

Amigos de Bolsa Chica

THE

TERN TIDE



Since 1976

Spring 2005
Volume 30, Issue 1

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29th Annual Bolsa Bash
Tern Tide Online
Running is for the Birds
Thank you!

THE TERN TIDE

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RESTORATION TOWN HALL SUMMARY

by David Carlberg

JANUARY 25, 2005, HUNTINGTON BEACH CENTRAL LIBRARY,
WITH JACK FANCHER, U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

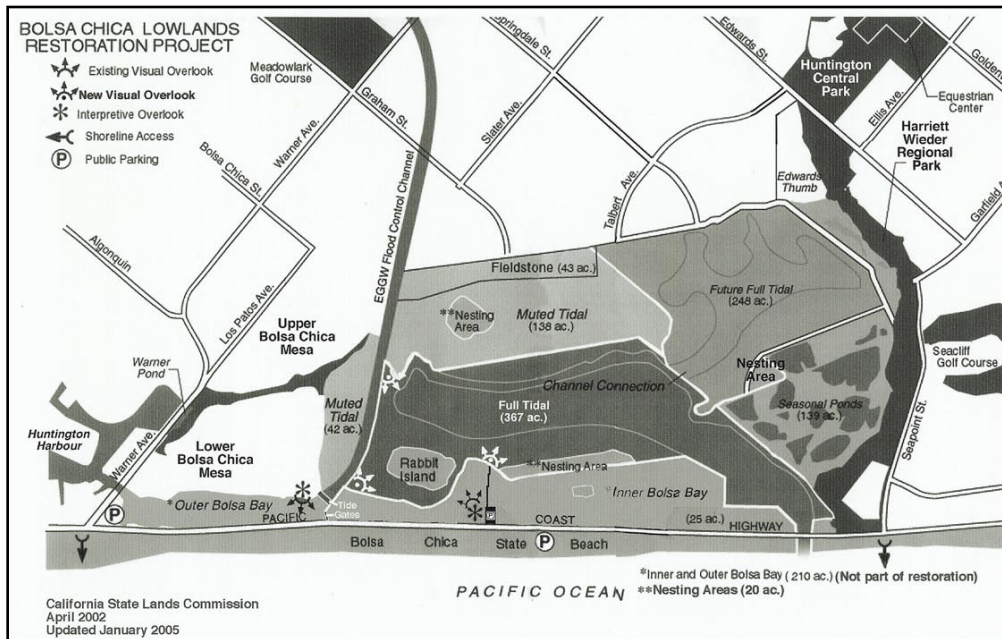
Cleanup and Earthmoving. From the time of the groundbreaking for the restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetlands on October 6, 2004, work has proceeded in earnest. Sixty one oil wells and associated machinery has been removed, including 121,454 feet of pipe. Thirteen miles of exploratory ditches have been dug to look for additional buried pipe and other hazardous debris from over 50 years of oil operations. Heavy machinery has moved in to remove brush and to begin preliminary contouring of the land to convert it from an oil field to a functioning wetland. Dewatering was begun almost immediately to reduce the high water table that prevents heavy machinery from operating. However, much of the heavy earthmoving work has been delayed due to the intense rains that occurred in January. Dewatering must continue until dryer conditions return.

Seapoint Traffic Signal. The city of Huntington Beach has approved the installation of a temporary traffic light at the oil field gate at Seapoint Drive. The signal is necessary to provide safe movement of construction traffic in and out of the project site. Installation should be completed by the end of March.

PCH Bridge. Before construction can proceed for the bridge that is to allow PCH traffic to pass over the ocean inlet to the restored wetland, detours around the construction site had to be provided. The northbound PCH detour is now completed and in use, the southbound lanes should be completed by the end of March. PCH bicycle lanes have been rerouted through Bolsa Chica State Beach. The bridge, consisting of four traffic lanes, two bicycle lanes, a beach maintenance /emergency lane and an additional oil well maintenance bridge will be completed by October, 2005.

Loop Trail. The trail that connects the Ecological Reserve parking lot with the tide gate overlook will be closed to allow construction of a taller embankment. The trail should be completed by the end of 2005. However, California Department of Fish and Game may close the footbridge about that same time to rebuild the bridge and parking lot. Access to the loop trail will still be open from Warner Avenue via the Wintersburg Channel tide gate.

Water Barrier. To protect adjacent homeowners from saltwater intrusion, a barrier structure will be constructed along the entire eastern edge of the restored wetland. This will prevent saltwater from entering nearby aquifers, and also prevent excessive fresh groundwater from accumulating in the residential area. Pumps will capture accumulated water and return it to the wetland. Pumps will be small and installed in soundproof concrete vaults.



Observation Viewpoints. Three public observation viewpoints will be constructed as part of the restoration. One will be at the eastern terminus of the Ecological Reserve footbridge, and two at the south slope of the Wintersburg flood control channel embankment. One will be near the tide gates and one a couple of hundred yards east of the tide gates.

Boundary Fence and Construction Noise. A number of residents along the eastern edge of the wetland expressed concern over the appearance of the

chain link fence that will be placed along that portion of the wetland. They asked if more visually pleasing alternatives could be considered, such as a vinyl-coated fence or landscaping to hide the fence. Alternatively, it was suggested to place the fence on the west side of the embankment, which is to be rebuilt. The project steering committee had not focused on that detail as yet and will begin researching alternatives. One neighbor complained of noise and bright lights during late night and early morning hours in the Seapoint area. Residents are working with Jack Fancher and other members of the steering committee to resolve all differences of opinion. It is likely residents and the steering committee will be holding their own town hall forum over this issue, but at this writing date, time and location has not been confirmed.

Fieldstone Property. Sale of the 42 acre Fieldstone property to the State is imminent. Cleanup plan for the PCBs has been approved by the State and Kiewit Pacific, the construction contractor, will probably do the cleanup since they already have the necessary equipment on site. If the sale is timely, the property can be included in the restoration project.

Amigos Committee Spotlight: COMMUNITY OUTREACH LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

One of the reasons the Amigos de Bolsa Chica has been so successful for the last 30 years is because of the strong volunteer spirit in the community. As a member of Amigos de Bolsa Chica, there are many volunteer options in our organization. There is no better way to help preserve the wetlands and educate people about their importance than to join one of our committees. We are very fortunate and grateful that we can rely upon support from volunteers on a wide variety of levels throughout the year. There is always something for everyone.

Community Outreach is a broad-based committee whose focus is to keep the Amigos de Bolsa Chica involved in the L.A./Orange County community by attending various events throughout the year such as Earth Day events, environmental town forums and the Orange County Fair. We also host a variety of events directly related to the maintenance of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve including our Tern Island cleanup in March (although it was postponed this year due to the restoration construction) and the statewide California Coastal Cleanup in September. Members of this committee also take our slide show to a variety of groups who want to know more about Bolsa Chica. This committee is also dedicated to building community involvement by walking through local residential communities to pass out our literature. Community Outreach also phones former members as a personal invitation to activate their membership. This extra outreach effort has been appreciated by many and it has been a pleasure to meet many of you. This committee welcomes those who enjoy interacting with the public in a variety of situations. This is a small committee with lots of enthusiasm that would welcome some other smiling faces.

WANT TO LEAD TOURS OF THE BOLSA CHICA? BECOME A DOCENT! CLASSES START APRIL 14TH

Attention nature lovers, retired teachers and all Bolsa Chica enthusiasts! If you are interested in leading tours of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, we will offer our next docent training class on the evenings of April 14, 21, 28 and May 5 at the Amigos de Bolsa Chica office from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Each session will be taught by an expert in the field of history, ecology, birds, endangered species and the restoration project. Included in the price of this one-of-a-kind program is our extensive Docent Training manual designed by the Amigos de Bolsa Chica to specifically describe the Bolsa Chica wetlands in great detail. This document is available only to Amigos de Bolsa Chica docents. In 2004 over 2000 children and adults participated in one of our docent lead tours of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Our friendly and informed docents make our tours the best tours available. Amigos members receive this training for the special price of \$40.00. If you are interested in leading group tours at the wetlands, please call our office at (714) 840-1575 by Monday, April 4, 2005 and sign up for this wonderful opportunity.

BIRD COLUMN

By Peter Knapp



Forster's terns are one of several tern species breeding successfully at Bolsa Chica, but the only one that lives there year round



White pelicans have been present in varying numbers during the fall and winter at Bolsa Chica

With spring's arrival (hopefully after the rains), the 2005 breeding season will begin at Bolsa Chica. This year will bring changes in habitat as the restoration of the wetlands continues. There will be new areas that could potentially provide nesting sites for terns, plovers, stilts, avocets and sparrows. The vegetation scrub on Rabbit Island could attract terns and plovers to the exposed sand. The Loop Trail, as long as it remains closed and trespass is minimal, could attract terns, plovers, avocets and stilts. One new nesting site within the existing oilfield should be ready with a second site at least partially complete by the start of the nesting season. In addition, the two existing tern nesting islands should be ready to welcome terns, plovers and skimmers.

So what's to look forward to – surprises and the unexpected as the birds adapt to man's planned and unplanned consequences of restoration. I will be monitoring the western snowy plover breeding activities along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel. Also, I will work part time for the Department of Fish and Game monitoring least tern breeding activities. Hopefully both species will not impact restoration activities by their choice of nesting sites.

Least terns along with elegant, caspian, royal and forster's terns and skimmers should begin arriving mid-April. The western snowy plover will either migrate to Bolsa Chica and/or cross Pacific Coast Highway from their wintering sites at Bolsa Chica State Beach and Surfside. Two banded birds that breed at Bolsa Chica last year have wintered on the local beaches.

The most unusual winter visitors have been a pair of American bitterns and a number of released domestic chickens. The latter have been captured and turned over to rehabilitators. Releasing pets and other animals at Bolsa Chica is illegal and threatens native wildlife.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE EASIEST WAY YET TO MAKE DONATIONS

Do you want to donate to Amigos but just don't have any extra money to spare? Our donation programs are just for you! Over the last few months, the Fundraising Committee has been busy pursuing a variety of donation opportunities. Through the Amigos' Bolsa Chica Foundation, we have registered as a participant in both the eScrip program and the Albertson's Community Partners Fund. Registration for both programs is free and can easily be done online. To register, please follow the steps below:

eScrip: The beauty about this donation program is that over 150 merchants are registered through this program, including Von's, Macy's and many online sites. To register, please click on the link <http://escrip.com/>. Click on #1 "Sign Up – It's Free." Enter "Bolsa Chica Foundation." "Click search." The link for our account will appear on your screen. Click on the link and then click on "next" to enter your personal information. Because this program is associated with many merchants, contributions are calculated by the store cards and credit cards entered on the secured site. Once you have entered all your information and reviewed your summary, complete the registration process. eScrip will automatically send you information and updates about all the many businesses and services that participate in making donations.

Albertson's Community Partners Fund: For those who regularly shop at Albertson's and/or Sav-On, this is a wonderful donation program for you. To register, you first must have a Preferred Savings Card. For those who need to apply for this card, please click on the link <http://www.albertsons.com> and apply for this card. For those who already have the Preferred Savings Card, please click on the link <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/>. Follow the steps for shoppers to enroll in the donation program by entering your card number and your phone number. Next click on "Find a Partner." Under name, enter "The Bolsa Chica Foundation", city as "Huntington Beach" and the state "California." Click on "Find Partners." The Foundation information will appear on your screen. Check the box and then click on "Add Selected Partners."

If you have any difficulty with your registration, please contact Alexia at the office. You do not need to be an Amigos member to sign up for these programs, so please encourage your friends and family to register. With no out of pocket money, your registration guarantees money to be used for our educational programs. It simply is that easy.

Albertson's

Corporate Information
[Home](#) > In the Community

March 6, 2005

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ABOUT ALBERTSONS NEWS INVESTOR INFORMATION **IN THE COMMUNITY** CAREERS

Volunteering
 Environmental Affairs
 Hunger Relief
 Health & Nutrition
 Youth & Education

in the community
 It's important to be good neighbors
 and give back to our communities
 ...to improve all of our lives.

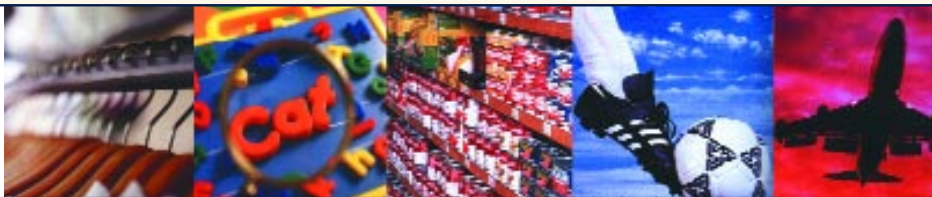
Albertson's and its family of stores believe in being a good neighbor by contributing to the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. In 2003, Albertson's provided more than \$78 million in cash and in-kind donations with support focused on hunger relief, education and the development of our youth, and health and nutrition.

Albertson's support of local communities and youth activities dates back to the first store opened by Joe Albertson in 1939. Mr. Albertson's generosity and leadership have served as the foundation of Albertson's understanding of the importance of community involvement, and the development of the programs Albertson's offers today.

“ In 2003 alone, Albertson's donated more than \$78 million cash and in-kind donations to help meet community needs.”

eScrip and Albertson's have now made making donations to the Amigos' Bolsa Chica Foundation easier than ever before. Just enroll in these programs online, and every time you shop using the various cards you have registered, we receive a donation. Thank you for taking the time to sign up!

A list of all the merchants in Southern California participating with eScrip and the amount of your purchase that will go to the Amigos' Bolsa Chica Foundation.



AUTOMOTIVE

1-800-TOW TRUCK	5%	Auto Driveaway Co.	5%	MAACO Auto Painting & Bodyworks	4%
89glass.com	5%	Bill Heard Chevrolet	7%	Pep Boys	4%
AAMCO Transmissions	5%	Driversed.com	5%	Webtrafficschool.com	5%

RETAIL

Eddie Bauer	5%	Macysbridal.com	up to 6%	Ultimate Outlet	3%
Macy's	up to 6%	Sierra Trading Post	5%		
Macys.com	up to 6%	Spiegel	5%		

GROGERS

Balboa Village Market	2%	Keil's Food Stores	up to 5%	Super A Foods	up to 5%
Bristol Farms	up to 7%	Major Market	up to 4%	Top Valu	up to 5%
Cardiff Seaside Market	up to 7%	New Frontiers Natural Foods	up to 4%	Valu Plus	up to 5%
Catalano's Market	up to 4%	Notrica's Market	up to 4%	Vons	up to 4%
El Rancho Market	up to 4%	Pacific Coast Greens	10%	Vons.com	up to 4%
Farm to Market	up to 5%	Pavilions	up to 4%	Wrigley's Supermarket	up to 3%
Green Frog Market	up to 5%	Spencer's Fresh Markets	up to 4%		
Hows Markets	up to 5%	Stumps Apple Market	up to 5%		

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Carl's Jr.	8%	Daphne's Greek Cafe	4%	Shaker's Family Restaurants	4%
Carrows Restaurants	3%	Diner on Main	4%	Shakey's Pizza	6%
Chick 'N Chow	3%	Pick Up Stix	5%	Wild Thyme Café & Bakery	4%
Claim Jumper Restaurant	5%	Pizza World	5%	Yard House	5%

SPECIALTY ITEMS & SERVICES

Aloha Island Kona Coffee (866-55-ALOHA)	2%	Goldspeed.com	5%	Reseda Photo	2%
Catholicfamilygifts.com (Online)	3%	GreenPoint Mortgage	.2%	ServiceMaster Clean	5%
Creative Cakery	5%	(Please call 800-764-3114)		Shutterfly (Picture Studio for eScrip)	10%
Dinosaursuperstore.com (Online)	2%	Hooper Camera & Imaging	2%	Strand Cleaners	up to 8%
Dogwatch Hidden Fence Systems	10%	Kid Concepts, U.S.A.	5%	Surfinbox.com Dialup Internet Service	7%
eBags (www.ebags.com)	7%	Magazines & More	10%	Terminix	5%
eScrip Visa	up to 2%	Mary Kay (Online or By Phone)	10%	TruGreen ChemLawn	5%
Final Wrap	10%	MCI WorldCom Communications	up to 5%	Wondernation	4%
Gamerang.com (Online)	5%	Merry Maids	5%		
Giddyuphorsie.com (Online)	2%	OfficeMax	2%		
Giftbasketsbyangel.com (Online or By Phone)	5%	Petals & Stems Floral Decorators	5%		

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American Airlines Flight Certificates	3%	Carnival Cruises	up to 5%	Princess Cruises	up to 5%
Ordered through Mitch-Stuart, Inc. 1-888-233-6636.		Celebrity Cruises	up to 5%	Rewards Network Hotels	8%
Budget Rent A Car	3%	Club Cruise	up to 5%	Royal Caribbean International	up to 5%
Must call 800-455-2848, use eScrip code X462300.		Disney Cruise Line	up to 5%		

PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS

VDAC		Picture Studio for eScrip	10%		
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Visit www.escrip.com for participating merchant locations.

BRIGHTWATER SAGA CONTINUES

By Linda Moon

The California Coastal Commission Staff has determined that Hearthside Homes' resubmitted Coastal Development Permit application for its Upper Bolsa Chica Mesa Brightwater development project is incomplete, and the application has not been considered by the commission at its March 2005 hearing in Newport Beach.

The Commission Staff is awaiting further required documentation from Hearthside. Staff has expressed concern over a new water quality plan which includes a five foot pipe to drain storm run-off from the mesa into the Bolsa Chica lowlands. Buffer areas, deemed to be insufficient in Hearthside's prior application are also still of concern to the commission staff.

When the application is deemed complete, the Amigos Board will review the application and Coastal Commission Staff recommendations to determine what action should be taken. It is expected that the documentation process will be completed in time for the project to be considered at the commission's April 12 -15 meeting in Santa Barbara.

Previously, Hearthside threatened to withdraw its offer to sell the lower Bolsa Chica Mesa to the State Wildlife Conservation Board for \$65,000,000 if the Commission did not approve its plan as submitted to the commission, despite the plan's numerous violations of the Coastal Act, including unlawful land form alterations, inadequate buffers, inadequate habitat protection, and creation of an unlawful developable residual parcel. However, faced with a certain rejection of its proposal at the October 2004 Coastal Commission Hearing, Hearthside withdrew its plan and pledged to work with staff to achieve an acceptable development plan. Hearthside recently renewed its threat to withdraw from the lower bench sale agreement if its amended upper mesa project plan was rejected by the commission.

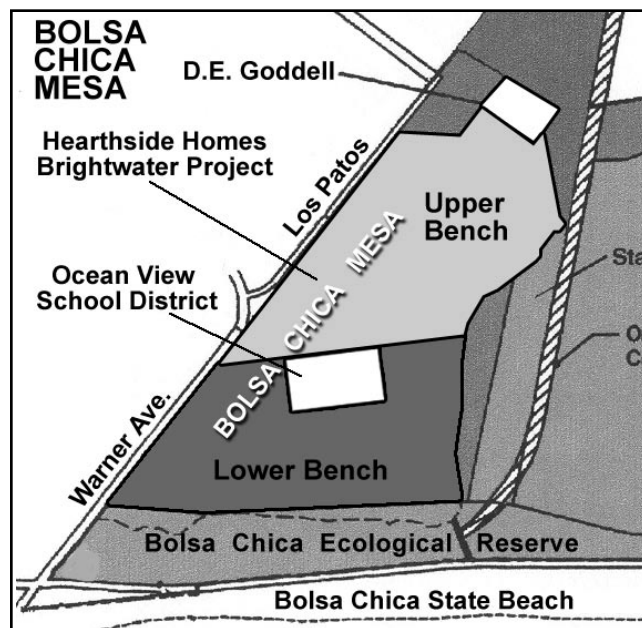
Please watch for updated announcements regarding the Coastal Commission Hearing on the Brightwater project on the Amigos web site: www.amigosdebolsachica.org.

OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT LAND STATUS

By Shirley Dettloff

I had hoped that we could announce that Ocean View School District had sold their property to the State, thus becoming a part of the land that will be preserved as a part of the lower bench. Through the Wildlife and Conservation Board, the State has offered the district 12 million dollars for their property. The district has taken the first step and declared the land surplus, but now the district must wait until Hearthside Homes makes a final decision on whether to accept the State's offer to purchase the lower bench. Meanwhile, Hearthside Homes is waiting for the Coastal Commission to make a decision on what they can develop on the upper bench.

Since Hearthside Homes must decide whether they will accept the State's offer to purchase the lower beach in June, these next few months are critical in assuring that all of these purchases take place. Of course, Hearthside can accept the State's offer at any time, but the district acceptance is conditioned on Hearthside's decision to sell their property to the State. Hopefully both decisions will be made in the next few weeks. After this decision is made, we will have 120 acres of preserved land to add to the over 1200 acres of wetlands. What a wonderful gift to the citizens of the State of California. I want to thank Secretary of Resources Chrisman, Director Rodderick of Fish and Game, and Al Wright of the Wildlife and Conservation Board for the work they have done to preserve this land for future generations.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 29th ANNUAL BOLSA BASH:

Sunday, April 17, 2005

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

West Coast Club

Huntington Beach Hilton

This year we will be honoring three very special members of our community: Sara Wan, California Coastal Commissioner; Larry Wan, wildlife photographer and activist; and Ron Shenkman, Vice President of Rainbow Disposal.

These three people have done a great deal in a variety of ways to help us with our mission to preserve the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and educate people about the value of this irreplaceable ecosystem. Without support from individuals in our Southern California environmental community such as this, the struggle for organizations such as the Amigos de Bolsa Chica to succeed in its mission would have been all the more difficult.

RUNNING IS FOR THE BIRDS ON HIATUS FOR 2005

by Brian Westcott

The fundraising committee has been very busy this year looking for new and innovative ways to raise money for the Amigos so that we may continue in our mission to educate people about the importance of preserving this unique ecosystem. In doing so, we have taken a very hard look at how we currently raise funds.

One of our major events for the last 25 years has been our Annual 10K, Running is for the Birds. This event has been successful in raising the most money for our organization, but it has become more expensive to hold this event due to a number of factors. The Amigos board has made a bold decision by suspending the race this year based on the fundraising committee's recommendation. The facts are that the cost of our use of the state beach will at least double this year and our insurance and printing costs are also increasing. There is also concern about the impact of the wetlands restoration construction along Pacific Coast Highway and the public beaches. Our efforts will be used to raise funding through a variety of other endeavors that are less labor intensive. The focus of the Amigos continues to be to educate the public about the wetlands and to raise public awareness of the valuable resource we have in the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

The Fundraising and Race Committees want to thank all the sponsors, runners and participants for their past support of the race. We know that there will be people disappointed that the race will not happen this year. The work of the Amigos is not done, so we hope to see everyone supporting our work at other events. We always need volunteers and sponsors and we are open to creative ideas any of you may have that will assist in continuing the work of the Amigos. The Amigos committees are always welcome to new members and we hope to see you at our upcoming Bolsa Bash.

THE TERN TIDE: ONLINE OR HARD COPY?

In our continuing effort to give our members a choice on whether to receive this newsletter via email or regular mail, we will now be offering our online option in PDF format. Those who prefer the online option will now be able to print the newsletter as if receiving it in the mail, saving us postage and printing costs. If this option appeals to you, please contact the office by emailing Alexia at info@amigosdebolsachica.org or call (714) 840 1575. Once the Tern Tide has been downloaded onto our Amigos website

www.amigosdebolsachica.org, you will receive an email linking you to our newsletter.

For those who prefer receiving their issue of the Tern Tide in the mail, this service will continue. Printed issues of the current Tern Tide will also be available at our office, our public tours and at our general meetings. To continue to receive the latest updates on Bolsa Chica, please visit our website, www.amigodebolsachica.org

THANK YOU

**To all who participated in
our donation drive at the
end of 2004:**

Joan McCauley
Patricia Kirk
Vic Leipzig
Keith Senechal
Marvin Nellicks
Terry Hill
Gerald Finley
Barbara Parks
Grace & Bob Winchell
Jennifer & Jim Robins
Suzanne Carnahan
Phyllis Strawn
Sandra & Robert Mauceli
Paul Kratz
Emily Renzel
Melinda Combs
R. C. Nelson
Kay and Terry Dolton
Lorraine Faber
Ellen & Donald Goodwin
Kerry Martin
Shirley and Bob Dettloff
Barbara & Mike Sentovich
Betty & Bob Hogan

***We are very grateful for
your generous support!***



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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 of the Bolsa Chica and to encourage public acquisition and planning to restore it to its natural marsh state surrounded by open space.

ANNUAL DUES

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Office assistance _____ Committees: Education _____ Fundraising _____ Outreach _____ Science _____ Grants _____

Additional Contributions:

\$ _____ Fund educational programs (Tax-deductible check payment to Bolsa Chica Foundation)

\$ _____ Fund operational expenses (Check payable to Amigos de Bolsa Chica)

\$ _____ Total enclosed