It’s here! Our 2017 “Wings Over Bolsa” calendar is a beautiful collection of amazing photography taken at Bolsa Chica. Photos by many of our talented local photographers showcase stunning wildlife images for you to enjoy all year long. Funds raised by the sale of the calendar assist in supporting our education and restoration efforts. Please use the order form found on page 5 of this newsletter, Order online at www.BolsaChicaLandTrust.org, or call our office at 714-846-1001 to stop by and pick one up.
Town Hall this September – You are Invited!

Paolo will talk about The Trust for Public Land's amazing 40 year history of land conservation and their involvement with saving the Ridge and Goodell properties here at Bolsa Chica.

The Trust for Public Land has protected more than 3.3 million acres, from inner city to the wilderness and have generated $57 billion in public funds for healthy land and water.

Come and learn more and celebrate our partnership with this outstanding organization.

September 15th
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Huntington Beach Central Library

Calendars will be on sale and light refreshments will be served.

Our Endowment Continues to Grow!

The Land Trust's Endowment for the Future keeps growing! We are deeply grateful to the following members who have recently donated to the Endowment. As this financial instrument grows in value, it also grows in importance. Your gift becomes a long term investment ensuring that our work will be able to continue well into the future. Thank You!

Yvonne Blaine    Michael Horn
Maureen Bekins    Dale Jenkins
Diane & Richard Bentley    Lucille Martin
Frank & Jeanne Costa    Dennis May
Lou Anna Denison    Mike & Peggy Sloan
Jacob Hoffman    Theresa Stevens

Donations to the Endowment can be made either with the enclosed envelope or on our secure website. Donors also have the option of automatic monthly donations via a credit card. For more information, please contact our Executive Director, Kim Kolpin, at 714-846-1001 or at Kim@bclandtrust.org.
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am so excited that the Land Trust has worked out the final agreements to buy the Ridge and Goodell Properties and it looks like you are too.

We have received over $50,000 in donations in response to the news. All of this money came in from information posted in the last newsletter. These donations are being held in a special account just for acquisition and restoration of the property. Our fundraising for Ridge and Goodell is just beginning and we are counting on you to spread the word. The Trust for Public Land is doing the heavy lifting at the State level and our responsibility is to raise $1,000,000 to contribute to the acquisition which will show that the local community cares and wants this land protected.

Many years ago the threat was that Bolsa Chica would have been erased, and thousands of homes would have paved over this truly special place. You, our members and our community, spoke up and we never relented. The fight to save Bolsa Chica was, and continues to be, the premier example of a 'joint effort'.

We are strengthened and humbled by your support and quick response to the news of a path forward for Ridge and Goodell. It is giving us a stable foundation on which to achieve our goal.

Your continued support is crucial, and can be shown in many ways. Please consider making a one-time donation or a regular monthly donation. Help us make a connection with other potential donors, consider an annuity or planned gift, and most importantly celebrate your part of this wonderful effort.

Please contact me at the Land Trust office (714) 846-1001 and at Jennifer@BCLandTrust.org if you have any questions or need more information. I look forward to seeing you out on the trails!
IN MEMORIAM

Eileen Murphy

By Kim Kolpin, Executive Director

Just shy of her 100th birthday, one of our matriarchs, Eileen Murphy, passed away in June.

To say that Eileen was amazing is too general. To say she was a pillar in the community is too broad. Eileen was a fighter for the common good, common decency, and common sense. She never took no for an answer, stood up for those who had been beaten down, and refused to be silenced as she spoke for those with no voice.

As one of the founding members of BCLT, and Flossie Horgan’s mother, Eileen helped shape this organization from the beginning and supported it in every way possible for 23 years.

In her ‘golden years’ Eileen did not slow down, she did the opposite. She attended meeting after meeting, wrote a book’s worth of letters-to-the-editor, never said no to the opportunity to hold a picket sign or attend a protest for an issue she cared about. Her message was clear – always take the mic. Make your voice heard, no matter what.

We at BCLT are saddened at her passing, but celebrate her life with much joy as we are all very, very fortunate to have had Eileen as a friend, warrior and leader. Hers was a shining example of a life well lived, focused on family and a passion to do the right thing with the tenacity to never give up. We owe Eileen a debt of gratitude. She was one of the greats, and her legacy at Bolsa Chica is profound. I would write that she will be missed, but for all of us who knew her – a bit of Eileen lives on in each of our hearts, and as long as the birds fly into Bolsa Chica, her presence will be felt, and her voice heard.
2017 Calendar
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Stunning full-color photos of Birds and Wildlife at Bolsa Chica
13-month format
Great for Holiday Gifts! Order yours today!

Only $11 Includes Sales Tax To use a credit card, please order on our website.

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Check: ___1 Calendar ($14.75) ___2 Calendars ($27.25) ___3 Calendars ($39.00) ___5 Calendar SPECIAL ($51.00)

Mail To:
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
5200 Warner Ave. #108
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714-846-1001
www.BolsaChicaLandTrust.org

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED $___________________

NAME_______________________________________________________
ADDRESS______________________________________________________________________
CITY_________________________ STATE_____ ZIP__________
PHONE____________________________________________________
Ship to different address, if other than the above_____
Calendars may be picked up at Bolsa Chica Land Trust office, please call (714) 846-1001 to arrange for pick up.
Summer Brings Out Corporate Volunteers

By Erin Chin, Stewards Coordinator

This summer we were fortunate enough to have some wonderful corporate employee volunteers giving back to their community by helping us restore Bolsa Chica. In June, Google employees from the Los Angeles and Irvine offices came out to volunteer as part of their GoogleServe week of volunteering. They were able to pull bags and bags of invasive crystalline ice plant (Mesembryanthemum crystallinum) out of Bolsa Chica, cleaning up the historic gun mounts and clearing space for native plants.

Then in July, the Good Guys families from Pacific Life Insurance joined us to water the native plants to boost the resilience of the young plants. One of the little girls had a pink bucket her mom would fill with water so she could water the plants. I mentioned I thought it was wonderful how enthusiastic the girl was to water the plants with her bucket, and her mom told me she’s been coming out with her family during the Good Guys volunteering ever since she was 2 and just loves it! A BIG thank you to both groups for partnering with us to restore Bolsa Chica!

Adopt-a-plot Update

It’s near the end of the summer and the Fountain Valley High School Sea Leaf Club and Cub Scout Pack 541 have been learning a lot about the struggles of habitat restoration in a drought (and in general), the different seasons and their effects on the habitat, and native vs. non-native plants. I want to thank these two groups for their perseverance, patience, and positivity since January.

Without the more-than-average rain that was expected (or much rain in total) which pushed us into another year of drought down here in Southern California, trying to grow young plants, let alone young native plants, is not a challenge for the weak. These brave cub scouts and high school environmental heroes took on this challenge for a full year. This summer hasn’t been kind and the rabbits have been very hungry, but if you look very closely, you can still see a few green shoots clinging onto life. Therefore, even though it’s probably not what these groups had expected when they signed on to this endeavor, they have learned a lot and through their hard diligent work have been keeping their plants alive. Well Done!
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

STEWARDS CELEBRATE 20 YEARS AT BOLSA CHICA

By Kim Kolpin, Executive Director

Has it been 20 years already?

In 1996 a bunch of us went out to pick up trash at Bolsa Chica. 20 years, 40,000 plants and 18,000 volunteers later, the Bolsa Chica Stewards continue to be an amazing group working on a huge mission. We have built the trails and restored about 10 acres of native habitat on the Mesa, mended countless holes in the fence, removed tons and tons of non-native plants and garbage, and made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Many of the people who are core team volunteer leaders today were there at the beginning, and we are so blessed to have this level of commitment by this truly special group of people. Together we celebrate an amazing history, we look forward to continuing to make a positive difference for our wildlife, and to build on a remarkable legacy. To each of our Stewards – thank you for digging in that hard dirt for all these years and for your selfless gift of time and effort. You have made all the difference.

Jane Lazarz, We’ll Miss You!

All of us at the Land Trust want to thank and send best wishes to our dear friend and generous photographer Jane Lazarz. Jane recently relocated to Colorado and we wish her much joy in her new home and can’t wait to see the wonderful Colorado wildlife through her lens. Thank you, Jane, for sharing your art with us.

Through your photographs you shared the beauty and wonder of Bolsa Chica with thousands of people. We are deeply grateful.
An Outstanding Achievement

By Laurel Telfer, Jr. Stewards Board Liaison and Danny Hasheminejad, Jr. Stewards Coordinator

Since October of 1996, community members have come by the thousands to help the Land Trust work toward its mission of restoration of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. As part of the Stewards Program, these hard working folks have removed non-native plants, replaced them with over 40,000 California native seedlings, and watered everything by hand twice each month, in every kind of weather. Many people have also brought their children, so many in fact that in the spring of 2009, the Jr. Stewards program was born. These kids have been growing up before our eyes and now, two of them, Vanessa Bloom and Morgen Hansen, have earned the right to “graduate” to full Steward status. They are remarkable girls and we are exceptionally proud of their commitment and leadership.

Vanessa Bloom

“Vanessa Bloom is the original founder of the Bolsa Chica Jr. Stewards,” says Danny Hasheminejad, Jr. Stewards Coordinator. “Her idea was to create an environmentally-minded youth organization to engage in real projects to restore the Mesa. Vanessa has grown up from that girl with the lineup bangs, and her vibrant spirit has grown too. Vanessa has the skill to work with people of all ages and abilities. She can discuss a project with an older adult and return to a conversation with a six-year-old she was helping. Her intelligence and drive are unquestionable, and she also has the passion for Doctor Who and other teenage pursuits.”

“I have been involved with the Bolsa Chica Land Trust since I was old enough to hold a (toddler-sized) shovel and help place plants into the ground,” says Vanessa. “When I was younger, I did not think of going out and helping the Bolsa Chica Land Trust as any different an activity than going to classes, grocery shopping, or doing homework. It was just something that I did, another activity I enjoyed. It was not until much later that I realized that the Bolsa Chica Land Trust is something that is truly unique in my childhood experience. Not many children get the opportunity to spend time outdoors in one of California’s few remaining wetlands, much less help restore them to their former glory.”

Morgen Hanson

As Danny Hasheminejad puts it, “Don’t mess with Morgen Hansen. She is an archer who is also armed with wit. On top of that, she is a great steward, so you should probably listen to what she says. Morgen is not one to hang by the snack table and dilly-dally on her phone. She gets straight into the dirt and starts to plant, weed, water... whatever is necessary. Morgen will undoubtedly be a strong asset for years to come here at Bolsa Chica.”
Celebrating our Friend – Elizabeth Neat

By Danny Hasheminejad, Junior Stewards Coordinator

Some people just get it that our future depends on our youth and the values they develop through the activities and interactions provided by their adult mentors.

Elizabeth Neat is definitely one of those people. She has been bringing kids from all over southern California to Bolsa Chica for over a decade with the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter. Her Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) group has thrived under her official and unofficial leadership.

Elizabeth’s most current contribution is a multi-school, multi-year effort that is part of a Coastal Commission’s Whale Tail Grant. The opening event was a service project May 21 at Bolsa Chica. Elizabeth was the mastermind of this project from its inception, but she also realizes the success of the project depends on fostering the innovation and creativity of the students involved. It is a joy to have Elizabeth and her students join the Bolsa Chica Stewards for our workdays.

Over the years, Elizabeth has brought thousands of kids to Bolsa Chica, which is an amazing accomplishment that she is continuing to build on. We cherish her friendship, admire her vision, and are thankful for her partnership with the Bolsa Chica Land Trust.

Morgan finds working at Bolsa Chica to be relaxing. “It might not be the first thing you think about when hauling water or planting prickly tar plants, but it’s why I like volunteering at Bolsa Chica. The openness of the mesa and its quietness, despite being so close to the PCH, draw me back each month. It’s like travelling to the middle of nowhere, while still being in the middle of busy Orange County and Huntington Beach. These things are why I have valued my time with the Jr. Stewards and look forward to continuing to volunteer in the future.”

“I have learned so much more than just restoring the mesa from being around the older stewards. Though they might not know it, they have taught me to be more aware of the world around me - not just in noticing the plants and animals of Bolsa Chica, but what is happening in the wider world. They have shown me that caring about the work I do is important and leads to real change, even if small - like that well-built berms make a difference in the survival of our native plants. I hope to be able to continue working as a full-fledged Steward for many years to come.”
What's the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?

*Henry David Thoreau*

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**Bolsa Chica 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
Meet at Wetlands PCH Parking Lot

**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.

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**Upcoming Events**

**September**

**Banning Ranch Coastal Commission Hearing** – help save Banning Ranch!!! Hearing will be in Newport Beach September 7th, 8th or 9th. Please go to www.BanningRanchConservancy.org. Help by sending in letters encouraging the Commission to uphold the Coastal Act and deny all development of this precious natural resource!

**Poseidon Coastal Commission Hearing** – same dates as above. This desalination plant may result in significant negative impacts to our coastal environment. Voice your concern to the Coastal Commission and go to www.R4RD.org for more information.

**Our Town Hall** – September 15th 7:00PM – 9:00PM HB Central Library.

**Coastal Clean Up at Bolsa Chica** - September 17th Join us for this event hosted by the Coastal Commission to keep our shorelines and coastal estuaries healthy. It is part of our regular Stewards workday. Contact our Restoration Coordinator, Erin Chin at Erin@BCLandtrust.org for more info.

**October**

**Native American Ancestral Walk** – October 1st. 12:00PM, meet in the Bolsa Chica Reserve parking lot located on Warner Avenue.