

# SBESC Volunteer Newsletter



SBESC Volunteer Newsletter

Summer 2013

**South Bay  
Environmental  
Services Center**

**A Program of the  
South Bay Cities  
Council of  
Governments**

**20285 S. Western  
Ave., Suite 100  
Torrance, CA 90501**

**Phone:**

(310) 371-7222

**Hours:**

M-F, 9am-5pm

**Web:**

<http://www.sbesc.com>

**Volunteer email**

[volunteerinfo@sbesc.com](mailto:volunteerinfo@sbesc.com)

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## Message From SBESC Deputy Executive Director Catherine Showalter

The importance of each one of you and your efforts volunteering at the South Bay Environmental Services Center cannot be overstated. **Thank you!** Of course you are most familiar with our Volunteer Coordinators, Martha Segovia and Astrid Ollerenshaw. But please know that other staff appreciate what you do and understand how your involvement fosters the mission of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments in no small way. It is our hope that this quarterly SBESC Volunteer Newsletter serves as a two-way communication channel that is mutually beneficial to you and staff in getting to know each other better. I encourage you to take an active part in contributing ideas, articles and comments so that the messages are timely and relevant. We hope you enjoy this introductory summer 2013 edition.

### Our First Edition...

By Astrid Ollerenshaw, SBESC Community Outreach

Dear Volunteers, right in front of you is the first edition of the SBESC Volunteer Newsletter. This newsletter has been created



Point Vicente Interpretive Center  
Rancho Palos Verdes  
©2012 Astrid Ollerenshaw

to support and strengthen the volunteer program, communications and working relationships. The publication will include topics such as policies, volunteer spotlight and recognition, environmental information local and from around the world. In the spirit of collaboration all volunteers are invited to send us your ideas and articles. Your first opportunity to participate is to give a name to our newsletter. From August 8 to August 30 we invite you to submit your name ideas. Email Astrid O. at [astrid@sbesc.com](mailto:astrid@sbesc.com) or call her at 310-371-7222 ext. 212 with suggested newsletter titles. All ideas submitted will be considered and evaluated. The winner and finalists will be announced in September. The new name will be used in our fall edition.



**Dahlias in Bloom**  
At the South Coast  
Botanic Garden  
©2013 Astrid Ollerenshaw

**However you choose to participate, your contributions are an important part of a larger movement to protect our natural resources in the region, the country and the world.**



**Maritz Building**  
Torrance  
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## Volunteering at SBESC to Help Save the Environment

by Astrid Ollerenshaw, **SBESC Community Outreach**

Our home the Earth is progressively getting warmer. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has evidence that the global average temperature increased by more than 1.4°F over the last century. In fact, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2010 tied with 2005 as the warmest year on record. Rising global temperatures have also been accompanied by other changes in weather and climate. Many places have experienced changes in rainfall resulting in more intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced changes: oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising. Now we have in our hands the possibility to do the right thing. We need to take actions to help protect the environment .

The SBESC Volunteer Program started in April 2008. Presently, we have a very diverse group of 42 volunteers, from high school students to graduate professionals, new in the work force as well as retirees. We have people from all over the world: Asia, Central and South America, North American, Middle East, and Europe. In future editions, we will learn more about this fascinating group of people.

Over the past five years, the **SBESC volunteers** have provided more than 9,000 hours of community participation through our volunteer program and all of these hours have positively affected **the lives of people in the communities of the South Bay. Let's keep up the good work!**

Please keep in mind that we are continuously looking for volunteers that feel enthusiastic about helping their local community and the environment. If you know someone who might be interested in receiving information, they can call us at (310) 371-7222. **If they are ready to join the SBESC's volunteer program, please tell them to go to our website:**

<http://www.sbesc.com/about/volunteer> follows the link to the application and email it to [volunteerinfo@sbesc.com](mailto:volunteerinfo@sbesc.com)

# Tireless Volunteer

by Vibha Joshi

**Ingrid Nugent**, 86 years young is a tireless volunteer for the South Bay Environmental Services Center. She has over 1400 hours of volunteer time with the SBESC. She enjoys helping at events and teaching youth about energy and water efficiency tips, providing information about environmental topics which are helpful to the community.

Ms. Nugent was born and grew up in Germany. She left her country in 1953 to start a new life and lived in various parts of the world. Ingrid speaks several languages: German, French, Polish and English. When she arrived in New York she got a job at IBM where she completed various assignments and was eventually transferred to California, currently residing in Rancho Dominguez.

While growing up, Ingrid was environmentally conscious and made the effort to save energy, recycle bottles, paper and cardboard. She views herself as a positive person and helping others motivates her to live life. She believes in the power of thought as there is always a reason for something and continually encourages people to do good deeds.

After her early retirement from IBM, Ingrid worked as a nanny and house manager for well-

known celebrities. She has been actively volunteering and was the first volunteer to start our program at SBESC in 2008. She also volunteers for other community organizations such as Carson Sheriff Station and the Armstrong Theater in Torrance.

At the Carson Sheriff Station she has been a volunteer for the last 20 years. Ingrid started by working in various administrative tasks and later attended special trainings and became a Volunteer on Patrol (VOP) patrolling mobile home parks, shopping malls and other residential areas.

Ingrid has received a great deal of recognition from the **Carson Sheriff's department**, South Bay Environmental Services Center, City of Torrance, City of Inglewood for her dedication as a volunteer.



**Above: Left-Ingrid helping with material for an event  
Right-Ingrid with Tyler Dempsey and the late Loretta Harrison volunteers as ambassadors at an event  
File Photos**

**Ingrid at 86 years young is a determined volunteer for the South Bay Environmental Services Center**

**Left: Ingrid attending a training  
©2013 Kyle Borden**

## Development Opportunities for Volunteers

by Larry Sidor

### Volunteer training session

Fourteen volunteers met at SBESC offices on March 27th for a two-hour initial orientation, including a presentation by Ron Wildermuth of West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD), who discussed the Water Reliability 2020 initiative.



At SBESC Torrance  
©2013 Kyle Borden

As part of our orientation, volunteers received the volunteer training manual binder which is a complete guide for safety and conduct for all volunteers and includes updated information about SBESC partners and programs. They also engaged in a role-playing activity, simulating the sort of questions that the public might ask at a typical SBESC outreach event. The public is always interested in what incentives and rebates are available in purchasing new appliances such as a washer, dryer, or air conditioner.



At LACSD Puente Hills  
©2013 File Photos

### We had a Great Field Trip!

On Friday, May 17, 2013 we enjoyed a great field trip to the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Volunteers and SBESC staff visited the Puente Hills Landfill and Puente Hills

Materials Recovery Facility. We left at 9:15 a.m. in a comfortable and cool bus (donated by Supervisor Don Knabe) and were joined by Sam Pedroza Environmental Planner, as our tour guide. Sam explained in detail the processes of waste treatment, energy production and recycling center tasks. Following the tour, we enjoyed a great lunch while listening to the overview presentation of LACSD by Rupam Soni, from the Public Information Office.

### Learn, share and network with SBESC Staff

Did you know that studies have shown that most trip destinations in the South Bay are within a 3 mile radius of home? On Wednesday, June 26, 2013, an interesting presentation along with a question and answer session on the SBCCOG's Local Use Vehicle (LUV) and the Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) Programs was led by David Magarian and Jacki Bacharach. Having a range of 20+ miles on a full charge in a LUV vehicle which is 100% electric can easily satisfy our local trips. With the programs' mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and gasoline consumption as well as introduce people to electric vehicles, we learned all about the exciting new electric vehicles hitting the roads, benefits of the programs and the policies being established by local cities to make the transition to EVs. There are so many other interesting facts. Learn more about the program on the website [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org).

## NOTES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### Indian Man Single-handedly Plants a 1,360-acre Forest

adaptation by Daniel Monteverde

Often times it is the small contributions we make in our day to day lives that may not seem so significant in the moment, but over time contribute to a greater cause and have a much bigger impact than we ever could have imagined. Jadav Payeng of India did just that, and showed the world how one unselfish, dedicated and passionate individual can leave a positive mark and influence the world around him for the better.

*Note: Adapted from the article by Stephen Messenger Fri, Dec 21 2012 at 1:20 PM at Mother Earth Network, section Earth Matters, Jadav Payeng turned a barren sandbar in northern India into a lush new forest ecosystem link <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/indian-man-single-handedly-plants-a-1360-acre-forest>*



*The forest, called the Molai woods, is a safe haven for numerous birds, deer, rhinos, tigers and elephants — species increasingly at risk from habitat loss. (Photo: PhBasumata/flickr)*

A little more than 30 years ago, a teenager named Jadav "Molai" Payeng began burying seeds along a barren sandbar near his birthplace in northern India's Assam region to grow a refuge for wildlife. Not long after, he decided to dedicate his life to this endeavor, so he moved to the site where he could work full-time creating a lush new forest ecosystem. Incredibly, the spot today hosts a sprawling 1,360 acres of jungle that Payeng planted — single-handedly.

The Times of India recently caught up with Payeng in his remote forest lodge to learn more about how he came to leave such an indelible mark on the landscape. It all started way back in 1979, when floods washed a large number of snakes ashore on the sandbar. One day, after the waters had receded, Payeng, only 16 then, found the place dotted with the dead reptiles. That was the turning point of his life.

"The snakes died in the heat, without any tree cover. I sat down and wept over their lifeless forms. It was carnage. I alerted the forest department and asked them if they could grow trees there. They said nothing would grow there. Instead, they asked me to try growing bamboo. It was painful, but I did it. There was nobody to help me. Nobody

was interested," says Payeng, now 47. While it's taken years for Payeng's remarkable dedication to planting to receive some well-deserved recognition internationally, it didn't take long for wildlife in the region to benefit from the manufactured forest.

Demonstrating a keen understanding of ecological balance, Payeng even transplanted ants to his burgeoning ecosystem to bolster its natural harmony. Soon the shadeless sandbar was transformed into a self-functioning environment where a menagerie of creatures could dwell. The forest, called the Molai woods, now serves as a safe haven for numerous birds, deer, rhinos, tigers and elephants — species increasingly at risk from habitat loss.

Despite the conspicuousness of Payeng's project, forestry officials in the region first learned of this new forest in 2008 — and since then they've come to recognize his efforts as truly remarkable, but perhaps not enough. "We're amazed at Payeng," says Gunin Saikia, assistant conservator of Forests. "He has been at it for 30 years. Had he been in any other country, he would have been made a hero."

## Future opportunities!

### You can help at SBESC table at many different events



2013 File Photo

The impact and success of our programs depend on our outreach efforts. A common outreach strategy includes **staffing informational tables or "tabling"**. For a list of all the table or events opportunities, you will be receiving an email from us at least twice a month. In this email, you will find the event information such as location and shifts. All volunteers are invited to become ambassadors and help us educate and motivate the community to save energy, conserve water, reduce waste and improve air quality— saving money along the way.

### You are invited to attend these trainings.

August 28	Metro Programs, SBESC at 4pm
September 30	Home Remodeling + Energy Efficiency, South Bay Adult School, 701 S Peck Ave, Manhattan Beach at 7pm
October 30	Climate Action Plan, SBESC at 4pm

**Please make sure to RSVP accordingly**

### Updating Volunteer Database

During the month of August we will be updating our database. For this task Astrid will be contacting all of you, one by one, and will be asking several questions. We want to have some detailed information about our volunteers so that we can best work with you on future projects.