

News from the Friends of
The Bernard Biological Field Station

Of the Claremont Colleges

Volume 6 No.1 February 2005

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Council Election Issue

(Candidate statements inside)

✓✓✓ Sightings

- ✓ Oaks with delicate, new red foliage and dangling male catkins
- ✓ Elderberries unfurling bright green leaves
- ✓ Wild cucumber climbing through and over nearby shrubs, full of tiny, cream-colored blossoms
- ✓ The first wave of *Amsinckia*, with hairy stems and cheery, yellow flowers
- ✓ Snow on the mountains viewed over the awakening land
- ✓ Fire roads carpeted with small, red succulents, tiny white flowers, pink storksbill, and young grasses
- ✓ Red flags dotting a student experimental plot
- ✓ The ferny leaves of native purple *Phacelia*
- ✓ The last, bright red berries on the toyons
- ✓ Golden currants in full flower, being buzzed by honeybees and flower-loving flies, and sipped by Rufous hummingbirds
- ✓ The long, wavy, bluish leaves of our native dock
- ✓ Evidence of coyotes, rabbits, and woodrats
- ✓ New streambeds carved out by the recent rains, doomed to become dry
- ✓ Fat, female catkins on the naked willows
- ✓ Ducks and coots sailing on the lake, crossing the wind-driven ripples
- ✓ The pleated new leaves and little, old, cone-shaped catkins on the alders
- ✓ Splashes as pond turtles and toads slip into the water
- ✓ Mosses, large and small, in unexpected areas
- ✓ Mosquito fish darting through the shallows in zigzag patterns
- ✓ Dramatic, brilliant pink gooseberry flowers, dripping down between dark-green leaves
- ✓ Wild peonies nodding their maroon heads
- ✓ Western fence lizards dashing by

Please email us if you have questions

General Plan

College intentions: The colleges have sent a letter to the Council emphasizing their intention to use all CUC land for development. The Friends have sent a letter to the City in reply. Corrections to the biological background report in regard to the BFS have also been sent. We have been told that all letters sent will be posted on the city website (www.ci.claremont.ca.us).

What is the BFS? City and college documents continue to refer to the BFS as vacant, as undeveloped college land, and as the sole component of the north campus. Land in use is not vacant, and the golf course is also both undeveloped college land and part of the north campus. The colleges are also referring to the Temporarily Restricted Property, the 45 acres that are protected under the lawsuit settlement, as the whole of the BFS. This area is only part of the BFS (see map on back) There is a fuller discussion of this on the FBBFS website.

Size matters: When discussing whether or not the protected 45 acres would be enough with people who are not familiar with the Field Station, use the info on the back of this newsletter. Ask them to imagine areas or buildings in Claremont that they value: perhaps the botanic garden, the pooch park, the library, Bridges Auditorium, or City Hall. Then ask them to imagine the effect of changing the use of one half of any of these. A great deal would be lost, they would have difficulty functioning adequately, and their usefulness would be seriously compromised. This would be true for the BFS as well.

What's happening now: The GPAC will meet on Feb 16 to discuss Land Use Alternatives. These will be presented at a **Community Festival on March 21**. Look for info in the papers and please attend the festival and make your opinions known.

I appreciate the opportunity to reach the friends of the Bernard Field Station. My position on the general open space issue in Claremont may be found in my literature and on my website:

Claremont cannot afford to lose more open space. Our mountain and hillside vistas are the very reason many of us chose to live here. Every effort should be made to preserve what's left, and partnerships between land trusts, conservancies, and private and public entities should be fostered to accomplish this end. We must understand that there is a difference between natural open space such as the hillside area exemplified by the Wilderness Park or Johnson's Pasture, and constructed urban "open space" areas. These are qualitatively different. We must balance the desire for development against the need for open space. We must balance property owner's rights—as Claremont has always done—against our unique landscape, something that we can never replace.

The Field Station has been a thorny issue over the past six years. We should apply the balancing tests mentioned above along with additional arguments relating to the educational value of various proposed uses. I also recognize that the Field Station provides valuable habitat and closer, more personal vistas than those mentioned above.

When issues arise, I will use my position on the City Council to encourage all parties to work together to determine if a solution can be found that meets the most important needs of all stakeholders. The new City General Plan may provide guidelines and directions that have the support of the community. Our citizens have made clear the great value they place on open space; my goal is to help the entire community realize its goals and dreams.

I am running for city council to bring my experience as a community leader and volunteer to the council. **Vision, respect, and consensus** will be my watchwords. Let me share my objectives with you.

With an understanding of the past and an eye to the future, I will work to achieve

- improved town-gown relations
- hillsides and open space preservation
- wise land-use planning
- sensible economic development
- prudent and balanced fiscal decisions
- well planned affordable housing
- historic preservation
- expanded public library service
- control over our resources
- regional solutions to transportation problems

I plan to raise the issue of respect in this campaign: respect for the validity of other people's concerns and experiences, for history and our cultural heritage, and for the competence of our city staff.

Consensus building is one of the core attributes of leadership. Because of my ability to help groups arrive at consensus, I have been elected president or board chair of organizations as varied as Claremont's Traffic and Transportation Commission, the Claremont League of Women Voters, and the Claremont Chamber of Commerce. With your help and your vote, I can bring this background to the City Council.

Sam Pedroza (Environmental Planner/Commissioner, (909) 621-0615, sam4claremont@comcast.net)

My name is Sam Pedroza and I am a candidate for the Claremont City Council election to be held on March 8. I am running for one of two seats up for consideration.

My civic involvement includes serving as current Chair of the Community Services Commission and member of the Open Space Subcommittee for the Claremont General Plan. I serve on the boards of Claremont Heritage and Claremont Wildlands Conservancy. Professionally, I am an Environmental Planner with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Before that I was the Public Information Coordinator for the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority.

I hold Masters of Arts degree in urban planning from UCLA and Bachelors of Arts in Public Administration from San Diego State University.

Protection of open space and sustainable management of our environmental resources are a pillar of my campaign. I earned the endorsement of the Sierra Club because of my long time involvement in hillsides protection and environmental position on the management of our natural resources, including water.

I recognize the immense educational value of the Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station. Natural open spaces in urban areas are scarce and should be treated as gems of our communities. The Field Station is a gem and should be available for study by students that will become our future biologists and other professionals.

My approach to the relationship between the city and the colleges, often referred to as Town and Gown, is not to harp on past issues but to work for better, symbiotic new relationships. As a city councilmember, I would approach the colleges with opportunities in identifying other properties, such as the college-owned pit, before developing the Field Station. Much like our successful efforts on the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy, the key towards protection of our hillsides is partnerships. I will work to partner with the Friends of the Field Station, the Colleges, and the city to continue my goals of protecting our natural open space.

Russ Brown (Retired Police Captain, (909) 624-8182, rbrown1948@aol.com)

Age: 56 Occupation: Retired Police Captain and Owner of a home-based videography business. I've been a resident and active member of the Claremont community for 43 years. I retired from my 30-year police career in 2003. Having essentially grown up here, I've come to value community service as a means of contributing to one's "home town." For the past 30 years, I have endeavored to "give back" by participating in a variety of organizations, projects and programs, and offer the following summary of my activities:

- AYSO & CYSA Soccer Coach
- Claremont Chapter American Red Cross, Board Member & Volunteer
- American Legion Post 78, Member & Past Commander
- VFW Post 11128, Member & Vice Commander
- Claremont Kiwanis Club, Member & Past President
- Chaparral Elementary & El Roble Intermediate Schools, PFA volunteer
- Claremont High School
 - PFA Board Member
 - Pep Squad Booster Club member & President
 - Soccer Booster Club member

- Youth Master Plan Committee Member
- Community Dialogue Planning Committee Appointee
- Healthy Start Collaborative Program
- School Community Policing Partnership
- Claremont Independence Day Celebration “Honored Citizen” in 2003

I believe I possess attributes that make me uniquely qualified to serve on the City Council. I have earned a reputation for honesty and integrity by demonstrating that I genuinely care for the people of our community. My core values are best represented by the statement, “walk it like you talk it,” which I believe defines my character and credibility.

As a City Council member, I will strive to:

- provide a moderate, objective perspective reflective of the typical Claremont resident,
- be a good listener and give fair consideration to all points,
- resolve conflicts and problems by seeking a positive middle ground through consensus building.

My priorities include a commitment to:

- encourage quality business development to enhance our revenue base,
- expand our recreational, sports and open space resources,
- maintain and enhance public safety and emergency services,
- support our educational institutions and resources.

Exciting opportunities lie ahead that will shape our community’s future. I will bring to the Council the integrity and respect deserving of your trust. As your elected representative, I pledge to serve the greatest good. Join me with your vote and support, so that we can further enrich our town as the best place in which to live, work and play.

Al Leiga (Council member 1991-2003) (Retired Business Executive, (909) 624-6726, aleiga@verizon.net www.alleiga.com)

Parks and Open Space

An important element of our community is the abundance of parks and open space. I support the acquisition of additional land for the Wilderness Park, creating local open space and the building of additional parks to meet the needs of our community.

A continuation of the cooperative approach between the Wildlands Conservancy and the city to acquire additional land for the wilderness park is essential to be able to acquire all the remaining parcels, such as Johnson’s pasture. This should be an ongoing and long-term goal of the city. It appears that we have willing sellers and willing buyers, but we need a creative way to raise the funds. One approach is to engage our congressional and state delegations to help fund a down payment. Even more important is to establish a price prior to trying to raise all the funds. I think the city could be a partner in raising the funds needed for an option on the property. I expect that the funds needed to complete the purchase will be a combination of grants from state and federal agencies as well as voter-approved money.

The Bernard Field Station is an important educational program of the Colleges. It provides access to researchers and students who are interested in studying native flora. The Claremont University Center has set aside for 50 years a portion of the property for the benefit of students and biologists. I support that approach.

Llewellyn Miller (Incumbent) (Investment Consultant, (909) 626-2098, miller_for city_council@yahoo.com)

As a result of state law and local ordinance, I am prohibited from either voting on, or influencing council votes on issues having to do with the Claremont Colleges. My wife, Cecilia Conrad is on the Pomona faculty. As a result, it has been observed by the City attorney that it is a conflict of interests for me to attempt to materially affect business or land usage issues at the colleges. I happen to think that this policy is a distortion of conflict of interests policies since it prevents me from impacting the city's relationship with institutions that I would tend to care about and be familiar with.

This is not the first time that this potential conflict has been raised. In 2002, Pomona College asked for permission to serve wine and beer at the Sagehen Cafe at the Smith Center. I was prevented from participating in the discussion or the vote when the Planning Commission decision was appealed to the Council.

Michael Keenan (Professional Window Cleaner, (951) 847-0481, kid_keenan@yahoo.com)

The implementation of the Land Suitability goals and policies have been selectively applied to various developments over time under the current General Plan Natural Resources section. This was evident at the last this Tuesdays Planning committee meeting over the mining of gravel in the upper alluvial plain next to the newest development of homes. Up until then only the Hillsides have been referred to as being included within the boundaries of the optional element. With properties that near the top 1% of the market are involved to the notion of land Suitability even raises its head. And even then it is referred to only indirectly as Open Space. To say the least I was suddenly surprise for at this planning meeting the projected map now includes the mining area too. But a true map, for public consumption, would show that the Bernard field station is also within properties that fall within the jurisdiction of the Land Unsuitability element. Not once have the land suitability criteria been used to determine the bases for proposed land uses and intensity of use in any of properties. Under the criteria set forth and applied to the field station the northern neck turns out to include some the most protected land in the city that the city requires to be mitigated before even an EIR is undertaken. But alas, the Land Suitability Element was never even mentioned in the EIR regarding Keck's development within the only walk on scientific and ecological station in any of the six mediterranean regions. What really is hypocritical is how the current General Plan revision doesn't even have this element under consideration. Somehow, someone has deemed what would protect our environment the most is not needed in the new General Plan that is under development.

As Your city council member I will, come what may, call for a committee to be called that will specifically give this neglected element a fair consideration that it should have been given in the first place. That is how I will protect the Bernard Scientific Research Station, Claremont's wild heart.

Teachers !

If you would like your class to visit the Station,
please phone the manager, Stephen Dreher
(909-624-6661)

If you would like to be added to our mailing list,
please send a message to bfsfriends@earthlink.net

Updated FAQ sheet can be found on our website



*"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"

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.

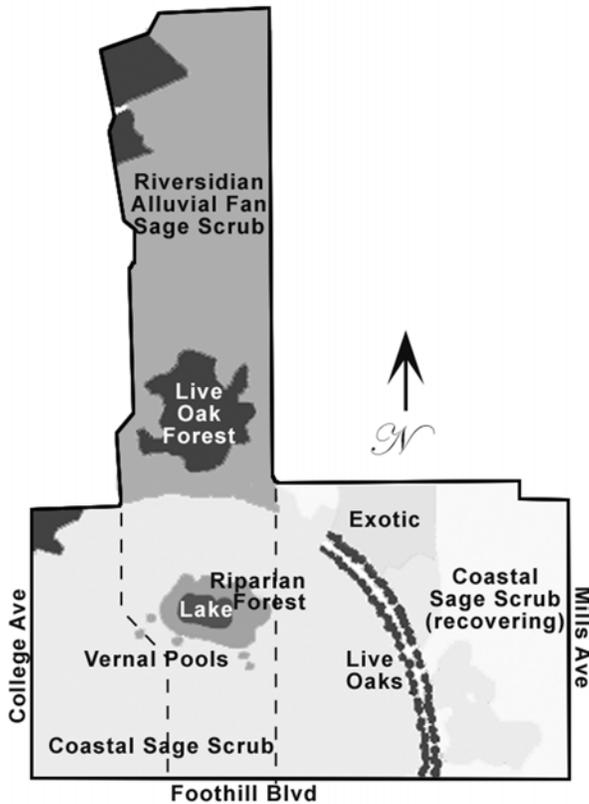
Who uses it?

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.



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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

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