

Amigos de Bolsa Chica THE **TERN TIDE**



Since 1976

**Spring 2006
Volume 31, Issue 2**

THE PRESIDENT'S TERN

By Thomas Anderson

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THE TERN TIDE

is published quarterly by
Amigos de Bolsa Chica
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As the Amigos de Bolsa Chica moves further into our 30th year, there is much good news happening at the wetlands and with the Amigos. First, over 1300 acres of lowlands and mesa are now officially preserved as open space for wildlife. It is no small feat that the Amigos de Bolsa Chica have been so successful at preserving and restoring the Bolsa Chica wetlands, and educating people about the importance of wetlands since 1976. Preserving and restoring have been attained; education will be perpetual.

Second, after being on hiatus last year due to the restoration construction, we are thrilled to announce the return of our 26th annual "Running is for the Birds" race at Bolsa Chica State Beach. Already we have new and past race participants eager to register for the event. We are pleased this event means so much to runners and to the community. The State Beach, our priceless, one-of-a-kind race course, will also be back in shape for this event. If you are interested in sponsoring, participating in or volunteering for the race, please let us know.

The bridge over the new tidal inlet was completed very quickly, and everything is better than normal on Pacific Coast Highway. Even though the opening of the new tidal inlet is behind schedule, dredging activities will be halted—temporarily—to accommodate the nesting season of skimmers, stilts, plovers and several species of terns. This means the loop trail will be open during that time and we will preview the efforts of the restoration project for the first time. Many acres of new nesting habitat have been created for these birds, and it will be exciting to see how quickly they make use of it. This would be a very good time to take one of our first Saturday of the month public tours, or to book one of our private, docent led tour for your school, club or organization.

Without the dedication of the Amigos and continuing commitment from our membership and from the community at large, the landscape of the stretch of coast between Warner and Seapoint might look vastly different. A big 'thank you and congratulations' to everyone over the past 30 years who has made this organization and its mission so successful, especially our docents and volunteers. And thank you to all who have supported our recent outreach endeavors: the Golden West Pops concert, the Bolsa Bash and the docent training class. Every time you visit or drive past the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, you can proudly say, "I helped to keep the houses off this land."

BOLSA CHICA WETLAND RESTORATION UPDATE

by Dave Carlberg

While many phases of the restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetland are winding down, some are actually accelerating. The oil service bridge is nearing completion and finishing touches are being made on the highway bridge, such as the bike and pedestrian lanes and the “observation galleries”. The galleries are large balcony-like structures to allow pedestrians to stop and enjoy the view from the top of the bridge. The permanent fence along the foot of the levee by the back boundary of the wetland should be completed by the time you read this. Once “No Trespassing” signs are up, citations will be issued...warning to joggers and bikers. The fence will be on the wetland side of the levee, so the levee will be open to the public.

Dredging of the full tidal area is running behind schedule and probably will not be complete by the opening of the tern nesting season, starting late March or early April. The dredging will have to resume in the fall. Sand from the dredge is being pumped offshore to build the ebb shoal. This causes turbidity, which inhibits the ability of the terns to forage. The good news is that the loop trail can be opened when dredging stops, and will not have to be closed when the dredge returns. Also, the break in dredging will not delay the opening of the ocean inlet sometime in late July. Building of the jetties began in early March.

If you have been at the dam recently, you probably have noticed that construction of the culvert to feed Bolsa Bay water into the pocket muted tidal wetland is underway. Once trenching reaches the paved road that leads from the dam up to the overlook, that area will have to be fenced off. That means access to the overlook from the dam will not be possible, probably for about 4 weeks starting early April. The overlook will still be accessible from the north. Again, weather will have a lot to do with the progress of this phase. Call the Amigos office for the latest information if you plan to walk in the area.

As completion of one of the largest coastal wetland restorations in California nears, we should look back to remember that a mere 30 years ago, the Bolsa Chica was to become another Long Beach Marina. Thanks to a combination of hard work and good fortune, that image is but an unfond memory.



Aerial photo of courtesy of Jack Fancher, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

BIRD COLUMN

By Peter Knapp

I and many others eagerly anticipate the 2006 breeding season for bird life at Bolsa Chica. The new nesting sites of the restoration project significantly increase the potential for large numbers of terns and skimmers to nest here. The largest of the new nesting sites known as nest site #1 extends from just north of the boardwalk south approximately one half mile. The other two new nest sites are located in the existing oilfield and are not visible from the area of the boardwalk.

Last year 9000 pairs of Elegant terns provided 7000 fledglings all on the existing north tern island. The first sighting of Elegant terns this year was made by Loren Hays on March 10th at the Santa Ana River Mouth. Subsequently, a couple of thousand were reported at the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. Other terns expected are Caspian, Forster's, Least and Royal and Black Skimmers.

Unusual sightings of bird life over the winter months included three Reddish egrets, an American Bittern and recently a Yellow-Billed magpie. The later is believed to be an escapee. All of these birds were still being seen as I write.

Photo of Clapper Rail taken by Steve Hess during our February public tour.



BOLSA CHICA EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Join Amigos de Bolsa Chica, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy and the Bolsa Chica Stewards on Sunday, April 23rd from 9am to 12pm for our Earth Day celebration.

In the north lot off of Warner Avenue, Amigos de Bolsa Chica will provide experts who will direct bird watching at the water's edge with spotting scope and binoculars for visitors, and we will monitor a 3-hour tide and bird count tally. Children can color birds and make mobiles to take home. Mounted bird specimens and a slide show of Bolsa Chica birds will be displayed and updated restoration wetland reports will be presented. The Bolsa Chica Stewards will post plant lists, provide plant samples and hand out information about the plants of Bolsa Chica and native California plants and their role in the environment plus information about home-gardening. Across the channel, the Stewards will have a small team on hand so that all visitors can put a plant or two in the ground. In the Interpretive Center, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy will have a fish printing station in conjunction with the touch tank with SCMI and the live animal exhibits.

REI will provide a station, teaching their PEAK program in 30-45 minute rotations.

Please invite family and friends with children to come celebrate EARTH DAY at our MOST SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT in the Bolsa Chica. For more information, please call our Amigos office.

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

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in the community

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

Albertsons 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, Albertsons 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.

Albertsons 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 Albertsons understanding of the importance of community involvement, and the development of the programs Albertsons offers today.

" In 2003 alone, Albertsons donated more than \$78 million cash and in-kind donations to help meet community needs."

eScrip and Albertsons 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!

THE RACE IS BACK! REGISTER TODAY!

26TH ANNUAL

“RUNNING IS FOR THE BIRDS”

10K/5K RUN AND FUN WALK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2006

Join Amigos de Bolsa Chica at our 26th Annual “Running is for the Birds” 10K/5K Run and 5K Fun Walk on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at Bolsa Chica State Beach in Huntington Beach! Start time for our 10K run is 8:30am, 8:40am for our 5K run and 8:45am for our Fun Walk.

Our race course is flat and fast on a concrete path that runs along the sand with an ocean view at Bolsa Chica State Beach. Both our 10K and 5K runs are superb for novice and experienced runners who are looking for a professionally timed race at an ocean location. Awards are given to the top finishers for both our runs. For those looking for an event with a more relaxed pace, the 5K Fun Walk is a wonderful option. Strollers are fine for the Fun Walk, but please no dogs. Entry forms for our race are accepted year around. To download our entry form today, please visit our website www.amigosdebolsachica.org or register online at www.active.com. Participants who register before October 1, 2006 are guaranteed a souvenir race t-shirt.

For more information, please call Alexia at 714-840-1575. Support our efforts to protect our restored Bolsa Chica Wetlands by registering today!



BOLSA BASH 2006

Our Bolsa Bash on Sunday, February 26, 2006 at the Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort at the West Coast Club was a successful event, with beautiful glass sculptures presented to Debbie McGuire from the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center and Garry & Ellen Brown from Orange County Coastkeepers. The fundraising committee gave a surprise glass sculpture to board member Mel Nutter who has worked many long hours on our internal Amigos de Bolsa Chica/Bolsa Chica Foundation merger. Many congratulations to those who were honored.

This year we were very thrilled to receive so many generous items from a variety of businesses for our silent auction. Thank you to the following donors: Mitch-Stuart, Anna Horner, Pick Up Stix Seacliff, Trader Joe's Huntington Beach, Peet's Coffee & Tea Bella Terra, Victor Leipzig, Good Day Café, Shipley Nature Center, Alice's Breakfast in the Park, Mission San Juan Capistrano, Mimi's Café, The Disneyland Resort, Cathy Jensen, Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course, Bob Harrison, Islands Bella Terra, Anne Geddes Store – Downtown Disney, Jamba Juice Bella Terra, Amigos de Bolsa Chica, Acorn Naturalists, Jennifer Robins, Wild Birds Unlimited, Hyatt Regency Resort & Spa, HB Beer Company, Sugar Shack, Dean O. Torrence, Buca di Beppo, Market Broiler, Julie Pasillas, Rainbow Disposal, ChemDry of Irvine/Newport, Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Company, Newport Landing, Hornblower Cruises, Catalina Passenger Service, Alexia Swanepoel, Circuit City, South Coast Plaza Management Office, Fitzgerald's Auto Care Center, Bella Terra Car Wash, Village Nurseries, Margaret Carlberg, Macaroni Grill Bella Terra, David L. Baker Memorial Golf Center, Huntington Beach Historical Society, See's Candies, Huntington Beach Art Center

Thank you also to the following sponsors: Anderson Artworks, Brian Westcott, Bannister & Associates. Without all of this support, hosting this event would not be possible.

WELCOME NEW DOCENTS

The latest docent training class concluded in early March with a tour of the Talbert Marsh followed by a graduation luncheon at Lou's Oak Oven Barbeque. Five new docents have officially joined our education staff. They are: Barbara Binaski, Maria Buhbe, Steve Hess, Betty Murphy and Chuck Nichols. They were an enthusiastic, helpful, and most interested class, and come with backgrounds and skills in teaching, business, photography, and the Bolsa Chica wetlands. Right from the start they have been helping, observing, attending all sessions, and now are volunteering for tours, and are down at the Bolsa Chica sharing their newly acquired knowledge. Thanks to you all for joining with us. We enthusiastically welcome you!



THANKYOU DOCENT CLASS INSTRUCTORS

A special thank you to the Amigos members who organized and instructed the latest docent training classes: Helen Higgins, Vic Leipzig, Lou Ann Murray, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Jim and Jennifer Robins, and Barbara Sentovich. Thank you also to the Bolsa Chica Conservancy for providing the classroom, to Steve Hess and Chuck Nichols for providing tables and chairs, and to Barbara Stewart for organizing a Docent Event at the Talbert marsh followed by the graduation luncheon. Your special contributions and many hours of service are very much appreciated. Thank you.

2006 Docent Class Photo, courtesy of Steve Hess. From left, Barbara Binaski, Maria Buhbe, Steve Hess, Betty Murphy, Docent Class Coordinator Barbara Sentovich and Chuck Nichols

AMIGOS' 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In January, the 2005 Board of Directors held its first annual meeting as the restructured Amigos de Bolsa Chica and elected the 2006 board directors and officers.

PRESIDENT - Thomas Anderson
VICE PRESIDENT - Dave Carlberg
TREASURER - Brian Westcott
SECRETARY - Terry Dolton

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

OFFICE UPDATE

At the end of January, our office relocated down the hall to suite 303A as part of a sublease agreement with another tenant in the building. Although it is a smaller suite, we were fortunate enough to obtain a larger storage unit at the same facility we used before for the same price. Retaining office space in the same building allows us to remain close to the wetlands. Our office/fax number of 714-840-1575 remains the same as well as our email address info@amigosdebolsachica.org. Mail is now being redirected to P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Please retain this address for your records to mail in membership and event reservations.

A WORD OF THANKS

Amigos de Bolsa Chica would like to thank State Assemblyman Tom Harman for his support of our efforts to preserve the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Throughout the years, Assemblyman Harman has graciously joined us in honoring various individuals and environmental groups at our annual Bolsa Bash. His personal interest in our local ecosystem has been invaluable when discussing key environmental issues with him and his staff. Concerned individuals like Assemblyman Harman have helped Amigos de Bolsa Chica cultivate its thirty years of success in protecting coastal wetland habitat. Thank you Assemblyman Harman!

REDISCOVER BOLSA CHICA - SUPPORT AMIGOS IN 2006

2006 is a banner year for Amigos de Bolsa Chica as we celebrate our 30th anniversary and look forward to the completion of phase one of the Lowland restoration project with the grand finale of the tidal inlet opening this summer. Looming on the horizon is the placement of a management team at Bolsa Chica and our commitment to oversee its management in a partnership with the State of California. Managing a coastal wetland habitat of this magnitude requires many experts as well as concerned citizens like yourself who are dedicated to protect Bolsa Chica. As part of our "Rediscover Bolsa Chica" campaign, we will continue to expand our educational programs by providing a variety of tour opportunities and several off-site presentations. In addition, we will provide a highly educational website, brochures, comprehensive educational guides and docent training.

Membership is key to an organization such as ours and we hope that all of you will continue your support by renewing your dues. Soon we will offer an online renewal option for those who prefer to renew with a credit card by providing a secure online payment provider. For those who prefer to mail your payment, that option will continue as well. Please check your mailing label for your renewal date and mark your expiration date on your calendar. Remember that as a 501(c)3 organization, all contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you to those who have renewed your membership at the sustaining level. Special thanks to long-time members Judy Todd and Dan Kee who recently renewed as life members.

For those of you who live a distance or simply have limited schedules, we hope that you can help us by sending in a small monetary donation or donating your recyclable toner cartridges and cell phones or sign up for the eScrip and Albertsons/Sav-On programs which cost you nothing. For more information on our donation programs, please visit our website at www.amigosdebolsachica.org.

