Coastal Wetlands Restoration:
HOW DO WE DEFINE SUCCESS?

Featured speakers
Christine Whitcraft, PhD and Bengt Allen, PhD
Department of Biological Sciences

Thursday, April 12, 2012 | 6:30 PM
Registration starts at 6:00 PM
Barrett Athletic Administration Center, Cal State Long Beach

Space is limited and reservations are required
RSVP online by March 29th at Beach-Biology.com
Coastal Wetlands Restoration: How Do We Define Success?

The importance of coastal wetland ecosystems is well known. As a result, wetland managers and conservation groups have increasingly turned to restoration to offset the dramatic loss (90%) of such habitat in California. Nearby Los Cerritos, Colorado Lagoon, Huntington Beach, and Bolsa Chica all have undergone restoration in recent years. But what constitutes ‘success’ in a restoration context? Working in local coastal wetlands, marine scientists Christine Whitcraft and Bengt Allen are developing new and effective approaches for assessing the health of both restored and natural ecosystems. Their efforts will enable project managers to build and maintain healthier ecosystems and to plan future restorations in other wetlands.

Assistant Professor Christine Whitcraft is an ecologist and biological oceanographer with expertise in wetland ecology, conservation biology, and soft sediment systems. Her main research interest is the functioning of coastal wetlands and estuarine communities from a multi-disciplinary perspective including plant, algae, and benthic invertebrate biodiversity, food web structure, and physical environmental parameters. She received her doctorate from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Assistant Professor Bengt Allen is a marine community ecologist studying the effects of human-induced environmental changes on coastal ecosystems. His research focuses on both the mechanistic links between local environmental conditions and individual physiology and behavior, and how variation at the individual level influences the structure and function of associated populations and communities. He received his doctorate from Stony Brook University.

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