

Photo by Ross Griswold



**Fall 2013
Volume 37 Issue 3**

**First Saturday
of the Month Tour:**

**Free tours on the
first Saturday of
each month from
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**Last Saturday
of the Month Tour:**

**FREE bird talk and
nature walk at the
Bolsa Chica
Ecological Reserve.
Led by Amigos docents.
9:00 am.**

**Carpooling is encouraged as
parking at the Bolsa Chica
Ecological Reserve is limited.**

Published quarterly by
Amigos de Bolsa Chica
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The TRUE story of Wellingford, the Western Snowy Plover

By Ross Griswold

Nest #13 hatched Saturday April 27, 2013. There were 3 eggs in it. 2 of the eggs were cracked open and each of the 2 chicks joined their father plover to form a brood. 6 hours later the 3rd egg still hadn't hatched. This was not good. Peter Knapp called me and told me 2 of 3 eggs had hatched from this nest and were with the adults. He then said, as he was still watching the last egg, that he saw some movement in the last egg. This was a problem because since it took so long to hatch, that it wouldn't be accepted by the other 3 birds. He said I should take it to the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center and have it hatch there and be brought up as a captive chick until it could fledge and fly away. He put the egg into a small box with confetti in it so the egg wouldn't roll around and off I went.

Of course on an early Saturday afternoon, the traffic was heavy. It took me 20 minutes to get there. When I arrived, of course Curious George (me) had to take a look before I went in. When I opened the box up, there was a wet very small bird along with 2 halves of the egg. Yes, the Snowy Plover had hatched in my car! How cool! Since I was the 1st person the plover saw, we must be related – a step dad?! I decided to give a rich sounding name: Wellingford. This was also smart as I didn't know if it was a male or female.

The bottom photo is Wellingford's 3-day old picture, eating well and looking VERY cute! After a month and a few odd days, it was time to release Wellingford back to nature. It could fly by now and with it's new anklets, it was banded so we could identify it if it came back, it was time to go. This bird wanted to go. It was trying to get out of the release cage the minute it was put in. So we opened the doors and it ran out and flew way up in the sky. "Look how high I can fly!" After a couple of loops in the sky, Wellingford buzzed right at me then flew off! This is my story-I'm sticking with it and believe it or not "It's TRUE!"



Photos by Ross Griswold

2nd Annual Pumpkin Centerpiece Project

By Dawn Pope

Our second annual pumpkin centerpiece project is off to a super start! Pumpkins are starting to arrive and we have started receiving our first orders!

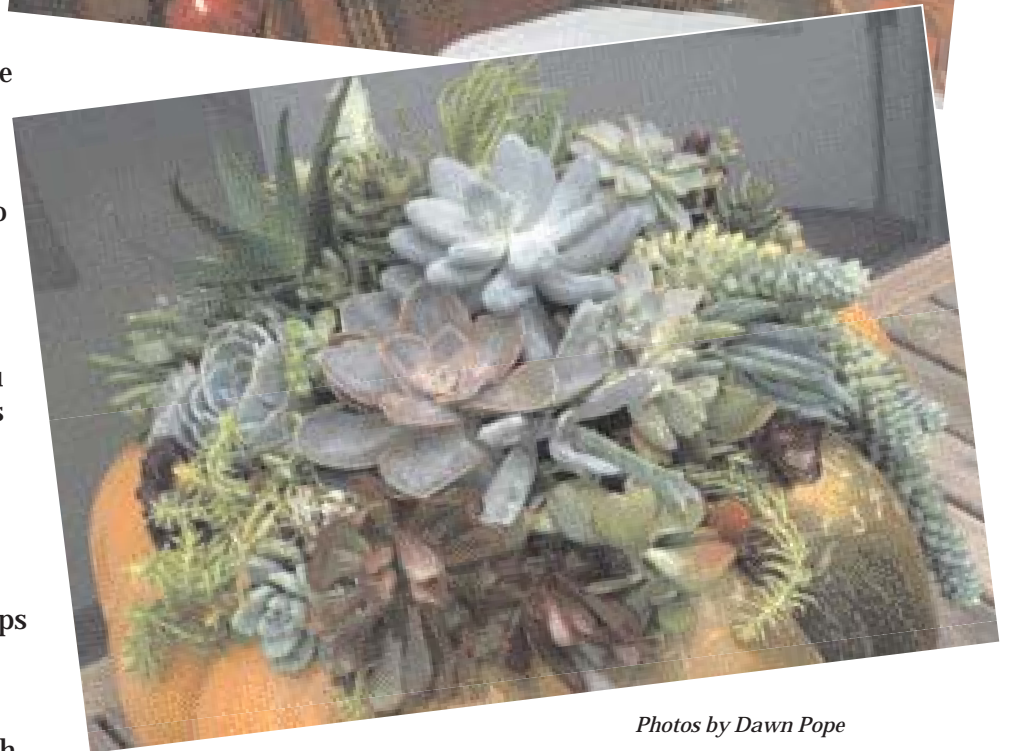
Kelly and Stuart Maude from Maude Family Farms in Paso Robles delivered a wonderful sampling of our pumpkins over the Labor Day weekend. They did a fantastic job growing just the right size and color from our specifications. Located right in the middle of California's central coast wine country, the temperatures were in the 3 digits in September which ripened the pumpkins faster than expected. The Maudes harvested the first batch and delivered them to the Pope house September 15th.

Your succulent cuttings are a welcome addition to our thriving Amigos de Bolsa Chica nursery. You can always drop them off on Dawn's stone bench. Our decorating workshops will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 am-3:00 pm, starting October 8th through November 21st. Everyone is welcome to all workshops or as many as you can.

The first available pick-up date will be Thursday afternoon, October 10th at 5962 Donlyn Dr., Huntington Beach.

Our traditional orange and white pumpkins are being sold for \$30.00 each and we are pleased to announce our NEW Mini-Pumpkin-Set for \$35.00. Both styles are wonderfully festive. Our very last pick-up date of the year will be November 23rd. The only exceptions are individuals/organizations that order over 10 centerpieces for their holiday gatherings after Thanksgiving.

Remember, all orders are to be Pre-Paid. You can place your order on the Amigos website <http://shop.amigosdebolsachica.org/category.sc?categoryId=4>. If you need information regarding any of these pumpkin events, would like to be on the schedule for a workshop or pick up order forms call Margaret (714) 842-5619 or Dawn (714) 840-3422.



Photos by Dawn Pope

Help Support Amigos When You Shop!

Escrip

Escrip is a year-round way for you to contribute to the Amigos without vouchers, certificates or receipts that you have to collect. It is very easy to join and you do not have to hang anything on your key chain or carry an extra card to show when you want to contribute.

Here is how it works: Go to www.escrip.com. Click on the sign up link on the right. Complete the registration and set up a user name and password. Choose the Amigos de Bolsa Chica as one of the groups you want to support. Register one or more credit or debit cards and that is it. When you use the cards that you registered at Escrip businesses they make a monthly contribution to Amigos. It is typically 5% of your purchase. You do not even need to tell them that you are on Escrip. It is that easy.

On the Escrip website you can look to see what businesses in the area help you to support the Amigos. Some of those businesses are American Airlines, Cruise Lines – Carnival, Princess, Celebrity and Disney, Pavilions, Vons and Top Valu markets. There are also a lot of area restaurants that participate as well. Olive Pit Grill, Baci Ristorante, Spark Woodfire Grill, Buon Gusto, Don the Beachcomber, Old World German Restaurant, Panda Palace and Green Street Café. Those are ones that are just in Huntington Beach.

Join now – it is a one step process and you can support the Amigos each time you shop or dine.

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 a letter with a scan bar 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.

Greg Leo Passes

Greg Leo passed away on July 9. He will be missed at the Bolsa Chica where he led bird tours for the Amigos on the last Saturday of each month. Greg retired from his medical practice in 2010, joined the Amigos and was in the 2011 Docent Class. He found a special niche leading tours for small groups of interested beginning birders and general public. He was well liked by all of us who volunteered with him. We knew him as a caring man who loved the outdoors and birding. It is sad to lose a friend like Greg.

Greg is survived by his parents, Mel and Fran Leo; his siblings, Annette Erlandson, Douglas Leo, Joan O'Toole and Diane Sweeney; his ten nieces and nephews; and his adopted daughter, Cindy. In lieu of flowers the family asks you to donate to the National Audubon Society.



Greg Leo

Going With the FLOW

By Dennis Pope

ABC's new FLOW Program (Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands) has two important objectives. The first is to develop a group of citizen scientists to monitor our ocean and wetlands' water quality. The second is to provide a tailored educational experience for sixth graders and above that focuses on managing and preserving our coastal environments.

Begun earlier this year, under the guidance of Joana Tavares-Reager, the FLOW program has logged nearly 400 work hours in specifying and obtaining equipment and materials, training volunteers and testing for ocean water quality and plankton at the Bolsa Chica's tidal inlet. More than 25 volunteers, Amigos members and docents have been trained to date. We have also provided data and water samples to the California Department of Health for 27 weeks in a row.

So far we have sampled and assessed water collected from the new tidal inlet only. We have learned however that permission to sample in the wetlands will soon be received. That will give us an excellent opportunity to compare and contrast sets of data from both sites. Wetlands data should also add another site to the Department of Health database. Later in the fall we will be hosting our first class groups to come and visit both the beach and the wetlands and to "shadow" the citizen scientists as they work.

Rob Ellis, professor of oceanography at Orange Coast Community College brought his Marine Biology lab class of 20 students to Bolsa Chica on September 11 – FLOW's first school group. The students shadowed 7 citizen scientists and volunteers as they went to the tidal inlet to collect water samples, and then returned to the State Beach Visitor Center to observe the plankton under the microscope and perform water quality analysis. In addition to Mr. Ellis' students, thanks to Tran Tran, Leah Bull, Sandy Mattson, Dennis Pope, Chuck Drescher, Jim and Jennifer Robins for making the first FLOW class a huge success. Three more teachers and classes are lined up for the fall and winter, and several others have applied to fill out the FLOW schedule for 2014 school year.

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Kevin Joo, Nicole Greer and Tran Tran



Dennis Pope



Tran Tran, Sandy Mattson and Leah Bull

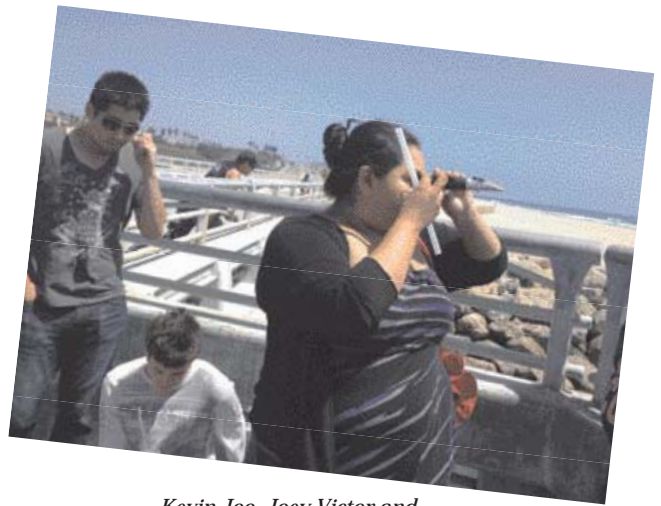


*Sitting: Belen Cairo, Shawleen Garcia,
In back: Judy Huck and Nicole Green
Standing: Dennis Pope, Sandy Mattson,
Joey Victor and Kevin Joo*

Photos by Joana Tavares-Reager

Continued from page 4 –

More docents are going to be needed in the fall to work with the class groups. Citizen scientist volunteers will also be welcomed as many of our current volunteer corps will be returning to classes themselves. Every Friday we collect water samples, measure physical and chemical properties and assess the plankton populations collected. It's interesting and fun, so if you would like to join us and help, or if you would just like more information, please come by the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor's Center during our morning or afternoon collection times, depending on the tides that day. Friday collection times are: 10:00 am on September 20 and 27 and October 4 and 18; 2:00 pm on October 11 and 25.



*Kevin Joo, Joey Victor and
Shawleen Garcia*

President's Tern

By Tom Livengood

In 1985 I joined the Amigos Board. At the end of this year I will have served two, two-year terms, 1996/1997 and 2012/2013. Over the years the purpose of Amigos has not changed. The Amigos formed in 1976 to save the Bolsa Chica from development, to acquire, preserve and maintain the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

There is still private property that could be purchased to expand the Reserve. Part of the Reserve still has oil production. When the oil operation closes down restoration of that area can begin if adequate funds are available. Maintenance is an on-going challenge in the 1,200+ acre Reserve. The bluff, tidal inlet flow, trails, islands, walk bridges, and plants all require maintenance.

Orange County Public Works have officially kicked off an Adopt A Channel Program to get the public involved in in the County's 350 miles of flood channels. Much like the Adopt a Highway Program, sponsors can adopt a channel. The program was officially announced at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. This program is extremely important to reduce the amount of trash that ends up in the wetlands and the ocean. Check out more information on the program at www.ocwatershed.com.

The Amigos have received several grants this year: Southern California Edison, Griswold Foundation, Gillespie Foundation and OXY Petroleum. These grants have provided funds for education programs (FLOW), fencing to protect a nesting site, interpretive signage and bus transportation for schools, just to name a few projects.

The strength of Amigos continues to be the volunteers that serve as docents, board members and committee members. Special thanks go out to ALL of Amigos volunteers.

Check out the information on the Amigos pumpkin-centerpiece sale. Volunteers are needed to place succulents on the pumpkins. Training will be provided. If you are interested in having some fun, contact the Amigos office at info@amigosdebolsachica.org.



Light-footed Clapper Rail

By Pam Williams

Pacific Coast Highway is a busy road. Thousands of people whiz by a place where ocean water resides on both sides. I was one of those folks until one day; I pulled into the small parking lot next to the pedestrian bridge. As I walked across the bridge, teams of birds flew over me and some of them dove into the water with lightning speed. I had never seen so much liveliness in one place. I was hooked!

Ever since that first visit, I have learned about the seasons of birds at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. In fall and winter, I watched California Brown Pelicans dive in front of the pedestrian bridge; and Surf Scoters and Buffleheads slip under the water when I try taking photos of them. In spring and summer, Terns fly with bewildered fish in their beaks; and Snowy Egrets and Black Skimmers dominate the water and skies. And I always come with camera in hand to capture them in their world.

On one occasion, I stopped by Bolsa Chica to take one of my usual photography walks when all of a sudden; I heard a big bird sound across the wetlands. "What was that?" I thought to myself. This is not the usual sound of spring and summer.

Then it happened again. The loud short bursts of sound were carried by the wind. Perhaps someone around would know so I asked but no one did. Later on, as I headed toward my car to go home, I saw a group of photographers rushing to the parking lot. "What's going on?" I asked one photographer.

"I don't know," he said and then I heard that sound again, only this time it was really loud. It was coming from the parking lot. It seemed as though it belted out sound with all of its strength. Then I saw him strutting across the lot looking down as though he had lost something.

"I've never seen this bird before," I said to myself. I studied his burnt orange and chestnut colors as his orange feet stretched across the parking lot. And the photographers were right there with him! Click, click, click surrounded me like rain falling hard on asphalt. I joined. Click, click, click. When it was all over, I looked at my photos. They were all blurred! I got so caught up in the moment; I forgot to adjust my camera settings. Arrrgh! Would I ever get the chance to see this bird again?

After several visits I finally heard that same jackhammer sound. He was here! This time he was in the grass next to the entrance of the pedestrian bridge. I checked my camera settings. Again, he looked as though he was searching for something in the grass. I stood still and simply clicked as he walked right by me. Then, he disappeared into the shadows under the pedestrian bridge. I looked up and there was one other photographer on the bridge.

I asked, "What kind of bird is this?" He sighed and smiled as though he had received a trophy for his work. "It's a Light-footed Clapper Rail." Later on, I learned that this bird is an endangered species. I am glad that I encountered the sound and beauty of the Light-footed Clapper Rail.



Photo by Pam Williams

Amigos in the Community

By Jennifer Robins

Amigos is always looking for new ways to spread the word about our Free Public Tour on the 1st Saturday of the month, the Free Bird Walk on the Last Saturday of the month, our Private Scheduled tours, the FLOW program (Follow and Learn about the Ocean and the Wetlands), the Citizen Scientist program and our docent class held in the winter.

Joana Tavares-Reager, Jim Robins and Jennifer Robins attended the Girl Scouts Kick-Off event on August 10th at the U.C. Irvine campus. We spoke to over 100 Scout leaders and volunteers about our programs. They learned about the wonderful docent-led tours the Girl Scout troops can attend. They have a brand new Girl Scout program called "It's Your Journey – Customize It". It allows the girls more freedom to initiate projects to earn badges. They have journey books for learning about Your World, Your Planet and Your Story. It sounds like a great program for Amigos

to begin partnering with the Girl Scouts and model our tours for them. We look forward to future adventures with the Girl Scouts.

Amigos had a booth at the Huntington Beach Green Expo on September 14. We were one of 10 non-profits allowed to have a booth along with many companies that are striving to have green products for the world. The volunteers were Terry Hill, Nancy Boyd-Batstone, Chuck Drescher, Phil Smith, Tom Livengood and Jennifer Robins. Besides talking about our many tours and educational programs we advertised our upcoming Succulent Decorated Pumpkin Sale and had our Plastics and Pollution activity for adults and children.

If you are interested in helping at future booth events, becoming a docent or a Citizen Scientist, please contact Jennifer Robins at 714 894-8381 or jjrobins@dslextre.me

Summer Beach Programs

By Jerry Donohue

This summer Amigos docents were able to offer two beach programs aimed at young people. First we entertained and educated mostly beach campers, aged 5-13, with components of our FLOW program. Here young explorers could peer into a light microscope and try to identify various types of phytoplankton, while at the same time, Citizen Scientists using a projecting microscope and screen were accomplishing the same task. Squeals of glee were often heard as some strange looking creature, invisible to the naked eye, was drawn into focus. Next, students tested for water quality. They followed designs given on pictured cards asking them to dispense specific numbers of drops into a small test tube. After they shook the tube and waited for a minute, they compared the color of their test tube to a

color chart to determine the safety of the water. Fortunately, all tests were within the safe range. Tests conducted included pH, salinity, ammonia, phosphates and nitrates.

Special thanks to Dennis Pope, Joana Taveras Reager and Jerry Donohue for their efforts to work with young campers. Our five evening campground programs averaged 11 people per visit. Here we talked about birds that live across the street at Bolsa Chica for ten minutes and then we played the interactive Birds and Beaks game. High energy and team spirit made these sessions lively. Thanks to Mick Siroy and Jerry Donohue for their presentations.





THE TERN TIDE

Volume 37, Issue 3
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- Going With the FLOW*
- President's Tern*
- Amigos in the Community*
- Summer Beach Programs*

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: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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