



# Angeles District

Winter 2009

## Newsletter

### Breathtaking Opening at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Expected



Original Architect's Rendering

The views of Los Angeles from our newest park, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, are expected to take people's breath away during opening ceremonies in April 2009. There is no better way visitors can begin discovering Los Angeles than from this amazing peak southwest of downtown. One can see the entire L.A. basin and as far as Long Beach to the south and Pt. Dume to the west.

A brand new Visitor Center will welcome visitors and engage them in exploring L.A.'s wide and diverse history. Exhibits tell the story of this once drilled and exploited land which has now become a symbol of regrowth, conservation and hope. Native plants and wildlife will continue to live on this island surrounded by millions of people and urban sprawl. Here, people can escape, recreate, learn about the natural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles, and be inspired by a bird's eye view of the city.

The Grand Opening is currently being planned to coincide with Earth Day festivities in late April, a fitting occasion to celebrate this property's return to green space and public access. Stay tuned, details of the big day are being finalized now.

Welcome one and all to Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

## Check Your Calendars...

**Jan 22:** Archaeology On-Site Training, Admin Office ,10-2

**Feb 16:** President's Day

**March 20:** Spring Begins

**March 21:** 100th Anniversary, Living History Celebrating Original Public Access, Pio Pico SHP

**April 11:** Easter Egg Hunt, Los Encinos SHP

**April 12:** Easter

**April 18:** Grand Opening - Earth Day, BHSO

**April 19:** Whale Festival, Leo Carrillo

**April 24-25:** SMM Trail Days, Danielson, Pt Mugu

**May 25** Memorial Day

*Missing Something? Let us know!*

## Whale Fest Changes Date and Location!

**Due to increasing popularity, the Annual Whale Festival originally held at Point Mugu State Park will now be held at Leo Carrillo State Park.**

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual event will be on Sunday, April 19, 2009 from 10am to 4pm. This event celebrates the California gray whale and its return from the brink of extinction. Events include music, environmental booths, whale-watching stations, children's activities, and food. Experienced naturalists will be on hand to help participants spot and identify gray whales and bottlenose dolphins right from the beach! Sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Natural History Association.

For information: Marie Lindsey, State Park Interpreter 805-488-1827 x106 or [www.malibuinterp.com](http://www.malibuinterp.com).

## The Story Behind the Photo

This photo was taken last year by Mo Zuhair, Senior Park Aide, while at Reagan Ranch. If you think the hawk is perched on a ranger vehicle, you're right.

Apparently this juvenile red-shouldered hawk needed a break and took an hour or two's rest on a parked code-3 vehicle's light bar, which (s)he found to be a handy perch. Staff were able to approach within camera range without disturbing the bird, and fortunately the vehicle in question wasn't needed during that time.

Good work Mo, and thanks for the picture!



## A Page From History...the Zanja Madre

Like most of the history at Los Angeles State Historic Park, the Zanja Madre sits quietly waiting to be discovered, coming to life when one stops to take a closer look. What one can see today at the northeastern edge of the park is but a small piece of the original aqueduct system for "El Pueblo," which carried life-sustaining water from the Los Angeles River to the dusty village.

Originally constructed as an earthen ditch one month after the Spanish settled in Los Angeles in 1781, the Zanja Madre, or "Mother Ditch" supplied the pueblo with water and then was diverted to smaller ditches as the pueblo started to grow. By 1893, more than 50 miles of ditches wove through downtown streets, and another 40 miles of aqueducts continued outside of the city.

At one point in the 1800's, the city fathers realized that the zanjias had become second hand drainage systems, filling up with garbage, human waste and dead animals. The

zanjas were encased in brick to create more sanitary drinking water and to slow evaporation. By the early 1900's, Los Angeles had outgrown its system of ditches and pipes were put in their place.

What is visible today at Los Angeles State Historic Park is a physical reminder of L.A.'s too-often forgotten past, and an artifact from a Los Angeles that is no more.



Contributed By  
Thomas Carroll  
Park Interpretive Specialist

## So What Does It Mean? "P.I.D."

PID, or **P**roject **I**nfrastructure **D**atabase, is a computerized list of potential projects that a district may need to obtain funding for. Ideally, any sizeable improvement, replacement, repair or new building project that a district needs in the foreseeable future is entered in PID. Entries include a project name, location, details as to scope, and an estimate of cost. All entries are supposed to be reviewed periodically and updated if necessary.

Access to PID is restricted, and only a handful of people in each district have the ability to initiate changes. Every district has a way of prioritizing the projects in PID, as well as sorting them by type or size. If funding is offered for, say, a cultural project, the district's highest ranking cultural projects will be considered.

How does PID affect you? If something sizeable - from regular interpretive sign replacement to a whole new Visitor Center - is needed, and it's not listed in PID, it won't be considered for funding in Sacramento, or matching funds if a grant comes up, or special offers of assistance...you get the point. So, if you can see a building project that needs funding, or will need funding in the next couple of years, be sure to check with your friendly local Maintenance Chief or Superintendent, who can check the existing PID entries or help you make a new one.

Rumor has it that the current PID program is going to be moved into a different computer program for efficiency. Now is a great time to update old entries or create new ones.

## The Future Meets the Past... Los Encinos SHP

In order to help their students understand the concept of community service, a nearby school has scheduled several visits for its third graders at Los Encinos SHP. On their first visit, the kids went on a tour of the historic adobe so that they could learn about the historic significance of the site.



For their second visit in late November, the kids planted some vegetables and fruits in the kitchen garden. With the help of a couple of the maintenance park aids (who prepared the soil) and the oversight of one of the room moms (who bought the supplies—including the all-important snack), the kids were each given a trowel and some basic instructions about how deep the plants should be planted.



They were also given a short talk about the historic significance of the kitchen garden and how their planting helps with historic landscaping at the park. The kids did an excellent job, and really seemed to enjoy getting involved and getting their hands dirty. Through their work, we now have three different types of lettuce, broccoli, and dozens of strawberry plants in the garden which many park visitors have inspected and enjoyed discussing

Contributed By  
Jennifer Dandurand  
Park Interpretive Specialist

## Docent Focus... Lil Bauer of Los Encinos SHP



Photo by Jerry Sanders

"I'll bet you can't guess how long I've been volunteering here," challenges a docent, grinning. The park visitors smile and shake their heads as she continues, "I've been here since 1971; before you guys were born!"

Such a conversation is not unusual to hear echoing through the historic de la Ossa adobe. Lil Bauer has been faithfully volunteering at Los Encinos State Historic Park for almost 40 years, even though from 1994 to 2007 the park's main attraction, and Lil's "baby", the 1849 de la Ossa

adobe museum, was closed for reconstruction and renovation. Lil is one of only two volunteers who have faithfully and patiently waited over a decade to resume tours of the building, giving grounds tours in the meantime. She can remember the last dozen or so rangers—not to mention the maintenance staff—who have made Los Encinos their work place during her nearly two score years. Any time there are large reserved tours or school groups, Lil willingly leads or assists.

The Cooperating Association raises its money by selling duck food to park visitors. These small bags of scratch feed have been selling for 25 cents each, using the honor system, for well over a quarter of a century. Lil has been instrumental in bagging the food, buying the supplies, and as the cooperating association's treasurer, faithfully counting, by hand, hundreds of dollars (mostly in quarters, of course) of "duck food" money every four to six weeks. Since Lil is Treasurer for the association that pays for educational supplies for school groups, she has eagerly and kindly gone with the park interpreter to buy the needed tools and equipment.

When it comes to special events, Lil is the ultimate hostess insisting on cakes, cookies, lemonade or juice for park visitors. She even uses her connections to get bakery goods donated to park events! The annual Easter Egg Hunt is "her" event. The more than two thousand colorful plastic eggs which hundreds of children hunt for must be filled, she insists, with good quality toys and candy.

"The old lady at the park" as she calls herself, always wearing a hat that coordinates perfectly with her outfit and sporting a smile, is definitely an instrumental part of park operations for both visitors and staff. She frequently brings treats for the staff and a special education school group that volunteers at the park weekly, consistently applauds the maintenance staff on continuing to keep the park looking pristine, stays in contact with other volunteers who have moved away, helps pass out special event flyers door-to-door in nearby neighborhoods, and in general, is invaluable. We owe a lot to Lil and are so grateful for her hundreds—thousands—of volunteer hours over the last nearly 40 years.



Lil, her daughter Pam, son Steve, and Interpretive Specialist Jennifer by the mule-drawn coach at Stagecoach Day Oct 08.

**Contributed By**  
**Jennifer Dandurand**  
**Park Interpretive Specialist**



# On the Message Board

## Can You Name this Building?



Answer Below

**To DO:**

**Wanted -**  
**More articles for the District Newsletter.**

**Projects, people, special events, little-known history and great pictures are all welcome.**

**CONTRIBUTE!**

**Important DATE!**

**Next On-Site Training**  
**Jan 22 Archaeology**  
**(repeat of last year's w/ new info)**  
**10-2:30 Admin Office**  
**Staff and Volunteers welcome**

 **Wanted -**  
**Old, outdated vinyl banners from events and projects gone by.**

**Banners will be chopped up and used for programs, equipment covers, seating mats, etc.**

**Send them to District Office clearly labeled "K Graham, for recycling"**

**Name this Building:**  
 This is the District Office, located in the campground at Malibu Creek SP. It's also called the "Blandings House" or the "Hunter House".

This newsletter is published by Angeles District, California State Parks.

Contributions or comments should be sent to [kgraham@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kgraham@parks.ca.gov)

