



The Pickleweed

The Newsletter of the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy

Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, Inc., P.O. Box 5903, Huntington Beach, CA 92615, 714-963-2123, www.hbwc.org

Current Project Updates:



As we have promised, we are finally underway on several major projects. We have broken ground on the new retaining wall that will be located behind the new hospital building, as seen in the picture above. As this work paves the way for the new hospital building, work on the structure will soon begin along with the new decorative block wall that will run the length of the new hospital and interactive center and the existing Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center facility.



Caltrans has almost completed work on the clearing of non-native vegetation and plants along the PCH Dunes. This major endeavor is being done prior to the transfer of the dunes to the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy.

Birding the Huntington Wetlands

This year, with the abundance of rain, our wetlands are very wet. The Magnolia and Brookhurst Marshes have more water than we have seen in many years. On any given day, flocks of American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, and a variety of ducks can be seen enjoying the rich food source the wetlands offer. In the spring, the pickleweed will be home to a number of pairs of nesting Belding Savannah Sparrows. We will be conducting our first independent study of the nesting sites of this endangered species beginning in February. Because of the tidal influence at the Talbert Marsh, the number of bird species there is impressive. Coupled with the winter visitors and migrants, one can expect to see Pied-billed Grebes, Eared Grebes, Western Grebes, Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue and Green Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, many ducks including Green-winged and Cinnamon Teals, Northern Pintails, American Wigeons, Lesser Scaup, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, Red-breasted Mergansers, and, if you are lucky, Common Goldeneyes. Many shorebirds are seen probing various depths for food such as the Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, dowitchers, plovers, and the little peeps known as the Western and Least Sandpipers. Keep an eye out for different looking gulls and you may be able to identify Mew, Herring, and Bonaparte's Gulls. See if you can tell them from the Caspian, Royal and Forester's Terns. Don't forget to look up at the power lines. Look for a Bald Eagle with a #13 tag on its shoulder. Ospreys, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels are regular visitors as is a very noisy Belted Kingfisher. Take the time to visit the Talbert Marsh and enjoy the experience and look forward to the day the remaining marshes will be open for visitors!

HBWC has been successful in preserving more than 90 acres of coastal wetlands in Huntington Beach. As we work toward our goal of acquiring and restoring the balance, we must continue to maintain our existing properties. The only way we can accomplish this is with your help. We now have several ways in which you can take an active role in maintaining “our” wetlands.

WETLAND MONITORS - We are in the process of developing a water & soil monitoring program and need “Volunteer Monitors” to collect samples and assist us in performing tests. No previous experience or education is required. If you are interested, please call.

WETLAND MAINTENANCE –Volunteers are always needed; maintenance includes trash pick up and pulling non-native weeds and plants to allow native species to flourish. If you are interested, please call.

FUNDRAISING – As we grow, it is becoming increasingly important for HBWC to be able to support activities that go along with land stewardship. Even with our wonderful volunteers, there are maintenance, insurance and administrative costs associated with a land trust. We are looking for people who would be interested in greatly increasing our membership and fundraising programs.

PHOTOS – If you have great photos of birds or our marsh, we would love to feature them in our newsletter and our website, please call to send digital files.

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Huntington Beach, CA 92615
Please visit our new website – www.hbwc.org

We would love to hear from you.

If you have seen a rare, endangered or exciting bird, please let us know. We are always interested to learn about the birds frequenting our local areas. Specific information may prove helpful in our restoration plans

Membership

Please consider joining the Conservancy, or renewing your membership for 2005. Your membership provides important operating funds. An active and interested membership base is vital to our continued service in this area.



Please Join Us.

- Great Egret (\$10)
- California Halibut (\$50)
- Least Tern (\$100)
- Brown Pelican (\$250)
- Double Crested Cormorant (\$500)
- Great Blue Heron (\$1.000)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone / e-mail: _____

Please mail to: HBWC, PO Box 5903, HB CA 92615

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