

**Ballona Creek Renaissance...**

A 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to renewing Ballona Creek and its watershed for a healthier, more sustainable environment and community.

(We're also known as BCR)  
[www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org)

**Contact us:**

Ballona Creek Renaissance  
PO Box 843  
Culver City, CA 90232

Jim Lamm, President  
310-839-6896  
[jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org](mailto:jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org)

**Officers and Directors**

Jim Lamm, President  
Amy Rosenstein, Vice President  
David Valdez, Secretary  
Richard S. Hibbs, Treasurer  
Lucy Blake-Elahi  
Bobbi Gold, Newsletter Editor  
Irene Reingold  
Gerald Sallus  
Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt, Outreach  
Coordinator  
Mim Shapiro

**Advisory Council**

Steven Coker  
Lori Escalera  
Bob Hadley  
Scott Malsin, Webmaster  
Dino Parks  
Marina Curtis Tidwell

**In this issue:**

1. "The Garden" fundraiser
3. Ballona Wetlands Area C
4. The Annenberg Proposal
7. Climate Change and Ballona
8. Baldwin Hills Habitat Restoration
10. Malibu Lagoon Restoration
11. Ongoing BCR projects (continued)

*Printed on 30% recycled post-consumer FSC-certified paper*

**"THE GARDEN" FUNDRAISER**

Now a dozen years old, "The Garden" each year celebrates its creation and partly funds its maintenance with a Bake Sale / Plant Sale fundraiser.



Located on a plot of County-owned land on Mesmer Avenue at Beatrice Street, just south of the Marina (10) freeway, situated partly on a bridge across Centinela Creek, the land formerly hosted trash and weeds and was used to store equipment for County projects. Aggravated by the ugly conditions, the neighbors, led by Charlotte Demeo and Glenn Martin, sought funding from local LA City agencies and donations of supplies (soil, irrigation supplies) from businesses and organizations to create paths, benches and amenities as well as plants ranging from ground covers through trees. The volunteers broke ground in February, 2001, and the garden was dedicated in May, 2002.



BCR provides on-going assistance enabling the project to satisfy certain County requirements for use of the land.

On May 11, The Garden held its 2013 fundraiser. The event included a special visit from outgoing LA City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who received a plaque of recognition for his service to the community and who presented an LA City Certificate

of Appreciation to Glenn Martin for his many years of work on The Garden.



Charlotte Demeo (red hat) and Glenn Martin (brown hat) stand by the banner thanking BCR for its assistance and the community for continuing support. In the background is the concrete channel of Centinela Creek.



Councilman Bill Rosendahl (white hat) presents certificate to Glenn Martin (brown hat)

## Ongoing BCR projects

By Jim Lamm, BCR President

Since our Fall Newsletter, BCR has enjoyed a broad variety of activities—creek cleanups, restoration planning and events, talks at schools and a university, education and advocacy about fracking and single-use plastic bags, enjoying a comedy night fundraiser, BCR talks, meeting at a new creek-close venue, participating in cicLAVia, setting the stage for a mural restoration, engaging in the wetlands restoration dialog, and more.

To enhance our skills, BCR board and family members started 2013 on a refreshing note with a Ballona Wetlands experience led by Cindy Hardin, LA Audubon's Director of Environmental Education. Like 4<sup>th</sup> graders do every week, we looked through microscopes at the little creatures that inhabit the waters and mud and enjoyed an informative walk through the rain-freshened wetlands.

Our creek cleanups at the Centinela Avenue entrance to Ballona Creek continue to be very popular with all ages. There, the concrete channel bottom becomes natural silt, many kinds of plants have sprouted along the sides of the creek, birds, fish and invertebrates are found there, and it all looks like a natural creek, unlike the rectangular concrete storm drain upstream. Unfortunately there usually is lots of trash to pick up, too! But children, youth and adults go away

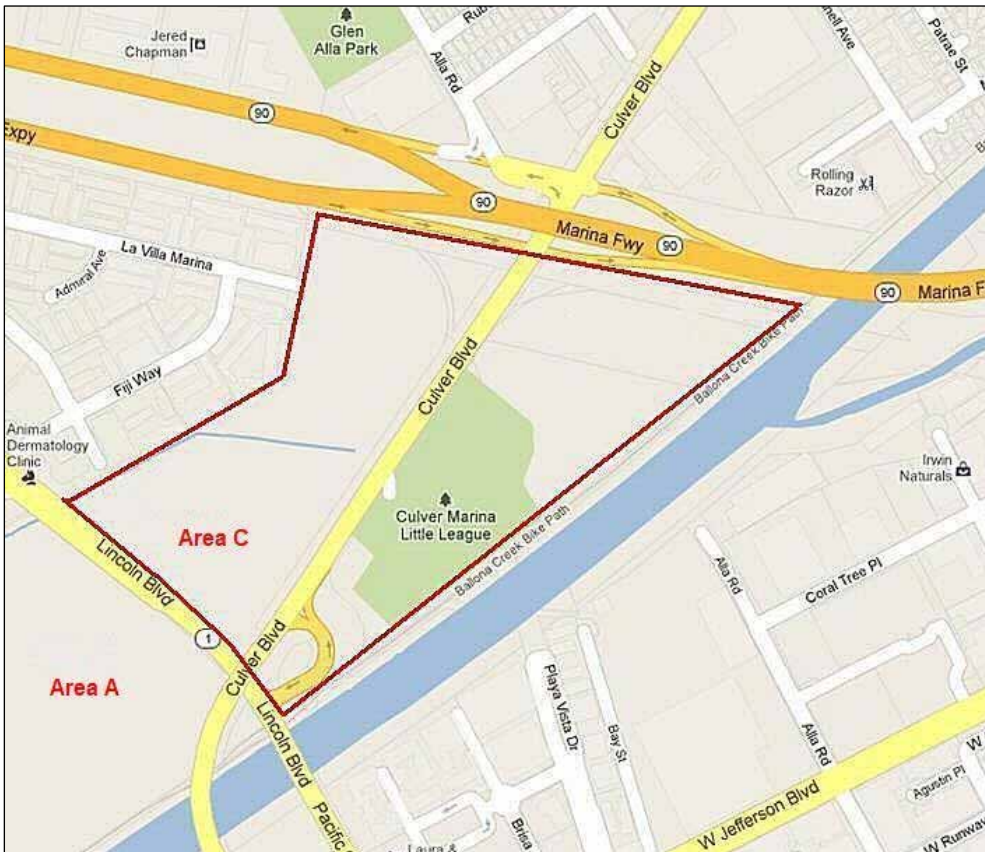


Two students display their trash haul during an April 27 creek cleanup at Centinela Avenue. with a better sense of the community-creek connection and how we can reduce our impact on the creek, ocean, and planet. See page 11 for more on our programs and activities.

## AREA C AND THE ANNENBERG FLAP

### Wetlands Restoration Area C

Area C is one of three sections of former wetlands being studied for restoration. It lies more inland than areas A and B and is no longer even close to being actual wetlands. It would be restored as “uplands”- an area for native plants and animals that need no tidal flow. It still is frequented by native birds such as herons and egrets, and also Loggerhead Shrikes and White-Tailed Kites, two species described by Los Angeles Audubon as being in steep decline on the coastal plain. The birds feed on insects and small animals in the area.



Totalling about 64 acres, Area C is bounded by Ballona Creek on the south, Lincoln Blvd on the west, the Marina Freeway on the east, and a residential neighborhood on the north. Culver Blvd bisects Area C from east to west. (see map).

Area C is highly degraded in terms of plants and soil, being largely overrun by non-native weeds. It has been further degraded by human use- mountain bike tracks and homeless camps with resulting trash and drug paraphernalia. Two Culver-Marina Little League ball fields, accessible from Culver Blvd, have also been in use on Area C for many decades and are expected to remain after restoration. (The ball fields actually occupy somewhat less space than the map indicates.) The photos show various views of the portion of Area C between Culver Blvd. and the creek.

And Area C is the source of a new, controversial proposal by the Annenberg Foundation. Keep reading...

## THE ANNENBERG PROPOSAL FOR AREA C

As if the Ballona Wetlands restoration project were not controversial enough, the well-endowed Annenberg Foundation has added yet another issue.

Environmentalists were startled by a January 27 LA Times article announcing a \$50 million deal between the Annenberg Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to build a 46,000-square-foot nature center at Area C of the wetlands. The project “would tentatively include an auditorium, classrooms, a public lobby, exhibits on wildlife and domestic animals, facilities for an animal adoption and care program, veterinary facilities for animals on site, retail space, parking and office space for staff. A snack bar is also a possibility.” The Foundation also foresees opportunities for domestic pets to enjoy the restored wetlands.

Many were outraged at what was presented as a done deal, although in fact such a project would have to go through environmental reviews with the entire wetlands restoration project. While some welcome private funding for improvements that the state could never afford, others consider many elements of the plan unsuitable. A letter from Los Angeles Audubon strongly opposed the large building, the animal adoption and veterinary facilities, and the idea of bringing dogs to an area to be restored for native plants and wildlife.

The Annenberg Foundation had previously proposed a similar facility on coastal land in the Palos Verdes peninsula, but it was rejected by residents and state and federal officials.

State rules currently prohibit anyone from bringing pets, including dogs and cats, into the Ballona Wetlands. Rick Mayfield, a senior environmental scientist, said Fish and Wildlife commissioners would need to approve a regulation change to accommodate adoption suites and veterinary facilities, or to allow leashed dogs inside the center or in designated outdoor areas, as the Annenberg Foundation has suggested.

In an effort to be fair, this newsletter presents on page 5 the entire text of a response written to BCR president Jim Lamm, who had asked Annenberg Executive Director Leonard Aube whether the foun-



ation would be willing to fund the conservation projects without the controversial elements. Specifically, “Would Annenberg proceed with all of the ecological improvements highlighted in the revised NOP [Notice of Preparation] and subsequent presentations, even if the companion animal center component were not included?”

Mr. Aube’s response, which avoids answering Jim Lamm’s question, does outline many desirable goals, but it also includes elements which BCR and others consider irrelevant or incompatible on public land dedicated to the greater Ballona wetlands and uplands restoration.

You can read Mr. Aube’s letter and decide for yourself whether half a loaf is better than none.

In particular, in a response to Walter Lamb of the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, Mr. Aube states: “Mr. Lamb, You can choose to differentiate or parse between animals – wild, feral, indigenous, companion or others associated with an Urban Ecology – we do not.” Well, many of us do indeed differentiate between pet dogs and threatened native birds and other wildlife.

The Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, among many others, has submitted extensive comments too lengthy to publish here, but you can read them here: <https://docs.google.com/a/ballona.org/file/d/0B-y1V3mUqBDXR1NMRzJxQUE1UW8/edit> (The link is clickable in the online/email version of this newsletter.)

At its April 30 board meeting, BCR voted to oppose the Annenberg proposal. Our reasons are stated on page 6.

## Email letter from the Annenberg Foundation to BCR President Jim Lamm

Monday, April 29, 2013.

Dear Mr. Lamm,

Thank you for your interest in the Annenberg's Foundation's participation in the effort to enhance the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Although many elements of the project continue to be defined and, therefore, are subject to change we are pleased to provide you with this update on the project:

### In Summary

The Annenberg Foundation has joined with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) in their restoration efforts at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve with proposed funding for improvements on area C South, a 30-acre zone bounded by Ballona Creek to the southeast, the 90 Freeway to the northeast, Culver Boulevard to the west and the Culver Boulevard/Lincoln Boulevard interchange to the southwest.

### Taking Stock of Area C South

C South is now primarily degraded upland habitat. It is intended to become a necessary and vital uplands component to the wetlands restoration further west, and also the home of an Urban Ecology Center: a visitors' center filled with programs and exhibits both indoors and out. The shared goal of all the parties is to increase public access to and educational opportunities on the approximate 600-acre reserve.

### Visitor Center

The Urban Ecology Center, with a building footprint measuring less than one acre, is envisioned as the gateway to all of Ballona and to the vast, diverse ecosystem that is the city of Los Angeles. The new Center would allow neighbors, students and the entire community to enjoy a deeper understanding of the plants and animals around them and gain a better appreciation for the area's biological diversity and the interplay of flora, fauna and urban life. The Center and on-site programs would also address the historical heritage of the location and the ways in which the area was used by its native population.

Set within the broader context of urban ecology, initial concepts for the Center include exhibits and programs involving live wildlife (species under consideration include: sea bass, garibaldi, stingray, killifish mudsucker, western pond turtle, heron, osprey, tarantula, lizards, opossum, skunk, coast vole, barn owl, tern, cottontail rabbit, El Segundo blue butterfly, red tail hawks among others and subject to permitting) as well as domestic animals (dog and cat); a domestic animal adoption pro-

gram; an auditorium, and facilities for school-age children visiting the Reserve for field trips. People, living plants, indigenous and domestic animals would be part of a balanced, holistic Urban Ecology message and integral to achieving the project's programmatic goals – we remain committed to presenting an all-inclusive vision.

The Urban Ecology Center would facilitate enhanced outreach and educational programs about topics such as conserving and protecting wildlife and their habitats, responsible pet recreation that respects surrounding habitats, the value of wetlands, and estuarine ecology with such outreach and educational programs better targeting the surrounding heavily populated urban community.

The proposed Center would have planted roofs that create new habitat for winged animals such as bees, butterflies and birds. In fact, the Urban Ecology Center is being designed with innovative features that would not result in a net loss of habitat. The revitalization of C South would include significant removal of the non-native vegetation and reintroduction of the native species that have been nearly choked out of existence. An undulating landscape, featuring arroyos, seasonal streams and grand vistas would be created.

### Culver/Marina Little League

The existing Little League fields and existing parking areas would be renovated to become eco-friendly. Hydrocarbons from parked vehicles would be collected and filtered naturally through bioswales that enhance infiltration and reduce surface runoff. Portions of the baseball fields would be planted with native vegetation and equipped with removable fences so that they can transition into expanses of open space when each season concludes.

### Trail System and Improved Public Access

Other plans include the creation of defined hiking trails and the addition of new boardwalks, overlooks and improved access from Ballona Creek to allow the community to enjoy and learn about the enhanced habitat within Area C.

To bring this vision to life, the Annenberg Foundation is prepared to commit at least \$50 million for capital improvements on behalf of this unique public-private partnership. In addition, the Foundation would make an annual contribution toward on-going public programs, maintenance and upkeep of the entire Ballona Reserve, as well as provide funding for on-site CDFW staff presence.

The proposed Urban Ecology Center is currently going through an environmental analysis as part of the overall restoration plan for the entire Ballona Wetlands Eco-

logical Reserve. The public will be invited to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report when it is released later this year.

Again, we appreciate your interest in the Annenberg Foundation's participation in the proposed Ballona Wetlands enhancement effort.

Sincerely,  
Len

Leonard J. Aube  
Executive Director  
The Annenberg Foundation  
2000 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1000  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
TEL: (310) 209-4560  
laube@annenbergfoundation.org  
www.annenbergfoundation.org



A great egret foraging in Area C. (Photo by Walter Lamb)

## BCR'S THOUGHTS ON THE ANNEBERG PROPOSAL

BCR has reviewed the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Annenberg Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission/Foundation, and State Coastal Conservancy. While it contains some provisions that could be beneficial, we oppose the proposed Annenberg Interpretive Center for the following reasons:

1. Ballona Wetlands interpretation and education should rely on self-guided or docent-led walking tours on accessible trails and overlooks with small trailhead interpretive and support facilities, rather than displays and programs housed in buildings.
2. The inclusion of a pet adoption and care facility is an inappropriate, incompatible, and unacceptable use of the ecological reserve.
3. However well-designed the building may be, the apparent square-footage appears to be much too large. In fact, any building project would be an intrusion into this unique open space ecosystem.
4. All parts of the wetlands reserve, even the southeastern boundary of Area C, have ecological value and potential for renewal.
5. All existing and potential visitor points of entry and features for the entire ecological reserve require thoughtful and coordinated planning to provide maximum ecological benefit while also providing compatible educational benefit:

- Discovery Park on Bluff Creek Drive in Playa Vista, which serves an open (uncontrolled) entry point to the Freshwater Marsh.
- The existing Area B salt marsh and dunes visitors entrance behind Gordon's Market on Culver Blvd. and the Area A entrance from Fiji Way in the Marina could be enhanced as other educational but controlled points of entry for visitors.
- For Area C, various alternate perimeter locations for trailheads or overlooks should be considered in addition to the one proposed.

The MOU text implies that it is possible to recreate in sensitive habitats with pets (described as "proper techniques for recreating outdoors with pets in ways that are respectful of sensitive natural ecosystems, and allow humans, domestic animals, and wildlife to coexist"). Some organizations have taken a strong position against pets in the wetlands reserve, and state rules currently forbid it.. For many reasons, no changes should be made without careful evaluation of the benefits and hazards to people, pets and wildlife.

**This newsletter is available as a print edition and an online document in PDF format (both in color).** If you're getting one version and prefer the other, let us know at [editor@ballonacreek.org](mailto:editor@ballonacreek.org) and we'll switch you. Note that in the online version, the blue text represents clickable links.

## Global Warming Questions

The consequences of climate change will include more heat waves, more devastating storms, more droughts, and sea level rise as well as increasing acidification and salinity changes. The rate of change will vary in different parts of the globe, but in general, temperatures are expected to increase more slowly at first for several decades and then accelerate. How will this affect Ballona Creek and the wetlands?

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) presented its annual symposium on March 25, focusing this year on Climate Change in Urban Estuaries. Eight researchers from universities, public agencies and environmental consultants presented synopses of their work in estuaries and wetlands from San Diego to San Francisco to understand the impact of climate change and plan appropriate mitigations to the extent possible, perhaps only for the short term.

## Mussels in Ballona Creek

Dr. Wes Dowd of Loyola Marymount University looked at how different individuals of the same species might accommodate warming differently- in this case, mussels on the rocks near the end of the creek. First, he noted that the original native mussels have been almost entirely replaced by invasive Mediterranean mussels, which look the same but tolerate somewhat warmer climates.

Mussels are individuals, genetically different, and, like people, some of them tolerate heat and cold better than others. They're not very mobile, and some locations on the rocks may be cooler than others depending on the angle of the sun. Mussel larvae have different tolerances than mature mussels. So global warming will not affect all mussels in a single location equally.

In the face of climate change, any species has only a few options. Some individuals may be able to cope or adapt, others may move to a cooler location. On a long-term scale, the species may be able to adapt by evolving; if not, the result is extinction. Mussels can live for up to 30 years but mature within a year, so there's a new generation every year, with the potential for rapid evolution.

## Sea-level Rise and Implications for Ballona Wetlands Restoration

Other presenters spoke about the implications of climate change for the Ballona Wetlands and its restoration. Global warming causes sea-level rise because of melting land-based ice caps and because waters increase in volume as they warm. For local areas, some studies have

predicted a rise of 50 centimeters (20 inches) by the year 2050 and 5 meters (16 feet) by the year 2300 if current trends continue. 2050 is only 37 years away, well within the lifetime of many of us. The actual increase will depend on many factors, but clearly sea-level rise has to be considered in any long-term plans.

Currently, about 100 acres in area B of the total of 600 acres in the ecological reserve are on tidal wetlands. Automatic tide gates in the south levee of Ballona Creek allow tide waters to flow into and out of this area, but the gates close when the water reaches a certain level because portions of Culver Blvd, which runs through area B, are below high tide level and would be flooded twice a day. So currently, the wetlands do not experience the highest tides.



Innumerable mussels are exposed at low tide at the Pacific Avenue bridge across Ballona Creek.

Some restoration concepts envision removing the creek walls and allowing creek waters and tides to flow directly into the wetlands. As sea levels increase, the vegetated portions of the salt marsh would become unvegetated mudflats, displacing not only the vegetation but also the animals which depend on the vegetation, such as Belding's Savannah Sparrow. The vegetation would move inland to slightly higher ground if there were no constraints. But there are constraints- roads, buildings and the Westchester bluffs surround the wetlands. Preserving the wetlands might mean reshaping the land so that it rises gradually. Seawalls will be needed to protect Culver Blvd and parts of Playa del Rey from flooding.



Left photo shows a wetlands channel near maximum tide allowed by the tide gates; right photo shows a channel near low tide. If the sea level rose so that the channels were always full or overflowing, the marsh plants would die and the area would become mud flats. (right photo courtesy SMBRC)

Global warming would likely generate more frequent and more powerful storms as well as longer droughts. These could be especially damaging to wetlands, which are fragile ecosystems.

### It's complicated

Sea-level rise (SLR) itself is complex and varies from place to place on the globe, says Karina Johnston, restoration ecologist with SMBRC. "For example, warmer water expands more than cooler water, so you may have more SLR in warmer areas.

"On a larger scale, some areas of continents are currently rising, while others are subsiding, sometimes due to humans extracting resources from underground, and sometimes due to natural causes or tectonic plate movement. We are close to the border of two different plates, so we will have different effects over time based

on how our plates are interacting versus another area of the country.

"Locally, wave action, tidal influence, erosion, sedimentation, and localized warming will also play a part in the SLR issue."

And besides, it's just a prediction. Much can change.

Readers eager for more technical information on this subject can download the September 2012 document "Climate Change Implications for Ballona Wetlands Restoration", from:

[http://www.santamonicabay.org/Documents/BallonaCREStudy\\_FINAL%20Report\\_12-12-12.pdf](http://www.santamonicabay.org/Documents/BallonaCREStudy_FINAL%20Report_12-12-12.pdf) .

Other documents are available on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project website at

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/BWRP/bwrpdocuments.html>

## BALDWIN HILLS HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

This 2 ½ year project, now underway, is identifying, mapping and removing invasive non-native plants and restoring native vegetation to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Territory. It is designed to achieve several goals of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, including

- Protect and restore natural habitat
- Protect and improve urban water quality
- Protect watersheds connecting to Santa Monica Bay

The project has held several volunteer work days since last fall at both Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. Volunteers dug out non-native invasive plants and grasses and planted native plants, using tools and plants supplied by the project. (See photos next page). This Project will be a collabora-

tive effort with stakeholders to improve and support habitat for wildlife - native insects, birds, and many other species - while improving trails, increasing recreational opportunities and reducing the risk of wildfire. BCR members have participated in these events.

The project is operated by Los Angeles Infrastructure Academy, in partnership with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council and Generation Water. The project will satisfy two additional goals:

- (1) On –the-job work experience for 10 young people, through Generation Water. In addition to invasive plant training, Generation Water team members will also receive training on water use efficiency, irrigation retrofits, horticulture and gardening, and stormwater infiltration.



(2) Community-building. Mujeres de la Tierra, an environmental non-profit organization in Los Angeles, supports the building of healthier and sustainable neighborhoods through public engagement and individual participation. One of the main goals is to identify holistic and practical approaches to solving local environmental issues by balancing efforts to address environmental woes

with the needs of family survival. Mujeres de la Tierra will organize community building efforts focused on building a base of regular volunteers.

The project is led by Rebecca Shields Moose, Manager of Habitat Restoration for Generation Water



Hard-working volunteers, including the Dorsey High Eco Club, scouts, community members, and BCR, remove invasives, plant natives, and cut wire barriers to protect plants from gophers.

## THE SECOND MALIBU LAGOON RESTORATION



Malibu Lagoon is the destination of Malibu Creek after its journey through the Santa Monica Mountains. It's one of many coastal lagoons and wetlands severely damaged or destroyed by the thoughtless practices of civilization.

During the 1940s – 1960s, excess dirt from the construction of Pacific Coast Highway and other projects was dumped onto a portion of the lagoon. From the 1960s to 1983, two baseball fields occupied the site.

The first restoration of Malibu Lagoon began in 1983 with the relocation of the baseball fields to Malibu Bluffs State Park, a short distance north, and the construction of three narrow tidal channels in the western portion of the lagoon. But circulation of tidal waters in the channels was poor, and sediment and algae continued to build, choking off oxygen and diminishing wildlife. Water sampling showed that, at times, the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water was essentially zero, meaning that no fish or mud-dwelling animals could survive in it, and so the birds that feed on them didn't come. "It smelled like sewage, death, rotten eggs", says Mark Abramson of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, project manager.

In 1995, a long-term public planning process was launched to improve the ecological health of the lagoon, using the skills and knowledge of many scientists as well as members of the public. In 2008, in a

step toward improving water quality, the parking lot pavement was removed, and storm runoff from the parking area was directed into vegetated swales (shallow depressions), irrigating the vegetation and sinking into ground to be filtered by the soil, rather than carrying oil and grease into the lagoon.

In 2011, a comprehensive plan emerged. A lawsuit by some who objected to the scope and methods required (bulldozing) delayed it, but the courts ultimately allowed the restoration plan to proceed in 2012-2013. Costs totaled \$7 million, including all the planning, CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process, monitoring, and parking lot reconstruction.

The land was re-graded into one main channel (at a better angle to the surf for tidal flow than the previous configuration) and some islands that, when the ground cover and plants regrow, will allow birds to build nests safe from predators like feral cats. 68,000 native plants of 80 varieties are still small (or still seeds) and are marked by little red and blue flags. In about two years the plant cover will regrow enough for birds to nest there. For human visitors there are trails, lookout areas, interpretive signs, shade structures and other educational elements. And a walkway to the beach for surfers and beachgoers.

One criticism of the project was the fact that the lagoon doesn't look the way it did in historical records. That's not the point of restoration, says Dr. Shelly Luce, director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. The point is to restore natural tidal flows and allow nature to function the way it did and should.

At the official public ceremony reopening the lagoon on May 3, 2013, the speakers thanked many university faculty, scientists, elected officials, public agencies, non-profit organizations and volunteers. For more information about the process and some of those who contributed their knowledge and effort, visit the project website: [www.restoremalibulagoon.com/](http://www.restoremalibulagoon.com/).



A cormorant perches on one of several dead trees placed in the lagoon for that purpose.



Left: an island and numerous new plants indicated by colored flags. Right: a shade structure whose shadow suggests kelp.

---

### Ongoing BCR projects (continued from page 2)

In the same Del Rey neighborhood of Los Angeles, BCR also participated in the dedication of the creekside native planting at Mar Vista Family Center, tree care and plantings along the Culver Boulevard bike and walking paths, and a special plaque dedication and bake sale at our adopted community garden at Mesmer Avenue and Beatrice Street, overlooking the Centinela Creek channel.

Connecting with all levels of students and their teachers and administrators continues to be an important part of what we do, not just in the field but at the schools as well. So far this year, BCR has enjoyed visits to or meetings with students and/or leaders at New Los Angeles Charter in Mid-City LA, Echo Horizon School in east Culver City, Lycée Français de Los Angeles, Culver City High School, and Cal State University-Los Angeles. Late in 2012, we also gave presentations at the Culver City Historical Society and Culver City Rotary. Schedule permitting, we welcome the opportunity to provide talks, tours, advice, and volunteer activities.

As usual the Earth Month of April kept us especially busy. BCR had our informative booth at the Culver

City stop for the April 21 CicLAvia. See also the related article about Baldwin Hills Habitat Restoration on pages 8-9. We especially appreciate all the volunteers who participate with us, including the fifty who really helped make a noticeable difference at our April 27th creek cleanup!

To keep abreast of time-sensitive news and volunteer opportunities, sign up for our monthly BCR E-News via our website, [www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org). You can also donate online on our website. Also find more information and photos and “like” us on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ballonacreekrenaissance](http://www.facebook.com/ballonacreekrenaissance)

**Want to volunteer with BCR?** Some ways to be involved are: staffing our booths at events, planning public programs, researching grant opportunities, planning fundraising events, working with native plant gardens ...and other ways according to your skills, interests, experience and available time. Contact Jim Lamm at (310) 839-6896 or email [jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org](mailto:jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org) .

Editor: Bobbi Gold

This newsletter reflects and celebrates the diversity of the people and activities of the watershed and beyond. La Ballona Creek Renaissance Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID # is 95-4764614. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please mail contributions to Ballona Creek Renaissance, P.O. Box 843, Culver City, CA 90232. For address corrections, additions or deletions, please call (310) 837-3661 or email [editor@ballonacreek.org](mailto:editor@ballonacreek.org). Unattributed photos are the property of BCR.



P.O. Box 843 Culver City, CA 90232

Address correction requested

## SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

**BALLONA CREEK RENAISSANCE** needs your help to renew the Westside's forgotten river and its watershed!

\$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$25    \$\_\_\_\_\_ other

I would like to volunteer my time     I would like to join the board of directors/advisory council

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my entire contribution to benefit BCR's programs, **OR**

I'd like a tote bag for my donation of \$50 or more, **OR**

I'd like a T-shirt for my donation of \$50 or more (circle size: S M L XL)



Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your donation payable to "Ballona Creek Renaissance"**

Mail to: Ballona Creek Renaissance, PO Box 843, Culver City, CA 90232.

Or donate online using our website, [www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org).