



Tide Rising

Winter 2024 Volume V, Issue 2



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

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

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RESTORATION AND REFLECTION

Restoration and Reflection

- USFWS seeking input for revamp of Environmental Education Center and surrounding public spaces.
- VTA seeking input for Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project during public scoping period
- On its 20th anniversary of formation, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project opened 300-acres more of former industrial salt pond to the Bay, restoring critical tidal marsh habitat.

SFBWS Corner

- EEC construction for the Shoreline Levee Project, king tides at the EEC and nearby, and more about our National Wildlife Refuges.

Wildlife Education

- Learn about the dormancy patterns of California native plants and their relationship with the lichens that grow on them.

Community Highlights

- Hear about a Bay Area native who grew up hunting and is now passing along his knowledge and guidance to junior hunters.

Enjoy the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society Winter Newsletter! Share your ideas for future articles! What interests you? [Tell Us!](#) Thanks for reading, and enjoy the rest of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society's Quarterly Newsletter!

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society

Editors: Clayton Ou, Ceal Craig, PhD

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Masthead: Earth Day Graphic (Olivia Poulos)



Left: A couple taking a leisurely walk on the Pumphouse Marsh Trail on a lovely afternoon
(Ambarish Goswami)

**Upcoming Refuge and Community Events
on pages 12-14**

@ambarish.naturephotos
[More photos of the Refuges](#)

Restoration and Reflection

Crafting a New Vision for the Environmental Education Center

by Chris Barr, Deputy Complex Manager, San Francisco Bay NWR Complex

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking for *your* input to reimagine the possibilities for the Refuge's Environmental Education Center and surrounding public spaces in Alviso. To improve the public's experience at the Environmental Education Center site and ensure that the place remains a community asset for many decades to come, we really need to hear from you!

Originally built in 1979, the Refuge's Environmental Education Center in Alviso, California, has hosted thousands of programs for students and families for over 40 years. Some locals fondly refer to the observation tower as the "bird house." Families, school groups, and others have met here for ranger-led talks about pollinators and wetlands, for guided hikes through the wetlands in search of birds and mammals, and a safe place to spend time outdoors with family and friends. Others have spent countless hours helping maintain the gardens for native plants and restoring native vegetation in the area.

The existing Environmental Education Center with its two classrooms, small auditorium, enclosed observation platform, and limited exhibit space has served us well for decades, but the main building and the surrounding public buildings need revitalization and updating. There are many needed modifications, so we want your help to create a plan for new facilities.



Environmental Education Center (USFWS)

How To Get Involved

Our first step is understanding what people value about the current Environmental Education Center, why they visit the refuge, and what types of spaces their community may benefit from in a new vision for the facility and site.

This year the team will have multiple ways to engage with the visioning and design process: by sharing your thoughts via email, by joining one of our open community workshops, by creating potential connections to partnerships for programming for the future facility, and more. The first workshop was held on January 10th, but please save the date for next workshops around EEC Priorities & Opportunities:

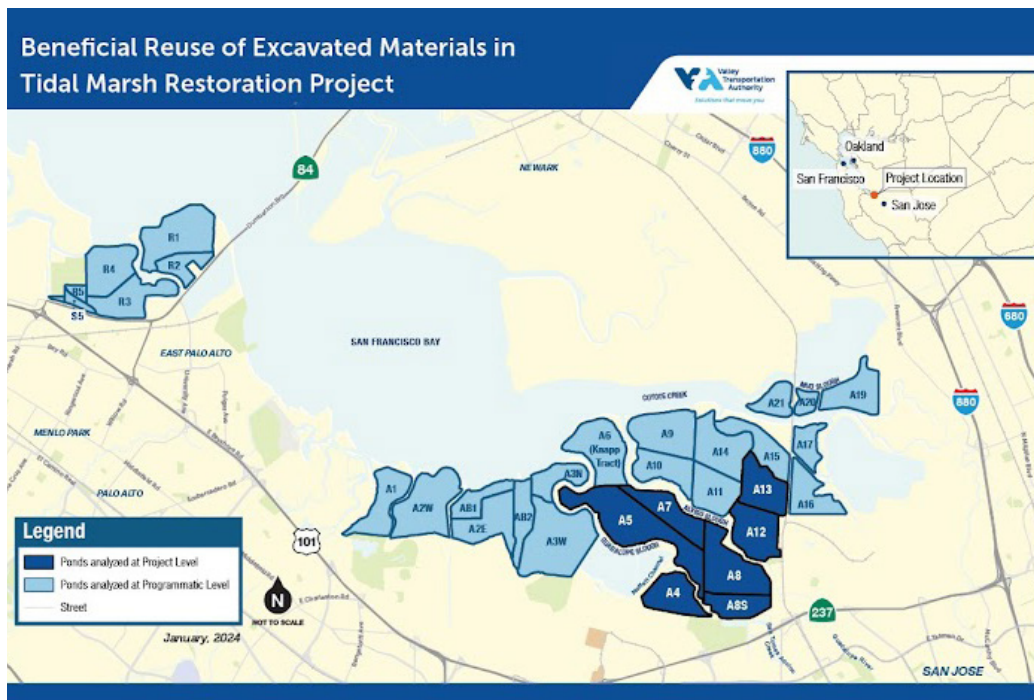
- February 21, 2024 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Mayne Elementary School in Alviso.
- April 3, 2024 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Mayne Elementary School in Alviso.

For more information, or to share your thoughts via e-mail, please reach out to Alviso_EEC@fws.gov!

Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project

by the Valley Transportation Authority

The Valley Transportation Authority's public scoping period for the joint EIS/EIR for the proposed Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project begins January 19 and ends February 20, 2024. During this period, the public is encouraged to provide input on the scope of the Project by attending either the in-person or virtual meeting, [emailing comments](#), or using the [comment form](#). Please reference the [Notice of Preparation \(NOP\)](#) and the [Digital Flyer](#) for VTA's Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project.



Beneficial Reuse Project Map (VTA)

Comment Due Date

Comments regarding the scope of analysis and content for the EIS/EIR are invited from all interested parties. Please submit comments no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2024. However, we would appreciate your response at the earliest possible date.

Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings (one virtual and one in-person) will be held.

- The [virtual meeting](#) will be held via [Zoom](#) on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. To register for the virtual meeting, please go to the [VTA website](#).
- The [in-person meeting](#) will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Alviso Branch Library located at 5050 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95002. (this location is served by VTA Bus 59)

The details of the public scoping meetings are also posted on the [VTA website](#). Project information will be presented at the meetings. Details about the Beneficial Reuse Project will be posted on the [VTA website](#) as the project is further developed.

BENEFICIAL REUSE OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL IN TIDAL MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), are proposing the Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration (Beneficial Reuse Project) in South San Francisco Bay. The USFWS is the Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act and VTA is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The USFWS is issuing a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and VTA is issuing a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project.

The public scoping period for the joint EIS/EIR will begin on January 19 and end February 20, 2024. During this period, the public is encouraged to provide input on the scope of the Project by attending either an in-person or virtual meeting or providing comments at beneficial.reuse@vta.org.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Beneficial Reuse Project would place up to approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of excavated material (soils) into several former salt production ponds around South San Francisco Bay to raise the pond bottoms for the purpose of accelerating the timeline for tidal marsh habitat restoration. Much of the material will come primarily from tunneling operations for VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project.

Direct benefits of the Project include beneficial reuse of construction waste and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by diverting "waste" that would otherwise be taken to landfills much farther away. **Indirect benefits** will result from the future restoration of tidal marsh habitat once the former salt production pond bottoms are raised. Re-establishing marshes will also provide sea-level rise resilience, water quality improvements, flood risk management, and habitat creation for threatened and endangered species.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Please join us to learn more and provide valuable input into the scope of the Project. Participants will have the opportunity to review displays, watch a brief presentation, and speak with project team members. VTA is facilitating both virtual and in-person opportunities to engage and learn about the project. Comments may be submitted at the meetings or by email at beneficial.reuse@vta.org.

Virtual community meeting:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024
6:00 PM via Zoom

In-person community open house:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024
5:30 TO 7:00 PM

ALVISO BRANCH LIBRARY
5050 N. First Street,
San Jose, CA 95002

For additional information and to register for the meetings, please visit:

vta.org/projects/vtas-beneficial-reuse-project

Scan QR Code to RSVP
and share translation
needs or follow this link:
<https://bit.ly/48lxKpd>



¿Puede leer este documento? Si no, podemos ayudarle a leerlo. Si desea recibir asistencia, llame al Departamento de Relaciones con la Comunidad de VTA al (408) 321-7575.

이 문서를 읽을 수 있습니까? 읽지 못하신다면 저희가 도와드릴 수 있습니다. 무료도움이 필요하시다면, VTA 커뮤니티 관계 부서에 (408) 321-7575 로 연락주시기 바랍니다.

Kaya mo bang basahin ang dokumentong ito? Kung hindi, matutulungan ka naming basahin ito. Para makatanggap ng libreng tulong, mangyaring tumawag sa Community Relation Department ng VTA sa (408) 321-7575.

您是否能閱讀本文件? 若否, 我們能協助您閱讀。欲取得免費協助, 請聯絡 VTA 社區關係部專線 (408) 321-7575。

Bạn có thể đọc tài liệu này không? Nếu không, chúng tôi có thể giúp bạn đọc tài liệu này. Để được trợ giúp miễn phí, vui lòng gọi Bộ Phận Quan hệ Cộng đồng của VTA theo số (408) 321-7575.



(408) 321-2345 English
(408) 321-2330 TTY

(408) 321-2300

Español
Tagalog

Tiếng Việt
粵/華語

한국어

For more details, or to learn more about the project and sign up for updates visit vta.org/bart



Restoring the Ravenswood Units of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR

by Chris Barr, Deputy Complex Manager, San Francisco Bay NWRC, USFWS

On December 13, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR and partners opened an additional 300-acre former industrial salt pond to the Bay, restoring critical tidal marsh habitat. Tidal marsh once ringed the South Bay and cushioned the shore from storms and tides. But over the course of the 20th century, approximately 85% of San Francisco Bay wetlands, over 150,000 acres, were lost to development.

In a celebration that marked the 20th anniversary of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, partners highlighted the collaborative nature of the project. "Partnerships like the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project allow us to develop collaborative solutions and bring innovative initiatives into the future," said Matt Brown, San Francisco Bay NWR complex manager.

Kaylee Allen, senior advisor for resources, highlighted the importance of the ESA and the critical safety net it provides for species like the endangered salt marsh harvest mice and Ridgway's rails.

In a statement from Quirina Luna Geary, Chairwoman for the Tamien Nation stated "Tamien Nation extends our gratitude to the agencies that enabled this transformative event expressing appreciation for all those involved including the planners, staff, and laborers who played a crucial role in making this restoration possible. Together, we have the potential to rectify the damage caused and work towards a harmonious coexistence with the natural world."



Partners celebrated the 20th anniversary of South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. (Miguelina Portorreal / USFWS)



Ravenswood levee breach near Don Edwards NWR (Charles Anderson)



Group shot of some of the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex Staff and partners enjoying the day. (USFWS)

On The Trail...

by Cecilia (Ceal) D. Craig, Ph.D., F. SWE, SFBWS President

My bones felt the cool winter temperatures on January 12, 2024, though the sun was shining. As I walked around the EEC that Friday around noon, looking for potential king tide photos, I was taken

aback by how high the A16 southern levee has become compared to prior times. The little island is mostly under water. So much change happening and it won't be over until sometime in 2025.



Shoreline Levee Construction at EEC & King Tide in Artesian Slough

Left is from a viewpoint at the north end of the butterfly native plant garden. Right is east towards Artesian Slough.
(Ceal Craig)

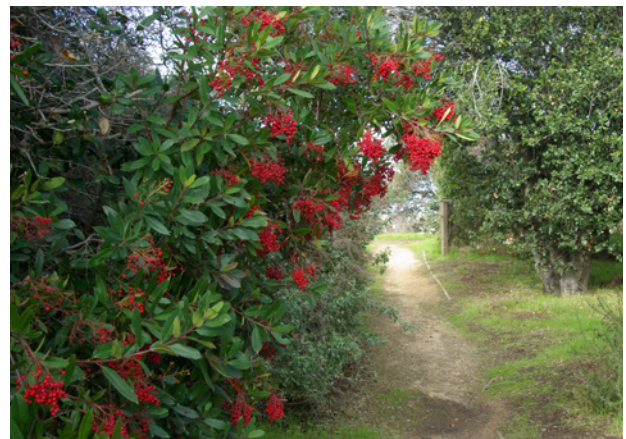
I met many people who were enjoying a noon walk around the EEC grounds, more than I expected. Birders (looking for barn owls in the box on the west side of the pavilion), photographers (seeing the changes at the EEC), and friends catching up for a few minutes while walking. I was surprised how few of them knew the purpose of the construction at the EEC. Essentially the south levee of A16 is being raised in height (about double what it was) to handle rising sea levels, notably

during high tide events. The Army Corps of Engineers is managing the project that began last year (or maybe it was 2022!) and will continue until next year [1].

Next, I was struck by bright red berries and the inviting walkway in the butterfly native plant garden! Much volunteer work has happened there and the paths are more accessible, especially for someone with a rolling walker like I use.



Toyon berries in Native Plant Garden at EEC (Ceal Craig)



Inviting EEC Trail Jan-2024
(Ceal Craig)

[1] For more information, see <https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-and-Programs/Current-Projects/South-San-Francisco-Bay-Shoreline-Study/> or <https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects/south-san-francisco-bay-shoreline-project>

On the Trail... (CONTINUED)

Artesian Slough was quite full, though I've seen it that full in years past. The Alviso Marina County Park

jetty sure had a high tide for boat launches with a bit underwater.



King tide, January 12, 2024 at Alviso Marina & Artesian Slough
(Ceal Craig)

Last, on the trail, some birds were hanging out there even with all the construction traffic. Only saw a few Northern shovelers, and a few shorebirds. Plus, a vulture hanging out by the pavilion. Some walkers

said they had seen "an eye" or "shoulder" in the barn owl box. I couldn't find any, and think it is a bit early since I remember fledglings in June. Not sure!



Shorebirds in New Chicago entrance road and Turkey Vulture at EEC
(Ceal Craig)

This is migration season, so take a walk in the marshes, join an SFBWS Sunday program at the EEC, or visit nearby National Wildlife Refuges (see *Tide Rising*, Volume 4, Issue 1, Fall 2023 for ideas on what is nearby and what you might see). Sandhill cranes, snow geese, and more are in the Central Valley now.

And check out the SFBWS Nature Store in Fremont

Visitor Contact Station, Saturdays from 10-2. We hope to keep it open then, assuming we can get enough volunteers to staff those days. (see information on [page 11](#) of this newsletter if you are interested in helping!).

Enjoy the winter, hope for more rain, and see you in the spring!

"So much change happening and it won't be over until sometime in 2025."

- Cecilia (Ceal) D. Craig, Ph.D., F. SWE, SFBWS President

Sleeping Trees and Lichen

by Madison Cline, Interpretive, Restoration and Education Associate, SFBWS

Did you know that our California native plants “sleep”? They go through an annual season of dormancy in response to extreme climates. For instance, deciduous trees seasonally shed their leaves, slow their metabolism, and exhibit minimal to no new growth. Entering into this state of dormancy protects them from water and nutrient loss. It may also prevent structural damage due to having soft leaf tissues exposed in extreme climates.

The yearly shedding of leaves is typically associated with the Fall season. However, the California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) works on a different timeline. It loses its leaves by July, and begins sprouting new ones in late winter around the end of January and early February. By doing so, the Buckeye avoids growth during the driest parts of the Summer and takes advantage of the recent rains of the Winter. The timing for this cycle is loosely known as Summer deciduous. Though, it is not the only thing that starts to turn green in the Winter after a period of Summer dormancy.

Colorful splotches may start to appear on the branches of trees and shrubs following the first rains of winter. These new growths are not part of the plants they grow on and are known as lichens. Lichen is often thought of as a plant. Others believe that lichen is a fungus. This may burst some bubbles to learn that

both are correct. A lichen is the composite form of two organisms that live in partnership with one another. One is a fungus, and the other a photosynthesizing partner, usually a species of algae. The fungus makes up the structure of a lichen and houses the algae to keep it from drying out. In exchange, the algae provides food made from photosynthesis. Each lichen has a specific species of fungus and photosynthetic partner that pair together. This is why lichens come in such a wide variety of colors and structures.

There are over a thousand different species of lichens that are resident to the state of California. Of these, only one has been chosen as California’s state lichen: the lace lichen (*Ramalina menziesii*). California was actually the first state to establish a lichen as a state symbol. Lace lichen was designated as the state lichen in 2015. Its delicate, soft mint green fishnet structure is frequently found draping from the branches of oak trees in areas with frequent mists. They add a mystical appearance to the trees they inhabit and are only found in areas of good air quality as they are sensitive to pollutants. Though lace lichen is not commonly found at the SF Bay Wildlife Refuges, other species of lichens make their colorful appearance after the rainfall. Pay a visit to your local Refuges to view the seasonal changes of our local flora!



Blooming Buckeye
(Madison Cline)



Sprouting Buckeye
(Madison Cline)



Lace Lichen
(Madison Cline)

Junior Waterfowl Hunter Mentor: Passing Along a Valued Tradition

by Melisa Amato, Refuge Manager, USFWS

At 12 years old, Billy Roark started hunting in the South Bay with his father. As a teenager, Billy hunted waterfowl in the Cargill ponds, which are now part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Years later, Billy's two boys accompanied him on hunt days learning gun safety and technique.

Almost 40 years later, Billy is still passionate about hunting and passing along his knowledge and guidance to junior hunters through his no-cost hunting trips. Billy administers a Facebook page titled, [*California JR Hunters Gear and Clothing Exchange*](#). Along with providing clothing and gear to junior hunters at no cost (or low cost), Billy uses this Facebook site to promote free hunting trips for juniors. Billy has spent most of his life recognizing the importance of

conserving our wild spaces that protect waterfowl and other wildlife. Now he creates opportunities for younger hunters to gain appreciation, experience, and guidance of a valued tradition of hunting and sportsmanship.

So far this season, Billy has provided no-cost hunting adventures to 37 juniors. One lucky junior hunter named Zander teamed up with Billy and mom (Jen) to hunt the Bay this winter. Zander had a great time and wants to get back out there again. They even used the duck meat to make empanadas for Christmas. Any junior hunters wanting to get started or just gain more experience should check out the Facebook page where they can contact Billy directly or look for existing opportunities.



Zander Checking Out a Hunt Blind
(Billy Roark)



Zander and Jen with a Successful Harvest
(Billy Roark)

Waterfowl hunting is one of the National Wildlife Refuge System's priority wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities. Hunters have played an integral part in the effort to conserve America's natural resources - best illustrated by the success of the [*Federal Duck Stamp Program*](#). For nearly 90 years, by buying Duck Stamps,

waterfowl hunters have supported the conservation of more than 6 million acres of strategic wetland habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Ninety-eight percent of the purchase price of the stamp goes directly to buy and lease wetland habitat.

NEWS

SFBWS Staff Changes

Sirena Lao
(Sirena Lao)



Sirena Lao,
Watershed Watchers Coordinator

Sirena comes to us from the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory where she was the education specialist and a biologist, implementing educational programs for youth and adults, conducting bird monitoring surveys, and restoring tidal marsh habitat. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science from UCLA and an M.S. in Natural Resource Ecology & Management from Oklahoma State University, where she studied bird collisions with buildings in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has also previously worked at Travis Audubon Society in Austin, Texas, and at UCLA as a laboratory manager assisting with avian genomics research.

SFBWS would also like to bid a fond farewell to **Olivia Poulos**, outgoing Watershed Watchers Interpretive Specialist. Olivia brought much energy to the position and will be missed. SFBWS wishes Olivia the best for her future career.

USFWS Staff Changes

Mackenzie on the
Farallon Islands
(Sam Darmstadt)



Mackenzie Cahill,
Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Mackenzie Cahill joined the Refuge Complex team in September 2023 as the Wildlife Refuge Specialist for Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Born in Redwood City, California and raised in San Diego County, Mackenzie has held a lifelong passion for the natural world. He studied Wildlife Management and Conservation at Humboldt State University and has enjoyed experiencing the incredible biodiversity of California. Over the course of his career, Mackenzie has worked in the Everglades, Cascade Mountains, Columbia Basin, Costa Rica, and the California coast. His expertise includes working with coastal and wetland habitats, herpetofauna, birds, pinnipeds (seals and sea lions), and invasive species. Prior to his current position, Mackenzie spent two winter seasons as a research assistant for Point Blue Conservation Science on the Farallon Islands. During his time as a Research Assistant, Mackenzie fell in love with the remote and rugged nature of the Farallones. Along with ongoing invasive species work and maintenance, Mackenzie will work on a Photo ID project for the endemic Farallon arboreal salamander.

MISSION: The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society seeks to nurture in the public a sense of understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges, their natural and cultural history, and to conserve, preserve, and restore bay lands as essential wildlife habitat.

VISION: Working with partners, we envision wildlife and natural resources thriving in a healthier SF Bay region/area and a reinvigorated society supporting stewardship.

COMMITTEES

Looking for volunteers!

- Fund Development & Marketing
- Nature Store in Fremont Visitor Contact Station on weekends later this year (*see next page*)

Reach out to [Mary Deschene](#) if you are interested!

FY24 SFBWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cecilia (Ceal) Craig, PhD, F. SWE, President
Neil Butani, Vice-President
Avleen Kohli, Secretary*
Grace Koz, Treasurer
Chris Kitting, PhD, Founding Director
Ravi Kohli, Director*
Deepak Nettem, Director
Namit Saxena, Director
Jijo Xavier, Director

* no relation

SFBWS Staff

Mary Deschene, Program Administrator
Sirena Lao, Watershed Watchers Coordinator
Madison Cline, Interpretive, Restoration and Education Associate
Aja Yee, Peninsula Programs & Restoration Education

Volunteer Positions Available With SFBWS



San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society

Join a fun group of Refuge Volunteers who share your passion!

come join us!
We Need
YOUR HELP

Nature Store Volunteer, Fremont, CA, 94555

- Manage Nature Store sales
- Trained to engage with Refuge visitors and respond to questions
- Weekend shifts
- Network & learn about the Refuge

Please contact mary.deschene@sfbayws.org for more information.

check out our volunteer description here



Fremont Visitors' Center Nature Store Volunteer

- Key activities: greet visitors, answer questions, ring up sales
- Skills: Friendly and outgoing. Interested in outdoor recreation and wildlife preservation
- This position is suitable for high school students on up to retirees. Regular commitment preferred
- Get to know the Refuge people and issues, spread the word
- Help people find what they need, and learn about wildlife in the process
- Duties: opening and closing shifts, especially weekends

Nature Store Coordinator

- Same as above, but more focused on managing the volunteers, making sure shifts are filled, and maintaining the store and merchandise
- Responsibilities: more suitable for a mature adult. Retirees encouraged to apply
- Long-term commitment required

See ongoing SFBWS Volunteer Positions at
[VolunteerMatch](#)

Contact: mary.deschene@sfbayws.org

Call or leave a message: 505-417-2561

Also, save the date: look out for more information on a Volunteer Banquet planned for March 16!

UPCOMING REFUGE EVENTS

Self-Guided Volunteer Opportunity: February 2024 King Tides in Alviso

*Friday February 9, 2024 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM
Don Edwards SFBNWR EEC, 1751 Grand Blvd San Jose, CA 95002*

Interested in a volunteer opportunity you can do for school, work, or just for fun!? Looking for an opportunity you can do on your own or with your own household? This is also an excellent opportunity for middle and high school students and scout groups! Sign up today and check out the [California Coastal Commission's King Tides Project](#) to learn about this year's King Tide events! The CCC uses the Survey123 app to track community science king tide photos, and we are inviting you to [participate](#) with them! We have a few spots at and around Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge where you can witness the year's highest tides! Take pictures to record these high tides and submit them to [watershedwatchers@sfbayws.org](#)! In addition, you can upload them to social media with the hashtag #KingTidesAlviso2024. Contact us for questions, too! Tag us on Instagram @sfbayws.

Bird Walk at Pond SF2

*Friday February 16, 2024 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM
Pond SF2 Trail, 2100 Willow Road Menlo Park, CA 94025*

Join us for a leisurely, morning stroll to view shorebirds that frequent the Pond SF2! This will be an interpretive guided tour to learn about resident bird species, migratory birds and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Many migratory waterfowl are travelling through the Bay Area through the October-January months along what is known as the Pacific Flyway migratory path. This free event is open to all. This is a 1.4 mile round trip on an all-weather, accessible trail (one overlook has a 4-inch step). Parking and bathroom are on-site. Some binoculars will be available to borrow. This is a free event but registration is required.

EEC Revisioning Public Meeting #2

*Wednesday February 21, 2024
George Mayne Elementary School, 5030 N First St, Alviso, CA 95002*

Join us for an exciting evening as we come together to reimagine the future of the Environmental

Education Center at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This in-person workshop will take place at George Mayne Elementary School, North First Street, Alviso. More information will be ready soon on DESFBNWR's Eventbrite page.

Lunch & Listen: Spring and Resiliency

*Sunday March 10, 2024 from 12 PM to 2 PM
Don Edwards SFBNWR EEC, 1751 Grand Blvd San Jose, CA 95002*

Join SFBWS Interpretive Guides for a unique opportunity to dive into the Spring season of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge hosts an incredible amount of biodiversity and is a beautiful place to visit in the Springtime. How did the Refuge get started? Where can I see wildflowers around the Bay Area? Answers to these questions and many more will be discussed if you join us. We encourage participants to bring their lunch to listen and learn while looking out over our beautiful baylands.

Habitat Restoration Work Day: EEC

*Sunday March 24, 2024
Don Edwards SFBNWR EEC, 1751 Grand Blvd San Jose, CA 95002*

Help us prevent invasive plants from growing around the Environmental Education Center at the Don Edwards SF Bay NWR. We will be applying mulch to weed-prone areas and spreading native seeds to prepare for spring! All gloves and tools will be provided, so just make sure to dress comfortably and bring a can-do attitude. More information will be ready soon on DESFBNWR's Eventbrite page.

Learn more about these exciting Refuge events on DESFBNWR's [Eventbrite page](#)

(<https://donedwardssfbaynwr.eventbrite.com>)



Bird Walk at Pond SF2

Friday, February 16th
10:30am-12pm

**Don Edwards San Francisco Bay
National Wildlife Refuge
Pond SF2**

2100 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA, 94025

Join us for a leisurely, morning stroll to view shorebirds that frequent Pond SF2! This is a 1.4 mile round trip on an all-weather, accessible trail. On the tour, you can learn about resident bird species and migratory birds. This free event is open to all rain or shine!

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER**



<https://SF2BirdWalk-Feb.eventbrite.com>



OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVENTURES FOR ADULTS 50+

Hosted by:



Birding Along Uvas Creek

Wednesday February 28, 2024 from 9 AM to 1 PM

Uvas Creek Preserve in Gilroy is a 125-acre city park that has Uvas Creek running its center. Mining operations filled in the creek back in the 1970s and restoration of the creek was completed in 1995. Our expert birder and naturalist will lead us on a leisurely two-mile, flat walk along the creek that is home to metallic blue tree swallows, white-tailed kites, California thrashers, pineapple weed and turkey tangle frogfruit. We end the afternoon with a social picnic lunch. Transportation from Saratoga CA 95070 to and from the preserve and picnic lunch are included. For questions, email share@bayareaolderadults.org or call 408.774.0593.

Rancho San Vicente Wildflower Walk

Wednesday March 27, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 3 PM

Enjoy a moderate-to-strenuous four-mile Spring hike at Rancho San Vicente Preserve that is famous for its spectacular wildflower display. Our expert guide will teach us about the plants and other wildlife we encounter. Halfway through our hike, we stop at a special spot for an included picnic lunch and savor the scenery. For questions, email share@bayareaolderadults.org or call 408.774.0593.

Inspirational Wildflowers of Pulgas Ridge

Wednesday April 10, 2024 from 9 AM to 3 PM

Pulgas Ridge Preserve is known for its showy spring wildflowers such as warrior plume, hounds tongue, milkmaids, fetid adders tongue, giant trillium, checker lily and more. On this three-mile wildflower journey led by a California naturalist who specializes in wildflowers, we will view a spectacular display of flowers and learn about their intriguing characteristics. We stop for a social picnic lunch before heading home. Transportation from Cupertino CA to and from the preserve and picnic lunch are included. For questions, email share@bayareaolderadults.org or call 408.774.0593.

BIRD-WATCHING FUN

Hosted by:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Get Prepared for the Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Coming up Next Month

We are a month away from the Great Backyard Bird Count, our annual four-day birdwatching event! Let's get ready, together. First, consider which tool you want to use to enter your sightings. **GBBC uses two tools for bird sightings – [Merlin Bird ID](#) or eBird ([mobile app](#) or [desktop](#)).** Merlin Bird ID is a great way to identify birds, especially if you are new to birding. You cannot tell us the number of birds for each species with it, but telling us you "saw X bird at X location" is still important data. **If you would rather report the number of birds you see, eBird is the better tool.** If you used the Merlin Bird ID app last year and want to up your birding game, try eBird (mobile app or desktop). But, we suggest you take the **FREE online [eBird Essentials](#) course first!** Join our webinar to learn how to participate in this exciting global event and how participation could extend past birding around your home. Discover how to join a group taking part in the GBBC and explore fun ways to involve kids and community. From bird ID tips to counting birds with ease, this webinar is your ticket to an engaging and confident GBBC experience.

Register for a [Bay Area Older Adults Hike](#):

(<https://bayareaolderadults.org/bao-hikes>)



Join the GBBC [Webinar](#):

(Tuesday, Feb 13 at 1:00pm Eastern Time)



SAN FRANCISCO BAY WILDLIFE SOCIETY: DONOR RECOGNITION

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who have made gifts to the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society from October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

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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 supporter at <https://sfbayws.org/>

For a gift membership, call 510-792-0222 ext. 72004.

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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.

My support 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"/> \$200 Corporation
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Thank you for your support!

For more than 35 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 weekend EEC staff 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 Supporter of the Society.

Benefits include:

- Tax Deduction to the extent allowed by law
- Free book - *Exploring Our Baylands*
- 15% Discount on purchases in SFBWS Nature Stores
- The joy of helping protect this important environment.
- Free subscription to *Tide Rising* newsletter

<https://sfbayws.org/>

