

Amigos de
Bolsa Chica

The Tern Tide
Since 1976

Photo by Ross Griswold



Spring 2015
Volume 39 Issue 1

Welcome 2015 Class of Docents

By Jennifer Robins

**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.**

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Vic Leipzig	



**2015 Docent Class, left to right:
Linda Viccaro, Allan Virula,
Felix Hubert and Journie Evers.**

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica Docent Class was held for six weeks on Wednesday nights beginning January 7, 2015. The new docents are Journie Evers, Felix Hubert, Linda Viccaro and Allan Virula. We thank them for volunteering their time to Amigos and we look forward to their new focus as docents leading tours. Facilitators for the class were Terri Bidle, Jennifer Robins and Patti Cacho-Negrete with assistance from Jim Robins and Jerry Donohue.

For many years the History class had been taught by Dr. Dave Carlberg and the Birds class had been taught by Barbara Sentovich. The Carlbergs moved to Santa Barbara and Barbara decided to let a new person do the Birds class. We appreciate their expertise and dedication in teaching their subjects for so long and we will look to them for guidance in the future.

This year the History session was taught by Brian Westcott; the Restoration session was taught by Jim Robins; the Ecology session was taught by Dr. Vic Leipzig; the Birds and Endangered Species sessions were taught by David Beeninga; the Fishes and Marine Invertebrates session was taught by Kelly O'Reilly; the Native American session was taught by Dr. Lou Murray; and a new Plant Class that was taught by Rachel Lloyd. We thank them for their invaluable service.

Several experienced docents came back for refresher sessions and shared their experiences with the new docents. Included in the class was a Bird Tour led by David Beeninga. A Perimeter Tour by Dr. Vic Leipzig will be given later in the year.

Earth Day Ocean Fest at Bolsa Chica State Beach, Saturday, April 25

By Melanie Cox

On Saturday, April 25, from 10 am—2 pm, in cooperation with the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, Bolsa Chica State Beach will be celebrating our 3rd Annual Earth Day! This year's theme is: Ocean Fest! In accordance with the theme, the Amigos will be hosting a water quality program inside the Visitor Center and on the outside they will have a booth with information about their

work on the Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Participants will even have a chance to get their hands dirty by helping plant and / or pull weeds in the garden. Other activities include: educational booths and activities about stingrays and marine mammals, crafts, beach clean-up and more! We hope to see you there!

Grunion Gatherings at California State Parks

By Melanie Cox

Starting in April, Bolsa Chica & Huntington State Beach will start hosting grunion run events. These events are held in accordance with the grunion run calendar published by the Department of Fish & Wildlife. Grunion are a phenomenon known only to southern California and northern Baja, so the chance to see these small silvery fish spawning on the beach is quite a treat. Spawning occurs from March through August; however, April and May are closed seasons for fishing. During open season, a valid California fishing license is required for anyone over the age of 16 who wishes to catch grunion.

Our grunion run events start with a 15—20 minute presentation that takes place inside the Lifeguard Headquarters building. Afterward, we head out on the beach to watch and wait for the grunion to arrive. Since the grunion could show up anywhere along the southern California coastline, there is no guarantee that we will see them at our events.

Our events are RSVP only as we have limited availability. For reservations, please contact:
Bryan.Fleming@parks.ca.gov.



Please make sure to dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

April 4 9:30 pm—11:30 pm Bolsa Chica State Beach
April 18 9:30 pm—11:30 pm Bolsa Chica State Beach
May 4 9:15 pm—11:15 pm Huntington State Beach
May 18 9:15 pm—11:15 pm Bolsa Chica State Beach
June 2 9:00 pm—11:00 pm Huntington State Beach
June 16 9:00 pm—11:00 pm Bolsa Chica State Beach
July 15 9:00 pm—11:00 pm Bolsa Chica State Beach
July 31 9:15 pm—11:15 pm Huntington State Beach
August 14 9:15 pm—11:15 pm Bolsa Chica State Beach
August 29 9:00 pm—11:00 pm Huntington State Beach

Upcoming and Recent Amigos de Bolsa Chica Events Calendar

By Jerry Donohue

World Wetlands Day, January 31

As spring, our busiest season for tours is about to begin, I would like to first look back to one winter event and then to several events still to come. On January 31, the Newport Bay Conservancy hosted a World Wetlands Day symposium that highlighted a historical view of Southern California coastal wetlands, water management issues, and endangered birds in these wetlands. Speakers traveled from the Mexican border (Tijuana River Estuarine Reserve) to our very own Bolsa Chica. Capping the six speaker day was our very own Shirley Dettloff who gave an inspired 45 minute talk on the “History of Bolsa Chica, and What a Group of Dedicated Individuals Can Accomplish” to an audience of 90 attendees. Although I have heard the story several times before, hearing it from a knowledgeable participant who was actively involved over many years is a narrative that kept my attention, even at the end of the day. Science has always been the avenue that the Amigos de Bolsa Chica has followed and our continued participation in these science-based meetings allows us to be a trusted voice in the community.

Earth Day at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, April 11

Earth Day at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, 10:00 am–3:00 pm on Saturday, April 11. This event is usually held in conjunction with many other organizations to celebrate Earth Day. We will have 4 tables; Information, History, Birds and Beaks, plus Birds and Tides. We usually have up to 25 Amigos hosting these stations throughout the day, so there is some task for everybody who wishes to participate in this yearly event. This is also an opportunity to meet and work with other volunteers in a setting other than a tour.

Citizen Science Monitoring Program Training Day April 17

Are you considering a career in Marine Sciences? Would you like to help Amigos de Bolsa Chica monitor Bolsa Chica’s water conditions, productivity and chemistry? Sign up for Amigos’ Citizen Science Monitoring Program Training Day, Friday, April 17, 2015, 2:00 pm, Bolsa Chica State Beach, Huntington Beach.

You will...

- identify potentially harmful plankton species;
- measure water quality variables such as temperature salinity, pH and nutrients;
- help in teaching junior high and high school students about environmental quality;
- be part of a network of citizen scientists that collect data all over the state and nation!

Email us at flow@amigosdebolsachica.org if you plan to attend, or call 714-840-1575 if you have questions. www.amigosdebolsachica.org/flow.html

State Parks Advocacy Day, May 5

On Tuesday, May 5 I will travel to Sacramento on behalf of Amigos to participate in the California State Parks Advocacy Day. Now that we are a Cooperative Association with Bolsa Chica State Beach, we want to insure that legislators are aware of the needs and the great potential that lie in state parks. Huntington Beach, for the past year, has highlighted city parks to get people to enjoy the open space and recreational opportunities that local parks afford. We wish to do the same for state parks. Also, during this day, the FLOW program will be showcased at an Expo event on the lawn outside the Capitol, along with 20 other worthy park projects from other state parks. Our FLOW volunteers have worked for over 2 years collecting samples, analyzing data and educating students about phytoplankton and water quality issues. This is a unique program in state parks and we are happy to share it with others.

Thank You Docents

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this time of year is tour season where we have the opportunity to share our passion for the wetlands with students. I find this part of the Amigos experience to be most rewarding. Once again we call on all docents to support this mission as Jennifer sends out the bi-weekly schedules. We have accepted more schools than ever this year, with a generous busing grant from Edison International to assist with bus transportation costs. Your active participation will help students, some of whom have never been to the beach or wetlands, to have a memorable experience. Thanks again for all your efforts this spring and see you at the wetlands or the beach.

Thanks to Edison for Supporting FLOW and Wetland Tours

By Terri Bidle

Please join us in giving a big, heartfelt “Thank You” to Edison International for a generous grant to bring citizen science to more students. Edison provided funding for Title 1 schools to participate in the FLOW (Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands) program as well as the Amigos Wetland tours. The goal of this grant is to reach more underserved schools by providing bus transportation and free tour scholarships to qualifying schools. The grant provided funding for eight FLOW programs and ten Wetland programs to increase the Amigos educational outreach to an additional 1,600 students this year. We had an overwhelming response to our announcement and were able to accommodate the majority of applicants.

The Amigos has a long history of providing bus transportation to qualifying schools. The Edison International grant has allowed more schools to repeat the outdoor education experience as well as introduce new schools to the program. Additionally, establishing bus transportation scholarships allowed us to waive the tour fee of \$1.00 per student. Many schools do not have the financial resources to experience the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and this grant has given their students that opportunity.

Here are just a few comments from the teachers who applied to our educational programs:

- “Our school does not receive “extra funding” designated for low-income or at risk students... we have a budget of under \$300 for all 700 students. A trip to the Bolsa Chica wetlands will give my students the chance to see science in action. Students from last year still talk about the field trip and how much fun it was and how much they learned. After visiting the wetlands and the lab, students had a greater appreciation of the importance of wetlands to Earth and why they should be preserved and restored.”
- “The students know very little about the vast sea of viable, rewarding careers they can pursue, and their knowledge of science is mostly limited to textbooks and classroom work. For them to get an opportunity to explore the ocean and beaches near their homes would be an incredible experience.”
- “The school is in the Hollywood area to serve underprivileged, high-risk urban youth. We are their last and at times only chance.”



Sixty students from Cypress High School participated in the FLOW program on February 20, 2015. Photos by Patti Cacho-Negrete.

- “There is nothing more fulfilling than a student who has previously felt written off to be included in the same activities as the general education programs. This brings science to my students in a way they rarely have a chance to experience and I enjoy hearing them take pride and tell people that they now love science.”

Hands-on science is essential for these students to understand how, as individuals, we are all interconnected on this ocean planet. If we can show students that what they do at their school and in their home affects the ocean and wetlands - only then will we have future stewards. “Education should consist of a series of enchantments, each raising the individual to a higher level of awareness, understanding, and kinship with all living things.” Author Unknown.

Below are a few quotes from the students that participated in the FLOW program:

- “I enjoyed actually looking through the microscope instead of watching it in a video. I loved looking through the telescope into the wetlands. I liked learning about the plankton.”

- “Wow the view. The ocean, my favorite thing! Seeing the plankton in the water was unreal. I never seen something that cool. Wow! That field trip was amazing. There’s talk that we might go again on the weekend. Thank you guys for educating me!”
- “I enjoyed the trip, the view and we were able to see the ocean and wetlands. It was amazing I don’t think there was anything that I didn’t enjoy. Everything was amazing. I would love to come visit again.”
- “I like how you see the ocean in one window and the other is the wetlands. Also I learned so much that day.”
- “I enjoyed the people who helped us. Thank you for all the things you did and we had fun. I want to go again and spend more time and learn more about the ocean.”
- “I enjoyed the microscope the most because to understand the overall picture you must look at it closely.”

In the future, to better promote this benefit to a diversity of schools, we would like to create a simple online application for the educators, and to follow up with scheduling school visits to ensure return visits. We have many upcoming programs and tours scheduled this spring and we hope our Amigos docents will join us to bring enrichment and enchanted experiences to these amazing students.



Bolsa Chica Annexation into Huntington Beach?

By Shirley Dettloff

The City of Huntington Beach has been discussing the issue of annexation of the Bolsa Chica for several years. The past City Council became serious about the issue and studies and discussions were held on the viability of the City to pursue annexation. They looked at jurisdictional issues, financial issues, public sentiment, and the benefits to the City if annexation took place. Annexation would include the two mesas and the wetlands. The State of California would retain ownership of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and continue in its role of management of the wetlands and the lower bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa. It would still be the state’s responsibility to make sure that restoration and maintenance continued. On the Huntington Beach mesa, portions of the Harriett Wieder Regional Park are already within city limits. Annexation would bring the remainder of the park into the City. By itself, annexation would not change the County of Orange’s ownership of the park. Several other parcels of the park are still under the ownership of

private entities. However the County has indicated that they would like the City to take over the design, the building, and maintenance of the park. There still remain many unanswered questions.

Recently the City scheduled a Study Session on annexation but because of a very busy agenda, the session was postponed. The Amigos de Bolsa Chica have been asked about our position on the annexation and a committee was named to study the issue. We have had one meeting to study what annexation means to the area both financially and whether it would be beneficial to both the wetlands and the city. We have also met with several city officials to learn more about the past history and what the various studies contain. At this time the current City Council has not made a decision as to whether or not they plan to continue the annexation efforts. Amigos will continue to monitor the situation and plan to be present at the next Study Session when the issue will be on the agenda.

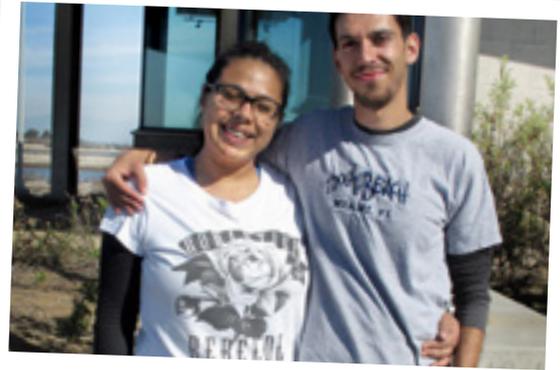
Coast Sunflowers for Sale on Earth Day at Bolsa Chica State Beach

By Rachael Lloyd

Great garden news! The local rains have somewhat returned after taking last year off. The native plants in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and at the Bolsa Chica State Beach have responded with a leafy green welcome. This does not mean our states' water resources are anywhere near recovery from the recent drought. California's reservoirs and aquifers depend on snow melt from the Sierra Nevada mountains for replenishment. With global temperatures trending upward there is no realistic expectation that recovery from the drought is imminent. We all need to continue working on conserving water for the long term.

The Amigos volunteers who work in the Bolsa Chica State Beach headquarters garden are grateful for the rains' effect on the local native plants. After removing truckloads of dead wood from the garden last fall volunteers are now busy mulching and knocking back the multiple weed species that took advantage of the sun, rain and newly opened garden space to make a stand. We have pruned the native plants and given them room to thrive.

As a result, one of our favorite native plants, Coast Sunflower, is responding with prolific bloom and under its shady branches a new brood of tender seedlings has sprouted. Amigos volunteers have permission to transplant our bumper crop of Coast Sunflower seedlings into pots and offer them for



Radi and Trinidad Ali,
Saturday gardening regulars.

public sale when the state beach celebrates Earth Day. Stop by the headquarters building on Saturday April 25, 10:00am to 2:00pm and purchase a Coast Sunflower for your very own garden. It will come with a brochure detailing the care needed and transplanting instructions.

Coast Sunflower is an excellent low water use native plant for Orange County homeowners to incorporate into their landscape. It provides resources for native insects and honey bees, has no known pests, will grow in many soil types as long as the soil is NOT tilled or fertilized, and needs only a little supplemental water during the dry season. As a bonus it produces hundreds and hundreds of cheerful yellow blooms throughout the year that are perfect for cut flowers. The proceeds of the sale will help Amigos buy tools and under-represented native plants to add to the garden.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica will be continuing our 4th Saturday of the month headquarters garden day from 9:00am-12:00pm until June. During the summer heat the hours will go to 8:00am-10:00am and resume as normal in October. In addition to our formal garden day we now have two adult volunteers, Radi and Trinidad Ali who have caught garden fever and, along with Rachael Lloyd, work from 9:00am-12:00pm most Saturday mornings as well. If you have an interest in learning about native plants or gardening contact Rachael through info@amigosdebolsachica.org and let her know. There's always work to do and everyone who's willing to get a bit dirty is welcome. We are more than happy to have volunteers who can only come sporadically, no major commitment is needed.



Coast Sunflowers in bloom.
Photos by Rachael Lloyd.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica's 40 Years of Commitment and Success, a Historical Series

Part 1, Prehistoric Bolsa Chica

By Shirley Dettloff

With the Amigos' 40th Anniversary in 2016 it is now time to look back on those 40 years to see just how important our work has been... saving one of the largest wetlands in California. Quite a feat! But the history of the Bolsa Chica and the surrounding area started long before the Amigos entered the scene. It is a colorful and rich history from the Ice Age (and before) to our current discussions on how best to complete restoration and to maintain what we have already saved and restored! But knowing the Amigos, who never gave up, this will also be accomplished.

So let's get started and although we could go back even further in time... we will start at the time when the weather was very different from today... it was cold and the perfect environment for redwoods. We know that redwoods grew on the Bolsa Chica mesa because in the many archeological digs done at Bolsa Chica, archeologists have found layers of redwood soil. It certainly looks a lot different today with stands of Eucalyptus trees—which are native to Australia but necessary at Bolsa Chica as they support the raptor population.

One of the most important artifacts found by archeologists on the site have been the cogstones or coggled stones. These stones are round, shaped like a donut. Some have holes in the middle and others have an indentation instead. The cogstones have been found in a few places in Orange and L.A. Counties but most of them have been found at Bolsa Chica and in South America in Chile. We don't know what or how they were used. Some say for trading, for religious purposes, or for game pieces, but no one knows exactly what purpose they had served. Those found at Bolsa Chica are now under the care and display of Bower's Museum in Santa Ana.

The first known Native Americans who lived at Bolsa Chica were the Tongvas, or as they were later called, the Gabrielinos. We don't know if they had a permanent settlement or whether they came down

from the hot foothills in the summer to live at their summer vacation beach homes. However, a large burial site was found at Bolsa Chica recently when new homes were being built. The Tongva found plenty of food and life was relatively easy. They wore few clothes and lived in small huts called Kiva's; a very low maintenance lifestyle. When the bugs took over, it was then time to burn the Kiva and build a new one. These were peace-loving people who lived in harmony with nature.

This all started to change when the King of Spain sent ships to explore the coast of California. The first voyage in 1542 had been the first time that Europeans saw the natives of the region. It appears to have been a friendly encounter with trading going on between the Tongvas and the sailors. Only two ships made this voyage, the second and last in 1602. By 1769 Spain was firmly rooted in Mexico, and the King once again started exploration of California, this time with soldiers and priests. The King wanted to find gold but was a few years too early for the Gold Rush!

Through the priests and soldiers, Spain established the Mission System in order to colonize California and protect Spain's lands from foreign nations. Twenty-one missions were built, each within a day's walking distance. Of course, every fourth grader in California knows about the Missions since thousands are made every year out of everything from sugar cubes to paper mache! This period of time created a dramatic change in the lives of the Tongvas. The priests brought them into the missions as labor, had them dress as Europeans and eat western food. Exposure to the diseases of the western world dramatically decimated the large Tongva population. Their way of life had been destroyed forever.

Stay tuned and in the next Tern Tide edition we will explore the Spanish in California!



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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: _____

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