



# Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

## E-mail update

June 2006

### The Bostick Interpretive Area is a gathering place

The Bostick Weir Interpretive Area is now complete and waiting to be discovered. The area is replete with trails, three native plant gardens, benches, a shade structure as well as hidden areas and overlooks. But the focal point of the site is the eight interpretive panels that describe the wildlife, hydrology and engineering that can be viewed from the platform, with a focus on nonpoint source water pollution and what visitors can do to help reduce the problem.

Additionally, the community partnerships that are making the Las Vegas Wash restoration project a reality are highlighted and there is a dedication to Vernon Bostick, a long-time advocate for protecting the area. The trail meanders through the existing Bostick Weir revegetation site leading up to an ethnobotanical garden. Two large mounds planted with colorful flowers and shrubs greet visitors and serve as the entrance to the ethnobotanical garden area. The garden is devoted to plants early Southern Nevada inhabitants used for everything from medicinal purposes to making brooms.

### Upcoming Meetings

Operations  
Study Team Meeting  
June 7, 2006  
8:30 a.m.

Special Meeting on the  
Forever Earth  
Interagency Cooperative  
Sampling  
June 15, 2006  
8:00 a.m.



The path continues to the sensory garden that was designed with the five senses in mind. Each plant was selected to appeal to sight, sound, touch, smell or taste. Once the vegetation matures, six desert willow trees will hide a sunken amphitheater designed as a gathering place for contemplation or listening to a talk during a tour. Another feature is a raised planting bed with native shrubs, grasses and the unusual looking paper bag plant. This area borders the wildlife garden that has already proven to be an attraction for birds such as the Say's phoebe. Boulders adorn the garden providing convenient places to sit and look out at the view that spans across the water, adjacent desert, Rainbow Gardens area, and the Las Vegas Valley. A flagstone path leads the visitor between the gardens from the interpretive area down to the Las Vegas Wash. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection 319 grant program funded the project. For more information about this project, contact the Project Team office at (702) 822-3370.

### Agency Spotlight

#### The Bureau of Reclamation conducts butterfly survey

Mark Nelson, an aquatic biologist with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, is currently conducting a study of butterfly communities at seven sites along the Las Vegas Wash. Butterflies are believed to have great value as indicator organisms and are important in describing the "health" of an ecosystem. They require many elements that are only found in intact ecosystems, such as flowers for nectar, specific caterpillar food plants, and bare soil areas for obtaining water and salts. This study is part of a larger study that is addressing the value and ease of using butterflies to monitor ecosystem health. Other sites are located on the Arkansas, Green, and Yampa Rivers in Colorado; Rio Grande in New Mexico; San Diego River in California; and the Canadian River in Texas. Biologists hope the information obtained from these studies will result in development of a standard technique that could be used for monitoring river restoration. Nelson provided the photographs of the Checkered white and Western pygmy blue butterflies that can be found in the Wash this time of year. For more information about this study, contact Nelson at (303) 445-2225.



Checkered white



Western pygmy blue