

# Desert Wetlands Conservancy Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2011

Volume 14 Issue 2



## Desert Wetlands News and Views

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### Wetlands Park Nature Center

Shown below is an aerial view of the Nature Center construction site taken in early September. As you can see, we will have an incredible new asset in the Park environs in the near future. Anticipated completion could be next Spring with an opening to the public a few months later. We will update the schedule in the next Newsletter.

The lower left hand corner of the frame was the location of the temporary visitors' center before relocation, and the upper portion of the frame shows the Fee-in-lieu mitigation ponds, (a Ducks Unlimited project).

Disruptions to visitors at the Park continue to be minimal. Orientation and programming continue to function from the temporary Information Center that is located up Wetlands Park Lane at Hollywood Lane in the expanded Nature Preserve Area. Only a couple hundred feet of trails are not accessible due to construction activities.

Visitors to the Center will still enter through the original pavilion area. Then they have the option to continue on the concrete trail or take the ramp up to the Nature Center for orientation to the Park or other activities. □

#### HONORARY TRUSTEES

Shelley Berkley, US Congresswoman  
Dina Titus,  
Vernon Bostick

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#### Desert Wetlands Conservancy

The mission of the DWC is to influence policy, create partnerships, and initiate activities in advocacy of the Las Vegas Valley Watershed, including the Desert Wetlands Park.



## *Desert Wetlands Conservancy Annual Meeting*

The Desert Wetlands Conservancy held its annual meeting on September 17th. The amended Bylaws were ratified by the members present; the panel of officers, listed on page 1, was elected as well as 10 members of the Board of Trustees whose terms were due to expire. Chairman Art Wolf announced the attrition of three Trustees; Rob Brisendine, Greg Galati and Fred Sigman and thanked them for their contributions.

Guest speakers Elsie Sellers, Wetlands Park Coordinator, and Chris Larsen, of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini, presented an update on the Park and Nature Center. Elsie reported on the Nature Preserve designs to counter erosion and channeling and the trail enhancements benefitting hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. She discussed two trailheads under construction and scheduled to be completed this Spring. One trailhead is just south of the Pabco Road Weir. It will include restrooms, shaded picnic tables, a shaded gathering area, and parking vehicles, buses and horse trailers. The second one, the Wells Trailhead, (shown below), is located just upstream of the Homestead Weir. Notice in the upper right hand

corner of the image, a segment of the future Galleria Drive, a scenic drive which will run through the Wetlands Park. This trailhead will include restrooms, shaded picnic tables and vehicle parking. Site preparations have also been completed for a future Green-Up at this location.

Chris Larsen commented on the status of the Nature Center, (shown on page 1). The building is 65% complete and has already been named a LEED gold building; he anticipates completion in March of 2012 with exhibits installed about six months later. So far, the building is coming in under budget. It has a very robust system for saving energy and will feature solar powered exhibits.

Helen Mortenson gave an update on the Tule Springs project and the LV Ice Age Foundation. The plan has expanded to 22,000 acres. Pressure is continuing to be applied for a National Park or Monument. Governor Sandoval has sent a letter to Senator Reid supporting the National Park initiative.

Art Wolf, in giving the Chairman's Report, focused



*Wells Trailhead Construction (a Clark County Photo)*

## Annual Meeting *(continued)*

on accomplishments and activities for 2011, which included the Department of Interior’s National Partners in Conservation Award. He reminded all of the members of DWC of the Vision and Mission statements, as well as the goals of Advocating for actions to protect and restore the Watershed, Creating and Maintaining an Effective Organization, Outreach and Education to the Community and Creating Cooperative Partnerships. The 2011/2012 Objectives are:

- Update the Strategic Plan
- Increase the number of dues-paying members.
- Actively seek project funding.
- Establish cooperative agreement with Clark County for the Desert Wetlands Park.
- Recruit and involve volunteers for website management, Facebook administration, newsletter, educational programming, public events.
- Develop, sponsor and present educational programs for the public.
- Continue to advocate on issues important to the Las Vegas Valley Watershed. □

our natural outdoor resources. There were also equestrian groups there to answer questions regarding horses.

This has become an annual event with growing participation and attendance. Highlights from this year’s event included a one-mile Family Fun Walk, announcements about new trail development, Demonstrations about camping basics, and the unveiling of the Neon to Nature Website that will make navigating the hundreds of miles of Southern Nevada trails a snap. Mark your calendar for next October. □



*Our crew at the DWC booth.*

## 2011 National Trails Day

The National Trails Day celebration featured informational exhibits and presenters, and activities for all ages at the Henderson Pavilion this past October. There were over 40 booths with stuff for hikers, mountain bikers and people interested in enjoying



*Folks enjoying the National Trails Day event this October*

### Share Our Vision!!

**We are an all-volunteer, 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization that receives no regular tax-based support. Our strength and our ability to carry out our mission is through our members. There are many ways to join: access our website, <http://www.desertwetlands.org>, or our Facebook, (search for Desert Wetlands Conservancy), email membership@desertwetlands.org, or write to DWC, PO Box 28017, Las Vegas, NV, 89126 and you will receive membership information.**

#### Membership options for Individuals and Families

Student/Senior	\$20	Supporting	\$100
Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$250
Family	\$50	Steward	\$500

**All contributions to our programs are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. There are a number of ways to help us described on our website**

Desert Wetlands Conservancy  
PO Box 28017  
Las Vegas, NV 89126-2017

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## Our Thanks To...

*New and Renewing Members: Pamela Shack, Christopher Larson, Art Wolf, Leslie & Joan Dunn, Gloria Porter, Mary Campbell, Helen Bagstad, Peter Samuolis, Frances Zorn, Rose Marie Pickell,*

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**  
**PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF IT IS TIME TO RENEW!** If you have not yet taken the plunge to join, please do so now. You will demonstrate your interest in watershed issues and the impact on our community!

**The Park is a place to enjoy! Have you visited the Park recently?** The temporary Visitor Center has been relocated during the construction of the new Visitor Center. Cross Boulder Highway and travel one mile east, then look for the Wetlands Park sign, just where Tropicana turns into Broad-bent Ave. Head down Wetlands Park Lane. Signs will direct you to the new location. If it has been a while since you've visited the Park, you will be amazed at the changes and improvements that have taken place. The Park is for your benefit. Come and enjoy it!

There are many opportunities to get involved and to show your support-not only through membership in the Friends, but by contributing funds or labor for needed physical improvements, and educational materials. If you have put off renewing, remember your membership ends one year from the date you paid your dues.

## Fall Green-Up



The 19th Las Vegas Wash Green-Up was held on Saturday, October 8, 2011. More than 500 volunteers donated a few hours to plant approximately 4,000 trees and shrubs. The 7.4 acre site was just above the Calico Ridge Weir.

As word of these events spread, finding volunteers has become less of an issue with a high retention rate of returning volunteers. The Green-Ups continue to be a major component to the education and public outreach goals of the LVWCC. □



*Volunteer at work planting some Galleta Grass. (a SNWA photo)*

*Newsletter Editor, Peter Zavattaro  
P.O. Box 28017  
Las Vegas, NV 89126-2017  
Email: pzwetlands@earthlink.net*

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