



Sloughs News

Winter 2016 - 2017





Calendar of Events

Winter 2016 - 2017



Date	Event	Page	Location
12/1/2016	Volunteer Holiday Party!!	5	Environmental Education Center (EEC), Alviso
12/3/2016	EEC Volunteer Orientation	4	EEC, Alviso
12/3/2016	Fremont Orientation	3	Fremont Visitors Center
12/17/2016	Stewardship Saturday	3	Fremont Visitors Center
1/7/2017	EEC Volunteer Orientation	4	EEC, Alviso
1/23/2017	Stewardship Saturday	3	Fremont Visitors Center
2/4/2017	EEC Volunteer Orientation	4	EEC, Alviso
2/11/2017	Stewardship Saturday	3	Fremont Visitors Center
2/11/2017	Fremont Orientation	3	Fremont Visitors Center
2/16/2017	Edens Landing Walk	5	Carpools leaving from Alviso and Fremont

Habitat Restoration Volunteers Needed in Alameda



Volunteers are needed for habitat improvement projects at Alameda in a closed off area that used to be part of the old Naval Air Station. Volunteer projects occur *usually* on the second Sunday of each month and run from 9:00 am to noon. Contact Leora Feeney for more information and confirmation of this month's event at leoraalameda@att.net.

Visitors Center
2 Marshlands Rd, Fremont
(510) 792-0222



Environmental Education Center (EEC)
1751 Grand Boulevard, Alviso
(408) 262-5513

Sloughs News is edited by Leah Mould, with Laura Mello. Contributions came from Genie Moore, Mary Deschene, Olivia Andrus, Jonathan Shore, Susan Euing, Paul Mueller and Julie Karhnoff. Cover photo by Joanne Ong.

Please remember our new hours at the Visitor Center in Fremont and Environmental Education Center in Alviso effective September 1, 2016.

- Visitor Center in Fremont: Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 am – 4:30 pm Federal Holidays: Closed
- Environmental Education Center in Alviso: Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday/Non-Field Trip Days: Open 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday/Field Trip Days: Closed Federal Holidays: Closed

Trails remain open sunrise to sunset, and the refuge is closed federal holidays.

Fremont



Stewardship Days

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.

Saturday, December 17th, January 23rd and February 11th

Event begins at 9:30 am

Potential Opportunities

Visitor Center Information Desk*

We are looking for individuals to help us man the visitor center by greeting visitors and keeping the center looking nice. You will be an important staple of our team!

Questions? Please contact June Smith at wildflowers560@gmail.com

Native Plants Nursery*

Work with our nursery doing weeding, pruning, and planting. Help make the refuge more beautiful!

*Attending Fremont Volunteer Orientation is highly recommended

Questions? Please contact Paul Mueller at 510-792-0222 ext. 361 or Paul_mueller@fws.gov

Nature Store Coordinator

The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society is looking for a volunteer coordinator for the Nature Store. They need an individual who will use their energy to review, update and enhance the store's current inventory. Nature Store sales are one important way to enhance people's connection with our wildlife and its habitat. Below are some essential functions of the position:

- Assist the Wildlife Society and Refuge personnel in recruiting volunteers capable of greeting refuge visitors and handling nature store financial transactions.
- Assure the training of new Nature Store volunteers.
- Update a nature store operations manual and assist in developing nature store volunteer duties and procedures.
- Assure the maintenance of nature store volunteer schedule with a six-month horizon.
- Coordinate with and report to the Wildlife Society's Program Coordinator.
- Inventory management – the volunteer will figure out how to entice people to the store by encouraging and sharing curiosity for the natural world.
- Previous retail experience preferred. Minimum six-month commitment.

Questions? Please contact Mary Deschene at mary.deschene@sfbws.com

Volunteer Orientation
Saturday, December 3rd
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 11th
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Alviso



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 will receive on-the-job training from staff and other volunteers in the project area you choose.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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 is provided.

Questions: Please contact Julie Kahrnoff at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com

Additional Requirements: All ages are welcome, but remember it is physical work, primarily outdoors.

Hours: Work is done Tuesdays from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm.

Weekend Information Desk

Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to tell our story to visitors, field questions, answer phones, and check out our discovery packs and binoculars to visitors.

Training: Volunteer Orientation and a one hour information desk training.

Questions: Please contact Julie Kahrnoff at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com

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.

Citizen Scientists Plant Monitoring Program: Help us monitor plants, birds, monarchs, reptiles, and/or the weather!

Training: Volunteer Orientation, one hour instructional and in the field training with biologists and experienced volunteers is provided. **Questions:** Please contact Julie Kahrnoff at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com **Additional Requirements:** Volunteers must be ages 15 and up and monitor one field per month.

Dates & Hours: Dates and hours are flexible.

Butterfly Garden Manager: Experienced volunteer in California native plants needed to keep the education center's demonstration garden thriving. This position will

Volunteer Requirements

- You must attend a volunteer orientation.
- You must attend the scheduled trainings.
- You must meet the age requirements for the program.

require nursery management and developing a plan for the 1.5 acre garden.

History: Volunteers established this garden to provide critical habitat for songbirds and butterflies, and to demonstrate how to garden for wildlife using beautiful California native plants without the use of herbicides. It contains mature specimens of Ceanothus, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, pink flowering currant, buckwheat, toyon, and black sage in a naturalistic setting

To Apply: Please send resume and letter of interest to Julie Kahrnoff at julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com

Additional Requirements: One day a week for a three month commitment.

Hours: Hours are flexible.

Warm Springs Docent: Volunteers are needed to give public tours of the Warm Springs Unit of Don Edwards SF Bay NWR (Warm Springs). Warm Springs is a vernal pool grassland in South Fremont with beautiful vernal pool flower blooms in April. This area is otherwise closed to the public.

Training: Docents will be trained by Warm Springs staff and will attend at least two tours prior to leading a tour.

Questions: Contact Ivette Loreda, Wildlife Refuge Specialist at ivette_loreda@fws.gov

Additional Requirements: We are looking for docents who can lead 2 - 4 tours on weekends (two tours can be done in one day) in mid-April and make at least a two year commitment. Tours are two hours long and limited to 20 participants.

Hours: Typically tours are offered at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm and last two hours.

Outreach Volunteers: Help us get out into the community and spread the word about one of the bay area's best kept secrets - the Refuge!

Training: Volunteer Orientation, outreach training and Refuge 101 training are provided. **Questions:** Please contact Julie Kahrnoff at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com **Additional Requirements:** One event per quarter (four total) is required for a one year commitment.

Hours: Hours can vary depending on the event.

Volunteer Orientations

11:00 am to Noon

Meet in the auditorium of the Environmental Education Center in Alviso.

Applications provided at orientation.

Saturday, December 3rd

Saturday, January 7th 2017

Saturday, February 4th 2017

Remember: Please go to a volunteer orientation to become a volunteer at the EEC!

Volunteer Enrichment



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

Contact: Julie Kahrnoff at 408-515-1889, Julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com for questions and to register.

Eden Landing Ecological Reserve Hike

Thursday, February 16th 2016 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join Genie Moore, EE Specialist, for a four mile hike to enjoy the newly restored Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, managed by California Fish and Wildlife, in Hayward. You will see restored salt ponds, marshes, and 19th century salt making sites including the historic Archimedes screws (windmill pumps used to move water for salt making). Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, lunch, binoculars, and wear weather appropriate clothing. Click here for more info about Eden Landing: <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/visit-the-ponds/complex-eden.html>. We will arrange for a carpool from Alviso and Fremont. Heavy rain will cancel.

If you have an idea for a topic let us know!



HOLIDAY PARTY!

Environmental Education Center, Alviso

Thursday, December 1st 2016 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us for food and fellowship to celebrate the holidays and the end of another year! Turkey, ham and sides will be provided by the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society. Bring an unwrapped, new toy or new childrens pajamas of any size to donate to the Sleep Train Foster Children Toy and Pajama Drive! Participate in our dessert contest! Look for an evite from Volunteer Coordinator Paul Muller for more details.

Farallon NWR



Call for Maintenance, Labor, and Habitat Volunteers

Available and interested volunteers are requested to assist the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge in the greater San Francisco Bay Area from one to two weeks at a time between **September 2016 and April 2017**. Volunteers will conduct work on Southeast Farallon Island, located approximately 30 miles offshore of the city of San Francisco.

Duties: This is a general call for volunteers to assist with management of the Refuge. The Refuge is home to a permanent biological research station that requires regular maintenance. We are looking for anyone with carpentry, plumbing, electrical, or masonry skills to assist with maintenance. If you do not have any of these skills, there may be a need for volunteers with the ability to lift, move, and stack cargo to and from boats and around the island. Also needed are volunteers interested in assisting with invasive plant control activities.

Team Spinach 2017: Coming in early 2017 will be a call for five to seven volunteers to participate in Team Spinach for a week in late March/early April and for a week in late July/early August. The majority this time will be spent controlling the invasive plant New Zealand Spinach, while working on rocky and often steep terrain.

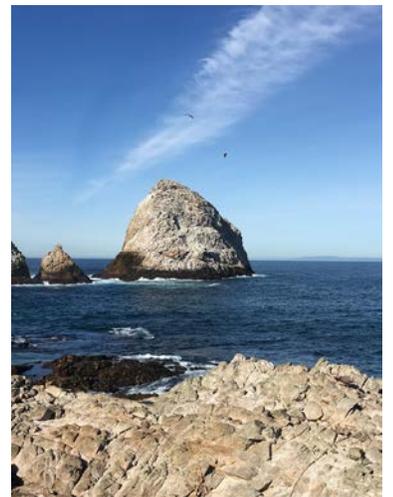
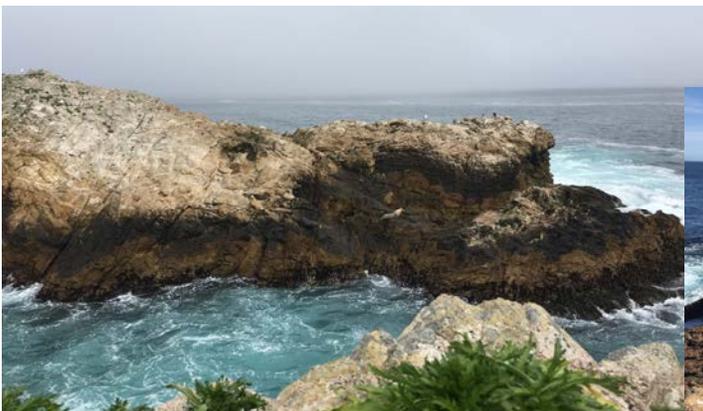
Work Environment: The volunteer must be able to adjust to isolated duty, live compatibly and in close association with other people. The volunteer will live and work up to two weeks at a time at a remote island field station located on Southeast Farallon Island. Accommodations and chores will be shared. Work and transportation plans are often affected by weather factors, sea conditions, and limited availability of transportation. Transport to the island be by boat and can take from two to six hours, depending on the type of boat and sea conditions. Weather on the island is often cool, windy and wet, so appropriate water proof and cool weather clothing is a must.

Required: All volunteers will need the ability to endure up to several hours on a boat in rough sea conditions. The ability to step or leap to/from a larger transport boat to a smaller shuttle boat in rough ocean conditions. The ability to perform physical labor that requires extended periods of bending, kneeling, lifting, and the physical ability to use varied equipment and tools to complete work.

Housing: Shared housing is provided at the field station on Southeast Farallon Island.

How to volunteer: Please contact Jonathan Shore, via email or phone at: Jonathan_Shore@fws.gov or 510-792-0222 ext. 224.

Photos by Ross Nichols



San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society



WANT TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS?



Did you know that there are various ways individuals can volunteer in support of the Refuge? You can volunteer for the Refuge directly, or for the Refuge Friends organizations: *San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS, or the Society)*, *Friends of San Pablo Bay*, or *Friends of Alameda National Wildlife Reserve*.

Becoming a member or volunteering with a Friends Group is another way the community can help support the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex. For almost 30 years SFBWS has been an active support organization for the SF Bay NWR Complex, and is now one of the first groups in the nation to convert to a formally designated Refuge Friends group under the new Fish and Wildlife Service Friend's agreements.

The Society contributed to the accomplishment of the refuge mission for the past 29 years through (1) nature store sales, the proceeds for which underwrite the publication of the Tideline newsletter, (2) environmental education programs including Watershed Watchers and Living Wetlands, (3) special projects, such as the EEC's Litterati™ Exhibit, and the interpretive exhibits and signs at the Visitor Contact Stations, and (4) special events, including volunteer recognition gatherings - to name just a few. Now the focus is on supporting education and stewardship, and growing the organization to meet the upcoming needs of the Refuge as they develop.



This is a call-out to folks who want to become more involved in several on-going efforts in the long-term stewardship of wildlife refuges. We are re-inventing ourselves, and now is a good time to jump in with new ideas and energy for the things you want to do.

We are looking for everyone from board members, to committee chairs and committee members, to people who want to volunteer for specific tasks. We also welcome those who want to help by donation, and through establishing a membership. See www.sfbws.com/donate

We have opportunities in various areas:

Volunteer Coordination, visitor center information desks - providing refuge information to visitors, along with Nature Store sales assistance.

Accounting, Events – We are planning a 30th Anniversary.

Committees - We are looking for volunteers to help on different task-focused committees related to membership/volunteers, marketing/communication, board governance, and the Nature Store.

Nature Store Coordinator – Nature Store sales are one important way to enhance people's connection with our wildlife and its habitat, [see page 3!](#)



Contact info:

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society - Mary Deschene, mary.deschene@sfbws.com

Friends of San Pablo Bay – Fran <franmctamaney@comcast.net>

Friends of Alameda National Wildlife Reserve – Susan Euing, susan_euing@fws.gov, will put you in touch with Lorene.

Thanks to our volunteers this past season!



Thanks to our volunteers at the Native Plant Nursery, especially to June Smith! Here's photos from the Native Plant Sale this fall. On the left is June Smith and Becky Bradley. Below: Lisa Jacuzzi and Glorianne Wong at the sale!



Here's Susan Euing, one of our biologists, with Leora Feeney, an Alameda volunteer, during a volunteer appreciation lunch for Alameda and Antioch volunteers.



Trash picked up by Steve Curts along the Shoreline Trail.



Students help during our Saturday Stewardship event, cleaning up many bags worth of trash around the fishing pier!

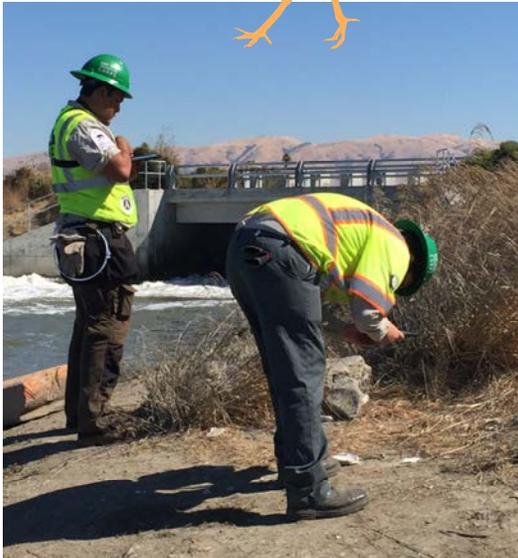
**And many more people not pictured here -
Thank you!**

Stories from the Field



Trash surrounds us and the amount is never clear until we start cleaning it up. The Litterati app has allowed us to not only focus on the types of trash that surround us, but it shows us specifically where it ends up. Thanks to the Pollution Project and the team from the San Jose Conservation Corp we have cleaned over 700 pounds of trash on our refuge. Every single piece documented with the Litterati app allows us to analyze the data and use it to change policies to stop trash at its source. This project wouldn't have been possible without the volunteers from the San Jose Conservation Corp and I highly thank them from coming on this journey with me.

By Olivia Andrus, Operations Coordinator, SFBWS



Photos of San Jose Conservation Corps cleaning up various ponds and levees in the south bay. Photos by Olivia Andrus

