

Important Numbers

Nature Center
760-931-0800

Carlsbad City Police
(for trails and surrounding lagoon)
760-931-2197 (business line)
760-937-2115 (watch commander)

Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game
(shoreline or water issues)
858-467-4201 (Regional Office)
888-334-2258 (CALTIPS)

Addresses

Mail
P.O. Box 130491
Carlsbad, CA 92013

E-mail
info@batiquitosfoundation.org

Website
www.batiquitosfoundation.org

Nature Center Location:
7380 Gabbiano Ln., Carlsbad
(not mailing address)

Nature Center Hours:
Wednesday noon - 4 pm
Thursday noon - 4 pm
Friday noon - 4 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm
Sunday 10 am - 2 pm

Board of Directors

Seth Schulberg - President
John Burns - Chairman of the Board
Fred Sandquist - Exec. Vice Pres.
Mona Baumgartel - Sen. Vice Pres.
Rick Ransburg - Treasurer
Sheila Locko - Secretary
Don Connors
Khevin Barnes
John Stires

(new officers - see page 3)

Testing the Waters

Do you know what is in our lagoon? Sure, there are fish, crustaceans, invertebrates, and all sorts of things in our lagoon. But what else? Well, we don't exactly know either. More specifically, we do not know what is in the water that goes into our lagoon. For this reason we are beginning a volunteer water quality monitoring project where we will test the water in the streams that lead into the Batiquitos Lagoon. If you are interested in finding out more about the water quality of our lagoon and want to spend some time outdoors with other eager volunteers, you have a wonderful opportunity to get involved. The only qualification you need is your interest!



The water quality monitoring project is headed up by BLF board member John Stires and has support from the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas. We have active collaborations with faculty members and students from University of California San Diego, California State University San Marcos, and Palomar College. The San Diego Stream Team, the Carlsbad Watershed Network and other local lagoon foundations also support our project. Of course, eager volunteers (like you) are those who will make this project a success. We have quite a team!

Together, we are taking what we call a "watershed approach" to understanding the quality of water entering the Batiquitos Lagoon to collect data that can be used by local, state and federal government agencies and by other groups interested in preserving our precious lagoon. What this means is that we will be testing the water in San Marcos Creek and Encinitas Creek, the two main streams that enter Batiquitos Lagoon, as a means of assessing the health of the lagoon. Using this approach, we will have a greater understanding of what goes into the lagoon, what is in the lagoon, and how we can help preserve our local environment.

Our wonderful volunteers will do the testing some time in late May or June, depending on the timing of the most recent rain. After allowing the streams to settle down after our "rainy season," we will be testing the streams for the presence of certain chemicals (nitrates, phosphates, pH, and some heavy metals). We will also collect some waterborne insects and invertebrates that serve as indicators of stream health. We will learn how to collect, process, and analyze data with the help of qualified San Diego Stream Team members and local college instructors.

Our greatest assets are our volunteers. If you would like to get involved in the water quality monitoring project, just email me, John Stires, at jstires@ucsd.edu or call me at (760) 918-1881. I will be organizing an outing to our local stream testing sites soon.

... John Stires

FACT: The watershed which drains into Batiquitos Lagoon is 55 square miles and includes land east of Interstate-15.

(PNCC - continued from back page)

Your ideas and comments are very important and are invited immediately! Please call Committee Chairman Don Connors at 931-0200 or e-mail at primussys-tems@earthlink.net with your suggestions and offers to work with the committee.

... Don Connors

Officer Elections Held and New Structure Adopted

The Board of Director of the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation approved a new officer structure and elected officers at the February 17th Board meeting. The new officers are:

- Chairman of the Board: John Burns (leads our monthly Board meetings);
- President: Seth Schulberg (overall responsibility for leading the Foundation, focussing on maintaining liaison with our political leaders on key BLF matters)
- Executive Vice President: Fred Sandquist (responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Foundation and strategic planning);
- Senior Vice President: Mona Baumgartel (serves as key advisor to the Chairman of the Board, President and Executive Vice President);
- Treasurer: Rick Ransburg (administers the financial records and is the focal point on financial matters for the Foundation); and
- Secretary: Sheila Locko (administers the official records and is responsible for preparing and maintaining official correspondence for the Foundation).

Our Foundation has made great strides over the past years. As we continue to grow, the Board felt that we were maturing as an organization and have a heavy workload ahead of us. The need become apparent that to continue this growth as an organization, we must divide up the leadership responsibilities, and share oversight and management of key activities. These activities include liaisons with our political leaders, strategic planning, building a sound financial and volunteer base that supports our many projects and activities, encouraging our volunteers to assume more of a role in Foundation business, events and projects, and, foremost, continuing our prime objective of *preserving, protecting and enhancing* Batiquitos Lagoon and the associated watershed.

A key responsibility of all of our new officers is the commitment to *provide leadership, direction and guidance to Foundation officers, standing and advisory committees, staff and volunteers*. Without our volunteers and their involvement in the organization, we will not succeed. We look forward to your support and the opportunity to ratchet up our Foundation to the next level.

... Fred Sandquist

Go Wetlands - Restore Now for Tomorrow Project Update

Our restoration work at Aviara Cove has progressed nicely over the past 6 months of work, thanks to the many volunteers who assisted us in removing invasive plants, and replanting the area with new native plants. The installation of a rope fence to discourage visitors from wandering off-trail will be completed over the next few months. This work was supported by a \$13,123 grant received from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project under their Small Grants Program and administered by the Foundation. Some highlights of our work follow.

- Dec. 5-17 and Jan. 18: teams of volunteers removed and disposed of over two tons of invasive plant material from the project site.
- Feb. 7 and Mar. 6: the project team led volunteers in installing plants at the Aviara Cove restoration site. There were 450 one-gallon plants from the Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. A new 130 gallon portable spot watering system, purchased through the grant, was used and worked well.



When you are in the Aviara Cove area of the North Shore Trail, please take a moment and check out the site improvements. In our next newsletter, we will show an "after restoration" picture.

... Fred Sandquist

Calendar

Lagoon Clean-up—first Saturday of each month; meet at the Nature Center at 9:00 a.m.; bring gloves and water.

Board Meeting—third Tuesday of each month; call for meeting details.

Special Events

- Art Festival - June 27, 10 am - 4 pm (see website for details)
- Dr. Wilderness - Oct. 2004 see colored flier insert

Annual Meeting—October, 2004

Lagoon Access

Batiquitos Lagoon is located in South Carlsbad. Most access points are on the north side of the lagoon off of Batiquitos Drive:

Nature Center—Parking lot and trail access is at the end of Gabbiano Lane (just east of I-5). Be nice to our neighbors: DO NOT block driveways or park in front of mailboxes.

Bella Lago—Parking lot and trail access is off Batiquitos Dr. east of Gabbiano.

Aviara Cove—Parking lot and trail access is on Batiquitos Dr. east of Bella Lago and just west of the Aviara Golf Course.

East Parking Lot—Parking lot and trail access is on Batiquitos Dr. east of the Aviara Clubhouse and Golf Course.

Arenal Road—Off El Camino Real south of Aviara Blvd.; park on the street.

Volunteer Highlights

The expanding volunteer activities at Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation have been going smoothly, thanks to our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbara Farley. Many people find that they want to volunteer because the work is fulfilling: it satisfies needs to be involved, to continue learning about new and different things, and to work for particular goals. But all the individual efforts have to be pointed in a direction that's useful for the organization.

Barbara joined the BLF several years ago. Her background is as a research biochemist (in NY and CA), but she didn't want to quit participating and learning when she retired, so she volunteers now at the BLF (and other places, too). Further, she took on the formidable challenge of making the BLF's various volunteer efforts work together. We are very lucky to have such a patient and organized person on our team!

... *Mona Baumgartel*

Permanent Nature Center Committee (PNCC)

Have you noticed? Our continuing success is forcing us out of our living space. The present nature center is approaching the infamous traffic 'gridlock'. We have acquired so many new exhibits, activities, members, volunteers and visitors that we are hard-pressed to find room for them in the present 12 x 40 foot trailer. The recent Volunteer Training Course proved that we are bursting at the seams.

The City of Carlsbad Conditional Use Permit (Jan. '04) to temporarily operate the Nature Center at the present location has decreed that we find a permanent site and construct a Permanent Nature Center within a comparatively short time for such an ambitious project.

The all-volunteer PNCC has met twice in the past three months to begin to develop a plan to identify potential sites, functional space needs, funding sources, public relations, safety and security and management procedures. The dedication and creativity of committee members is evidence that the Foundation can meet and surpass these challenges. Comments and suggestions from members and interested citizens are vital to the success of this major project.

(continued on p. 2 - see **PNCC**)



BATIQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

A public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Batiquitos Lagoon

P.O. Box 130491, Carlsbad, CA 92013 Phone: (760) 931-0800

<http://www.batiquitosfoundation.org>

SPRING 2004

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Membership

Membership in Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation is a great way to support our efforts to maintain and improve this beautiful natural resource.

Annual memberships are available in the following categories:

Student/Sr Citizen	\$10
Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Sponsor	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$250



REMINDER TO MEMBERS:
Check the expiration date on your mailing label to find out when you need to renew your membership.

BLF '04 Volunteer Training Program is Again a Success!



Those Presentations!

We had many Foundation subject area specialists and outside experts participate in the various sessions. Topics ranged from geology and wildlife to interacting with the public and understanding the challenges facing an urban lagoon. The diversity of our topics and trail walks contributed to the success of our program, and high marks were received in our student evaluations.

At graduation, students were asked to complete a Volunteer Interest Survey to assist us in helping our students match their interests with the needs of our Foundation.

We had 14 volunteers complete all sessions and formally graduate on March 27th. Since then, our total has reached 18, with others nearing completion.

The Honorable Ramona Finnila, Mayor Pro Tem, City Council Member Mark Packard, and Sue Irely, Community Volunteer Coordinator from the City of Carlsbad spoke at the graduation ceremony and reinforced the important role that volunteers play in making our City a better place to live. From our Foundation's perspective, our volunteers are essential and what makes our organization work. Our 2004 program was our second consecutive formal training event, and plans are already in the works for our 2005 sequence. This is one of most important sources of new volunteers and absolutely critical to sustaining our many programs and activities. If you are interested in helping to train our volunteers, please contact one of our hosts at our Nature Center at (760) 931-0800, and someone will contact you.

... *Fred Sandquist*



On The Trail!

Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
P.O. Box 130491
Carlsbad, CA 92013
(760) 931-0800

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From the President's Desk . . .

Location is Everything

As I gaze fondly over the newly signed, recently painted and bedecked Nature Center I am struck by the old real estate adage describing the three factors that affect property value, location, location, location. How ironic that the BLF Nature Center is sandwiched between a sewage pump-station and a desiltation basin. Adding to the irony, the **desiltation basin** is one of the better locations for observing birds around the lagoon. Red-winged Blackbirds are always present, and Mallards are common visitors especially in Spring, when they raise their young and go paddling in line astern through the cattails. No wonder volunteers and visitors alike are aghast when they hear the basin is going to be cleaned out and the reeds removed.

It is important to remember that the desiltation basin is a pollution control device and not natural habitat. Sediment, better known as dirt, is the single greatest threat to the health of coastal lagoons. Sediment or dirt flows downhill with rain and urban runoff and literally fills in our lagoons. In the natural order of things, or succession, old lagoons fill up with sediment and become grassy meadows, while un-dammed rivers carve out new lagoons. In the human dominated environment where all rivers are dammed and property values for dry land are high it is unlikely that we will see rivers carving out new lagoons in Southern California anytime soon. Since we are not going to allow mother nature to create new lagoons we had best protect the existing ones.

A desiltation basin is nothing more than a sand trap or holding basin. Water flows downhill or down the stormdrain picking up sand, silt and dirt as it goes. Left untreated this sediment load goes directly into the lagoon and threatens its future. Luckily desiltation basins have been built at Batiquitos and at many other locations around the City. Urban runoff and rain flow downhill and is collected in the desiltation basin. The sediment settles to the bottom in the calm waters of the basin and when enough water accumulates it overflows into a standpipe and discharges to the lagoon. In summary dirt sinks to the bottom and remains in the basin while water flows off the top of the basin into the lagoon. The dirt that collects in the basin forms the substrate that the reeds and willows grow, which in turn provides home for the birds. However, eventually the dirt and reeds will fill up the basin preventing it from collecting runoff thus defeating its purpose.

In order to prevent this, desiltation basins must be periodically cleaned out. The plant material is cut and the dirt excavated with a bulldozer. The cleanout temporarily displaces the birds that use the basin but luckily they have the entire Batiquitos Lagoon ecosystem to relocate into. The cleanout is timed for before or after the nesting season so that Rites of Spring impacts are avoided. I encourage visitors not to mourn the temporary displacement of the birds but to applaud the City's efforts to protect the natural habitat of our wetland jewel. Visitors can also take comfort that as long as water runs downhill the basin will refill with dirt, the birds will return, and the cycle will be repeated. But in the meantime, dirt destined for the lagoon has been detoured to a better place.

. . . Seth Schulberg

The Coastal Act, Local Coastal Plans and Farmworkers

Since 1985 the California Coastal Act has contained wording that allowed for conversion of agricultural lands to commercial or residential development provided a fee was paid to the state. The fees raised were to benefit natural resources through acquisition and enhancement, with 50% of the fees collected in Carlsbad, ear-marked to benefit Batiquitos Lagoon. Since 1996 the City of Carlsbad has had a Local Coastal Program that by law must be consistent with the state coastal act, some of the wording is different but the intent is the same, to benefit natural resources, in recognition that agriculture in the city is not a long-term land use.

Recently the City has taken steps to amend the Local Coastal Program to permit funds previously collected to benefit natural resources to be used to build farmworker housing. The BLF does not believe this is an appropriate use of the funds. We strongly support construction of farmworker housing. If you work in Carlsbad, you should not have to live in a cardboard shanty. However we believe that other sources of funding should be used. There are other state programs set up specifically to fund farm worker housing and we believe the City or the concerned citizenry should apply to those sources.

(. . . continued on other side: see LCP)





From the Desk of the Executive Vice President . . .

Foundation Improvement Nuggets

When reflecting on the progress that the Foundation has made over the past twelve months and directly observing our many volunteers engaged in their various activities that *Preserve, Protect and Enhance* our watershed, I am truly humbled! Everyday, it is apparent that someone has stepped up to the plate and is working on improvements. Our new volunteers who have joined our ranks following completion of our 2004 BLF Volunteer Training Program are no exception and are actively finding a place where our needs match their interests. I thought that it would be appropriate to highlight some key activities each issue and recognize their significance to our Foundation.

One of the more apparent improvements is our Nature Center and associated operation. From our sign and metal animals by Paul Weber and logo made by Don Connors and painted by Melody Burns, to the work by Russ Whitman and his volunteers in reorganizing our interior displays and other items, we now have a very professional place that we can call home. While still temporary, we are looking to the future and a new permanent Nature Center through the effort lead by Don Connors. While at least five or more years will be required to make it happen, I have no doubt that we will succeed.

Some Nature Center (NC) highlights include:

- Repainting of the exterior;
- Repair and refinishing of our ramp (more work to be done!);
- Replacement of our interior rug;
- Temporary repair of our roof;
- Replacement of our front door;
- Installation of a native plant garden;
- Installation of an asphalt walkway by the City of Carlsbad;
- An upgrade to our plumbing system;
- A temporary Conditional Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit (CUP/CDP) that allows us to operate our NC;
- A formal agreement with Aviara Master Association that allows us to house our Nature Center on their property;
- A new card rack to display greeting cards that are now available for a small donation;
- A refurbished kiosk with regular updates of educational display information; and MUCH MORE!



(Note the beautiful redwood sign plus new blue-background Foundation logo by Paul Weber and Melody Burns, respectively . Thanks for this truly distinctive identification banner!)

As a result of Barbara Farley's knack for scheduling, our Nature Center hours are now quite regular, with hosts available to answer questions and provide information to the public. We have seen a significant jump in the number of visitors who stop by. Barbara is also serving as the focal point for scheduling our events and getting volunteers to help out. Her husband, Tom, is also actively involved and supports many of our computer-based activities. Well done, to Tom and Barbara!

To all of our volunteers who worked so hard to make these improvements and continue to serve, our very special thanks!

. . . Fred Sandquist



(LCP: continued from other side)

Money ear-marked for habitat acquisition and enhancement should be used for just that, preserved natural habitat is a permanent long-term beneficial land use. The same cannot be said for agriculture in the City which has been a diminishing land use for the past 30 years. In fact there is only one tenant farmer operating in the city today. The BLF is in the process of contacting the California Coastal Commission and the Carlsbad City Council in an effort to find a solution that benefits the environment and helps the farmworkers. There is funding to satisfy both needs, and the Foundation is dedicated to protecting both resource and human values. Stay tuned for updates!

. . . Seth Schulberg

