

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
member@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 - Senior Vice Pres.
Rick Ransburg - Treasurer
Sheila Locko - Secretary
Don Connors
Khevin Barnes
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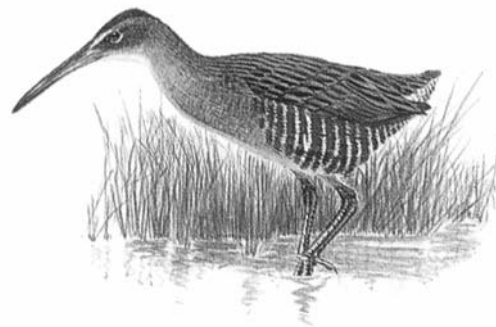
Clapper Rails

Clapper Rails are highly secretive birds that forage and build nests in the reeds and, especially, cordgrass of coastal salt marshes. They are more frequently heard than seen. The call (often described as *kek-kek-kek*) sounds somewhat like clapping, hence the name. The Clapper Rails in California are a threatened subspecies called "Light-footed."

Before the dredging at Batiquitos Lagoon, there were no Clapper Rails recorded there. There also was also no cordgrass (Clapper Rail habitat). But cordgrass now covers much of the mudflats, much having been deliberately planted there. Cordgrass usually grows in these areas which are sometimes dry and sometimes inundated, thanks now to the regular tidal flow. In the past few years, a small number of Clapper Rail pairs has been found during the breeding season at Batiquitos Lagoon (1 pair in 2000, 3 pairs in 2001 and 2002, 5 pairs in 2003).

In addition, in early June, eight individuals produced by the captive breeding program at Chula Vista Nature Center were released into the northeast corner of the lagoon. Seven were females, and one was a male. Whether those eight have survived is not known. They are banded: yellow band on the left leg, and silver on the right. If you are lucky enough to see one, be sure to report it to me through the website.

... *Mona Baumgartel*



2005 Volunteer Training Program

The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation will again be offering our Volunteer Training Program to potential volunteers. Our 2005 program will run from January 29th through March 26th, 2005. This training opportunity will provide trainees with an overview of the Batiquitos Lagoon and the many aspects associated with *Preserving, Protecting, and Enhancing* this treasure. Over the years, this program has resulted in a significant increase to our volunteer ranks – a critical success factor for any volunteer-based organization like ours. We envision that our success will continue and that we will again have another large graduating class, increasing our pool of volunteers. For further information, visit our website or stop by our Nature Center and pick up a brochure.

Trail Award

The September copy of *North*, San Diego County Magazine featured a Readers Survey of the "Best of North County". Among all the winners in retail, services, dining and places to go was our Batiquitos Lagoon as the **Best hiking path!!!** Thanks to all the volunteers who made this award possible. Would you like to join the winning team and make the trail even better? Call the Nature Center for more information about participating.

... *Don Connors*

Riparian Habitat

Back in the day, my friend Tim, an unreconstructed mid-westerner, and I, a reformed New Yorker, used to tramp the hills, valleys and lagoons of San Diego County as we sought to expose our children to the wonders of nature. Tim would often wonder what the place looked like before people cut down all the trees. In his mind he saw clear-cut timber harvesting as the shaping agent of the landscape we see today. Back then I was more concerned with losing kids than understanding the landscape. Today, New York is all but forgotten, the kids are grown and I can see the hillside for the absence of trees.

The single most important factor shaping the flora of Southern California is water, or more precisely the lack there of. What happens to the precious rain that occasionally graces us? Some runs off the land into creeks, streams and lagoons, on the way to the ocean, where it will evaporate and return to the atmosphere. Some will be absorbed by the soil and some will percolate through the soil to underground aquifers. Only the water absorbed in the soil is available to the thirsting plant roots.

The bigger the plant the more water it needs. In simplest terms grasses need less water than shrubs, which need less water than trees. Given this simple truth it makes sense that we will only find trees where we have the most water, along the banks of the intermittent creeks and streams that drain our Southern California watersheds. The dominant vegetation seen on our hillsides and meadows are grasslands, chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Why? Because water runs off our hillsides to rapidly to be absorbed, our rocky soils allows for rapid percolation that draws the water down below root depths and because our high temperatures evaporate what little water is absorbed into the soil. All these factors make Southern California a challenge for plants and a chore for trees.

But if you look in the drainage swales between hillsides and along the banks of streams like Encinitas Creek that borders El Camino Real, South of La Costa Avenue, we can willows, sycamores, cottonwoods and occasional live oaks that are our native trees. Trees grow in there because these areas collect and concentrate what little rain falls here and channel water down from higher moister elevations. Willows are the first to take root. They can only germinate in the bare mineral soils created when floods strip away the organic soil layer from river beds. Willow growth results in an accumulation of organic soils which support cottonwoods and sycamores and ironically limits growth of new willows. Eventually this succession creates a narrow ribbon of riparian vegetation along our creeks and stream beds.

Our dry native hillsides never supported trees. They were covered by shrubs and bushes like toyon, lemonade berry, coyote brush, and California sagebrush. The hillsides west of El Camino Real behind the La Costa Glen Retirement Community or on the south side of La Costa Avenue between I-5 and El Camino Real still display this native flora. Man did come and clear the brush to make way for farmland, which has since been replaced by grassland, but we can't be blamed for the lack of trees. Blame the lack of water for that.

People do like trees and it was people that figured out that the eucalyptus trees, an Australian import, could tolerate Southern California's dry climate. For proof of that look no further than the north side of Batiquitos Lagoon and the eucalyptus woodlands that grace the Aviara community. Tune in to future newsletters to learn about the pros and cons of non-native flora.

... *Seth Schulberg*

It's Official!

The Annual Meeting of the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation was conducted on Sunday, October 24th. Congratulations are in order for Khevin Barnes, Fred Sandquist, and John Stires who were re-elected to three-year terms as board members.

Calendar

Regular Events

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

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.

Saga of the Fallen Egret

Someone notified our Nature Center of an egret chick that had fallen out of the nest (last August). Pat Leahy called me. When I called Project Wildlife (PW), they had no transporters available. So I grabbed a beach towel and a small towel. PW warned me to protect my eyes.

At the rookery I started hunting. Spiders everywhere. I flapped the small towel. Gouged my arm on a branch in the process. Forging on, I finally spotted the egret from about 15 feet away. Several branches that I could not bend blocked the way. I could not carry the poor thing out by myself.

I went out to the trail and sat on the bench and called PW again. She took my number and promised to call back. A lady walking by offered to help so off we went, flapping at spiders. After we ducked under those branches, the bird tried to fly. Because of an injured leg it could not push off. I threw the big towel over it and caught the bill with the small towel. My new friend, Jeanne, controlled the wings and wrapped the body.

We ducked and passed the bird and shared carrying. She had to stop once to brush 2 spiders off her shoulder. Great lady. We put the young egret in my car, and I drove to the Animal Shelter where PW has a trailer.

The young man there thought that it was a Snowy. He had a Snowy the week before. This was a Great Egret. When he brought the towel back, he reported that it was dehydrated and had parasites besides the injured leg. Egrets and Herons have a hard time standing on one leg.

I hope our egret will be OK but PW is too busy with rescues to call me.

...The intrepid, Cecile Wadley



BATIQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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

Go Wetlands – Restore Now for Tomorrow Final Planting

On November 6th, a team of 31 volunteers completed the final restorative planting of native plants in the Aviara Cove area of the North Shore Trail. Mike Kelly, our Restoration Specialist (first kneeling on the left) and Fred Sandquist (taking the picture!) lead this work activity on our regular *First Saturday* monthly volunteer restoration and trail maintenance day. A special thanks to Aviara Master Association for providing watering hose and access to their irrigation system for plant watering.



The team planted approximately 230 plants out of an order of 330 purchased from the Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. This nursery specializes in growing native California trees and plants for landscaping and restoration projects in the Los Angeles and Southern California areas. The remaining plants will be installed at other areas along the North Shore Trail in the coming weeks.

The plants materials were purchases under a California Coastal Conservancy Wetlands Recovery Project's Small Grant awarded to our Foundation. The plant palette list is summarized below.

Coastal Sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>)	100
Lemonadeberry (<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>)	75
California Buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>)	50
Bladderpod (<i>Isomeris arborea</i>)	15
Bush Sunflower (<i>Encelia californica</i>)	25
Toyon (<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>)	5
Coyote Brush (<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>)	25
Coastal Mailija Poppy (<i>Romneya trichocalyx</i>)	21
Giant Wild Rye (<i>Leymus condensatus</i>)	10
Laurel Sumac (<i>Malosma laurina</i>)	11
Coastal Goldenbush (<i>Isocoma menziesii</i>)	35

This time of year is ideal for planting as it is the beginning of our wet season, giving our new plants the water they will need to become established. Mike Kelly estimated that our plant survival rate for last year's planting at between 75% and 80%!

With the planting of the remaining plants, we will be wrapping up our small grant project. We thank all of our volunteers who supported our restoration work at Aviara Cove!

... Fred Sandquist

WINTER 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.

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Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
P.O. Box 130491
Carlsbad, CA 92013



From the Desk of the Executive Vice President . . .

Foundation Tidbits

Time really flies when you're having fun! That seems to be a common occurrence with me and many of our volunteers lately. I continue to be amazed at how many folks have stepped up to the plate and become involved in our many programs and projects this past year. Without this involved group, our Foundation would not be able to continue to prosper and make an impact in *preserving, protecting, and enhancing* the Batiqitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve and associated watershed. Please join me in thanking our volunteer corps for their faithful and untiring support!

During our annual meeting this year, I summarized many of our foundation's accomplishments and recognized a number of volunteers who went well beyond what would be normally expected. A copy of this report is included in this newsletter. Our coming year looks very bright. I'd like to highlight a few of these items for you.

The first concerns our financial situation. Our cost control measures have enabled us to maintain financial health and we project that to continue. Since we don't receive regular operational financial support and must rely on our memberships and private donations, we are conducting a Holiday Donation Drive. Please take a few minutes and review material on this drive later in this newsletter. We also plan to have a fund-raising event in the spring of 2005 that we hope will provide significant support for our operations, programs, and projects.

Second, we're excited to be able to offer another volunteer training class beginning January 29, 2005. Joyce Page and Russ Whitman are co-chairing the planning committee. If interested, please look over the article in this newsletter and make your reservation quickly. We are limiting the class to the first 25 people who register. Last year, we sold out within two days, so don't delay!

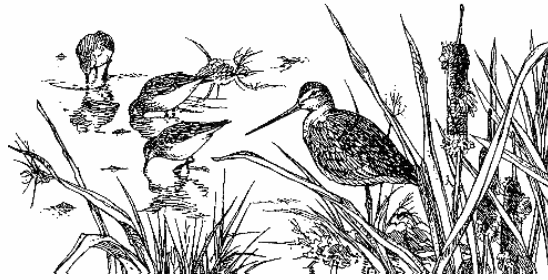
Thirdly, we are working with four Eagle Scout projects. Two, installation of our new interpretative nature trail guide posts and the first stage in adding a bird observation platform along the eastern end of the north shore trail, have been completed. The other two projects involve: installation of bat houses to help expand our bat colonies and control our mosquito population, including helping to prevent the spread of the West Nile virus; and installation of rope fencing along portions of our trail system to control off-trail excursions into the wetland and adjacent riparian and coastal sage habitat: Eagle Scout Candidate Tim Satterstrom will be installing a rope fence in a portion of the North Shore Trail near the Four Seasons Golf Course in December. This fence is to control off-trail excursions into the wetlands and should be completed before Christmas. During 2005, we expect to install more rope fence to better protect the wetland, riparian and coastal sage habitats.

Finally, we expect to be able to report to you significant progress in our planning for a permanent nature center.

On behalf of the BLF, I wish to extend to all of you a most joyous holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

*. . .Fred C. Sandquist
Executive Vice President and Board Member*





A Special Thanks to Many Our Volunteers

As with any non-profit organization, volunteers play a significant role in our day-to-day operations, activities, and events. The BLF is no exception! If we were to mention everyone who gave up some of their valuable time to support our foundation, we would need to publish a book! We would, however, like to recognize a few who really “stepped up to the plate” and went far beyond what would normally be expected this year in terms of leadership, taking on responsibility for some of our key activities or doing something significant for the foundation:

Sharon Anthony – for her wonderful nature photographs and cards for sale and display at our Nature Center.

Dave Dyer – for his strong support of our educational programs, a key docent, and always being willing to help out when needed.

Karen Ebersol – for working so hard and almost succeeding in a nature festival and arts fair along the lagoon trail, making cards for sale at the Nature Center, leadership in planning for our future fundraising events, and for her very creative work on many of our displays.

Barbara Farley – for her leadership and untiring work in scheduling hosts to staff our Nature Center and getting volunteers for our various events.

Mike Kelly – for serving as our Habitat Restoration Specialist on our Aviara Cove Restoration Grant Project, and for speaking at our Volunteer Training Programs.

Paula Kirpalani – for her membership, fundraising, and administrative leadership, as well as being a regular Nature Center host.

Joan Lubowe – for leading our children’s educational program and docent support, and for her geology presentations.

Mary Ellen Marguard - prepares and updates our main Nature Center kiosk display on a regular basis.

Joyce Page - lead our successful 2004 club pelican (90 children this year) and for co-chairing our 2005 volunteer training program.

Cecile Wadley – for taking the lead in coordinating our public education program during the absence of Liz Paegel, and for being one of our key docents.

Paul Weber – for creating an art work to serve as a donation jar for our nature center, and for ongoing art work support for the foundation.

Russ Whitman – for his leadership in keeping our Nature Center going and co-chairing of our 2005 volunteer training program with Joyce, and many other volunteer activities to many to list.

Dick Wilkins – for giving many talks on bats for our volunteer training classes and public walks.

Thanks for your continued support! Well Done!

