

FIMIANI BIO 2008



Lisa Fimiani became an avid bird-watcher while growing up in Buffalo, New York, and she has been a member of the National Audubon Society since living in Buffalo. Gardening became an early interest; one of Lisa's favorite memories is of Forget-Me-Nots seeding themselves from a rock garden into the lawn of her backyard. Lisa became skilled at mowing around them for as long as they lasted, enjoying their random display of white, pink and blue blossoms. After moving to New York City in 1980 to work in the entertainment industry, Lisa spent much of her free time birding in Central Park. In 1986 she moved to Los Angeles, where she was hired by the Domestic Television Sales division of Paramount Pictures as a second secretary in the union. Moving up the ranks to Vice President of Sales Administration and Program Lineups, 18 years later her department was downsized by the 2005 corporate merger with CBS network television. It was then that she decided to form her own business combining her two passions - birds and gardens.

While at Paramount, Ms. Fimiani was asked to join the Board of Peers Influence Peers Partnership in 2001, a non-profit youth organization out of New York City. A member of the Friends of Ballona Wetlands in Playa del Rey for over a decade, Lisa has been a Docent at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh since it was formed in 2003. She joined the Friends' Board in 2005, where she currently plays an active role participating in bird and butterfly walks. In June of 2006 Lisa rotated off the Audubon California Board after serving 6 years, and joined the Board of the Los Angeles Audubon Society chapter as treasurer. One of the common missions of the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the Friends of Ballona Wetlands is to improve habitat for birds and wildlife, a mission Lisa carries passionately into her gardening business.

Qualifications as Master Gardener, Project Participant, Docent and Lecturer: Lisa is assisting the Los Angeles Audubon chapter in tailoring the National Audubon Society's "Audubon at Home" program for Southern California. In 2006, Lisa and LA Audubon, in partnership with other local organizations, worked with community volunteers in planting a native wildlife garden in Baldwin Hills Park. Lisa has assisted Heal the Bay in its program to clean up Compton Creek and in the process educate kids about the birds and wildlife around them, and at Ballona Creek and Santa Monica Bay beaches. As a Docent at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh, Lisa teaches people about birds, bugs, butterflies and amphibians that have been drawn to the native plants and trees in the reconstructed wetlands. Her own yard in Culver City is certified as a National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat. Lisa took an Environmental Restoration certified class in 2006 at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, offered by staff members of the Recreation Services Division of the City of Torrance and California State University Dominguez Hills, and attends ongoing "Out of the Wilds and into your Garden" education classes at the Marsh. In the spring of 2007 Lisa completed the Master Gardener volunteer training program through the University of California Cooperative Extension, and became certified as a Master Gardener in 2008. Lisa is currently volunteering her time and services at a local high school garden site teaching students about native plants and edible gardens. In April and May of 2008 Lisa assisted Dr. Connie Vadheim, Adjunct Biology Professor at California State University Dominguez Hills and "Out of the Wilds and into your Garden" instructor at Madrona Marsh, teaching their first California Native Plant Design course at the Theodore Payne Foundation. They have been asked to come back to teach their class again in 2009.

Lisa's focus in 2009 will be bringing nature home to urban gardens. . .