



What's New on the Wetlands

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Team, we would like to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season. 2010 was an incredible year of new research discoveries, increasing awareness (and access!) to the wetlands we all love, and taking the initial steps towards restoring this vital ecological habitat. This simply would not have been possible without the dedication of our monitoring volunteers, partner organizations and YOU! Thank you for your continued support of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project and we look forward to sharing 2011 with you all!

Ballona Wetlands Science and Research Symposium

The first Ballona Wetlands Science and Research Symposium was held on December 8, 2010 on the campus of Loyola Marymount University. A full capacity crowd of almost 200 attendees heard presentations from wetland experts on restoration monitoring and regional wetland research from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh to the Tijuana Estuary. The symposium brought together scientists, stakeholders and regulators to learn about cutting edge research and monitoring and facilitate a dialog to further inform the restoration planning and monitoring at the Ballona Wetlands. One of the many highlights of the symposium was a presentation by SMBRC Ecologist Karina Johnston describing the year one summary of the Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program (http://www.santamonicabay.org/smbay/LinkClick.aspx?link=ballona/BR_Summary_FINAL.pdf&tabid=186 PDF) .

A proceedings document is now available on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project's website (<http://santamonicabay.org/smbay/ProgramsProjects/HabitatRestorationProject/BallonaGetInvolved/tabid/186/Default.aspx>); additional symposium documents, including presentations, will be also be made available via the website in the coming weeks. We wish to thank all the speakers and attendees for helping to make the first Ballona Wetlands Science and Research Symposium such a wonderful success.



Top: Karina Johnston presents the one year summary of the Ballona Wetlands Assessment Program. Bottom: Attendees review the symposium's poster presentations.

Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force Update

On Tuesday, November 16, 2010, the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force held its regular bi-monthly meeting to discuss current programs, projects and activities throughout the Ballona Creek Watershed and Wetlands. During the meeting a number of presentations were made, including:

- Presentation on CalTrans Trash TMDL Implementation – Robert Wu; CalTrans
- Presentation on Coeur d'Elene Elementary School's Rain Gardens Project – Isabelle Duvivier; Duvivier Architects

Our wetlands team will continue to attend task force meetings to provide updates on the monitoring program and restoration planning. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18. If you have questions regarding the task force or wish to be added to the agenda circulation list for future meetings, please contact Diana Hurlbert (dhurlbert@santamonicabay.org).

Ballona in the News

Biologist sees first California gnatcatcher recorded since 1880s in Ballona Wetlands
Daily Breeze, November 27, 2010

http://www.santamonicabay.org/smbay/LinkClick.aspx?link=ballona/BWRP_Gnatcatcher_Oct 27 2010.pdf&tabid=186 PDF

Restore, protect our wetlands

Daily Breeze, November 22, 2010

http://www.santamonicabay.org/smbay/LinkClick.aspx?link=ballona/BWRP_DailyBreeze_Geever_111210.pdf&tabid=186 PDF

Ballona Wetlands restoration reached milestone

Marina Del Rey Patch, December 8, 2010

http://www.santamonicabay.org/smbay/LinkClick.aspx?link=ballona/BWRP_Patch_Dec 8 2010.pdf&tabid=186 PDF

Upcoming Events & Activities

Community Open Houses - 2011

Come visit the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve in 2011! The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission will continue to host open house events on the 3rd weekend of each month, beginning in January. We look forward to seeing you!

Saturday, January 15, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Featuring guided tours of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and information about the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Fiji Gateway

13720 Fiji Way

Marina del Rey, CA 90292

(Across from Fisherman's Village)

Guided tours will depart from the trailhead at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. For further information, email Diana Hurlbert (dhurlbert@santamonicabay.org) or call 310-216-9899.

Get Involved

Share your photos of Ballona Wetlands

We're always in search of fantastic photographs of the wetlands and its plants and animals to be used on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project's website and in our materials. If you have photos, we'd love to see them! Contact Karina Johnston (kjohnston@santamonicabay.org) to learn how you can help inform and inspire the public through the beauty of your photos. To view past photo winners, visit www.ballonarestoration.org.

Help Educate the Public about the Ballona Wetlands

Interested in learning more about the Ballona Wetlands and helping to inform the public about this valuable ecosystem? Contact the California Department of Fish and Game's Volunteer Program (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/volunteer/>) for how to get involved. Also, visit the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project's partner page at www.ballonarestoration.org for a list of additional organizations and agencies working on related issues.

Stay Connected

Are you a friend of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project? Then join us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr to stay informed and up-to-date on the exciting phases of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

<http://www.facebook.com/ballonarestoration>

<http://www.twitter.com/restoreballona>

<http://www.youtube.com/ballonarestoration>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ballonarestoration>

What is the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project?

Stretching from Playa del Rey to Venice, the Ballona Wetlands once occupied a 2,000-acre expanse of critical coastal habitat. Currently covering an area of 600 acres, the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is the largest and most promising opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County.

The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project is a long-term, science-based plan to return the Ballona Wetlands into a thriving ecological reserve. By healing this highly degraded site, the restoration project will create a diverse, resilient and dynamic ecosystem while providing a unique opportunity for the community to reconnect with southern California's natural heritage.

Project Partners:

