

**Amigos de
Bolsa Chica**

The Tern Tide
Since 1976

Photo by Ross Griswold



**Winter 2012
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2011 Successful Year for Tours, Thanks to Amigos Docents

By Margaret Carlberg and Laura Holdenwhite

In 2011 Amigos gave 66 tours or presentations to almost 2,500 visitors by 49 active docents. This was a 30% increase of tours and visitors from 2010, but a small decrease in the number of docents leading the tours or giving programs. There were 10 booth events or off-site presentations including: LA Arboretum, Dana Point Festival, HB Green Expo, Bolsa Chica Earth Day, Golden West College Earth Day, Shipley Spring Fling, Orange County Fair, Coastal Cleanup and Golden West College Science Night. Tours for Scout groups are also increasing, but school tours have decreased, mainly because of the cost of buses. We continue to pursue grants to fund some bus transportation for schools. In 2010 we spent \$1,286 to provide bus transportation for 4 schools. The usual cost is between \$200 and \$500, depending on whether the districts own their own buses. Members are welcome to contribute to this fund or sponsor a class. Please contact Laura at info@amigosdebolsachica.org if you want to make a donation or know of a worthy class. Please consider arranging a tour or speaker for a group you belong to.

The following docents were active this past year with tours, Earth Day Events, Coastal Cleanup and offsite programs:

1-3 events: Dave Carlberg, Shirley Dettloff, Lori Donohue, Ross Griswold, Bob Harrison, Terry Hill, Mary Ellen Houseal, Vic Leipzig, Alina Lee, Tom Livengood, Kevin McCarthy, David Myers, Nick Nguyen, Patty Overley, Barbara Sentovich, Julia Tafel, Don Thomas.

4-7 events: Jim Aldridge, Barbara Binaski, Maria Buhbe, David Casey, Ron Davis, Chuck Drescher, John Hayes, Susan Mickelson, Betty Murphy, Susie Pendleton, Fran Pike, Stephanie Rubio, Phil Smith, Dave and Gail Vize.

8-14 events: Sanford Adelman, Patti Cacho-Negrete, Margaret Carlberg, Susan Hardgrave, Bob Johnson, Greg Leo, Jamie Pavlat, Mick Siroy, Barbara Stewart, Elissa Warantz, Laura Yu.

15-23 events: Jerry Donohue, Dean Elder, Jennifer Robins, Jim Robins, Donna Starr, Ed Zschoche.

Al Vari is in a class by himself with 47 tours—being the official Amigos Greeter for private tours. He meets and welcomes docents and each school or troop, helps arrange student groups, gives the teacher the Bird and Trail Lanyards for the students with some extra literature and helps resolve problems.

It is also noteworthy that the 9 newest docents, the 2010 class, participated in 6 to 17 events with a combined total of 59 events! Congratulations!

The Amigos Education program is recognized for its strength because of the dedication and friendliness of our Amigos docents. Thank you one and all.

First “It’s All Connected” Activities Unveiled

By Tom Andersen

On Friday, December 2, 15 docents and interested members met at the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy where Joana Tavares-Reager, Amigos de Bolsa Chica Curriculum Developer, unveiled the lessons and activities she has designed for the 6th grade.

These new activities will be offered in addition to our existing tours to teachers who want their students to participate in a program that offers a more complete fulfillment of State curriculum standards. This new program, which demonstrates the connection between the ocean and wetlands, will utilize both the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center. An interested class will rotate students between stations with activities at the wetland and stations with activities at the beach. There will be 6 stations with 3 activities for the wetlands and 3 activities for the State Beach Visitor Center. This is flexible and can be modified to fit the class’ schedules and availability of docents.

While this is subject to change, the planned stations for the beach: “Where does all the sand come from?” explains the concept of watersheds, weathering, erosion, sedimentation and coastal transport; “Who moved my sand?” shows how wave action shapes the coastline; and “Heat, wind and convection currents” reveals how the heat from the land and the coolness of the water creates the breezes at Bolsa Chica.



Jim Robins and Donna Starr note the time it takes for silt to settle in water.

Photo by Tom Anderson



Joana uses string to demonstrate a food web.

Photo by Tom Anderson

Likely stations for the wetlands: “Topography, Earthquakes and Landslides” displays how the shape of the land creates habitats and affects living organisms; “Food webs and the flow of energy” entertainingly demonstrates the complexity of a food web with string; and “Settle down, sand samples!” demonstrates why different sizes and kinds of soil particles behave in different ways, some creating sandy beaches and some forming wetland soils.

Unless students take an elective earth science class in high school, 6th grade is the last time students will be exposed to topics such as these (unless of course they continue with the subject in college). So Joana created simple yet extremely clever activities that teach important lessons on basic concepts that might actually stick in kids’ imaginations. They are designed to be fun for docents to demonstrate and fun for students to participate in. Students will walk away with a good understanding of concepts like watersheds and how everything ends up in the ocean, wave action, erosion, wind and food webs. Most importantly, in just a few hours they will see how the land, the ocean, the birds, animals, plants and people are all connected.

As this was the first run-through of the activities, there was discussion and suggestions on how best to get the thrust of lessons across to the students. Now that this format has been settled upon, Joana will apply it to lessons and activities appropriate to the 7th, 8th and 9th grade State Curriculum Standards. These plans will also be reviewed by the State Parks interpretive programs personnel. Amigos will begin training docents after the New Year. Also being developed: an offsite presentation of “It’s All Connected” that can be given at schools before the students come to Bolsa Chica to give them a short and entertaining introduction to a place many of them have never been. This program was funded by grants from PIMCO and Ralphs.

Opportunities for Service with Amigos

Every month Amigos coordinates 2 service projects and we invite others to join us.

Second Sunday of the Month Planting at the Bolsa Chica State Beach

From 9:00-11:00 am a few Amigos members work with Bolsa Chica State Beach helping improve the native plant landscaping at the Visitor Center. Weeding is always needed, some minor trimming and in the fall and early winter, some planting. Wear warm clothes, and closed-toe shoes. Basic tools are provided but bring your own gloves.

State Beach Environmental Scientist David Pryor frequently helps. Late last summer 2 Girl Scouts and their mothers joined the work force. They are planning a project with David Pryor to increase sand dune plants in a large 'loafing' area south of the visitor center where snowy plovers and other shore birds congregate.



*Harvesting seed to scatter nearby: Kristen Curtiss, Ross Griswold, Jerry Donohue, Mick Siroy, David Pryor
Photo by Ross Griswold*

Last Saturday of the Month Trash Cleanup and Bird Walk

From 9:00-11:00 am on the Last Saturday of the month Margaret Carlberg and Jim Robins oversee cleaning up trash around the parking lot and on the trail along Pacific Coast Highway. Tools are provided.

The added bonus to the Last Saturday of the Month Trash Cleanup is the Bird Talk and Nature Walk led by Amigos docent and birder Greg Leo. The Bolsa Chica provides feeding and nesting habitat for thousands of birds and is considered one of the prime birding sites in Southern California. The variety of bird species changes throughout the year as they migrate during each season. The walk also begins at 9:00 am in the south parking lot.

Coastal Cleanup Recap

By Laura Holdewhite

For the second year I had the privilege of being the Chair of the California Coastal Cleanup. This year we had about half of the usual numbers of volunteers, only about 40. The Amigos who volunteered were Jennifer and Jim Robins, Gail and Dave Vize, Dean Elder, Al Vari, Susie Pendleton, Jerry Donohue and Mick Siroy. The most frequently picked up items were cigarette butts, caps or lids, plastic bags, food wrappers, cups and straws.



Photo by Ross Griswold

Welcome New and Renewing Members

We thank the many members who have recently renewed their membership, including some at the Life Member level. We welcome the following new members who have joined recently: Craig Ciandilla, Larry Gottlieb, Diane Kopit, Karen and Mark McReynolds, Nancy Phillips, Jim Staunton, Bobbie and Jim Tilmant and Cliff McGee.

President's Tern – It's Been Great

By Jennifer Robins

My two year term as President of Amigos comes to an end in January, 2012. It's been a very interesting two years with a variety of activities and meetings that taught me some very valuable lessons.

There are a lot of people with ideas about the future of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and sometimes the ideas are met with different opinions. The challenge is to work with everyone by listening and realizing that sometimes compromises must be made. The important thing to remember is that a viable and productive Bolsa Chica is what is most important. The complete restoration of the wetlands with as much open space around the wetlands as is possible are the goals, and Amigos are merely players in the path toward those goals. As individuals we may have our own visions, but the community must come together for what's best for the Bolsa Chica and its inhabitants, not what is best for our personal legacies.

The plants, birds, fish and ecological whole is the force that must be maintained for future generations to observe, to study, take pictures, walk the trails and be a part of as observers of this treasure in the middle of urban civilization.

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the Department of Fish and Game and the State Lands Commission must work together and respect the part each has accomplished to be able to enjoy the land as we do.

The visitors who come to the reserve every day are thankful for the contributions of all of the groups' part in saving the wetlands and only wish for its continued preservation and protection. They care less about the behind the scenes interactions and more about seeing the wetlands remain an open space that will be enjoyed in an environmental atmosphere.

Future challenges and projects for 2012 and beyond deal with a permanent Interpretive Center, a plan for restoration of the lower mesa and saving property being planned for development in surrounding areas of the wetlands. Amigos will continue to act with thoughts of the best for the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and future generations. I hope all who read this continue to help Amigos de Bolsa Chica with this tradition.

Orange County Docent League Fall Event

By Betty Murphy

The Fullerton Arboretum Pavilion was the site of the fall meeting of the Orange County Docent League on October 3. The OCDL includes organizations representing the arts, sciences, history and naturalist groups within Orange County and neighboring counties. As one of 28 member organizations in the league, Amigos de Bolsa Chica was represented by six of our members including Barbara Binaski, Alma Bowman, Margaret Carlberg, Laura Holdenwhite, Betty Murphy and Jennifer Robins.

The guest speaker was Becki Hartke, B.F.A., Exhibition Designer for the Fullerton Arboretum who shared her expertise in determining how themes are decided upon at an exhibition and how those themes are developed. Ms. Hartke also highlighted the role of docents in the process of execution of themes for specific exhibits.

Director of the Fullerton Arboretum, Greg Dymant, introduced us to members of the Victorian Society Dancers and Dressers who entertained us all with a showing of Victorian era fashion as well as music and dance from the period. We all participated in some lively dances and enjoyed the spirited atmosphere!

After lunch, we joined the nature guides for a tour of the extensive grounds surrounding the Arboretum. Later, we were led by several docents on a historical tour of the Heritage House, the home of Fullerton's pioneer physician, Dr. George C. Clark, and now a museum of family life and medical practice of the 1890's.

Orange County Docent League events held in Spring and Fall provide opportunities to gain knowledge, foster cooperation among local venues and energize docents through sharing of experiences.

Book review: A New Book on California's Gun Clubs: "They Came to Shoot"

By Dave Carlberg

A book has just been published by the California Waterfowl Association entitled *They Came to Shoot - A History of California Duck Clubs & Wetland Conservation* by Frank Hall. Exhaustively researched, the 500+ page book examines over 3000 of the many duck hunting clubs that dotted the California landscape beginning early in the nineteenth century. California's position along the Pacific Flyway made it a paradise for duck hunters, Bolsa Chica being one of the numerous examples Hall covers. The author devotes nearly an entire page to the Bolsa Chica Gun Club, including one of the Amigos' turn-of-the-20th-century photographs of Inner Bolsa Bay and the club's boathouses for which the author gives Amigos credit. At one time there were 65 duck clubs in Orange County alone, the last one (at the San Joaquin marsh) closed its doors in 1988. (The Sea and Sage Audubon Society now occupies some of its buildings for its headquarters.) The author also comments briefly on

how tens of thousands of acres of the state's wetlands were converted into residential and harbor developments, often significantly raising the wealth of the club members who owned the wetlands. In a few instances duck clubs were responsible for saving wetlands from development long before anyone heard of the California Coastal Act. The book, richly illustrated with old time photographs and maps, is a remarkable achievement. It is available only through the California Waterfowl Association, <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=WECA10E>

Regardless of one's feelings about hunting, one must acknowledge that California's duck hunting clubs occupied an important and fascinating place in the state's environmental, social, economic and cultural history.

Now retired, author Frank Hall served nearly four decades with the California Department of Fish and Game, during most of which he held the position of wildlife biologist. The book began as a personal challenge. With a deep interest in California history, especially its wetlands, and a hunter, Hall wondered how much information existed about the state's many duck hunting clubs and how much was available. The answers are in this extraordinary book.

Docent Training Begins in January—Come Join an Elite Group of Amigos

Beginning January 11, 2012 a 6-week docent training program will be held from 7:00-9:00 pm Wednesday nights at a new location: the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy facility, 21900 Pacific Coast Highway at Newland St. This training will also include 2 weekend field trips at Bolsa Chica.

The topics and presenters will be: 1/11 Introduction and Bolsa Chica History with Helen Higgins; 1/18 Ecology and Natural History with Vic Leipzig; 1/25 Birds and Endangered

Species with Barbara Sentovich; 2/1 Restoration and Recent History with Dave Carlberg; 2/8 Native American Indians with Louann Murray and Fish and Marine Invertebrates with Kelly O'Reilly; and 2/15 Review, Docent Tours and Tips and Social with Jennifer Robins and Margaret Carlberg. Patty Overlay will be the facilitator this year. The \$50 class materials fee includes a docent training manual and CD filled with a wealth of background information, a pictorial binder to use during tours and a docent badge and other reference materials.

Current docents are invited to attend any sessions (no fee) to refresh their information, but please notify Laura at: info@amigosdebolsachica.org so enough chairs are available. To register for the program, or for more information, contact the Amigos office at 714-840-1575.



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Docent Lifetime Achievement Award

By Jennifer Robins

The Community Education committee presented Margaret Carlberg with a first time award of Docent Lifetime Achievement Award at the Docent Holiday Party in December, 2011. Anyone who has worked with Margaret on a committee, on a tour, at a booth event or any other event sponsored by Amigos de Bolsa Chica knows she is a very special person. She is tireless in her devotion to the Amigos.

Margaret was one of the founding members instrumental in starting Amigos in 1976. She was a member of the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women and the president of the Huntington Beach Environmental Council. The members of these organizations became aware of the development plans back in 1970-71 for the Bolsa Chica, where Signal was planning major residential and marina development. Members from these organizations were interested in forming a group that could keep a special eye on that situation. Margaret was active with the tours that the coalition of groups started. This group eventually became the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. She was active with creating public awareness of the importance of wetlands and particularly the Bolsa Chica. There were many fund-raising events in which she participated. These events got the word out to the community to raise funds for education and outreach. This was necessary to keep the



Photo by Dave Carlberg

public interested in preserving this important ecological reserve and fund the litigation that was required to make the Amigos dream a reality. Margaret was a Chemistry Teacher at Cornelia Connelly School in Anaheim and is currently their Gardens Beautification Coordinator. She is active with the American Chemical Society as well as all her work and time with Amigos and at home in her gardens.

We are very fortunate to have a person such as Margaret Carlberg, as well as her husband Dave, as members of Amigos de Bolsa Chica. With their continued dedication and support Amigos continues to grow and be an important influence in Huntington Beach.

Docent of The Year 2011

By Jennifer Robins

Donna Starr was recognized as the Alma Bowman Docent of the Year for 2011 at the Holiday Party on December 14, 2011 at the Carlberg's home. She started as a docent-in-training in 2010 and became active with the Community Education committee before starting the docent classes. Not being shy about volunteering she took on the task of advertising for the paid position of Curriculum Developer for Amigos. Donna with Jerry Donohue and Margaret Carlberg interviewed the candidates and chose Joana Tavares-Reager for the position. Donna continued as an advisor with Joana to introduce her to Amigos, Trude Hurd of Sea and Sage Audubon, and the Bolsa Chica Wetland. Donna continues helping Joanna with programs to familiarize her with Amigos members and activities and with the workshops for docents demonstrating "It's All Connected" activities for 6th grade students to be used at the State Beach Visitor Center and the wetlands.

Donna had lived in Huntington Beach in the early years of the movement to save the wetlands but moved away before returning a few years ago. As soon as she moved back her love of the Bolsa Chica returned and she contacted Amigos de Bolsa Chica about becoming a member and docent. Donna completed the docent class last February and has been active with private and public tours throughout the year as well

as helping at booth events. She brings her own personal enthusiasm to the tours by making up games to play with the students. Donna wrote the words to the song "This Wetland's Your Land" to the tune of "This Land is Your Land" which was premiered and sung at the Annual Picnic celebration in July.

Her next focus is enlivening the Membership Committee to encourage visitors, people and businesses in the community to become members of Amigos because of their own personal love of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.



Photo by Dave Carlberg

Alma Bowman Memorial

By Jennifer Robins

Alma Bowman, a member of Amigos de Bolsa Chica since 1993, passed away the morning of October 4th, 2011. Alma was born in Gallup, New Mexico and her family moved to Riverside, California in 1938. Alma attended the University of California, Berkeley where she earned a degree in Social Services and met her husband of 58 years Gene Bowman.

Alma dedicated her life of service as a social worker for 20 years for County of Los Angeles and 7 years for the State of California. She continued her service in volunteer work for the Los Angeles Zoo, the Cetacean Society, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Seal Beach Leisure World Library, the Orange County Docent League, the Bolsa Chica Foundation and Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

Alma served on the Board of Directors of the Bolsa Chica Foundation for 6 years and then became the Secretary of that board in 2003. After the BCF and ABC were merged into Amigos de Bolsa Chica,

Alma continued on the board of ABC and became Secretary in November of 2007.

Alma was an Organizer of Docent Led Private tours where she coordinated the scheduling of docents and those requesting tours. Alma has been a strong contributor to the Community Education Committee and volunteer for booth events such as Earth Day and the Five Points Plaza Fundraiser. Her most recent idea for the California State Beach Visitor Center is a magnetic mural, "Ocean to the Wetland", which will be a highlight of the new display areas when we expand our education programs.

Alma will be missed by all those who had a chance to work with her and enjoy her dedication and enthusiasm while participating in her many volunteer activities.

Thank you to those who have made memorial donations for Alma. If others wish to make a donation in appreciation of Alma's 18 years with active service to Amigos, that will be used for Docent training materials, please send your check to: Amigos de Bolsa Chica, PO Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

Flint Morrison Passes Away

We are deeply saddened to report that Flint Morrison died on October 30th in Prescott, Arizona after a long illness. Long-time residents of Huntington Beach will well remember Flint Morrison's face and voice. Flint was the host on a number of interview shows on the HBTv3 cable station and KOCE. He officiated at numerous city events, was commentator at HB's 4th of July parade and the narrator for some of the Amigos' videos. Flint was active in many local activities including the Ocean View School Board and the Amigos Board of Directors. Flint's wife Adrienne



was executive director of the Amigos from 1985 to 1997. Amigos de Bolsa Chica sends its condolences to the Morrison family.



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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.

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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