

**Amigos de
Bolsa Chica**

The Tern Tide
Since 1976

Photo by Ross Griswold



**Summer 2012
Volume 37 Issue 2**

In this issue:

1

BDR Fun Run

2

**Coastal Wetlander
Activity Book**

3

Earth Day 2012

4 & 5

**It's All Connected –
First Test Class**

5

**Coastal Commission's
Week In Huntington
Beach**

6

**President's Tern
Amigos Featured
Charity for June**

**San Onofre's Impact
on Huntington Beach
Bolsa Chica Wetlands
Maintenance**

7

**Warner Ave.
Sewer Upgrade
Support Amigos
Restaurant Events
Funds to Purchase
Private Property**

THE TERN TIDE

is published quarterly by
Amigos de Bolsa Chica

P. O. Box 1563

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

(714) 840-1575 (Phone/Fax)

www.amigosdebolsachica.org

info@amigosdebolsachica.org

Editor: Tom Andersen

Graphic Designer: Carol Rice

BDR Fun Run

By Jennifer Robins

Amigos de Bolsa Chica was asked to participate in a Fun Run by the Brian D. Robertson Foundation. The Brian D. Robertson Foundation supports organizations and causes that were most important to Brian Robertson, including the YMCA Indian Princess/Guide Program, the Solar Foundation, The Montesorri Greenhouse Academy, the Orange County Community Foundation and the American Heart Association.

Brian Robertson was the Chief Executive Officer at Amonix, Inc., a company specializing in the design and manufacture of utility-scale solar power systems, headquartered in Seal Beach, CA. Brian died in a plane crash on December 22, 2011. He was a successful entrepreneur, dedicated solar pioneer and incredible visionary.

Brian and his wife Eileen and their children Melanie, Brooke and Max, often devoted time and energy to earth-friendly and family-focused activities. The BDR Earth Day Family Fun Run is a community service event celebrating Earth Day in addition to celebrating Brian's legacy and impact on environmental science and technology. All proceeds from the BDR Fun Run will go to the Brian D. Robertson Foundation.

A committee of Amigos worked with Eileen Robertson and Stephanie Mondino to contribute our experience with organizing a Run based on the days of our Running for the Birds events. The committee was Tom Livengood, Margaret Carlberg, Jim Robins and Jennifer Robins. The Fun Run was held on April 22 and was a success with 200 children and adults taking part in the 1K and 5K runs. Amigos had 2 booths at the event, one with merchandise and information and the second with our educational activities that were thoroughly enjoyed by children.

We were asked by Eileen if we would be willing to support the Fun Run again next year and we unanimously said, "Yes!"

*"The coast is never saved. It's always being saved.
The job of environmental stewardship of the coast is never
done. It's never dull and it's never done."*

- Peter Douglas

Coastal Wetlander Activity Book Available Now!

By Jennifer Robins & Tom Anderson

At last, Amigos de Bolsa Chica's Coastal Wetlander Activity Book is now available to interested adults and children at the first Saturday of the month free public tours, last Saturday of the month Bolsa Chica cleanups, and docent-led school group tours. Filled with fascinating information, activities, puzzles, photos and illustrations about the ecology, birds, history, endangered species and restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, the Coastal Wetlander Activity Book is a joy for children and adults alike. To become a "Coast Wetlander" is a serious honor, so once the interested participant has taken a tour of the wetlands and completed as many activities as possible, had his or her work checked and the certificate at the back of the book signed by an Amigos docent, he or she will receive a beautiful Coastal Wetlander patch.

The first two children to receive patches for completing the Coastal Wetlander program are Eleanor King and Griffin King. They received their patches on the First Saturday Free Public Tour on June 2. Three adults have also gotten patches for finishing the book, Ross Griswold, Patti Cacho-Negrete and Mick Siroy.

Have you or your kids ever been to a State or National Park and participated in a "Junior Naturalist" type of program? That was the seed of the idea that Lori Donohue brought to an education committee meeting over 2 years ago, and that seed grew into Amigos de Bolsa Chica's Coastal Wetlander Activity Book. This 2+ year journey consisted of many steps. First, a committee of dedicated, interested volunteers



Eleanor King and Griffin King, the first two children to receive patches for completing the Coastal Wetlander program.

Photo by Nancy Boyd-Batstone.

was brought together. Then the committee would meet regularly and go over a multitude of ideas for information and activities, then select and hone the most appropriate material for the Bolsa Chica ecosystem. Committee members wrote much of the material because nothing like this had ever been done for Bolsa Chica. Choosing a name for the program, something unique for Bolsa Chica, was also a big decision. Next, draft after draft was assembled to get an idea of how the project should look: how would the activities flow, what size should the booklet be, how many pages, color printing or black and white, etc. Then came deciding the kind of reward each person would get for completing the program. Next came receiving a grant from the Griswold Foundation that would bring the project to completion. The last step was deciding the best way for Amigos volunteers to implement the program. This may sound like a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun.

The committee members were Lori and Jerry Donohue, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Jennifer and Jim Robins, Ross Griswold, Nancy Boyd-Batstone, and Don Thomas. Kathryn Boyd-Batstone laid the groundwork for the design of the book, then, after she went off to college in Oregon, Tom Anderson took over the design and illustration work to get the project ready for printing. Trude Hurd helped with the final editing. A huge thank you goes to Allergan and the Griswold Foundation for supplying the funding for this project. Without that, the quality color design and printing that makes the booklet so beautiful would not have been possible.



Eleanor created this drawing of a Snowy Plover on a nest inside an enclosure for one of the activities in the program.

Earth Day 2012

By Jerry Donohue

Thanks to all 22 Amigos that helped make our participation in Earth Day a memorable event. Saturday April 14th, Amigos members began arriving at 7 AM to set up canopies and tables in the north parking lot at Bolsa Chica to celebrate Earth Day. Our information/merchandise volunteers included Mary Ellen Houseal, Patti Cacho-Negrete, Fran Pike and Jennifer Robins. The history booth was staffed by Chuck Drescher, Jim Aldridge, Dave Carlberg and Tom Livengood. We had 2 interactive kid-friendly booths. Birds and Tides, where we correlated bird presence with mudflat exposure, was busy throughout the day, even though it was located 50 yards away from all other booths. Margaret Carlberg, Terry Hill, Vic Leipzig and Jerry Donohue informed nearly 100 visitors as to how tidal fluctuations impact the number of shorebirds near the Warner Street bridge. Birds and Beaks, where youngsters discover the relationship between beak shape, beak length and food source, kept docents Barbara Felberg-Jackson, Mick Siroy, Betty Murphy, Donna Starr, Sue Mickelson and Carol Rice, busy. Ray Fellerman and Al Vari provided excellent assistance, wherever it was needed, throughout the day. Jim Robins led an afternoon tour across the mesa. Laura Holdenwhite helped organize and deliver food and drink. Dennis Pope provided some heavy lifting at the end of the day. Two Costa Mesa high school students that work with our curriculum developer, Joana Tavors-Reager, filled in nicely at the kids' activities in the afternoon. Even though it was a cool windy day, with a somewhat reduced crowd from prior years, Amigos members were warmly received as they educated the public about our wetland gem, Bolsa Chica.



Photos by Ross Griswold.

It's All Connected – First Test Class

By Jennifer Robins & Tom Anderson

On June 8, 2012, a bus arrived at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve with approximately 60 students from the 6th grade classes of Tim Thomas and Sunny Robinson from Dr. Jonas Salk Elementary School in Anaheim. Mr. Thomas has been bringing his students on Amigos de Bolsa Chica tours of the wetlands every year for several years. He was very interested in participating in Amigos' new "It's All Connected" program that demonstrates the connection between the ocean and wetlands. He, and his colleague, Ms. Robinson, were the first classes to test the program.

The students were split into two groups. Half of the students stayed at the wetlands and the other half were transported to the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor's Center. The docents on the wetlands side were Jim Robins, Chris Murtland, Barbara Felberg-Jackson and Jennifer Robins. Docents on the beach side were Joana Tavares-Reager, Donna Starr, Betty Murphy and Ron Davis.

Each group of students were split into 3 smaller groups and given a colored wristband to designate their individual group as well as a clipboard with their worksheets. They were then escorted by a docent to one of the three stations. On the wetlands side, Jim did the "Heat, Wind and Convection Currents" station; Barbara did "Food Webs and the Flow of Energy" station; and Chris took the students on a 25 minute tour of the wetlands. The groups on the beach side went to Betty's station for "Where Does All This Sand Come From?"; Donna's station for "Settle Down, Sand Samples!"; and to Ron's station for "Who Moved My Sand?". The students rotated after completion of each station to the next station. After completing the three stations, the bus transported the students to the opposite side so that all students experienced the full program. At the end of the morning everyone had their lunch at Bolsa Chica State Beach.

The morning was a resounding success. Joana Tavares-Reager, Amigos' Curriculum Developer, will get feedback from the teachers and the docents to determine what worked and how the program can be improved. What began in 2007 as a simple idea to create a classroom experience that went beyond the already perfect docent-led tour of the Bolsa Chica

Continued on Page 5 –



Who Moved My Sand?



Settle Down, Sand Samples.



Food Webs and the Flow of Energy.

Continued from Page 4 –

Wetlands has culminated in the creation of a new dimension for Amigos de Bolsa Chica's education program. Thanks to grants from PIMCO and Ralphs, the generosity of California State Parks and the staff at Bolsa Chica State Beach we now have a unique educational experience that meets State standards for Junior High science classes. More docent trainings will be forthcoming, and lesson plans and activities for the 7th and 8th grades are nearly completed. The next step will be getting the word out to schools and teachers looking for an educational experience that can be found nowhere else.



Joana Tavares-Reager, Betty Murphy, Donna Starr and Ron Davis.

The Coastal Commission's Week in Huntington Beach

By Shirley Dettloff

The week of June 11 was a very busy week for the Amigos! First, several Amigos members attended a seminar put on by the Nossaman law firm on Tuesday. It was balanced and very informative. Speakers, including the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission, Charles Lester, and Chair of the Commission, Mary Shallenberg, along with several speakers who in the past had projects before the Commission, appeared in a panel discussion. The presentations provided information on how the Commission works and how best to work with the Commission.

On Wednesday the Commission held a hearing on the Shea property. President Tom Livengood gave the Amigos position on this project. He told the Commission that we had hoped that all of the land at Bolsa Chica could be saved, but if the Commission supported the project we wanted them to condition the project for the best environmental protections. After several hours of staff reports, testimony from Shea and the public, the Commission started their debate. Many questions were asked and the Commission felt that some of their questions were not being answered or that enough information was being provided. They were concerned over the illegal fill of the land, including farming, and whether or not the applicant had in some way mitigated for this? They also questioned whether the mitigation was enough and whether flood control measures should be done by the applicant (this in regards to the proponents using this as a positive element of their proposal). So with these questions troubling some of the Commissioners, they felt that a decision could not be reached. They then asked staff and Shea to continue having discussions and try to resolve some of these issues before the Commission reached a decision. A motion was made "to continue" and it passed unanimously.

After all of the Commission business was completed, the Coastal Commission staff (Teresa Henry) made a presentation on the history and restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. It was a great summary of many years of conflict, lawsuits, hearings and the history that most have lived. After this well done presentation, both Mel Nutter and Shirley Dettloff thanked the commission and the staff for their hard work during the 40 years it took to save Bolsa Chica and then to restore it. Four commissioners took advantage of a Fish and Game sponsored tour of the Bolsa Chica, and Amigo Vic Leipzig was present to provide information on the bird populations at Ecological Reserve.

The week ended with a City of Huntington Beach sponsored reception for the Commission at the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center which was attended by many Amigos and other environmentalists.

Presidents Tern

By Tom Livengood

Wow! The six months, January to June have been a busy and positive time for the Amigos. We celebrated the 15th anniversary of the purchase of the Bolsa Chica wetlands by the State in February; held a very successful docent training session (ten new docents) over several weeks in January and February; participated in the annual Earth Day Celebration on April 14 (Amigos had several booths); launched the first pilot test class of our new education program, "It's All Connected" at the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center; and on June 24 we celebrated with the Bolsa Brunch at the Seaclyff Country Club (fun time, raised funds for education programs). Amigos also had a booth at the Festival of the Whales in Dana Point in March.

The Amigos provided support for a very successful Earth Day Family Fun Run on April 22 at Bolsa Chica State Beach. The run generated funds for the Brian D Robertson Foundation. Many local non-profits, including Amigos, received donations from the Foundation.

The Amigos is working with the Department of Fish and Game, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust on a project to prepare interpretive signs for the Reserve. Approximately 20 signs are scheduled for design and installation. The three Bolsa Chica organizations are splitting the cost of six signs. Design and wording has been completed for the six signs. If all goes well the signs could be installed by the end of the year. The organizations are seeking grants to cover the costs of the additional signs. It is impossible to have Docents cover all the hours the Reserve is open. The signs will enhance the experience visitors have at the Reserve.

Over the years the Amigos have been very successful in reaching their goals. The key to that success is the volunteers that serve as docents, board members and involved committee members. If you would like to become involved please contact the Amigos Office by calling 714-840-1575 or email us at info@amigosdebolsachica.org.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica Featured Charity for June

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica is the featured charity for Club 1250 for the month of June. A colleague of one of our board members created Club 1250 a couple years ago. She had her annual tax appointment and found out she had not donated enough to charity to make a difference for her tax return. The concept of Club 1250 is that a person has the opportunity to donate \$50 per month for 12 months each year. Every month the club features a charity that members can donate to. Club 1250 provides a link to various charities making members aware of those organizations in our community that are making a difference. We are grateful to Club 1250 for highlighting the Amigos this month. For more information on Club 1250 see their website: <http://www.club1250.org>

San Onofre Impact on Huntington Beach

In a meeting with a Southern California Edison representative, the back-up plans for taking units 2 or 3 at the San Onofre Generating Station off line this summer were explained. Action is being taken at the Huntington Beach AES Generating Plant to activate units 3 and 4 if necessary. An incentive plan is being proposed for customers to reduce their energy usage.

Bolsa Chica Wetlands Maintenance

With the State financial crisis, the State will not be able to provide maintenance funds for the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. The Los Angeles Harbor, Port of Los Angeles, has proposed to develop a single-user umbrella mitigation bank agreement. This means that the Port is considering projects for which mitigation funds can be used. Amigos de Bolsa Chica will submit a letter to the Port recommending the Bolsa Chica Wetlands be considered and the funds used for maintenance. Amigos' Outreach Committee will be involved in getting support for the Amigos proposal.

Warner Avenue Sewer Upgrade – It’s Complicated

By Tom Livengood

The City of Huntington Beach has prepared plans to upgrade the sewer line along Warner Avenue next to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Work was tentatively scheduled to start this summer. The Coastal Commission staff made a determination that a Coastal Development Permit will need to be prepared and submitted to the Coastal Commission. This action will also require obtaining a permit from the City. This process is estimated to take up to one year to complete.

There were also questions from California State Lands if the existing sewer encroaches on the State property easement. Research shows that it does. Permission will be requested to remove the existing sewer line, including the large bunker in

front of the Bolsa Chica Conservancy’s interpretive trailer. The new sewer line will not encroach on the State easement.

The City is also planning repairs and maintenance to the Warner Bridge. The Coastal Commission has also determined the project will require action by the Coastal Commission. The project will also have to be submitted to the City to determine if the project follows California Environmental Quality Act. Other agencies involved in the permitting process include the Army Corps of Engineers and Cal Trans. Target timeline to complete the approval process is six months. The California Department of Fish and Game will be closely involved in both projects to insure mitigation measures protect the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

Support Amigos Restaurant Events – Donating by Dining Out!

By Patty Overley

Did you know you can help support the Amigos de Bolsa Chica while enjoying a great meal and socializing with fellow Amigos? It is easy to do and it is a great way to stay connected to your organization. Just keep an eye out for Restaurant Event announcements in the Current Tide. The Amigos Fund Development committee is planning these restaurant events every other month at local establishments.

So far this year we have held a Restaurant Event at the Monkey House Café, Veggie Grill and Olive Pit. Depending on the restaurant’s policy, 10% to 50% of what was spent went directly to the Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

Please join us at our next event at the Marie Callender’s at 16390 Beach Blvd on Tuesday, July 24 - all day long! You can dine in, take out or enjoy the bar. They will also have a new menu featuring Backyard BBQ! Look for the flyer that you need for the day in the July Current Tide email. We are looking forward to seeing YOU there.

Funds to Purchase Private Property Adjacent to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

The Orange County voters approved a second Measure M which increased the sales tax for freeway and street improvements. A percentage of the funds can be used as mitigation funds to purchase open space. Nearly 100 acres surrounding the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve are still privately owned. Amigos de Bolsa Chica will be submitting a request that these properties be considered for purchase.



NON. PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Huntington Beach, CA
Permit No. 486

THE TERN TIDE

Volume 37, Issue 2
www.amigosdebolsachica.org
info@amigosdebolsachica.org
(714) 840-1575 (Phone/Fax)

Inside this Issue:

BDR Fun Run

Coastal Wetlander

Activity Book

Earth Day 2012

It's All Connected

First Test Class

Coastal Commission's

Week in Huntington Beach

Support Amigos

Restaurant Events

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
\$ 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 _____ 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.*

Return application to: Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647