

Photo by Ross Griswold



Winter 2015  
Volume 38 Issue 4

**First Saturday  
of the Month Tour:**

**Free tours on the  
first Saturday of  
each month from  
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**Last Saturday  
of the Month Tour:**

**FREE bird talk and  
nature walk at the  
Bolsa Chica  
Ecological Reserve.  
Led by Amigos docents.  
9:00 am.**

**Carpooling is encouraged as  
parking at the Bolsa Chica  
Ecological Reserve is limited.**

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## Program Manager Report

By Terri Bidle

Happy New Year! Wow, and it looks like this will be a very “wet” one in the wetlands this year! One of my favorite things to do is walk in the wetlands in the rain with my warm waterproof boots and big umbrella. There is something magical about raindrops splashing all around you! As the new program manager, I have been very busy scheduling lots of school visits for the upcoming year. With our generous grant from Southern California Edison we are able to bring lots of students to the wetlands. Our FLOW program, Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands, has been very popular and successful with both the students and teachers. Did you know plankton is amazingly beautiful and a very important part of our Bolsa Chica Wetlands? The FLOW program allows students to identify phytoplankton and zooplankton through a microscope and realize their interconnectedness to all living things. Additionally, we are designing a hands-on activity called “The Plankton Races” where the student’s custom-designed plankton creature (using adaptations such as spines, oil and air) races in the photic zone. And the slowest plankton wins!

Our calendar is filling up with Tours in 2015 and our Docents and Citizen Scientists are going to be very busy this year! My favorite part of being the program manager is working with the students. They are so inquisitive and appreciative of this field-trip opportunity. Here are some quotes from our last FLOW tour group:

- “I enjoyed looking at different plankton in the microscope and measuring water in the wetlands. I like that we worked in teams and gained knowledge of plankton.”
- “I enjoyed collecting; it was interesting to see how much information one may gather so quickly.”
- “I enjoyed walking to the Bolsa Chica reserve and the experiments with pH, nitrates, ammonia, and phosphate. I enjoyed all parts of the visit.”
- “I enjoyed looking under the microscope and walking in the wetlands. We saw different types of bird and how birds are able to feed.”

Please let everyone you know that Amigos de Bolsa Chica Docent Training Program is coming up in January. I guarantee this class is not only educational but also fun! If you are already a docent, and would like to learn more about participating in the FLOW program (which includes a wetland tour, plankton sampling, microscopic observations and chemical analysis) please give me a call at 805.674.6787. I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year – keep warm and dry and have fun!

# 2014 Pumpkin Project Success

By Dawn Pope

Remarkable generosity and creativity from our volunteers defined this year's Pumpkin Project. Our 26 scheduled workshops were attended by smiling dedicated volunteers who often arrived with buckets full of donated plant cuttings, pods, berries and sea shells. The cuttings came from our volunteer's gardens, neighbor's gardens and in one case member's gardens from a whole garden club. This year's pumpkins were from Fallbrook and Camarillo pumpkin farms which gave us a wonderful collection of colors and sizes. This incredible variety of materials allowed us to create our most original and healthiest pumpkin decorations ever. We sold well over 500 pumpkins and centerpieces, logged close to 600 volunteer hours and grossed nearly \$9000. Just amazing!

Our September Pumpkin Camp highlighted our plan of going to the Huntington Harbor Philharmonic Boutique as well as continuing our regular sales of pumpkins through November. I would like to thank the following volunteers for their hard work on a job well done: Mary Cason, Connie Smith, Sue Pollack, Susanna Newton-Nolan, Jeanne Hayward, Lorraine Barksdale, Jane Lazarz, Margaret and Dave Carlberg, Jennifer Robins, Maria Bubhe, Betty Murphy, Barbara Binaski, Patti Cacho-Negrete, Brian Westcott, Laura Holdenwhite, Barbara Yu, Tim Reyes, Lori Donohue, Shirley Dettloff, Dorothy Rutter, Kay Goddard and Carole Weniger.

A very special thank you to Amigos supporters and top



*Designer  
extraordinaire  
Connie Smith at HHP  
Boutique October 14*



*2014 Pumpkinettes,  
standing L to R:  
Susanna Newton-Nolan,  
Suzie Pollack.  
Seated: Lorraine Barksdale*



*Photos by  
Dawn Pope*

*The official  
greeter  
and  
original  
Pumpkinette  
Zazu Pope,  
2003-2014*

sellers Beth Perez (Irvine's Woodbridge High School faculty), Connie Mandic and Jennifer Robins for their outstanding efforts getting orders from family, friends and co-workers! We must also recognize the following organizations whose members purchased so many of our pumpkins and centerpieces to help make this year's project such a success: Huntington Harbor Philharmonic, Chamber of Commerce of Huntington Beach and the Garden Gate Garden Club of Long Beach. To celebrate our successful season, volunteers gathered together one last time for our Pumpkin Wrap-Up Party on December 11.

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## Thank You Amigos Volunteers!

By Jennifer Robins

Amigos volunteers are special people that make the organization function by being there when asked to help at a variety of occasions. After a six week training class, docent volunteers take elementary, secondary and college students, girl and boy scouts, YMCA groups and a variety of organizations on public and private tours. The totals for 2014 are 59 private tours, 2,780 visitors, of those, 1,890 were students including 7 Scout Tours. There were 34 public tours and booth events with 404 visitors on tours. Amigos volunteers spent over 2,000 hours of their time giving tours, participating at booth events at the Deane Dana Friendship Park Spring Event, Dana Point Ocean Awareness Day, Huntington Beach's Green Expo and Earth Day at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. They also volunteered as Citizen Scientists in the FLOW (Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands) Program, teaching secondary and college students about the importance of the connection between the ocean and the wetlands by taking part in wetlands and ocean water scientific analysis. They taught students and adults about the importance to recycle plastics and learn about the differences in birds' beaks and their eating behaviors using educational materials. The Amigos Board of Directors wishes to thank all Amigos volunteers for their extraordinary efforts to care about the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and the Bolsa Chica State Beach and share their love of these resources with students and the general public.

# Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is now an App!

By Rachael Lloyd

Google has recently developed an app for smart phones using the GPS technology they have in place to operate their well known web-based Google maps. For this new application Google has created a concept which they call Google Field Trip. Google describes Field Trip as your guide to the cool, hidden and unique things in the world around you. It runs in the background on your phone and when you get close to something interesting Field Trip pops up a card with details about the location - no touches or taps required. If you're connected to a headset or bluetooth, Field Trip can even read everything to you without being prompted. The content for Field Trip is being produced by individuals who submit a location with its GPS coordinates, a written description and a photo for consideration to Google. If approved for inclusion in Field Trip, Google then places the information into a "card" format. Cards are a compact information system designed to be viewed on Cell phones.

The Field Trip application began to be used by businesses who wanted to promote themselves, by historical organizations to create public awareness of important buildings, and museums desiring to attract attention to their collections. Amigos docent and board member Terry Jorris realized that Google Field Trip could be used to draw attention to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. He contacted Google and submitted his idea and sample cards. After some weeks of negotiation and development on November 24 Terry received the following message from the staff at Google Field Trip. "Congratulations! Amigos de Bolsa Chica is now a live feed in Field Trip! Better yet, you are the first case of a habitat or park with naturalist information. We're glad to have you." And with that notice our organization became a visible presence in the world of apps! Currently Amigos de Bolsa Chica has 15 "Cards" live on Google Field Trip, headed for a total of approximately 50 cards.

Terry is leading the continuing effort to produce a wealth of information cards personally focusing on topics such as Maps, History and Ecology. He has recruited Amigos member (and ornithology major) Angelique Crest to create Bird Cards. Rachael Lloyd, Amigos plant enthusiast, is working with the interpretive staff at Bolsa Chica State Beach to create Plant Cards. Lana Nguyen, State Parks Environmental Scientist, will be reviewing the plant cards for accuracy before they are published.

Field Trip is available on the following mobile platforms: Android devices running Android OS version 2.3 (Gingerbread) and higher which you can Download from Google Play and iOS devices running iOS 6.0 or later which you can Download from Apple's App Store.

Amigos members or the general public who download the app from one of the 2 stores will be able to drive past Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and Field Trip will pop up one or more of our cards as various GPS hot spots are triggered. In addition, hikers in the Reserve will also see cards pop up as they move into an area where a specific bird species is typically seen or if they pass a featured plant specimen. Anyone who wishes to see the cards without being in or near the Reserve can go to the Field Trip App, Map, navigate to Bolsa Chica and click on the icons. Another viewing option would be to go to "Select Your Interests", we're under "Cool and Unique", and all of our current set of 15 Cards will be visible. The Amigos are justifiably proud of this innovative step forward into a new realm of public education and Terry Jorris for spearheading this unique contribution to our organizations' future.



# Native Plant Gardening with the Environmental Service Club

By Rachael Lloyd

Over the last 4 years Amigos de Bolsa Chica volunteers have lent a hand in the native plant garden surrounding the Bolsa Chica State Beach Headquarters. The Amigos have worked one day a month to remove invasive plants, windblown trash and periodically prune the vegetation. These monthly volunteer days were first overseen by Margaret Carlberg and later by Ross Griswold. Jerry Donohue, current president of the Amigos was involved during those years in a supporting role.

This past September Amigos de Bolsa Chica, now officially a State Parks Cooperating Association, launched a revamped state beach maintenance day. Jerry Donohue, retired public high school science instructor has now partnered with Rachael Lloyd, former floral designer and native plant enthusiast, in a more far reaching effort centered on the State Beach Headquarters garden. In conjunction with Lana Meade, State Parks Environmental Scientist, and Melanie Cox, State Parks Interpretive Specialist at Bolsa Chica State Beach, new goals and objectives were established for the whole garden area.

The new goals begin with first renewing, not just maintaining, the landscaping around the Bolsa Chica State Beach Headquarters building. Removing invasive plants and wind-blown trash will continue. Pruning the vegetation for attractiveness and removing dead wood are now top priorities. Secondly, seed will be gathered locally, primarily in Bolsa Chica State Beach from plants that are not currently represented in the headquarters garden and propagated there. Third, some of these seeds will also be distributed in the sand dunes at the beach in the hopes of increasing the biodiversity of the coastal strand and coastal sage scrub plant communities that define the ecosystem of Bolsa Chica State Beach.

The Amigos are being assisted by Lisa Kim, an Orange County mom who has assembled a group of teen volunteers looking to fulfill their community service hours for high school graduation through the support of local environmental efforts. The first meeting with the Community Environment Service Club, as the high school group is known, was held on Saturday, September 27 and consisted of an entertaining orientation to the combined Bolsa Chica beach and reserve areas.

The students were treated to a tour of the Bolsa Chica State Beach Headquarters and garden by Melanie Cox. The students were also able to go to the top of the lifeguard tower for a chance to view the State Beach from above. While in the lifeguard tower, Diego, the lifeguard on duty, provided information about his career at the beach, details about water safety and the functions of the lifeguard staff. Melanie also showed the group the whale artifacts



*Melanie Cox, Bolsa Chica State Beach interpretive specialist loves her job and frequently works with Amigos de Bolsa Chica in their education projects.*



*Chuck Drescher, long time Amigos volunteer and expert in ecology led the group on a tour across the footbridge into the reserve. The footbridge is a prime wildlife viewing area in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.*

– Continued from Page 4

in the headquarters exhibits and detailed safety practices pertaining to the round stingrays that swarm our Orange County beaches. Later, in the headquarters classroom Rachael Lloyd gave a PowerPoint lecture explaining the local ecology and interactions between the state beach and the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve directly across Pacific Coast Highway. Jerry Donohue along with Amigos de Bolsa Chica docent Chuck Drescher led the group in a tour across the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve footbridge and explained more about the local flora and fauna.

For the second meeting on Saturday, October 25, the Community Environment Service Club rolled up their sleeves and removed 3 pickup truck beds full of dead wood from the headquarters garden to make way for new native plant growth. Jim Cavello, supervisor of Bolsa Chica State Beach maintenance, provided the staff and truck to dispose of the dead vegetation. Once again Rachael Lloyd gave a slide show, this time with descriptions of the native plants the volunteers will be getting to know as they work in the garden and beach. Jerry Donohue provided support, structure and oversight in all the activities. Finally the group took on the task of gathering seed from area 12 at the state beach from a very vibrant stand of threatened Red Sand Verbena to save for later restoration efforts.

In addition to on-going garden and planting efforts at the State Beach, future meetings will involve participants in testing the water quality of 2 fresh water sources that feed into the salt marsh of the Bolsa Chica Reserve, and taking a bird tour of the reserve with Amigos bird expert Dave Beeninga. In general the Amigos activities occur on the 4th Saturday of each month and involve education in various aspects of the local ecology as well as hands on activities with restoration and the gathering of scientific data. All interested parties teenage to adult are welcome to attend any of these free events. Contact [amigosdebolsachica.org](http://amigosdebolsachica.org) for more information.



*Members of the Community Environmental Service Club first removed dead wood and then combed the vegetation searching for wind blown trash trapped in the native plant garden.*



*Bolsa Chica State Beach staff provided a vehicle to remove the dead vegetation to trash bins.*

## Thank You to Year End Supporters!

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica year-end fundraising has been heart-warming. Many of you have made donations to help us continue our mission of advocating the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Some of the contributors are Tom Andrusky, Daniel and Peggy Clark, Sue Gordon, Pat Hickey, Bob Hogan, Trude Hurd, Jeff Jacobs, Jim Karis, Tom and Dianne Livengood, Mark and Karen McReynolds, Kevin B. Powell, Dave and Sharon Telford. Also, Lois Tolles, an original volunteer who came forward to SAVE Bolsa Chica, contributed to our fundraising. We appreciate everyone who contributes financially as well as those volunteering their time and efforts to making our organization viable for educating the public about the importance of wetlands. THANK YOU!!!

## Docents of the Year – the President’s Tern

By Jerry Donohue

With the Winter 2015 issue of the Tern Tide, I am pleased to announce that Terry Jorris and Rachael Lloyd have been selected as Docents of the Year for 2014. Both have contributed mightily to various Amigos programs. Besides being a stalwart member of the FLOW team, Terry has recently developed a Google Field Trip app that allows smart phone users to get a guided tour through the wetlands. Rachael’s love of gardening is transforming the grounds around the Visitor Center at Bolsa Chica State Beach into a picturesque native garden. Through endless research, on her part, and the helping hands of the Community Service Environmental Club, dead shrubs and non-native plants are being replaced with native species. Thanks to Terry and Rachael for their service to our wetland and beach communities.

### Terry Jorris

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

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

Terry has three children: son Tim, a PhD Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force stationed at Edwards AFB, CA, son James, an Economist working in the local area, and

daughter Teresa, a Mechanical Engineer in Casper, WY.

### Rachael Lloyd

Rachael was born in Buffalo, New York and moved to Arizona when she was one year old, then entered first grade in El Monte California. She graduated from CSULB magna cum laude in 2001 after completing a double major in Illustration and Drawing and Painting. She also completed a Digital Arts certificate at Golden West College in 2004.

Rachael has worked as a restaurant manager, floral designer, and floral business manager. She became fascinated with the wedding business and had a home based business in cake design. She and her husband, David, were wedding photographers as well. She organized holiday boutiques and created a number of craft items to sell through them. Over the last 25 years she has taught classes at all levels in floral design, cake decorating, paper crafts, decorative painting for Michaels, Joann’s and Long Beach Parks and Recreation. Rachael has been married to her best friend David for 37 years. They are semi-retired, working as the managers of the apartment building where they live. David was a corporate controller and now works as a professional Santa Claus from late November through December.

Like most of the Amigos, Rachael has loved the natural world since childhood and cares deeply about the environment. Her floral design background gives her a special appreciation for plants and has primed her for breathing new life into Amigos’ gardening program at the State Beach Visitor Center (see article on pages 4 and 5). Rachael loves the Amigos; they are not only friends of the environment, they have become her friends as well. She hopes to meet many more Amigos in the New Year!

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## Red Table Restaurant Fundraiser & Social January 19

Amigos de Bolsa Chica has restaurant events not only to raise funds, but also as a way for like-minded people to socialize and get to know each other better.

Please join us Monday, January 19, anytime between 11:30 – 9:00 for lunch or dinner at the Red Table Restaurant. Red Table is an excellent restaurant with

a fresh take on comfort food amid a warm & eclectic setting. Proceeds from the day will benefit Amigos’ efforts to educate people about the importance of wetlands. Red Table is located at Huntington Harbor Mall Shopping Center, 16821 Algonquin St, Huntington Beach. You can call ahead for reservations at (714) 846-4700.

## 2014 Elections

By Shirley Dettloff

The elections are now over and many changes have been made. California retained its current leadership from the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. There were, however, many changes to other offices. Janet Nguyen replaced Lou Correa as our representative from the 34th District in the State Senate. Janet was an Orange County Supervisor from the First District and so comes with political experience. We can only hope that the newcomers to Sacramento will share our concerns regarding the environment and the importance of saving and protecting our invaluable natural resources. It is our job to keep these people informed as to how we feel they should vote, and it is critical for the well-being of this country.

Locally, Matthew Harper is the new member of the 74th District of the State Assembly which represents the south-east area of Huntington Beach. Having served as Mayor and Council Member of Huntington Beach most recently, and previously as a member of the Huntington Beach Union High School District, Matthew is someone many of us know. Travis Allen won re-election to the 72nd District in the State Assembly and will continue to serve as the representative of north Huntington Beach.

We saw major changes to the Huntington Beach City Council. Mayor Matthew Harper, successfully running for the State Assembly, cannot continue his service on the Council, and three other seats were open as well. Joe Carchio was termed out having served eight years, and Joe Shaw and Connie Boardman were defeated in their re-election campaigns for the Council. Replacing these four individuals are Barbara Delgleize, Billy O'Connell, Mike Posey, and Erik Peterson. These faces are not newcomers to Huntington Beach, as each has the experience of having served as Planning Commissioners. We now have four new City Council Members and four new Planning Commissioners, as each Council Member selects their own Planning Commissioner. They were sworn in as members of the City Council on December 1.

This is a time to thank those who will not be returning for their dedicated service and to welcome our new Council. If you have the time, drop a line expressing your thanks to those we are losing for their commitment to the City and to our new elected officials a welcome and the very best to each of them. The decisions they make will affect all of us who live in this great City. Congratulations to all and success in the decisions you will be making on behalf of the citizens of Huntington Beach.

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## Sign Up Today for the 2015 Docent Training Class

If you are interested in leading tours that teach people of all ages about history, ecology, birds and other amazing facts of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, sign up today to become an Amigos de Bolsa Chica Docent.

For 2015 there will be 6 Classes, Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm, January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4 and 11. The Program includes 2 field trips on weekends with expert teachers. Cost: \$50.00 materials fee, plus Amigos membership. A Certificate of Completion is available for students. Location: Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center at the entrance to Bolsa Chica State Beach, Pacific Coast Highway, 1.5 miles south of Warner Avenue.

The materials fee includes a Docent Training Manual and binder of photos for help with leading tours. The constantly updated Training Manual is an exhaustive, one-of-a-kind resource covering all aspects of Bolsa Chica filled with many excellent photographs and illustrations about early history, ecology, birds, endangered species and restoration. The photo binder is filled with visual aids that help tour-goers receive a complete experience when visiting Bolsa Chica.

Space is limited, so call the Amigos office 714-840-1575 with your name, phone and/or e-mail contact to REGISTER NOW. Becoming a docent means you make a difference, meet new people, use your skills, help others and connect with your community. If you are already a docent, consider taking one or more of this year's docent training classes to refresh your memory and find out about something that may be new and different.



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**THE TERN TIDE**

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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	Name: _____
\$ 10 Student	Address: _____
\$ 25 Individual	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
\$ 40 Family	Email: _____
\$100 Sustaining	Phone: _____
\$1000 Life Member	

Additional Contribution:  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund operational expenses    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund education projects    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:  
 Education outreach \_\_\_ Grantwriting \_\_\_ Social media \_\_\_ Wetlands cleanup \_\_\_ Leading tours \_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_

*All contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law under IRS Code Section 501(c)3.  
 No goods or services were provided in consideration of this gift.*

*Return application to: Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647*