



Sloughs News

Winter 2015



Coastal Cleanup 2015

The Coastal Cleanup held on September 19 was a success. Approximately 250 volunteers came out to the Coastal Cleanup, more than the year before, and that made a difference that you could see.

Dean Nishimura, a regular truck driving volunteer who works for Brian and Katrina Higgins, said: "The Hetch Hechy pipeline corner was absolutely spotless. Obviously

many of the volunteers made it out to the end because they picked the corner clean. There was not a speck of trash left out there or along the road. All the small pieces of plastic and other very small pieces of trash that I usually see out there despite all of our efforts, were gone! The whole road area from the parking lot to the end yielded 22 plus bags and miscellaneous trash." A

larger dumpster was provided by the City of Fremont and became substantially filled up.

The Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge wants to thank the City of Fremont for providing the dumpster and both the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society and the East Bay Regional Parks for publicity, organization, and volunteer support.



Don Edwards



Photo of "Don Edwards" by US Government Printing Office

Our honored former Congressman Don Edwards, who passed away recently at the age of 100, had many achievements in his long career including writing the bill signed by President Nixon that established the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1972. As a result of his tireless efforts on our behalf, we have the first urban wildlife refuge in the United States.

Environmentalist Florence LaRiviere of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge said: "Mr. Edwards' living legacy is the marshes of San Francisco Bay, the wildlife that inhabits them, clean air and water and places of serenity for the human population."

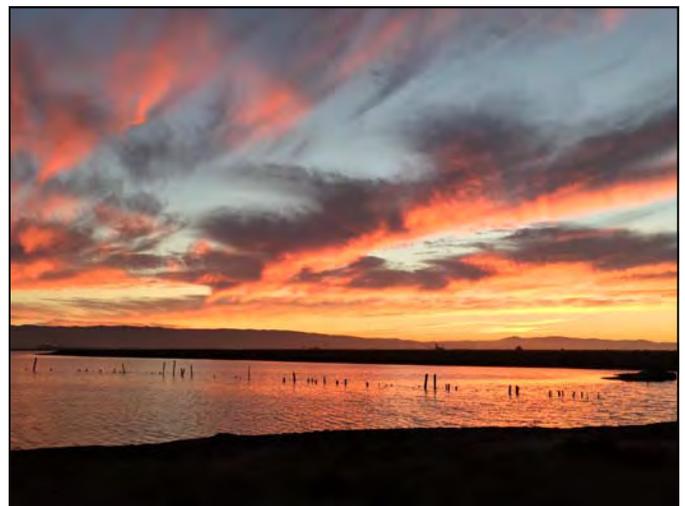


Photo by Volunteers Mary and Gene Bobik taken during their Twilight Marsh Walk

SCIENCE DAY/ REFUGE WEEK

A FUN DAY AT THE REFUGE WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMPONENT



THANKS TO EVERYONE AT THIS YEAR'S SCIENCE DAY. YOU TOO CAN VOLUNTEER AT OUR RECREATIONAL EVENTS HERE IN FREMONT. BE SURE TO INQUIRE WITH PAUL MUELLER OR CARMEN MINCH AND KEEP CHECKING THE *TIDELINES* AND THE *SLOUGHS NEWS*.

All Active Volunteers Need to Update Their Volunteer Agreements; All volunteers in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex need to have their volunteer agreements updated for the new calendar year starting this January. If you signed a volunteer agreement after October 1, 2015, you do not need to renew. If your duties have changed, you will need to update your position description. Your Volunteer Supervisors can help you.

Volunteer Opportunities in Fremont

Stewardship Saturdays

December 5, January 30, and February 27 from 9:30 am–noon

Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot. We will do either a trash cleanup or a planting/weeding project. For more information, call 510-792-0222 ext. 362.

Visitor Services Opportunities

Do you love the Tidelands Trail with its boardwalks and bridges over the marsh? Share the love with visitors at the Visitor Center in Fremont. Volunteers staff the desk in 3.5 hour shifts. You can sign up for one or more shifts each month. We also need Trail Ranger volunteers to rove in Fremont and answer visitor questions along the trails and at the fishing pier. It's a great way to get outside, and we can work with your schedule. To sign up, contact 510-792-0222 ext. 362.

Native Plants Nursery Jobs!

Do you need community service hours for school? Would you like to help to restore a vital habitat for the area wild-life? Consider joining the Native Plants Nursery in Fremont. The group meets most Sundays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, but it is important to call first to be sure. Contact 510-792-0222 ext. 362.

Fremont Visitor Center News

**Now offering,
Volunteer Orientation
in Fremont!**



Visitor Center

Sunday January 3rd 11 am-12 pm
Saturday February 13th
1 pm-2 pm

If you are enjoying learning about what a National Wildlife Refuge is, consider becoming a refuge volunteer. In this volunteer orientation, you will learn the mission and goals of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, its parent agency U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and volunteer positions currently open.

Presented by Volunteer Coordinator
Paul Mueller.

Potential Opportunities

- Visitor Center Information Desk —
- Native Plants Nursery —
- Trail and Vegetation Maintenance —
- Citizen Science —



Closed on Tuesdays

Just a reminder, the Visitor Center will be closed on Tuesdays. The new hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm.

Volunteer Opportunities at the EEC:

Volunteer Requirements

- You must attend a volunteer orientation
- You must attend the scheduled trainings
- You must meet the age requirements for the program
- Volunteer Applications provided at Orientation

Restoration Project Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work on the EEC's ecotone habitat restoration project. In the fall and winter volunteers plant natives, and in the spring and summer volunteers pull various invasive species to ensure that the native plants have a chance to thrive!

Training: Volunteer orientation and on-the-job training

Additional Requirements:

Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome who can do physical work, primarily outdoors

Hours: Tuesday, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Weekend Information Desk

Volunteers are needed to answer visitor questions, answer phones, and check out our discovery packs and binoculars to interested visitors.

Training: Volunteer Orientation and one hour-information desk training

Additional Requirements: Two half days per month for a six-month commitment

Hours: Shifts are from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays as needed

Citizen Scientists Plant and Bird Monitoring program

Help us monitor our native plants' life phases and observe the birds in our restoration site to contribute to the national monitoring networks.

Training: On-the-job training

Additional Requirements: Ages 15 and up

Hours: Flexible

Interpretive Program Volunteers

Come help out with Saturday and Sunday interpretive programs, or present one of your very own. We offer a wide variety of programs (see our Weekend Program Flyer) and are always looking for new ideas and faces to share our mission of wildlife conservation and pollution prevention.



Training: Volunteer orientation, attend three weekend programs of your choice and one interpretive guide training class

Additional Requirements: One shift a quarter for a one year-commitment

Hours: Weekends

Field Trip Docents

The EEC offers two environmental education programs: Wetlandroundup (1st-5th) and Living Wetlands (5th-12th). Docents will gain experience in environmental education and public speaking, and will be responsible for managing and leading groups of students through educational activities.

Training: Volunteer Orientation and Four-week training course, one-half day per week

Additional Requirements: Volunteer season is from September to mid-June. Two full days per month are required for a six-month commitment.

Hours: Programs are on an as-needed basis, generally Mondays-Thursdays, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.

EEC Volunteer Orientation Dates

If you have an interest in wildlife and their conservation, enjoy working with people, and are enthusiastic and dependable, the Environmental Education Center's Volunteer Program is for you! As a volunteer, you'll receive on-the-job training from staff and other volunteers in the project area you choose.

Volunteer orientations meet in the auditorium of the Environmental Education Center in Alviso from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

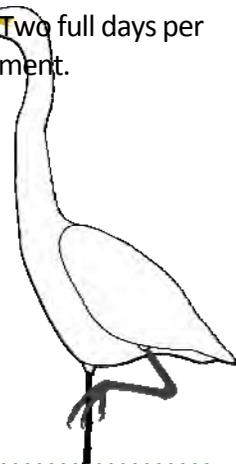
Coming in January of 2016

Tuesday, January 5th 2016

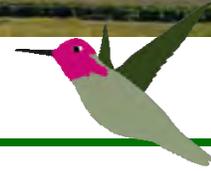
Sunday, January 24th 2016

Tuesday, February 9th 2016

Saturday, February 27th 2016



Training Opportunities



These training opportunities are open to all San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Volunteers.

Please register online with the link provided.

An introduction to SFBBO Upland Transitional Habitat Projects by David Thomson EEC, Alviso

Tuesday, December 1st 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Register: <http://sfbbouupdate.eventbrite.com>



Salt Pond Docent Training

Environmental Education Center, Alviso

Saturday, January 23rd 2016 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Want to become a volunteer, or update your training? Come to a Salt Pond Restoration Docent Volunteer Training class, where Park Ranger Joseph Garcia will teach you the volunteer process and what new changes are taking place within the park. Registration Recommended Call 510 792-0222 ext 141.



Fremont Native Plant Walk

Visitor Center, Fremont

Saturday, January 23rd 2016 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join Refuge volunteer and botanist June Smith at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Fremont. June will lead a plant hike around the trails at the Refuge and across Highway 84 at Coyote Hills. June will teach about the unique plants that grow in the upland and salt marsh habitats! Register at: <http://plantwalkforvolunteersjanuary.eventbrite.com> or by emailing genie_moore@fws.gov

Refuge 101

Tues, February 9th 2016 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Bring your lunch and join EEC Director Genie Moore to learn more about the National Wildlife Refuge's Priority Visitor Uses aka the Big 6. After lunch we will go for a walk to learn more about the Refuge's habitats. To register: <http://refuge101eec.eventbrite.com>

TRAIL USE SURVEYS

Volunteers are needed to count the number of people walking or bicycling the Mallard Slough Trail in February. This trail is located in Alviso next to the Environmental Education Center. Shifts are two hours at a time. Contact Carmen Minch at (510) 792-0222 ext. 476 or Carmen_Leong-Minch@fws.gov

SATURDAYS 1:00 PM TO 3:00 AM

Feb. 6

Feb. 13

Feb. 27

TUESDAYS 3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

Feb. 2

Feb. 9

Feb. 16

Feb. 23

SUNDAYS 8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

Feb. 7

Feb. 14

Feb. 21

Feb. 28

THURSDAYS 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Feb. 4

Feb. 11

Feb. 18

Feb. 25

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet will happen on Saturday, March 12, 1 PM to 4 PM in Fremont. Free food, door prizes, and more! Sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society and the employees of Refuge Complex. More details to come.

Allan Sprague



JOIN US FOR VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP TO THE BAY MODEL AND POINT BONITA LIGHTHOUSE IN SAUSALITO



Active volunteers are invited to the Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model in Sausalito and Point Bonita Lighthouse in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We'll leave at 8:30 am on January 30 from the Refuge Complex Headquarters parking lot on Marshlands Rd in Fremont. We'll stop for lunch in Sausalito then head to Point Bonita Lighthouse. We'll head back by 2:30 pm which should place us at the refuge by 4:00 pm. Reservations are via phone. Call 510-792-0222, extension 362.

Allen Sprague retired from volunteering at the Don Edwards refuge this past February. He attended the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet this past March, where we saw him last. His plan was to keep volunteering at the Fremont Chamber of Commerce and a local hospice. He had been a program docent, but we all knew him from his work at the visitor center desk where he heartily greeted everyone. He was a long-time Fremont City Attorney, who worked behind the scenes, quietly supporting the refuge. We are sorry to report here that Allan passed away on July 31 2015. He had an impact on visitors and everyone he knew.