

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



Since 1976

**Spring 2009**  
**Volume 34, Issue 2**

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## **THE TERN TIDE**

is published quarterly by  
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## **Protecting our Yosemite's of the Sea\***

(The President's Tern) By Dave Carlberg

About a decade ago, fisheries experts reported that the health of California's marine resources was in serious trouble. Populations of many marine species were in a steep decline. While demand for seafood was increasing, fish catches off the California coast had dropped by over 50 percent. (It is no wonder that 70 percent of the seafood we consume today is imported.) It is thought that the causes of the population declines include over fishing and loss of spawning, foraging, and nursery habitats. Consequently the California state legislature passed the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999. This legislation gave the California Department of Fish and Game the task of evaluating the current health of California's marine biodiversity and creating and managing a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) along the California coastline.

MPAs are areas of the ocean that carry various restrictions as to the management of marine species as a way of aiding populations to recover. MPAs had been in force before, but most were created without solid scientific or logical foundations and needed a thorough review. The DFG began studies on the northern California coast, followed by the central coast. Now, in 2009, the program focuses on the southern coast, from Point Conception to the Mexican border. Nominations for areas to be designated as MPAs are now being collected and reviewed. Final nominations are scheduled to go to the Fish and Game Commission in October of this year.

Now let's connect the dots. Not only is the Bolsa Chica wetland one of the largest coastal wetlands to be restored in the state, it is one of the most pristine. Most major coastal wetlands such as the Seal Beach National Wildlife Reserve or Newport Back Bay, as important as they are, are impacted by human activities such as boating, residential development, and/or significant urban runoff. Bolsa Chica has none of these. A recent survey of the fish populations in Bolsa Chica noted 41 species in the full tidal basin, every one of which was represented by juvenile forms as well as adults. That means the wetland is acting as a prolific fish nursery, a critical key to a healthy ocean fishery. Unfortunately commercial purse seiners have been seen fishing at the Bolsa Chica ocean inlet, threatening the wetland's fish productivity.

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MPAs - Continued from page 2

In addition, Bolsa Chica is a major nesting habitat for tens of thousands of migratory birds, particularly five species of terns, one of which is the endangered California Least Tern. These birds depend on the availability of anchovies and other small fish to support the thousands of hungry chicks that hatch each year. Tern parents (as well as other birds such as pelicans and cormorants) forage both within the Bolsa Chica wetland and in the ocean immediately off shore. Again, the purse seiners fish in the same area in which the birds forage, reducing the fish populations that the birds depend on for food.

Because of the potential role the Bolsa Chica wetland can play in the health of our off shore fishery and well as the support of migratory birds, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica is promoting the waters off Bolsa Chica State Beach as an MPA that would restrict commercial fishing. For more information about the southern California MLPA program, go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoastnews.asp>

As I related in the last Tern Tide, for the 32 years that I have been in the clutches of Bolsa Chica, I have been fascinated by its colorful history. And as some of you know, that fascination has driven me to write a little book on the history of our favorite corner of nature. The book's title is Bolsa Chica, its history from prehistoric times to the present, and what citizen involvement and perseverance can achieve. Yes, I know, it's a mouthful, but that seems to be the trend in non-fiction books these days. Since most non-fiction books don't sell very well, book covers have to be part billboard. Anyway, I'm happy to tell you that the book will soon be available from the Amigos' website, at our regular first Saturday tours, and eventually at Barnes and Nobel as well as other shops around town.

In the book I tried my best to describe the millennia of natural and human forces that eventually shaped Bolsa Chica into the landscape we know today, the indigenous people who inhabited it for over 6000 years, and the Europeans and Americans who owned it for another two hundred years. Finally I cover the story of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and some of the events, big and small, which led to the preservation and restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetland.

\*Title borrowed from <http://www.caloceans.org/>

## Bolsa Chica Garners Another Award

The American Society of Civil Engineers has awarded their Project Excellence Award for 2008 to Moffatt and Nichol Engineers for its work on the design and construction of the Bolsa Chica Wetland restoration. The judges remarked that while there was a number of outstanding entries in the competition, what set the Bolsa Chica project apart from the others was the complexity and variety of the project's challenges.

Moffatt and Nichol was awarded the contract for the management and administration of the Bolsa Chica wetland restoration project in September, 2006. Moffatt & Nichol is an internationally known consulting firm providing planning, engineering and construction management for a wide range of transportation, port and harbor, coastal and urban waterfront projects. The firm was founded in 1945 in Long Beach, California, where it still maintains its corporate headquarters and largest office. The company currently employs over 300 people in over 20 offices in the U.S. and Canada.

Congratulations Moffatt and Nichol!

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## Student Membership Event - Saturday, May 9

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica membership committee has organized a student membership recruitment event. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 beginning at 11:00 a.m. and will continue through until 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center. This event is open to high school and college students. The cost is \$10 and will include a one year membership, an informative lively presentation, handouts, refreshments and free parking for the day at the state beach. That is quite the bargain!

Please let those young people in your lives know about the event. We anticipate a full house, so contact the Amigos office (714) 840 1575 as soon as possible to hold a spot for that young person in your life. Remember this is a great opportunity for young people to get involved with protecting and preserving the Bolsa Chica. There is still much work to be done. It is important that our students learn about the local environment and the various ways they can volunteer their time and talents for mutual benefit. Additionally, membership and volunteer time with an environmental organization such as the Amigos de Bolsa Chica is valuable on college applications.

## Amigos Volunteers at Community Events

Amigos de Bolsa Chica is invited every year to participate at various environmental venues in Orange and Los Angeles counties. Again this year we will be taking our "show on the road" to share information about the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and encourage the public to schedule tours and visit the wetlands for a different outdoor experience. The first booth event will be at the LA County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia for the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair on March 14. We take our literature, tri-fold display, restoration photo binder and a children's activity to share with attendees at the events.

The other events Amigos volunteers will be at are Rainbow Disposal's Earth Day on Sunday, April 19th; the 4th Annual Spring Festival at the Shipley Nature Center on Saturday, April 25th, Earth Day at Recreation Park in Long Beach on Saturday, May 2nd and the Nature Extravaganza at the Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center in San Pedro on Saturday, May 16th. If you would like to volunteer at future events, please contact the Amigos office. Visit our booth at any of these events and introduce yourself as an Amigos member. We'd love to meet you in person.

## Donation Thanks

Thank you to the dozens of people who renewed or upgraded their membership category recently. Special thanks to the following who were among those who made additional donations to Amigos: Joyce and Bob Beardsley, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Bonnie Castrey, Virginia Davis Ed and Sally Hirsch, James Karis Fred Schultz, Sally Spotts Terri Taylor and RB Wilson.

## Tern Tide and Current Tide

The quarterly *Tern Tide* is available by Postal mail **or** by email. The semi-monthly *Current Tide* of late-breaking news is available only to those who have signed up to receive the *Tern Tide* by email. It saves Amigos printing and postage costs if you subscribe via email. Call Laura Holdenwhite, Office Coordinator, at (714) 840 1575 to change your preference.

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## Amigos Docent Field Trips

By Barbara Stewart

Eighteen Amigos docents traveled to Palos Verdes on February 6 for a field trip to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. This was an 'exchange tour' as the Los Serenos docents had been guests of Amigos at a tour of the Bolsa Chica last fall. Their docents gave our group a good tour of their beautiful two-year-old center, and the trails with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. On their wide patio and observation area whale watchers spend daylight hours tracking the seasonal migration of the whales along the coast. Unfortunately none were sighted even by the experts the morning we were there. After the trip the Amigos enjoyed lunch at the historic Red Onion restaurant nearby.



*Amigos Docents' Field Trip at Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Palos Verdes*

On May 6 at 10 a.m. the Amigos Docents' spring field trip will be held at Bolsa Chica. Louann Murray will lead an excursion to study the plants of the wetlands and the mesa. The tour will start at the South Parking Lot at 10:00 am. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant after the tour. More details will be sent by e-mail to docents. Other Amigos members can get more information from the Amigos office—[info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org).

## Volunteering Opportunities with Amigos

by Jennifer Robins

Amigos de Bolsa Chica has several very active committees that are always open to new members. The Community Education Committee's primary goal is to educate the public about the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and its importance to our environment. We meet this goal by training individuals to become docents. These docents provide tours to school children, adults, scouts, international visitors; presentations to community groups; and attend booth exhibits at educational and environmental fairs. We are expanding our outreach by utilizing the Visitor's Center at the Bolsa Chica State Beach as a classroom that draws attention to the connection between the ocean with the wetlands. Please join us to use your creativity for developing new activities that will inspire the visitors to become better stewards of our environment.

The Grant Writing Committee is another group of Amigos who conducts research, mainly on the internet, to find foundations and sources of funding appropriate for our educational projects and operating expenses. This committee meets to discuss grant requirements, deadlines and project timelines, and it edits the application proposals its members have written. Half of our operating budget comes from small grants, so the success of this committee is vital to meeting the goals of the Amigos' mission.

The Membership Committee is an active group of our members who generate innovative ideas to attract new members, retain the existing membership and encourage members to become more active as volunteers with Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

Fundraising and Merchandise activities are carried out at the direction of these two committees and the Amigos Board. If you are interested in either of these areas, please email Jennifer Robins, [jjrobins@dslextrême.com](mailto:jjrobins@dslextrême.com). For information about any of the committees and to find out when and where the next meeting will be held, email [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org) or call (714) 840-1575.

## What a Year!

by Shirley Dettloff

What a year for the residents of the City of Huntington Beach! Huntington Beach is celebrating its 100th Birthday and every month there are hundreds of activities for our residents to help the city celebrate being 100 years old. We started out with a float in the Rose Parade, winning the Mayor's Trophy for best city float. This parade was viewed by millions all over the world. Following this success was the Centennial Ball held at the Hyatt with over 600 in attendance. February was Public Service Month with a Centennial Anniversary celebration held at the Pier where a Time Capsule was filled with current memories. There was also a wonderful historical display at the Art Center and the publication of the city's history by our own Historical Society. March is Education month, April, Environmental month, May, Tourism, June Diversity, July, Business, August Sports, September, Art, Music and Culture, October, Faith Based Communities, November, Community Based Organizations, and December, a community holiday party. There will be community beach parties, picnics, displays, drawings where all of our residents are invited to participate.

April is Environmental month, and Earth Day and related events are being planned. Starting with April 4, Earth Day will be celebrated at the Bolsa Chica with the Amigos and the Bolsa Chica Conservancy putting on displays and other activities. April 5 there will be a walking tour by the Sierra Club starting at Shipley Nature Center to the Beach. April 14, 15 and 16, talks will be given at the Wildlife Center on Urban Wildlife, Energy and Native Plants. April 18 the Tree Society will plant 100 trees at various locations in the City. On April 19, Rainbow Disposal will hold an event where you will be able to visit with all of the environmental organizations in our community, see recycling at work, and participate in many activities (it's a don't miss event). On April 25 Shipley Nature Center is having its annual Spring Festival.

Lots to do and every interest will be met! Take advantage of spending quality time right here in Huntington Beach - a great place to live, work and raise families. Be a part of our present *and* learn about how we got to be the best city in California.

## Earth Day At Bolsa Chica April 4

'Environmental Month' for Huntington Beach Centennial gets under way with Earth Day at both south and north parking lots at the Bolsa Chica on April 4 at 10:00 am. Along with the regular 'First Saturday Tour' at the south lot, guided tours of the wetland and a bird count activity gives additional public exposure to our wonderful wetlands. In the north lot, Amigos joins the Bolsa Chica Conservancy in educating families about Bolsa Chica history and the restoration project, and entertains with our fourth annual bird count activity at Fisherman's Point and some new art projects for children. Donations for this event from the following are appreciated: Ingardia Fruit, Santa Ana; Whole Foods Market, Long Beach; Pure Water Store, Beach Blvd, Huntington Beach; Ralphs Meadowlark in Huntington Beach; and Trader Joe's at Five Points Plaza. The Community Education Committee also appreciates the all of the volunteer help from Amigos members for these activities.

## Huntington Beach Centennial Earth Day Celebration

Please join us on Sunday, April 19, 2009, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Rainbow Disposal Co., Inc. at its newly-modernized facility, located at 17121 Nichols Street (off Warner between Gothard and Beach Boulevard) and plan to participate as we celebrate with earth-saving ideas for your everyday life and the future.

The City of Huntington Beach Centennial Committee has designated April, 2009, as "Environmental Month." Many Booths, Each Celebrating a Valued Community Service Organization, Food, Drinks, Entertainment, Earth-Friendly Prizes, Lots of Varied, Useful Information on Building a "Green Community" and Tours of Rainbow Disposal's Newly-Modernized Facility.

This promises to be a great opportunity. Plan now to participate! For more information, please contact the Rainbow Planning Team at 714-847-3581, ext. 253, or visit [www.rainbowdisposal.com](http://www.rainbowdisposal.com).

## Docent-led Tours

by Margaret Carlberg

Requests for private docent-led field trips are increasing as the school year ends. One of the largest February tours involved 110 cadets from the Sunburst Academy in Los Alamitos. This group visits twice a year, and is a favorite with our docents because they are so orderly, and it is so meaningful for these disadvantaged young adults. This was the first time to try combining the Overlooks and Mesa Tours, starting the 6 groups at the footbridge, with the 'walk and talk environmental hike' going all the way to the North Lot where their buses picked them up. It was a long hike for the girl on crutches, but she loved seeing the wetlands. The docents and visitors really enjoyed getting a good view of Inner and Outer Bolsa together. The docents and visitors really enjoyed getting a good view of Inner and Outer Bolsa together.

A tour in March that was enjoyed by new docents Ross Griswold and Ed Zschoche as 'shadows' and Fran Pike, and Dave and Margaret Carlberg was with 19 members of the Oceanview High School photography class and their teacher Yvette Marthell. The flowers on the mesa were brilliant, and the birds, fish, squirrels, lizards, and rattlesnake performed on cue.

Another first for Amigos tours was the inclusion of a stop at the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center for the group of 40 fourth graders from South Hills Academy West Covina. Ron Davis gave them a short talk about the connection between the ocean and the wetlands. Then Julia Tafel and Al Vari showed them around the building, and let them use the beach facilities for restrooms and lunch. It was a good experience for all—children, teachers, and docents.



*Students from the Sunburst Academy in Los Alamitos enjoyed the docent led tour of Bolsa Chica in February.*



*Oceanview High School photography students returned to school with hundreds of birds and other scenes caught on their cameras during a tour of Bolsa Chica.*

## GOOD DAY CAFE

**Breakfast & Lunch**

**Dine or Take Out**

**7:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**4911 Warner Avenue Suite 102**

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## Amigos' Board of Directors

Dave Carlberg, President; Jennifer Robins, Vice-President; Alma Bowman, Secretary; Brian Westcott, Treasurer; Thomas Anderson, Shirley Dettloff, Craig Frampton, Vic Leipzig, Tom Livengood, Mel Nutter, Jamie Pavlat, Patty Overley and Jim Robins, Directors. Laura Holdenwhite, Office Coordinator.

## Docent Class of '09 Graduates

The Amigos welcomes 6 well-trained individuals as eager docents--Patti Cacho-Negrete, Mike Concannon, Lori and Jerry Donohue, Ross Griswold and Ed Zschoche. Class facilitator Patty Overlay was impressed by everyone's perfect attendance active participation in the four training classes. All 6 attended Vic's Sunday 4-hour perimeter tour field trip, 4 attended Barbara Sentovich's birding Wednesday afternoon field trip, and all have their Amigos vests and name badges.

Lori and Ed were able to shadow and serve as assistant docents with the large Sunburst Academy cadet tour February 13, and also attended the docent field trip to Pt. Vicente Nature Center. With increasing numbers of tour requests and booth events, we are very glad to have some new docents to help greet and educate the public. Since there has been increased interest in Amigos docent training, another class is being considered in June. Contact the Amigos office (714-840-1575) if you are interested.

## Advertise in The Tern Tide

Amigos de Bolsa Chica is now offering all interested businesses the opportunity to advertise in our quarterly *Tern Tide* in order to assist with underwriting the increasing publishing costs (printing and postage) of this newsletter. Our rate for a "business card space" is \$100/year for 4 issues. We put your business card directly into the *Tern Tide* layout.

Not only is The Tern Tide mailed to our members, a pdf version identical to what is mailed is also available online. Considering that we receive over 200,000 visitors a year to our website, this could be quite a bit of publicity for any advertiser. The pdf versions of the *Tern Tide* have been archived on our website's News page since 2004.

So if you or someone you know is looking for a way to promote your business or specialization, this opportunity benefits both of us. Send your business card and payment to: Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Or, if you have a high resolution scan of your card in a jpeg, tiff or pdf format, you can email it to us at [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org)

## Amigos Photo Contest

Long-time members often ask what happened to our celebrated annual photo contest. In short, we currently lack the volunteer manpower necessary to organize and execute it. Anyone interested in helping to put together or work on a Photo Contest for students is invited to contact the Amigos office at (714) 840-1575 or email us at [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org).



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## THE TERN TIDE

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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

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### Additional Contribution:

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Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Office assistance \_\_\_\_\_ Community Education \_\_\_\_\_ Grantwriting \_\_\_\_\_

*All contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law under IRS Code Section 501(c)3.  
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