Help Us Reach Our Goal

$1,000,000
$800,000
$600,000
$400,000
$200,000

We’ve raised $842,566 for the acquisition and restoration of the Ridge & Goodell properties. Thank You!

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Our Amazing Members

By Roberta Armstrong, Vice President and Development Committee Chair

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust had a truly remarkable 2017. You, our members, donated significantly to our Ridge and Goodell acquisition and restoration fund. You also made sure that all of our staff programs and projects were well-funded. Your support is the root of our success, and in 2017 our shared vision flourished. Two thousand students participated in Miracles of the Marsh, 2,600 people volunteered with the Stewards, 2,700 native plants were planted. Our Growing Space became a reality, and we celebrated 25 years of caring for all of Bolsa Chica.

2018 is going to be a pivotal year, and we start it on an excellent financial foundation. Donors gave $411,430 to the Land Trust in 2017, including $142,460 for the General Fund, and $221,335 for the Ridge and Goodell Fund.

Donors make all the difference: we are now at $842,566 in our $1 million campaign for the acquisition and restoration of the Ridge and Goodell properties, the last piece of Bolsa Chica!

Your contributions assure a viable future for Bolsa Chica, near and dear to us all. Thank you so much for all you do to support Bolsa Chica for generations to come. The last quarter of 2017 was a spectacular fundraising time for us at the Land Trust -- thanks so much for your inspired giving at a time when it is most needed and most vital!

Investing in Our Future

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust’s Endowment for the Future keeps growing! We start 2018 with the fund valued at more than $170,000. A big ‘Thank you!’ goes out to the following folks who made the Endowment part of their year-end giving. We truly appreciate the support!

Maureen Bekins
Marianne Bogrenief
Diana Busst
Gerald & Patricia Chapman
Margaret Coakley
Frank & Jeanne Costa
Ted Dowding
Caroline Fuelling
Dianne Gillespie
Steve & Christine Hamachi
Edward Harnby
John Humphreys
Anthony Mayo
Tom & Naomi Moon
Warren & Michelle Morton
Suzanne O'Hara
Richard Overall
Joanna Wallis

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

Congratulations, Erin and James!

Our newest Jr. Steward has arrived! Congratulations to Erin, the Land Trust’s Restoration Coordinator and her husband, James, on the arrival of their little boy, Ethan.

Another great investment in our future.
BUSY ON MANY FRONTS

By Kim Kolpin, Executive Director

Here are just a few of the major issues the Land Trust is engaged in for Bolsa Chica:

Bond Dollars Coming Back to Bolsa

Do you ever wonder where all that voter-approved bond money goes? Remember back in November 2014 when the Proposition 1, the Water Bond, was on the ballot? That bond measure passed, and now Bolsa Chica is getting some of the benefits. The Bolsa Chica Land Trust has been awarded a 3282.492 grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is administering some of the Prop 1 funds. This grant is to support a detailed study of the tidal inlet and wetland basin, to identify management and enhancement alternatives that can create a more sustainable system, while maintaining the rich biodiversity of the site.

As you may have heard, the inlet and basin fill with sand and require expensive dredging to keep the waters flowing freely. Too much sand buildup restricts the tidal flows and threatens the viability of the wetlands. This study will look at engineering and design options to reduce the maintenance costs and maintain habitat function. The Land Trust is working closely with the State Lands Commission and the Bolsa Chica Steering Committee on this project. Securing the health of the wetlands at Bolsa Chica is a top priority, and we are happy to be able to bring these bond dollars in to work for us.

Lands Use Pass

"California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Lands Pass Program began in 1988 as a way to broaden the funding base beyond hunters and anglers to pay for conservation and habitat improvement on some of the state’s most popular and frequently visited wildlife areas and ecological reserves. In 2012, the California Legislature directed CDFW to expand the program to more properties as a way for all visitors to contribute to the management of the places they enjoy and appreciate." (CDFW web site)

The Lands Use Pass program was to begin at Bolsa Chica on February 1st. Back in autumn, when the Land Trust, the other non-profits, and the Native American communities were made aware of this, we met with Fish and Wildlife representatives for an explanation of the program. It became clear that the Lands Use Pass was not a good fit for Bolsa Chica. We want people to come to Bolsa Chica to experience our beautiful wildlife and serene environment. It is our belief that the Lands Pass program would have disenfranchised many of our visitors without bringing significant financial benefits back here. This was just one of many logistical and ethical problems we identified with this program. We brought our concerns to the state agencies involved, and are pleased that the program is now on “indefinite hold” for Bolsa Chica, as well as twenty other properties throughout the state.

Certainly Bolsa Chica requires expensive care. Significant funding is needed for infrastructure and restoration that enhance the habitat, wildlife and visitor experience. Although we disagreed with the Lands Use Pass, the Land Trust is always working to bring project funding to Bolsa Chica through our membership donations, corporate donations and grants. We look forward to continuing to work with Fish and Wildlife and all of the responsible state agencies on making Bolsa’s future bright.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 68

Here is another opportunity for you to help Bolsa Chica, and the Land Trust’s acquisition efforts for Ridge and Goodell! Proposition 68, on the June 2018 ballot, will be a major funding source for conservation and open-space acquisition. There has not been this type of conservation bond measure in California for 15 years.

The California Clear and Water & Safe Parks Act campaign has significant support from a broad coalition of water experts, conservation groups, local government organizations, park advocates, public health organizations and business groups, all of whom recognize the need for critical investments in our state’s water and natural resources. Proposition 68 is a general obligation bond that will invest $4 billion in the coming years to address some of the state’s most important water, park, and natural resource needs.

In June, California voters will act on some of the most critical issues facing the state as they consider Proposition 68, which will help make California’s water supplies more secure, make needed investments in drought preparedness and ensure every California community has access to safe, quality parks. The measure will fund projects to ensure clean drinking water throughout California, protect communities from floods, safeguard our state’s oceans, rivers, lakes and streams, and create new outdoor spaces in neighborhoods with the greatest need.

Once passed by voters in June, Trust for Public Land and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust will be aggressively going after these funds to finalize the acquisition of the Ridge and Goodell properties, as well as for other much needed projects at Bolsa Chica.

Every vote counts – especially now. Please support Proposition 68 for Bolsa Chica!!

As always, our members are our driving force. Thanks to your support, we are able to work on these and many other issues, projects and programs for Bolsa Chica. This is just a sample of your membership dollars hard at work!
BOLSA CHICA STEWARDS

Welcome to Our Growing Space

By Mike Armstrong, Steward Core Team Leader

Walkers, runners, and birders may notice a wispy steel-and-fabric structure just inside the Mesa fence along the trail from the North parking lot to the Point. Or they may not – our new “Growing Space” isn’t intended to divert your eye from nature!

Isn’t all of Bolsa Chica a “growing space”? Yes, but . . .

Most of the native plants you see on the Mesa were purchased from Tree of Life Nursery, a certified native plant nursery. Transported many miles to Bolsa Chica, and then planted by Land Trust volunteers. This common restoration practice works. But it also COSTS: funds to buy the plants, the fuel, labor and air pollution to get them here, and a little bit of plant loss from handling.

And while the plants we buy ARE species native to our coastal sage scrub/grassland environment, they aren’t Bolsa Chica born and bred – they come from microclimates and soils that may differ significantly from their new home! Most make the transition fine, but we do lose a few to transplant shock.

One way to mitigate these costs and provide more wildlife habitat for every volunteer hour and donor dollar is to gather seed and rootstock from successful Bolsa Chica-raised plants and grow their offspring HERE in their proven home. That’s what we’ll be doing in our new Growing Space. And you can help.

Our Stewards’ habitat restoration workdays are held on every first Sunday and third Saturday of each month. We meet in the Reserve parking lot located on Warner Ave at 9:00 a.m. and work until noon. Contact Kim at Kim@BCLandTrust.org for more info if you are interested in helping out with our Growing Space!

Thanks go to the members of the Land Trust for funding the Growing Space materials, to the many donors for their ongoing donations to keep it growing, to Eagle Scout Luke Maloney, Troop #316, Luke’s parents, all of the supportive Scout parents, and to the Bolsa Chica Stewards Core Team leaders for providing the muscle and skill to assemble, transport and erect the structure and its water tank.

Thanks also go to the staffs of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy and Los Alamitos Wetlands Conservancy for showing us their best native plant raising practices, and to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for project oversight and expertise. Special thanks also go to Land Trust Board Member and Steward Core Team leader Mike McMahan, for leading the project with planning, purchasing and construction skills. Without Mike and his apparently timeless red Willys pickup, the Growing Space just wouldn’t have happened.

Editor’s note: And a big THANK YOU to Mike Armstrong for all of his mentoring of this project!

On January 24th, Cub Scout Pack 541 gathered at a local high school to accept the prestigious 2017 Hornaday Unit Award. This award is presented to a pack for outstanding and substantial service towards an environmental/conservation project, and only a few Cub Scout packs across the country have ever received it.

Core Steward Mike Armstrong was able to attend the ceremony and has been the Steward guide and teacher for this group from the beginning in 2015. The pack adopted a plot on the Mesa to weed, plant with natives, maintain and nurture, and learn about local conservation/ecology by collecting scientific data for a year (actually two years because they are that awesome). Today, their plot is filled with flourishing Coastal Sage Scrub and native grassland plants!

So, CONGRATULATIONS for a job well done, Scouts!
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
5200 Warner Avenue, #108, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
Website: www.bolsachicalandtrust.org
Email: info@bclandtrust.org

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.
Margaret Atwood

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

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
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.

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

Bolsa Chica Land Trust Directory

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