period of prehistory are underscored by these (the cogged stones) beautiful albeit somewhat enigmatic artifacts. As such the Cogged Stone site represents in many ways the height of achievement and complexity of these early coastal cultures and serves as a constant reminder of the ingenuity..."
THE BOLSA CHICA DECISION: A Legal Legacy of Coastal Protection

In 1999 the state appellate court issued the famous “Bolsa Chica Decision” (Bolsa Chica Land Trust v. Superior Court 71 Cal. Ap4. th. 493. 507), which ruled that “The Coastal Act does not permit destruction of an environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA) simply because the destruction is mitigated offsite.”

Because this case was filed by the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, we asked Mark Massara, director of the Sierra Club’s Coastal Programs – as well as several other coastal advocates - to offer their opinions on the importance of the Bolsa Chica Decision. Here is what they had to say.

The legal impact of the Bolsa Chica decision cannot be overestimated. It was one of the most important achievements in environmental law in the United States and may be the most significant Coastal Act decision ever. It resolved critical outstanding questions with respect to residential development of wetlands and the use of bogus “offsite” mitigation for destruction of environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA). These resource protection policies are the heart and soul of the Coastal Act, and the defining features which make the California Coastal Act the nation’s premiere environmental law.
By clarifying the mandate to avoid Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, the Bolsa Chica Decision has had huge ripple effects. For example, it was one of the main reasons the proposed Foothill Toll Road through San Onofre State Beach was found inconsistent with the Coastal Act.

By Mark Massara

Mark Massara is a public interest environmental attorney and professor who works with nonprofit organizations and activists in California to educate decision makers and elected officials about the economic, national security and quality of life benefits associated with natural resource protection.
Bolsa Chica has many devoted fans and among the most dedicated are the photographers of Bolsa Chica. Few people spend more time or fortune there than they do. They are often seen at the footbridge with their heavy, long-lens cameras. In fact, there is an informal photographers’ sunrise group that meets there at dawn on a regular basis. Birds are very active at daybreak and the bright dawn light highlights their feeding activity. Photographers often get their best images at that time.

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 in the 2009 calendar: 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.

These spectacular calendars will arrive soon and, once again, they are more breath-taking than ever before. Every photo – just like the one above – has been taken at Bolsa Chica. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to purchase several of these wonderful calendars as holiday gifts for family, friends, and co-workers.

The price this year is $11 each or five for $44. They can be purchased by phone at (714) 846-1001, by email at bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org, or by using the Order Form enclosed with this newsletter.

Cash or checks are preferred, but Visa and MasterCard are welcome. There is an additional charge for shipping or they can be picked up in person at the Land Trust office at 5200 Warner Avenue, Suite 108, Huntington Beach, near the corner of Warner Avenue and Bolsa Chica Road. Free parking is available behind the building.

Make sure you have plenty for the holidays!
Judy Todd
BCLT Volunteer & Donor

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust owes much of its success to the generosity of its members. Judy Todd is a great example. When Judy retired from teaching at Cal State University Dominguez Hills, she started volunteering for the Land Trust. An enthusiastic bird-watcher, she joined our ‘Miracles of the Marsh’ docent team which conducts school tours from January through May. She also leads our tours on the third Sunday of every month.

Because Judy recognized that a good pair of binoculars makes the bird-watching experience much more rewarding, she has generously donated more than two dozen pairs of binoculars to the BCLT tour program.

These high quality binoculars are lightweight and easy to focus, yet they have a very good optics. They are made by the Leupold & Stevens company of Beaverton, Oregon, which offered a considerable discount. The tour students enjoy seeing birds up close, and their tour experience is enhanced.

The Land Trust thanks Judy Todd (and Leupold) for her wonderful gift to our tour program!

Cogged Stone Site...continued

and creativity of human behavior no matter what the time period and what the level of technology at hand. It is for this reason that the Cogged Stone site should be preserved for future generations of Californians to learn from and appreciate.”

Much of the Cogged Stone site that is left is on private property that is currently going through an annexation and zoning process by the City of Huntington Beach. City staff currently is stating that no Environmental Impact Report needs to be done for this site prior to development. The Trust does not agree with this determination, and is hopeful that this new designation will offer more protection to the site.

By Paul Arms

Paul Arms is President of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Eileen Murphy  
Champion of Bolsa Chica

Eileen is a founding member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and has worked for the past 17 years to bring the Land Trust vision to reality. She served on the Board of Directors from 1992 until 2007 and was one of those early members who stood out every Thursday morning from 7a.m. -8 a.m. for two years with our Burma Shave signs and Land Trust banner at the corner of Warner and Coast Highway.

She chaired the acquisition committee’s Major Gift/Pledge Project, was a docent for the Land Trust’s education program, “Miracles of the Marsh,” and chaired the Land Trust committee that cleans the beach during the winter months. Currently, Eileen is on the Calendar Committee that produces our yearly “Wings Over Bolsa” calendar. She hasn’t missed a Land Trust mailing party in 17 years and every Wednesday you will find her volunteering her time at the Land Trust office.

Eileen is also a member of the Ocean Outfall Group(OOG) which was successful in having the County of Orange Sanitation District vote to go to full secondary treatment for County sewage disposal. She also serves on the Board of the (R4RD) Residents 4 Responsible Desalination.

On March 13, 2001, Eileen was honored at the state Capitol by then Assemblyman Tom Harman as “Woman of the Year.” In 2004, she was awarded Activist of the Year by Orange County League of Conservation Voters. She was recognized by the City Environmental Board with an award for Outstanding Efforts to Preserve, Conserve and Protect the Environment.

But for all of these accolades, Eileen remains humble and always ready to pitch in. She never talks about herself and always is working on a project to help the larger community.

We salute Eileen and thank her for her continued dedication to help preserve the Bolsa Chica. She is one of Bolsa Chica’s true heroes.
Hearthside Homes, developer of the Brightwater project on the upper Bolsa Chica mesa, has submitted plans to the City of Huntington Beach for 22 houses on the northern edge of the Bolsa Chica. These 5 acres border the Sacred Cogged Stone Site (Goodell) to the north and the Upper Wetlands (Shea) to the west, forming another piece of the Bolsa Chica puzzle. This land is currently designated Open Space Parks in the City’s approved Land Use Plan; the developer wants to make it be entirely low-density Residential, even though the City is in need of more parkland.

The City is preparing a Negative Declaration for the proposed project, meaning they don’t think any significant environmental impacts would be created by the development, even though it is close to the Upper Wetlands ESHA area. The NegDec should be available for public comment within the next few months.

Julie Bixby is Vice President of the Land Trust, and Chair of the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands Committee

**Update on the Pedestrian Bridge**

There is great news regarding the long-awaited pedestrian bridge!!

The engineers are scheduled to arrive on September 28th to begin work on the pedestrian bridge.

It is expected to be completed by end of November.

There will be a dedication ceremony- so stay tuned!
Scheduled Land Trust Events

BCL T Board Meetings
2nd Thursday of each month. 7PM
Call 714-846-1001 for location

BCL T 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

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Membership Renewal/Application

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

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY _______ STATE _______ ZIP ______
PHONE ___________ E-MAIL ____________________________

$50.00 Honor Roll
$20.00 Family
$15.00 Individual
$10.00 Senior/Student

Annual dues are tax deductible.
This is a renewal membership.

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

© Steve Smith

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

Sometimes I do get to places just when
Ansel Adams

and Adams
shutter.

© Steve Smith

Editor: Marc Stirdivant
WebSite: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org
Email: bclandtrust@verizon.net

Huntington Beach, CA 92649
5200 Warner Avenue, #108
Office Hours: 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Monday-Friday
at the Land Trust Office
Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items are available
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001

Directory Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304

Sometimes I do get to places just when
Ansel Adams

shutter.

© Steve Smith

Editor: Marc Stirdivant
WebSite: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org
Email: bclandtrust@verizon.net

Huntington Beach, CA 92649
5200 Warner Avenue, #108
Office Hours: 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Monday-Friday
at the Land Trust Office
Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items are available
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001

Directory Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304

Sometimes I do get to places just when
Ansel Adams

shutter.

© Steve Smith

Editor: Marc Stirdivant
WebSite: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org
Email: bclandtrust@verizon.net

Huntington Beach, CA 92649
5200 Warner Avenue, #108
Office Hours: 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Monday-Friday
at the Land Trust Office
Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items are available
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001

Directory Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304

Sometimes I do get to places just when
Ansel Adams

shutter.

© Steve Smith

Editor: Marc Stirdivant
WebSite: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org
Email: bclandtrust@verizon.net

Huntington Beach, CA 92649
5200 Warner Avenue, #108
Office Hours: 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Monday-Friday
at the Land Trust Office
Bolsa Chica Land Trust gift items are available
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001

Directory Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Executive Director Flossie Horgan 714-486-1001
Education Program Linda Wolfe 714-486-5888
BC Stewards Kim Kopycin 714-771-6304

Sometimes I do get to places just when
Ansel Adams

shutter.