

# *Amigos de Bolsa Chica* THE **TERN TIDE**



*Since 1976*

**Winter 2007  
Volume 32, Issue 1**

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### **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

## **RESTORATON UPDATES**

By Dave Carlberg

With the August 24 opening of the ocean inlet behind us, the Amigos can now look back with enormous pride at what has been accomplished in the last 30 years. In 1970, six years before the Amigos was started, the privately owned Bolsa Chica had been an oil field for 30 years and was planned for a massive marina and waterfront residential and commercial development. By 2004 over 1200 acres of the Bolsa Chica lowlands were publicly owned and construction was begun on a 600 acre wetland restoration project. Listed below are the cost figures as of December, 2006 for the restoration along with the sources of funding.

Some further updates: The flow of water into the main muted tidal area has been delayed until the oil company, Aera, is satisfied that its oil operations will not in any way contaminate the restored wetland. Soil contamination has been cleaned up, but the oil company is still concerned about the possibility *Continued on page 3*

*Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*



## 2007 AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Learn all about Bolsa Chica - history, ecology, birds, endangered species and the restoration project. Make new friends. Give community service. Enjoy regular docent special events. Experience the peace and beauty of the wetlands. Register for the 2007 Docent Training Program today!

**REGISTER:** Call Amigos' office (714) 840 1575 or e-mail [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org)

**PLACE:** Bolsa Chica Conservancy Interpretive Center, Warner Avenue near PCH, across from Fire Station

**TIME:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**CLASS DATES:** January 18, 25, February 1 and 8 (4 consecutive Thursday evenings plus 2 field trips to the wetlands)

**REQUIREMENTS:** (1) Join Amigos de Bolsa Chica;  
(2) \$40 materials fee (which includes a one-of-a-kind Docent Training Manual available nowhere else);  
(3) Commit to participating in 1 tour or volunteer service project each month.



*Amigos de Bolsa Chica needs docents for the free public tours the first Saturday of each month ...*



*... and for private tours of classrooms, organizations and adults.*

## THE ENDLESS REWARDS OF BEING AN AMIGOS DOCENT

by Margaret Carlberg

Every time I have walked in the Bolsa Chica since 1970, I have seen or learned something new, and enjoyed the psychic relief of the open space at the edge of our urban congestion. Every time I'm there I enjoy sharing some bits of knowledge with visitors, whether as a docent leading groups of various ages, or with individuals on the trail from all over the world. The more I learn about that unique environment, the more I enjoy it.

If you like to walk in the Bolsa Chica in different seasons, different weather, with different friends, if you want to learn more about the habitats and wildlife, and if you have a few hours a month to enjoy helping others appreciate more there, do sign up for the 16-hour Docent Training class Thursday nights January 18 through February 8 with 2 field trips. With increasing numbers of groups arranging for tours, we need more docents to be trained, and we urge all current docents to participate even more.

Previously trained docents are also invited to attend the classes to refresh their facts, or to hear different expert presenters discuss the always changing topics.

E-mail me if you have any questions about the joys of being a docent:  
[mcarlberg@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mcarlberg@ix.netcom.com)



*Restoration Updates continued from page 1*

of leakage of oil pipes that pass over flooded areas. Aera is therefore moving the pipes away from those parts of the muted tidal wetland and installing other protective measures to prevent leaks from getting into the water. Tidal gates into the muted tidal area are scheduled to be opened sometime in January or February. The delay in opening the muted tidal area to flooding has prevented the testing of the automatic gates that will control water levels in that part of the wetland. Tidal flushing of the smaller "pocket" muted tidal wetland is now operating as planned.

The Third National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Conference was held in New Orleans on December 9-13. There were about 1500 attendees and over 135 exhibitors at the conference and Bolsa Chica was the subject of an entire session. I had the pleasure of presenting a short talk on the role citizens had in the preservation and restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetland. Jim Trout (State Lands Commission) and Mike McCarthy (Moffat and Nichol) covered the financial and engineering aspects of the restoration, respectively. Listening to the many sessions and walking the exhibit isles gave me a real thrill to see so much enthusiasm and activity directed toward wetland restoration. It is a growing movement that has the potential of saving what few wetlands we have left in the U. S.

## RESTORATION EXPENDITURES

Accounting of expenses and funds for the restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetland as of December, 2006.

### Sources and funding amounts (\$ Millions)

Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach - 102  
 Propositions 40 and 50 - 20  
 Interest - 20  
 Miscellaneous. - 5.7

**Total - 147.7**

### Restoration acreage

Full Tidal - 367  
 Muted Tidal(Main sector) - 181  
 Muted Tidal (Pocket) - 42  
 Nesting Areas - 20

**Total - 590\***

\*Nesting areas included in restored areas

### Expenses (\$ Millions)

Purchase 26.7  
 Contamination cleanup 5.5  
 Planning 7.0  
 Oil buyout and removal 11.2  
 Construction 71.2  
 Construction mgt. 4.5  
 Agency oversight 4.1  
 Op/Mgt set aside 15.0  
 Future restoration 2.5

**Total 147.7**

Data from Jim Trout, California State Lands Commission



*Photos taken during restoration project by Moffat & Nichol employees.*

# CONFERENCE ON BOLSA CHICA: THE WORK ISN'T FINISHED

## March 24-25, 2007, Waterfront Hilton, Huntington Beach

The Western Alliance for Nature, together with the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, are hosting a conference on Bolsa Chica to launch a capital campaign for funding an endowment of their proposed stewardship program. The funds will be held in trust by the Western Alliance for Nature for use by the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust to fund education and management oversight programs.

The core mission of the Western Alliance for Nature is the preservation of biodiversity by conservation of endangered and rapidly vanishing habitats; managing and restoring them to functioning ecosystems; and preserving endangered wildlife habitats to protect biodiversity needs to be a global endeavor. Ecosystems are intricately linked in the web of life. Preserving biodiversity means conserving diverse ecosystems. That is why the WAN conservation programs span both North and South American continents. WAN is now focusing on the maintenance of a critical habitat in the Northern Hemisphere – the Bolsa Chica, a Southern Californian coastal wetland ecosystem.

Day One Confirmed Speakers include Beau Bridges, Lt. Governor (elect) John Garamendi, State Senator Tom Harman, Dr. Joy Zedler, Peter Douglas, Sam Schuchat, Terri Stewart, Sara Wan, Debbie Cook, Shirley Dettloff, Doug Traub, Dr. Victor Leipzig, Steve Bone, Bob Hoffman, Jim Trout and R. J. Mayer. Facilities Host: Waterfront Hilton.

Pre-registration (by March 1, 2007) for March 24: \$150, includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. Special dawn guided birding tour: \$25 (tour limit of 20 participants). Pre-registration for March 25 tours: \$25 per tour (tour limit of 20 participants). Parking at the Hilton for the day is \$10.00.

### REGISTER TODAY!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registering for:

Day One x Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_

Day Two Tours x Number of Tours \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify tours in order of preference:

\_\_\_ 3-24 Dawn Birding; \_\_\_ 3-25 Birding; \_\_\_ Photography; \_\_\_ Stewards (morning); \_\_\_ Fish Walk;

\_\_\_ Voice of the Marsh; \_\_\_ Stewards (afternoon); \_\_\_ Behinds the Scenes; \_\_\_ Endangered Species

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

Check made payable to Western Alliance for Nature (Mail: c/o Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647)

**Register on-line and pay by credit card: [www.amigosdebolsachica.org/conference](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org/conference)**

## Bolsa Chica Conference: The Work Isn't Finished

### Day one: March 24, 2007

- 6:00-7:45 **Guided birdwatching at Bolsa Chica.** Guides: Nick and Mary Freeman, Los Angeles Audubon Society. \$25, for attendees only, limited space.
- 8:00-9:00 **Registration, Casual Coffee/Tea Meet and Greet.** Videos of Bolsa Chica
- 9:00-10:00 **Opening Remarks: State Senator Tom Harman** Introduction by Western Alliance for Nature, Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust: the history of Bolsa Chica, the struggles of the people who worked to protect it.
- 10:00-11:00 **Booth, silent auction and art viewing**
- 11:00-12:00 **The Ecology of Bolsa Chica.** It's ecological history, current role as an ecosystem of global significance, looking at Bolsa Chica as a whole system. **Speaker: Dr. Victor Leipzig**
- 12:00-12:15 Break
- 12:15-1:30 **Lunch: The importance of conservation and the values of land stewardship. Speaker: Beau Bridges**
- 1:30-2:00 Break
- 2:00-3:00 **The Restoration of Bolsa Chica.** What can be done to restore Bolsa Chica to maximum ecosystem functionality and biodiversity. **Speaker: Dr. Joy Zedler**
- 3:00-3:15 Break
- 3:15-4:15 **Panel: The role of Government in ecosystem preservation. Moderator: Sara Wan,** Coastal Commissioner; Panelists: **Terri Stewart,** CA Dept. Fish & Game; **Peter Douglas,** Coastal Commission; **Sam Schuchat,** Coastal Conservancy; **Bob Hoffmann,** NOAA; **Jim Trout,** CA State Lands Commission
- 4:15-4:30 Break
- 4:30-5:30 **Panel: Bolsa Chica and the local economy. Moderator: Shirley Dettloff,** founding member Amigos de Bolsa Chica, former Huntington Beach Mayor and Coastal Commissioner; Panelists: **Debbie Cook,** Council Member, City of Huntington Beach; **R. J. Mayer,** President, HB Chamber of Commerce; **Doug Traub,** HB Conference and Visitors Bureau; **Steve Bone,** Robert Mayer Corp.; Bird Tour Company
- 5:30-8:30 **Reception, Silent auction, dinner and entertainment (Acoustic Warrior- John Sotter). Guest Speaker: Lt. Governor (elect) John Garamendi**

## Day two: March 25, 2007 Specialized Tours of Bolsa Chica Tours

(limited to 20 persons each; \$25 per person for each tour)

- 8-11:00 a.m. **Birding Tour** with Sylvia Gallagher. Emphasis: Advanced birding.
- 7:30-10:00 a.m. **Photography Tour** with Larry Wan. Emphasis: How to photograph birds and other wildlife.
- 9-11:00 a.m. **Bolsa Chica Stewards** with Guy Stivers & Kim Kolpin. Emphasis: Restoring coastal sage scrub habitat, and Native American history.
- 12-1:00 p.m. **Fish Walk** with Bob Hoffman, NOAA. Emphasis: Comparison of fish pre- & post-restoration.
- 12-2:00 a.m. **Bolsa Chica Stewards** with Guy Stivers & Kim Kolpin. Repeating earlier tour.
- 1-4:00 p.m. **Voice of the Marsh Ecology Tour** with Trude Hurd. Emphasis: Hands-on learning.
- 1-4:00 p.m. **Behind the Scenes Tour** with Dr. Victor Leipzig. Emphasis: Bolsa Chica Restoration Project, land use and political issues.
- 4:00 p.m. to dusk **Endangered Species Tour** with Dick Zembal. Emphasis: Light-footed Clapper Rail, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, Western Snowy Plover and more.

### Sponsors include:



Orange  
County  
Coastkeepers



Sea & Sage  
Audubon  
Society



Surfrider  
Foundation

## 26th ANNUAL RUNNING IS FOR THE BIRDS WINNERS

### 10 K Winners and times:

Overall male 1 Roy Sharp 0:37:29  
Overall Male 2 Al Valdez 0:39:07  
Overall Male 3 Rick Spandikow 0:39:56  
Overall Female 1 Andrea Chen 0:41:41  
Overall Female 2 Lauren Wilson 0:41:42  
Overall Female 3 Robin Winkler 0:44:55

### 5K Winners and times:

Overall Male 1 Michael Bautista 0:19:28 0:06:17  
Overall Male 2 Mark Vishnevsky 0:19:44 0:06:22  
Overall Male 3 Morgan Cubete 0:20:30 0:06:37  
Overall Female 1 Brenda Terry 0:20:18 0:06:33  
Overall Female 2 Sophia Arkosy 0:22:40 0:07:19  
Overall Female 3 Carol Wimbish 0:23:02 0:07:26



Many thanks to the nearly 400 runners and dozens of volunteers who came to Bolsa Chica State Beach on Saturday, October 7, 2006 for Amigos de Bolsa Chica's 26th Annual "Running is for the Birds." We also thank the many businesses, organizations and individuals who sponsored the event. It was a beautiful morning at the beach and a very successful race.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA IN 2007!

2006 has been an incredible year for Amigos de Bolsa Chica as we celebrated our 30th anniversary and witnessed the completion of phase one of the Lowland restoration project with the grand finale being the opening of the tidal inlet. Looming on the horizon in 2007 is our overseeing the management of the restored areas, the lower mesa and the ecological reserve. We will also co-host the "Conference on Bolsa Chica: The Work Isn't Finished" in March and all year long we will provide wonderful education programs. As part of our "Rediscover Bolsa Chica" mission, we will continue to expand our educational programs for children and adults by providing a variety of tour opportunities and several off-site presentations. In addition, we will provide a highly educational website, multiple brochures, comprehensive educational guides and docent training. We are proud of this expansion and hope that many of you will take the time to visit Bolsa Chica and enjoy its beauty.

Membership is key to an organization such as ours and we hope that all of you will continue your support by renewing your dues. We now offer an online renewal option for those who prefer to renew with a credit card. For those who prefer mailing in your payment, that option will always be available. Please check your mailing label for your renewal date and mark your expiration date on your home calendar. Remember that as a 501(c)3 organization, all contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Those who renewed their memberships in the latter part of 2006 as sustaining members include Scott & Marcia Atkinson, Terri Taylor, Louise Owen, Kevin & Sean McCarthy, Barbara Delgleize, Florence Purdy, Carol & Irwin Kanode, Arthur Rubinsteen, Charles Falzon, and Joan McCauley. Special thank you to Cindy Rosene who renewed as a life member.

For those of you who live a distance or simply have limited schedules, we hope that you can help us by sending in a small monetary donation or signing up for the eScrip, Ralphs and Albertsons/Sav-On contribution programs which cost you nothing. For more information on our donation programs, please visit our website at [www.amigosdebolsachica.org/news](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org/news) or call our office (714) 840-1575.

## **PRESIDENT'S TERN**

by Thomas Anderson

Now that 2006, the watershed 30th Anniversary year, is over it is time to look ahead. However much Amigos de Bolsa Chica accomplished in those 30th years, we cannot rest on our laurels, or expect anyone new to the community to automatically know who we are, what we've done or what we're planning to do. We are essentially always having to reinvent ourselves, always having to remind the world why we exist.

Not surprisingly, many people have the notion that the restoration project is finished, so why do groups like Amigos de Bolsa Chica need to hang around? First, the project is not really finished. There have been delays cleaning up oil production activities in the muted tidal areas, which will not be opened until sometime in the spring. And at some point, perhaps many years down the road, when all the oil is extracted from the area, the southeast section of the Reserve will be restored to full tidal habitat. Will Amigos or any other organization be around to see that the plan is carried out?

Second, part of the Bolsa Chica has been restored, yes, but who is responsible for maintaining it and making sure it is a healthy ecosystem supporting a maximum of biodiversity? Will the Department of Fish and Game manager(s) have the resources - human and otherwise - to do everything that needs to be done? Will the State of California, who owns the land, always have the resources to pay for operations like periodic dredging? Or will the community be asked to share in the responsibility of maintaining this priceless habitat that is so important to hundreds of species of birds and to rapidly declining fish populations? Who will stick around and ask the hard questions and make sure this invaluable resource - the Bolsa Chica - is healthy and protected? How many people visiting the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve today know, for instance, that the Amigos, the Land Trust and the Conservancy currently share the costs of the portable toilet facilities, not the County or State? Many such things that everyone takes for granted are not guaranteed in the future.

Of course, there are no firm answers to those questions at the moment. Everything in the world today is uncertain, but there are steps Amigos de Bolsa Chica will be taking in 2007 towards finding some answers. First, in partnership with the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and the Western Alliance for Nature, Amigos is organizing the first-rate "Conference on Bolsa Chica: The Work Isn't Finished" in order to establish an endowment from which our community-based groups can carry out education programs and management oversight in perpetuity. Opening the new tidal channel brought worldwide attention to Bolsa Chica's restoration, and this exciting conference is designed to bring more attention to the future of this unique coastal ecosystem. Second, Amigos is committed to getting plans for an interpretive center off the ground, a truly permanent facility that can support the kinds of visitor and educational activities which cannot be housed by the current temporary interpretive center.

None of this can be done without continued support from our members and the community at large. The mission of Amigos de Bolsa Chica is as relevant now as it was 30 years ago. The landscape has changed dramatically in that time, and it will continue to change. All of us on the Amigos board of directors are endlessly grateful for everyone's invaluable contributions of time and money over the years, and that's one thing that will never change. Our efforts would not have been so successful without so much support.

## **MANY THANKS TO AMIGOS' 2006 DOCENTS**

With much appreciation for all of their efforts, the following Amigos docents lead 1,638 people on 50 tours in 2006: Tom Anderson, Barbara Binaski, Julie Bixby, Maria Buhbe, Dave Carlberg, Margaret Carlberg, Ron Davis, Barbara Delgleize, Shirley Dettloff, Terry Dolton, Chuck Drescher, Craig Frampton, Steve Hess, Helen Higgins, Terry Hill, Bob Hogan, Anna Horner, Mary Ellen Houseal, Bob Johnson, Peter Knapp, Vic Leipzig, Alison Meler, Kevin McCarthy, Susan Mickelson, Betty Murphy, Chuck Nicols, Jamie Pavlat, Fran Pike, Kiersta Poe, Heather Rivera, Jennifer Robins, Jim Robins, Barbara Sentovich, Phil Smith, Barbara Stewart, Julia Tafel, Al Vari, Brian Westcott, and Grace Winchell.



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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Grants \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**