



# BATIQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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

## SUMMER 2006

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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

### **Record Weed-whacking Event A Success!**

On Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, over 200 employees from Invitrogen did invasive plant removal work as part of their *Global Volunteer Day* at Batiquitos Lagoon. An example of a true community partnership between Invitrogen (provided work-power and supported purchase of tools and supplies), Waste Management (provided dumpsters and hauling/disposal services), Four Seasons Resort – Aviara (provided landscape vehicle and trailer), and the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (planned and managed the event), over four tons of invasive plants were removed. This represented the largest single *weed-whacking* event that the BLF has ever conducted.



#### **Invitrogen Workers**

Volunteers focused on the removal of invasive plants such as Black Mustard (actually yellow in spring when in bloom), Fennel, Wild Radish, Castor Bean, Tamarisk, and Russian Thistle (Tumbleweed). BLF leaders for the event included Jim and Joan Sanseverino, Patti Gollong, Don Connors, Don Rideout, Fred Sandquist, and two high school volunteers for the summer – Kristin Carr (Leucadia) and Vlad Tsyrtleuch (San Diego).

As a result of our success, the Carlsbad Watershed Network (CWN) recognized the BLF and our partners at a ceremony held at the I-5/La Costa Avenue Park 'N Ride on July 21<sup>st</sup> with a 2006 *Weed Warrior* Award.

This is the second time that employees from Invitrogen have chosen Batiquitos Lagoon as one of their work sites. Hopefully, this will become an annual event. We want to thank all who gave their time to improve the lagoon environment for our community!



**CWN 2006 Weed Warrior Award Recipients**

### **Volunteer Spotlight**



**Volunteer Sharon Anthony**

Sharon Anthony has been working extremely hard this year creating our *Birds of Batiquitos Lagoon 2007* Calendar. Spending many long hours at the Lagoon, she has created an incredible portfolio of bird photographs. One often wonders how she is able create the scenes and get the birds to appear to cooperate with her! Our first calendar fundraiser is expected to bring in a large portion of our operating funds in support of our many BLF projects, educational programs, and routine administrative and maintenance expenses.

She has recently given a series of very well attended and successful public walks and talks, focused on the wonderful and varied birds that inhabit our Lagoon. Her presentations also included very valuable tips on how to take bird photographs, where to find the various bird species, and when to view them.

Please join us in recognizing Sharon for her very valuable contributions that she has made for the BLF!

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

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

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## 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

**Website**  
www.batiquitosfoundation.org

**E-mail**  
info@batiquitosfoundation.org  
member@batiquitosfoundation.org  
volunteer@batiquitosfoundation.org

**Nature Center Location:**  
7380 Gabbiano Ln., Carlsbad  
(not BLF's 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

Fred Sandquist - President  
Dave Robertson - Vice-president  
Rick Ransburg - Treasurer  
Sheila Locko - Secretary  
Don Connors  
Paula Kirpalani  
Steve Norton  
Seth Schulberg  
Gary Wayne

## North Batiquitos Interceptor Sewer & Access Road Improvements (Carlsbad City Project CP 3538)

As many of you are well aware when walking along the North Shore Trail, you may experience sewer odors, especially around the many manholes. This smell is associated with a City of Carlsbad sewer system that extends from El Camino Real in the east through to the lift station just east of our Nature Center. The lift station then pumps the sewage through a piping system under I-5 to the sewage processing complex to the west of I-5. The improvements to the lift station have already begun.

Last year, many of you saw the results of a City contractor who conducted an inspection of the system during the wee hours of the morning over a number of months. As a result of this inspection, it was determined that the sewer system and many manhole risers were in bad shape and needed repair. Another problem that surfaced was the fact that access to the system along the trail was very limited in some areas. The Foundation was contacted by the City and worked with Aviara Master Association and Four Seasons to plan for the repair work and to ensure that the project was done to minimize impacts on the lagoon.

As a result of our involvement, we feel that the work to be done will, in fact, benefit the habitat and trail system. The project will: reinstate a trail that has grown over near the Four Seasons Golf Course; add an observation deck near the golf course that was previously built by an Eagle Scout but not installed; improve trail access for maintenance vehicles while minimizing impacts to habitat and trails; and restore areas along the trail that were damaged last year during the inspection process, including planting of native plants.

Mark Biskup, Associate Engineer for the City of Carlsbad, has indicated that 40 existing manholes between Gabbiano Lane and Columbine Drive will be upgraded. The two figures above depict the project area. Work is expected to begin shortly, with the placement of survey markers along the North Shore Trail. For more information, you can view project information at our Nature Center.

## Unique Kayak Event and *I Love a Clean San Diego* Cleanup

On September 16th, Guided Adventures in Nature (GAIN) will sponsor a kayak cleanup of Batiquitos Lagoon--with all proceeds of this paid adventure going to the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation. Kayakers will go out in groups of ten boats and will be directed and guided to specific areas by GAIN personnel. The California Department of Fish and Game has approved this onetime cleanup event using kayaks.



### Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve

This event will allow cleanup of debris from the shoreline areas of the lagoon without damaging the very fragile wetland habitat. Kayakers will sign up for two hour time slots at \$20 per person and will be led by GAIN professional guides to areas needing work. Reservations are on a first-come-first-served basis. The contact person is for the event is Carol Evans, who can be reached at 760-434-0487.

First launch will be at 8:00 AM from the Park 'N Ride lot on the southwest side of the lagoon near the intersection of I-5 and La Costa Avenue. A new group will be launched every two hours until 4:00 PM.

An *I Love a Clean San Diego* cleanup will also be held at the same time, with Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve being one of the sites. Come out and join us in this unique event that will help clean up the lagoon.



## Key Dates – Mark Your Calendars

Some key dates that you should be aware of and mark down in your calendars are:

- Regular BLF Board of Director's meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30 PM at our Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane, Carlsbad, California, 92011. Foundation members and the general public are welcome to attend.
- Our Volunteer Recognition event to recognize the outstanding work done by our many volunteers will be held Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. See separate article below.
- The BLF Annual Meeting will be held at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at our Nature Center. Three Board Members will be elected/re-elected at this meeting. Board of Director Election ballots will be mailed out in September. If interested in running for a board position, please submit a brief bio including a statement as to why you are interested in running and highlight what you feel you would bring to our board, if elected. Remember that to run, you must be a member of the BLF in good standing as of 30 days prior to the election (September 15, 2006) and be a resident of San Diego County. Send your information to: Nominating Committee, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation, P.O. Box 130491, Carlsbad, CA 92013-0491.
- Our second annual *Natures Magic Extravaganza* fall fund-raiser, featuring a Dr. Wilderness Magic Show, will be held at the Windmill Banquet and Catering Facility on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. See separate article below.
- Our eight week 2007 Volunteer Training Program Class will begin Saturday, January 27, 2007 and run through March 3rd. More information will be provided in our Fall Newsletter.

## Volunteer Recognition to be Held on September 17<sup>th</sup>



Some of Our Many Volunteers

The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation's first volunteer recognition event will be held on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Nature Center from 3 – 5 pm. Light refreshments will be provided by the Board. BLF members and the general public are welcome to attend. Mark your calendars! BLF is a totally volunteer-supported organization, and volunteers do a wide variety of very important work for our foundation. These tasks include: leading public walks; hosting the Nature Center five days a week; membership database management; newsletter editing and distribution; monitoring birds; water quality monitoring; trail maintenance; fundraising; and public relations, including working with San Diego County, the City of Carlsbad, and the local media. And let's not forget that the members of the BLF Board of Directors are also volunteers, who give their time more on a "behind the scenes" basis but are important for the leadership and the success of the BLF.

## Second Annual *Nature's Magic Extravaganza* Fall Fundraiser

A reminder, mark your calendars for our *Second Annual Natures Magic Extravaganza* fundraiser! It is scheduled to be held Sunday, November 12, 2006 from 1 to 5 PM at the Windmill in Carlsbad. Khevin Barnes has again signed on to present his Emmy Award-winning *Dr. Wilderness Magic Show*. We will also be providing attendees with information on some of our key programs and projects. We also expect to be joined by representatives from our sister lagoon foundations, Agua Hedionda and Buena Vista, and share with you some exciting joint projects that we're working under our new *Carlsbad Lagoons and Wetlands (CLAW)* collaborative partnership. More detailed information on our event will be provided in the fall, with tickets going on sale in October. Please plan on joining us again for this fun family-oriented event.

## Calendar

**Lagoon Clean-up**—kayak cleanup Sept. 16. Also *I Love A Clean San Diego* cleanup (see ILACSD.org)

**Board Meeting**—third Tuesday of each month; call for meeting details. See "Key Dates"

**Annual Meeting**—October, 2006. See "Key Dates"

»See the monthly events calendar on our website

## 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.



## From the Desk of the President ...

The summer months traditionally tend to be a less intense time of year. This year, however, it has been a very active period for the BLF! We succeeded in getting a \$50,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy (see article below), hosted the largest invasive plant removal and trail maintenance event ever (see front-page article), we successfully recruited sponsors and printed our *Birds of Batiquitos Lagoon 2007* fund-raiser calendar, hosted the best-ever Club Pelican day camp (article to be included in our Fall Newsletter), made significant progress in completing the North Shore Trail through to El Camino Real, made significant improvement to the North Shore Trail [e.g., added more rope fence, added a bridge over a wet area for fishermen (improved safety and wetland protection)], hosted a record number of school children in our environmental education program, had record number of attendees at our monthly public walks and talks, and many more.

Our volunteers have done an incredible job in making all this happen. As a result, the BLF Board is hosting a *Volunteer Recognition* event on September 12<sup>th</sup> to show our appreciation and recognize their achievement.

Dave Robertson (Chair), Don Connors, Steve Norton, and I are in the process of developing the first BLF Strategic Plan. This plan is being created to document our mission, goals, and objectives in *current year*, *three year* and *five year* segments. The idea is to *keep it simple* while providing us with direction and a roadmap for getting there. When finished and accepted by your Board, we will be sharing it with you. It is designed to be a *living* and dynamic document, regularly reviewed and updated. I want to thank Dave for taking on this very important task for the Foundation!

A special thanks goes out to Sharon Anthony who made our *Birds of Batiquitos Lagoon* calendar fund-raiser possible! Remember to buy calendars! They make great gifts and each one support the Foundation. Well done, Sharon and thanks for all your work.

I also want to thank Joan Lubowe and the many docents who supported her in making our school children's environmental education program such a success this year! This program is important and serves as a very valuable asset for our local schools and youth organizations.

While we have achieved a lot and have a lot to celebrate, we also experienced a very sad event – the passing of one of our valued volunteers and much appreciated creative artist – Karen Ebersol. She remains in our thoughts and will be remembered for all of her tireless efforts supporting Batiquitos Lagoon.

As always, feel free to contact me at (760) 918-2408 or send me an email at [volunteer@batiquitosafoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@batiquitosafoundation.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 Sandquist

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## BLF Receives Grant for Pre-acquisition Activities

On June 30, Deborah Ruddock, Program Manager for the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project, notified us that the California Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors had approved our request for pre-acquisition funding support in the amount of \$50,000! This grant will enable the BLF to conduct pre-action work to take advantage of various land acquisition and open space/conservation/trail easement opportunities that we are working on. The funds will also support the work of Ann Van Leer, Principal Broker, Land Conservation Brokerage, who is now serving as our Client/Broker for real estate matters. We are currently working with Deborah to finalize our contract agreement and expect to be able to get the funds in the near future. This funding is going to help us complete our trail system to the east and protect the wetland, riparian, and coastal sage habitats.

Thanks to a very thoughtful donation from BLF Member and volunteer Carolyn Funes, we were able to bring Ann Van Leer on board in March 2006. Ann, Don Connors, and Megan Johnson (Southern California Wetland Recovery Project Manager) significantly helped us get this pre-acquisition funding. The result of their work has really advanced our ability to complete our trail system, and *preserve, protect and enhance* our Lagoon



Our Trail Vision





## PERMANENT NATURE CENTER DESIGN MOVES FORWARD

Nine student design teams from the San Diego New School of Architecture presented their concepts for a Permanent BLF Nature Center to judges BLF President Fred Sandquist and Board Member Don Connors and two other architecture and sustainable design professionals on 10 June 2006. The winning team goes to the national competition.

Led by Laurie Fisher, Instructor and Associate Architect, the teams used great imagination and design concepts to express their thoughts on a proposed elevated site at the east end of the lagoon. They incorporated “green build” ideas for site weather, sunlight, people movement, visual impacts, solar energy, access, parking, colors, functionality, and visitor appeal. All judges were very impressed by the scope, skill, and imagination of the students.

The accidental destruction of most of the entry models the day before the judging left a temporary cloud of depression over the student groups. However, several of the models were saved, and it is planned to display them at the Nature Center when they become available. Students at the La Costa Canyon High School are conducting a meteorological study of a proposed site climatology by gathering information on wind direction, speed, dates, times, and other site conditions.

While the presentations may not resemble the final design, the idea of calling for local citizen participation in the development of the permanent nature center is gathering great interest. Our permanent nature center will be a vibrant attraction for local, regional, national and international visitors to learn and understand our lagoon and surrounding environment and to experience the environmental past, present and future. Our motto could be “Everything is Teachable.”

Please relay **YOUR** design ideas to Don Connors, (760) 931-0200 or [primussystems@earthlink.net](mailto:primussystems@earthlink.net).

... *Don Connors*



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## Least Terns

One of the joys of summer is to see and experience the Least Tern colonies. These tiny birds come to Batiquitos Lagoon from Central and South America to set up reproductive housekeeping.. The adults court, makes their nests, lay and hatch their eggs, and raise their chicks, all the time foraging and diving for fish; the new chicks learn how to fly and feed themselves and then later in the summer, like other teenagers, leave the adults and “hang out” with each other; finally, the adults and juveniles fly back south. All this happens between about the middle of May and late August or early September, during which time, there are hundreds of Least Terns at the lagoon, twittering, chucking, and chirping constantly.

Least Terns make scrape nests in the sand near other nests: that is, they are colonial nesters. That way, the adults can all gang up to drive off potential invaders. That’s one of the things that makes these colonies fun to watch: these little but ferocious birds fly up as a group to protect the colony from much bigger birds—by chasing the invaders away or by dive-bombing them.

Since they’re so small, you have to get up as close as possible and to look carefully to see them. Look carefully above the nesting areas to see clouds of tiny white birds. Look again later in the summer when the first batch of youngsters (“teenagers”) gathers late in the day to spend the night as a group.

Watch them fly, and you will see why they are called the “butterflies of the sky .” This name refers to how much wing they have for their small bodies: they are about 9” long with a 20” wingspan, that is, compared to other birds, they have smaller bodies but much longer wings for a more bouyant flight.

Since these birds have become endangered because of the lack of safe and appropriate nesting habitat in California, provision of such habitat for these birds was a goal of the 1994-1997 Batiquitos Lagoon Enhancement Project. At Batiquitos Lagoon, there are five specially-protected nesting sites for Least Terns (and also for the small shorebirds, Snowy Plovers). The terns face many dangers, even on these special sites, and many of the dangers are made worse by human activities, such as getting around the fences, putting out food for the wildlife, and unleashed dogs.

Every summer, a Least Tern monitoring program is conducted to keep track of nests and chicks at the nesting sites of Batiquitos Lagoon (and other places in California). Next time, I’ll give a summary of the Batiquitos data.

... *Mona Baumgartel*

