

Photo by Ross Griswold



Fall 2012
Volume 37 Issue 3

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THE TERN TIDE

is published quarterly by
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Bolsa Chica Campfire Program

By Jerry Donohue

This summer the Amigos gave 4 evening campfire programs at Bolsa Chica State Beach. These 45 minute programs focused on the various birds that inhabit the neighboring wetlands. Besides the usual picture and verbal accounts of different species, campers were broken up into 6 groups where they interacted with the Birds and Beaks activity. Finally, they were given the opportunity to decipher a maze from the Coastal Wetlander booklet and received a bird card upon completion. We averaged 26 campers per evening and found that many of them were "locals" who knew nothing about the wetlands.

Special thanks to Chuck Drescher who ran a campfire by himself. The Boyd-Batstone family helped take pictures and led the campers in sea shanties accompanied by a ukulele. Karen McReynolds led a walk in the wetlands the following day with 6 eager campers. Other docents that made this a successful program include Donna Starr, Jerry Donohue, Mick Siroy, Margaret Carlberg, Barbara Felberg-Jackson, Patti Cacho-Negrete, and Joana Tavares-Reager.

Through this evening program we have given out more than 20 Coastal Wetlander books. 8 books have been returned to the Visitor Center where happy campers have received their beautiful patch in recognition of their achievement. We hope to continue this evening program next summer and are looking into starting a daytime program for young beach goers as well.



*Jerry Donohue and Mick Siroy give evening presentations to enthusiastic groups at the Bolsa Chica State Beach
Photos by Donna Starr*

2012 Plover and Least Tern Breeding

By Kelly O'Reilly

Plovers:

The first Western Snowy Plover nest was found at the Full Tidal Basin Cove on March 6. The last nest was found in Cell 32 on July 7 and the eggs hatched on August 3. Nesting peaked during early May when 28 nests were being incubated. This implies that the breeding population consisted of 28 females and at least 28 males. This result compares well with the season window survey that resulted in 31 males and 26 females. The last plover chick of the season fledged on August 29. The season total for nests was 68, eggs totaled 193, chicks totaled 161 and fledglings totaled 77. A total of 59 nests had eggs hatch, 8 nests were abandoned and one was depredated by a coyote. Nest Site 1 was the most productive site at BCER for the plovers, with 12 nests and 23 fledglings. Cell 11 in the Seasonal Ponds was the second most productive with 9 nests and 8 fledglings. Nest Site 3 was nearly as productive with 9 nests and 7 fledglings. This was an excellent year at BCER for snowy plover production. The season total for fledglings, 77, is the highest number since 2004 when it numbered 79.

Least Terns:

Due to heavy predation, California Least Terns did not fare as well as the Western Snowy Plovers. Data include the number of nests hatched (H); nests that probably hatched (PH); eggs; chicks; nests predated (P); nests abandoned (A); total nests; and, observed fledglings for each nesting site: South Tern Island (STI), and Nests Sites 1-3 (NS1-3), respectively.

Nest Site	Nest H	Nest PH	Eggs	Chicks	Nest P	Nest A	Total Nests	Fledglings*
STI	41	5	94	80	7	3	56	15
NS1	20	25	306	86	129	2	176	1
NS2	17	12	82	53	14	3	46	0
NS3	3	14	45	29	8	2	27	0
BCER ALL	81	56	527	248	158	10	305	16*

Preliminary* summary of California Least Tern breeding activity at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve during 2012.

Welcome New Members & Changes to Membership Levels

By Vic Leipzig and Margaret Carlberg

On August 22 the Amigos Board of Directors approved the recommendations of the Membership Committee to change the following in member categories and annual dues: Student Membership, \$10 (no change); Individual, \$25 (modest increase); Family \$40, (modest increase); Sustaining, \$100 (no change); Life, \$1000 (increased with added incentives).

The Membership Committee suggests that you invite your friends and neighbors to join Amigos. Maybe you can donate a membership to someone for a birthday gift or for some other celebration. Or invite friends to join you at the various Restaurant Events that we have and encourage them to join and learn more about the special Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. We thank the many who have renewed their membership recently.

Welcome to our new members who have joined since March 2012: Peter Anninos, Johana Carr, Doyoung Chung, Roxann Davis, Russell Emanuel, Susan Foster, Winona Gustafson, Steve Hess, Judith Huck, Jim Kadapodis, Jane Lazarz , Emma and Steve Mallon, Lance E. Marcus, Marilyn Nitikman, Peggi Phoenix, Robert Scholler, Christopher Souza, Howard Starr, Kent Swahn, Debra Talbert and Jon Trapnell.

COMMENDATIONS AND THANKS go to the following current members who joined Amigos during 1976, most of whom have been active through many of the 36 years:

Ralph and Charlene Bauer, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Lee and Lorraine Carleton, Shirley and Bob Dettloff, Terry and Kay Dolton, Lorraine Faber, Charles Falzon, Gerry Finley, Peter and Cathy Green, Mary Ellen Houseal, Rhoda and Ken Martyn, Linda Moon, Adrienne Morrison, Ellen and Roger Scott, Lois Tolles, Virginia Whipple, Grace and Bob Winchell.

Chamber of Commerce Goes Green!

By Shirley Dettloff

When I first became active in our great community I was always involved in environmental issues and good government. At that time there was a great divide between the business community, usually identified with the Chamber of Commerce and environmentalists. I have seen over the years great changes in that relationship.

I think that both sides have come to understand that there is a basic issue and that is protection of our city and its natural resources. Why, because each interest is dependent upon the other. The economy of the City of Huntington Beach is greatly dependent on tourism. Tourism is dependent on having clean beaches, places of beauty, open space. All of the components that invite visitors to come to Huntington Beach and to spend money. Environmentalists understood that it was important to save our beaches, our wetlands and protect our oceans from pollution. The business community understood that the work of the environmental community meant not only a better environment, but they also saw recycling, water conservation, energy conservation as a way to save dollars and to make their own businesses more secure and successful. So instead of the constant attacks on one another, we saw some small steps being taken to bring both of these interests into a mutual understanding of what each group was trying to achieve and to start working together to achieve mutual goals.

This has been seen in many ways. Large corporations supporting environmental organizations. The Chamber of Commerce putting on the Green Expo every year. This is where companies and organizations can showcase their “green” products and non-profit environmental groups have the opportunity to let people know the work they are doing. Understanding the concept of sustainability and why it is important to everyone became a part of the agenda. Two years ago the Marketing and Visitors Bureau undertook a study on sustainability and several environmentalists as well as businesses were a part of this team. The brochure that was published showed what can be done in a community to protect their resources, to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the same ambiance and lifestyles enjoyed by today’s residents. Businesses demonstrated the great savings that could be made through simple steps such as recycling, energy and water conservation and hundreds of other steps. We learned through this study that the hotels in our community were leading the way and for many years practices had already been in place which were saving energy and water. They were also recycling. They understood sustainability and above all they knew that many of their clients demand hotels which practice sustainability measures. Through this study many businesses are now under a program which will eventually guide them in making profound changes in how they run their businesses.

When the Marketing and Visitors Bureau completed their study and published their findings, the Chamber of Commerce decided that this issue was very important and formed a Sustainability Committee. Again business and environmentalists are a part of the team. They are looking at all aspects of sustainability and how the business community can be a strong part of this movement. The Green Expo which is an event that is put on by the Chamber of Commerce will be an opportunity for the Sustainability Committee to show what they are doing, and also to inform visitors to Green Expo the importance of sustainability and the future of their community.

Ralph’s Community Contribution Renewal Time

Every year on September 1, Ralph’s shoppers who designate the Amigos de Bolsa Chica as their Community Contribution partner are required to re-register for the new term. When you register Amigos as your Community Contribution Partner with Ralph’s, Amigos receives a portion of the money you spend when you use your Rewards Card. Whether it’s your first time or you’re renewing, go to <https://customer.ralphs.com/Login.aspx>. If you already have an account, sign in. If you don’t have an account, create one in a few short steps. Once you sign in, click on Community Rewards. Then click on enroll, and type in “Amigos de Bolsa Chica.” Click on search and Amigos address will pop up. Click the button next to the address, then click to save the changes – and you are done until next September. Renewing does not affect your Ralph’s Rewards points.

If you have trouble with the online method, please call Laura Holdenwhite at 714-840-1575 or email her at info@amigosdebolsachica.org and she will mail you the scanbar letter that you can take to Ralph’s and the checker will scan it along with your groceries. Ralph’s Rewards card members do not need to be members of Amigos to participate with this program, so please encourage friends and other family members to sign up too.

“Big Bugs” Docent Field Trip

By Margaret Carlberg and Ross Griswold

One benefit of being a docent is going on field trips to other nature centers and seeing and hearing how other docents present the special features of their facilities. Eleven Amigos docents drove to Claremont July 1 to visit Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, the prime native plant garden in Southern California.

Our guide Cliff Hutson has been an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable docent there for 22 years and led us through many different habitats. He pointed out some of the plants used by the Tongva Native Americans and a beautiful garden of late-blooming wildflowers. A seasonal treat was a small netted Butterfly House which had a nice collection of many live local butterflies. There were informational signs as well as an expert talking about them and their plant preferences.

Of special interest around the extensive gardens was a visiting display of 10 huge anatomically accurate beautiful wooden sculptures of insects such as ants, grasshopper, ladybug, dragon- and damsel-flies, spider, weighing 75 to 1200 pounds each. These were strategically placed in the woods, meadows and ponds. Artist David Rogers' created the larger-than-life Big Bugs to draw attention to a few of the common insects which outnumber us humans millions to one.

After shopping in the nice garden gift shop 7 of the group enjoyed a refreshing lunch at a Middle Eastern restaurant in the unique Packing House Mall.

The Amigos docents were guests of Rancho Santa Ana garden thanks to a reciprocity arrangement. Our docents will provide a tour of Bolsa Chica wetlands in the fall for RSABG docents.

Note—Tongva history and dancers will be featured at RSABG Nov. 17 and 18—well worth another visit!



Grasshopper



Dragonfly



Amigos Bolsa Brunch

By David Casey

On June 24, 2012 at 11:00 A.M., 119 enthusiastic supporters of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica gathered at Seacliff Country Club for a delicious brunch to support Amigo's educational outreach programs. After a warm welcome by President Tom Livengood, Nora Papian, currently a student at the University of Massachusetts and a member of the Amigos, gave a very interesting and enthusiastic presentation on how her experience as a young volunteer with Sea and Sage Audubon and a continuing interest in nature studies, have led her to pursuing a career in environmental work. Huntington Beach Mayor, Don Hansen then presented to Margaret and Dave Carlberg a Commendation from the City of Huntington Beach and a Certificate of Recognition from State Senator Tom Harman praising their 36 years of service to environmental preservation and education at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. The day's events ended with opportunity drawings for numerous prizes and culminated in a grand prize drawing for an original watercolor painting, "Black Skimmer at Bolsa Chica" by Thomas Anderson.

The celebration succeeded in raising over \$6,000.00 for the Community Education Committee's efforts to continue to introduce the public to the importance of our coastal wetlands. These outreach efforts consist of Amigos docents leading free public tours the first Saturday of each month and by conducting private tours of the wetlands for K-12 grade children, college students and other adults, Boy and Girls Scout groups, ecology clubs, community groups and foreign visitors. The Amigos also provides bus transportation funds for schools with limited budgets to enable them to visit the wetlands for tours and educational programs. The Amigos has received many letters from teachers and students who have taken our tours thanking us for a great experience at the wetlands, providing them with an opportunity to experience a world apart from their classroom. In addition, our educational outreach efforts have grown with the presentation of a new program, "It's All Connected", which offers hands-on lessons for 6th graders about the relationship between the ocean and coastal wetlands.

Many thanks to the Brunch sponsors for their generous support: Rainbow Environmental Services, Southern California Edison, Moffat and Nichol, Sempra Energy, Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort/The Robert Mayer Corporation, Go-Doors and Walmart. Thanks also to those that donated the opportunity drawing prizes: Thomas Anderson, Beef Palace, Brewbakers, Chris Epting, David and Gail Vize, Dr. David and Diana Casey, Duke's Restaurant, Five Points Plaza, Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, Ross Griswold, Quicksilver, REI and the Shorebreak Hotel.

Also thanks to all those from our Fund Development Committee that helped organize the event; Dr. David Casey, Chair; Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Shirley Dettloff, Patty Overley, Donna Starr and Brian Westcott. Our opportunity ticket sellers; Patti Cacho-Negrete, Mick Siroy and Donna Starr; and Kim Nguyen, Laura Yu, Kristen Curtiss, Joana Tavares-Reager, and Brittany Rochow for being our runners.



119 attended the Bolsa Brunch at the Seacliff Country Club.



A wide variety of raffle prizes.



Mayor Don Hansen, Amigos President Tom Livengood, Margaret and Dave Carlberg; the Carlbergs received honors from the City of Huntington Beach and the State of California



Keynote presenter Nora Papian.

President's Tern

By Tom Livengood

At a recent Amigos docent-led presentation that was given to a group of senior citizens at the scenic overlook on the history of Bolsa Chica and how it was saved, the following question was prompted: "Was there dry land where there is now water?" The answer is yes. For over 50 years, oil operations dominated the area now covered by the restored wetlands.

If the land owner at the time, Signal, had received approval for their 1980 project, the view would have been up to 11,249 homes, commercial, private and public marinas. The rerouting of Pacific Coast Highway over a navigable ocean channel was also included in the project.

But public interests (Amigos and many others) intervened, and in 2003 the removal of 64 oil wells, miles of elevated roadways, 225 power poles and tons of contaminated soil began. Ground breaking for restoration occurred in 2004. The opening of the tidal inlet on August 24, 2006 allowed the tidal flow to enter the newly restored wetlands for the first time in 107 years. The Bolsa Chica restoration project is the largest and most successful coastal restoration project west of the Mississippi. The Restoration Steering Committee, consisting of members of eight Federal and State agencies, supervised the design and construction of the restoration.

Next time you visit the Bolsa Chica and take the trail that starts at the south parking lot (off Pacific Coast Highway across from the entrance to Bolsa Chica State Beach) stop a few minutes at the scenic overlook. Enjoy the view of nearly 600 acres of restored wetlands. Thousands of volunteer hours over thirty-six years were a key in saving the wetlands.

The Bolsa Chica has an interesting history dating back at least 8,000 years when Native Americans first occupied the Bolsa Chica. You can read about it in the book, *Bolsa Chica Its History from Pre Historic Time to Present*, by Dave Carlberg. This book can be purchased at Barnes and Noble or ordered from our website, www.amigosdebolsachica.org/join.htm.

Does the Chupacabra Live Here at the Wetlands?

By Donna Starr

One of the boys from our 3rd grade tour asked Chris Murtland (shadowing docent) and I if chupacabras lived here at the wetlands. We told them we hadn't seen any "goat suckers" but I would be sure to ask our more experienced and more knowledgeable Amigos volunteers. So has anyone seen one?

The kids that we took out today were very special on many levels. Besides being inquisitive and very happy to be at the wetlands they were funny. Our docent leader Phil decided the question we should all ask the students in our groups were, "why do birds migrate to the BC?"

When I asked my 14 students, "why do you think birds migrate to the Bolsa Chica wetlands, a boy excitedly yelled out, "Freedom". The word "migration" takes on a lot of different perspectives.

At the end of the tour I asked both teachers what they enjoyed about the tour. They responded, "We love that the kids can identify from the bird cards the different species. They are thinking on their own." They also loved the "variety" of birds that they don't get to see in the city.

As a docent it's great to see the difference we make in kids' lives. My group stepped onto the footbridge familiar only with the "pigeon" but stepped off the footbridge saying to me, "Egrets are pretty common here!"



*3rd Graders from Lincoln Elementary School.
Photo by Donna Starr*

The Health of the Oceans

By Dave Carlberg

Most of you have read or heard about the Amigos' new and exciting educational program, "It's All Connected" (see Spring 2012 Tern Tide), which is designed to increase middle school students' understanding of the general health of our ocean and more specifically the impact nearby wetlands have on the ocean's health. For instance, wetlands like Bolsa Chica provide:

- Spawning grounds and nurseries for many fish species including halibut, sand bass and turbot, species that are important for off-shore commercial and sport fishing.
- The purification of urban runoff before it enters the ocean through various physical and biological processes.
- Nutrients, generated by wetlands' natural decomposition of plant life, to feed the shoreline's shellfish and other species.

You also may have recently heard of a new study just released by a group of scientists that was intended to measure the health of the oceans adjacent to some 171 countries and territories worldwide. For its Ocean Health Index, the group of over sixty scientists used a list of 10 factors to devise scores for the areas studied. Some of the 10 factors had to do with fishery sustainability, coastal protection and biodiversity, while others dealt with tourism and recreation, the area's coastal economy and landscape preservation. In other words, the index was not based entirely on scientific assessments but included factors associated with social impacts on the ocean's health. How is the ocean providing the things people care most about?

The Ocean Health Index scale ranged from 1 to 100. The scores of highly developed countries such as the U. S., Japan and the U. K. ranged in the 60s, slightly above average, while understandably isolated islands such as the Seychelles and Australian and U. S. island territories in the South Pacific ranked significantly higher. Germany was the only industrialized country to rank among the five highest scores. The highest U. S. regional score was achieved by the New England coast,

the lowest, the southern tip of Florida. Much of coastal Peru, Uruguay and continental Africa ranked well below the overall world average of 60.

While the report may provide a useful tool for local decision makers, it falls short of the promise of its title, "Ocean Health Index". The report focused only on the oceans immediately adjacent to coastlines. The Earth's oceans cover about 71 percent of the planet's surface area, and yet it is the least known environment. It has been estimated that over 2 million marine species lurk in the oceans' depths that are yet to be identified. That is mostly due to the oceans' depths, which average over 12,000 feet, making it immensely difficult to explore. So the ocean's overall health remains largely unknown. Only a few symptoms have been observed such as the enormous concentration of floating trash that has accumulated in the mid Pacific, the occurrence of dead zones and the acidification of the ocean's waters due to increased levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels.

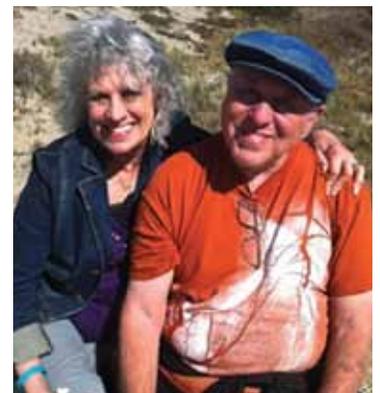
Carbon dioxide is relatively soluble in water (think champagne), which means the oceans absorb billions of tons of the gas from the atmosphere every year. In doing so, the carbon dioxide shifts the pH of the water toward acidity. As carbon dioxide dissolves in water, it eventually forms carbonate. Carbonate is a critical substance for every creature that forms a shell, such as clams and oysters, as well as corals and many species of phytoplankton. However, as the ocean gets more acid, less carbonate is available to these organisms, resulting in growth that is either stunted or prevented altogether as in the case of larval stages. Besides acting as the base of the oceans' food web, phytoplankton, through photosynthesis, produce one half of the earth's supply of oxygen. The impact of their loss to the Earth's oxygen-breathing animals is obvious.

Who is going to solve these critical problems? It may take a generation or more to get us back to a truly healthy Earth. That is why our "It's All Connected" program and ones like it are so crucial in making our future generations aware of the direction our planet is headed.

Love Birds at the Wetlands

By Donna Starr

Sandi buys Michael lunch at Woody's Wharf and a tour of the BC wetlands for Michael's 74th birthday. They knew nothing of the Bolsa Chica wetlands when they arrived from Costa Mesa but by the time they left they promised to become members and be regular visitors. They loved their tour. They got to see a shark, egret, coot, sting rays and terns. It wasn't the most active bird day but it was definitely a most loving day. They enjoyed the "serenity". Michael, a writer of novels and retired UPI reporter, said that knowing our wetlands was "protected gave him comfort". He said, "this is my kind of day". Sandi, his beautiful wife, is a psychotherapist. She thought that too many people were blind to what the Bolsa Chica wetlands has to offer and she promised me to write out prescriptions to all her patients to visit at least once. All I can say is that sharing my knowledge of the wetlands with such a warm and appreciative couple made it "my kind of day" too.



*Sandi and Michael celebrate life at Bolsa Chica.
Photo by Donna Starr*



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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

\$ 10 Student

\$ 25 Individual

\$ 40 Family

\$100 Sustaining

\$1000 Life Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Additional Contribution:

\$ _____ Fund operational expenses \$ _____ Fund education projects \$ _____ Total enclosed

Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Education outreach ___ Grantwriting ___ Social media ___ Wetlands cleanup ___ Leading tours ___ Fundraising ___

*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.*

Return application to: Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647