

Music from the Mesa

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Newsletter 108

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Land Trust Launches the Bolsa Chica Legacy Campaign

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On this, our 20th Anniversary, the Land Trust is launching the Bolsa Chica Legacy campaign with the express purpose of raising funds to purchase the remaining acres of the sacred Cogged Stone site located on the Bolsa Chica Mesa. As most of you know, this is the location of a 9,000 year-old Native American village, cemetery, and ceremonial site. Our goal is to raise \$4 million dollars.

Since the founding of the Trust in 1992, we have urged the jurisdictional agencies (City, County, and Coastal Commission) to put conditions on any development plans for this site. However,



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it has fallen on deaf ears. The Brightwater project, which was approved in 2005, destroyed over 11 acres of this precious resource.

In 2009, after years of hard work by Professor Patricia Martz and the Land Trust, the Cogged Stone site was listed as eligible for the U. S. National Register of Historic Places. This represents an acknowledgement of the site's importance. The Cogged Stone site is the largest documented prehis-

toric coastal area between Ventura County and the Mexican border to be identified to date as eligible for this recognition.

Brian Fagan, a leading archaeologist, author and professor emeritus from University of California Santa Barbara stated recently, "The Cogged Stone site is totally unique and internationally extremely important and that is why it must be saved before it is destroyed".

If we are to save this 9,000 year old pre-historic site we must identify possible funders and go get the money. While some may think it is too lofty a goal, let's all remember what the Land Trust has accomplished over the past twenty years.

If you would like to help, please contact Executive Director, Flossie Horgan, at 714-846-1001.

LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA!



SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 15!

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust is turning twenty! Mark your calendars now for the event of the year. On September 15th, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust will hold a Gala dinner at the Huntington Beach Hilton, with champagne, music and dancing.

All proceeds will go towards acquiring the remaining threatened parcels at Bolsa Chica., thus setting the tone for our next twenty years! We'll have both silent and live auctions, including

Hawaii vacations. We'll welcome a few special guests and you can expect more surprises.

Do you have items you would like to donate to our auction, or would you like information about sponsorship opportunities? Call our office at 714-846-1001.

Come join us when we celebrate twenty years of saving it, not paving it.

Bolsa Chica Gets a Special Visitor



It is estimated that over 30,000 people visit Bolsa Chica every year. Thousands of birds migrate in and out of the Reserve each breeding season. However, this past April one special visitor made quite a splash! A dolphin found himself in newspapers, on web sites, and on news broadcasts when he decided to spend some time in Outer Bolsa Bay. This was the first dolphin in recent memory to swim into the Bay, and he instantly became a star.

Over the course of the next week hundreds of people came to the Reserve to see the dolphin, news helicopters swarmed overhead, and Bolsa Chica received an amazing amount of attention. Then, one night, silently the dolphin made his way back to the open ocean on his own. This brief visit, and the response it received, highlights how precious Bolsa Chica truly is.

A big thank you to the staff of the Department of Fish and Game, NOAA, the City of Huntington Beach, and the Marine Mammal Rescue volunteers, all of whom worked so hard to keep the dolphin and all those who came to see it safe.

Grab Our Tools

By Kim Kolpin

The Winter 2011/Spring 2012 planting season has come to a close, and the Bolsa Chica Stewards and our Jr. Stewards have once again done a fantastic job. From October 2011 to the end of April 2012, 3,580 native plants were planted by 1,803 volunteers who contributed 5,284 hours towards making the Bolsa Chica Mesa a healthier native habitat.

These wonderful volunteers came from:

- Cerritos College
 - Sierra Club Inner City Outings / Ellen Ochoa Learning Center
 - Paramount High School & Wilmington Middle School
 - Alcoa Fastening Systems Fullerton
 - Huntington Beach Boy Scout Troops #1, #278, & Cub Scout Pack #488
 - HB Community Service Program
 - Santiago High School
 - Orangewood Academy
 - Fountain Valley High School/Sea Leaf Club
 - Saddleback College
 - Bolsa Grande High School
 - L.D.S. Church/7th Ward
 - Golden West College
 - Huntington Beach High School
 - St. John Bosco High School
 - United Health Services
 - Pacifica High School's National Honor Society
 - Westminster High School
 - St. Hedwig School
 - PIMCO
 - Cal State Fullerton
 - Seal Beach Girl Scout Troop #980
 - National Charity League
 - Pacifica American Red Cross
 - Connelly High School
 - Foothill High School's National Honor Society
 - Pacific Life
 - Tamura School
 - Starbucks
 - HB Girl Scout Troop #2431
 - Dwyer Middle School
 - Orange High School
 - Agility Co.
 - La Quinta High School
 - Fountain Valley Cub Scout Pack #475
- and many individual members of our community.



As part of the Acres For America/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant we received in 2010, the employees from our local Walmart stores took part in a special Stewards work day this past April. Almost 100 volunteers came for this special event, many whom have never been to Bolsa Chica before. Together they planted 400 plants in just over an hour and a half and then went on a tour with some of the Trust's awesome docents. They left after having a fun, meaningful and educational experience getting to know Bolsa.

The Stewards work is important for the habitat of Bolsa Chica, and is also an important way for us to connect our community to the Reserve and the work of the Land Trust. All of this is a group effort, with yet again special thanks to the fantastic Stewards Core Team and members of the Jr. Stewards and their families for the dedication and hard work it takes to make this all happen.





Land Trust Mourns the Passing of Lois Vacker

Lois Vacker, a devoted BCLT member for twenty years and a strong defender of open space and wildlife, passed away in February of this year. Lois attended Coastal Commission meetings, spoke for the preservation of Bolsa Chica at many City Council meetings, and wrote articulate letters to the editor in support of saving all of Bolsa Chica.

Lois worked at most Land Trust mailing parties since 1992, and organized thousands of mailing labels for BCLT newsletters. She was also a member of Sea & Sage Audubon. She started her birding career at Bolsa Chica watching birds with the legendary Donald Shipley.

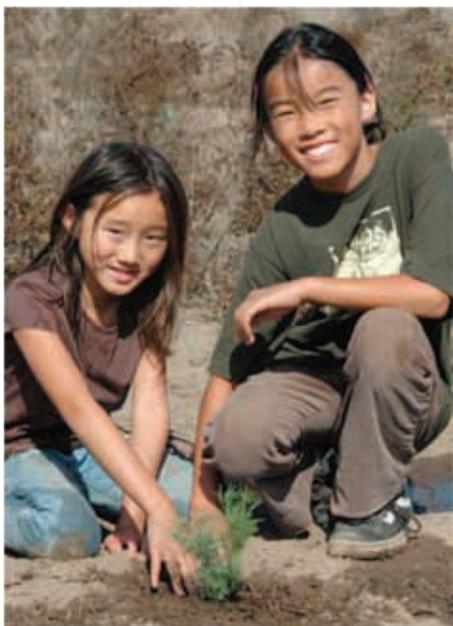
Lois also volunteered at the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center where she nursed sick birds to good health. A longtime dream was fulfilled recently when she and her stalwart husband Ed traveled to Africa on safari. She designed her home office as her Africa room and it was filled with nature books, pictures of African wildlife, and wonderfully organized albums of news articles about Bolsa Chica. She filled her beautiful garden with California native plants.

Honesty, integrity, a sense of style, a deep love of nature, and good humor were hallmarks of her character. Lois Vacker took great pride in her husband, two sons, and many grandchildren.

She leaves the legacy of her good deeds and volunteerism for the causes she loved.

Growing Up With The Stewards

By Sage Kolpin, age 13



Jr. Stewards founders, Vanessa and Olivia Bloom, planting on the Mesa.



Michelle and Katrina Cone with Sage at Bolsa Chica, November 2011

EVER SINCE I WAS BORN, I remember Bolsa Chica. I have gone there since birth because my parents started the Stewards program. When I was about five, I started to actually work with the adults. It was fun, but I wanted to be with more kids. I planted a few plants here and there, but mostly I ate cookies. As time went on I started to plant more and more plants.

WHEN I WAS ABOUT SEVEN my friends Vanessa and Olivia Bloom would come out and join us. It was more fun and we got to do some very special things. I remember when the three of us were asked to play the musical instruments during the annual Ancestor walk with the descendants of the Native Peoples of Bolsa Chica. We were the only kids to

play those instruments that year. Three years ago we started to talk about a group for the kids who always showed up for our volunteer days. Then it happened. The Jr. Stewards team was alive. There were lots of ideas, but we didn't know how to make them real. More kids started to join, and I became good friends with Katrina and Michelle Cone - some of the first kids who came once we started advertising the program.

THEN MARK HAY our new coordinator, came to help. He helps us organize and keeps us on track for all of the fun things we want to do. He is also a teacher so he brought some of his students to join us. We made friends fast.

FIELD TRIPS, COOK OUTS, AND crazy hikes in the rain, the Jr.

Stewards team is going strong. We have done so many fun and exciting things this year. We now have our own Board of Directors which consists of kids and Mark who decide on upcoming plans. We have meetings which are on the beach or at Super-Mex and we get a lot done.

THE FIRST THING THE BOARD DECIDED to do was to have a cookout on the beach. Mark put the idea to action and planed a date and time. I had so much fun! Mark taught us how to make fire with sticks and cook fish, pine nuts and potatoes in the fire! We all had a great time with our awesome new coordinator Mark. The next great adventure for the Jr. Stewards will be camping in mountains this summer. I am re-

ally excited for the Jr. Stewards upcoming plans.

OVER THE YEARS the Bolsa Chica has become more and more kid friendly. I've seen so many changes at the Bolsa Chica and know that there will be more to come. I am glad that the Jr. Stewards team has thrived over the years, and that when kids come to Bolsa Chica there won't be just one or two kids there, there will be the Jr. Stewards team of kids welcoming them to Bolsa Chica.



General Board Meeting to Elect Directors

Pursuant to the by laws of the Land Trust, the General Meeting of members will be held on July 12, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Royal Tern room

The election of the directors of the Land Trust will take place at this meeting. The Officers will be selected immediately thereafter. Any member wishing to nominate someone as a Director should do so by sending that person's or persons' name(s) to the Land Trust office in advance of the meeting.

All members of the Land Trust are invited to attend this meeting and all meetings and to participate in the vote of the Directors.

OFFICERS

President
Connie Boardman

Vice President
Carrie Thomas

Treasurer
Jim Anderson

Secretary
Marinka Horack

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roberta Armstrong, Ph.D.

Julie Bixby

Dr. Gerald Chapman

Patty Dayneko

Sandy Genis

Dave Hamilton

Gay Infanti

Babs McCoy

Mike McMahan

Jayson Ruth

Joe Shaw

Marc Stirdivant

Laurel Telfer

Jennifer Thomas

Karen Merickel-Wood



Bolsa Chica Land Trust

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Please recycle this newsletter or share it with others.

All our dreams can come true,
if we have the courage to pursue them.

Walt Disney

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