

Ballona Creek Renaissance...
dedicated to renewing Ballona Creek and its watershed for a healthier, more sustainable environment and community.

(We are also known as BCR)
www.ballonacreek.org

Mail us at:
Ballona Creek Renaissance
PO Box 843
Culver City, CA 90232

Or Contact us:
Jim Lamm, President
310-839-6896
jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org

Officers and Directors
Jim Lamm, President
Scott Malsin, Vice President
Bobbi Gold, Secretary/Treasurer
Lucy Blake-Elahi
Cathi Lamm
Irene Reingold
Amy Rosenstein
Gerald Sallus
Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt
Mim Shapiro
June Walden

Advisory Council
Steven Coker
Lori Escalera
Bob & Pat Hadley
Richard S. Hibbs
Marina Curtis Tidwell

Webmaster
Scott Malsin, ProPoint

Newsletter Editor
Bobbi Gold

In this issue:

1. New Creek Entrance Parks
3. Ballona Greenway
4. President's Message
5. Meet our Boardmembers
6. BCR Projects
8. Ballona Lagoon vs. Pincushions
10. Around the Watershed: more

THREE NEW ENTRANCE PARKS TO THE BALLONA CREEK BIKEPATH

Building on the success of a 2005 project, attractive new gates and entrance parks were installed in September at three locations along the Ballona Creek bikepath: McConnell Avenue, Inglewood Blvd and Sepulveda Blvd. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), a state agency, created the projects to enhance the experience of cyclists, walkers and joggers along the bikepath by replacing the chain link fencing and asphalt with natural-looking areas and rest stops.

The three areas were designed in the same style as the entrance park at Centinela Avenue (see our June 2005 newsletter, available on our website). Each has a metal gate with design elements suggesting the creek, ocean waves, birds and bikepath. Inside the gates are appropriate native plants, low rock walls, benches and drinking fountains. (The McConnell entrance does not have a fountain but is only half a mile from the Centinela entrance, which does.)



Artist Lucy Blake-Elahi, pictured above, who is also a founding member of BCR, designed the Sepulveda Blvd gate, shown below. The McConnell Ave and Inglewood Blvd gates were created by Brett Goldstone, who also created the Centinela Ave. gate as well as similar gates at several entrances along the L.A. River, Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River bikepaths. See more information and photos next page.



Construction funds for the project, \$220,500, came from L.A. County Proposition A, approved by the voters in 1992. Barbara Romero, Ana Petric, and Leslie Chan were MRCA's guiding spirits implementing these beautiful improvements.

On December 4, MRCA held a public dedication and celebration on the bikepath. Speakers included Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the MRCA and its parent, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; State Parks Angeles District Superintendent Ron Shafer, and County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Representatives of many elected officials and organizations (including BCR) were thanked for their work and support of these projects. If you couldn't attend the dedication, please visit these three projects by bike, foot or motor vehicle.



Right, Joe Edmiston



Left, bicycle advocate Howard Hackett rides through the new gate at McConnell Avenue.



The McConnell Avenue bikepath entrance before renovation, an ugly mixture of graffiti'd signs, defunct telephone box and chain link fencing. The low bar at the gate opening that prevented access by wheelchair users as well as motorcycles is now gone.



The new Inglewood Avenue entrance gate (shown with the pedestrian/bicycle gate closed) depicts herons at the edge of a stream with grasses.

MORE GREENING OF THE CREEK: THE BALLONA GREENWAY

The Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) is developing more projects to bring green corridors and passive recreation to Ballona Creek. One, the project between Milton Street and the Creek, just downstream from Centinela Avenue next to Marina del Rey Middle School, was described with illustrations in our January, 2009 newsletter, available in color from our website.

The next section slated for improvement is the roughly half-mile stretch of the bikepath between the Inglewood Avenue gate and the San Diego Freeway overpass, which can be seen in the photo of the Inglewood gate at the top of this page.

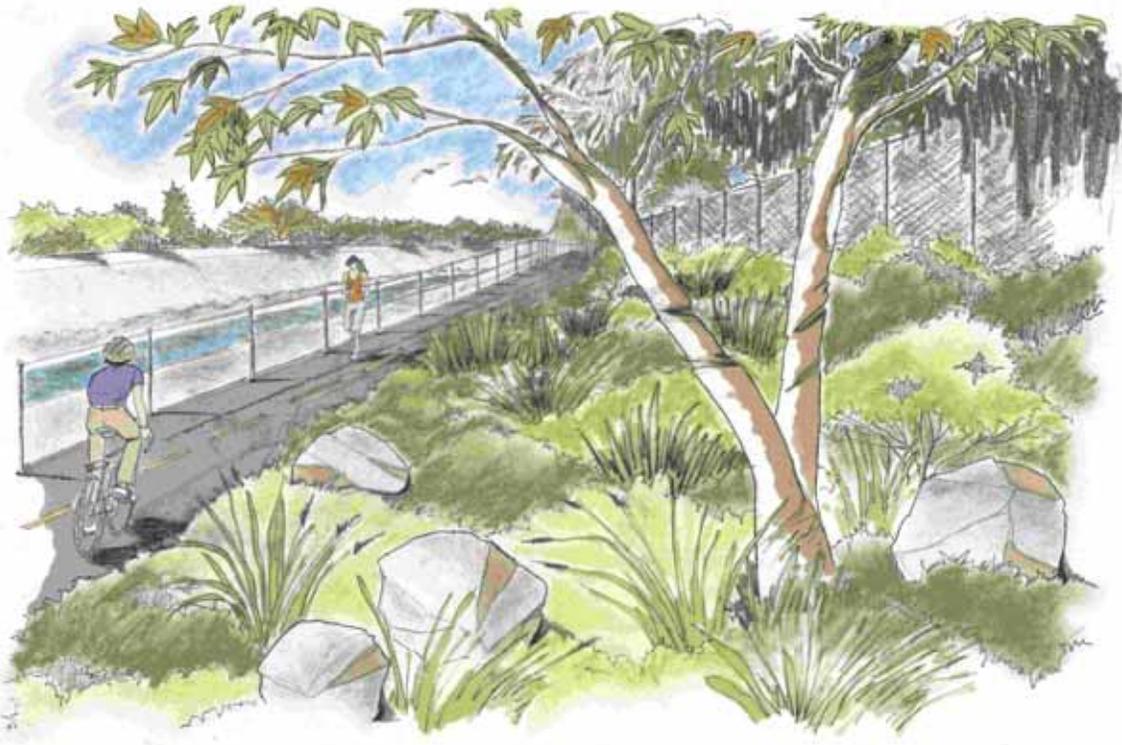


page.
The project was kicked off at the



conclusion of the December 4 ceremony, when a blue-shirted crew from the L.A. Conservation Corps planted 122 native shrubs and trees (Toyon, Coyote Bush, Foothill Penstemon and Lemonade Berry) just north of the Inglewood Ave. entrance park.

The photo at left is the current view looking west (downstream) from the San Diego Freeway overpass next to Culver-Slauson Park. Turn the page for a conceptual rendering of the greenway from the same viewpoint.



Artist's conception by MRCA's Laura Saltzman of the view looking west from the same point as the photo on the previous page. For more information about MRCA, visit their website at www.mrca.ca.gov.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, by Jim Lamm



Although Ballona Creek Renaissance and many other people have been affected by these challenging times, we find ourselves increasingly busy with education, advocacy, and restoration projects. As an all-volunteer organization, we continue to partner and facilitate to help keep the momentum building for a cleaner, greener and

more livable Westside. With your support, we look to build our capacity by adding both a staff person and capable and committed volunteers.

Since January 2009, BCR has gained two new board members: Amy Rosenstein and Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt. Amy, a Culver City creekside resident, active bicyclist, and LEED-certified architect, has helped with outreach, our board retreat, and projects. For more about Sandrine, see the separate article on page 5.

From other articles and photos, you'll begin to get an understanding of some of the positive changes which are in the works through various cooperating agencies and groups along the creek and around the watershed. These changes include two creekside native plant projects that will complement the greenway between Sawtelle and Inglewood Avenues and Culver City's Ballona Creek Bikeway project between the pedestrian bridge and Overland Avenue.

As we continue to share an informal partnership with Friends of Ballona Wetlands (FBW), we now realize that some people have difficulty keeping the different "Ballona" groups straight. In part, this relates to BCR's past practice of referring to our supporters and contacts as "Friends of Ballona Creek". To avoid confusion, we no longer use that term, although we still consider you friends.

So we hope you enjoy the articles and look forward to hearing from you or seeing you soon. Ballona Creek, the Westside's forgotten river, really is beginning to experience a renaissance as a multi-benefit community and natural resource. Explore Ballona, both in these pages and out in the watershed, the hills and the bay!.

Lucy Blake-Elahi



BCR's boardmembers come from diverse professional backgrounds and interests. Fine artist Lucy Blake-Elahi is a founder of BCR, having taken an authorized motor vehicle trip from one end of the bikepath to the other in 1995 and seen the potential for turning a bleak concrete channel into an attractive public venue.

Lucy's two major solo works related to Ballona Creek are the new bikepath gate on the west side of Sepulveda Blvd and the sundial entitled "Homage to Ballona Creek", originally installed at Syd Kronenthal Park (northeast end of the bikepath, at National Blvd) and later moved to Bill Botts Field, overlooking the creek from the hills at the south end of Duquesne Avenue. In addition, she was a principal artist on the two panoramic creekside murals- "Postcards from Ballona" (1997) at Overland Avenue,

collaborating with artists Lori Escalera and Francois Bardol and Culver City Middle School students; and "Rivers of the World" (2000) at Duquesne Avenue, with artists Lori Escalera and David Fairrington and high school students. Lucy also participated in the recent total renovation of the "Postcards" mural and continues to work toward improving the creek and bikepath visually, environmentally, recreationally and educationally.

Those are four of many public art commissions Lucy has created. "The purpose of public art is to express an agreed-upon message to enhance the appearance of the public domain. The art should be specific to the site, and the message can be information about the site, such as history or environment." Or it can be a decorative safety feature, such as a median barricade which Lucy created for the City of Lynwood to prevent students from running across a busy highway.

Lucy also works extensively in fine art and art education with many grants, honors and awards. For more information and examples of her work, visit her website at www.lucyblake-elahi.com. Lucy shares her home and studio with husband Faz and their dog Bounce. [Photo submitted by Lucy.]

Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt



Sandrine's interest in Ballona Creek stems from living next to the creek, seeing its reality and envisioning its potential daily. She is also the sister of artist Christophe Cassidy, whose paintings of Ballona Creek were featured in our

October, 2005, newsletter.

Sandrine brings international experience. Born in France and owning dual French/American citizenship, she was educated at the Lycée Français in Los Angeles. After college, she returned to France for 11 years, working in production and marketing in the film industry in both the U.S. and France.

Several years ago Sandrine, like many of us, became dismayed at the profligate use and discarding of plastic

bags for store merchandise. She resolved to create a line of attractive tote bags in different sizes, designs and configurations, made of natural materials. She took classes in running a small business, arranged financing from friends and family as well as personal resources, hired a designer and photographer, and launched her business three years ago.

She works with fair trade suppliers in India where the jute plant grows sustainably. For product distribution, her company, June Fifteen, works with Build Rehabilitation Industries, which employs Americans with disabilities, helping them achieve greater independence and learn the ethics of work through meaningful employment. The business is also a member of "1% for the Planet", a growing global movement of 1,255 companies that donate 1% of their sales to a network of over 2,000 environmental organizations worldwide (BCR is one). For more information, photos of her totes and purchasing information, visit her website at www.june15collection.com.

Sandrine's family includes her husband, Alexandre, and sons Benjamin, 9, and Adrien, 5, who also attend the Lycée Français [Photo submitted by Sandrine.]

SMBRF Grant Project: The Plants are in the Ground!

Our May, 2009 issue featured this project creating a garden of California native plants with a group of Culver City High School and Middle School students on a 200-foot -long strip of school property next to the Ballona Creek bikepath, separated by a fence. After several planning, education and design activities with small groups of students, BCR held its first weekend volunteer work day on April 17. Students, parents and some community volunteers spent the morning planting and watering 47 shrubs and small trees, a job made more strenuous by very hard soil,

requiring heavy-duty tools to break it up for the shovels. In some coming sessions, we'll further terrace the site and protect the garden with mulch, irrigation, and signage. The project is funded by a grant from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation. For updates and to volunteer, contact Jim Lamm at jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org or his Facebook page.



Creek Cleanups and Greenings

Coastal Cleanup Day. On September 19, 2009, BCR coordinated the cleanup at one of three Culver City sites along the creek at Overland Avenue, where we organized volunteers along with our usual well-illustrated displays. Some of the more unusual items collected included a roll of carpeting, a dead cat (removed by animal services) and some syringes (removed very carefully!).

AD47 Creek Cleanup. On February 21, 2010, the Assembly District 47 People's Council and Environment Commission, in association with Ballona Creek Renaissance and the City of Culver City, sponsored a Ballona Creek cleanup and greening . At the Overland Avenue entrance to the Ballona Creek bikepath, about 100 volunteers of all ages collected 126 bags of trash and weeded the extensive native plant restoration area created

in LA County's Ballona Creek Earth Day 2007 event (see our June 2007 issue).

Items collected ranged from cigarette butts with toxic filters to shopping carts and a heavy fast food poster clogging a large drain.

Extensive BCR displays and brief opening remarks by BCR's Jim Lamm and others helped the volunteers understand the connections among the watershed communities, the creek, the ocean, and our actions. Following the cleanup, the volunteers gathered again for a closing dialog with Speaker Emeritus Karen Bass, Congresswoman Diane Watson, and Culver City Councilmembers Gary Silbiger and Mehaul O'Leary.



Emilien Sahli, age 7, displays the trash he collected from the creek on Coastal Cleanup Day.

“Ensuring clean air and water for our communities has to be one of our top priorities,” said Bass (pictured below right with BCR displays). “Ballona Creek is integral to our cities, controlling flood waters and acting



as a haven for wildlife. The health of this creek is tied to the health of the region it runs through. The work accomplished here today serves as a model for what cooperation can achieve throughout our neighborhoods.”



[Photos by Lisa Fimiani]

Ballona Creek Restoration and Stewardship Project

Led by Friends of Ballona Wetlands' Kelly Rose, in partnership with BCR and Mar Vista Family Center (MVFC), this project also is progressing through planning, education and design toward implementation. This grant project, funded by the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, was described in our May, 2009, newsletter (page 7-8). The project site is on County land between the Ballona Creek bike path and MVFC at Slauson Avenue.

Volunteer planting days are scheduled to begin in late May. Kelly, FBW's Christian Alvez, and BCR's Jim Lamm have especially enjoyed working with the center's dedicated staff and a group of about ten youth. Activities range from guided research on native plants to field trips along Ballona Creek, in the Ballona Salt Marsh and Dunes and the Freshwater Marsh and Bluffs.

Lectures, Tours and Other Outreach Events Involving BCR

Display booths. One of our pleasures is to introduce people of all ages to the exciting challenges of watershed environments. We often present display booths with informative illustrated materials and enthusiastic staff at diverse public events. One of our favorites is the Fiesta la Ballona in Culver City, a two-day event in August. Last fall we also participated in Del Rey Day on October 18, and Marina del Rey Middle School's second annual Green Day on October 25.

We also participate in several Earth Day events each year. Although Earth Day itself is April 22 each year, good and enjoyable Earth Day events fill the Spring calendar. This year, BCR provided display booths at Loyola Marymount University Earth Day in Westchester; STAR ECO Station Children's Earth Day in Culver City and Sony Pictures Earth Day (for Sony employees) in Culver City.

School presentations. BCR brought a two-day presentation to third-graders at Lycee Francais in West Los Angeles, with a classroom lecture on January 25 and a wet-

lands tour field trip on February 8. This was a reprise of a well-received program in 2009. Then on April 14, at the invitation of parent leader Annie Holleb, Jim Lamm led about 120 middle school students at Willows Community School on a virtual "Ballona Creek Journey". Located in Culver City's Hayden tract, near the Higuera Street bridge over Ballona Creek, Willows school will stage another Big Sunday Ballona Creek Cleanup and Education event on May 1, an example of how we can work to improve our environment locally.

Working with public officials. By invitation on January 5, Jim Lamm provided the Culver City Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) Commission with a slideshow update about the watershed and recent and pending improvements along the creek. With the city manager, PRCS director, city attorney, and Martin Luther King Day chair present, Jim and the commissioners engaged in an informal roundtable discussion about potential synergy with their related efforts.

Rare Native Flower Halts Ballona Lagoon Project

Ballona Lagoon is a remnant of a formerly extensive wetland system, part of an estuary formed by the ancestral Los Angeles River. The lagoon has shrunk in size from both urbanization and industrialization, including residential development, construction of the canal system in the 1900s, and oil production in the 1920s and 1930s. Located east of Pacific Avenue, north of the main Marina channel and south of Washington Blvd, the lagoon connects to the Marina channel by a tide gate and to the Venice Canals north of Washington Blvd but *not* to Ballona Creek (see map). It's now surrounded by upscale residential neighborhoods.

As part of a restoration project, the L.A. City Dept. of Public Works (DPW) is constructing a walking path on the west bank of Ballona Lagoon, mostly adjacent to Pacific Avenue. This path will complement the popular walking path on the east bank of the lagoon.

The new path will stretch from Top-sail Avenue on the south end to where the lagoon narrows near Canal Court at the north end. Unlike the east bank path, the west bank path will mostly hug the road. The \$500,000 project also will include native plant landscaping, irrigation and interpretive signs. A short fence will separate the path from the rest of the bank to protect the lagoon ecosystem and its native plants, birds and other animals.

Rare plant discovery. After construction began, City biologist William Jones discovered a very rare native plant, Orcutt's pincushion, blooming along certain areas of the west bank within the project area. This annual sunflower, with flower heads about the size of dandelions, exists in a few scattered populations from Baja California to Ventura County. It has never been recorded

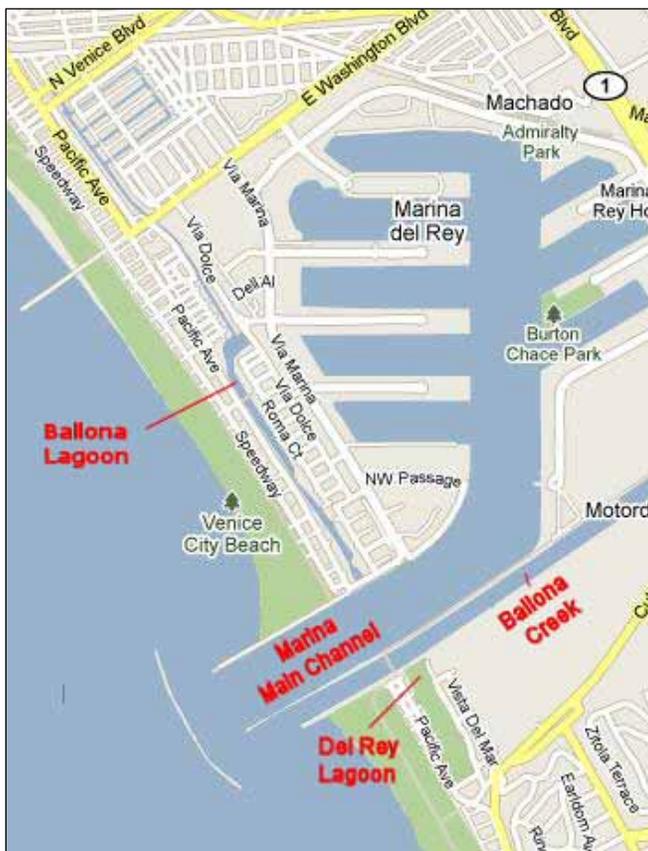
at Ballona Lagoon but has been seen at nearby Ballona Wetlands and at Manhattan Beach. Its sudden appearance may be due to a synergy of favorable conditions, such as the recent wet winter or soil disturbance from construction. Conditions were just right for it to spring into bloom, an exciting event for nature lovers and environmentalists.

According to Lauren Skinner, DPW Public Information Officer, the pincushions are estimated to number about 28,000 ($\pm 8,000$) individuals in an area of about 0.37 acres. As proposed, the project would affect a strip of land occupied by about 6% (1,680) of those



plants. A conservation plan will be submitted to the California Coastal Commission and Dept. of Fish and Game for approval. The plan also was sent to the California Native Plant Society for review and comment, but no response has yet been received. The area is currently fenced off, and small flags were posted next to pincushions and other native plants to be protected. Construction has stopped in these areas while the plants are still in bloom, which may last through July.

Meanwhile, seeds will be collected for future sowing. Landscape and irrigation plans will be modified to accommodate the pincushions. In the revised plan, the path will be narrowed and essentially there will be no irrigation or planting of shrubs in the pincushion areas or those areas designated for potential introduction. Weed removal and elimination of the ice plant has opened up large sandy areas, similar in nature to pincushion habitat. Also included in the plan is biological monitoring, initially monthly, then seasonally, for a five-year period.





Existing east bank walking path.



View from the Lagoon east bank of the west bank near the Lighthouse St. pedestrian bridge, with egrets.

adjacent to Pacific Avenue in Playa del Rey; see our May '09 newsletter.]

Army Corps Study. BCR's October, 2005 newsletter describes a US Army Corps of Engineers project, the Lower Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, studying Ballona Lagoon

Some Lagoon history.

In 1993 the City of Los

Angeles completed restoration work (bank stabilization, habitat enhancement, and increased tidal circulation) for the Venice Canals north of Washington Blvd., which was intended to also improve the water quality in Ballona Lagoon. In 1995 a pilot project restored native revegetation and stabilized the bank on several parcels along the east side of the Lagoon. A major enhancement program for the lagoon began in late 1997 included dredging at the southern end of the lagoon to create a deep water pool, removing inactive oil pipelines that crossed the lagoon and an abandoned concrete structure from the middle of the lagoon, stabilizing the banks, replanting them with native vegetation, and constructing a visitor's overlook at the south end. The existing informal footpath was improved with decomposed granite, fencing and interpretive signs.



Overlook at the south end of the Lagoon. Water in the lagoon rises and falls with the tide.

Since the plant is of such rarity, some environmental groups oppose destroying any of the pincushion area, even an area that harbors just 6%, as noted in an LA Times article on March 19. Because these plants are annuals, not perennials or shrubs, there's no assurance they would return in the same place next year unless conditions are favorable. The Argonaut newspaper issues of March 25 and April 8 have more information about the threatened status of these plants. Careful, multi-year seasonal surveys of existing habitat have also been proposed before planning and construction of such future projects.

[The Times article confusingly referred to "a Ballona Wetlands lagoon". While the entire area of Marina del Rey and Playa del Rey was once a huge wetlands occupying thousands of acres, it began to shrink rapidly in the early 1900s due to encroaching civilization. The area now called "Ballona Wetlands" is just a small fraction south of the Marina and Ballona Creek. The "Ballona Lagoon" is north of the Marina. To add more confusion, there's also a "Del Rey Lagoon", which is just south of Ballona Creek

and other nearby bodies of water. It found that much of the lagoon suffers from sluggish water circulation, which impairs the environment for the birds, marine animals and plants that live in it. That study of possible remedies is evolving very slowly due to a low level of congressional funding.

Ocean Friendly Gardens

Most of the Ballona Creek Watershed is devoted to residential use, and most of our water bills pay for exterior water use. *Ocean Friendly Gardens* (OFG) and similar programs offer us hands-on ways to conserve water and reduce pollution at our homes, parks, schools, and workplaces. This program is sponsored by West Basin Municipal Water District and Surfrider Foundation in association with others.

Surfrider offers excellent OFG information on its web site (see below), and the OFG workshops and related Hands-on Workshops (HOW) led by G3/Green Gardens Group really help things happen. BCR's Amy Rosenstein and Jim Lamm participated in the November 7 OFG workshop in Ladera Heights and the November 15 HOW in Culver City. On the 7th, the interactive presentations by very knowledgeable people plus some informative handouts set the stage for the roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-to-work HOW that helped transform

Robert and Kathy Sucher's front yard in Culver City into a functional and attractive rain garden, designed by G3's Pamela Berstler. Pamela also directed the volunteers' work that day as they set subsurface drainage structures and other features in place. The photos at right show the front yard before, during and after.

The OFG workshops show how to use native plants, water-efficient irrigation devices (such as "smart" sprinkler controllers and drip irrigation), permeable materials and on-site water retention techniques to reduce run-off pollution. Workshops are planned for different local areas. For more information and future events, contact Paul Herzog, OFG Program Coordinator of Surfrider Foundation, at (310) 439-2500. Web info:

pherzog@surfrider.org or
http://www.surfrider.org/ofg_cpr.asp
and www.oceanfriendlygardens.org

Transition Culver City and BCR

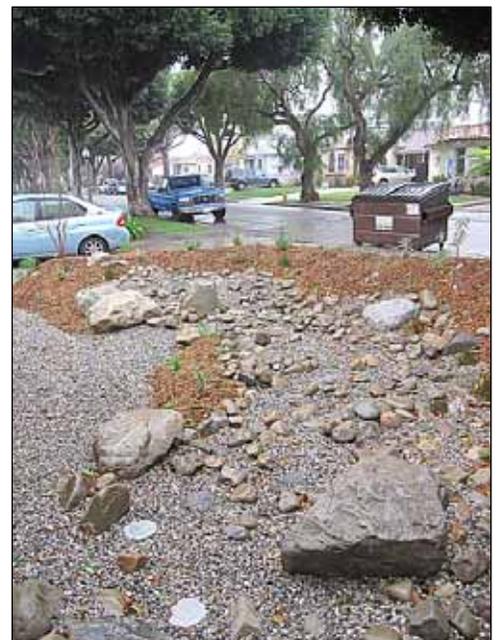
Part of the global Transition Town movement, Transition Culver City seeks to prepare our communities for the changes coming with climate change, including oil and gasoline issues. Programs, workshops and activities educate residents and encourage action.

In March 14 and 21, BCR President Jim Lamm provided two afternoon programs: *Connecting Community and Environment: Our Ballona Context*, an illustrated talk, and *Connecting with Places Along Ballona Creek: A Bicycle Tour*.

On March 14, Jim shared images and thoughts about the Ballona Creek Watershed and a broad spectrum of issues. Starting with a potluck lunch, Kay and Rich Bolin hosted the gathering at Culver-Palms Methodist Church.

The following Sunday afternoon, Jim led a smaller group on bicycles from the Duquesne Avenue entrance to the new Ballona Gateway at Inglewood Avenue and back. Along the way and at various stops, the riders saw and discussed recent and pending improvements as well as lingering challenges. Highlights included the new gateway and native landscaping at Inglewood Ave, the creek-side improvements at Mar Vista Family Center and its community garden on the Slauson Avenue cul-de-sac, and the planned improvements at Overland Avenue.

Through these programs, participants gained a better understanding and awareness of our urban ecosystem, our ecological impact and how each of us can help.



Photos by Pamela Berstler

Sustainable Gardens Tours and Workshops

Related to Ocean Friendly Gardens, here are just a few recent or upcoming events to educate and inspire us:

- April 10-11: 7th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour (<http://www.theodorepayne.org>)
- April 24, April 29, May 8, June 19 and June 28: Ocean-Friendly Garden basic classes in Culver City, Inglewood and the South Bay. Contact Paul Herzog at pherzog@surfrider.org / (310) 439-2500.
- April 25, 2-6 pm: Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase (<http://marvistagreengardenshowcase.blogspot.com>)
- June 5, 9:30-11:30am, Smart Gardening Workshop (for Beginners): Ocean View Farms Community Gardens, 3300 Centinela Ave., Mar Vista (www.smartgardening.com)

Upper Ballona Creek and Vicinity

The last part of the Ballona Creek bike path (east of Duquesne Ave.) remains closed until later this year due to Exposition Light Rail Construction at the National/Jefferson crossing. Future improvements include a connection between the Ballona Creek and Expo bikeways, a new bicycle on/off ramp at Higuera Street, and a trail loop connecting Culver City Park, the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Jefferson Blvd. and Ballona Creek. Participating agencies include the cities of Culver City and Los Angeles, State Parks, County of Los Angeles, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. (Alas, these are long-term projects!)

Green Living Workshops

In February-March, BCR's Jim and Cathi Lamm participated in this excellent six-week series in a special engagement sponsored by the Mar Vista Community Council. Presented by Sustainable Works, a City of Santa Monica program, each evening focused on a different topic, including water, energy, and food/shopping. Participants were informed, inspired, and equipped to begin taking positive steps to make themselves and the planet more sustainable. For details and upcoming workshops, go to <http://www.sustainableworks.org>.

Want to volunteer? Some ways to be involved are: staffing our booths at events, updating our website content, planning public programs, researching grant opportunities, planning fundraising events, and 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.

State of the Bay 2010 and new publication Urban Coast

On January 13, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) hosted the 2010 State of the Bay Conference for a diverse group of stakeholders, including Ballona Creek Renaissance. One of several inspiring presentations was a workshop by Isabelle Duvivier and Julia Morgan; they described the first steps in transforming Cœur d'Alene Elementary School in Venice into an ecologically friendly and attractive campus that also help resolve long-standing flooding and pollution problems through watershed-wise landscaping. For more information, go to www.santamonibay.org, where you can download the State of the Bay report and the new interdisciplinary publication *Urban Coast*.

Culver City Bikeway Project Funded

Three years ago, the City of Culver City designed an attractive entrance park to the creek bike path on the west side of Overland Avenue, stretching nearly 1000 feet to the pedestrian bridge. (See our October 2007 issue for information and illustrations.) The construction funding originally anticipated didn't come through, but the funds have now been obtained, \$476,000 of federal stimulus money and \$340,000 of local funds. Subject to approval of final plans by the City Council, construction is expected to begin in July and last several months.

Del Rey Lagoon Development Threat under Negotiation

Our May, 2009 issue described a threat of apartment construction that would devastate Del Rey Lagoon. We've been informed by Cheryl Burnett of The Committee to Complete the Park that serious negotiations are continuing for the property owner/developer to either sell the property to the City of Los Angeles or trade it for another parcel in a less sensitive area. Councilman Bill Rosendahl and his staff have been supportive and active in this matter along with local residents and environmental groups.

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 secretary@ballonacreek.org and we'll switch you. Note that links in the PDF version are clickable.

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 secretary@ballonacreek.org. Unattributed photos are the property of BCR.



P.O. Box 843 Culver City, CA 90232

Address correction requested

APRIL 2010 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

I would like to donate goods, materials or services (such as office or storage space, computer or office equipment, food for special events, printing, etc.)

Other _____

Name/Title _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: ____/____/____ Fax: ____/____/____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to “Ballona Creek Renaissance”

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