

# Amigos de Bolsa Chica

## THE

# TERN TIDE



Since 1976

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### Inside this Issue:

1

ASLA Award

2

Steering Committee  
Award Ceremony, Shea/  
Parkside Update

3

2008 Docent Training  
Class, 2007 Tours &  
Docent Thanks,  
Amigos' Outreach  
Programs

4

Docent of the Year,  
Board Member Profile

5

Amigos' New Office  
Coordinator, Warner  
Walk Bridge Update

6

5 Easy Ways to Donate,  
Donation Thank You,  
Membership

7

President's Tern

### THE TERN TIDE

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## Amigos Receives Public Stewardship Award

On December 6, 2007 the Southern California Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects presented Amigos de Bolsa Chica with a Public Stewardship Award. This is "in recognition of (our) significant contribution toward enhancing the environmental Quality of Life in Southern California through (our) ideas and actions."

At the end of his 2-minute presentation about the history and accomplishments of the Amigos, Steve Lang (past president of ASLA, and member of the State Landscape Architects Technical Committee) said "we, the landscape architects salute the Amigos de Bolsa Chica for their vision and 32 year commitment to this unique Southern California landscape and ecosystem." Dave and Margaret Carlberg (pictured below with Steve Lang) accepted the award on behalf of the Amigos. The Friends of the Los Angeles River was also recognized for their 20 years of effort and accomplishment in developing attractive and safe public access areas along that watercourse.

The presentation was made at the 70th anniversary celebration of the organization at Disney's Grand Californian by the chapter president Andy Bowden. More than 200 guests enjoyed an elegant dinner and the award ceremony. The winners of the Design Awards 2007 for projects from all over Southern California were also recognized. They were judged the best landscape design in each of about 15 categories.



## Steering Committee Coastal America Award Ceremony

August 24, 2006 essentially marked the completion of Phase I of the wetland restoration in the Bolsa Chica. The 600 acre \$148 million project was one of the most complex and expensive wetland restorations ever undertaken. The restoration did not proceed by itself. It took a steering committee of 8 federal and state agencies to oversee the project. In recognition of the steering committee's efforts, the committee received the Coastal America Award in a ceremony conducted on the Bolsa Chica footbridge overlook on October 26, 2007. Coastal America is a national partnership of 12 federal departments and the President's office to "Recognize outstanding efforts to protect, preserve and restore coastal resources and to increase public awareness and education". Presenting the award were Dr. Dan Walker, White House Office of Science Technology and Policy, and Virginia Tipple, Director of Coastal America.

Members of the Steering Committee were Mike Chrisman, California Resources Agency, Melanie Denninger, California Coastal Conservancy, Jim Trout, Bob Hight and Rich Ludlow, State Lands Commission, Terri Stewart, California Department of Fish and Game,



*Dr. Dan Walker, White House Office of Science Technology and Policy presents award to Jim Trout, State Lands Commission.*

Tom Yocom, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Bob Hoffman, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Jack Fancher, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The award was more than well deserved. An abbreviated version of the steering committee will continue to operate to oversee the management of the newly restored Bolsa Chica wetland.

## Shea/Parkside Update

By Dave Carlberg

For the umpteenth time the Shea/Parkside residential development on about 50 acres off Graham St. just south of Warner appeared before the California Coastal Commission on November 14 in San Diego. Historically the land was part of the Bolsa Chica wetlands. The action involved the city of Huntington Beach applying for an amendment to their Local Coastal Plan to allow residential development on the parcel. The item began at 2:00 P. M. with the commission staff summarizing the information that some unauthorized fill of wetlands had occurred over the years followed by evidence for the existence of several small wetlands on the site. About three hours of applicant and public testimony followed. Most of the public testimony supported the staff recommendations to protect all of the wetland areas and impose a uniform 100 meter buffer around eucalyptus ESHAs.

As a final vote approached, Alternate Commissioner Dan Secord offered several amendments to the main motion to approve the Parkside LCP amendment. One amendment was to eliminate the "WP" wetland from the staff's list of protected areas. The second amendment was to drop the 100 meter ESHA buffer in favor of variable buffers that would range from about 30 meters to about 100 meters. (Shea's argument was something like, "...if you gave Hearthside variable buffers, why can't we get them?") The third amendment was to eliminate an area that the staff referred to as "intermingled", an area between buffers and wetlands that had no official designation but was too small to use for any purpose other than open space. All three amendments passed by substantial margins. The main motion passed 8-4 at 7:55 PM.

The end result is a matter of conjecture. The loss of the WP wetland and the 100 meter buffer is a serious blow, but a second area known as the AP wetland and the adjoining EPA wetland were spared the commission's chopping block, and Shea conceded the protection of the "CP" wetland. But the exact footprint now cleared for development is uncertain and it is up to the staff to interpret the commission's intentions. And the question of the unlawful landfill was never resolved. The show's not over; this is just an intermission while the actors go over their lines.

## 2008 Docent Training Class

The 2008 Docent Training Class has at least 7 interested docents-to-be. Classes will take place in January, on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm. They will be held at the Bolsa Chica Interpretive Center, on Warner Avenue just inland of Pacific Coast Highway at the signal across from Huntington Harbour fire station. At press time, the schedule is:

January 7: Introduction, and Bolsa Chica History, with Margaret Carlberg and Helen Higgins

January 14: Natural History and Ecology of the Bolsa Chica, with Dr. Victor Leipzig

January 21: The Birds and Endangered Species of Bolsa Chica, with Barbara Sentovich

January 28: Restoration and Management, and Teaching Tips, with Dr. Dave Carlberg and Barbara Stewart

- If you get this Tern Tide before January 7 and wish to take the class, please e-mail or phone the Amigos office, (714) 840-1575, to see if there is space.
- Current docents are invited to come to any of these sessions to update their information.
- Experienced docents are encouraged to be mentors to new docents, inviting them to be your buddy or assistant at public or private tours when you are 'on duty.'

## 2007 Tours - Many Thanks to Amigos' Docents

The following Amigos docents gave their time and energy in all kinds of weather to lead more than 1,975 people of all ages on 47 private and 12 public tours of the Bolsa Chica during 2007. We hope even more docents will be able to help us during 2008. Please join us and watch the change of wildlife with the different seasons, watch the maturing of the restored area and help the community understand and appreciate our special environmental treasure.

1-3 tours or programs:

Julie Bixby, Maria Buhbe, Chuck Drescher, Dean Elder, Ray Evans, Craig Frampton, Terry Hill, Mary Ellen Houseal, Peter Knapp, Vic Leipzig, Valerie Nguyen, Patty Overley, Marlene Singer, Brian Westcott and Grace Winchell.

4-7 tours or programs:

Joyce Beardsley, Barbara Binaski, Nancy Kealer, Kevin McCarthy, Susan Mickelson, Betty Murphy, Jamie Pavlat, Heather Rivera, Phil Smith and Julia Tafel.

8-19 tours or programs:

Dave Carlberg, Margaret Carlberg, Ron Davis, Helen Higgins, Bob Johnson, Fran Pike, Jim Robins, Jennifer Robins, Barbara Sentovich, Barbara Stewart and Al Vari.

## Amigos' Outreach Programs

During the fall Amigos members have presented various programs in the community: Rotary Clubs, American Association of University Women, Leisure World, elementary school classes in Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and Paramount, and a geography class at Cal State Fullerton. We thank Dave Carlberg, Barbara Sentovich, Ron Davis, Julia Tafel, Jim Robins, Helen Higgins, and Margaret Carlberg for sharing their time and expert knowledge about the Bolsa Chica with the community.

A committee is reviewing, updating, and preparing new Powerpoint and DVD programs to provide alternatives to our slides. All of these provide good visual supplements to go with the experienced docents out into the community.

Shirley Dettloff is our new Programs Coordinator who receives requests for off-site presentations and schedules docents to take our equipment and appropriate displays to educate or entertain civic groups and schools in the area. If you are interested in helping with programs in any way—preparing audiovisual materials, speaking to groups, or just going to assist a speaker, please contact the Amigos office at (714) 840-1575 and your information will be forwarded to Shirley. And if you know a club or class looking for a thorough and accurate presentation about Bolsa Chica, please call the office to arrange a program.

## Docent of the Year - Helen Higgins

Helen Higgins has been a docent with Amigos de Bolsa Chica for the past decade. She has volunteered for the Saturday tours, weekday tours and presentations at schools and civic groups. History is Helen's favorite station, but she is always willing and able to fill any other station at the Saturday tours. She participated in 19 tours in 2007, amounting to well over 40 hours of volunteer service. Her enthusiasm and knowledge is infectious and we always look forward to working with her at the tours.

Helen has taught the History section for the docent Class for several years. She also volunteered as the leader of the Food Distribution for the numerous Amigos' Running is for Birds 5K/10K races. This required her to arrive before dawn on those Saturday mornings to train new volunteers on-the-job to cut apples, bananas and oranges, and have all the donated food arranged and ready by the time the runners completed their race.

Helen's dedication to Bolsa Chica is especially remarkable since she lives in Fullerton, but happily commutes to volunteer with Amigos. She works part time, cares for her elderly mother, and, with the help of her husband Mike, is currently converting her yard to all native coastal California plants. In addition to being a dedicated volunteer at the wetlands for Amigos, Helen is also a very active volunteer with the Friends of Coyote Hills as well as a board member of Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks. Many thanks to Helen for her strong volunteer spirit!



*Helen Higgins, left, receives a plaque from Margaret Carlberg at the Christmas docent party*

## Amigos Board Member Profile: Mel Nutter

by Shirley Dettloff

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica is fortunate to have Mel Nutter, Attorney, serving on the Board of Directors. The Amigos first met Mel in the 1980's when the Bolsa Chica Wetlands came before the State Coastal Commission. From that time forward we have admired the work that Mel has done, whether in a state position or as a member of the many boards he serves on. Here is a quote from the Press Telegram newspaper which describes this very well. "For over four decades, the Long Beach attorney has used state conservation laws to defend the California coast against developers' efforts to pave over it for big profits". I think that this describes a life time devotion to protecting the coast of California.

In the 1980's the Amigos came before the State Coastal Commission to try to save the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. We did not know Mel at that time, but remember him as a thoughtful, well spoken member of the commission, a person who would be very instrumental in making important decisions related to the Bolsa Chica.

Mel was appointed to the state Coastal Commission in 1980 and in 1981 became the Vice-Chairman. He assumed the chair in 1982. The battle to save the Bolsa Chica took three decades to reach a final decision, and Mel was in a leadership role when the issue first came before the commission. Even after he left the commission in 1985, he continued to be someone we could turn to for expert advice. Before his appointment to the State Coastal Commission, Mel served on the South Coast Regional Commission from 1977-1981 which represented Los Angeles and Orange County.

Mel has always been active with environmental organizations. He was a member of the State Coastal Conservancy from 1982-1985 while serving on the Coastal Commission. He was on the City of Long Beach Citizens Advisory Environmental Committee from 1973-1977. He was Chair for the Angeles Chapter of the (*continued next page*)

(Mel Nutter, continued from previous page) Sierra Club from 1974-1976. If that was not enough to fill a busy schedule, he also chaired the League for Coastal Protection, the California Environmental Law Project as Vice-Chair, was a board member of Vote the Coast, and a member of the board and Chair of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, and a board member of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

WOW, and when did he have time to practice law? Mel attended Pomona College where he received his B.A. in 1961. He received his J.D. in 1964 from the University of California at Berkeley and was admitted to the bar in 1965. His passion for the environment and the work he does on behalf of coastal protection is balanced with a successful law practice and family. He is married to a wonderful woman, Peggy and has two grown children.

Now that you know something about this man, you know why the Amigos are grateful that Mel finds time to serve on our Board of Directors. He currently chairs the Legal Committee and his advice is invaluable to our decision making process. This is just a brief description of a valuable board member and one that has made a real difference in the success of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

## Amigos' New Office Coordinator

We are very pleased to announce that Laura Holdenwhite started working in the part time position of Amigos Office Coordinator on November 12. The Amigos phone and computer with its busy e-mail activity are now at her home. (The Amigos office on Bolsa Chica Street was closed the end of May.) She is already demonstrating her extensive computer skills with updating the Access database and creating useful lists for various needs of board members, writing letters, improving publicity for Amigos, and handling requests from the public for tours and presentations.



Laura Holdenwhite, right, with Jennifer Robins, Amigos' Vice President.

Laura has a degree in Electronics Engineering Technology, and she retired last winter after more than 27 years working as an engineer with Pacific Telephone and its four successors (lastly AT&T). She is now broadening her skills and interests by taking classes at Golden West College which include Renewable Energy Technology, Spanish and Economics.

Laura has enjoyed walking in the Bolsa Chica for at least 15 years, and lives with her husband Jim and son Wesley half a mile from the Bolsa Chica wetlands. Her hobbies are hiking, camping, and tending her vegetable garden. Welcome, Laura!

## Warner Walk Bridge Update

The design plans for the pedestrian walk bridge over the Warner Channel are finished and adequate moneys have been raised through grants and from members of the community. The permitting process is under way, and construction should be started in the spring and finished by early summer.

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust, assisted by members of Amigos de Bolsa Chica, raised more than \$75,000 in a few short weeks. The Board of Amigos de Bolsa Chica wishes to thank the following people for their donations to our late summer appeal for the Warner Walk Bridge construction project:

Eunice Adler, Thomas and Mary Barry, Maxine Buckminster, Dave and Margaret Carlberg, Barbara Delgleize, Wanda Errico, Mary Ellen Houseal, Patricia Jones, James Karis, Robert McMahon, Jeanette Mueller, Florence Purdy, S. and C. Roth, Barbara Stewart, Lois and Willard Tolles, Judith Tolles, R. B. Wilson and June Wood.

## 5 Easy Ways to Donate to Amigos de Bolsa Chica



**Ralphs** donates 5% on all purchases scanned with your club card! **Ralphs requires that all supporters renew their contribution commitment every year. If you were registered in 2007, please make sure you have re-registered for 2008.** For those who already have the Ralphs Club Card, please go to

[www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm](http://www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm). Select the participant option and enter our NPO 82972, your club card number (located on the back of your card that begins with the number 2) and contact information. More than one club card per family can be registered, so be sure to register all cards! You can also just use our phone number: 714-840-1575. Retail establishments use club cards to gather information about what people buy. By using our phone number one can protect their privacy and Amigos gets a 5% donation from Ralph's.



For those who regularly shop at **Albertson's** and/or Sav-On whom already have the Preferred Savings Card, please go to [www.albertsons.com/cp/](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. If you have any difficulty with your registration, please contact Laura at the office (714) 840-1575. You do not need to be an Amigos member to sign up for any of our donation programs, so please encourage your friends and family to

register as well. You can also use our phone number 714-840-1575.



Thanks to those of you using the **eScrip** donation program. Our group ID is 500000659. The beauty about this donation program is that over 150 merchants are registered through this program, including Vons, Macy's and many online sites. To register, please go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). On the upper link bar, click on members/

supporters, then click on Sign Up. From there, you will enter the group ID 500000659 to begin your registration process.



Our newest partner is **Giveline**. Go to [www.giveline.com](http://www.giveline.com), type in Amigos de Bolsa Chica, select the Environmental Conservation, California and 92647 categories, and start shopping for a wide variety of household items, entertainment and much more!

It really is that simple. All purchases that total over \$50 will qualify as an entry to win a \$500 Giveline gift card and a \$2,500 donation to your selected cause - Amigos de Bolsa Chica! There is no limit to the number of entries.

And for the final solicitation consider a **donation of stock**. When planning your charitable giving remember that you get to take a tax deduction for the entire value of your donated stock, no broker's fees are involved.

## End of Year Donation Thank You's

The Amigos Board of Directors wishes to thank the following donors and the many anonymous donors as well for their generous end-of-the-year contributions to our education programs (as of our December deadline):

Scott and Marcia Atkinson, Charlene and Ralph Bauer, Cynthia Benton, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, William Escovitz, M.D., Gerald Finley, Tom and Linda Hermstad, Robert and Barbara Knox, Tom and Diane Livengood, June Magilnick, Dennis Mangers, Frank and Stacy Mignano, Lawrence and Aileen Parmeter, Jamie Pavlat, Rainbow Disposal, Richard and Janed Sax, William and Vivian Shanney, Raymond Sherrard, Elizabeth Singer, Don Wallace and Grace and Bob Winchell.

## Membership

In the 6 weeks since the mid October e-mail and telephone membership renewal reminders, we are very pleased with the positive response from more than 53 people. We especially appreciate those who renew or join at a level above the basic individual or family dues.

We suggest that you encourage your friends and neighbors to become members. You might even give a gift membership to a friend or family member who lives outside the area so they can keep current with your local Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve activities.

Many thanks to Jamie Pavlat, Jennifer Robins, Margaret Carlberg, Mary Ellen Houseal, Al Vari, Terry Hill, Joyce Beardsley, Heather Rivera, Julia Tafel, and Laura Holdenwhite for their help with this membership drive.

## President's Tern

by Dave Carlberg

One of the major messages we have been sending out to our members during 2007 (it was the theme of our Wetland Conference) was "The work is not finished!" This was in spite of the fact 97 percent of the Bolsa Chica wetlands/lowlands have been preserved and Phase I of the restoration is essentially complete. Well, a great example of the need to stay vigilant just came up this last November. That was the discovery that a glass wall installed by the developers of the upper Bolsa Mesa tract was apparently causing the demise of a number of birds. Birds colliding with glass windows and walls has been estimated to be responsible for killing as many as a billion birds a year in the U. S. alone, making it probably the number one destroyer of birds.

It is absolutely amazing that apparently no one in the vetting process for the mesa development caught this, or at least didn't mention it. Raising a six foot glass wall that circles 4400 feet around the development, separating the tract from a major wildlife habitat should have inspired a question or two. That's like putting a railroad track down the middle of a playground. No one will admit how many birds have crashed into the wall at Bolsa Chica since it was installed earlier in the year. Our first knowledge of the hazard came to light when biology professor Connie Boardman found about a half-dozen crumpled bodies while walking the public trail that runs along the front of the wall.

It's widely known that birds, especially raptors, have enormously acute vision, probably the best in the animal kingdom. Then why do we lose so many birds from collisions with windows and glass walls? The answer is clear. Even we supposedly super-intelligent humans occasionally leave greasy imprints of our faces on sliding glass doors. Fortunately such encounters are rarely fatal, but it's been estimated that a least 50 percent of bird/glass collisions are fatal. Let's hope a permanent solution to this can be implemented quickly so we don't lose a good deal of our wildlife for which we have spent decades fighting to preserve its rightful home.

I can't say enough about my pride and appreciation for our Amigos docents. They have answered the call to serve not only at our regular Saturday tours but also the many private tours and programs that we conduct. Special praise goes to Helen Higgins, chosen 2007 Docent of the Year. One of the major goals that the Amigos has pursued for its 31 years of existence has been public education, and nothing fulfills that goal better than our cadre of excellent docents. You are the best! Thank you.

Speaking of docents, I can't overlook the docent training team, who certainly deserve heaps of recognition for the role they play in the high quality of our docents. The docent instructors for 2008 are Barbara Stewart, Barbara Sentovich, Helen Higgins and Dr. Vic Leipzig.

I would like to express my own personal welcome to our new Office Coordinator, Laura Holdenwhite. Please see the terrific article about Laura elsewhere in this issue. Finally, here's wishing you and your family a healthy and fulfilling 2008.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.*