

Amigos de Bolsa Chica THE TERN TIDE



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Inside this Issue:

1

The President's Tern

2

**Bolsa Chica Wetland
Restoration Update**

3

**Who's In Charge
Hearthside's Brightwater
Project Update**

4-5

**eScrip and Albertson
Donation Programs**

6

**Fundraising Happenings
The Tern Tide - Online or
Hardcopy**

7

**Rediscover Bolsa Chica
Recycling Program
In Memory**

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THE PRESIDENT'S TERN

By Thomas Anderson

2006 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. The idea began a few years before that when a hand full of ordinary citizens got together with the idea that the precious ecosystem of coastal saltwater wetlands languishing in their backyards should be preserved and restored rather than destroyed by being turned into a marina. This hand full of citizens quickly became hundreds, then thousands, all of whom shaped and reshaped not only the physical landscape but the politics of the community as well.

Conservatives, liberals and people from all parts of the political spectrum came together over the idea that the Bolsa Chica wetlands were beautiful, biologically important, and wetlands were quickly vanishing from the coast of California. The Amigos de Bolsa Chica led the way in uniting people with these ideas, and have been at the forefront in manifesting the State's purchase and restoration of the wetlands. No other group can honestly make that claim.

The main reason the Amigos de Bolsa Chica has succeeded as one of the oldest grassroots environmental preservation organizations in the state of California is our ability to unite scientists, government agencies, politicians and citizens. We have survived many ups, downs, attacks and praises because we have remained focused on a vision of understanding scientific facts and uniting a community that has often been at odds. One person alone could not have accomplished a fraction as much as the Amigos have as an organization of many people. Every human being on this planet has the choice to preserve rather than destroy, to help rather than ignore, to fight rather than give up. If you think one voice alone cannot change anything, please volunteer with a group that has a strong vision and successful history, like the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, and find out how much many voices can accomplish.

So much has happened in 30 years. Local, State and Federal leaders have come and gone; developers have come and gone; Orange County is close to being built out; and the Amigos de Bolsa Chica is beginning a new chapter. So much has been accomplished. Approximately 1300 acres of the Bolsa Chica is now in public ownership. 2006 will see the return of full tidal flow to areas of the wetlands that have not felt the effects of the ocean since 1899. This is really quite miraculous, and every member of the Amigos is to be congratulated. We look forward to continuing success and your continuing support.

BOLSA CHICA WETLAND RESTORATION UPDATE

by Dave Carlberg

If you have been following my Bolsa Chica restoration updates in the Tern Tide for the past year or so, you no doubt have begun to realize that some of the completion dates I report aren't worth the paper they're printed on. For example, in December, 2004 I wrote that the ocean inlet bridge on PCH would be completed by summer, 2005. Then in March of this year I said the bridge would be completed by October. There are number of possible excuses for these unintentional white lies. One is that I don't listen too good. Another is that my sources don't talk too good. But the most likely reason is more complex than that. The ever imposing and unpredictable impact of weather and a law first invoked by a guy named Murphy all conspire to delay projects such as ones of the magnitude of the Bolsa Chica restoration. Having said that, let's get into the update report.

Bridge construction is coming along. The pilings and deck forms are all in and pouring of concrete for the deck began the fourth week in November. The bridge should be open to traffic by the end of the year (see above). The full tidal basin has been flooded and a floating dredge is now removing sand and water from the basin and depositing it offshore to build up the ebb shoal. The contractor claims that dredging should be completed by mid January, but the obligatory completion date is not until the end of March. The loop trail that runs from the reserve parking lot to the dam cannot be opened until dredging is complete, due to the pumping activity that is set up on part of the trail. Water must be pumped from Inner Bolsa Bay into the full tidal basin to maintain the basin's water level as long as dredging continues. As soon as dredging is completed, the pumps can be removed and the trail can be opened. Stay tuned.

Work on the jetties probably will not begin until early next year. The date of the actual opening of the inlet is not until the end of June, due to the need to reroute a number of pipes and other utilities that serve the oil operations adjacent to the bridge. These facilities that now run along the ground will have to span the 360 feet of the inlet channel. Work on the ground water barrier along the back perimeter is complete and work on the berm and fence is underway.



Except for the bridge construction, most of the restoration work has been pretty much out of sight due to its distance from public access. For some terrific views of the restoration work, go to the project website at <http://bolsachica.fws.gov/Index.htm> and click on Project Background and Site Photos.

Department of Fish & Game Repairs to the Footbridge in the south lot.

Photo courtesy of Jack Fancher, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

By Shirley Dettloff

We are still awaiting final answers to the question of who will be in charge of all management issues at Bolsa Chica after restoration has been completed. Letters have gone out from State Lands, owner of the property, to both Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game. They have until December of this year to give their answers. We are also looking at creating a private group who would be responsible for using the money in the management account to make sure that the resource is responsibly managed. Any such arrangement would be under the authority of State Lands. There are certain requirements that must be met at Bolsa Chica in monitoring water quality, assuring that the ocean inlet functions properly, sand loss and replenishment, groundwater barrier protections. These and others requirements will require a management program. The Management Committee for Amigos is watching this scenario very closely and will keep you updated on any new information we receive. As you know there is a management fund available to take on these responsibilities. We want to make absolutely sure that any agency or organization that takes over these responsibilities has the expertise to do so. Until something is in place, State Lands will continue to have the authority to act on behalf of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

We had very good news in November when the Port of Los Angeles agreed to use the Bolsa Chica Wetlands as mitigation credits for work being done in the port. This means that they will give port money to do two things, allow the Steering Committee to complete Phase I of restoration, and put some money toward management purposes. The Port of Long Beach had made this commitment in October. This is extremely good news as we are assured that everything is being done to make restoration successful.

HEARTHSIDE'S BRIGHTWATER PROJECT UPDATE

by Mel Nutter

Last April the California Coastal Commission approved the application of Hearthside Homes for a major housing development on Bolsa Chica's Upper Mesa. The approval was subject to Hearthside's compliance with numerous conditions designed to protect Bolsa Chica's wetlands and ecosystem and to provide adequate public access. In order to meet one of the permit requirements, Hearthside agreed to sell its Lower Bench property to the State of California. If Hearthside so elected, it could complete the sale and pocket sixty-five million dollars now. However, it says that it will not sell until it has its Coastal Development Permit in hand. As of this writing, the Coastal Commission has not issued the permit and the State's offer to purchase the Lower Bench will expire on December 31, 2005.

Hearthside may be responsible for some of the delay, but Coastal Commission budgetary constraints and staff reductions have slowed things down as well. The loss of millions of dollars in state funding and the loss of two of the request by Commission's three legal analyst positions make it impossible for the Commission to issue the permit before the end of the year unless additional temporary staffers are hired. On November 18 the Commission approved a request by Hearthside that it be allowed to provide additional funding to partially offset the Commission's costs for its consideration of permit condition compliance. The hope is that this will make it possible for the Commission to issue the permit before the end of December. If it so chose, Hearthside could lift its own self-imposed December 31 deadline for meeting the conditions of the permit and simply sell the Lower Bench to the State. Since Hearthside's development has been approved and it says it is willing and able to meet the permit conditions, it would be unfortunate if Hearthside decided to abandon the permit and start another development entitlement process.



A list of all the merchants in Southern California participating with eScrip and the amount of your purchase that will go to the Amigos' Bolsa Chica Foundation.



AUTOMOTIVE

1-800-TOW TRUCK	5%	Auto Driveaway Co.	5%	MAACO Auto Painting & Bodyworks	4%
89glass.com	5%	Bill Heard Chevrolet	7%	Pep Boys	4%
AAMCO Transmissions	5%	Driversed.com	5%	Webtrafficschool.com	5%

RETAIL

Eddie Bauer	5%	Macysbridal.com	up to 6%	Ultimate Outlet	3%
Macy's	up to 6%	Sierra Trading Post	5%		
Macys.com	up to 6%	Spiegel	5%		

GROGERS

Balboa Village Market	2%	Keil's Food Stores	up to 5%	Super A Foods	up to 5%
Bristol Farms	up to 7%	Major Market	up to 4%	Top Valu	up to 5%
Cardiff Seaside Market	up to 7%	New Frontiers Natural Foods	up to 4%	Valu Plus	up to 5%
Catalano's Market	up to 4%	Notrica's Market	up to 4%	Vons	up to 4%
El Rancho Market	up to 4%	Pacific Coast Greens	10%	Vons.com	up to 4%
Farm to Market	up to 5%	Pavilions	up to 4%	Wrigley's Supermarket	up to 3%
Green Frog Market	up to 5%	Spencer's Fresh Markets	up to 4%		
Hows Markets	up to 5%	Stumps Apple Market	up to 5%		

RESTAURANTS

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Carl's Jr.	8%	Daphne's Greek Cafe	4%	Shaker's Family Restaurants	4%
Carrows Restaurants	3%	Diner on Main	4%	Shakey's Pizza	6%
Chick 'N Chow	3%	Pick Up Stix	5%	Wild Thyme Café & Bakery	4%
Claim Jumper Restaurant	5%	Pizza World	5%	Yard House	5%

SPECIALTY ITEMS & SERVICES

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Catholicfamilygifts.com (Online)	3%	GreenPoint Mortgage	.2%	ServiceMaster Clean	5%
Creative Cakery	5%	(Please call 800-764-3114)		Shutterfly (Picture Studio for eScrip)	10%
Dinosauersuperstore.com (Online)	2%	Hooper Camera & Imaging	2%	Strand Cleaners	up to 8%
Dogwatch Hidden Fence Systems	10%	Kid Concepts, U.S.A.	5%	Surfinbox.com Dialup Internet Service	7%
eBags (www.ebags.com)	7%	Magazines & More	10%	Terminix	5%
eScrip Visa	up to 2%	Mary Kay (Online or By Phone)	10%	TruGreen ChemLawn	5%
Final Wrap	10%	MCI WorldCom Communications	up to 5%	Wondernation	4%
Gamerang.com (Online)	5%	Merry Maids	5%		
Giddyuphorsie.com (Online)	2%	OfficeMax	2%		
Giftbasketsbyangel.com (Online or By Phone)	5%	Petals & Stems Floral Decorators	5%		

SPORTING GOODS

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TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

American Airlines Flight Certificates	3%	Carnival Cruises	up to 5%	Princess Cruises	up to 5%
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Visit www.escrip.com for participating merchant locations.

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SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE EASIEST WAY YET TO MAKE DONATIONS

Do you want to donate to Amigos but just don't have any extra money to spare? Our donation programs are just for you! Over the last few months, the Fundraising Committee has been busy pursuing a variety of donation opportunities. Through the Amigos' Bolsa Chica Foundation, we have registered as a participant in both the eScrip program and the Albertson's Community Partners Fund. Registration for both programs is free and can easily be done online. To register, please follow the steps below:

eScrip: The beauty about this donation program is that over 150 merchants are registered through this program, including Von's, Macy's and many online sites. To register, please click on the link <http://escrip.com/>. Click on #1 "Sign Up – It's Free." Enter "Bolsa Chica Foundation." "Click search." The link for our account will appear on your screen. Click on the link and then click on "next" to enter your personal information. Because this program is associated with many merchants, contributions are calculated by the store cards and credit cards entered on the secured site. Once you have entered all your information and reviewed your summary, complete the registration process. eScrip will automatically send you information and updates about all the many businesses and services that participate in making donations.

Albertson's Community Partners Fund: For those who regularly shop at Albertson's and/or Sav-On, this is a wonderful donation program for you. To register, you first must have a Preferred Savings Card. For those who need to apply for this card, please click on the link <http://www.albertsons.com> and apply for this card. For those who already have the Preferred Savings Card, please click on the link <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/>. Follow the steps for shoppers to enroll in the donation program by entering your card number and your phone number. Next click on "Find a Partner." Under name, enter "The Bolsa Chica Foundation", city as "Huntington Beach" and the state "California." Click on "Find Partners." The Foundation information will appear on your screen. Check the box and then click on "Add Selected Partners."

If you have any difficulty with your registration, please contact Alexia at the office. You do not need to be an Amigos member to sign up for these programs, so please encourage your friends and family to register. With no out of pocket money, your registration guarantees money to be used for our educational programs. It simply is that easy.

Albertson's

Corporate Information
 + Home > In the Community

March 6, 2005

SHOP ONLINE

ABOUT ALBERTSONS NEWS INVESTOR INFORMATION IN THE COMMUNITY CAREERS

Volunteerism
 Environmental Affairs
 Hunger Relief
 Health & Nutrition
 Youth & Education

in the community
 It's important to be good neighbors
 and give back to our communities
 ...to improve all of our lives.

Albertson's and its family of stores believe in being a good neighbor by contributing to the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. In 2003, Albertson's provided more than \$78 million in cash and in-kind donations with support focused on hunger relief, education and the development of our youth, and health and nutrition.

Albertson's support of local communities and youth activities dates back to the first store opened by Joe Albertson in 1939. Mr. Albertson's generosity and leadership have served as the foundation of Albertson's understanding of the importance of community involvement, and the development of the programs Albertson's offers today.

" In 2003 alone, Albertson's donated more than \$78 million cash and in-kind donations to help meet community needs."

eScrip and Albertson's have now made making donations to the Amigos' Bolsa Chica Foundation easier than ever before. Just enroll in these programs online, and every time you shop using the various cards you have registered, we receive a donation. Thank you for taking the time to sign up!

FUNDRAISING HAPPENINGS

By Brian Westcott

The Fundraising committee has been very busy since the last issue of the Tern Tide. We have had a number of events and we are busy preparing for the next year.

In October we had our Fundraising Concert at the Central Library with the Golden West Pops. All who attended enjoyed wine and cheese donated by Trader Joes before the concert. This gave us a chance to visit, sell merchandise and update people on what is happening at the Bolsa Chica. The concert was a musical and visual experience. One of the members of the Pops, Steve Hess, put together a number of video presentations about the Bolsa Chica that was coordinated with some of the songs that the Pops were playing. We saw the images that so many of us are so familiar with from the wetlands and to add the incredible orchestrations to them was an experience that made all of us very proud of the work the Amigos have done over the past thirty years.

After the concert we were treated to coffee donated by Starbucks Meadowlark and desserts made and/or donated by various Amigos members. This also gave us a chance to meet the band members after the concert. All the attendees really enjoyed this event which was a new venue for us. We wish we could have filled all the seats in the auditorium and had more people enjoy such an incredible event.

A big thank you goes out to our sponsors, Ralphs – Meadowlark, Starbucks – Meadowlark, Trader Joes #49, Dynamic Marketing, Poseidon Resources, Southern California Edison, Tom Corkett – First Team Realty, Barbara Delgleize, Sara and Larry Wan and Jim and Jennifer Robins. The people who helped with the event also deserve a huge thanks as well: The Golden West Pops conducted by John W. Daniels, Steve Hess, Kay and Terry Dolton, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Heide Palikan, Marlene and Mark Singer, Jim and Jennifer Robins, Thomas Anderson, Nancy Westcott, Shirley and Bob Dettloff, Anna Horner, Fran Pike and Alexia Swanepoel

There were also two successful dinner events that did not take a lot of work on our parts but went very well. Rubio's Baja Grill at Goldenwest and Garfield donated 30% of their proceeds for everyone that came in with our flyer and purchased a meal. The new Daphne's Café at Bella Terra hosted us as well with a donation of 20% of their proceeds for the evening as well as an additional cash donation. Thank you to both of these restaurants for their generosity and to Jennifer Robins and Anna Horner who staffed our booth at Daphne's.

Our end of year solicitation has also gone out. This is a chance for you to get in a tax deductible donation before December 31, 2005 and help the Amigos as well. If you did not receive this letter, please call the office. The letter really explains the amount of work that there still is for the Amigos. We hope to continue to be a strong voice in the ongoing restoration, management and future of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

This next year promises to be another busy one as well. We are always looking for help in planning and staffing our events. The committee will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month starting in January and welcome anyone with interest or experience to join us.

Our next event will be the Bolsa Bash where we will be honoring the work of the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center and Orange County Coastkeepers. The details will be finalized soon and we will be getting the word out so no one will miss this event as we kick off the 30th year of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. Join us as we Rediscover Bolsa Chica.

THE TERN TIDE: ONLINE OR HARD COPY?

If you are still receiving the Tern Tide in the mail and are interested in our online option in PDF format, please email Alexia at info@amigosdebolsachica.org or call her at 840-1575. Once the Tern Tide has been downloaded onto our Amigos website, you will receive an email linking you to our newsletter. For those who prefer receiving their issue of the Tern Tide in the mail, this service will continue. Printed issues of the current Tern Tide will also be available at our office, our public tours and at our general meetings. To continue to receive the latest updates on Bolsa Chica, please visit our website www.amigodebolsachica.org

REDISCOVER AMIGOS IN 2006!

By Alexia Swanepoel

The holiday season is here and Amigos de Bolsa Chica has a lot to be thankful for. I am very pleased to announce that we have surpassed our membership goal for the year. This is not an easy accomplishment for an older organization, but as we quickly look ahead to management of Bolsa Chica, obviously our work is simply not done.

As we near the celebration of our 30th anniversary, 2006 will be an exciting year for our restored ecosystem, giving native plants and many wildlife species a place to flourish. When the tidal inlet opens, we anticipate a flood of children and adults who will either rediscover Bolsa Chica in its glory or visit it for the very first time. For those who want a late summer or fall tour of the wetlands, call us early to make a reservation.

We are always looking for innovative ideas and exciting opportunities for our members to enjoy throughout the year. We hope that many of you will look to 2006 as the year to set aside some time to take our docent training class, join us at a cleanup event or attend a fundraiser. By offering some of your time and amazing talents to one of our several committees, you help us grow and expand our public outreach.

I encourage all of you to tell your friends and family about our wonderful Bolsa Chica. Invite them to our free public tours or a town hall meeting or give them a gift membership. Together we can all celebrate our incredible adventure and plan our unforgettable tomorrows.



RECYCLING PROGRAM

Good news! We have joined the eScrip Recycling Program. This program is FREE and provides an opportunity for collecting laser, inkjet cartridges and used cell phones while raising funds for our organization. Acceptable cell phones and laser and inkjet cartridges typically include various sizes of the following brands: Nokia, Motorola, Ericsson, Qualcomm, HP, Canon, Sharp and Lexmark.

We accept both the inkjet cartridges and cell phones at our first Saturday of the month public tour. Generally we host this tour at the south lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on Pacific Coast Highway, across the street from the main entrance of Bolsa Chica State Beach. Tours begin at 9am and the last tour leaves at 10:30am. Tour docents depart by noon.

Visit the escrip website at http://recycling.groups.escrip.com/cartridge_list.asp?gid=500000659 for a complete list of accepted cartridges. For cell phones, visit http://recycling.groups.escrip.com/cell_phones.asp?gid=500000659. To learn more about the program or the date of our next public tour, please contact Alexia at 840-1575.

IN MEMORY

This issue is dedicated in memory of George William who served as our board treasurer from 1983-1986.

