



## *From the Desk of the President ...*

We've experienced an incredible amount of activity since our last newsletter. I would like to highlight some of the significant accomplishments. This is always dangerous since space limitations constrain a more exhaustive list!

Over the part year, we've conducted one of the most significant invasive plant removal, native plant restoration, and trail clean-up/upgrades effort since I joined the BLF. Our partnerships and teams included Waste Management (donated 40 cubic yard dumpsters), Invitrogen (provided volunteers and heavy equipment), Four Seasons (provided landscape vehicle), North County Church of Vista (provided volunteers and heavy equipment), and of course our regular BLF *weed whacker/trail maintenance* volunteers. While we have some clean-up to complete, we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel (until the next round!). Members and the general public are welcome to join in.

We are on the brink of being awarded and starting two significant grants from the City of Carlsbad. When given final approval by the Carlsbad City Council, expected in September, these grants will result in: being able to upgrade our Nature Center and the services we provide to the general public; and a 6-year lagoon monitoring and management program to continue monitoring Batiquitos Lagoon beyond the original 10-year post-restoration effort. We expect to report more detail on these two grants in our Fall 2007 Newsletter.

We completed another round of the Club Pelican summer day camp programs. (More detail later in this newsletter). I was amazed to find out this was our 14<sup>th</sup> year that we have hosted this event! A special thanks to all who worked to make this such a successful program, including our new BLF interns (Katherine Carbone and Kristin Moore).

We, as a member of Carlsbad Lagoons and Watersheds (CLAW), held our first Lagoon Day Event. The City Council of Carlsbad issued a proclamation, and we were recognized by the State of California's General Assembly (both posted in our Nature Center). This is planned to be a yearly event in July, in partnership with Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation, and North County Audubon Society. The intent of CLAW is for the four organizations to work together on matters of common interest and to support one another.

We experimented with having our Nature Center open 7 days per week. (See the article in this newsletter). The public response has been incredible, with over 1,902 people visiting us in June and July. Thanks again to our many volunteers who have been hosting at our nature center, enabling us to expand our hours!

We've recently been notified that we've been awarded another \$5,000 grant from REI. This grant will enable us to purchase native plants to be used this fall and winter to begin restoring areas along the North Shore Trail. It will also enable us to replace our signs at the trail heads and to install marine brass numbers on the posts associated with our self-guided nature trail.



Finally, we continue to make progress in our effort to improve buffer zones around the lagoon and to extend our trail system. I hope to be able to report our progress in more detail in our Winter newsletter. I can assure you that significant progress is being made, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy.

I could go on and on, but I'm sure you get the picture. The BLF is on a roll! A *well done* to our members, volunteers, and friends of the Lagoon who are the essence of our Foundation. Without you, our continued success would not be possible! As always, feel free to contact me at (760) 918-2408 or send me an email at [volunteer@batiquitosfoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@batiquitosfoundation.org) if you have anything that you'd like to discuss or suggestions to offer. Our future is very bright and I really appreciate your trust and support in serving you as your President!

*... Fred C. Sandquist, President*





## Annual Meeting & Board Elections

By board resolution, the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation Annual Meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 16, 2007**, at 7:30 PM at our Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane, Carlsbad. This meeting is open to the membership and general public. As required by our By-laws, three of our nine board members are up for election/re-election to a three-year term of office. Any member of the Foundation in good standing from at least 30 days prior to the election may run.

This year, we have two incumbents, Don Rideout and Fred Sandquist, who have indicated their intents to seek another term. Board Member Sheila Locko has formally indicated that she will not be seeking re-election and will be leaving the board. If any member is interested in running for the board, please send a brief resume and a statement (e.g., max - short paragraph) as to why you wish to serve on the board to:

Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation  
Board Election  
P.O. Box 130491  
Carlsbad, CA 92013-0491

You may also email your material to: [board@batiquitosfoundation.org](mailto:board@batiquitosfoundation.org)

Board elections ballots will be mailed out in September 2007, so if you intend to run, please get your information in as soon as possible.

Please join us in advance in expressing our sincere thanks to Sheila Locko for her years of dedicated service to the foundation and interests of Batiquitos Lagoon!

### BLF Comments on Ponto EIR

The BLF submitted a letter to the City of Carlsbad commenting on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ponto Beach Front Vision Plan. (A copy of our letter is posted on our website.) The City prepared the plan and the EIR to provide guidelines for development of the Ponto area. Among the features of the proposed development include: realignment of a portion of Carlsbad Boulevard (e.g., Highway 101); hotels; residential neighborhoods; retail commercial areas; and public trails and an educational kiosk. Three alternatives for the road

Ponto Beachfront Village Vision - Conceptual Drawing



realignment are analyzed in the document, with varying levels of impacts. The trails are perhaps the most positive aspects of the plan. One trail will lead to the west side of Carlsbad Boulevard toward the beach. A second trail will skirt the bluff overlooking the lagoon and cross the railroad tracks with a bridge, connecting with trails on the east side of the tracks. Also proposed is a small nature center within the commercial portion of the project.

The BLF comments focused on issues such as protecting water quality and preventing impacts to Least Terns and other sensitive species. Before the Vision Plan and EIR can be finalized and approved, the City must respond to all comments it received and hold public hearings. BLF members will be kept informed of further actions regarding this plan through our newsletter or BLF website.

... Don Rideout

### Monthly bird count at Batiquitos Lagoon

On the first Friday of every month, rain or shine, the BLF conducts a bird count. We are also seeking other volunteers who might be interested in joining the group. Those who are interested meet at 7:30 am at the Nature Center at the end of Gabbiano Lane in Carlsbad. You do not have to be an expert to participate. We carpool to the East parking lot off Batiquitos Drive and walk the level trail on the north shore of the lagoon, about 1.5 miles, recording every bird we see or hear. Expert birder Steve Brad leads the count and shares his knowledge with everyone. If you would like



to know more about identifying birds, this is a great opportunity.

Last Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we saw 50 species and a total of 433 birds in two hours.

This is a small number compared to what you will see in the fall as the bird migration unfolds. The shorebirds are already on their way: we were treated to 20 Black-bellied Plovers in breeding plumage feeding in the mudflats.

Why do we count birds? It helps the BLF monitor the health of the lagoon. On a larger scale, it helps with global research such as the influence of climate change on some species of birds. Most of all, it is plain fun. Bring your interest, enthusiasm, and a pair of binoculars, if you have them, and learn about birding!

... Janine Free, Docent

