The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF)
The Great Egret
Volume 22   November 2016

Fight Continues Over Lake San Marcos Pollution Dumping

Carlsbad Watershed Network Calls for Immediate ‘Cease-and-Desist’ order

A lot has happened regarding our work to stop the use of the Lake San Marcos dam drain and its associated downstream watershed impacts. We have repeatedly notified the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SD RWQCB) about the random opening of the lake valve, which releases millions of gallons of highly polluted water downstream into San Marcos Creek, and ultimately, into Batiquitos Lagoon and the Pacific Ocean.

The Carlsbad Watershed Network (CWN) has been following our efforts, and on Sept. 2, 2016, the group sent a letter of support to the SD RWQCB. The CWN letter is depicted below. Lake San Marcos responded to our letter and to an inquiry from the SD RWQCB, indicating that they WOULD NOT use the dam drain as part of future remediation of the lake. This is progress, but it DOES NOT curtail their random discharges of polluted water into our downstream watershed. Since the Lake San Marcos response was very detailed, we are reviewing the comments and will report on them in the next newsletter.

—Jim Brown and David Hill, BLF board members

“How is it that the release of millions of gallons of toxic and polluted water through the valve is not worthy of an immediate cease-and-desist order?”
—Brad Roth, CWN Chairman
Volunteer profile:
Richard Benson

Richard (Dick) Benson is our Wednesday morning host at the Nature Center. Dick resides in Carlsbad with his wife Crystine. He retired to this area after a 29-year career in telecommunications in Illinois, and 10 years in Arizona residential and commercial real estate.

Dick was also very active in volunteer team leadership and recruiting for a 3,400-acre desert and mountain preserve in Scottsdale. His duties there included trail building and maintenance, weekend public hikes, and mountain bike trail survey team. Dick enjoys the (similar) ongoing learning and sharing experiences the Batiquitos Lagoon and its shore environment provides.

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president

New at the Nature Center:
Arts & Crafts for Kids

Join us every other Saturday morning, starting September 24 for children's arts & crafts. Come to the picnic tables under the eucalyptus trees on the east side of the nature center, at 7380 Gabbiano Lane in Carlsbad. No registration required. Just drop by and have fun!

November 5, November 19 & December 3
from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
From the Desk of the President...

As we are now in the fall season, with many holidays to celebrate, the BLF has a very active schedule and many events planned for our many visitors, supporters and members.

We will host our 11th Kayak Batiquitos Lagoon Clean-up event on Saturday and Sunday, November 5th and 6th. Deb Mossa’s article summarizes the event. We encourage you to join in. If you don’t want to kayak, please join us at our new nature center the same weekend for some fun, family-oriented events, and free ice cream!

We also will be kicking off a series of celebrations to mark the opening of our new nature center, with monthly events planned through mid-year 2017. Please check the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter and our website for more details.

Concerning the Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve (BLER) and our watershed, we are actively engaged in two key issues. The first is the pollution from Lake San Marcos that continues to affect the downstream health of San Marcos Creek and Batiquitos Lagoon. Board members Jim Brown and David Hill are leading our work, and they are determined to get this critical issue resolved. We are thankful that other environmental organizations are supporting us on the issue.

The second key issue is the CALTRANS I-5 Widening Project that’s described in the article by BLF Secretary Donald Chase. We are carefully watching how the project balances transportation needs (both vehicular and rail) with preserving our coastal wetlands. The project includes some environmental mitigation that we expect to benefit the lagoon and our community.

As we settle into our new nature center, I continue to be amazed by how many new volunteers have joined our team! You probably have seen the many new faces hosting at our new nature center. Hosting is fun, easy, and provides an opportunity to meet visitors from the community, across the country, and from overseas.

Our school environmental educational programs have really taken off, and we’re getting many requests for docent-led public walks and presentations. We are also seeing an uptick in the number of volunteers participating in our Trail Maintenance program and in requests from local businesses, church groups and others wanting to participate. These group events are a critical part of our restoration and trail maintenance program, and we appreciate this desire to help keep the lagoon safe.

As we move forward in 2016 and 2017, please consider joining the BLF cause. We still need volunteers of all ages! If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the BLF family and getting involved.

—Fred C. Sandquist, BLF president

We Need Your Help!

As with any all volunteer organization, the BLF depends on volunteers to fill key foundation positions in support of our programs and operations. We are especially interested in finding volunteers for the key positions listed below. If you’re interested or you would like further information, please call our Nature Center at (760) 931-0800, or send an email to: volunteer@batiquitosfoundation.org.

- Nature Center Hosts
- Docents
- Webmaster/Electronic Media Chair
- Fundraising/Marketing
- Educational & Marketing Materials Maintenance
- Publicity
- Weed-whacking/Trail Maintenance
- Grant Writers

Special Thanks...

...to some of our key partners who support the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation by providing direct financial support, discounts, critical services, support, & products.

Aviara Master Assoc. & Aviara Community
Weyerhaeuser Inc
AgriService Inc.
Waste Management
Park Hyatt, Aviara
Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD)
REI Outdoor School, San Diego, REI - Encinitas
Breg, Inc.
Anderson’s La Costa Nursery
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Tree of Life Nursery
FedEx/Office
Callaway Golf
San Diego Horticultural Society
Palomar Investigative Group, Inc.
Diamond Environmental Services
El Camino Rental
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
City of Carlsbad
California Coastal Conservancy
Louise Julig Writing & Editing
HomeLife Village Realtors
Archer Johnson Foundation
Kinane Events
The Coastal Community Foundation
Marstel-Day LLC [conservation consulting]
LinkSoul
North County Advocates
Living Coast Discovery Center
Sky Hunters
Earth Island Institute
Wild Coast
Marine Life Coalition
Public ‘Talks & Walks’: Native American Storytelling & More

Storytelling, birding, California’s love for the sea, geology, whales and so much more. Experts in these and other fields will be presenting public talks at the Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center in the coming months. The talks will be followed by an hour-long walk along the lagoon trail.

On Nov. 12 at 10 a.m., Luisño storyteller, writer and elementary school teacher Cathleen Chilcote Wallace will share traditional and original Indian tales, weaving in history and information about native-made clothing, baskets, and musical instruments along the way. Next up, on Dec. 3 at 10 a.m., is Steve Brad, a well-known local birder. He’ll discuss “Waterfowl in Winter.”

David Helvarg, an author and ocean activist, will be at the nature center on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. to discuss “Golden Shore, California’s Love Affair with the Sea.” He’ll share the history, culture and the changes affecting California’s coast and the Pacific Ocean. Watch for more ‘Talks & Walks’ events and featured speakers on the BLF website and in future newsletters.

—Elizabeth Douglass, newsletter editor

A Misty Walk
Along the
Batiquitos Lagoon

Photo by
Brian Beezley

We’d love to print your favorite photos of Batiquitos Lagoon and the trail!

Send them to us at
newsletter@batiquitosfoundation.org
Huge I-5 Project Will Improve Batiquitos Lagoon’s Tidal Flows

*First Phase starts in 2017; New Bridges, Car Lanes, Walk & Bike Paths*

As a key component of the greater San Diego regional transportation network, Interstate 5 is a highly used coastal mobility option for residents, visitors, and commerce. The economic, social, and environmental vitality of the region depends on people’s ability to reach desired destinations to live, work, and play. Quality of life is important in today’s primarily auto-oriented society and is greatly impacted by congestion and the lost productivity of being stuck in traffic.

Beginning in 2017, the California Department of Transportation, in collaboration with San Diego Association of Governments and other local jurisdictions, is leading an effort to improve regional transportation along the coast. The $6.5 billion North Coast Corridor Program will cover 27 miles, from La Jolla to Oceanside, and the focus is on improving mobility options, reducing congestion, and investing in infrastructure that will address emerging environmental and economic demands.

Specific to the Batiquitos Lagoon, significant improvements will be constructed to reduce impediments to tidal flows by expanding the width of channeled areas beneath the interstate and rail crossings. The new bridge design includes a dedicated pedestrian and bicycle route that’s separated from the highway and gives users a safe north/south lagoon crossing. In addition, ongoing discussions between multiple stakeholders are exploring trail alignment options that could potentially improve east/west connectivity along the north side of the lagoon west of the interstate.

See this website, http://www.keepsandiegomoving.com, for a complete overview of the planned North Coast Corridor highway improvements. Highlights include additional HOV/Carpools lanes; San Elijo Lagoon and Batiquitos Lagoon double track rail improvements; freeway sound walls; restoration, protection and preservation of natural habitats; and enhanced coastal access. A continual dialog with the project team, environmental experts, planners, and lagoon visitors will help make sure the project takes into account a variety of interests. The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation is involved, and the board has provided input as part of a collaborative process to ensure the project will result in lasting positive environmental and recreational benefits.

If you have questions or comments, please send an email to: info@batiquitosfoundation.org

—Don Chase, BLF Secretary
Intern: Harrison Brenner

Harrison Brenner is our newest addition to the Batiquitos Lagoon intern corps. Harrison, 13, is a dual-enrollment student at California Virtual Academy and Palomar College. He has ambitious goals of becoming an environmentalist and working with water conservation and pollution.

Batiquitos Lagoon has provided him with the training and skills he had been seeking to better the environment. Most notably, the Nature Center expansion project, where he has gained knowledge of the workings of government, collaboration with the private sector, and the value of great mentorship.

As a leader in student government, Harrison looks forward to writing many articles on the upcoming cultural and environmental events that take place at his new second home, the lagoon.

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president

Batiquitos Boutique Expands Offerings; Proceeds Help BLF

If you have not had the opportunity to stop into our new Nature Center, I urge you to do so. It is big and bright, with a dedicated children’s area, and is open most days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We also have a small retail area where you can buy all things Batiquitos! Our collection now includes BLF reusable water bottles, which can be purchased and filled with Palomar water for $5.00.

We also have a new, unique pin with the beautiful Batiquitos logo on it, and it looks great on a hat, vest, and lapel. We also carry a line of short-sleeved tee shirts in black or white. As the weather cools down, you might want to consider purchasing one of our cozy long sleeved shirts—my personal fave—for your walks.

Remember, all proceeds go directly to support the BLF and the maintenance of our trails, school programs and Nature Center. I hope you’ll help support Batiquitos Lagoon and wear the foundation’s logo proudly.

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president

Photos by Deb Mossa.
Take Part and Have Fun at BLF’s Annual Fundraiser
Kayak and Clean Up the Lagoon on Nov. 5 & 6

The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF) is pleased to announce that the 11th Annual Kayak Cleanup will be held the weekend of Nov. 5 and 6, 2016. The occasion gives kayakers the rare and fun chance to kayak Batiquitos Lagoon, a state-protected wetland and wildlife habitat that’s off-limits to boating except during the foundation’s annual clean-up event.

This unique event benefits the lagoon and its critical habitat because the kayakers’ job while on the water is to retrieve the tires, toasters and other trash that threatens the lagoon’s health and the survival of wildlife that rely on it. The kayak clean-up is also the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation’s primary fundraiser, and, as such, the money raised by the event helps determine what the foundation can accomplish in the following year. Typically, proceeds from the fundraiser support our education, restoration, maintenance, and other programs.

There’s an extra need this year, however, because the foundation has just opened a new, larger public Nature Center, the culmination of more than eight years of permitting and preparation. Grants have covered most of the construction costs, but the foundation has great hopes for revamping, expanding and maintaining its wildlife displays and other educational materials to better serve school field trips and other lagoon visitors.

With an expanded Nature Center newly installed, the foundation will have more to offer the public than ever before, and we’re hoping you and others in the community will support our efforts. Corporate sponsors of the kayak event will, at a minimum, have their names/logos displayed on the foundation website, in the BLF newsletter, and on event banners at the La Costa Park & Ride. Our Facebook and Twitter pages will include them in event promotions.

We’re grateful for registrations, donations and sponsorships of any amount. For this year’s event, we created a tiered sponsorship structure to help differentiate levels of support. Gold-level sponsors for donors of $1,000 or more; Silver sponsors for donations of $500 or more; and Bronze for sponsors who donate $100 or more. Logo sizes on banners, etc. will be dictated by the amount of the sponsorship. Registration for the cleanup is $60.00 per person. The two hour event also qualifies for community service hours.

Community support is vital to preserving a precious and irreplaceable wetland and wildlife breeding grounds, and to keeping the lagoon’s shoreline trail safe and fun for the public and classroom field trips. The lagoon foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax-deductible (IRS Employer ID 95-3852095).

Registration is open and we need you! Click the Eventbrite link on our website, www.batiquitosfoundation.org.

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president

Send Us Your Favorite Pictures of Batiquitos Lagoon Life!
We’ll Print Them in the Newsletter
newsletter@batiquitosfoundation.org
Eli Lilly & REI Volunteers Help Keep Lagoon Trails in Shape

A key strategy for the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation’s restoration and trail maintenance program is encouraging corporations, businesses and other organizations to join us in creating community environmental stewardship partnerships.

Within the past two months, Eli Lilly celebrated its Global Day of Service at the Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve (BLER). A team of local employees, among more than 24,000 worldwide, helped us move accumulated tree and plant material along the lagoon’s North Shore Trail to a staging area for eventual green-waste removal.

We also got help recently from REI in Encinitas. As part of the store’s new-hire training program, a group of new employees did a public service project at the BLER, where they moved tree and plant material for eventual green-waste removal. In addition, the volunteers moved split logs that had accumulated along the North Shore Trail to an area near our new nature center. This very successful work project was performed late in the day and finished in the evening—a first for the BLF!

In return for a donation, the wood piled up near the nature center is available to the public as firewood, as it has been in the past. The requested donation amount depends on the amount of wood removed.

If your corporation, business or organization might be interested in doing such a project at the BLER, please contact us at info@batiquitosfoundation.org

—Fred Sandquist, BLF president

Top-left, BLF wood pile. Top-Right, Eli Lilly volunteers filled the BLF wagon with green debris along the trail. Above, New employees from REI’s Encinitas store worked into the evening removing plant material. Bottom-left, REI volunteers in action.
11th annual
Batiquitos Lagoon
Kayak Cleanup

Saturday & Sunday Nov. 5 & 6 | 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

- Help clean up Batiquitos Lagoon and enjoy kayaking waters normally closed to boating.
- Launches are every two hours during the event.

HURRY, SPACE IS LIMITED!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
For information and registration visit www.batiquitosfoundation.org

Cost is $60 per person (tax deductible)
- Launch site is on the south shore, by the I-5 and La Costa Avenue park-and-ride lot.
- Dos Bandidos food truck on site (10 a.m to 2 p.m.)
- Registered participants may bring their own kayaks or use equipment provided by REI. Kayakers must be 12 or older.

All proceeds benefit the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation's ongoing habitat restoration and other projects. The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2016

Sat., Nov 5 – Trail Maintenance. 9 a.m., BLF Nature Center. Everyone Welcome.

Sat., Nov 5 – Arts & Crafts for Kids. 9 a.m. to noon, BLF Nature Center. Meet at the picnic tables under the eucalyptus trees on the east side of the nature center. All children welcome! No advanced registration required; just drop by and have fun!

Sat., Nov 5 & 6 – 11th Annual Kayak Batiquitos Lagoon Clean-up Event. First launch at 7:30 a.m., last launch at 1:30 p.m. Online registration is open at www.batiquitosfoundation.org. Note: Daylight Savings time ends on Saturday!

Sat., Nov 5 & 6 – Nature Center Opening Family-Oriented Celebration. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., BLF Nature Center. Come join us! * Free ice cream from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. * Note: Daylight Savings time ends on Saturday!

Wed. Nov. 9 - Docent Corps / Nature Center Host Meeting. 3 p.m., BLF Nature Center. Public Welcome.

Fri., Nov 11 – Bird Count. 7:30 a.m. Meet at Gabbiano Lane Trailhead. Public welcome. Bring binoculars.

Sat., Nov 12 - Public Talk and Walk, 10 a.m. at the BLF Nature Center. Cathleen Chilcote Wallace, a Luiseño Teacher and storyteller, will describe life along the lagoon, and the foods and stories of the people who lived here before us. We will also have a one hour native plant walk.


Sat., Nov 19 – Arts & Crafts for Kids – 9:00 am to noon. Our new BLF Nature Center. Meet at the picnic tables under the eucalyptus trees on the east side of the nature center. All children welcome! No advanced registration required; just drop by and have fun!

Thu., Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Day - BLF Nature Center Open. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

December 2016

Sat., Dec 3 – Trail Maintenance. 9 a.m., BLF Nature Center. Everyone Welcome.

Sat., Dec 3 – Arts & Crafts for Kids – 9:00 am to noon. Our new BLF Nature Center. Meet at the picnic tables under the eucalyptus trees next to the nature center. All children welcome! No advanced registration required; just drop by and have fun!

Sat., Dec 3 - Public Talk and Walk. 10 a.m., BLF Nature Center. Steve Brads, well-known local birder, will discuss Waterfowl of Winter. We will also have a one hour bird walk.


Fri., Dec 9 – Bird Count. 7:30 a.m. Meet at Gabbiano Lane Trailhead. Public welcome. Bring binoculars.

Fri., Dec 9 – New Nature Center Ribbon-Cutting Event. 4 p.m., then private reception to follow for public officials inside nature center. INVITATION ONLY.

Sat., Dec. 10 - Public Talk and Walk. 10 a.m., BLF Nature Center. David Helvarg will help us learn about the Golden Shore, California's Love Affair with the Sea. Walk afterward.

Sat., Dec 17 – Trail Maintenance. 9 a.m., BLF Nature Center. Everyone Welcome.

Wed., Dec 21 – BLF Board Meeting. 4:30 p.m. BLF Nature Center. Public Welcome.

Sun., Dec 25 – Christmas Day. BLF Nature Center open. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

January 2017

Sun., Jan 1 – New Year’s Day. BLF Nature Center Open. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.


Sat., Jan 7 – Trail Maintenance. 9 a.m., BLF Nature Center. Everyone Welcome.

Fri., Jan 13 – Bird Count. 7:30 a.m. Meet at Gabbiano Lane Trailhead. Public welcome. Bring binoculars.

Wed., Jan 18 – BLF Board Meeting. 4:30 p.m. BLF Nature Center. Public Welcome.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, the location and/or meeting place for all events is the BLF Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane, Carlsbad, CA  92011.
BLF Membership/Donation Form

PROTECT BATIQUITOS LAGOON AND ITS SURROUNDING HABITAT ~ A PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCE FOR NORTH COUNTY RESIDENTS

The Foundation needs your financial support to continue our valuable work.

Membership (check only one): □ New Member □ Renewal □ Address Change

Name __________________________ Phone __________________________

Address __________________________

City __________________________ State _______ Zip _______ + _______

E-mail (optional) __________________________

Sponsorship Levels (Check One) Annual Dues (Check One)

□ Kestrel $250 □ Student/Senior Citizen $20
□ White Tailed Hawk $500 □ Individual $25
□ Red Tailed Hawk $1,000 □ Family $45
□ Great Egret $2,000 □ Sponsor $100
□ Great Blue Heron $3,000 □ Patron $175
□ Osprey $5,000 □ Sustaining $500

□ Additional Donation: $_________

Total Amount Enclosed (Sum of all above) $_________

If Mailing, make check payable to “BLF”, fill out this form, and mail to:

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

Thank you for your support!

__________ For BLF Administration Only __________

Payment Method: □ Check Check #: _______ Check Date: _______/_____/201____
□ Website Date: _______/_____/201____
□ Credit Card Date: _______/_____/201____  Credit Security Code: ____________

(the 3-digit or 4-digit numbers on the back of your card)

Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. (3/15/2015)
The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation was established on January 7, 1983 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its associated watershed, riparian, coastal sage and upland habitats.

**NATURE CENTER HOURS**

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm*
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm*

*Subject to availability of volunteers. Please call ahead to verify

For more information:
Visit our Website: www.batiquitosfoundation.org
Call: (760) 931-0800 or Email: info@batiquitosfoundation.org

**Membership**

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

Categories for annual membership are:

- Student/Senior Citizen $20
- Individual $25
- Family $45
- Sponsor $100
- Patron $175
- Sustaining $500

Join & pay via bank debit or major credit card through our website:

www.batiquitosfoundation.org

Memberships and donations are tax deductible.

**REMINDER TO MEMBERS**

Check the expiration date at the top of your mailing label to find out when you need to renew your membership.

Sign up for Kayak Batiquitos Lagoon Clean-up on Nov. 5 & 6!!

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**