

Photo by Ross Griswold



Summer 2014  
Volume 38 Issue 2

## Amigos Joins the State Parks Cooperating Association Program

By Tom Anderson

**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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Amigos de Bolsa Chica

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Judy Huck	Jennifer Robins

On May 14, 2014, Amigos de Bolsa Chica was officially designated a State Parks Cooperating Association by California State Parks. Until now, Bolsa Chica State Beach, one of the most visited destinations in the state park system, never had a cooperating association assisting with its educational needs and opportunities. Cooperating associations are non-profit charitable organizations dedicated to enhancing the educational and interpretive programs in California State Parks. Collectively the network consists of more than 88 associations serving many of California's 280 state parks and beaches. These associations, with more than 27,000 members, provide critical funding and volunteers for educational and interpretive needs that are impossible for state parks alone to meet. Associations are related to, but independent of the state parks they serve.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica initiated a relationship with State Parks and Bolsa Chica State Beach in 2008 when we began developing ideas for new education programs and identified a need for indoor classroom space. When we learned that the visitor center at Bolsa Chica State Beach might be available for such educational purposes, we met with State Parks officials to discuss our mutual needs. While programming was being developed and funding sought, we undertook a planting and weeding program for the grounds surrounding the visitor center with the help of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. The Land Trust has since withdrawn from planting and weeding, but the Amigos continue planting and weeding on the second Sunday of each month at the Visitor Center. Planting volunteers are welcome, but please call ahead as the amount of work needed varies depending on the season.

In 2010-11, the Amigos received grant money to develop our first indoor classroom curriculum. The pilot program, "It's All Connected," required more volunteer power than Amigos could reliably muster. We went back to the drawing board and found success with FLOW – Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands. Every Friday, the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center becomes a water quality testing laboratory when Amigos' citizen scientists analyze water samples from the tidal inlet and from the walk bridge, reporting the phytoplankton content and other water conditions to the California Department of Public Health. Once a month, the same citizen scientists host a class from an area school and demonstrate microscopy and other analysis techniques in order to teach the students about the connection between ocean and wetland health.

In addition to FLOW and planting, the Amigos conduct a Junior Ranger program (FLOW for younger children) at the visitor center during the summer months, and assist with the Beach's summer Campfire Talks. Melanie Cox, State Parks Interpretive Specialist at Bolsa Chica State Beach, will be the liaison between the State and the Amigos, and we're very grateful for all of Melanie's patience, support and guidance through the contract signing process. We will be working closely to strengthen our existing programs and to participate in new programs that bring much needed awareness to the relationship between a healthy ocean and a healthy wetlands.

## Amigos Welcome 3 New Members to the Board of Directors

By Dennis Pope

The Amigos are pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors in 2014. Each brings unique skills, broad experience and varied interests to help guide the board through another challenging year. Here are their brief biographies.

### Barry Nerhus

Barry Nerhus was born and raised in Huntington Beach where he still resides. His family has been in Orange County since 1915. He graduated from Huntington Beach High School in 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Science at UC Irvine and is scheduled to finish his Master of Science this summer at Cal State Long Beach. He has worked as a biologist throughout Southern California for the past 9 years. He is the owner of Endemic Environmental Services, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Huntington Beach.

Barry is on the science committee for the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and would like to be involved with habitat restoration and science research projects at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

### Judy Huck

Since Judy became a member of Amigos, she has completed the Docent program and is actively involved in the FLOW program. She is a member of the Science Committee and also participates on the Education Committee.

Judy has a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from California State University, Long Beach and has completed programs thru Boston University and the Salt Lake Institute. She worked in the finance sector where her last job was with Pacific Symphony where she was Director of Budget and

General Ledger. Since retiring, she has run her own consulting business, Ballard Services. While it has concentrated on accounting services, she is transitioning it to her real passion, Genealogy and Personal History. Judy is an active member of numerous Genealogical Societies and related Professional Associations.

Judy has one son, Robert. He lives with his wife and daughter, Ginger and Gracie in Nashville, Tennessee where he works in the music business.

### Terry Jorris

Terry is recently retired after 22 years in the local Aerospace industry. Since joining the Amigos, he has completed the docent program and been very active in supporting events and tours, and is a member of the Education Committee and a Citizen Scientist with FLOW.

He graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and MIT with a Masters Degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. During 28 years in the Air Force, Jerry worked on several space programs, including Gemini and Apollo, where he patented two optical devices, and the Reagan era "Star Wars" initiatives. He served at the Pentagon, supported the F-16 program and was a test engineer and crewmember on the prototype AC-130 Gunship, flying 60 combat missions in the Vietnam War where he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Jerry has three children: son Tim, a PhD Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force stationed at Edwards AFB, CA, son James, an Economist working in the local area, and daughter Teresa, a Mechanical Engineer in Casper, WY.

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## Amigos Welcome New (Sort of) Office Coordinator

By Brian Westcott

There are a few changes happening with the Amigos. Our Office Coordinator, Laura Holdenwhite, is leaving to pursue some of her other interests. Laura took the position with the Amigos almost 7 years ago when we really needed someone to mind the office. She stepped in and relieved some exhausted volunteers of the day to day duties that keep our organization functioning. Over the years she has booked countless tours, talked to numerous docents, handled phone calls and emails from the public and been the main contact for the Amigos. We want to say a big Thank You to Laura for all she has done in the time she has been with us and wish her well in all her future endeavors!

The new Amigos Office Coordinator is not a stranger to any of us. Jennifer Robins has agreed to take over where Laura

has left off. Jennifer brings her love of the Bolsa Chica and the Amigos and her vast knowledge of all the people, places and history that this organization has. She has been instrumental in the launch and success of our FLOW program and the board of directors feel she will make this a smooth transition. So there will be a familiar face keeping the Amigos moving forward and continuing to educate the public on the importance of the Bolsa Chica.

The only down side is that Jennifer can no longer serve on the board of directors, and in the near future we will need someone to head the very important Education Committee. Please contact Jerry Donohue or Jennifer Robins if you wish to be on or lead this committee or volunteer for any of our other committees.

# Clapper Rails Grow Up Fast!

By Vic Leipzig

The Clapper Rail chicks that hatched this past March have been growing rapidly. They have molted out of their deep black natal down feathers into grayish juvenile plumage that makes them look practically adult. They are already almost as large as their parents and are now foraging for food on their own rather than depending entirely on the parents. The adult rails as well as the juveniles appear to be feeding largely on lined shore crabs. These crabs are unusually abundant right now at Bolsa Chica. A walk across the boardwalk these days is likely to allow you a glimpse of both rails and crabs. Look for the rails on the PCH side of the boardwalk, either north or south of the parking lot. Look for the crabs on the mudflats or under shallow water.



*Photos by Steve Smith*



# FLOW Celebrates First Anniversary

By Jennifer Robins

The FLOW program, Follow and Learn about the Ocean and the Wetlands, celebrated its First Year Anniversary on April 25 at the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor's Center. Citizen Scientists, family and friends shared pizza, salad and appetizers while sharing stories of the water sampling, microscopy and chemical analysis as well as the high school and community college visits. We had visits from 7 schools and students in the STEM program from Fullerton College in our Pilot Program during the Winter of 2013-2014. There are 29 people who have become Citizen Scientists for the FLOW program including Amigos docents, Community College students and University students.



*Photo by Brian Westcott*

A highlight of the party was being able to have Gregg Langlois, Senior Environmental Scientist for the California Department of Public Health, dial-in and narrate a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included the procedures of what the department does with the tidal inlet samples in their laboratory that we send his department every Friday. Russel Emmanuel also showed clips from his new documentary about the Bolsa Chica, "The Restoration of Paradise." After the presentations the Citizen Scientists were given certificates for their dedicated volunteerism during the past year.

The program welcomes new people to become Citizen Scientists to join in with the learning about and observing phytoplankton found in the tidal inlet and the wetlands water samples. Email [flow@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:flow@amigosdebolsachica.org) if you are interested, so we can send you the schedule for Fridays and documentation about phytoplankton. You can read more about FLOW on the website page <http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org/flow.html> and facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FLOWBolsaChica>. It is a fun and interesting program.

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## Shop on Amazon? Sign up for Amazon Smile and Help Amigos!

There is a new way to donate to Amigos de Bolsa Chica by shopping with Amazon - when you sign up, Amazon donates a portion of what you spend to the Amigos! It does not cost you anything and signing up is simple. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and sign in using your existing Amazon user name and password. If you're not already an Amazon shopper you can create them. You will log on and be able to choose the charity you donate to. Type in Amigos de Bolsa Chica and choose us. Every time you shop with Amazon be sure you are on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), log in and then do your Amazon shopping. If you use the standard [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) link your shopping will not benefit the Amigos, so be sure to change your bookmark or favorites link to <https://smile.amazon.com>. You will be on the full Amazon.com website but in the upper left corner of your screen it will say Supporting: Amigos de Bolsa Chica. Now you can support Amigos without doing a thing - except buying what you want online.



## President's Tern – Bolsa Chica, Important Birding Area

By Jerry Donohue

For those of us who are fortunate to stroll through Bolsa Chica on a weekly basis, we are treated with seasonal changes that give the wetlands a different view. It is June and the 448 Ruddy Ducks that appeared in January have dwindled to 38. The 438 American Wigeons are down to 28. Willet and Marbled Godwits numbers have decreased as well. The 2,000 plus Western Sandpipers have departed to be replaced with 2,000 plus Elegant Terns. Black Skimmers have returned and brought with them their long graceful wakes, left when their lower mandible ever so lightly touches the water. Ninety-one different bird species were observed one Friday in May.

Looking down from Harriett Weider Park, 49 Red-winged Blackbirds, 40 Allen's Hummingbirds, and 180 House Finches were seen in the seasonal ponds. Rare species like the Hermit Warbler, Willow Flycatcher and Townsend Warbler were also viewed in that area by the patient and lucky few. The mesa on the north side of the Reserve yields different species with different calls and songs as well.

The highlight of the year has been the presence of Clapper Rail. I have heard their tapping clicks occasionally over the years, but it has been my good fortune to see them mating last month and now gathering food daily for a brood of black chicks. This return of the Clapper Rail has been fostered by a new growth of cordgrass, which has struggled to survive at Bolsa Chica.

Where did I get all these numbers you say? I join one of the 3 monthly bird counts in the Bolsa Chica area. We divide up into groups with beginners and experts alike. Novice birders are encouraged to ask questions and experts are all too happy to share their knowledge. Sometimes, I am a tallier and record numbers and learn bird names. Other times, I get to count or identify different species of birds. The group usually walks less than a mile and gets a deliberate look at the natural world. So, much as FLOW is a citizen scientists program that aids the CA. Dept of Public Health in identifying harmful phytoplankton, these monthly bird counts help determine the health of an ecosystem. Bring a pair of binoculars and join us:

2nd Friday of the month - North parking lot Bolsa Chica – 8:00 a.m.

3rd Friday of the month - Harriet Weider Park – 8:00 a.m.

4th Friday of the month - Shipley Nature Center - Central Park – 8:00 a.m.

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## Earth Day 2014 – Thank You Amigos Volunteers

By Jerry Donohue

Amigos docents again provided excellent service on Earth Day at Bolsa Chica on Saturday April 12, 2014. The Information Table was ably staffed by Jennifer Robins, and Patti Cacho-Negrete. Questions were answered at the History Table by Mary Ellen Houseal, Chuck Drescher and Tom Livengood. Youngsters were quizzed at the Birds and Beaks Table by Angelique Crest, Mary Cason, Terry Hall, Nancy Boyd-Batstone, Blake Enyart, Kathy Hope and Richard Boncuk. The Birds and Tides activity reflected the proper relationship between exposed mudflats and high numbers of birds. It was staffed by Dave Beeninga, Terry Hill, Stephanie Rubio, Ron Davis, Jim Robins and Jerry Donohue. Terry Jorris led a walk from the north parking lot to the mesa. Dennis Pope aided immensely in our clean-up. There were over 800 visitors on a cool and windy day and the excitement they brought with them brought smiles to our faces. Thank you all for your time and commitment.



## Poseidon and Coastal Commission Meetings

By Shirley Dettloff

There were two very important meetings in Huntington Beach during June. First the Panel of Scientific Experts, designated by the State Coastal Commission and Poseidon met at the Huntington Beach Library on June 9 and 10 to study and determine the best way for Poseidon to bring water into the desalination process. Either subsurface or through an open intake system. Poseidon had been asked by the Coastal Commission to study this issue and both the Commission staff and Poseidon selected four experts to hear testimony and to come to a decision on what method would be the safest, most efficient, and least damaging. This decision will impact heavily on a final decision by the Coastal Commission on the future of desalination by Poseidon. Their final report for Phase I is due in August or September. The second phase meetings will start late summer and run through the end of the year.

Huntington Beach was also host to the California Coastal Commission in a three day meeting, June 11, 12 and 13. On the first day of the meeting, myself and Bob Hoffman (formerly of the National Marine Fisheries) made a presentation on wetlands and how, with diminishing funds, they can be maintained. It was suggested that during the Commission's mitigation

process for those projects requiring mitigation, that the Commission consider using mitigation funding for maintenance purposes. This would then insure, that after spending millions of dollars on saving and restoring wetlands, there would be the capability of providing funding to maintain them. No action was taken by the Commission.

The second major issue was the Ridge Project which required an LCP Amendment. Tom Livengood representing the Amigos made a statement on behalf of the board to deny the LCP Amendment request. This request from the City was to change the designation from Open Space to Residential. Coastal Commission Staff believed that this change did not meet the requirements of the Coastal Act and recommended denial of the request. The property owners presented an alternative which would have allowed development of the Ridge property in exchange for acquisition by Hearthside of the Goddell property. However, that was not the written request forwarded to the commission. A motion was made to deny the requested LCP amendment, it was seconded, but before a vote was taken, the requested LCP amendment was withdrawn by the City. Stay tuned! The saga of Bolsa Chica continues.

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## Amigos Bolsa Brunch

By David Casey

On Sunday, June 29, the Third Annual Bolsa Brunch was held at the Sea Cliff Country Club. The purpose of the brunch was to celebrate and honor the Amigos, and to raise funds that will be used to produce a video on the history of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and to highlight the importance of saving this very valuable resource for all future generations. The video will be available for showing to inner city children in their classrooms and will be able to be used as a prelude to those groups that are scheduled for a class trip to the wetlands. An Amigos docent will also be present during the classroom presentations to answer questions and provide an interactive experience.

Over 130 people were present to meet and greet old friends and become acquainted with new Amigos and those from the community who are interested in becoming Amigos. The City of Huntington Beach was well represented with the attendance by the Mayor



*Joana Tavares-Reager, J.T. Reager and Fundraising Committee Chair David Casey  
Photo by Tom Anderson*

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and 3 City Council members, 2 Planning Commissioners, several former mayors of Huntington Beach and 2 former members of the California Coastal Commission.

We were treated to a fabulous “all you could eat” brunch followed by Mayor Matthew Harper’s presentation of a Commendation from the City of Huntington Beach to Tom Anderson. He was honored for 26 years of volunteer work with Amigos de Bolsa Chica. An Amigos member since 1988, Tom has, among other things, served as Amigos President, chair of the Grant Committee, long-time member of the education committee, and editor of the Tern Tide and the Current Tide.

Joanna Tavares-Reager, Oceanographer, Marine Science teacher, and the creator of Amigos’ FLOW program, was the featured speaker. Joanna gave a wonderful presentation on “We Can’t Appreciate What We Don’t Know”. With some interaction from the audience, she found we all know why wetlands are so important and need protection. But when it came to tiny creatures called pteropods that are a big part of the ocean food chain and very much threatened by climate change, we all learned we still have a lot of work to do in our efforts to be good stewards of the environment.

Tickets were purchased for the opportunity to be the lucky winner of a variety of over 28 beautifully displayed gift baskets. Items ranged from tickets to the symphony to backpacks to baseball paraphernalia to fine wines and restaurant gift certificates. A table of fantastic silent auction items was displayed, and winning bids were accepted for such items as a succulent masterpiece, an original sculpture, artwork and photography. There was also an opportunity to bid on and purchase the table centerpieces which consisted of arrangements of succulent plants grown and assembled by Dawn Pope.

Brunch sponsors included Rainbow Environmental Services, Huntington Beach Hospital, Poseidon Water, DJM Capital Partners, Inc., HB Auto Dealers Association, Moffatt and Nichol, Sempra Energy and a host of others who donated items large and small for the opportunity drawings. It was the overwhelming consensus of those in attendance that this was a great event for a great cause and it provided added assurance for the future of the Amigos. A very big thanks to the Fund Development Committee and a very special thank you to Dawn Pope for chairing the Brunch Committee and coordinating this spectacular event.



*Joana gets the crowd interested in science.  
Photo by Tom Anderson*



*Amigos Vice President Dennis Pope,  
Honoree Tom Anderson and Mayor Matthew Harper  
Photo by Brian Westcott*



*Board member Terry Jorris,  
Docent Rachel Lloyd and State Park  
Interpretive Specialist Melanie Cox  
Photo by Tom Anderson*





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## THE TERN TIDE

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### **State Parks Cooperating Association Program**

### **New Members to Board of Directors**

### **Clapper Rail Grows Up**

### **FLOW Anniversary**

### **President's Tern**

### **Earth Day 2014 Thank You**

### **Poseidan and Coastal Commission Meetings**

### **Annual Brunch Fundraiser**

## 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*