SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

Antioch Dunes / Don Edwards / Ellicott Slough / Farallon Islands / Marin Islands / Salinas River / San Pablo Bay

Due to the federal government shutdown from Dec 22, 2018 to January 25, 2019,
the staff of the *San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex* was unable to provide a *Tideline* newsletter for Spring of 2019.

This is a substitute newsletter composed by *San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS)*, with the assistance of FWS staff on a limited basis.
SFBWS is a not-for-profit Friends Group for the complex,
working along with many Refuge volunteers to keep our public lands available for you and wildlife

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SFBWS Quarterly Message
- Shutdown Info
- Tideline perspectives

Tideline Survey Report
Impacts of the Shutdown
Resident Volunteer Perspectives
Vernal Pool Information
SFBWS Membership Information
DONOR Recognition
Spring Activities

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society Message

CHALLENGES: Our Refuge Complex was shutdown for 35 days, over a month. As of February 11, 2019, the Refuge Complex will possibly be closed again by the week's end. We hope not. **What did the shutdown really mean?**

Read more in next pages

Tideline Use and Future: Survey Results

Survey assessed the usage of Tideline by Refuge visitors and the local community, helped gain an understanding of the wants and needs of the public as Tideline moves into the future. *Findings*: Stay informed about Refuges and activities; digital only: Ok!

Read more in next pages

Impacts of the Shutdown

Infographic: Resource and program impacts. People doing good things.

Read more in next pages

Resident Volunteer Perspectives

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, like many other Refuges, is fortunate to have the help of resident volunteers who live temporarily on the refuge and do many helpful volunteer tasks. From trash clean-up, to keeping the Visitor Center open, to slogging through and sorting out years' worth of old papers, the Complex and SFBWS have a couple of gems with us now, helping in many useful ways. Read their story and be inspired! Thank you so much Jim and Linda. We are so lucky to have you, as well as our many local volunteers!

Read more in next pages

Warm Springs Vernal Pool Tours

Are you interested in seeing the flower blooms around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay? You will learn about the unique features of a vernal pool grassland, and hopefully observe the pools in what will likely be a good rain year! Participants will see endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), as well as *Downingia pulchella*, several *Plagiobothrys*, and other native vernal pool and upland species.

Read more in next pages

Goldfields

Spring Activities

Final pages include information for the Environmental Education Center and the Fremont Visitor Contact Station programs and activities.

Read more in next pages

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society
Editor: Ceal Craig, PhD. *Contributors*: Mary Deschene, Ivette Loredo, Jim & Linda Niehaus, Hope Presley, Cambria West

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Help Us Protect Your San Francisco Bay Wetlands!

Mail your donation to: San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, P.O. Box 234, Newark, CA 94560.
You may also become a member at www.sfbws.com.
For a gift membership, call 510-792-0222 ext. 364.

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, a Friends group for the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

YES! I want to support San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society and its programs.
My membership will help the *San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex* and its south Bay and Outer Bay Refuges
(Don Edwards, Salinas River, Ellicott Slough, and the Farallon Islands)

Enclosed is my contribution of:

☐ $20 Student/Senior ☐ $35 Individual ☐ $50 Family ☐ $75 Supporter ☐ $100 Participant	☐ $200 Corporation ☐ $250 Sponsor ☐ $500 Sustainer ☐ $1,000 Leader
☐ Check Enclosed	☐ Credit card payment, use PayPal at www.sfbws.com/donate

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Thank you for your support!

For more than 30 years, the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society has:

- Introduced the refuge to tens of thousands of students of all ages
- Helped fund the Bair Island restoration and Management Plan, restoration work at Antioch Dunes NWR, and uplands restoration at the Environmental Education Center (EEC)
- Provided Saturday staff in EEC through long-term partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
- Provided funding for a new boardwalk at the New Chicago Marsh Trail at the EEC.
- Funded a new greenhouse
- Provided funds for a native plant nursery
- And much more….

Help continue this tradition by becoming a Supporting Member of the Society.

Benefits include:

- Free subscription to Tideline newsletter
- Tax deduction to the extent permitted by law
- Free book – Exploring Our Baylands
- 15% discount at Nature Stores
- The joy of helping protect this important environment

www.sfbws.com

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society Quarterly Message

CHALLENGES: Our Refuge Complex was shutdown for **35 days**, over a month. As I write this on February 11, 2019, possibly the Refuge Complex will be closed again by the end of this week. We hope not.

What did being shutdown really mean? The Refuges were "open," weren't they? Outcomes: We had to cancel one education field trip program for Watershed Watchers, relocated a Tai Chi program to a county park, and our employees were working out of their homes. Practically all USFWS staff were on furlough. This situation negatively impacted our Refuges, the programs we deliver, and commitments we've made to you and our donors. (NOTE: SFBWS employees are not USFWS employees and thus were not subject to the shutdown but had to work from home or rented office space since USFWS provides office space for us and is the location of most of our programs). See the infographic flyer later in this make-shift Spring Tideline with some numbers and impacts.

With some trepidation in early January, my niece and I made our annual birding trip, this year to the San Luis NWR Complex Refuges. While we still saw thousands of snow and greater white-front geese, many sandhill cranes, and numerous ducks and shorebirds on the autoroutes and trails, we brought our own toilet paper, cleaning materials, and had no current road status to tell us what was happening inside the San Joaquin River, San Luis, West Bear Creek Unit, and Merced Refuges we visited. We saw people outside their cars on the autoroutes (not allowed normally) probably negatively affecting the wildlife that lived in those habitats. The San Luis Visitor's Center was closed; another lost education opportunity. Whatever your politics, this abnormal situation was frustrating, unacceptable, and costly.

TIDELINE: Also, with the shutdown, the Complex US FWS staff were not able to participate in the Tideline development. Thus, **Spring Tideline will be untypical, with mostly Society volunteers and staff creating it. S**ee a separate article elsewhere in the newsletter about the Tideline Survey. Thanks to all for taking the time to reply to the survey. This is being used by US FWS and SFBWS to determine the plans for Tideline after the Summer. **The Summer Tideline will be the last one in our historical format.**

ON THE TRAIL: in December, I visited Turnbull Refuge. A retired Project Leader, now a Friends BOD member, and the President of their Friends group took the time to drive me around this unique Refuge, with its rock formations, ponderosa pines, marshes, wetlands, and lakes all within 18,000-acres. While we did not see any elk, the drive through quiet forests with still falling snow was a sharp contract to our own Refuge Complex. A half-hour's drive southwest of Spokane, Turnbull is in the northeastern Washington Scablands created over 15,000 years ago after incredible ice age floods created a maze of channels and depressions. Also, quite impressive was the Friends of Turnbull's large Nature Store and the renovated Environmental Education Building, retrofitted primarily by loving volunteer hands and donated materials: shelving, murals, education materials, and construction. Every year, over 18,000 students participate in programs and learn about Refuge plants and wildlife, who make their home in the scablands at Turnbull.

CRITICAL Volunteer NEED: Join the Society Board of Directors. For a combination of reasons, our Board of Directors is at four members, instead of nine. **We desperately need people to join Renee, Chris, Aaron, and me on the BOD**. Interesting in learning more? Write me at Ceal.Craig@SFBWS.com **PLEASE**! We need you!

Also, volunteers are vital to nature store operations at Fremont and Alviso. Reach out to Mary Deschene at Mary.Deschene@SFBWS.com or 510-792-0222 ext. 364 for more information or dates!

Check out www.sfbws.com. Visit the National Wildlife Refuge Association site refugeassociation.org to understand the challenges facing our refuges today. See you in the spring!

Cecilia (**Ceal**) D. Craig, PhD
President, SFBWS Board of Directors

IMPACTS OF THE SHUTDOWN

AT SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

The federal shutdown resulted in a loss of:

Education & Interpretation Programs

Over 400 students and members of the public were not able to participate in scheduled programming. Refuge staff were unable to reschedule most of these programs due to limited availability in future weeks.

100s of Volunteer Hours

Volunteers were not able to work on Refuges restoring habitat, connecting visitors to the resource, educating students, and assisting biologists.

Natural Resources

San Francisco Bay is critical habitat for many migratory and endangered species. Refuge staff manage this habitat, ensuring optimal conditions for wildlife and plants. Critical surveys, sampling, and restoration work were not done or postponed, affecting results.

Created by *San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society*

Community Highlights

Keeping our Refuges Clean & Safe

Trash

Community members were seen picking up trash along trails, in parking lots, and along roadways in and around Refuges.

Improvising Needs

Dog walkers placed their doggy bags in a box near the main trailhead at Don Edwards NWR in Fremont since trash receptacles could not be emptied.

Friends Group Support

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS) was able to deliver one public weekend program at another site, and was able to continue communication with teachers, volunteers, and program participants. The SFBWS Facebook page also provided updates to the public.

How You Can Get Involved!

Become a volunteer, join our free public programs on Saturdays, join SFBWS by signing up to be a member, and spread the word about your local National Wildlife Refuges!

Email Hope at hope.presley@sfbws.com to learn more!

Created by *San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society*

Resident Volunteers' Perspective on the Government Shutdown

The *San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex*, like many other Refuges, is fortunate to have the help of resident volunteers who live temporarily on the refuge and do many helpful volunteer tasks. From trash clean-up, to keeping the Visitor Center open, to slogging through and sorting out years' worth of old papers, the Complex and SFBWS have a couple of gems with us now, helping in many useful ways. Read their story and be inspired! Thank you so much Jim and Linda. We are so lucky to have you, as well as our many local volunteers!

We're Jim and Linda Niehaus. We retired in September 2014. On that date we left our home in Indianapolis to travel the country in our 35-foot motorhome. As retirees, we have had the opportunity to volunteer at various federal facilities where we have had several unusual experiences. In South Carolina at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), we were part of a transport chain for the endangered red wolf. A female wolf was being moved from Florida to North Carolina to meet a male. It was hoped that she would find love and make baby red wolves. At Waccamaw NWR in S. Carolina we restored a 1920's hunting cabin that is now being used by the nearby communities for meetings and nature experiences. At Anahuac NWR in Texas we witnessed the incredible northern migration of thousands of birds along the Gulf Coast.

Latest adventure: We are currently Resident Volunteers at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, living in our motorhome on the refuge. In exchange for our camp site we do a variety of tasks and projects that benefit the Refuge staff, freeing them to focus on other Refuge priorities.

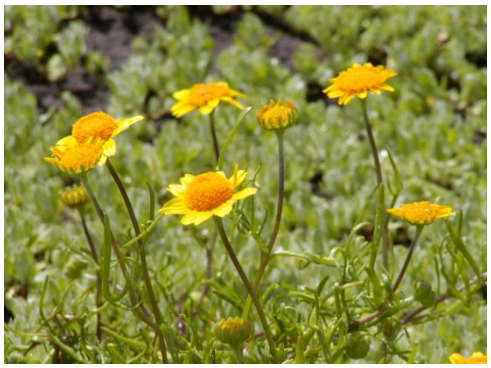
During the Government Shutdown we were *furloughed* along with the Refuge employees. We could not perform any of our assignments or utilize Refuge buildings. On the last day of government service before the shutdown began, Jim and I worked up to the last minute, trying to get as much accomplished on our assigned tasks before we had to walk away.

We were aware that a few of the previous government shutdowns lasted for weeks but hopeful that the current lapse of appropriations would be resolved quickly, and we could return to 'work'. During the first few days, like many of the furloughed staff, we made the best of the situation. We did maintenance on our motorhome and visited friends that were nearby. After a few days we contacted San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, an organization that partners with the Refuge, and arranged to do volunteer work for them. This helped to keep us busy and active during the lapse.

Thankfully we were not in the financial situation of some of the employees…. living without a paycheck…but we were anxious to return to our tasks and complete them. We were elated when the shutdown was resolved, and we could get back to work. We were also happy to again be around the dedicated staff here at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Offered another unique opportunity, visiting a closed area of the Refuge Complex, we went to the Farallon Islands Refuge. Jim performed much needed repairs to the fresh water system and I assisted with resupplying the staff there with food and essentials.

Warm Springs
Vernal Pool Tours Notification List
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge



Are you interested in seeing the flower blooms around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay? You will learn about the unique features of a vernal pool grassland, and hopefully observe the pools in what will likely be a good rain year! Participants will see endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), as well as *Downingia pulchella*, several *Plagiobothrys*, and other native vernal pool and upland species.

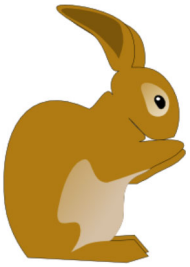
Tours will occur at the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, in south Fremont. The walking tour will last about 1.5 - 2 hours. Total walking distance will not exceed one mile, but terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. Heavy rain will cancel.

Rather than trying to predict peak bloom times in the winter, we will be creating a notification list of interested people at this time. Please email us to get on the list! We will contact the notification list in March to provide the final tour dates. Typically these tours are in April and will be conducted on both weekend and weekday dates. Once dates and times are released, you will need to sign up to reserve a spot (sign up information will be sent with the final dates). Tours are limited to approximately 20 people each due to the sensitivity of the vernal pool ecosystem.

Place: Directions will be sent once confirmed.

RSVP: Please email Ivette Loredo at ivette_loredo@fws.gov to be put on the notification list for tour dates.

FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS



Spring 2019 Programs: March, April & May

The Environmental Education Center (EEC)
1751 Grand Blvd, Alviso (San Jose), CA 95002
For reservations, use the link provided.
Questions? Call (408) 262-5513 ex. 104 or 102
www.fws.gov/refuge/don_edwards_san_francisco_bay

Volunteer

Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Interested in volunteering at the Refuge but not sure what you're interested in doing? Come join us for a volunteer orientation to learn about the Refuge, and the various opportunities we have available! Volunteer opportunities are best suited for ages 15 and up. No registration necessary. Questions? Email Hope at watershedwatchers@sfbws.com or call 408-262-5513 ext. 104.

Restoration Work Day

Saturday, April 13th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 18th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Interested in volunteering at the Refuge? Come out for a Restoration Work Day! We will be working in the Butterfly Garden and surrounding trails. Work will include weeding, mulching, and planting native plants. This is a great opportunity for middle, high, and college students to gain volunteer hours. Great for scout groups and families as well! All ages and skill levels are welcome to join. Gloves and tools are provided. Bring a lunch to enjoy after! Reservations required. Please visit: https://restorationeec.eventbrite.com. Questions? Hope: 408-262-5513 ext.104

Fitness

Tai Chi & Refuge Nature Walk

Saturday, March 2nd 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 6th 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 4th 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Morning Crane founder Chris Shelton is a certified Tai Chi and Qigong practitioner and instructor with 20 years of experience. Chris Shelton has helped thousands of people around the world reclaim their health and enjoy lives free from chronic pain. Join us for a short nature walk lead after to learn about the refuge! Sponsored by Morning Crane, San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. No registration necessary.

Family Yoga (5-week session)

Saturday March 2nd— Saturday, March 30th 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bonnie Hasson presents Family Yoga at the Refuge! Bring the whole family to participate in a one-hour yoga class held outside surrounded by nature! Join us for a short nature walk after to learn about the Refuge! This is a 5-week session, and all classes are held on the following Saturdays: March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. The first class is mandatory. More information will be given upon registration. A limited number of yoga mats are available for use during the class, please plan accordingly. Ideal for children ages 5-10 and their caregivers. Sponsored by San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority through the Measure Q Environmental Education Grant. Reservations Required. For additional information and to register, go to: https://familyyogaspring.eventbrite.com. Ticket registration ends Tuesday, February 19th. Questions? Call Hope: 408-262-5513 ext. 100 or 104.

History

Ohlone in the Marsh: Acorn Grinding

Saturday, April 20th 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Do you want to know more about the Native Americans that lived in the Bay Area before us? How did they survive without stores? Come to the refuge and learn how the Ohlone lived off of the land. Take a walk through the marsh, and go shopping in the Ohlone grocery store. Taste an Ohlone pickle and grind acorns! Best suited for ages 8 and up. Reservations Recommended. Go to: https://acornseec.eventbrite.com. Questions? Call 408-262-5513 ext. 104.

Get Outside!

Hike the Mallard Slough

Saturday, March 2nd 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 13th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Look for birds, mammals, and animal tracks as we explore along the water's edge on this 3.7-mile nature walk. Bring binoculars and your favorite field guide to help enjoy the views. Have at least one liter of water, snacks, and appropriate clothing. Rain will cancel this hike due to possibly muddy trail. Led by Steve Stolper, certified California Naturalist. Reservations Recommended. Go to: https://hikeeectrail.eventbrite.com Questions? Call Hope: 408-262-5513 ext.104

Plants for Beginners: Flowers

Saturday, April 27th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

They're in cracks in the sidewalk and they make up entire forests--plants are everywhere! Did you know that you can learn a lot about plants with some basic knowledge? We'll take a walk around the upland garden at a botanist's pace (slooowly) using the native plants to learn easy-to-remember baseline plant knowledge. Wear weather appropriate clothing for being outdoors, bring a water bottle, and a little sketchbook if drawing helps you remember! And be prepared to develop the vocabulary you need to be plant literate! Good for all ages! Each program will have a different topic depending on the season! Reservations recommended. Go to: https://plantseecflowers.eventbrite.com. Questions? Call 408-262-5513 ext. 104.

Astronomy

Night Sky Party

Saturday, May 31st 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Meet the stars of Spring and view the moon and maybe some planets! Join our amateur astronomers as we learn about constellations. Make a star chart and then venture outside to view the night sky through a telescope. Afterwards, warm up with some hot chocolate. Dress warmly, as it gets cold in the evening. Fun for the whole family! Great for Scout groups! Reservations Recommended. Go to: https://nightskyspring19.eventbrite.com. Questions? Hope: 408-262-5513 ext.104

Earth Day!

Earth Day Craft: Protecting our Species

Saturday, April 27th 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come celebrate Earth Day with a fun craft made from recycled items! We will learn all about the impacts of trash, what you can do at home to help and then do a short trash pickup around the Refuge to ensure a clean habitat for our wildlife! Take home some awesome reusable items! Led by Watershed Watchers Interpretive Associate, Cami West. Great for families, scout groups, and people of all ages! Reservations recommended. Go to: https://earthdayrefugeeec.eventbrite.com. Questions?: Call 408-262-5513 ext. 104.

The Visitor Center
2 Marshlands Rd, Fremont, CA 94555

For reservations, use the link provided.
Questions? Call call 510-792-0222 ext. 361

Volunteer

Stewardship Saturday

Saturday, March 2nd 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 6th 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 18th 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you are interested in improving the refuge for visitors and for wildlife alike, join us at the Visitor Center for a stewardship project. We will do either a trash cleanup or a planting/weeding project. Dress appropriately for the task and for the weather. We will have gloves to lend and will provide the tools. Bring your own water bottle. Meet in the parking lot at the Visitor Center. Driving an additional 2.5 miles may be required since the project may be at a different location. For more information, or to make reservations, call 510-792-0222 ext. 361.

Family Bird Walk

Saturday, March 9th 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 13th 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 18th 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Let family walks become a shared time of na-ture learning. We'll begin by helping kids cre-ate their personal bird watching field guides, and then head out onto the trails to find those birds. A limited number of binoculars are available to borrow. Recommended for children ages 5-10. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Go to https://donedwardsfamilybird.eventbrite.com or call 510-792-0222 ext. 363.

Wildlife

Welcome Back Swallows Tour

Saturday, May 18th 1:00 p.m – 2:00 p.m.

The swallows have just arrived from their long voyage from South America to their breeding grounds here in the Bay Area. Join docent Roy Sasai to view the Swallows as they begin building their unique nest design. We will learn about why they chose the bay area, their courtship rituals and unusual choice of building materials. We will hike to various spots on the refuge to view their unique homes and discuss how sea level rise may risk their building material in the future. Bring binoculars and camera. The hike is approximately 1 mile with medium hills. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Call 510-792-0222 ext. 141 for more information and directions.

Fox Stories: Indicators that Fox are in Your Area

Saturday, March 30th 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 27th 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 25th 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Do you sometimes see paw prints in mud or scat (poop) on the trails and assume that a dog left it? It could be from something else. Come along with me and I will show you how to distinguish and iden-tify the markings of a gray fox. Gain some insights into the fox's nature and their behavior during the walk. By the time we are through, you will have a set of "tools" you can use to identify the presence of foxes in any area that you are in. Bring a hat, bin-oculars, and good walking shoes. Led by Bill Leikam from the Urban Wildlife Research Project. Register at http://donedwardsfox.eventbrite.com.

Walk

Nature Walk for Health

Saturday, March 2nd 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 6th 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 4th 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Take a break from your busy schedule and refresh your spirit with nature at the refuge. Take a guided nature walk on the Tidelands Trail and hear what makes this National Wildlife Refuge unique. The approximately one mile walk travers-es through endangered species habi-tat and offers great views of south San Francisco Bay. Led by Rick Arellano.

Twilight Marsh Walk

Saturday, March 23rd 6:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, April 13th 6:00 p.m. – 7:45p.m.
Saturday, May 18th 6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Experience the salt marsh at twilight on an easy stroll along Tidelands (1.3 miles) Trail. At the setting of the sun we will observe the beginning of nature's night shift. Come discover the sights, sounds, and smells of the refuge as night de-scends. Not suitable for young children. Go to https://donedwardstwilight.eventbrite.com or call 510-792-0222 ext. 363. Led by Mary and Gene Bobik.

West Bay (Peninsula)

For reservations, use the link provided.

Birds!

Pacific Flyway

Location: SF2 Pond

Saturday, March 2nd 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 13th 9:30 a.m. -– 11:00 a.m.

Our wetlands are an important stop on the Pacific Flyway, a major bird migration route. Stroll with docent Laurel Stell to learn why birds migrate, why they stop along the San Francisco Bay, and to spot the birds in action. Trail is easy and level. All ages and abilities welcome. Meet at the SF2 trail parking area on the west side of the Dumbarton Bridge. Res-ervations Recommended. Go to: https://pacificflyway.eventbrite.com. Questions? Call Hope: (408) 262-5513 ext 104.

Bair Island

Restoring Inner Bair Island Walking Tour

Saturday, March 23 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

Location: Inner Bair Island, Redwood City

Join Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a beautiful walking tour of Inner Bair Island, led by Vicki Martell! This 1.5 mile walking tour will highlight the wetlands and the marine life that live within, such as: Endangered California Ridgway's rails and salt marsh harvest mice. Also cottontail rabbits, peregrine falcons, pelicans, egrets, terns, and stilts. Large rays and small leopard sharks can be seen in the sloughs at the farther reaches of the island. To register go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inner-bair-island-interpretive-walking-tour-tickets-55987699717

East Bay (Warm Springs)

Vernal Pools

Warm Springs Vernal Pool Tours Notification List

Date and time: TBD ~1.5 - 2hrs

Location: Warm Springs Unit, Fremont (directions will be sent once confirmed)

Are you interested in seeing the flower blooms around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay? You will learn about the unique features of a vernal pool grassland, and hopefully observe the pools in what will likely be a good rain year! Participants will see endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), as well as *Downingia pulchella*, several *Plagiobothrys*, and other native vernal pool and upland species. Tours will occur at the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, in south Fremont. Total walking distance will not exceed one mile, but terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. Heavy rain will cancel.

Rather than trying to predict peak bloom times in the winter, we will be creating a notification list of interested people at this time. Please email us to get on the list! We will contact the notification list in March to provide the final tour dates. Typically these tours are in April and will be conducted on both weekend and weekday dates. Once dates and times are released, you will need to sign up to reserve a spot (sign up information will be sent with the final dates). Tours are limited to approximately 20 people each due to the sensitivity of the vernal pool ecosystem. Please email Ivette Loredo at ivette_loredo@fws.gov to be put on the notification list for tour dates.

It is the policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service to accommodate individuals with disabilities. If you need accommodation to enable you to participate, please contact a visitor services staff person: (408) 262-5513

https://www.sfbws.com/

Survey Monkey Results: Tideline Use and Future

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society
January 2019

Survey Purpose: To assess the usage of Tideline by Refuge visitors and the local community, and gain an understanding of the wants and needs moving into the future.

Survey Timeline: November 2018 – January 2019

Survey Results Summary: As of today, we have received 33 responses from the survey. We asked 16 total questions, 10 in regards to the Tideline and 6 about the survey participant.

Format: 77% of survey participants receive Tideline via a link by email, with only 19% being mailed a printed copy. The results for the future format of Tideline were evenly distributed between various *avenues* of digital vs. paper, but with the majority preferring the digital format and only 6% would have an issue with no paper copies. Surprisingly, language was not selected as important by any survey participants.

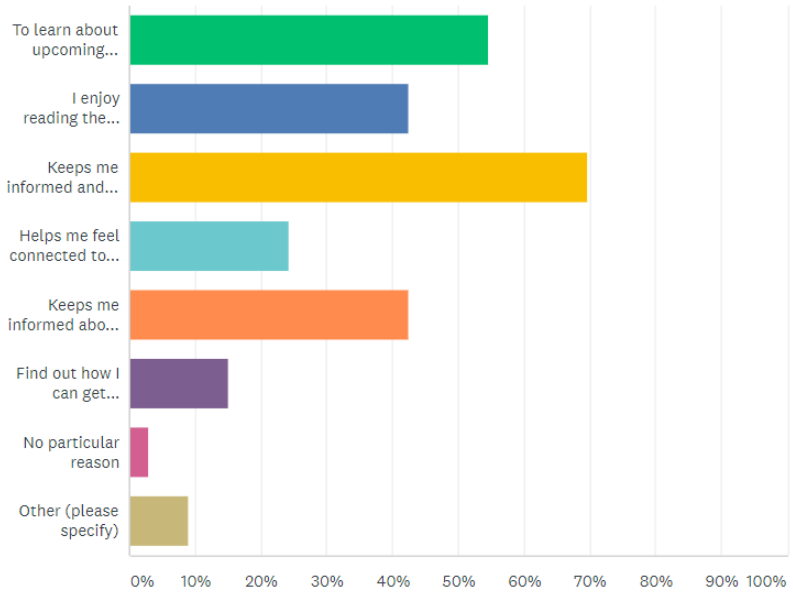
Content: The current primary reasons participants read Tideline are to stay informed about the Refuges, and to learn about upcoming programs. These were also the sections that were primarily viewed as "Useful or helpful every newsletter" and "Always a must read." Throughout a number of questions asked, Refuge Information and Upcoming Programs were consistently top responses. The top highlights were Don Edwards, Species Highlights, and Habitat Restoration. The new ideas resulted in a mix of responses, with no clear preference.

Participants: The majority of survey participants (55%) were from the East Bay, 41% considered themselves an infrequent visitor (1-3 visits/year) and 22% a frequent visitor (6+ visits/year). 57% of participants were Caucasian or White, with Southeast Asian second at 11%. There was an equal number of male and female participants.

The following pages are graphs showing visual representations of results from select survey questions that we viewed as important or showed a vast difference in responses. This report does not suggest any action(s) that should or should not be made, but is simply reporting the results of the survey.

What is(are) the primary reason(s) you read Tideline? (you can select more than one).

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



The top answers were:

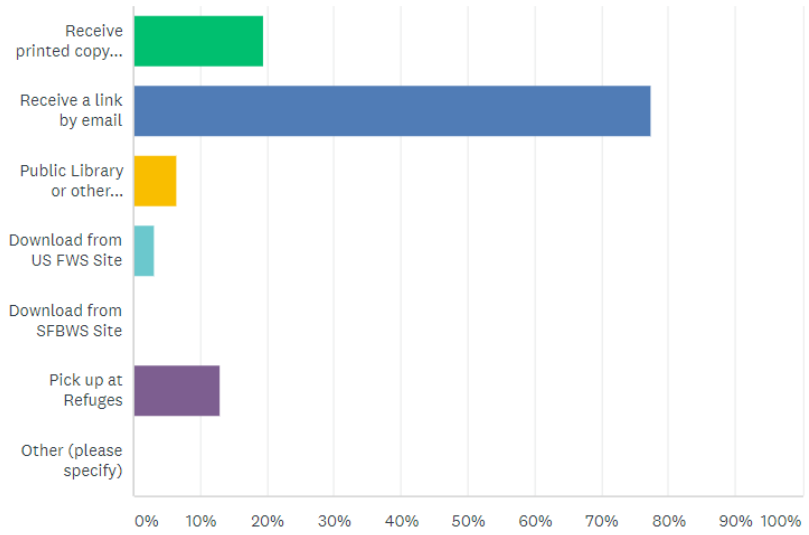
1. Keeps me informed and learning new information about the Refuges (69%)
2. To learn about upcoming programs that myself and/or my family can join! (54%)

REFUGE INTERESTS: The San Francisco Bay NWR Complex has seven refuges and some new areas of interest that are part of it. Which Refuge(s) do you want to hear about in Tideline. [NOTE you can pick more than one]

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	78.13%	25
San Pablo NWR	34.38%	11
Farallon Islands NWR	40.63%	13
Marin Islands NWR	31.25%	10
Antioch Dunes NWR	34.38%	11
Ellicott Slough NWR	31.25%	10
Salinas River NWR	37.50%	12
Alameda Point (Least Tern Colony)	40.63%	13
Bair Islands in Redwood City	56.25%	18
Habitat restoration	62.50%	20
Species highlights	71.88%	23
Climate change	46.88%	15
Public recreation opportunities	46.88%	15
Other (please specify)	6.25%	2
Total Respondents: 32		

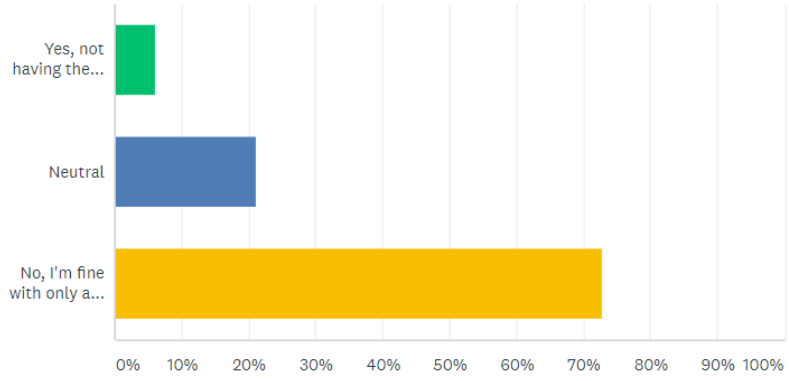
How do you received your Tideline? (you make pick more than one answer)

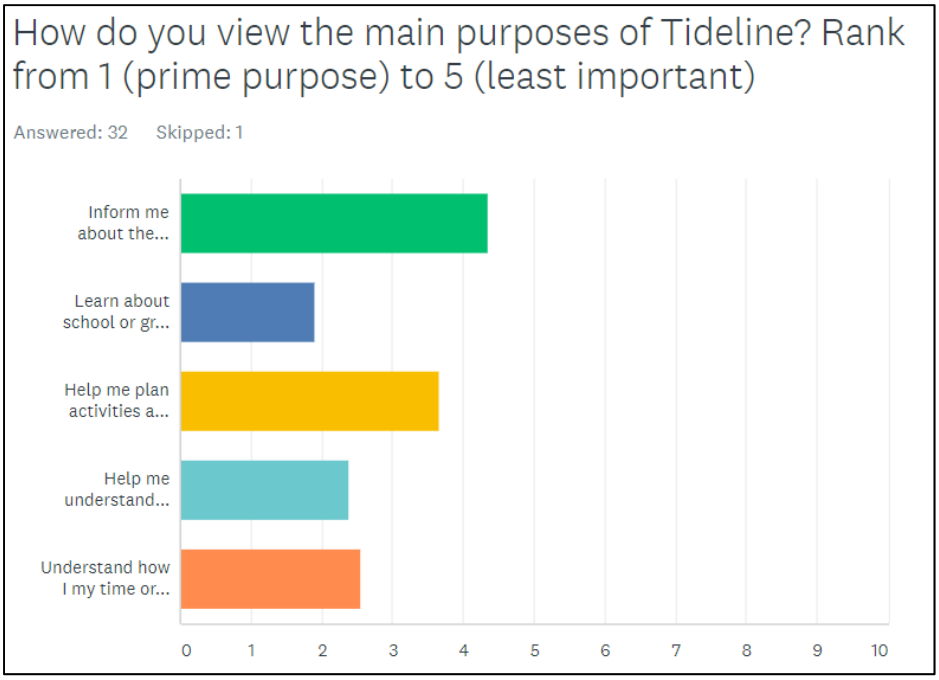
Answered: 31 Skipped: 2



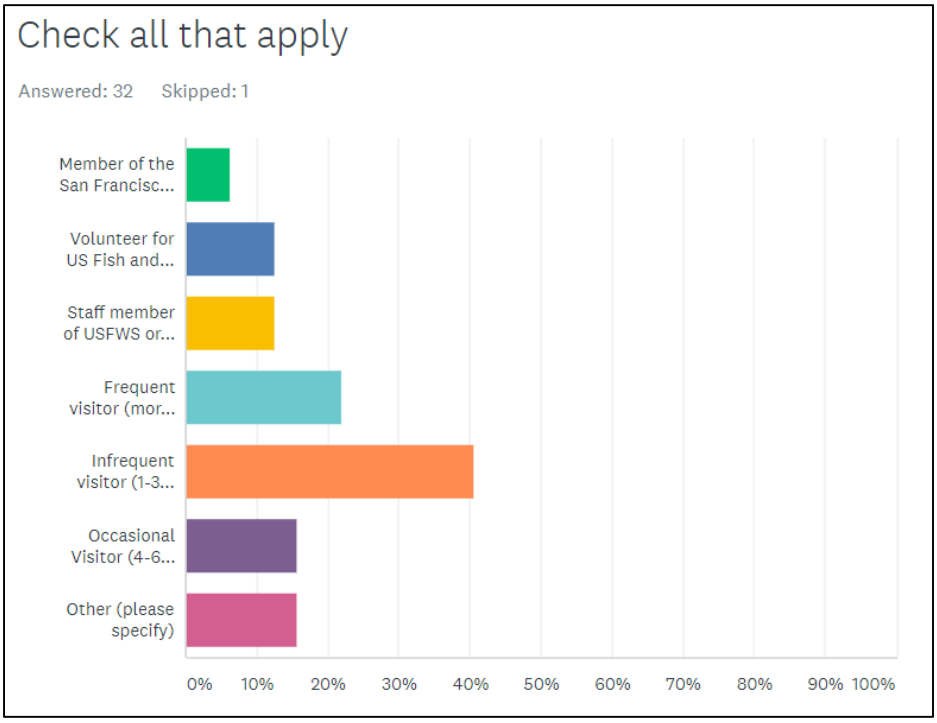
If we stopped printing the Tideline and it was only provided in digital form, either by email or as a download from a website, would this be an obstacle for you to stay informed about the Refuges?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0





	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Inform me about the Refuge Complex, its projects, the animals and habitats, and its challenges	61.29% 19	22.58% 7	9.68% 3	3.23% 1	3.23% 1	31	4.35
Learn about school or group field trips (or opportunities)	3.23% 1	16.13% 5	6.45% 2	16.13% 5	58.06% 18	31	1.90
Help me plan activities at the Refuges for me, my friends, family, or classes	31.25% 10	28.13% 9	21.88% 7	12.50% 4	6.25% 2	32	3.66
Help me understand volunteer opportunities and why my help is important	3.45% 1	10.34% 3	20.69% 6	51.72% 15	13.79% 4	29	2.38
Understand how I my time or money can help wildlife and habitats found in the Refuges	0.00% 0	16.13% 5	41.94% 13	22.58% 7	19.35% 6	31	2.55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Member of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS)	6.25%	2
Volunteer for US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) or SFBWS	12.50%	4
Staff member of USFWS or SFBWS	12.50%	4
Frequent visitor (more than 6 times a year)	21.88%	7
Infrequent visitor (1-3 times a year)	40.63%	13
Occasional Visitor (4-6 times a year)	15.63%	5
Other (please specify)	15.63%	5
Total Respondents: 32		