

Photo by Ross Griswold



Summer 2013  
Volume 37 Issue 2

## Coastal Wetlander Activity Book Wins Award

By Dave Carlberg

*In this issue:*

- 1  
**Coastal Wetlander  
Wins Award**
- 2  
**Gun Club Truck Returns**
- 3  
**Amigos Committees –  
Volunteer Opportunity**
- 4  
**Earth Day 2013 Recap**
- 5  
**President's Tern  
Junior Ranger Program  
Campground Programs**
- 6  
**Flow Updates  
Summer 2013  
The Clapper Rail  
Returns!**
- 7  
**Amigos Brunch**

In development for more than two years, the Amigos' "Coastal Wetlander Activity Book" has won a bronze medal in the seventeenth annual 2013 Independent Publishers Book Award ("IPPY") competition. Each year, Independent Publishers, a trade group, conducts an international competition to determine the best publications in the broadest range of subjects coming out of independent publishers, as opposed to the "big five" conglomerated media publishers. Independent publishers consist of such entities as university presses, museums and self-publishing enterprises. A total of 3650 entries competed for 382 awards in 77 categories such as fiction (33 subcategories) non-fiction and e-books.



The Amigos won in the category of Children's Interactive books. The Coastal Wetlander Activity Book was edited, designed and illustrated by Thomas Anderson and Kathryn Boyd-Batstone and written by Thomas Anderson, Kathryn Boyd-Batstone, Nancy Boyd-Batstone, Jerry Donohue, Lori Donohue, Dave Carlberg, Margaret Carlberg, Ross Griswold, Trude Hurd, Joana Tavares-Reager, Jennifer Robins, Jim Robins and Don Thomas. Special thanks to the Griswold Foundation for its support. Congratulations to all those involved.

Conducted each year to honor the year's best independently published books, the "IPPY" Awards recognize excellence in and reward authors and publishers who "take chances and break new ground." Thanks to small presses, university presses, and self-publishing services that give experimental and entrepreneurial authors a platform, the IPPY universe is rapidly expanding -- and that gives adventurous readers a plethora of new choices.

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## Gun Club Truck Returns to Bolsa Chica

By Dave Carlberg

In 1929 leaders of the Bolsa Chica Gun Club decided that a new “bus” was needed to shuttle members from the club lodge out to the shooting blinds. The club budgeted \$1000 for the bus and contacted Central Auto Body Works, a custom body shop in Santa Ana, to build the vehicle. They began with a 1929 Ford Model AA truck



*The original oak floor and sides.*

chassis. An oak and steel bed was added with two parallel benches along the sides. The truck was used by the Gun Club during its heydays of the 30s but World War II shut down hunting activities when the U. S. Army took over much of the property in 1942 for a coastal defense installation. When the war ended, hunting resumed but on a limited scale. The truck was used until the gun club closed its doors in the mid 60s and its buildings were razed. The last president of the Gun Club, oilman Leland Whittier, stored the truck in his downtown Los Angeles building. The truck changed hands a couple of times, was repainted and used as an advertisement for a grocery store and in parades. Karl Wehrle first saw the truck as a teenager and never forgot it. In 1974 Wehrle, then a dental school student, heard the truck was for sale. Borrowing \$600 from his father, an antique car buff (he already had 3 Model A's in his garage), Wehrle bought the truck and used it as a personal vehicle all through dental school and afterwards during his dental practice in La Mesa.



*The author and George Thomas IV with the 1929 Bolsa Chica Gun Club “bus”. Thomas is sitting in the very same place he occupied as a youngster when he accompanied his father and grandfather out to the duck ponds.*



*Magnificently restored engine.*

Over the following years, Doctor Wehrle researched the truck's history and in 2007 began painstakingly restoring it to its original condition. Exposure to thirty years of sea air during its service at Bolsa Chica plus another four decades of use took their toll. Much of the sheet-metal work had rusted away, requiring a nation-wide search for original replacements. Other original parts, such as headlamps, much of the engine and the oak planks in the bed, were in good shape and retained. Wehrle even researched the truck's original color and had it duplicated and was able to find an exact match of the original artificial leather upholstery. Once restoration was completed in 2010, Wehrle began showing the truck at car shows from San Diego to Vancouver and, not surprisingly, it garnered numerous awards.

The restored truck had never been to Bolsa Chica. Doctor Wehrle decided it was time for it to visit its old home and trailered it to Bolsa Chica on May 10, 2013 for a photo op. Thanks to Carla Navarro, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Bolsa Chica manager, Doctor Wehrle was able to park the truck on the very same ground where it first stood some eighty years ago. It was an unforgettable moment for all of us. Among those accompanying Doctor Wehrle were his wife, Jane, Mark Williamson, who assisted in the truck's restoration, and George C. Thomas IV and his wife Terry. Thomas' father and grandfather were members of the Gun Club. The young Thomas had often hunted with his father and grandfather at the Gun Club and related a number of stories about the experience.

Thomas recalled that club members usually bagged their limits by noon, but for those less fortunate hunters who stayed out, lunches were delivered to the blinds on silver-covered trays. Meals in the lodge were top notch, consisting of steak, prime rib and poultry, served by the club's tuxedo-attired steward. Turkey was almost always on the menu, but duck was never served. Coats and ties were required dress for dinner. Members enjoyed after dinner drinks and games of dominoes before turning in for an early morning ride on the truck.

I had the immense good fortune to ride in the back of the truck from the gun club site to the Green Street Café on Warner for lunch. It didn't take a whole lot of imagination to envision what it might have been like to bounce down the dirt road toward the duck ponds before dawn on a chilly fall morning, but riding in PCH traffic was another thing!



# Amigos Committees – A Volunteer Opportunity for Everyone

By Tom Anderson

Like all long-lived, successful non-profit organizations, Amigos de Bolsa Chica has a number of active committees supporting a wide variety of programs and functions of the organization. The following are our most active committees. Each needs and welcomes volunteers to fill all the many roles necessary for our continued and future success:

**The Community Education Committee** oversees the public and private tours, organizes the annual docent training and schedules booth events (Earth Day, Festival of the Whales, Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair, Spring Festival at Shipley Nature Center and others as needed). It also plans and coordinates the FLOW program, the planting program, the Junior Ranger program and the summer campfire presentations at Bolsa Chica State Beach. Also within its purview are events with Orange County Docent League, of which Amigos de Bolsa Chica is a member. The Community Education committee's co-chairs are Jennifer Robins and Margaret Carlberg, and it usually meets the second Thursday of each month.

**The Fund Development Committee** raises money to help Amigos cover its day-to-day operating expenses: insurance, publishing the Tern Tide, bulk mail permit, storage, P.O. box, postage, phone, office supplies and the Office Coordinator position. In 2012, the Fund Development committee organized the very successful and by all accounts highly enjoyable Bolsa Brunch. This committee also (literally) put together hundreds of pumpkins and succulents to make beautiful and long lasting centerpieces that sold like crazy. They plan to sell even more in the fall of 2013. They've also organized dining-out events every other month at local restaurants which donate some portion of the events' proceeds to Amigos. This committee is chaired by David Casey and usually meets the first Tuesday of the month.

**The Grant Writing Committee** finds funding for special projects and programs. In the last few years they

have found funds for such diverse needs as the Docent Training Manual, the FLOW program, the *Coastal Wetlander Activity Book*, bus transportation for schools without funds for field trips, the new informational kiosks at the BCER, and bird identification and trail map cards. The Amigos has relied on grants for special projects like this for many years. It's often a lot of work to identify appropriate foundations, write and submit proposals, and more often than not rejection letters are received. But when we receive a "You've been funded!" letter, all the work is worth it. This committee is chaired by Tom Anderson and usually meets the third Thursday of each month.

**The Outreach Committee** meets with our elected officials and staff from the City of Huntington Beach to our representatives in Sacramento, as well as public agencies like the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Coastal Commission. Outreach makes them aware of Amigos' accomplishments, current activities and concerns. This committee is chaired by Tom Livengood and meets as needed.

**The Science Committee** looks objectively at issues that affect Bolsa Chica, like restoration projects and proposed developments around the wetlands from a purely scientific point of view. They then make recommendations to the board of directors. Its members all have backgrounds in science: teachers, engineers and volunteers in the field. They are also responsible for organizing the semi-annual Bolsa Chica Symposium. The Symposium reports on studies conducted in the Bolsa Chica wetland by a variety of eminent scientists and science students who have been monitoring many aspects of this major restoration project over time. They are planning another Symposium for later in 2013. This committee is chaired by Dave Carlberg and meets as needed.

Please call 714-840-1575 or email [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org) if you are interested in lending your skills to one of these committees.



# Earth Day 2013 Recap

By Jerry Donohue

Amigos celebrated Earth Day again on April 13 at the north parking lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. 23 Amigos members participated in this year's festival and guided visitors through our 4 booths. Although overcast for much of the day and plagued by high tides in our shorebird counts, docents brought out their own sunshine with colorful presentations and were rewarded with many smiling faces.

The morning started out well as Jim and Jennifer Robins, Nancy Boyd-Batson, Tom Livengood, Dennis Pope, Margaret and Dave Carlberg and Jerry Donohue set up canopies and prepared our booths for the day. The Merchandise and Information table was staffed by Patti-Cacho Negrete, Bob Johnson and Mick Siroy. Historical questions about the Bolsa Chica were answered by Mary Ellen Houseal, Tom Livengood, Dave Carlberg and Chuck Drescher. Lines constantly formed at our Birds and Beaks activity. Nancy Boyd-Batson, Barbara Sentovich, Dawn Pope, Barbara Felberg-Jackson and Lori Donohue kept these lines moving along. Our Birds and Tides group did not let the high tide and low number of birds dissuade them from helping young bird watchers adjust and focus binoculars. Terry Hill, Elissa Warantz, Margaret Carlberg and Jim Robins withstood a chilling wind and collected data every 15 minutes. Chuck Drescher led a walk in the wetlands. Ron Davis and Julia Tafel helped with afternoon activities and joined Laura Holdenwhite and Jim Jauman and others in our clean-up.

The first ever "Caring for Our Community Earth Day" at Bolsa Chica State Beach followed on Sunday, April 21. Inside the Visitor Center, Joana Tavares-Reager, Dennis Pope, Jim Robins and Jerry Donohue demonstrated how the FLOW program monitors what's going on in the ocean water. Visitors were able to see the tiny plankton that form the basis of the planet's food chain magnified many times on the monitors, and they were shown how salinity and pH are measured. Outside, Jennifer Robins, Patti Cacho-Negrete, Terry Hill and Chuck Drescher manned the information booth and the Birds and Beaks activity. State Beach sponsored tile painting was a very popular activity, and environmental groups, local businesses and artists were also featured. All in all, two fine opportunities for Amigos to showcase its many accomplishments and excellent volunteers. Thank you!



*Everyone was fascinated to see microscopic plankton enlarged many times on the Visitor Center monitor.*



*Looking through the refractometer reveals the salinity of ocean water.*

*People also stopped at the Amigos booth to ask questions.*



*No shortage of interest in the Birds and Beaks Activity!  
Photos by Tom Anderson.*



# Amigos Summer Programs at Bolsa Chica State Beach

By Jerry Donohue

## ***Junior Rangers***

This summer Amigos docents are running a Junior Ranger program in collaboration with Bolsa Chica State Beach. These lessons will run for 1 hour on Fridays from June 21st until the end of August. These activities will tag onto our FLOW program as the water samples gathered earlier in the day, from our Citizen Scientists, will be tested for phosphates, nitrates, ammonia, salinity and pH. We will also be using light microscopes, along with a projecting microscope, to identify various types of plankton and to determine if any species is potentially harmful. This activity will allow us to field test much of the longer FLOW program that will be available to middle school students in the fall. If you wish to help during the summer, contact Jerry Donohue at [gdonohue@socal.rr.com](mailto:gdonohue@socal.rr.com).

## ***Campground Programs***

Again this summer Amigos docents are presenting biweekly evening programs at Bolsa Chica State Beach. They will be given 5 alternating Thursdays beginning June 20th. (July 11, 25; August 8, 22.) We will be talking about birds that are common to the beach and the wetlands, in these short presentations. Afterwards, we will divide up into teams and try to match birds' beaks and their food sources, in our popular Birds and Beaks activity. We need volunteers to help set-up as well as present information. If interested please contact Jerry Donohue at [gdonohue@socal.rr.com](mailto:gdonohue@socal.rr.com).

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## **President's Tern**

By Tom Livengood

The first six months of 2013 have been very busy for the Amigos: first Saturday public tours, last Saturday bird walk and south lot clean up, docent led school and private tours, Earth Day Celebrations and the Bolsa Brunch. The Outreach Committee has met with City and State elected officials and brought them up to date on the Bolsa Chica. Education Committee is working with the Bolsa Chica Beach staff on some exciting programs for this summer that will showcase the Bolsa Chica wetlands to beach visitors. Amigos have also taken on a native plants planting project at the Beach.

The Amigos have worked closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on several projects this year. All three Bolsa Chica groups are working on a major interpretive signs project.

The Education committee has developed a new program, Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands or FLOW. Students will be involved in hands-on projects that look at phytoplankton and determine water quality. This program is important in monitoring the health of the ocean at the Tidal Inlet. Healthy water is the life blood for the Bolsa Chica wetlands.

Have you visited the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve lately? The first Saturday tour is a great way to be brought up to date on birds visiting and nesting at the Reserve. Each Docent station provides you with interesting facts concerning the wetlands and the history of the area.

Coastal saltwater wetlands, like the Bolsa Chica, are among the most biologically diverse habitats and we are fortunate to have this unique habitat so close to us. It takes a lot of effort to get the message out about the importance of these wetlands, and the Amigos have worked hard at it for 37 years. The Amigos committees are currently working on their goals for the next five years. There is still a lot of work ahead of us to insure the Bolsa Chica wetlands remain healthy and the public and elected officials continue to support the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.



## FLOW Updates Summer 2013

By Joana Tavares-Reager

This week we are celebrating three months of continuous and successful work at the Bolsa Chica State Beach with FLOW – Follow and Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands.

So far we have trained more than 20 volunteers as FLOW Citizen Scientists, including Amigos Docents, Community College Students and other conscientious members of the community interested in learning more about the environment.

As for the plankton, we have mailed fifteen weekly water samples to the California Department of Public Health and photographed hundreds of interesting microorganisms, including four genera that include potentially harmful species: Pseudo-nitzschia, Dinophysis, Noctiluca, Lingulodinium and Prorocentrum.

Starting this week, our FLOW activities will be shadowed by Junior Rangers in training, as part of our on-going collaboration with the Bolsa Chica State Beach and their summer programs for children and teens. The

Junior Rangers will have an opportunity to learn about plankton, observe samples under our microscopes and perform basic chemical tests used to monitor water quality.

In the fall, we hope to expand FLOW's educational component to receive full classes of students in grades 6th through 12th as well as community college classes. Unfortunately, our main constraint is still the limited number of Amigos docents involved in the program. While we have six amazing and dedicated Amigos in the FLOW Team of Citizen Scientists (Dennis Pope, Judy Huck, Brian Westcott, Jerry Donohue, Chuck Drescher and Carolyn Devine) we estimate that we would need at least another four or five committed docents in order to run the educational component of the FLOW program smoothly. Anyone interested in learning more about FLOW and becoming a Citizen Scientist should email us at [flow@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:flow@amigosdebolsachica.org).

You can read more about FLOW and download reports from previous weeks by visiting our website: [www.amigosdebolsachica.org/flow.html](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org/flow.html)

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## The Clapper Rail Returns!

By Vic Leipzig

A Clapper Rail has returned to Bolsa Chica again. This species could be called the rarest bird at Bolsa Chica because it's not really there. That is, the many kinds of marsh destruction that people inflicted upon Bolsa Chica during the twentieth century reduced the local population to zero. Fortunately, there are remnant populations at the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge and at Upper Newport Bay. And occasionally, one of those birds drops in for a brief stay at Bolsa Chica. That happened again this May and the bird has stayed through this writing in mid-June.

This particular individual has been very cooperative, calling persistently so that people can tell it's there. Seeing it is another matter. Rails are notoriously secretive, hiding in dense marsh vegetation most of the time. This one individual has been spending its time in the marsh areas to the immediate north and south of the boardwalk parking lot. Listen for its "clapping" call next time you are there.

It is the hope of Amigos De Bolsa Chica and of CDFW that restoration at Bolsa Chica will eventually create enough high quality marsh habitat to attract enough rails to re-establish our historical local breeding population of Clapper Rails. Each new visit renews that hope! Photo from [clapperrail.com](http://clapperrail.com).



## The 2013 Bolsa Brunch

By David Casey

With the theme of sustaining our successes, the second Bolsa Brunch was held on Sunday, June 30 with over 135 guests enjoying a fabulous meal at the Seacliff Country Club in Huntington Beach. There was time to mingle, catch up with old acquaintances and meet new friends while perusing the great opportunity baskets as well as many silent auction items. Each table had a beautiful centerpiece of a miniature succulent garden designed and assembled by Dawn Pope and her volunteers. These were taken home by the lucky winners of a special drawing.

President Tom Livengood welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. He introduced honored guests including Mayor of Huntington Beach Connie Boardman who also serves as President of the Land Trust; Mark Gaughn, Chairman of the Bolsa Chica Conservancy; and Bruce Aird, President of the Sea and Sage Audubon.

A very surprised Jim and Jennifer Robins were the recipients of a special honor by Huntington Beach mayor Connie Boardman who presented the Robins' with a Certificate of Commendation from the City of Huntington Beach and a Certificate of Recognition from State Assembly Member Travis Allen for their many years of dedication to maintaining and enhancing the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

Chris Epting, columnist, author and TV host was our featured speaker on the theme of "Sustainability in Today's World." He spoke about both his own experiences in appreciating the treasure of the Bolsa Chica Reserve during his many walks through the area, and how important it is to sustain the efforts that have been made to preserve this historic land for now and future generations. Dave Carlberg presented Chris with one of Amigos first "Save the Bolsa Chica" t-shirts from 1978. The t-shirts were silkscreened by hand in the Carlberg's backyard in the Amigos' early days.

The Brunch Sponsors were Rainbow Environmental Service, Southern California Edison, Moffatt and Nichol, Sempra Energy, and Huntington Beach Hospital. The Silent Auction Donors were Thomas Anderson, Roberto Concha, Norma Brandel Gibbs, Tom & Dianne Livengood, Dawn Pope, Rocklord Studio, and Wyland International. The Gift Donors were Animalia, Aquarium of the Pacific, Armstrong Garden Center, Baskin Robbins, Beef Palace, Brewbakers, Brian Westcott, Cherry On Top, Chris



*Jennifer and Jim Robins with Mayor Connie Boardman*



*Columnist and author Chris Epting was the featured speaker.*

Epting, Margaret & Dave Carlberg, David & Diana Casey, Dawn & Dennis Pope, Dogma Pet Photo, Duke's Huntington Beach, Los Angeles Angels, Marilyn Toland, Marvin Carlberg, Mary Ellen Houseal, Mothers' Market, Outback Steak House, Peter Knapp, REI, Ross Griswold, Sebastiani's Italian Bistro, Shirley Dettloff, Shorebreak Hotel-Zimzala Restaurant, Susie Pendleton, Trader Joes, Five Points Plaza, Village Nursery, and Wes Kollar, R&R Wine Marketing.

With the success of the Brunch, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica can remain committed to the goal of sustaining all the gains that have been made over the years. Amigos is very grateful for the generosity and continued support from all of the sponsors, the donors and our membership - thank you! And a special thank you to all the members of the Fund Development Committee who made this event both fun and successful. Be sure to view the Brunch slideshow at [amigosdebolsachica.org/terntide/13sum\\_brunch.html](http://amigosdebolsachica.org/terntide/13sum_brunch.html). Photos by Tom Anderson.





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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

\$100 Sustaining

\$1000 Life Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 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*