



Summer 2014 Newsletter

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Thank You Volunteers & Interns!

This summer's intern/volunteer response was amazing! Since June 1st, twenty-seven interns logged 415 hours in data entry, field data collection, urchin dissections, and outreach events. Student interns, home for the summer, attend colleges throughout the country including New York, Minnesota, Georgia, West Virginia, several from California universities including LMU, UCLA, and Occidental College, and our first international student from China.

Learn [HERE](#) about the history of our Bay Foundation Internship Program, the accomplishments to date (we hit our 10,000-hour mark!) and some of the reasons our interns love the program!





Intern Remy Landon (Emory University) at the Southern California Edison "Gathering of Green Teams" event on August 14, 2014.



Special Events in September!



National Estuaries Week

September 20-27, 2014

In conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day, 2014 commemorates the 26th annual National Estuaries Day and the second annual National Estuaries Week: September 20-27, 2014. Every September, Restore America's Estuaries and our member organizations, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), and the National Estuary Program organize special events across the country. Events range from beach clean-ups, hikes, canoe and kayak trips, cruises, workshops, hands-on restoration events, and more! This year, events and communications will aim to increase national awareness of estuaries and how estuary conservation efforts support our quality of life and economic well-being.

More than a quarter century after the first National Estuaries Day in 1988, we now have even more evidence that estuarine ecosystems serve as natural barriers to buffer against storms and floods, absorb and store carbon, and provide critical habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries. The need to protect and restore these critical places becomes more pressing every year.

Source: [Restore America's Estuaries](#)



In honor of National Estuaries Week (September 20-27, 2014), take a

moment that week to raise a glass and #ToastTheCoast!

Please take to social media, post a picture, and use the hashtag #ToastTheCoast



New Habitat Map for Ballona

Earlier this year, The Bay Foundation's Watershed Department led by Ivan Medel released a technical memorandum with an updated habitat map of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER). The "[Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Vegetation Alliance and Habitat Crosswalk](#)," mapped in 2013, offers the most up-to-date assessment of the 600-acre ecological reserve including aquatic, wetlands, and upland habitats and will be an important contribution to the restoration planning process.



Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Existing Habitat Units

Habitat Units by Type

Category 1

- Subtidal
- Inertial Channels

Category 2

- Tidal Wetland
- Non-tidal Salt Marsh
- Salt Pan
- Ruderal Marsh
- Brackish Marsh
- Brackish Scrub
- Riparian Scrub and Woodland

Category 3

- Iceplant Wetland
- Pampas Grass Stand
- Dune
- Non-native Dune
- Disturbed Hard-pack

Category 4

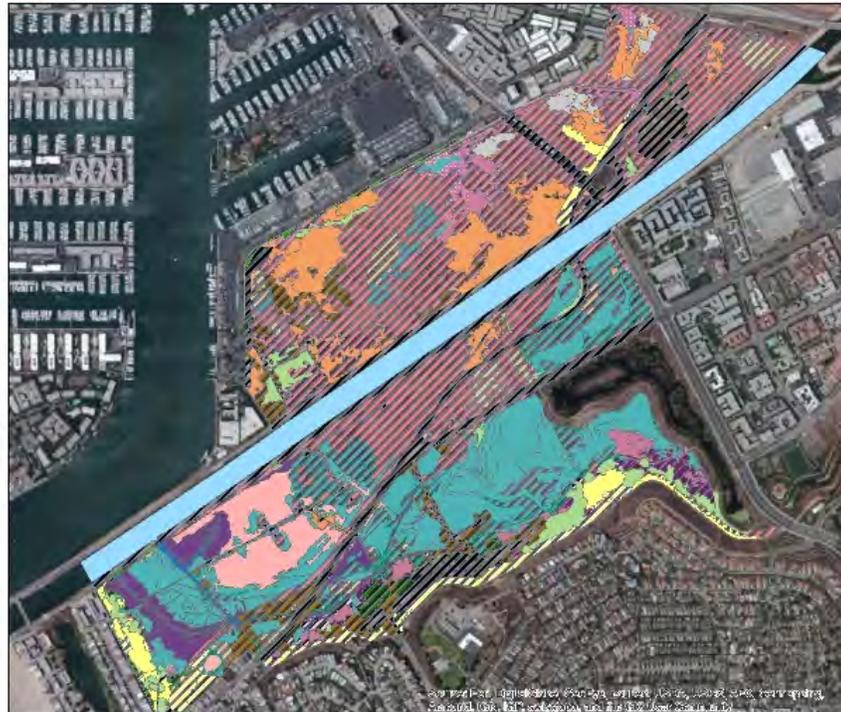
- Annual / Rhizomatous Grassland
- Non-native "T1" Herbaceous
- Iceplant Stand
- Upland Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Non-native Tree

Category 5

- Developed



Existing habitat units for this map are based on survey methods completed by Paul Kneib et al. (2011) and updated by Paul Kneib et al. (2014).
Map Date: 2014
Map created by Paul Kneib



For larger image click image or [here](#). For detailed report click [here](#).



CEER

Conference on
Ecological and
Ecosystem
Restoration

Elevating the Science and Practice of Restoration
A Collaborative Effort of NCER and SER

July 28-August 1, 2014 • Hilton Riverside • New Orleans, Louisiana



Staff Presentations in New Orleans

This summer, Watershed Programs Director Karina Johnston and Watershed Programs Manager Ivan Medel presented at the Conference on Ecological and Ecosystems Restoration ([CEER](#)) in New Orleans. Karina presented on a 4-year ecological assessment of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) and how this combined with historical site information and climate change adaptation have informed adaptive restoration recommendations for BWER.

Ivan presented on the recently restored [Malibu Lagoon](#) and performed a comparative analysis of pre- and post-restoration monitoring results. Current data

show improvements across a broad range of ecosystem and economic services including higher biodiversity and improved water quality for both beachgoers and wildlife.



Yahoo Joins The Bay Foundation & Friends of the Ballona Wetlands on Tour & Cleanup

The Bay Foundation and Friends of Ballona Wetlands were pleased to recently host volunteers from across regional offices of YAHOO! (including Santa Monica) on a tour of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER), followed by restoration efforts. The volunteers participated as part of the company's "Yahoo for Good" program.

The morning started with [The Bay Foundation](#) staff--Watersheds Program Manager, Ivan Medel, and Field & Research Technician, Rod Abbott--providing the volunteers background and history of the area, as well as explaining what wetlands are and how they function when healthy. The purple-shirted group of over 20 adults and children, most of whom had never been to the Reserve, stood above it and got a sense of the scale and some of the surrounding urbanization in Marina del Rey and the watershed.

After a lunch break, the group joined [Friends of Ballona Wetlands'](#) Patrick Tyrrell, who shared the history of the Friends and their efforts, and then lead the volunteers to the Ballona Creek levee where they collected 12 bags of trash, totaling 139 pounds.

Says Tyler Vickers, one of the Yahoo for Good coordinators, "Working with The Bay Foundation and the Friends of Ballona Wetlands was a fun and rewarding experience for all of the Yahoos involved, many of whom expressed their desire to work with both foundations again in the future. The restoration work we did proved to all of us volunteers that wetlands are a crucial part of our community that absolutely need our help and dedication when it comes to cleaning them up and keeping them safe for years to come."

Source: [Marina Del Rey Patch](#)





TBF Field and Research Manager Ivan Medel gives an ecological overview of Ballona Wetlands to Yahoo employees.

(Photo: TBF/Julie Du Brow)



Yahoo employees labor to remove years of trash along the Ballona Creek levee.

(Photo: Friends of the Ballona Wetlands/Patrick Tyrrell)

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, September 20



* Join [The Bay Foundation](#) on September 20th in Marina del Rey for our 10th Annual Marina del Rey Kayak (and SUP) Cleanup Day Event, and be part of an international event with over 90 countries around the world participating, making it one of the largest volunteer efforts on the planet.

Bring your friends and your kayak or SUP, and paddle around Marina del Rey, picking up trash that has already made it all the way to our ocean. Our event fills up fast every year, so [REGISTER](#) now! Learn more about our program [HERE](#). Clean up in the water, or volunteer with us on land!

* Or, join us for a cleanup and restoration event at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve! Join TBF and the [Friends of Ballona Wetlands](#) in removing trash along Ballona Creek and invasive plants from the dunes and salt marsh from 9am to Noon on Saturday, September 20th. For more information or to register: 310-306-5994 or info@ballonafriends.org. ([Event Flier PDF](#))

Join the fun, join everyone who's making a difference!



Endangered species flutters against the odds

Despite drought-related setbacks, habitat restoration work has the tiny El Segundo Blue Butterfly bouncing back in the Ballona Wetlands

By Gary Walker

The restoration of the Ballona Wetlands may be mired in seemingly endless delays, but nature is not waiting to begin writing its own comeback stories.

The El Segundo Blue Butterfly, a federally designated endangered species, has re-established itself in a small area of the wetlands about a half-mile from a fenced-in preserve in Playa del Rey owned by Los Angeles International Airport.

Sightings of more than 100 of the butterflies have given naturalists and biologists hope that, with the proper habitat conditions, other species may return to the 600-acre wetland, which is slated for a full-fledge restoration by the state Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the California Coastal Conservancy.

The rare butterflies' population in the wetlands has steadily increased over the past three years, said nature biologist Irena Mendez. Earlier this summer, naturalists counted 117 of the thumbnail-sized insects where years ago there were none.

[\(READ MORE\)](#)



Redesigned Website!
SantaMonicaBay.org

What is the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project?



Stretching from Playa del Rey to Venice, the Ballona Wetlands once occupied a 2000-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.

(Photo: TBF/Ivan Medel made possible by LightHawk)

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.

(Photo: TBF)



Internships and Volunteer Opportunities

Assist with Scientific Monitoring and improve watershed health with the SMBRC.

The Bay Foundation and its partners have many programs and projects happening at any one time so there is always something great to participate in! Weekday and weekend opportunities available.

If you're interested in upcoming events or becoming an intern or volunteer please go [HERE](#).

(Photo:TBF)



Stay Connected!

Fanatical about Facebook? Tickled with Twitter? Join the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and Instagram to stay informed and up-to-date on the exciting phases of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.



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