



FIMIANI BIO 2011

Executive Director since July 2010 (and Co-Executive Director before that since July 2009), Lisa Fimiani has been actively involved with the Friends of Ballona Wetlands for more than twenty five years – first as a volunteer and docent, then board member and executive director. Her contributions to the organization include starting the Migration Celebration event; speaking on behalf of the Friends at Fish and Game Commission hearings; organizing Christmas Bird Counts and Great Backyard Bird Count programs in the Wetlands; and serving as a docent at the Freshwater Marsh since 2003. In 2005, Fimiani became a member of the group's board of directors, representing the organization at community events and volunteering more of her time for Wetlands issues. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Fimiani worked at Paramount Pictures for 18 years, most recently as vice president of sales administration and program lineups, before forming her own native-plant-design consulting firm. 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. 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.

Fimiani has qualifications as a 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 assisted Heal the Bay in its program to clean up Compton Creek, and in the process educated kids about the birds and wildlife around them. She does the same as a naturalist 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 and has been on the Theodore Payne Garden Tour for two years.

One of Lisa's passions and focus is bringing nature home to urban gardens. 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 volunteers her time and services at a local high school garden site teaching students about native plants and edible gardens. In 2008 and 2009 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 a California Native Plant Design three part course at the Theodore Payne Foundation as well as co-teaching a five part class, "Planning Your New California Garden" at Madrona Marsh. Educating people about birds, wildlife, and their habitat – especially in an urban setting – is a constant theme in the work Lisa does in the community.