

# Amigos de Bolsa Chica

## THE

# TERN TIDE



Since 1976

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*Inside this Issue:*

- 1: NOAA Award, Sister City
- 2: NOAA continued
- 3: Walk to the Wild Side, Shea Update
- 4 - 5: Earth Day
- 6: Amigos Merchandise
- 7: President's Tern

### THE TERN TIDE

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## Amigos Honored with Excellence in Sustainable Fisheries Award from NOAA

by Thomas Anderson

On June 7, 2007 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC, Amigos de Bolsa Chica received one of 6 Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Amigos' particular category was the Coastal Habitat Restoration Award, recognizing our efforts in bringing the community together for the purpose of acquiring, restoring and preserving 1,200 acres of coastal wetland and adjacent habitat. This achievement is testament to the Amigos' tenacious commitment to educate citizens, government, scientists and others about the importance of this marine habitat to sustaining California's fishery and wildlife populations. This is the first such national recognition Amigos de Bolsa Chica has received in its 30+ year struggle to preserve and restore the Bolsa Chica. NOAA is the fourth largest regulatory agency in the U.S.

*Continued on page 2*

## Sister City Delegates Visit Bolsa Chica

by Dave Carlberg

Amigos docents Margaret and Dave Carlberg and Tom Livengood led a group of 26 Sister City delegates from Anjo Japan on a tour of the Bolsa Chica wetlands on July 3rd. This year Huntington Beach's Sister City program celebrates its 25th year of hosting visitors from Anjo. The delegates stayed in the homes of Huntington Beach residents, experiencing American food and culture. During the four days of their visit, they were honored at the July 2 City Council meeting, attended receptions and concerts, toured shopping centers and other points of interest and were guests of honor at our 4th of July Parade. High school students from Anjo and from Sister City Waitakere, New Zealand, also visited us.



Amigos docent Margaret Carlberg describes the endangered bird species that can be seen in the Bolsa Chica.

## Amigos Receives National Recognition

*Continued from page 1*

The Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards were created to recognize outstanding performance, achievements and leadership by industries, organizations and individuals whose contributions to science and management have served to promote best stewardship practices for the sustained use of the Nation's living marine resources. They were initiated in June 2005 by the Under Secretary of Commerce for the Oceans and Atmosphere and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

With the assistance of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, criteria were established for six award categories encompassing the fundamental elements necessary for promoting a public stewardship ethic over our nation's living marine resources and assisting NOAA with fulfilling its stewardship mission. NOAA has partnered with the Fish for the Future Foundation to provide a means for the diverse community of constituents to support Stewardship Awards. 2007 was the second annual awards event, and Amigos competed with 60 nominees for this recognition. Many thanks to Senator Tom Harman for nominating Amigos.

Others recognized in this year's ceremony were: **Don Kent, President of Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute** who received the Stewardship & Sustainability Award; the Conservation Partnership Award went to the **Coastal Conservation Association of Texas - Bay Debris Cleanup Program**; the Science, Research & Technology Award went to **The World Wildlife Fund Smart Gear Competition** for reducing bycatch in the world's fisheries; the Public Education, Community Service & Media Award went to the **John G. Shedd Aquarium** for building consumer awareness about sustainable seafood; Special Recognition Awards went to **Don Hansen of Dana (Point) Wharf Sportfishing**, who serves on many state and national fishery boards, and **Dr. Brian J. Rothschild of the Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science, University of Massachusetts** for his outstanding contributions to marine science, education and management of marine fisheries. The entire membership of Amigos is responsible for the achievement of this honor and should be proud to stand in this very distinguished company.



*Amigos Board of Directors accept the award at the NOAA Awards Dinner on June 7 in Washington DC: Dr. David Carlberg, Amigos Vice President; Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher (Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans & Atmosphere); Shirley Dettloff, Board and founding member; Dr. William Hogarth (Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA); Thomas Anderson, Amigos President; Brian Westcott, Amigos Treasurer; Craig Frampton, Board member; and Margaret Carlberg, former Board member.*

## “Walk To The Wild Side” Campaign

To ensure the safety of all those who visit Bolsa Chica and to provide better access to the beauty and natural wonder of this special place, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust has decided to launch our WALK TO THE WILD SIDE” footbridge campaign. Amigos de Bolsa Chica will be assisting with these fundraising efforts.

This campaign will raise funds to complete the Bolsa Chica footbridge to span over outer Bolsa Bay next to the Warner Avenue. As it is now, everyone must walk from the north parking lot along Warner Avenue over inlet to get to the mesa. A footbridge separate from Warner would make this walk much safer.

Several years ago the state agencies agreed to designate funds to build a footbridge. Over time, the costs of building the bridge have increased to approximately \$300,000, and there is now a gap between the actual costs for building the bridge and the amount the State originally budgeted. The State funding could disappear in December 2007. The funding gap is \$75,000.00. The Bolsa Chica Land Trust has decided to help “bridge” this funding gap with a campaign to raise the additional funds.

A Bolsa Chica Land Trust couple have made a \$25,000.00, matching grant challenge. For every dollar we raise they will match it. Please join us to raise these most needed funds so we can all safely walk to the “wild side.” For more information contact the Bolsa Chica Land Trust at 846-1001. All donations are tax deductible.

## Shea Homes Update

By Dave Carlberg

For the third time in six months, an amendment to the City of Huntington Beach’s Local Coastal Plan (LCP) has come before the California Coastal Commission. The amendment was to allow Shea Homes to build approximately 170 residential units on a 50 acre parcel adjacent to Graham Street and south of Warner Ave., often known as the “Bean Field” or the “MWD property”. The amendment first appeared before the Coastal Commission in San Diego in February of this year, but was withdrawn at the last minute by the city after many hours of mostly critical staff comments and public testimony.

The amendment reappeared at the commission’s San Pedro meeting in May in which speakers from the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and others offered a mass of documented evidence that the commission staff had greatly underestimated the true extent of wetlands that existed on the property. The commission also received a considerable amount of correspondence from individuals, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and other organizations urging the commission to heed the new information. The data, most of which had been collected by Mark Bixby, showed that over the years much of the wetlands had been obliterated through largely unpermitted filling. The Commission voted to deny the amendment as submitted, but on considering approving the amendment with staff’s modifications, the Commission instead, in view of the new evidence, agreed to continue the hearing until July. This was to give its staff time to study the new information.

For the Commission’s consideration at its July meeting in San Luis Obispo, the Commission staff recommends increasing the area of protected open space on the property from about 12 acres to over 30, thus reducing the area for residential development from 38.5 acres to 17. The open space includes the newly recognized wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs, two groves of eucalyptus trees that serve critical raptor roosting and nesting habitat), and buffers around the wetlands and ESHAs. It is now up to the commission to accept the staff’s recommendations. One week before the hearing, Shea, via the city, asked the Coastal Commission to withdraw the Parkside LCP amendment from the San Luis Obispo agenda. This would suggest Shea is not pleased with the Staff report. Withdrawal may or may not force Shea to have to start over at the local level (i.e. Planning Commission and then City Council) and it may or may not have to be granted by a vote of the coastal commissioners after listening to arguments from project opponents.

*(Editor’s note: The Coastal Commission had not met by press time of the Tern Tide. Results of the hearing will be covered in the next Tern Tide and on our web site.)*

## EARTH DAY 2007 CELEBRATION - FUN IN THE MUD!

Saturday, April 21, 2007, was a demonstration of the amazing results gained from teamwork and cooperation. Led by the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Newport Bay Roots, the efforts of the 311 volunteers (in 892 man hours) planted a record number of 887 wetlands plants in the pocket wetlands between the mesa and the Wintersburg Channel in under two hours! Many thanks to all who volunteered to make the pocket wetlands - and Bolsa Chica in general - a healthier place.

This was the second and by far most extensive planting that had been attempted in the pocket wetlands. The 887 plants were especially grown for Bolsa Chica by Upper Newport Bay Roots led by Matt Yurko. We thank them for their generosity.

Volunteers included representatives from: Starbuck's; Cerritos College; Girl Scout Troop 1739 - St. Bonaventure (HB); Girl Scout Troop 2144 (HB); Cub Scout Pack 134; Cub Scout Pack 506 (HB); Boy Scout Troop 36 (Irvine); Cub Scout Pack 1226 (Den 7); Girl Scout Troop 1767 (Anaheim); Cub Scout Troop Fountain Valley; LDS Church; Fullerton College; Cal State Long Beach; Golden West College; Anaheim High School; Mayfair High School; Sonora High School; South Gate Middle School; Mesa View; YSA; and Americorps. There were also citizens from Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Diamond Bar, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Redondo Beach, Aliso Viejo, Long Beach, Newport Beach and Westminster.



*Photo by Craig Frampton*

To handle the crowds, orientation occurred at both Ecological Reserve parking lots. Staging at the south lot was coordinated by Amigos with Jennifer Robins, Joyce Beardsley and Al helping with check-in and literature distributon. Docents Craig Frampton, Dean Elder, Bob Johnson, Jim Robins led groups efficiently (but engaged in some education en route) from the south lot to the Tide Gate and Wintersburg Channel where planting occurred. There they helped oversee the planting, and got muddy themselves planting the grasses, pickleweed, and other natives. New docent Valerie Nguyen designed and helped deliver the 1000 flyers that brought the public out to help and celebrate Earth Day. Along with planting in the mud, Valerie also helped set up and serve the ice cream cones, cupcakes, coffee and other refreshments, most of which were donations (Starbucks, Wild Oats Natural Marketplace and others) solicited by both sponsoring groups.



*Photo by Julie Bixby*



*Photo by Julie Bixby*



Above photos by Craig Frampton

On Sunday, April 22 Amigos teamed with the Bolsa Chica Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game at the Conservancy's Temporary Interpretive Center where another 276 visitors had an educational and fun day with 10 different activities and 6 information booths.

Amigos provided an "Update on Restoration" (Dave Carlberg and Dean Elder), an information booth (Jamie Pavlat and Mary Ellen Houseal), and refreshments (Margaret Carlberg). Our very popular activity station was "Counting Birds Every 15 Minutes"—birds in the water, on mudflats, in plants, in the air and the effects of the changing tides on them. This was done over a period of 3 hours. The observations were then analyzed by Vic Leipzig, Heather and Meagan Rivera and Patty Overley. Other activities included water quality testing, soil analysis, a native seed planting project, a touch tank, and REI's 'Leave No Trace' activity. Corporate sponsors and other donors included Metropolitan Water District, REI, Simple Green, Starbucks, Vons, Albertsons, Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, Smart and Final, Jack in the Box.

Without such help from the community, as well as dedicated staff and volunteers to represent the wetlands, our message about Bolsa Chica wetlands would not get out to so many in the community. Both days' activities were deemed highly successful, both for the Earth's environment, as well as for the organizations involved. Similar activities and schedule are planned for Earth Day 2008.



Kelly O'Reilly and Jeff Stoddard, CA Dept. of Fish & Game  
Photo by Dave Carlberg

## Amigos Merchandise Available for Order Online

Stock up on Christmas gifts today! All of the items on this page can now be ordered online and paid for by credit card. **Just go to the Join/Donate/Shop page of [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org) and click on the link to Merchandise.** While you're there you can renew your membership or make a donation to help us continue our work. Thanks for shopping and supporting Amigos!



Polo Shirts with regular and 30th Anniversary logo, (white).



Men's T-shirts (colors).



Women's T-shirts.



Sweatshirts & T-shirts in white & gray.



Hats.



Canvas tote bags, blue or green trim.

## President's Tern

by Thomas Anderson

As many Amigos' members may already know, one of our most active docents and volunteer for all occasions, Al Vari, recently had a debilitating heart attack and stroke. While we are all hoping and praying, Al may not be able to return to active docent duty. This will profoundly affect Amigos' educational tour and public outreach programs. Al's spirit of generosity and willingness to pitch in and volunteer whenever asked has been extraordinary, and Amigos de Bolsa Chica is extremely grateful for all of his services. I would like to think this spirit is not unique.

It has been said the only way anyone can truly change the world is to change his or her self – change one's thoughts, change what is in one's heart. That's the only thing that sends a true and lasting ripple around the world. There are, of course, many ways to go about changing one's self. I can say from experience that one sure way to change one's self is to volunteer, especially if it is from the heart. Volunteers – ordinary citizens who, whether they wanted to preserve the invaluable wetlands or simply didn't want massive development in their back yards – are the ones who prevented 5700 homes and a marina from covering the Bolsa Chica, and the ones who made Amigos de Bolsa Chica a nationally recognized grassroots environmental group. It is amazing how comparatively few people can have a huge, positive and lasting impact.

Volunteering with Amigos opened worlds for me. After the initial trepidation of being invited to join the Board of the Bolsa Chica Foundation, I embraced the challenge of getting out of my comfort zone. This was not always easy. But in the long run, because it has always been my heart's desire to make a difference, it has always been rewarding. Over the past several years I have worked with many great volunteers to put on several Running is for the Birds races, several Bolsa Bash's, a concert, a conference, helped write grant applications, planned education programs and much more. Because of this I can honestly say my life is richer, and I can humbly say I have become a better person. There is no question that the planet is a better place because of all the volunteers who, like me, overcame their comfort zones in order to ensure the preservation and restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

There seem to be notions in our community that with the land preserved and the restoration complete, our work must be done. This simply is not true. While the dragon of imminent development has been slain, Amigos must remain diligent in providing educational programs about the importance of wetlands. This may not seem as glamorous as fighting a developer, but look around and ask yourself: is the environment as a whole getting better? With recent reports of sudden, dramatic declines in once common bird and fish populations the answer is no. Ironically we are also seeing fewer and fewer committed volunteers. This year's Earth Day events showed us that people *do* care and *do* show up to help and to learn. Perhaps we just need to believe Earth Day is every day.

We live in a world where it can be easier to think "someone else will do it," or to be in denial that our planet is in trouble, than to work with other people to address community or global issues. But this is a dangerous gamble. Yes, it can be challenging to find the time - and the truth. The only ways to find them are to turn off the TV, the radio, the blog and interact with groups of focused human beings, and above all, to listen to the voice in one's heart. I invite anyone who reads this and who has a desire to help the environment to call Amigos and volunteer today. You will not be sorry.

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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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund operational expenses

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Office assistance \_\_\_\_\_

Community Education \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_

Grantwriting \_\_\_\_\_

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.