The New Nature Center is Open for Business!

The Result of More Than Eight Years of Planning, Permitting & Construction

As many of you have witnessed, 2016 has been a very work-intensive period for us! Thanks to our many volunteers and their countless hours of work, we have crossed the finish line! We have had a number of City of Carlsbad building inspections as our project proceeded, and last Friday, the City of Carlsbad approved our final inspection leading to issuance of our occupancy permit and long-awaited opening. Thanks to a lot of hard work by Don Omsted, BLF board member and Project Engineer, and quick approval by Aviara Master Association, (which owns the property that we lease), our landscape plan was approved and will proceed in the Fall.

As you can see from the picture on the right, our new nature center is certainly something we can all be proud of, especially since almost all the work was performed by volunteers. We want to especially thank: Weyerhaeuser Inc. and Jeff Clave, who donated our deck materials; John Suster and Cornerstone Communities for donating approximately 50 cubic yards of soil for our grading; AgriService, Inc. and Mary Matava, who donated approximately 30 cubic yards of very high grade topsoil for our landscaping; Park Hyatt – Aviara, Kevin Kienast and Franco De Jesus for helping with moving dirt around and removing the “stump from hell” that required digging a four-foot hole to remove it with their large front-end loader and back hoe; Deb Mossa, BLF Vice President and board member, who coordinated moving out of our old nature center and then the move back in, including the interior redesign and installation of many new features; Don Rideout and Dave Dyer who stored our furnishings and other items for many months during the transition period; and all the other volunteers—too many to name—who helped out along the way.

We also want to acknowledge D. Wayne Brechtel, Partner, Warden Williams, APC, whose legal work over the years made our project legally correct; and the Aviara Master Association Board of Directors, who worked closely with us for many years as we navigated through the permitting process. Finally, we would like to recognize our City of Carlsbad Planning Department project managers, Van Lynch and Greg Fisher, who guided us through the very complex permitting process to successful completion over eight-plus years.

Now that our final inspection is completed and our occupancy permit issued, we will begin our Year of Celebration, during which we will recognize the many donors and volunteers who truly made this project possible. This celebration will also recognize our many trail users and visitors whose encouragement during installation made us all proud and want to work that much harder!

...see Nature Center story continued on page two

Above, The new nature center. Left, Don Connors helps dismantle the old version. Photos by Fred Sandquist and Elizabeth Douglass.
Important Numbers

Nature Center: (760) 931-0800

City of Carlsbad Police Department:
   Emergency: 911
   Non-emergency: (760) 931-2197
   Watch Commander: (760) 937-2115

Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife:
   Regional Office: (858) 467-4201
   CALTIPS: (888) 334-2258

BLF Addresses & Other Information

Mail: P.O. Box 130491
     Carlsbad, CA  92013-0491

Website: www.batiquitosfoundation.org

Email: info@batiquitosfoundation.org

Nature Center Location (Not Mailing Address):
   7380 Gabbiano Lane
   Carlsbad, CA  92011

Nature Center Hours of Operation:
   M-F: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm*
   Sat-Sun: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm*

*Hours are subject to volunteer availability. If you plan to visit the Nature Center, please call ahead to verify that day’s hours.

Board of Directors & Officers
(board terms in parentheses)

Fred C. Sandquist - President (2013-2016)
Deborah A. Mossa - Vice President (2013-2016)
Donald Chase - Secretary (2015-2018)
Kevin Kienast - Treasurer (2015-2018)
Jim Brown (2013-2016)
David Hill (2015-2017)
Don Omsted (2015-2017)
Jeff Regan (2015-2018)
Don Connors (Honorary - Non-voting)

Newsletter

Elizabeth Douglass, editor
Contact: newsletter@batiquitosfoundation.org

Send us your favorite lagoon photos for the BLF newsletter!

Volunteer profile:

Gila Hanks

Gila Hanks is our Thursday morning host at the Nature Center. Gila resides in Carlsbad with her husband. She retired from nursing and transferred her passion from caring for neonates to caring for nature. She feels extremely fortunate to have found Batiquitos Lagoon. Gila enjoys the people and learning about the lagoon. We are lucky to have such an enthusiastic volunteer. Say hello to Gila next time you are in the nature center on a Thursday morning.

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president and board member.

Nature Center, continued from page one:

Our next newsletter will highlight many of our celebration events. We will also unveil some opportunities for you to permanently show your support for this eight-plus year project (e.g., dedicate a brick, have your name included on a dedication and recognition plaque, and more).

If you would like to volunteer and get involved with our new nature center (e.g., hosting, becoming a docent), please contact Deb Mossa at (760) 331-9142 or at volunteer@batiquitosfoundation.org

—Fred C. Sandquist, BLF president, and Don Omsted, BLF board member, Nature Center project engineer
From the Desk of the President...

The time since our February 2016 newsletter has been one of the most intense periods, as our new nature center project moved from the planning and permitting phase to the opening of our new facility.

The article in this newsletter discussing our trek barely does justice to the incredible work that our volunteers and donors have done in making this happen. Our Year of Celebration will give us an opportunity to recognize and share memories of this long trip, and help usher in a new phase as the BLF moves forward. Much more will be coming so please stay tuned!

We also want to give a special thanks to all of our members and the general public for their understanding during this transition period. Although we had to temporarily scale back, we continued to serve our community with docent-led events as well as maintaining our focus on key issues that are or will be affecting our precious Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve (BLER).

These issue include: Sea level rise and climate change; future development along the coast; I-5 widening, including road and railroad bridge replacements and new trail opportunities; trail safety and enforcement; lagoon dredging expected to take place this fall and winter; Lake San Marcos and issues concerning the release of highly polluted water down San Marcos Creek into the BLER; open space and land management stewardship; and more.

Future newsletter articles will delve into these issues and how the BLF is addressing them. On our website, we also will provide background information and videos to help address the science aspects associated with some of them.

Concerning our 11th Kayak Batiquitos Lagoon Clean-up event, this year’s event will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 5th and 6th. Please mark your calendars. We expect to open on-line registration through our website in the August – September 2016 timeframe.

As we move forward with our new nature, please consider getting actively involved. We have many opportunities for volunteers of all ages. BLF Vice President Deb Mossa would welcome hearing from you if you are interested or would like more information. Email us at volunteer@batiquitosfoundation.org or call her at (760) 331-9142. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the BLF family and getting involved in preserving, protecting and enhancing Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its associated watershed.

I really appreciate your continued trust and support in serving you as your President!

—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
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
Lake San Marcos Operators Keep Sending Highly Polluted Water into San Marcos Creek and Batiquitos Lagoon

S.D. Regional Water Board Taking Notice after Years of BLF Complaints

For several years the Lagoon Foundation Board has reported to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board that the safety drain valve at the bottom of the Lake San Marcos dam has been opened many times, allowing millions of gallons of polluted water to flow from the bottom of the dam downstream to the San Marcos Creek, the Batiquitos Lagoon and finally to the Pacific Ocean.

After analyzing the water data we collected at the site over three years, we established that water is being allowed to drain from the highly polluted bottom of the dam through the low 6” safety drain. The levels of Ammonia in this discharge have exceeded allowable limits by as much as 352 times. Total phosphorus in the discharged water exceeds the allowable limits by 100 times! Hydrogen sulfide also exits the dam in high levels.

Our concerns were written, documented and sent to water and regulatory agencies locally, countywide, statewide and nationwide, asking that action be taken to stop this destructive activity that harms the health of the Batiquitos Lagoon and beyond.

Recently, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board reviewed our comments and sent a request to the lake’s owners asking for an explanation. They asked the owner to respond by July 18, 2016 to very specific questions about lake and dam management. They also clarified that the dam drain is licensed ONLY as a safety device, and should not be used as a means of discharging polluted water downstream.

We are encouraged that the county water board is responding to our complaints. We hope it will stop the egregious discharge of polluted water without having the appropriate license to do so. We support and appreciate the board’s request that the owners provide documentation of all their activities related to managing the lake and the dam.

We realize that action sometimes comes slowly. We are grateful for the board’s initial steps, and we hope it will quickly halt the damaging actions at Lake San Marcos.

—Jim Brown, BLF Board Member

Mark Your Calendars!

BLF’s 11th Kayak Batiquitos Lagoon Clean-up Event will be held this year on Nov. 5th & 6th

Watch our website! Online registration will open in August/September
Interns Wrote Papers, Mixed Concrete, Made A Video & More

This spring, we were privileged to have five interns from San Marcos High Tech High assist us in a variety of ways. The students—Ian Courtney, Zach Paine, Christian Klosterman, Matt Rose, and Quinn Pear—learned about the lagoon and helped the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation by:

- Researching and writing several papers on how to publicize Foundation activities and membership opportunities.
- Documenting the construction of the new nature center with photos and text.
- Visiting several sites around the lagoon to observe various problem areas, including the growing sandbar near the railroad track, the rapid sediment infill of the lagoon on the east end, and the inflow of pollution from random opening of the low 6” drain pipe at the Lake San Marcos dam [see story on opposite page].
- Helping with the construction of critical parts of the new nature center, and participating in 1st and 3rd Saturday work groups to enhance the lagoon.
- Producing a professional-level video, led by Matt Rose, that documented the problems at the Lake San Marcos dam.

The Foundation has welcomed several teams of interns over the past three years. All of them have been motivated and productive, and have produced some amazing papers, brochures and video for us to use. We thank them VERY much for their participation.

—Jim Brown, BLF Board Member

Top left, San Marcos High Tech High student interns Quinn Pear, Christian Klosterman, Matt Rose, and Zach Paine at the Lake San Marcos dam draining site. Above, Ian Courtney and Quinn Pear mix cement for the back stairs landing, while Zach Paine prepares to help. Lower left, Matt Rose discusses the Lake San Marcos video with BLF president Fred Sandquist and BLF board member Jim Brown.

Photos by Jim Brown and Elizabeth Douglass.
Volunteers Remove 296 Pounds of Trash From Ponto Beach

Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation has hosted two Saturday morning beach cleanups so far this summer. The first was on June 11 and the second was on July 9, and both started out with a hazy marine layer, perfect weather for a beach cleanup. Our BLF volunteers Liz Paegel, Michelle Deblock and Jeff Regan along with Cory Hawkins from California State Parks were ready to go, passing out plastic bags and gloves. People started arriving promptly at 8 a.m. when we started and we were busy for the next two hours until we stopped at 10 a.m.

The largest item collected on the first cleanup in June was burnt firewood. Unfortunately, in many cases, firewood was not used responsibly and not properly disposed of. It is a hazard because people can step on sharp pieces on the beach, birds can ingest small amounts as they forage for food, and swimmers and surfers can get hit by wood when it is washed into the ocean. Wood burning fires have recently been banned on the beaches in Carlsbad, so be aware that violators are subject to fines. Propane fires are the only kind allowed, and that should help keep our beaches cleaner for us and for future generations to enjoy.

On both dates we collected the usual items such as plastic bottles, wrap, utensils, cigarette butts, aluminum cans, glass bottles, and paper trash. Sadly, some birds ingest so many small pieces of plastic debris and Styrofoam that their stomachs fill up with trash and they die of starvation. Some unusual items found included: A shotgun shell, a reversible slow/stop sign, clothing, towels, an assortment of shoes and sandals, and a roller suitcase with a rusted grill inside. We tally all the debris and report our numbers to San Diego Coastkeeper to add to their totals. At the end of the day, we separated all the trash and recyclables for proper disposal.

A total of 80 people came out over the two days to pick up trash, and together they collected 296 pounds of trash! We had families, Boy Scouts, community members and neighbors. An admirable accomplishment for four hours of work. Well done and thank you everyone.

Our next summer beach cleanup is scheduled for Aug 13 at Ponto beach from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Look for the BLF canopy on the beach, near the parking lot on Coast Highway north of La Costa Ave. We will send out email reminders to all Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation members and hope to see you all there. See photos below and continued on the next page.

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president

Left, Representatives from Boy Scout Troop 750, John Tadlock, Aidan Flood, and Maia Villaflor gathered trash on June 11. Above, Members of Boy Scout Troop 787 of Oceanside collected 61 pounds of garbage, including an old suitcase, on July 9.

Photos by Deb Mossa and Michele Deblock.
City of Carlsbad Discusses Impact of Rising Sea Levels

On Thursday, May 19, the City of Carlsbad hosted a public information meeting at the Faraday Center on “The Future of Carlsbad’s Coast and Lagoons.” The primary focus of the meeting was sea level rise and its potential impact on coastal communities like Carlsbad. Those who made presentations included experts/representatives from the University of California San Diego (UCSD), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the Regional Climate Collaborative. Their message was simple – sea level rise will continue to occur, and it’s imperative that Carlsbad and other coastal communities create more awareness among their respective citizenry.

While they disagree about the exact amount of sea level rise that will occur over the next 35 years and beyond, the experts at the event agreed that signs of climate change are already apparent, that there is real risk to our coast line, and that increasing awareness, analysis, and planning are important next steps.

Indeed, the City of Carlsbad has initiated a “study of how sea level rise is expected to affect local areas around lagoons and the coast.” A draft of that report on Carlsbad’s vulnerability to sea level rise, released in June, is available at http://www.carlsbadca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=30919. After the sea level rise study is finalized and accepted, the city will develop strategies to prepare for more intensive coastal flooding and erosion.

If you would like to learn more about sea level rise and/or discover how to get involved in the above process, go to www.carlsbadca.gov/planning and http://dornsife.usc.edu/uscseagrant/urban-tides-initiative/.

—Jeff Regan, BLF board member
New Nature Center Showcases BLF’s Creature Collections, Children’s Play Area, Library and Reading Chairs

Our new nature center showcases our collections of birds, insects, and rocks as well as a variety of wildlife and Native American artifacts. The displays are easy to see and move around and facilitate an appreciation of the creatures that call Batiquitos home. There is a dedicated children's area with bins full of interesting objects for them to touch. There is also a children's library with nature books and a table for little ones to draw and color. Adults can relax in the sitting area by the library and browse through the books. The date of our opening celebration will be posted on our website. Stop by and see us soon!

—Deb Mossa, BLF vice president

We’re Open! ☀️
Come Visit!

Photos by Deb Mossa
The New Nature Center: A Look Inside the Project

Top left, BLF board member Liz Paegel and volunteers Joel Knieper and Jesse Butler unwrap display cases. Top right, Project plans. Middle left, BLF interns Quinn Pear and Zach Paine help BLF board member and project engineer Don Omsted mix concrete. Middle right, BLF vice president Deb Mossa organizes the kids area. Lower left, Deb Mossa, Don Rideout, Elizabeth Douglass, Liz Paegel, Jesse Butler and Joel Knieper clean displays. Above, A look at the workroom and equipment our volunteers used to build the deck, rails, stairs and the concrete footings and entrance.
UPCOMING EVENTS

*** NOTE ***
The New Nature Center Is Now Open!

July 2016

Mon – Fri, Jul 25 – Jul 29 – City of Carlsbad’s Club Pelican Class #19958, 9 a.m. - Noon. Ages 7 – 10. Registration is through the City of Carlsbad.

August 2016

Mon – Fri, Aug 1 – Aug 5 – City of Carlsbad’s Club Pelican Class #19959, 9 a.m. - Noon. Ages 9 – 13. Registration is through the City of Carlsbad.


Mon – Fri, Aug 8 – Aug 12 – City of Carlsbad’s Club Pelican Class 19960, 9 a.m. - Noon. Ages 9 – 13. Registration is through the City of Carlsbad.

Fri., Aug 12 – Bird Count. 7:30 a.m. Meet at Gabbiano Lane Trailhead. Public welcome. Bring binoculars.

Sat., Aug 13 – Ponto Beach (South Carlsbad State Beach) Summer Clean-up. 8 – 11 am. Gloves, trash collection bags, tally sheets, and educational information (e.g., bottle caps, cigarette buts, plastics) will be provided. Look for the BLF canopy on the beach near the South Carlsbad State Beach parking lot north of La Costa Avenue & North Coast Highway 101. Friends, families, and other groups welcome. Join us in supporting our community and help keep our beach clean!

Wed., Aug 17 – BLF Board Meeting. 4:30 p.m. BLF Nature Center. Public Welcome.


September 2016


Mon., Sep 5 – Labor Day, Nature Center open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Wed., Sep 7 – Docent Corps Meeting. 4 p.m., BLF Nature Center. Everyone Welcome.

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

Sat., Sep 10 – Docent-led Public Walk, Subject TBD. 10 a.m. Location TBD.

Sat., Sep 17 – Weed-whacking/Trail Maintenance. 9 a.m., BLF Nature Center. Everyone Welcome.

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

October 2016


Sat., Oct 8 – Docent-led Public Walk, Subject TBD. 10 a.m. Location TBD.

Fri., Oct 14 – Bird Count. 7:30 a.m. Meet at Gabbiano Lane Trailhead. Public welcome. Bring binoculars.


Wed., Oct 19 – 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)

Rec #: _____ Date Entered: ____/____/201____

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 Aug/Sept for Kayak Batiquitos Lagoon Clean-up on Nov. 5 & 6!!

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**