

# *Amigos de Bolsa Chica* THE **TERN TIDE**



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### **THE TERN TIDE**

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## **NEW TIDAL INLET OPENED!**



Photo by Jack Fancher, USFWS

August 24, 2006: newly constructed tidal inlet is opened at 6:00 am. Crews worked through the night during the low tide to remove the sand dam that stood between the ocean and the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project area. For the first time in 107 years, the tide was once again flowing into parts of the Bolsa Chica wetlands that had been cut off from the ocean in 1899. It was an historic occasion for Amigos de Bolsa Chica who have worked for over 30 years to acquire, preserve and restore the wetlands. Amigos, Steering Committee members and others who gathered to watch, commemorated the occasion with a champagne toast.



Photo by Mark Bixby

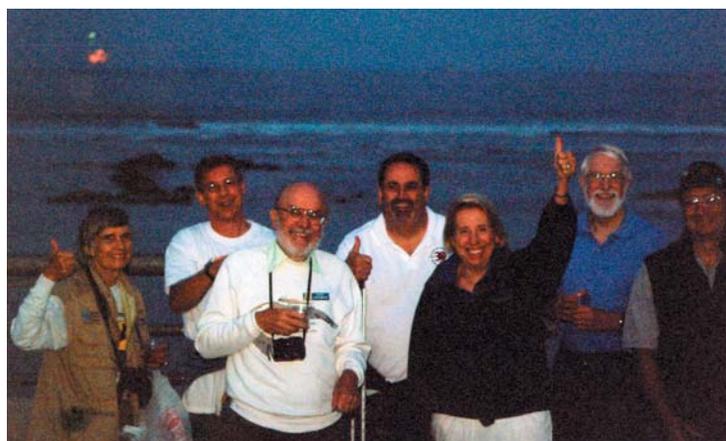
## TIDAL INLET OPENING, AUGUST 24, 2006



Crews worked through the night during one of the lowest tides of the summer to remove the dam of sand that separated the ocean from the newly created tidal basin. During the dredging of the basin, water from the ocean was pumped in as the sand was being pumped out. When the bridge used by the oil company was completed in July, the inlet opening was scheduled for the next low tide in August. Photos by Mark Bixby.



Dredging was completed earlier in the summer, and the water that had been standing in the basin was greeted by the slowly rising tide shortly after the heavy equipment removed the last scoop of sand. Well over a hundred people gathered along the new bridge over the inlet to watch this historic occasion beginning at 4:00 a.m. Photos by Mark Bixby.



Since this has been the largest wetlands restoration project in the western US, news of the inlet opening went around the world. See some of the print media coverage on [www.amigosdebolsachic.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachic.org).

Amigos members left to right: Margaret Carlberg, Thomas Anderson, Dave Carlberg, Brian Westcott, Shirley Dettloff, Mel Nutter and Chuck Nelson. Photo by Laurie Payne.

## **RULES TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE AT THE BOLSA CHICA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

A State Ecological Reserve is a special place that is established to conserve areas for the protection of rare plants, animals and habitats, and to provide areas for education and scientific research. It is not intended as a recreational area for bicycling, fishing, paint ball battles, dog training or other active pursuits. There are many public facilities in and around Huntington Beach where these activities are appropriate. Instead, passive activities such as wildlife observation and photography are welcome in the Bolsa Chica.

The land managers of the newly restored wetlands have not yet installed signs informing the public about the rules in a state Ecological Reserve. Until they do, here are a few basic rules to remember. We hope you pass these rules around among your family and friends.

### **NO...**

**Dogs, on or off leash,** unless ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.

**Fishing anywhere in the Bolsa Chica** except in the area next to the bridge on Warner Avenue. All those without fishing licenses will be cited.

**Hunting anywhere in the Bolsa Chica.**

**Harming or disturbing birds, their nests or eggs,** which is a violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918 and is a misdemeanor punishable by fines.

**Damaging or removing plants or plant parts.**

**Operating of ORVs, motor bikes or other motor driven vehicles** on any trails within the Bolsa Chica.

**Bicycling** on the loop trail or on the overlooks in the newly restored area.

**No firearms.** No person shall fire or discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, air or gas gun, spear gun, or any other weapon of any kind within or into an ecological reserve.

**Throwing of anything into the water.**

**Walking off trails.**

**Damaging fences, signs, displays and other state property.**

**If you see any violations of these rules and laws, please contact the local Department of Fish and Game Wardens assigned to Bolsa Chica. Mike McDermott is based in Los Alamitos and can be reached at (562) 342-7212 or (949) 533-5993. Larry Stephens is based in Huntington Beach and can be reached at (714) 840-5018 or (714) 715-3303.**

Ecological reserves are established to provide protection for rare, threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, aquatic organisms and specialized terrestrial or aquatic habitat types. Public entry and use of ecological reserves needs to be compatible with the primary purposes of such reserves, and subject to applicable general rules and regulations. It should be common sense that Bolsa Chica is sensitive habitat and not a free-for-all playground for insensitive humans. It is where we go to observe the creatures we share this planet with, not to make their lives any more miserable than we have already done. As we all know, it only takes the actions of a callous few to create problems for everyone and everything. A complete list of all the Federal, State, County and City Codes and Regulations pertaining to Bolsa Chica can be found on our website, [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org).

## AMIGOS 30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Thanks to all who came out to celebrate Amigos de Bolsa Chica's 30th Anniversary on Saturday, September 2, 2006. It was a perfect late summer day. Record numbers of people arrived for the free public tours at 9:00 a.m. Many people could see - and be informed about - the restored area for the first time. Our docents, trained to inform people and answer their questions on birds, ecology, history, endangered species and restoration, were kept very busy.

At 11:30, after everyone had time to walk the new trail and absorb the magnitude of the restoration project, they arrived at the Conservancy parking lot for food, conversation, and congratulatory speeches by State Senator Tom Harman and Huntington Beach Mayor Dave Sullivan. There was also a special cake cut by 11 past Amigos' Presidents: Herb Chatterton (Amigos' first President), Peter Green, Dave Carlberg, Mary Ellen Houseal, Shirley Dettloff, Vic Leipzig, Terry Dolton, Chuck Nelson, Tom Livengood, Linda Moon and Jim Robins.

Amigos Treasurer Brian Westcott announced the decision by the Amigos board to set aside \$30,000 to begin a building fund for a permanent Interpretive Center. Amigos will be leading the way to raise funds for this much needed state of the art facility at the Bolsa Chica. Stay tuned for more news on this in the coming months. Another historic moment in 30 years of working for wetlands.

Thanks also to Daphne's Greek Cafe, Starbucks - Meadowlark, Brewbakers, Shirley Dettloff, Alexia Swanepoel, Poseidon Resources, and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace - Long Beach for the food donations.



Record numbers of members and visitors participated in our special 30th Anniversary free, public tours, most of whom were seeing the newly restored area and the newly built overlooks for the first time. Photos by Julie Bixby.



Huntington Beach Mayor Dave Sullivan reads a Proclamation from the City Council commending Amigos on their 30th Anniversary; with Amigos Treasurer Brian Westcott. Photo by Dave Carlberg.



Amigos 30th Anniversary festivities at the Conservancy parking lot. Photo by Dave Carlberg.

## AMIGOS CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN HUNTINGTON BEACH 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Steve Hess, a new Amigos Member and Docent, inspired the Community Education committee to celebrate the Amigos' 30th Anniversary with an entry in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade. His vision and design for the float was brought to fruition on July 4th with 6 past Presidents, docents and supporters riding on the Amigos float. The float consisted of a farm tractor driven by its owner Ken Bewick pulling a trailer decorated with American flags, Bolsa Chica Wetlands pennants, Amigos de Bolsa Chica banners and signs and burlap skirting.



The past presidents were Dave Carlberg, Shirley Dettloff, Terry Dolton, Vic Leipzig, Tom Livengood and Jim Robins.

Docents were Barbara Binaski, Margaret Carlberg, Steve Hess, Kevin McCarthy, Jennifer Robins and Al Vari. The supporters were Ken Bewick, Jessica Faber, Thor Faber, and Christy Hess.

The ABC Banners were designed by Dave Carlberg and Steve and Christy Hess. The frames for the banners were designed, constructed and donated by Mike Fischer. Signs along the skirt of the float were designed by Christy Hess and donated by Printworks, Irvine. Music for the float was arranged by Steve Hess.

Float riders were especially moved by the enthusiastic reception the float received from the mass of spectators lining the parade route. "The Amigos name still means something to a lot of people", one rider remarked as the float reached the end of its four mile course.

It took the combined effort of many Amigos members and friends to make Steve's vision a reality. The following people put in time, money and creativity during design, construction, final assembly and disassembly: Ken Bewick, Barbara Binaski, Maria Buhbe, Mike Buhbe, Dave Carlberg, Margaret Carlberg, Shirley Dettloff, Chuck Drescher, Lorraine Faber, Thor Faber, Mike Fischer of Pacific Coast Ironworks, Christy Hess, Steve Hess, Vic Leipzig, Tom Livengood, Kevin McCarthy, John Mel of Printworks, Jennifer Robins, Jim Robins, Phil Smith, Bill Straits, and Al Vari. Thanks to all who made the float a reality and Happy 30th to the Amigos de Bolsa Chica organization.



Left to right: Tom Livengood, Shirley Dettloff, Terry Dolton, Jim Robins, Dave Carlberg and Margaret Carlberg.



## DOCENT TRAINING CLASS PLANNED FOR JANUARY 2007

Do you want to get outdoors and exercise more? Do you want to spend more time walking in the Bolsa Chica, and helping others understand what a wonderful area it is? Do you want to watch the changes with the new ecosystems developing and maturing in the restored area as they occur every month?

If so, please consider becoming an Amigos de Bolsa Chica docent, learning interesting details about the early history and the new restoration, the 6 endangered species, and the fascinating ecology visible through the changing seasons of bird and marine life migration or breeding. As you learn, you can share the information with visitors and school children who already are calling for tours and presentations in the fall. A 5-week Docent Training Class is being planned for January of 2007. More details on that in the next issue of the Tern Tide.

If you are already a docent, consider getting out more often this year to watch how fast the wildlife adapts to the newly created bay and what new species discover this rich area. Besides docents sharing information at our free Saturday public tours, and our popular private tours for schools, Scouts, and adult groups, the Huntington Beach Visitors' Bureau wants to offer our private walks for visitors by advertising and arranging tours with us year-round.

Call the Amigos office 714-840-1575 with your name, phone and email address, and an ABC Community Education Committee member will help you become a "Docent in Training."

## "RUNNING IS FOR THE BIRDS," SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2006, BOLSA CHICA STATE BEACH

There might be lots of 10K / 5K Runs and Family Strolls to choose from these days, but there aren't too many that can boast a race course that runs along the Pacific Ocean and over a new bridge built over a new tidal inlet. Whether you're a seasoned runner who is training for a marathon, you just enjoy running, or you want to bring your family down to the beach for a healthy morning walk, your participation in "Running is for the Birds" helps to ensure Amigos de Bolsa Chica can continue its mission to see that the reserve is well maintained and to educate people about the importance of wetlands. **If you haven't yet registered, it's not too late. You can register on line at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or you can download a form from the Amigos de Bolsa Chica website, [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org).**

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BENCHES AT BOLSA CHICA

The Steering Committee for the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project is ordering 22 metal benches for the newly created overlooks along the loop trail. Each indestructible bench is \$740.



Amigos de Bolsa Chica is purchasing three of these benches. Small plaques dedicating the benches to the organizations, agencies and individuals that purchase them will be engraved and installed on the sides of the benches. We are asking for donations specifically for the benches from our members to help with the costs. One Amigos board member has already donated the amount for one of the benches, so we are in need of funds for the other two, a bargain price at \$1480!

If you would like to make a donation for these benches, and know that your tax-deductible contribution will be used by many for years to come, please send checks to: BENCHES, Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. **And thank you!**

## **PRESIDENT'S TERN**

by Thomas Anderson

2006, Amigos de Bolsa Chica's 30th year, has been historic on many levels. The year began with the State Lands Commission asking us to form a Task Force that would involve all the Bolsa Chica organizations in seeing that the newly restored and enlarged Bolsa Chica is properly managed and maintained. At that point, no one knew for sure who the Reserve's manager would be. The community has always had a voice in the outcome of the wetlands, and the State appreciated that Amigos would not stand to see 30 years of hard work diminished in any way.

In April Amigos de Bolsa Chica was granted a 501c3 tax status, a surprisingly smooth transition from a non-profit political lobbying organization to a non-profit education foundation. In many ways everything we have always done has been education – educating people of all ages and walks of life that these wetlands are incredibly important as open space, as irreplaceable habitat, as a bird and fish nursery, and as a cradle of life that makes Earth the unique planet it is. How lucky we are to have Bolsa Chica in our backyard.

July saw the Amigos enter a float in the widely seen Huntington Beach 4th of July parade for the first time in more than a decade. Many of the founding members and past Amigos Presidents rode on the float, and it was a heartwarming experience to know that after 30 years the community was still very much with us in spirit.

The early morning of Thursday, August 24 was arguably the most historic and exciting day in 30 years of Amigos' history: shortly before 6:00 a.m. the last of the sand dam between the ocean and the tidal inlet was bulldozed away and the tide slowly rose to meet the water (left from the dredging process) in the newly created tidal inlet. At first it was a trickle, but by 7:00 it was steady flow. The full force of the tides had returned to parts of the lowlands that had not felt the effects of the Pacific in 107 years. This was the day many Amigos had dreamed of, and now it is reality. 30 years of hard work was seeing a payoff.

On September 2, we held our 30th Anniversary Party at the Bolsa Chica – where it all began. We started the day with our usual first Saturday of the month free public tours, and we're greeted by a record number of people curious to see the "new" Bolsa Chica for the first time. Then at noon we cut a special cake in the north lot. We were treated to a speech from State Senator Tom Harman, and we were given a Proclamation from the City of Huntington Beach City Council by Mayor Dave Sullivan.

It has been quite a year and summer's barely over! Next up, about the time this issue of the Tern Tide is mailed, is a Town Hall Meeting at the Huntington Beach Library with a Presentation by Terri Stewart of the California Department of Fish & Game, the agency that will be the land manager of the "new and improved" Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Shortly after that it's our 26th Annual "Running is for the Birds" 5K & 10K Run and Fun Walk on Saturday, October 7 at Bolsa Chica State Beach. Visibility in the community is as important to the Amigos as always.

Thanks to all Amigos for all your support over the years and for all the future support needed to ensure the community is educated about wetlands and the Bolsa Chica is properly cared for.

## **AMIGOS' 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT** - Thomas Anderson

**VICE PRESIDENT** - Dave Carlberg

**SECRETARY** - Terry Dolton

**TREASURER** - Brian Westcott

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Margaret Carlberg, Shirley Dettloff, Lorraine Faber, Craig Frampton, Bob Harrison, Anna Horner, Victor Leipzig, Tom Livengood, Mel Nutter, Jennifer Robins, Jim Robins

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** - Alexia Swanepoel



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**AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*I support the specific and primary purpose of Amigos de Bolsa Chica, which is to advocate the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the Bolsa Chica, to encourage the public acquisition of all the wetlands and sufficient surrounding open space to create a viable ecosystem, and to provide education about the importance of wetlands.*

**ANNUAL DUES**

- \$ 20 Individual
- \$ 30 Family
- \$ 50 Patron
- \$ 75 Sponsor
- \$ 100 Sustaining
- \$ 300 Life Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Contribution:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund operational expenses

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Office assistance \_\_\_\_\_

Community Education \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_

Grants \_\_\_\_\_

**All contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law under IRS Code Section 501(c)3. No goods or services were provided in consideration of this gift.**