Land Trust Receives $100,000 Grant from Walmart/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation!

By Connie Boardman, President

I am delighted to announce that the Land Trust is the recipient of a $100,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Walmart Acres for America program grant. This grant is one of five Acres for America grants awarded to conserve and restore fragile urban ecosystems and the only one received by an organization on the West Coast. The other sites include two in New York City, one in Chicago and one in Washington D.C. This is the first time the program has helped re-establish critical wildlife habitats in urban areas. Each urban conservation project received a $100,000 grant from the Acres for America program.
The grant was awarded on August 2nd, at a ceremony at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Among those attending were Mike Chrisman, Director of the Southwestern Partnership Office of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Kim Sentovich, Senior Vice President for Walmart Pacific Division. Assemblyman Jim Silva, Huntington Beach Mayor Joe Carchio, and Huntington Beach City Council Member Joe Shaw addressed the audience. Kevin Gilhooly from State Senator Tom Harman’s office expressed the Senator’s support for the project and the grant, and Coast Community College Trustee Lorraine Prinksy was also in attendance.

The Land Trust appreciates this important recognition of our work at Bolsa Chica. Not only are we grateful for the financial support, but we are thrilled to welcome Walmart employee volunteers who will participate in our Steward-led work days throughout this project and beyond.

The Coastal Sage Scrub plant community in Southern California is under severe pressure from development as well as competition by non-native invasive plants. This grant will greatly increase the numbers of native plants on the Bolsa Chica mesa and will further the restoration of the Coastal Sage Scrub plant community historically found on the site.

Once again, we thank the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Walmart’s Acres for America program for selecting the Land Trust for this grant.

The photo on the left shows current conditions on the Bolsa Chica Mesa. One day, it will have a thriving native grassland and coastal sage scrub habitat, not unlike the photo on the right.

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The 2012 “Wings Over Bolsa” Calendar Arrives Soon

Wings Over Bolsa, the Land Trust’s annual full color calendar, will be unveiled at our October 26th Community meeting. These eagerly awaited calendars make great holiday gifts for your friends and family. They are filled with beautiful photographs of wildlife and vistas, all taken at Bolsa Chica by talented photographers who spend hundreds of hours at their craft. The calendars allow you to plan your schedules for the year ahead while you learn about the birds and other wildlife of Bolsa Chica. The 2012 calendar is our ninth annual calendar…and we think the best one yet!
The Land Trust Welcomes New “Miracles” Coordinators

The Land Trust is happy to welcome our new “Miracles of the Marsh” Education Program Coordinators, Bev Nogy and Ron Krasnitz. Both Bev and Ron are Land Trust members who have agreed to help coordinate our docent-led education program for the 2012 season. They bring a great deal of expertise and experience and we’re confident they will take our program to even greater successes.

Bev earned a Master’s Degree in Elementary Curriculum and Instruction and an Administrative Services Credential at Cal State Fullerton. She was an elementary school teacher in the Garden Grove Unified School district for 32 years, as well as a Title I Coordinator for six years. Bev is still an active substitute for the district. She will serve as the School Coordinator.

Ron and his wife, Elaine, moved to Huntington Beach six years ago. Ron is a graduate engineer from University of Illinois with an MBA from University of Chicago. He was president of Sewing Machine Exchange, Inc. of Chicago, and Tajima USA, Inc. of Ronkonkoma, New York, as well as Chief Operating Officer of Hirsch International, Inc. Ron and Elaine have two daughters and four grandchildren, all of who unfortunately live out of state. Ron will serve as the Docent Coordinator.

The new “Miracles” season will begin with a docent orientation and training in November. If you are interested in learning more about this important education program, or volunteering as a docent, call Flossie Horgan at the Land Trust office (714) 846-1001.

Coastal Commission to Meet in Huntington Beach

The California Coastal Commission will meet in Huntington Beach in October and Bolsa Chica will be on the agenda.

Among the Bolsa Chica issues scheduled will be the Coastal Development Permits for both the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands (Shea Property) and the Sacred Cogged Stone Site (D.E. Goodell Property). The Ridge project is also tentatively scheduled.

The Land Trust believes these sites contain significant archaeological resources of international significance and we are working hard to make sure that these important sites are preserved. That’s why we need your help.

The agenda has yet to be determined so the exact days and times of the Bolsa Chica items are not known at the time of the printing of this newsletter. However, we hope to have a big turn out of Land Trust members, so please call the office or check our website for the exact day and prospective times when these issues will come before the Commission.
At my first meeting with the Junior Stewards back in January, I asked them what they wanted to do most during the coming year. The first thing they all said was “Catalina!”

The Junior Stewards Board of Directors determined that in order to be able to come on the trip, participants had to attend at least four Stewardship Days in 2011. It was also decided that the trip would work best as a family trip, with parents and kids coming together. Our plan was to spend two nights camping on the island.

We left San Pedro harbor on the evening of Friday, July 29th with fourteen kids between the ages of six and fourteen, and eight parents. Upon arrival in Two Harbors, we disembarked with our gear and made our way toward the charter bus that would take us to Little Harbor Camp Ground on the west side of the island.

The charter bus left Two Harbors just after dark, and wound its way up a dirt road, the main artery between Two Harbors and Avalon. We could see a narrow strip of orange light to the east . . . San Pedro and Long Beach harbors, so small in the distance.

The next day, we hiked, relaxed, talked together in small groups, explored the hills and beaches, and generally enjoyed ourselves. The most ambitious group of hikers made it a few coves south of Little Harbor, saw a buffalo, and
found a beached whale skeleton with the skin hanging dry on the exposed bones. The others in the group who did not make it to the whale eagerly asked questions about it to figure out what kind it was.

In the afternoon the sun came out and we all headed down to the cove to swim and sit in the sand. We explored the cove on foot and underwater. The geology exposed in the steep, multi-colored cliffs and the rocks on the beach was strange. We found huge chunks of bright white quartz and long, wide, twisting veins flowing through the cliffs around us. We found smaller stones of green, blue, and red.

Olivia found a fine grained granite stone that was perfectly cylindrical, rounded on one end and then broken away on the other. It was a little wider than a rolling pin, tapered slightly away from the round end, and about nine inches long. We could set it down on the rounded end and it would stand up!

We showed the stone to everyone and discussed various hypotheses. It looked too perfectly rounded, on the sides and the rounded end, to be a stone that was washed randomly in the waves. After a while, we were all pretty certain that this was a mano or pestle used by the native Tongva for grinding foods.

For our dinner on Saturday evening we first prepared a large fire. Aiden and I started the fire together with a bow drill, one of the fire making tools used by the Native Peoples of California. As everyone emerged from the water, they warmed themselves by the tall flames and watched as the wood burned down to a hot bed of coals. We cooked cubes of grass fed beef over the fire, skewered on dry sycamore branches. We snacked on smoked salmon. We roasted pine nuts with a hot stone in a wooden bowl, and put potatoes and onions into the coals to bake slowly as the sun went down.

On Sunday afternoon we lounged under two wide palm trees, the “Bus Stop”, waiting for the bus to take us back to Two Harbors, this time in daylight. Before we left, Olivia and her father took photos of the mysterious stone mano and then Olivia walked down to the cove and dropped it back into the water where she had found it.

As we returned on the evening boat back to San Pedro, we smiled at each other and felt the cool wind of the Catalina Channel. Midway between Catalina and the mainland, we could see the distant Santa Ana Mountains, and the hills of Palos Verdes and Catalina, surrounding us. Floating on clouds of salt water in a great valley, we carried our dreams and memories now painted with vivid colors of real life.
WHAT LIES BENEATH…
The Secret Treasures of Bolsa Chica

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is pleased to present guest speaker Patricia Martz, Professor of Anthropology emeritus from Cal State University Los Angeles, who will speak about the rich archaeological resources at Bolsa Chica and the tragic loss of this part of our history.

Professor Martz is an expert in prehistoric archaeology, California Indians, and cultural resource management. She served as prehistoric archaeologist and Chair of the State Historical Resources Commission from 1990 to 1997 and is familiar with state and federal laws and regulations regarding the protection of historic and archaeological sites including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. She is an advocate for the protection of Bolsa Chica Archaeological sites and led the successful effort to have ORA 83, the Cogged Stone site, designated as eligible as a National Historic Site by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In addition to Professor Martz, Kelly O’Reilly, Reserve Manager for the Department of Fish and Game at Bolsa Chica, will update the audience on the issue of unleashed dogs at the Reserve. She will also take questions on a variety of topics.

And, as an added attraction, we will have a first look at the photos from this year’s 2012 “Wings over Bolsa” calendar!

The event is free. Light refreshments will be served. For more information please call the Bolsa Chica Land Trust at 714-846-1001 or visit: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org.

You are invited to join the annual pilgrimage of the Gabrielino/Tongva & Juaneño/Ajachemem people.

Honor the spirit of the Native American ancestors and their historic home at Bolsa Chica

Saturday, October 1, 2011 –
12 noon & 1:30 p.m.
Warner Avenue PARKING LOT
Land Trust Hosts NOAA Science Advisory Group at Bolsa Chica

On June 21st Land Trust Board member Marinka Horack and Department of Fish and Game Land Manager, Kelly O’Reilly led a tour of the Bolsa Chica for eighteen members of the Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group (ESMG) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The ESMG serves as an advisory group to NOAA’s Scientific Advisory Board. The Board provides advice to NOAA on a wide variety of topics important to the agency’s mission. The subgroup that visited the Bolsa Chica consisted of scientists from universities, NGOs such as Nature Conservancy, and NOAA which focuses on ecosystem science and management of the coastal ocean.

The Aquarium of the Pacific hosted the subgroup’s three-day workshop. When asked to arrange a local field trip where ecosystem science and management were in progress, Jerry Schubel, President and CEO of the Aquarium and a member of the NOAA Scientific Advisory Board, turned to volunteers Bruce and Corinne Monroe for advice. The Monroes selected the Bolsa Chica Land Trust to arrange the tour of the Bolsa Chica.

The group was very interested in how the ocean inlet had affected the marine life at Bolsa Chica. Kelly handed out the latest figures on the marine species within the Ecological reserve. The tour included visiting the upper mesa where they were able to get a better view of the entire ecological reserve.

After the tour one of the scientists said as he boarded the bus to return to Long Beach: “NOAA’s management plans need to include the importance of dedicated private citizens in the ecosystem.”
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  Flossie Horgan  714-846-1001
Docent Coordinator  Ron Krasnitz  714 846-1001
School Coordinator  Bev Nogy  714 962-0300
BC Stewards  Kim Kolpin  714-717-6304

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

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

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream.”

Anatole France