



Bolsa Chica
Wetlands. . .

1930's



1990's



2006

Western Alliance for Nature, Amigos de Bolsa Chica
& Bolsa Chica Land Trust
present

Conference on Bolsa Chica: The Work Isn't Finished

March 24, 2007
Waterfront Hilton, Huntington Beach



Steven Eric Smith



Larry Kaufman

Featuring:

Lt. Governor John Garamendi,
State Senator Tom Harman, Dr. Joy Zedler,
Hon. Fran Pavley, Peter Douglas, Sam Schuchat,
Terri Stewart, Sara Wan, Debbie Cook,
Shirley Dettloff, Doug Traub, Dr. Victor Leipzig,
Steve Bone, Bob Hoffman, Jim Trout & Amy Hooper

Facilities host and sponsor:



Bolsa Chica: A habitat of global ecological significance

One of the few remaining large coastal ecosystems in Southern California, Bolsa Chica has a rich diversity of habitats with its salt and freshwater wetlands, mesas, coastal bluff scrub, and grasslands. Few if any, remaining Southern California wetlands have sufficient upland and transitional habitat to be able to function as a full and complete ecosystem. Bolsa Chica is also a rest stop for thousands of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. Preserving and protecting the Bolsa Chica provides a rare opportunity to restore a fully functioning wetland ecosystem as an integral link in the global eco-network.

The History of Bolsa Chica

The environmental casualty of California's explosive population is the loss of 90% of our coastal wetlands. By the early 1970's conservationists woke up to the night mare that only a scarce remnant 2,000 acres of once a vast Southern California coastal wetland called Bolsa Chica was under development siege.

Developers had plans to transform Bolsa Chica into a marina and 5,700 homes.

Local community conservationists led by the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, later joined by environmentalists from throughout the state, fought an epic thirty year long legal, political and administrative battle to save the Bolsa Chica. As a result, most of the undeveloped portions of Bolsa Chica have been saved and put into State ownership. While this is still only a portion of what was originally present, it represents a tremendous victory and places the Bolsa Chica in a unique position to become a habitat of global significance and a crowning jewel on the coast of California.



The Conference's Conservation Objective

Is it time for the community to celebrate? Yes. But it is also time for conservationists to take a sober stock of the enormous challenges ahead. While the State has initiated the restoration process in the wetlands, the entire Bolsa Chica needs to be restored and maintained as a healthy, fully functioning ecosystem, including the mesas. This requires a wholistic ecosystem management program of science and stewardship and the funds to carry out that program. The Western Alliance for Nature is preparing an ecosystem management program that will be administered in partnership with the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the State and other interested parties who have a stake in the preservation of this ecological treasure and who worked so hard to save it. The funds generated by this conference will be used to kick off a major fundraising effort to create the management plan and an endowment to enable the restoration to be completed and the ecosystem maintained in perpetuity.



Events of the day

- 6:15-7:45 **Guided birdwatching at Bolsa Chica.** Guides: **Nick & Mary Freeman**, Los Angeles Audubon Society. \$25, tour limited to 20 participants.
- 8:00-9:00 Registration, Casual Coffee/Tea Meet and Greet.
Videos of Bolsa Chica
- 9:00-10:00 Opening Remarks: Former Assemblywoman **Hon. Fran Pavley**
Introduction by Western Alliance for Nature, Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust: the history of the struggle to save Bolsa Chica
- 10:00-10:30 Booth, silent auction and art viewing
- 10:30-11:30 **Bolsa Chica: Past, Present and Future (biologically speaking).** Speaker: **Dr. Victor Leipzig**
- 11:30-12:00 Booths, silent auction and art viewing
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch. **The importance of conservation and the values of land stewardship.** Speaker: **Lt. Governor John Garamendi**
- 1:30-2:00 Break
- 2:00-3:00 **The Restoration of Bolsa Chica: A key to rescuing regional biodiversity.** Speaker: **Dr. Joy Zedler**
- 3:00-3:15 Break
- 3:15-4:15 **Panel: The role of Government in ecosystem preservation.** Moderator: **Sara Wan**, Coastal Commissioner; **Terri Stewart**, CA Dept. Fish & Game; **Peter Douglas**, Coastal Commission; **Sam Schuchat**, Coastal Conservancy; **Bob Hoffman**, NOAA; **Jim Trout**, CA State Lands Commission
- 4:15-4:30 Break
- 4:30-5:30 **Panel: Bolsa Chica and the local economy.** Moderator: **Shirley Dettloff**, founding member Amigos de Bolsa Chica, former Huntington Beach Mayor and Coastal Commissioner; **Debbie Cook**, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach; **Doug Traub**, HB Conference and Visitors Bureau; **Steve Bone**, Robert Mayer Corp.; **Amy Hooper**, Wild Bird Magazine
- 5:30-6:30 Reception and silent auction
- 6:30-8:30 Dinner. **Introduction of the Bolsa Chica Heroes and closing remarks.** Speaker: **State Senator Tom Harman.** Entertainment: Acoustic Warrior, **John Sotter**

Western Alliance for Nature

The Western Alliance for Nature, a land conservancy, is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of rapidly vanishing habitats for wildlife. The Western Alliance for Nature's programs are designed to help protect nature for future generations. The conservancy is unique in that 100% of the funds raised through contributions go towards land purchase and restoration, with no administration or overhead fees attached or brokerage fees charges. The Alliance has many programs covering both North and South America.



In Ventura County, the Alliance has established a management program coordinated with the Department of Fish & Game, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sierra Club to protect the breeding areas of Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern. In Santa Barbara, the Alliance is working with the Coal Oil Point Nature Reserve to help protect Snowy Plovers and Least Terns and is hosting a lecture and a reception on April 5th, at the University of California, Santa Barbara to help raise funds for the reserve's programs (go to www.wanconservancy.org for more information). In Orange County the Alliance is hosting this conference to establish an endowment fund to fully restore and maintain the Bolsa Chica ecosystem.

Outside the State of California, the Alliance is working with the National Wildlife Federation to purchase the grazing rights of land around Yellowstone Park to help protect Yellowstone's wolves. And outside the United States, the Alliance is working in Baja to help preserve the areas surrounding Laguna San Ignacio. In 2004 the Alliance responded to an urgent need to save a vanishing species in Ecuador, the El Oro Parakeet which has only 125 birds left. Working in conjunction with a local NGO, the Alliance has now funded the acquisition of over 4,000 acres of pristine cloud and dry forest habitat in Ecuador.

Help us preserve biodiversity by protecting diverse habitats with a tax deductible donation.

Silent Auction

Paintings, prints and photography by:

Adele Earnshaw, Terry Miller, Susan Labouri, Larry Wan, Diane Versteeg, Jo Anne Romero, Rudy Gardea, Constance Boardman and Thomas Anderson

Trips:

San Francisco, Monterrey, Carmel, Sonoma, Washington, D.C., Seattle (2), Oahu (2), Kauai

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Lunch with State Senator Tom Harman

Bluebird Nesting Box

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Armstrong Garden Centers Hanging Basket

Baby Care Gift Basket

Amigos de Bolsa Chica Windbreaker with ABC Logo

Stained Glass Hanging

Handmade Quilt

Wine

Wild Birds Unlimited Gift Baskets

Hon. Fran Pavley



Fran Pavley served three terms in the California State Assembly. She became known as one of the most effective legislators in Sacramento and one of the most environmentally conscious. Serving with integrity and vision, the former Mayor of Agoura Hills and long term public school teacher, had over 70 of her bills and resolutions become law. Her landmark legislation on global warming, AB 32, has become a model for other states and countries to follow. In addition, 10 other states and Canada have modeled their laws after Fran's Clean Car Regulations (also known as the Pavley Bill). Prior to serving in the State Legislature she served on the California Coastal Commission from 1995- 2000 and was present to cast a no vote in 1996 on the plans to develop Bolsa Chica.

Dr. Victor Leipzig



Vic Leipzig has a Ph.D. in biology from Wesleyan University and teaches biology and ecology at Golden West College in Huntington Beach. He is a past-president of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and was the founding Executive Director of the Bolsa Chica Conservancy. He currently serves a co-chair of the water quality monitoring team of the Bolsa Chica Conservancy. Vic served on the Huntington Beach City Council from 1992 to 1996 and was mayor in 1995. He and his wife Louann Murray co-write a weekly column about local environmental issues for the Huntington Beach Independent.

Conference on Bolsa Chica

Organizing Committee:

Larry Wan, Sara Wan, Alexia Swanepoel,
Marc Stirdivant, Flossie Horgan, Shirley Dettloff,
Mel Nutter, Gerald Chapman, Thomas Anderson,
David Carlberg, Kim Kolpin & Paul Arms

Amigos de Bolsa Chica



Amigos de Bolsa Chica is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization formed in 1976 by a group of Huntington Beach citizens who were concerned about the loss of a rare and valuable piece of open space, the Bolsa Chica wetland. Plans for an extensive marina, commercial and residential development already had been announced when the Amigos pledged to protect, preserve and

acquire the Bolsa Chica and surrounding open space. In order to halt the plans and educate the community about the importance of coastal wetlands, Amigos created a unique program of guided tours of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve for both children and adults, and spent countless hours lobbying decision-makers.

In 1989, through the settlement of a lawsuit filed by the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, major reductions in development plans for the area were achieved. Most recently, the Amigos spearheaded an effort that resulted in the state's acquisition in 1997 of 880 acres of wetlands with principal funds provided by the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. With an additional 41 acres purchased by the state in 2005, the public now owns over 1200 acres of wetland/lowland. The restored Bolsa Chica lowlands were opened to the public in the summer of 2006.

There is still much work to be done. Join us in cooperation with governmental and environmental organizations in reaching our goals for the future, which include:

- Monitor additional wetlands protection legislation at the state and federal levels.
- As a member of the Local Advisory Task Force body on wetland management, assure the establishment of an effective management structure for the Bolsa Chica.
- Installation of information displays in key locations in the Bolsa Chica.
- Provisions for public access to the newly restored Bolsa Chica Wetlands consistent with wildlife protection.
- Construction and operation of a permanent interpretive center to educate the public on the value of the Bolsa Chica and other coastal wetlands.

Call Amigos de Bolsa Chica at (714) 840-1575 or visit www.amigosdebolsachica.org today!

Bolsa Chica Land Trust

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust was formed in 1992 by a small group of Californians who believed that one of the last remaining wetland-upland ecosystems in Southern California had to be preserved for future generations. Today, the Land Trust includes more than 5,000 members across California and the United States and its Mission – then as now – is to acquire, restore and preserve the mesas, lowlands and wetlands that make up all of Bolsa Chica.



Part of the preservation goal was achieved with the sale of 880 acres of wetlands to the State Lands Commission in 1997. Another goal was achieved in 2005 as a result of the Land Trust's efforts when the 118-acre lower bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa was purchased by the State. The Land Trust's advocacy role continues to this day as it looks to preserve the historic Upper Bolsa Chica wetlands and the archeologically significant Sacred Cogged-Stone Site from development.

However, the work of the Land Trust goes beyond acquisition alone.

The Land Trust's restoration team, the Bolsa Chica Stewards, has been working for more than a decade on the mesa restoration project. During that time, they have planted over 11,000 native plants using an all-volunteer community work force and have created a thriving coastal sage scrub habitat where only invasive non-native species once existed.

Miracles of the Marsh, the Land Trust's education program, brings over 1,200 elementary school students each year from Orange and Los Angeles Counties to Bolsa Chica for a docent-led tour that emphasizes wildlife, plant life, water quality, and local history.

In the future, we envision an amazing urban oasis on the lower bench of the mesa. Well-marked nature trails, preserved archeological and historical sites, and the every-changing interplay of flora and fauna will create a memorable experience for people from all walks of life. The Land Trust's mission at Bolsa Chica is far from over as it continues its efforts to preserve and restore all of Bolsa Chica. We invite you to join us. Call us at (714) 846-1001 or visit us at www.bolsachicalandtrust.org.

Speakers

Lt. Governor John Garamendi



Elected in 2006 to serve as this State's 56th Lt. Governor, John Garamendi has been in public service for over 32 years during which he has always championed the protection of the environment. He served 14 years as a State Senator and two years in the Assembly. During that time he authored legislation that protected Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake. Elected in 1991 as the first Insurance Commissioner he later served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. While in that position, he championed the protection of Bolsa Chica. He returned to California to again serve as Insurance Commissioner in 2002. As Lt. Governor he once again returns to a position where he is our champion of the environment.

State Senator Tom Harman



Senator Tom Harman, was first elected to the State Assembly in November 2000, following six years of service as a Huntington Beach City Councilman. He now serves as the Senator for the 35th Senate District. Senator Harman has authored bills to protect the coast and has a long and distinguished record of support for the Bolsa Chica including membership in both the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and was instrumental in Securing a financial commitment from the Department of Fish and Game for maintenance work at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, including repairs to the parking lot, walkbridge, and trail system.

Dr. Joy B. Zedler



Joy B. Zedler is the Aldo Leopold Professor of Restoration Ecology, Botany Department and Arboretum, University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is internationally famous for her work on wetland ecology and restoration and promotes the use of science to improve ecosystem restoration. Dr. Zedler was on the faculty of San Diego State University for many years where she studied salt marsh ecology and restoration of freshwater marshes, in particular the Tijuana Estuary near San Diego. She has collaborated on over 200 scientific publications and received numerous honors for her work.

Dr. Gerald and Patricia Chapman are proud to support the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and their fight to preserve all of Bolsa Chica



Photo by Mark D. Bixby

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The mission of **Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks** is to promote, protect and enhance the harbors, beaches, parks, trails, open spaces, natural preserves and historical sites in Orange County.



Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust is dedicated to preservation & restoration of the former estuary of the San Gabriel River, it's tidal salt marsh, riparian habitats and a buffer of coastal sage scrub. www.lcwlandtrust.org PO Box 30165, Long Beach, CA 90853 (562) 293-3011



The Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. Inspired by nature, we work together to enjoy, explore, restore and protect our communities and the planet. The **Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club** is committed to protecting the unique natural resources of Los Angeles and Orange Counties.



Sea and Sage Audubon is a leader in creating an understanding of nature in Orange County, through conservation, research and environmental education programs for children and adults. This is accomplished with classes, field activities, publications and volunteer opportunities.



The Orange County Coastkeeper's mission is to preserve and protect Orange County's marine habitats and watersheds through education, advocacy, restoration and enforcement. Our vision is to have the rivers, harbors and coastal water restored to a healthy state, capable of supporting a diversity of aquatic life and human recreational uses.



The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection of and the education about the worlds oceans, waves and beaches.

**Surfrider
Foundation.**

Entertainment by John Sotter, Acoustic Warrior

John Sotter was born and raised in Southern California. After traveling the globe he returned to Orange County, having discovered that the “gold” he was seeking elsewhere was in his own music. He now plays his music from Southern California to Colorado. He calls himself an “acoustic warrior” because that’s how he sees himself: learning to do what he does by living the dream, not by seeing it on MTV and imitating. Visit his web site www.JohnSotter.com to see his videos and purchase CD’s.

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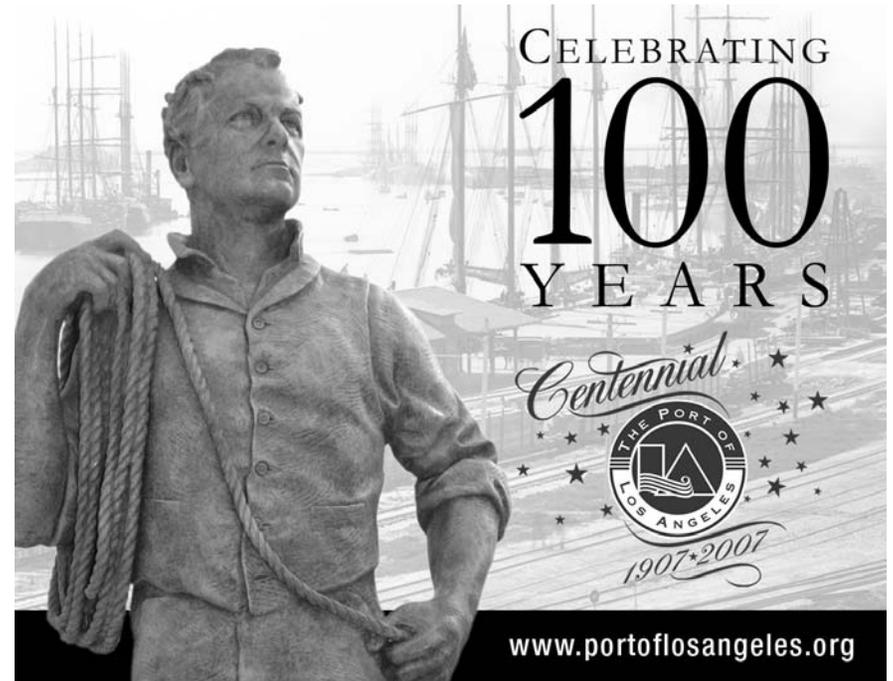
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*Founding members of Amigos de Bolsa Chica,
Supporting the preservation of Bolsa Chica for over 30 years.*

