



New Education and Volunteer Opportunities

By Jennifer Robins and Nancy Boyd-Batstone

Amigos de Bolsa Chica's Education Committee has been busy creating new partnerships and programs. We would like to share with you some opportunities that have been developed from these programs you may be interested in. Some are virtual and others are at the wetlands, so volunteers have plenty to choose from.

Brand new is "Live from the Wetlands," a virtual tour accompanied by a Naturalist "broadcasting" live from the Ecological Reserve. Rather than simply watch the video of the virtual tour, having a trained Naturalist talk to students about the contents of the video while they are at the wetlands adds a huge extra dimension to distance learning. Tom Pfeifer's AP Environmental Science class at Segerstrom High has been the first to take advantage of this – see page 5 for David Nguyen's "My Bolsa Chica Ecology Event Experience!" In order make this new concept of a wetland tour happen, it requires one or two Naturalists who walk and talk about the wetlands, a volunteer to film via Zoom, a volunteer to assist the other volunteers by pointing out birds, guide visitors at the wetlands around the presenters, and a volunteer Zoom host to facilitate the connection between presenters and the attendees. Volunteers are needed for all these positions.

A new outreach partnership with the Huntington Beach Central Library is in the planning stages. Volunteers are needed to help create projects that

will engage library patrons, both youth and adults. Initially this will be virtual, but as life returns to normal, programs can go live. One example is to read a children's book about wetlands in the children's library section. Activities can be developed with the use of our "Birds and Beaks" and "Plankton Races" activities as well as the games in our Coastal Wetlander Activity Book.

Interested in helping to develop future scientists and engineers? Come volunteer with our collaboration with University of California, Irvine's summer YES program! The YES (Young Engineers & Scientists) program seeks to encourage an interest in science in K-5 students around exciting hands-on curricula grounded in community environmental issues. The two one-week programs this July will focus on teaching about environmental science and stewardship in partnership with the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. The UCI YES program will be guiding the student to learn more about nature and how to care for it using the process of science and engineering design. Due to COVID precautions, this summer, the entire YES program will be online and through Zoom. Our role as Amigos will be to lead two 30-minute tours of the wetlands (July 14 & 21). We will be using our "Live from the Wetlands" format and connect with the students through Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, we

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In Remembrance: Founding Member Terry Dolton

By Alexia Swanepoel

Terry, his wife Kay, and two of their children moved to Huntington Beach in 1974. Throughout Terry's childhood, Terry remembered Huntington Beach fondly for its beautiful beaches and strawberry fields. At the end of their street was the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, one of the remaining coastal wetlands in California. In 1976, when Terry and Kay realized that there were plans to destroy the wetlands, they joined together with other concerned neighbors to protect the Bolsa Chica by forming the non-profit Amigos de Bolsa Chica. Terry served as President from 1991-1993 and for several years served as the treasurer of the Bolsa Chica Foundation during its lawsuit against Signal. In 2003, Terry received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his outstanding efforts to protect and preserve the Bolsa Chica Wetlands by U.S. House of Representative Loretta Sanchez. Terry remained active with the Amigos, serving as a member of the Board of Directors and secretary of the organization, up until 2008.

Terry Allen Dolton was born on September 4, 1943 in Denver, Colorado to Leonard John Dolton and Mary Josephine Marqua. Due to his father's military service during World War II and various work commitments, the family moved a great deal. When the Doltons were living in Northern California, they befriended Carl and Edith Kaiser. At a dinner party, Terry met Karen Elizabeth Sommerville Kaiser for the first time. Terry was nine years old and Karen (Kay) was ten. The two became fast friends and remained in contact throughout their teen years. Terry graduated from San Marino High School in 1961. After high school, Terry moved to Chicago and Karen began attending the Samuel Merritt University College of Nursing. The two friends began corresponding and soon it became clear that romance was in the air. Terry flew to California to take Kay on a proper date and knew on his flight back to Chicago that he would marry her. The two of them married in Oakland on April 18, 1964. Terry enrolled at various universities to complete his bachelor's degree after a series of moves from Illinois and Oakland. Terry finally graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in Government at California State College Los Angeles in 1969. Terry was offered an opportunity with his employer Southern California Edison to earn his Master's Degree at USC. He graduated in 1974.



Terry was a member of The United Way. He was also very involved in scouting, especially Boy Scouts. He was also involved in AFS (American Field Service) and Site Council at Marina High School with Kay. Terry was a master Monopoly player and bowler. He loved playing cards, especially Solitaire. He loved collecting coins and trains. History fascinated him and he was excellent with numbers. Terry was a mentor to many people who he believed had potential, even if others didn't. He was a calm guiding voice, and someone people sought for a 'big picture' perspective. He was self-sacrificing, generous, warm, and eminently respected. He was kind. As much as Terry took life seriously, he also loved to have fun. He had an infectious laugh and an incredible sense of humor. He loved the holidays, especially Christmas. Many times, he dressed up as Santa or simply just wore a Santa hat because he knew it would make someone smile. Terry is survived by his daughter Alexia Dolton Swanepoel and her husband Michael and their sons Jared and Aidan as well as his son Jon Dolton and his wife Melissa and their daughters Olivia and Lucy. Terry is preceded in death by his wife Kay and their daughter Cori. In lieu of a service, donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association.

Update on the Poseidon Project's Proposed Mitigation

By Shirley Dettloff

If Poseidon's project is approved, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica have always insisted that the mitigation for the desalination project be done at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Normally, all projects have a mitigation requirement and because of the size of the Poseidon project, the Amigos feel it is important to make sure the mitigation credits are not used for restoration efforts miles away from Huntington Beach. While the Amigos remain neutral on the desalination project itself, we want to keep our readers informed of new additions to the mitigation requirements designed to benefit the Bolsa Chica:

1. A major requirement is that Poseidon will be responsible for maintaining the Ecological Reserve's tidal inlet within 12 months after securing construction financing. This means

advancing financing prior to facility operations rather than after the plant is built as previously conditioned, and it also means advancing Poseidon's financial obligation by a minimum of four years and saving the state almost \$10 million.

2. Making improvements to the water flow in the Muted Tidal Basins.
3. Restoration of a part of the Muted Tidal Basin often known as the Fieldstone property.
4. Restoration of the Cordgrass shelf in the Full Tidal Basin.
5. Creation of an artificial reef off the Palos Verde peninsula.

Again, all of these efforts are contingent upon various county and state agencies approvals of the project, and the Amigos will report on any updates.

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need tech people (hosting the Zoom meetings), phone/camera operators (equipment provided) and Naturalists to talk about the wetlands. Or, if want to join us as a trainee, or learn more for hopefully future in-person collaborations with the UCI YES program, contact info@amigosdebolsachica.org. For more information on the UCI YES program: <https://scienceproject.cfep.uci.edu/yes-program-grades-2-3/>

Also in the pre-planning stages is an Osprey nest platform. Now that these majestic birds of prey (see article on page 4) are breeding at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, we believe they would benefit further from platforms similar to those in place at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. Fundraising efforts will be essential to ensure completion of this project.

All of the Amigos conservation and education efforts require two things: volunteers and fundraising. We need your help! If you are a Naturalist we haven't heard from in a while, let us know you are interested in volunteering for a "Live from the Wetlands" tour, the Huntington Beach Library program, or the UCI Yes program. And let us know that you want to be involved in organizing fundraising campaigns for the Osprey nesting platform or to help make our education

outreach efforts successful. Please contact info@amigosdebolsachica.org and say yes, I want to help!



Osprey Nesting at Bolsa Chica

By Kim DiPasquale

Colloquially known as fish hawks, Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) are found along rivers, lakes, marshes and estuaries where they feed almost exclusively on fresh and saltwater fish. They plunge feet first and use razor sharp talons to snatch prey which they find swimming near the waters surface. Once a fish is caught, osprey utilize their reversible outer toes to stabilize their catch while they transport it head first and belly down to a safe location for consumption. This orientation is more aerodynamic and creates less drag making flight easier.

Osprey are 22-25 inches in length and have a 58-72 inch wingspan. They are dark brown above, and mostly white below with a white head and a prominent dark eye stripe and bright yellow eyes. Females generally have more streaking on the neck. Osprey fly with a distinctive gull-like kink in the

wings showing a black “wrist” patch on the anterior portion of the underwing. The call is a series of loud, whistled, “kyew” notes. Bulky nests are built in trees, on poles, and on manmade platforms. The female Osprey will usually lay 1-3 eggs in the Spring.

While Osprey have been utilizing the BCER to catch fish for many years, they have started breeding here only within the last few years. The ability to support top predators such as this is indicative of the Reserve’s health. The Amigos de Bolsa Chica along with Sea and Sage Audubon and Melissa Loebel, our new BCER manager, are currently working on getting permission and funding for an osprey platform and camera system here at Bolsa Chica. Just imagine the excitement and joy of watching the nest building and the hatching, feeding, and caring for young osprey at the reserve and online ! Stay tuned...



An Osprey makes off with a freshly caught Striped Sand Bass at Bolsa Chica. Photos by Kim DiPasquale

“Live from the Wetlands”

My Bolsa Chica Ecology Event Experience!

By David Nguyen

Editor’s note: David Nguyen is a student in Tom Pfeifer’s AP Environmental Science Class at Segerstrom High School in Santa Ana. Mr. Pfeifer’s classes are taking advantage of the Amigos’ new virtual tour accompanied by a Naturalist broadcasting “Live from the Wetlands.” If you are a trained Naturalist, please consider volunteering to help with this exciting new program and continue the Amigos’ efforts to teach kids about the importance of wetlands.

I was excited to hear from my AP Environmental Science teacher about taking a break from our assignments for a day and to hear from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Even though it took place in Zoom, I still had an amazing time at the event because of Amigos De Bolsa Chica and the tons of information we got from it.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica did an amazing job at engaging us in our event. I initially came into the Zoom meeting thinking it was going to be a typical virtual information session, but the passion they had in teaching us about the reserve made this virtual event very different from the ones I’ve gone to for school. They showed lots of enthusiasm in introducing us to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and used tons of visuals, videos, and sceneries at the reserve to make our experience interesting. We got to see tons of creatures we’ve never seen before like phytoplankton and zooplankton. As it was windy at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve during our event, these materials became really helpful when they were reiterating their explanations about the reserve so that we could get the most out of our event.

I left the event learning so much about the importance of ecosystems in our world. I was surprised to learn about the reserve’s history and how many people throughout Huntington Beach demanded at a state level to restore the reserve to its original state after construction of new infrastructure. The countless animals we saw at the Reserve, besides the plankton, were astonishing as they all had unique characteristics and behavior like their techniques to catch prey. Even the plants were interesting because we learned about their techniques to survive the reserve’s harsh soil and harnessed the soil’s high salt concentrations to stimulate photosynthesis. Everything about these organisms made so much sense when staff connected them to the reserve’s food chains and the Pacific Flyway. They also put lots of effort into answering our questions, giving us tons of information about it and wrapping more of what we learned together.

Again, my experience at Bolsa Chica was amazing. I hope to have more sessions with them, whether in my AP Environmental Science class or outside of school, so that I can continue to learn about the environment and why it’s important to us.

Until we can offer in-person activities and schools can bring students safely to the BCER, the Amigos can now be “Live from the Wetlands.” Instead of having a class at the wetlands, the Naturalist’s talk is delivered to students who are watching online.
Photo by Tom Pfeifer.



Surviving 2020

By Shirley Dettloff

I am sure that no one expected the challenges that we were to face as we celebrated the New Year of 2020! Nor did we expect that we would live through one of the worst and most difficult periods of history ever experienced, and one that we probably hoped that we would never be a part of. Who would have thought that we would face a world-wide pandemic with a disease we had never heard of COVID-19, or that we would be in a political world that we never dreamed of and more lives lost than ever before. We saw climate change, not in the books, but right here at home with wildfires all over the West, floods in the south, and drought in California. And now maybe we are just starting to see some light and that things are getting better. The political landscape has dramatically changed, we have a vaccine for COVID-19 and deaths, and hospitalizations are coming down and maybe, just maybe we are understanding what nature is all about and the role humans play in it.

So did we survive 2020? YES! There were terrible times, but there were times when we could be proud of our fellow human beings. The brave medical staffs, the Fire and Police, those who spoke out against prejudice, the neighbor helping neighbor, the people who followed the rules and wore their masks, those who gave out food to those who had lost their jobs, those who went to their jobs because they were needed and the list goes on.

How did non-profits like the Amigos de Bolsa Chica continue their work under COVID-19 rules? First we knew we could not meet all together so our board meetings continued and they were virtual. It took some of us a little time to adjust, not being as familiar as the young on exactly what a Zoom meeting was! How could we keep the public involved? Well we filmed a virtual tour of the Bolsa Chica so that children could continue learning about wetlands and included lesson plans for educators. The virtual tour also was shown on HBTv-3, so that when you got bored watching reruns of old TV shows, you could take a trip of the wetlands. We also provided a history of the Amigos, also being shown on HBTv-3.

A great webinar series was developed and every month there has been a new program with a guest speaker. These virtual programs included the Whales of Southern California, Friends of Ballona Wetland,

Birds of the Bolsa Chica and many, many more. All members are invited to the webinars; it is a wonderful way to learn and to get together with others. The programs are available anytime on the Amigos YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC85pluHukJ2zsBqrgwW43EA/videos>). Now do we look forward to once again walking the trails of the Bolsa Chica with a bus load of school children? Yes, and that day will come.

It is sad that we had to say good-bye to so many and we will always grieve for those we lost. They will always be remembered. Now is the time to learn from the many new experiences we were faced with and to build a better tomorrow. We always said that we saved the Bolsa Chica for our future children and now we must continue the fight that never ends. We must make sure that we give the wetlands the care they need to survive and make sure that our children understand how important our wetland are to the next generation.

Avoid a Car Break-In

As car break-ins continue to be a problem at both parking lots at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, we offer some important tips to keep you and your valuables safe while enjoying the area.

- Keep your valuables with you at all times, avoid leaving anything valuable in your vehicle.
- Criminals have been entering vehicles with both forced entry and by using electronic “Car Jamming Devices” that prevent your doors from locking.
- Avoid using your keyless remote or “key fob” to lock your vehicle remotely. Thieves will intercept the radio signal and use it to then unlock your vehicle.
- Whenever possible, lock your vehicle with the button on your door. This leaves thieves with less options to enter your vehicle.
- Report suspicious activity to law enforcement by calling 911.
- Search YouTube “Car Jamming Device” and/or “Keyless remote hacking” for more information and videos.
- Do not leave any credit cards in your vehicle. Thieves target credit cards in order to make fraudulent purchases at nearby retailers.

Endangered Rhino Spotted at the Wetlands

By Karen Belville

Yes, this actually happened at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER). While bird walking by the inner bay I spotted a nondescript grey blob at water's edge. Upon closer inspection I determined that it was a water logged rhinoceros, someone's once- precious stuffed animal. I deposited it into a spare plastic bag from my backpack to put in the dumpster at the end of the walk.

While this was humorous at the time, upon more reflection, it actually was very troubling when considering the trash problem we have at our beloved BCER.

Trash pollution has become an obsession with me. It's hard for me to walk by a piece of trash on the beach or at the wetlands without picking it up. Plastic and styrofoam trash is the worst, knowing how it sickens and kills the birds and fish. I just don't understand how people can carelessly toss trash on the ground along the trails or over the bridge right next to endangered birds.

Another pet peeve is the trash that is left behind in the parking lot, which

is often leftovers from after hours parties. The paper towels that visitors throw on the ground after using the hand washing station next to the portable, is also most annoying. In my opinion, it sets the tone that it is okay to litter at the Reserve. Some folks take advantage of the fact that we cannot close the parking lot after dark.

While I was traveling in New Zealand a few years ago, I noticed the absence of trash and was amazed how clean the streets, parks, and trails always seemed to be. I asked our guide how was it that there was never any trash anywhere? He thought about it for a moment and replied, "Well, I guess if we spot a piece of trash, we just pick it up."

So simple.

Perhaps we could all just bring a plastic bag and gloves in our backpacks on all our walks and just pick it up a few pieces at a time. We don't have to wait for a once a year event. We can model for visitors and especially children, the importance of protecting our wildlife and our environment everyday.



Not a rhino, yet still an example of the extraordinary amount of trash that needlessly ends up in our water.

Photo by Thomas Anderson.

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FLOW Fridays, the First Saturday of the Month Tour and the Last Saturday of the Month Bird Walk/Trash Cleanup are suspended until further notice so as to avoid exposing our volunteers and tour participants to COVID-19. Check our website, www.amigosdebolsachica.org for updates.



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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

\$ 10 Student

\$ 25 Individual

\$ 40 Family

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Name: _____

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Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

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All contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law under IRS Code Section 501(c)3.

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