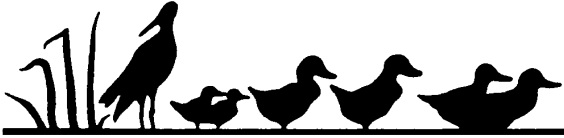
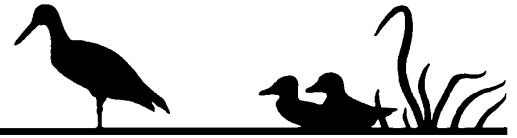


FRIENDS of FAMOSA SLOUGH



A California Non-Profit Corporation



Box 87280, San Diego, CA 92138-7280

FALL/WINTER 2015-2016 NEWSLETTER

General Meeting and Program

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 PM

“ReWild Mission Bay “

Speaker: Rebecca Schwartz, SDAS

ReWild Mission Bay will do the analysis, outreach and planning for enhancing and restoring up to 170 acres of wetland habitat in the northeast corner of Mission Bay. The goal is to create another wetland in which wildlife will thrive and San Diegans will enjoy seeing and learning about that wildlife. Rebecca Schwartz, the Conservation Program Manager of the San Diego Audubon Society (SDAS), will tell us about this project, which is being done by San Diego Audubon in partnership with the California State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program, and the City of San Diego.

Rebecca is responsible for the Chapter’s conservation projects including adaptive management of endangered species habitat, coastal dune habitat restoration, environmental advocacy, and project scoping. She holds a BS in Ecology from UCSD and is finishing up an MS degree in Marine Science from the University of San Diego.

ReWild Mission Bay is at the stage that Famosa Slough was in about 1992, when the Famosa Slough Enhancement Plan was being developed, but before any major restoration was done.

There will also be an update on the latest developments at Famosa Slough, including our properties at the south end of the Slough on Mentone and Montalvo Streets.

The public is invited.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Location — Loma Riviera Condominium Clubhouse, 3115 Loma Riviera Drive

(Directions are on the back page.)

Famosa Slough designated a California Marine Conservation Area

by Jim Peugh

In 2012, Famosa Slough was designated a State Marine Conservation Area by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect its value for fisheries and other marine wildlife under the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The Slough has a “No-Take” provision which prohibits the taking of all marine resources. There is an allowance for habitat restoration, maintenance dredging, and operation and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department.



This sign and three others have recently been placed along trails in different parts of the Slough. They remind visitors of the restrictions above and also showcase some of the wildlife at the Slough. Two of the photos were provided by local photographers, Ray Spencer and Karen Straus.

If you see anyone taking marine life from the Slough please inform the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, at (888) 334-2258, the San Diego Park Rangers, or the Friends with as much of a description and/or photos that you can.

Update on New Properties

by Chet Nelson

We have been busy since acquiring the property between Mentone and Montalvo Streets. Last fall we concentrated on the property on the north side of Montalvo Street. The large invasives are gone, and numerous native trees and shrubs have been planted instead.

We had a temporary water meter installed, so that most of the watering of the natives can be accomplished without having to resort to hauling the water from elsewhere. We have also used a lot of rainwater that we have collected from our roofs.

A bench has been installed near the top of our Montalvo Street property with a great panoramic view of Famosa Slough. The bench was built, along with 5 others at various viewpoints, by Tim Fleming about 20 years ago. Somehow this sixth bench did not get installed until now. We also installed a brochure box and a receptacle for people to get dog waste bags along the sidewalk. This fall we will add several plants on that property in some bare areas. We still need to improve the trail on the east side of that property.

This fall we will mainly plant native vegetation on the property on the south side of Mentone Street. This will be tricky as the slopes are quite steep. Currently, lemonadeberry covers a portion of the site so we hope that other natives will do as well.

The restoration that we did two years ago on the property on the north side of Mentone Street is doing well and will only get a few new plants this year.

Come see the change!

Another Rare Bird Visits Famosa Slough

Almost every year, rare birds visit the Slough. This year, Lisa Ruby, Terry Hurst and John Bruin spotted an unusual looking thrasher on August 2nd. It was on a small dirt hillside on the west of the trail on the Friends' new property between Montalvo and Mentone Streets.

The bird only stayed for one day, but it was determined that it was a Gray Thrasher, a Baja California endemic, that represents a possible first record for California.



Maintaining the Slough

by Chet Nelson

There are some maintenance activities that are needed throughout the year, like replacing wooden posts when they break.

A good example: a recent broken post in front of the second bench (near the bottom of the switchback trail that leads down from the FS end of Camulos). The broken post was frequently found leaning against the corner of the bench. The post has now been replaced by the Friends.

Placing any trash in the trash cans provided by the Park Dept. at frequent locations is automatic for most visitors, but when trash is thrown down along the trails, it must be picked up or end up in the marsh through wind or water. There it becomes a danger to birds, especially the small bits like cigarette butts (which are mostly plastic).

There are also some dog owners who fail to pick up after their pets. In a typical two-week period, we fill two City Recycling Bins with discarded cans, bottles, newspapers and other recyclables collected at the Slough.

Our trails are now lined with native plants almost exclusively (thanks to decades of hard work replacing invasives with natives), but the trails are there so that people can walk them and enjoy Famosa Slough. It is therefore necessary to trim back the natives on the edge of each trail on occasion. Maintenance of this marvelous 37-acre City of San Diego Wetlands Preserve requires a tremendous amount of work.

We also need help with routine tasks, like watering our new plants and weeding. If you can help, please contact us. See below for phone numbers, email address, etc.

The Friends of Famosa Slough (FFS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to protect and restore the Slough as a natural wetland preserve and to promote public awareness of the importance of wetlands. The Slough was purchased by the City of San Diego in September 1990 and is managed by the City's Park and Recreation Department.

FFS Board of Directors

- Chairman: Jim Peugh619/224-4591
- Vice-Chairman: David Kimball ..619/224-4975
- Secretary: Chet Nelson619/222-7006
- Treasurer: Barbara Peugh ..619/224-4591
- Jim Prine.....619/224-3446

For more information about the Friends, see the FFS web site: <http://www.FamosaSlough.org> or email: info@famosaslough.org . The City's contact is the **Mission Bay Senior Park Ranger, phone 858/581-7602.**

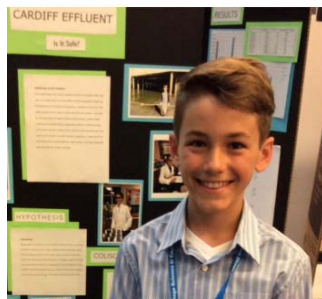
2015 Science Fair Winners

by David Kimball

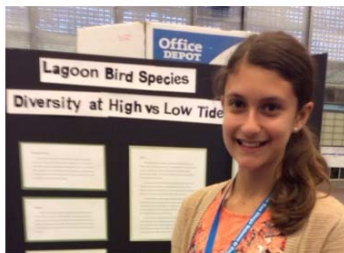
In March, the Friends gave three awards at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair to three 7th grade students at The Rhoades School.

Sophia Aiello observed bird species at high and low tide in San Diego county lagoons and noted the frequency of 21 species and variations in populations between the tides.

Breckin Uwins and Luke Pusateri both did measurements of chemicals and bacteria in waterways and lagoons and found high bacterial contamination. Breckin took water samples from the San Marcos creek, and Luke monitored the area at Cardiff Beach.



Luke Pusateri



Sophia Aiello

All three were awarded first place in their judging divisions. Congratulations to all our winners!

Thanks to Our Neighbors

by Chet Nelson

You know who you are. I see people walking Famosa Slough trails picking up various items of trash frequently and placing these items in the nearest waste bin. It helps keep Famosa Slough looking nice. We don't often get a chance to say thanks - so a big 'Thank You'!

**Explorer Elementary Charter School
3rd Grade Students Project**

The third grade students of Rooms 8, 9 and 10 at Explorer Elementary Charter School in Point Loma spent their 2014-15 school year going on field trips and researching San Diego County's birds and native plants. They interpreted what they learned into three field guides (by Room number) all named "San Diego County Birds and Native Plants, A Third Grade Field Guide," containing their art work, descriptions, stories, and at the end of the year they presented their work to parents and the public.

Among the places they visited were the Famosa Slough, Mission Trails Park, and Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary. They talked to naturalists and got technical advice from High Tech High School students. The books are beautiful, and the students and their teachers, Christine Kuhl, Misa Adams, Shayna Cribbs and Brooke Newman, and Science teacher Julie Hutchins should be very proud.

Here are some of the students at their exhibition:



MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF FAMOSA SLOUGH

_____ FULL MEMBERSHIP. Yes! I/We support the goals of FFS and submit \$10.00 annual dues. \$ _____

_____ ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. Yes! I/We support the goals of FFS and wish to be counted. \$ _____

(Contributions are tax deductible to a 501(c)(3) organization.) ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I/We volunteer to: _____ assist with administrative tasks, _____ clean up around Slough, _____ help with educational activities, _____ distribute flyers, _____ assist in park planning, _____ collect environmental data/do research, _____ assist in special events, _____ anything.

Other pertinent skills:

MAIL TO: PO Box 87280, San Diego, CA 92138-7280

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 18th, 7:00 PM — FFS General Meeting — See page 1 and below.

WORK PARTIES

2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months — November 14, January 9, March 12, May 14, July 9, etc.
Meet at 9:00 AM at the intersection of West Point Loma and Famosa Boulevards - **Volunteers needed!**

RSVP to info@FamosaSlough.org

BIRD WALKS

3rd Saturday of every month — November 21, December 19, January 16, February 20, March 19, etc.
Meet at 1:00 PM near the kiosk on Famosa Blvd., south of West Point Loma Blvd. - **Beginners welcome!**

Map Location: W. Pt. Loma Blvd. & Famosa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92107

FFS Web Site: www.FamosaSlough.org; Email: info@FamosaSlough.org

Please check out and ‘LIKE’ us on our Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/FamosaSlough.



PO Box 87280, San Diego, CA 92138-7280

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

General Meeting and Program

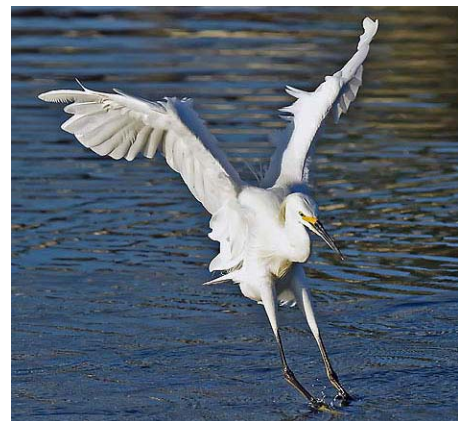
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**Loma Riviera Condominium Clubhouse
3115 Loma Riviera Drive • San Diego 92110**

Directions: From West Point Loma Boulevard, one long block west of Midway Drive and Sports Arena Drive, turn north at Loma Riviera Drive (at the Riviera Liquor House), and proceed a couple short blocks to the clubhouse on the right. Parking is on the street and visitors spaces.



**Snowy Egret landing at Famosa Slough
Photo by Ray Spencer**