

News from the Friends of

The Bernard Biological Field Station

Of the Claremont Colleges

Volume 4 No. 1 Feb 2003

P.O. Box 1101, Claremont, CA 91711

bfsfriends@earthlink.net

www.fbbfs.org

Election issue

City Council Elections

The future of the Field Station is likely to be decided in the next year or so when Claremont University Consortium brings its master plan before the City. This plan will ask the City to approve certain types of development in principle on the land CUC owns, primarily the Field Station, the golf course, and the quarry. Once this general development is approved, specific projects in the future will only need to conform to the relevant codes.

It is imperative, therefore, that we have City Council members who will try to balance the interests of all groups in Claremont when making decisions. You may remember that the vote was unanimous to allow the Keck Graduate Institute to be built on the BFS, without requiring any mitigation measures that would have preserved any of the land or that would have postponed development on any of it. Since three of the five seats on the City Council are now available, you have the opportunity to influence future decisions by voting in the March 4 election.

This issue of the newsletter contains statements from six of the seven candidates. As well as reading the statements in this newsletter, you can talk to the candidates in person at their open houses, and hear them all speak about the issues at these forums:

LWV candidate forum on Feb 13, 7-9 pm, at Condit Elementary, 1750 N. Mountain

Coalition for Justice and Reconciliation forum at the Methodist Church, 211 W. Foothill, on Feb 9 at 7pm.

Make your decision about whom to support and then be active: help educate family, friends, and others you know about the issues and the candidates.



Turnout at March elections is historically low--it only takes about 3500 votes to elect a candidate.

This means your vote carries a great deal of weight and can make the difference

between electing someone who will consider all views and someone who will not.

Register now!

It is crucial that you vote on March 4 if you are interested in the future of this land. If you are not registered, you can pick up a form at the post office or library, or you can call 621-6381 and we will bring a form to you. Forms must be sent by Feb 15. If you have difficulty getting to a polling place, you can request an absentee ballot, or let us know and we will try to find transportation for you.

Community access!

It's been a long time since CUC stopped community access to the BFS, but there is once again a procedure in place for community groups to use the Field Station for educational purposes. Now we need to test it out. If your school class, scout troop, or similar group with insurance, would like to visit the Station, please phone the manager, Stephen Dreher (624-6661), to discuss details with him. More information can be found on the website (www.bfs.claremont.edu). It is very important to get community use going again. If you encounter any problems, please call Susan Schenk (621-6381) and I will see if I can help.



“A tour of the property readily convinces visitors of the importance of keeping such a beautiful expanse of land, shrubs, and trees for scientific purposes.”

Robert J. Bernard in “An Unfinished Dream”

Candidate Statements

(Listed in the order in which statements were received. All candidates were invited to provide contact and open house information.)

Jackie McHenry (Community Advocate)

I believe that the Bernard Field Station is an important educational resource for the college community and for the general Claremont community, and that it is an important part of Claremont's character. When I was in the Campus Women's Hiking Group, we visited the field station several times and were delighted and amazed at the wonderful wildlife and flora we saw there. How sad I was when I thought some of it would be lost to our community in order to provide grounds for a new college. I never thought that anyone would be so shortsighted as to destroy this hidden treasure.

Claremont cannot afford to lose more open space. Open space of all kinds is important to the character of the city, and this character is the very reason many of us have chosen to live in Claremont. Every effort should be made to preserve the natural areas that are left, and partnerships between Land Trusts, Conservancies, and private and public entities should be fostered to accomplish that end.

The Claremont Colleges are, of course, also a valuable resource in terms of cultural, educational, economic and social contributions to our city. However, although they give much to the city, they also benefit by city services and concessions. I hope to make sure that the balance between benefits given and received by all parties does not tip too far one way or the other. The colleges need to be mindful that any plans for future construction must fit not only into the general plan of Claremont, but that they should also be located in areas that have as little impact on the environment as possible. We must not destroy that which can never be replaced... our unique landscape.

It seems to me that, with good will and work on all sides, we could develop plans that would satisfy most needs. For example, the entire field station might become home to a college of environmental science. This could restrict building to a small portion and keep the land in its natural state to use as a laboratory for its students and for all the colleges. This is not my original idea, but one that I had heard from an interested party with some expertise in the field. This has the potential of producing an institute capable of drawing exceptional students and faculty to Claremont, and of drawing funding from both government and private sources. Such institutions are crucial to help us preserve our resources and to find solutions to environmental problems which affect us all. The colleges could have another prestigious institution while at the same time retaining their unique and irreplaceable natural laboratory. The city could benefit from the fees and taxes as well as the prestige, from the colleges continuing to share the field station with the community, and from the preservation of the natural landscape, the view, and the cultural associations of the land.

This is only one idea, of course. I pledge to work to preserve as much as we can of what little open space we have left, including the Bernard Field Station, and to work with all those in our community who wish to share ideas, skills and resources towards accomplishing this goal.

Jackie's open house dates. All are 7-9 pm. Call 621-5412 if you would like to help with her campaign..

More info at www.jackiemchenry.org email: jackiemchenry@verizon.net

February 5	Nora Vignoli	162 E. Radcliffe	February 14	Bill and Carol Wiese	4161 Via Padova
February 6	Jon and Jean Hart	1046 Pomello	February 19	Walt and Carol Haynes	731 Occidental
February 12	Susan Schenk	845 N. Indian Hill Bl	February 26	Claremont Place	120 W. San Jose

Peter Yao (Corporate manager)

I value open space because it is an integral part of my life, my family's life and the character of Claremont, which has been my home for 40 years. The city's vacant land use and conservation activities, including the Bernard Biological Field Station (BFS), should be regularly and comprehensively reviewed by a wide spectrum of community members. Guided by the hopefully soon-to-be-available new Claremont General Plan, they must be reviewed within the context of all related land use issues. The BFS has Indian heritage value. It has educational value. It is the last open Claremont flat land along Foothill Blvd. Development on any part of this land would change the natural state of the property for many generations. It would impact adjacent land in significant and unpredictable ways. If KGI continues with its plan to build on part of the BFS land, it is imperative 1) that CUC demonstrate to Claremont citizens, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the building site selection is optimal. 2) that the development benefit to the Claremont community far out-weighs any loss of use of any part of BFS and 3) that concerned citizens and CUC reach concurrence on the use of the untouched part of the BFS property. Maintaining a good town and gown relationship is high on my priority list.

Peter's "meet the candidate" events in February: Call 447-1230 for more info or if you would like to help with his campaign.

Every Wed.	7:45-8:45 a.m.	111 S. College Ave. #1	Sun. Feb. 16	3 - 5 p.m.	3841 N. Mountain
Sun. Feb. 9	1 - 3 p.m.	3414 Grand Ave.	Sun. Feb. 23	3 - 4:30 p.m.	777 W. 7th St.
Sat. Feb. 15	10-11:30 a.m.	706 W. 10th St.			

Zephyr Tate-Mann (Educator)

Greetings! Once again I find myself communicating with you regarding the preservation of the Bernard Field Station. It was only two years ago that as a plank in my platform I expressed a profound interest in preserving Johnson Pasture and the Bernard Field Station, both as open space and the latter as a biological teaching and research open space and field station. I hope that the next City Council members will recognize the importance of maintaining this area as an outdoor teaching facility. Most youngsters and young college students have not had the opportunity to experience nature in its purest form as I did growing up; therefore, I consider this as a grand opportunity for our youth to know, appreciate and respect nature. When I am elected to the City Council I will not forget the value of this natural biological laboratory that we have in Claremont. To deny the future existence of the Bernard Biological Field Station would be to deny future educational opportunities for our youth.

It is my understanding that the Claremont University Consortium is in the process of developing a master plan for land that includes the Bernard Field Station. Thus, this election should be important to the Friends of the Bernard Biological Field Station because the next elected City Council members will be involved in decisions regarding the future of the Station. I am seeking your individual support at the polls in order to win this election. I have no conflict of interest and my support of the Bernard Biological Field Station is a personal choice based upon my belief and interest in nature, this earth, preservation of our open space and the expansion of educational opportunities for all youth.

You are invited to any of the coffees that are scheduled for me. If you need to know that schedule, or want to help with my campaign, please call 621-7147.

Jeffrey Carman (College Student/Intern)

Dear Friends of the Bernard Biological Field Station, I believe that the issue of development is one of our city's most pressing concerns for the future. Whether we will continually allow our remaining open space to be plowed under and destroyed, or preserved for future generations is a vital question that all candidates must answer. I believe that the Bernard Field Station and Botanic Gardens area are our city's treasures and must be nurtured and protected at any cost. I believe that not only should the field station and the remaining open tracts of our land be saved from the developers, but ought to be given their much deserved attention and effort. As Claremont's councilmember I will do anything and everything possible to ensure that this precious resource is saved from destruction, and allow that future generations may enjoy one of the last natural open space ecosystems in Southern California. I believe we must do our part to protect and nurture our field station and garden, and come March 4 I hope you will agree. Thank you very much. *(No contact info given)*.

Karen Rosenthal (Current council member/paralegal)

As a current City Council Member I look forward to reviewing The Claremont Consortium's Master Plan as part of the organized approval process. I believe that to submit my wish list or my opinion of a plan that will be submitted to the City of Claremont would be inappropriate, unethical and, possibly, illegal. It is my responsibility to keep an open mind and not have any preconceived notions or thoughts of what I might personally desire to see in a Master Plan.

The City Council will be the approving body when the submitted plan goes through the appropriate public process. There will be presentations, staff reports, public hearings and testimony, findings to be made, discussions and then a decision. The Claremont Consortium has already agreed to several conditions as part of the 2001 settlement with the Friends of the Bernard Field Station.

I look forward to seeing a Master Plan in its entirety and hope it will meet the needs and desires of the community-at-large as well as the institutions the Consortium represents.

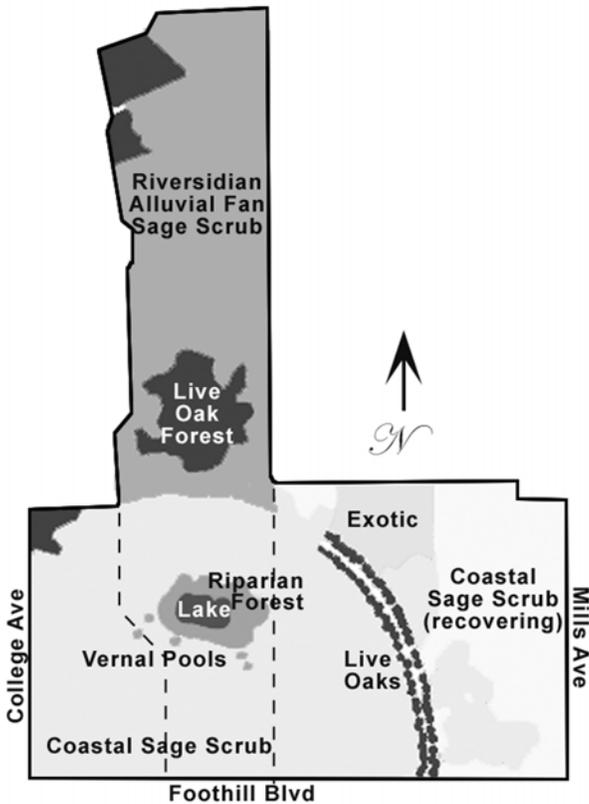
For more information or to help with her campaign, Rosenthal For Council c/o Linda Moore, Treasurer, 909/626-2045

Sandy Baldonado (Current council member/ attorney)

I do support a review of our General plan but under the present circumstances we may not be able to afford it. Many of these desirable programs will have to wait for the Governor to drop the other shoe so we can see where we stand financially. As to the Field Station, fifty years is a long time to be protected so I do not think it is in any immediate danger *(editor's note: only the narrow north/south center portion is protected. See back of newsletter)*. I strongly believe it needs to be made more accessible to the public within the necessary scientific restraints. The master plan for the colleges has not been presented as yet so it would be inappropriate for me as a potential decision maker to express any specific aspects. I do believe we need a master plan so that any future development fits into parameters that are easily determined. We shall see what they come up with and then I will be happy to react if I am in a position to do so.

For more information, or to help with her campaign, call 621-5449 or email whiterab1@aol.com

No statement was sent by current Council member Al Leiga (seeking a 4th term)



Now owned protected ----- not protected -----
 by KGI for 50 yrs

Useful addresses	
City of Claremont:	P.O. Box 880, Claremont, CA 91711 www.ci.claremont.ca.us
Claremont Colleges:	www.claremont.edu
The Claremont Courier:	111 S. College Ave, Claremont CA 91711 Phone: 621-4761
The LA Times:	Inland Valley Edition, 5555 Ontario Mills Parkway, Ontario CA 91764
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin:	2041 E. Fourth St, Ontario CA 91761

How big is big enough?

A field station is land left in its natural state for use in the study of complex interactions between plants and animals. The usefulness of such natural laboratories depends on size and shape. Extinctions occur frequently in small areas, due to smaller populations. The current 85 acres is just large enough to maintain reasonable stability in the existing ecosystems. Narrow shapes increase the amount of pollution by noise, air, water, and pesticides from surrounding areas, and increase the chances of competition from exotic (non-native) species.

Who uses it?

The BFS is used by Claremont Colleges faculty and hundreds of students every year, as well as by many schoolchildren from Claremont and the surrounding areas. It has also been used by college classes from as far away as Long Beach, by scout troops, and by members of the public.

What's there?

There are over 30 acres of the fast-disappearing coastal sage scrub community with a number of Species of Special Concern. *Since much of Claremont was originally covered with coastal sage scrub, it is a fascinating window into our past.*

There is a stand of oak woodland in the north where water wells up along an earthquake fault, there is annual grassland slowly returning to coastal sage scrub in the east, and there is a one-acre, man-made lake excavated in 1978 which is a sanctuary for western pond turtles displaced by development.

*“Dedicated to Education
and the Environment”*