



# Tide Rising

Fall 2021

Volume III, Issue 1



Publisher & Editor: [San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society](#) (SFBWS).

SFBWS is a not-for-profit Friends Group for the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex, working along with many Refuge volunteers to keep our public lands sustainable for you and wildlife.

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## Partnerships & Supporters

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- Learn more about partnerships that help South Bay environment.

### San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society

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**Masthead:** [Fall at Don Edwards SFB NWR](#) (Ambarish Goswami)

# #GIVINGTUESDAY

Support not-for-profits to  
achieve their visions

November 30, 2021!

Read more [here](#)



Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
(Ambarish Goswami)

# San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society Partnership Spotlight

...at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR ([more info](#))

*Formed in 1972, these 30,000 acres are an oasis for millions of migratory birds & endangered species*

## Adaptability in the Face of Change: Virtual Marsh-In Summer Camp 2021

*by Megan Tobias, 2021 Summer Camp Associate  
San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society*

For over 40 years, the Environmental Education Center at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge has welcomed Bay Area youth for a week of free summer camp. However, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic drove the joint USFWS and SFBWS team to adopt a virtual format for the second consecutive summer. Our 2021 Virtual Marsh-In Summer Camp's success was a testament to the team's adaptability in the midst of ever-changing circumstances.

Faced with the constraints of an online format, we focused on creating a personal and intimate week of camp. How could our campers feel connected to the outdoors while interacting with us through a computer screen? Amidst a time of significant isolation, how could we make our campers feel heard, valued, and celebrated? These questions drove the development of our camp curriculum. As part of our ongoing outreach to neighboring communities, we drove around the Bay Area and hand-delivered camp activity packets to our campers' homes. This process provided us with a glimpse of the socioeconomic diversity among our participants and enabled us to form connections with them before camp began.

Our program served 26 campers entering grades 1-6. Although some other organizations hosted in-person camps this summer, our camp was a fantastic option for those who found virtual camps more feasible or safe during the pandemic. We also expanded the program's geographical reach thanks to its virtual format, with campers calling in from Albany, Hayward, and even Davis. Due to our continued efforts to establish and maintain relationships with communities adjacent to the Refuge, we received around 80 percent new

applicants, with Newark residents accounting for about 30 percent of our total participants. Our array of campers reflected the tremendous diversity of the communities surrounding our Refuge.

We were also joined by 11 Habitat Heroes entering grades 7-12. Each summer, our Habitat Heroes engage with campers in small groups. Many campers aspire to become Habitat Heroes once they "graduate" from camp, thus reinforcing our "ladder of engagement" model—building relationships with community members over time and through a variety of opportunities. This year, our Habitat Heroes led activities in breakout rooms and fostered an energetic atmosphere during full-group programs. USFWS and SFBWS staff and volunteers served as "breakout room chaperons" and helped us to maintain camper engagement, as well.

*continued on next page....*



Camper using her binoculars by the water  
(Rachel Tertes)



Camper showing off her bird mask at home  
(Sajida Shabeer)

Summer Programs  
partially funded by



# San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society Partnership Spotlight

...at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR ([more info](#))

*Formed in 1972, these 30,000 acres are an oasis for millions of migratory birds & endangered species*

## Adaptability in the Face of Change: (continued...)

This year's virtual camp followed a format similar to the 2020 Marsh-In Summer Camp. Each day, campers completed self-guided activities and watched supplemental videos. We held three 1.5-hour Zoom meetings throughout the week where campers participated in live activities, listened to presentations from Refuge staff, and interacted with their peers in breakout rooms. Continuing our traditional camp themes, we taught campers about the Refuge system, wetland habitats, and key local species.



Camper Packet  
(Rachel Caoili)

The new activities contributed a more personal, introspective tone to this year's program. To alleviate pandemic-driven isolation, we guided campers through mindfulness and nature journaling activities that emphasized the importance of mental health and reconnecting with the outdoors. With an activity focused on reducing plastic pollution, they created art pieces from recycled items. Campers also learned about Indigenous people through a Land Acknowledgment and a video about the Ohlone. This segment of our program not only informed them about the original stewards of this land, but it also encouraged campers to reflect on their own cultural traditions. Accordingly, we created a space where campers could embrace and celebrate their cultures. Pictures and stories of their family traditions were the highlight of our end-of-camp slide show.

With its new focus, our 2021 Marsh-In Summer Camp was a resounding success. This year's camp size enabled us to provide more individualized attention to our participants. In fact, all campers were given multiple opportunities to share their projects with the entire group. Paired with our activities that focused on inward reflection, this collaborative and encouraging environment made campers feel valued and heard. All participants emerged into the spotlight to share their ideas, knowledge, and creativity.

In the face of constantly-evolving circumstances, we successfully delivered an engaging virtual summer camp, and we look to the future with excitement and optimism. Our team fostered continued engagement among campers; some expressed their desire to become Habitat Heroes in the future or inquired about attending future events. Virtual Marsh-In Summer Camp 2021 provided us with valuable content for subsequent programs. Whether we deliver this program virtually or in person in the future, we are equipped with the adaptability and experience to execute an impactful, equitable, and personal week of camp for the enjoyment of children across the Bay Area and beyond.



Campers complete their scavenger hunt by the water  
(Jackie Rodewald)

Summer Programs  
partially funded by



## Friends & San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex ([more info...](#))

*A group of seven National Wildlife Refuges and two Friends organizations in partnership.  
These wildlife refuges are devoted to preserving migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife*

### PARTNERSHIPS: Friends Groups & SF Bay National Wildlife Refuges Complex

*by Ceal Craig, Treasurer, SFBWS*

In this quarterly newsletter we shine a light on San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (SFBNWR) Complex and Friends groups partnerships. Our Refuge partners have been super busy and experienced several staff absences and staff changes and were not able to provide any articles this quarter.

The Complex grew from a single Refuge—Farallon Islands NWR formed in 1909, Salinas River in 1973, with two big Refuges, Don Edward San Francisco Bay NWR and San Pablo Bay NWR, formed in 1974. Next, Ellicott Slough formed in 1975, Antioch Dunes in 1980, and finally Marin Islands in 1992. These seven Refuges form the Complex.



Poster Banner (Ceal Craig)

Since 1987, the *San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society* has been a partner to the SFBNWR Complex. In its earliest years, the relationship was primarily focused on Don Edwards SFBay NWR; however, the Society supported nature stores in Refuges as far away as Klamath NWR, Salton Sea NWR. As the Society's partnerships with other agencies developed over past decades, notably with Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution & Protection Program (SCVURPPP), it grew its support for Visitor Services focused programs, while finding new pathways to provide other support for the Complex.

One new pathway: the Bohannon Family Foundation recently funded a BioTech position that garnered data and research for Refuge Complex biologists, conducted buckwheat seeding experiments on Antioch Dunes NWR to support the endangered Langes Metalmark butterfly.

Programs like annual Marsh-In Summer Camp (virtual these past two summers), Drawbridge History, History & Mystery of the Refuge and the Bay, King Tides, Rails & Tales, Draw with a Ranger: Snowy Plover, Pollinators, Wildflower Walk, Family Story Walks, outreach programs on Mercury pollution, continue, albeit mostly virtual over past 18 months.

In the fall of 2019, the Society began the management of the quarterly newsletter, renamed Tide Rising, building on the decades of joint USFWS & SFBWS management of the Tideline newsletter.

*Friends of San Pablo Bay* formed in 2003 to support San Pablo Bay, Antioch Dunes, and Marin Islands NWRs. They published a popular children's book—*A Home for Salty!*, and have focused on volunteer based efforts to support those Refuges.

Both SFBWS and FSPB Friends groups are 501 (3) (c) not-for-profit organizations. Your support of them helps the Refuge Complex as a whole and its seven Refuges.

To learn [more about this set of partnerships](#), (viewing a printout may need reading glasses!), Virtually zoom in on your Refuge of interest! See the questions in the center of this "poster" and let us know your thoughts. **We look forward to hearing from you.**



San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society



Friends of San Pablo Bay

# People of Note

by Ceal Craig, Newsletter Editor

## Indigenous People Day and a local Indigenous Environmentalist

### October 12, Indigenous Peoples Day

What does that mean? From [President Biden](#), October 8, 2021:

*Since time immemorial, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have built vibrant and diverse cultures – safeguarding land, language, spirit, knowledge, and tradition across the generations. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, our Nation celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations.*

### Winona LaDuke

Santa Clara University 2016-2017 Environmental Ethics Fellow at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics shared this about LaDuke: she was “well-known across many fields” (Gianotti, 2017) politics, environmental activist, with strong interests in rural economies (her master’s thesis) and a sustainable future.

“Her work as a public speaker has spanned decades, with notable world platform addresses from a young age, and she remains a strong voice today, calling attention to issues of indigenous peoples and environmental causes” (Gianotti, 2017). She is of Ojibwe (father), Jewish and European (mother) descent.

LaDuke speaks out for North American indigenous peoples. “Her most recent causes are food sovereignty and renewable energy” (Gianotti, 2017). Earning an undergraduate economics degree at Harvard, starting in education on a Minnesota reservation, she became an activist as a founding member of the Indigenous Women’s Network to promote sustainability and cultural preservation.

Besides her focus on food sovereignty--the right to land and producing healthy food--she has a vision of Earth first and focusing first on future generations.

Gianotti, Z. (2017). *Winona LaDuke, Indigenous Environmental and Lands Rights Activity*. Retrieved from [this site](#).

## Donors and Supporters

Many people and organizations who support and donate to the Society have done this for a long time. We appreciate your long term interest and this evidence of support.

Each quarter we recognize the [quarter’s donors](#). **Whatever level of contribution, these dollars make a difference.** These monies have helped fund:

- Volunteer recognition activities,
- *Watch our Watershed and Wetlands* (WOWW) interactive kiosks at the Environmental Education Center (Alviso/San Jose) and the Visitor Contact station (Fremont),
- Microscopes and binoculars,
- Bike racks and signs,
- Summer Camp,
- Blue Goose Transportation (support) Fund, and
- [More \(see timeline\)](#)!

## December 5 International Volunteer Day!

Since 1985, when the United Nations designated an International Volunteers Day (IVD), each year around the world, organizations highlight how critical volunteers are for them.

The 2020 IVD theme was **Together We Can Through Volunteering**. The 2021 theme will be announced in November.

Without volunteers, our Friends organization, the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, would not exist. All Board of Directors members are volunteers. Many programs are developed and hosted by volunteers. We are also lucky to have supporters and granting organizations who help SFBWS have a few paid staff.

Within the SFBNWR Complex, hundreds of volunteers giving thousands of hours have an incredible impact on the ability of the Refuges to fulfill their mission. **Thank you!**

## Partnerships

### Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR)



A not-for-profit formed in 1965 to drive creation of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, the CCCR believes current and future generations of bay area residents deserve a clean, healthy, sustainable and vibrant San Francisco Bay.

### Watch Wildlife on the Former Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs (AKA Area 4) Come to Life at Dawn

by Carin High, CCCR Co-Chair

We hope you will enjoy listening to the sounds of Pacific chorus frogs, geese, ducks and various songbirds as they greet a new day. We are extremely grateful to videographer Mark Weaver for capturing the sights and sounds of the marsh coming to life at sunrise.

[View the video](#)

If you haven't already done so, consider visiting [Save Newark Wetlands website](#) for updates and to sign a petition to save this unique site from development.

Newark Wetlands (Derell Licht)



### South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast. Land purchase began in 2003. When complete, project will restore 15,100 acres of industrial salt ponds to a rich mosaic of tidal wetlands and other habitats.

#### Upcoming status meeting in November

Interested in future plans and on-the-ground progress of the long-term salt pond restoration project in the south bay? All interested stakeholders and members of the public are invited to a virtual public meeting of the Stakeholder Forum and Working Groups to share information and dialogue about Project progress, science, funding, and other restoration-related topics. Zoom information and agenda will be posted once final.

To be responsive to stakeholder and public interest, and in an attempt to offer the more informal conversational spaces that typically occur at an in-person meeting, this meeting will run from 1-3:30 p.m., with the latter part of the meeting incorporating breakouts to support opportunities for dialogue and discussion. At 3:30 p.m., the meeting will shift to an informal open house for those who would like to continue discussions., [View here for more info.](#)



### Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program

The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society has partnered with Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) for almost 30 years (since 1992). The purpose of the Watershed

Watchers program and SCVURPPP is to prevent urban runoff pollution (pollution coming from a myriad of sources, such as oils from vehicles, detergents from washing things outside, litter, and pet waste) and increase the surrounding communities' knowledge of such pollution, and how to reduce its harmful effects through personal behavior. This purpose is accomplished through many avenues, with the most popular being the interpretive and stewardship programs offered at the Environmental Education Center. **Thank you SCVURPPP!**

### SFBWS needs your help!

Can you spare 5 minutes to complete a survey (five questions plus a few optional ones)? Share your ideas about our quarterly *Tide Rising* newsletter. [SURVEY](#) Let us know how we are doing and what we can do to improve our efforts and serve you better. Thanks for listening! - Ceal Craig, Newsletter Editor

### Sinking Underwater

A ghost town's amazing legacy

Though our Nature Store sites at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso and Visitors Center in Fremont remain closed, we are processing orders for the *Sinking Underwater* book about Drawbridge, a fascinating piece of history within the Don Edwards refuge boundaries. You can [buy the book online](#) here using your credit card.



*You should really know what the complete natural world of your region is and know what all its interactions are and how you are interacting with it yourself. This is just part of the work of becoming who you are, where you are.*

- Gary Snyder; environmental poet, essayist, activist

Hello Partners, Members, and Readers

The conservation and stewardship, outdoor recreation and access, and interpretation and education efforts in the SF Bay Area are remarkable and weave together an astounding fabric of entities accomplishing amazing things for the planet. Being involved personally and professionally in the larger collaborative has provided me much insight, reward, and perspective. Through my service with the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS) and our support of the Refuge Complex I have learned about the value U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service places on working in partnership with others. Whether all intentions and science outcomes are met or not the process of trying to create a sustainable future for flora and fauna, and people and places in our region provides for collective action and learning, together.

This fall I am saying good-bye to SFBWS after five years on the board of directors. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and work, have fun and connect with talented and dedicated SFBWS and FWS staff, committed volunteers, and the community. This is a perfect moment to extend an invitation and request to you – please consider getting involved with SFBWS on the board or in another capacity. Bring your curiosity, eco-interests, variable skill sets, and join this special organization to contribute to the region’s conservation efforts. Don’t forget to let SFBWS know that I sent you!

With gratitude and kind regards

-- Renée



Renée - East Bay Hills  
(Katherine Greene)



Marin Headlands  
(Renée Fitzsimons)

Black Friday...

Cyber Monday...

## #GIVINGTUESDAY

**November 30, 2021**

#GivingTuesday: global day of giving when people around the world contribute to and promote causes they care about.

**Supporting the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society on Giving Tuesday is as easy as 1-2-3:**

1. [Donate](#) to support environmental and educational mission of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society
2. Apply for your employer matching gift (if available)
3. Share your support on your social networks using #GivingTuesday

**THANK YOU!**

Photography Corner



Bunny alert at the Refuge  
(Ambarish Goswami)



Walking  
on the Refuge  
(Ambarish Goswami)

Reflections  
(Ambarish Goswami)



Please share your photos  
of our Refuges and other  
Refuges you visit!



Sacramento & Colusa National Wildlife  
Refuges through a curtain of smoke:  
August 6, 2021  
(Ceal Craig)



[Coalition of Refuge Friends and  
Advocates](#)



[National Wildlife Refuge Association](#)

Defends the integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge System  
with advocacy, restoration and research.

Find out about NWRA, mission, their methods, and the results of four decades of advocacy.



## SAN FRANCISCO BAY WILDLIFE SOCIETY: DONOR RECOGNITION

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who have made gifts to the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society between July 1 to September 30, 2021.

### Senior/Student

Ann Dee Clemenza  
Phil Gordon  
Joyce Lewis  
Jason Molena  
Christopher Quinn  
Joanne Preston  
Connie Ray Simone  
Marge E Wood

### Individual

Diane L Ciucci  
Scott Starratt

### Family

John B Bowers  
Kenneth & Dee Himes  
Gerald E & Susan C James  
John Lukas

### Supporter

Loring G Dales  
Stephanie Fung  
Lisa Garza  
Carol Johnson  
Tara Lee  
Steven Skala

### Participant

Joyce E Bartlett  
Natalie A Forrest  
Annie Henzel  
Kirsten Holmquist  
Martha Johnson  
Gerald J McChesney  
Igor & Shirley Mae Skaredoff  
Gerald Watanabe  
Howard Whitaker  
Sally Smyth

### Sponsor

Marge Kolar

### Donations

American Online Giving Foundation  
Anonymous  
Kenneth & Dee Himes  
PayPal Giving Fund



Northern mockingbird eating praying mantis  
(Lea Bavaro)

**THANK YOU!**  
Our Refuges appreciate  
your support

## 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.sfbayws.org](http://www.sfbayws.org).

For a gift membership, call 510-792-0222 ext. 364.

[LINK here](#)

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:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student/Senior <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sustainer <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card payment, use PayPal at <a href="http://www.sfbayws.org/donate">www.sfbayws.org/donate</a>
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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:

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

[www.sfbayws.org](http://www.sfbayws.org)

