

TRACKS

A Publication of the Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends

June-August

2007

Salute to our Volunteers

The Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends (NBNF) is a volunteer-driven organization. In 2006 our Naturalists again put in over 10,000 documented hours of volunteer service at Upper Newport Bay (UNB) performing restoration, education and related activities in support of the California Department of Fish and Game; Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks; and California Coastal Commission. Well done everyone; you should be very proud of what you each contribute.



Tom Fox

Tom Fox epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism. He is admired by all the many agency staff and other volunteers with whom he interacts. No matter what the task at hand is, he rolls up his sleeves and gets on with it. His enthusiastic, positive approach inspires those around him. Tom is a graduate of the Naturalist Class of 1992.

Since then Tom has accumulated over 5,000 volunteer hours here. Although this contribution is in itself remarkable, what makes it even more remarkable is that Tom lives and works in San Bernardino County. Tom has been a key member of the Restoration Team for the past 15 years and has organized most of the annual Tern Island Preparation Days. He's the one who knows how to get 20 or more Naturalists and equipment over there each February or March to remove vegetation and loosen the surface to allow the endangered California least terns to hollow out their nests in the sandy soil. As well as being a restoration stalwart he leads Marsh Owl Prowls and is Mr. Fixit when it comes to special event set up and take down. Thank you Tom, for your tireless dedication!

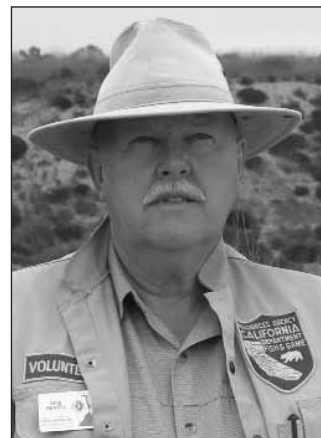
Tom recently received the OC Wild 2007 Lifetime Award. Orange County Wild (OCW) is a coalition of Orange County wilderness land managers and stewards, including state, county and city park systems, and public conservancy groups devoted to educating the public about the importance of preserving, protecting, enhancing wild-land resources including forest, park and reserve resources, from the mountains to the Pacific. The organization provides a forum for discussion of

wilderness management and public education issues, advocates acquisition of open space for preservation, and seeks sponsorships in support of programs and services. Don Millar (Naturalist Class of 2001) won the 2007 Volunteer Land Steward award and Lori Kiesser (Naturalist Class of 2005) won the Outstanding Newcomer award. Additionally Jennifer Naegele (OC Harbors, Beaches and Parks UNB Nature Preserve Groundskeeper) won the Staff Land Steward award, and Matt Yurko (California Coastal Commission UNB Restoration Education Coordinator) won the 2007 Staff Environmental Educator award. Congratulations on winning nearly all the 2007 awards between you.

Don Millar is a quiet, unassuming Naturalist whose achievements since completing the Naturalist Training in 2001 are quite remarkable. Always eager to improve his knowledge he became an almost daily visitor to UNB with his hand lens and digital camera. The fruit of his labor is a 100-page photographic guide to the plants of UNB containing carefully-cataloged wide-angle and close-up shots showing changes from season to season in glorious color. This book, which he continues to expand and update, can be viewed online at www.newportbay.org. Even as he worked on this botanical encyclopedia Don still found time to be leading elementary school programs, adult walking tours and assisting in other activities such as Marine Life Inventories at the Back Bay Science Center and Astronomy Nights at the Muth Interpretive Center. Whether he is working with small children, teenagers or adults his calm, reassuring style puts his audience at ease and eager to learn more. Don has most recently found his niche in the ROOTS



Don Millar



Dick Newell

NBNF Mission:

- To *preserve* and *restore* the ecosystems of Upper Newport Bay.
- To *educate* the public about the ecological value of the Bay and its watershed and help ensure compatible public use.

CONTENTS

- Salute to our Volunteers
- SPECIAL WATERSHED REPORT!
- Calendar of Events



continued on page 4

Active Naturalists with more than 1,000 cumulative hours of volunteer time through 12/31/06:

Donna Carroll	Marilyn Labollita	Dick Newell
Giovanni Cirocco	Sue Lau	Bob Nichols
Betsy Flynn	Amy Litton	Arline Parker
Tom Fox	Roger Mallett	Vikki Swanson
Erik Katzmaier	Rita McCoy	Jean Whitaker
Jack Keating	Don Millar	

Active Naturalists with between 100 and 1,000 cumulative hours of volunteer time through 12/31/06:

Stan Ashbaugh	Molly Fawcett	Paul Kuhn	Rita Phillips
Penne Atcha	Rosemary Flynn	Dick Kust	Sharon Phoenix
Barbara Bain	Regina Fodor	Norman Lacourciere	Roger Reinke
Dennis Baker	Marilyn Frenz	Mark Lambert	Win Rhodes
Leigh Baker	Chuck Gilbert	Carla Lindstrom	Peter Ridley
Alex Balaz	Virginia Gochenour	Andrea Lingle	Birgitta Skoldquist
Sherry Bass	Shirley Greene	Dennis Litton	Bert Smith
Connie Bean	Sheila Griffin	Agi Lontai	Bob Smith
Janice Bernabucci	Mara Gunn	Sylvia Marson	Janet Smith
Cathy Bertot	Irwin Haydock	Peggy Marududin	Merwyn Smith
Judy Booth	Lucille Hill	Monica Mehta	Pat Spooner
Connie Calvert	Barbara Horlick	Peg Montgomery	Christine Stamper
Lane Calvert	Margit Ischovitsch	Tom Mooers	Carol Starcevic
Mary Carolan	Leigh Johnson	Barry Nerhus	Joan Steiner
Nora Carsey	Joan Kempik	Donna Nichols	Iris Timmons
Gus Chabre	Russ Kerr	Betsy Cirocco Noss	Dick Watts
Jim Cokas	Lori Kiesser	Robert Oberlin	David Webber
Jennifer Dahl	Joan Kitchens	Joan Olafson	Gale Whitaker
Evalie Du Mars	Lane Koluvek	Betty Orbach	Ray Williams
Lois Edmonson	Carolyn Kraber	Jolie Osborne	Jo Wu

Active Naturalists with less than 100 cumulative hours of volunteer time through 12/31/06:

Laurie Allen-Requa	Robert Duley	Paris Merriam	Karen Tison
Jacob Arnold	Claudia Elliott	Jim Morrison	Uyen Tran
Derek Bain	John Harris	Chuck Nichols	Tani Trost
Lu Anne Baker	Britton Jacob-Schram	Nick Normandin	Angie Vazirian
Niki Breznock	Jerold Kappel	Ruth Orem	Ira Victer
Tammy Chan	Kelly Koldus	Sara Parekh	Alex Weber
Janel Collins	Linda Koluvek	Niki Patterson	Frederick Welch
Frances Cork	Carole Langstaff	David Pilecki	Tom Wood
Sharon De Priester	Lori Le Torneau	Christy Porter	Joyce Woods
Sally Doherty	Linette Lina	Paul Scionti	Lucinda Wright
Sandra Donovan	Jayne Lindauer	Sue Sievke	Ken Yamagata
Susan Donovan	Bryan Litton	Mary Thornton	

Apologies to any Naturalists with unreported volunteer hours who have been mistakenly omitted from or miscategorized in the above lists. Please contact Rita McCoy so that she may correct her records.

A special thanks to the following people not listed above who have graciously donated their time to conduct training class sessions and give continuing education presentations at our monthly Naturalist meetings over the past few years:

Bob Allen	Jackie McDougall
Diane Bridgford-Nielen	Ginny McVicker
Susan Brodeur	Jack Skinner
Peter Bryant	Katherine Suding
Ivan Coburn	Stacy Thompson
Steve Conkling	Joel Weintraub
Phil Hughes	Janet Yamaguchi
Warren Inouye	Danielle Zacherl
Michael Josselyn	Dick Zembal

Correction: In the last issue of Tracks the HBP staff should have been listed as Portia Arutunian, Rob Baker, Mike Escarcida, Candice McIntyre, Jennifer Naegele, Bill Reiter, Ernie Romero and Sue Stoffel.

Youth Programs Available

Scout Programs—Tuesday through Saturday upon request— Join a naturalist for a 2-hour Brownie or Junior Girl Scout Try-it or badge program; or join us for Tiger Cub, Bear Cub or Webelo badge programs. Call (949) 923-2269 or email scoutssi@sbcglobal.net. \$7/child includes patch. Location code: BBSC

Sharkmobile is available for your school— Sharkmobile is an outreach program that will bring sharks, rays, sea stars and other marine animals to your school. Participants will enjoy learning about local marine habitats through hands-on activities. Free. Information and reservations at (949) 640-9956. Location code: BBSC



Upper Newport Bay Calendar of Events

June–August 2007

Steward Days—Every Wednesday, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Support the Bay's unique genetics at our restoration sites by collecting seeds & propagating plants. Learn how to grow natives in your backyard, attract wildlife and conserve water. For information call (949) 640-0286. Location code: BBSC

Kayak Tours of the Back Bay with a Trained Naturalist

Every Saturday during July and August, 10:00 a.m.–Noon—Meet at the Newport Dunes Resort. \$15/person, 8 & up. \$10/NBNF members. Be prepared to get wet. Reservations (949) 923-2269. Location code: NDR

Every Sunday during July and August, 10:00 a.m.–Noon—Meet at the Newport Aquatic Center. \$15/person. \$10/NBNF members. Be prepared to get wet. Reservations (949) 923-2269. Location code: NAC

Through June 24, Saturday kayak tours meet at the Newport Aquatic Center (\$15. Call (949) 923-2269), and Sunday kayak tours meet at the Newport Dunes Resort (\$20. Call (949) 729-1150 or 729-3863).

Walking Tour—Saturday, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, 9:00 a.m.

Join a trained Naturalist for a 2 hour walk along the bay. Bring binoculars and sun protection. Free. No reservations needed. For information call (949) 923-2269. Location code: BBSC

Back Bay Bat Walk—Thursdays: June 7, June 21, June 28, July 12, July 26, August 9, August 16; Fridays: July 6, August 3

Join Bat expert Stephanie Remington for an evening stroll searching for the bay's bats and learning about their habits. \$10 per person, ages 8 and up. Call for time and location. Registration (949) 923-2275 or unbic@ocparks.com. Location code: IC

Twilight Night Hike—Saturday, June 9, July 7, August 11, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Join the staff at the MIC for a night hike and learn about the wonders nighttime brings to our nature preserve. Learn how animals see at night, what animals become active and the effects the moon has on wildlife. Dress warmly. \$5 per participant, ages 5 and up. Reservations (949) 923-2275 or unbic@ocparks.com. Location code: IC

2nd Sundays Restoration Program—June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Join the staff at the MIC to enhance the Nature Preserve habitat with non-native plant removal, native plantings and Butterfly Garden maintenance. Reservations (949) 923-2297. Location code: IC

Big Canyon Walking Tour—Saturday, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, 9:00 a.m.

Join a trained Naturalist for a 2 hour walk along Big Canyon Trail and the bay. Bring binoculars and sun protection. Free. No reservations needed. For information call (949) 923-2269. Location code: Big Canyon parking lot.

Marine Life Inventory—Saturday, June 16, July 14, Aug. 18, 8:15–11:30 a.m.

Marine biology students ages 8 and up are invited to participate in a variety of hands-on marine life monitoring programs in Newport Bay. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Reservations (949) 640-9956. Location code: BBSC

Shellmaker Discovery Tour—Saturday, June 16, July 14, Aug. 18, 9–10:30 a.m.

Join a Naturalist to learn about Shellmaker Island's rich history; the future of the Back Bay Science Center; and discover unusual and endangered plants, birds and crab habitats. No reservations required. No latecomers. Free. Information (949) 640-9956. Location code: BBSC

Electric Boat Tour of the Bay—Saturday, June 16, July 14, Aug. 18, 11:30 a.m.

Join a Naturalist on a 2 hour guided tour of the bay on our comfortable electric pontoon boat. \$10/person. Reservations (949) 923-2269. Location code: BBSC

Evening Marsh Prowl—Saturday, Jun. 16, July 14, Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Join a naturalist on a guided tour of the bay at dusk on our Back Bay Science Center boat. Use spotlights and binoculars to search for owls and other night creatures. \$10/person. Reservations (949) 923-2269. Location code: BBSC.

ROOTS Restoration work—Saturday, June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Help restore Back Bay habitat by installing and maintaining native plants while learning about wetland ecology. Reservations required. Refreshments, tools provided. (949) 640-0286 for information, reservations and location.

Train for a Day, Become a Volunteer!—Saturday, July 28, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Become a part of this dynamic estuary! Learn about the habitats and wildlife of the bay. Participate in habitat restoration and special events. Assist with tours. Greet and educate visitors. Registration (949) 923-2275. Location code: IC

Astronomy Night—Saturday, June 30, July 21, August 18, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Join members of the O. C. Astronomers for an inspirational tour of the night sky including observation with telescopes. Family program. No fee; suggested donation of \$2/person. Registration (949) 923-2275 or unbic@ocparks.com. Location code: IC

Wild! Tales—Thursday, June 14, July 12, August 9, 10:30–11:15 a.m.

Come join the park staff for story-telling fun. Learn more about the natural history of the bay through crafts, hands-on activities and nature walks. For ages 2–7.

For all of the following, call (949) 923-2275 to register or email unbic@ocparks.com. \$5 per child. Location code: IC

Toddler Time (Ages 2–5)

10:30–11:15 a.m. for ages 2–5 years. Join park staff for a parent-child experience with stories, movement and hands-on fun.

"Wild Wetlands"—Thursday, June 7

"Butterfly Fun"—Wednesday, June 13

"Jelly Bellies of the Sea"—Wednesday, June 20

"Nature's Sky Fireworks"—Thursday, June 21

"Lovable Lizards"—Thursday, July 5

"Fun in the Sun"—Wednesday, July 11

"Howling Coyotes"—Wednesday, July 18

"Magnificent Mud"—Thursday, July 26

"Terrific Toads"—Thursday, August 2

"Where Do These Bats Live?"—Wednesday, August 8

"Our Colorful Estuary"—Wednesday, August 15

"Fish Friends"—Thursday, August 23

Bayside Buddies (Ages 2–7)

3:30–4:30 p.m. for ages 2–7. Come discover the natural history of the bay through crafts, hands-on activities and nature walks.

"Birding at the Bay"—Friday, June 8

"Trailblazin' Fun"—Friday, June 22

"Delightful Decomposers"—Friday, July 6

"Rockin' Reptiles"—Friday, July 20

"Sun-Sun Summertime"—Friday, August 3

"Outer Limits"—Wednesday, August 17

"Predator Play"—Wednesday, August 31

Estuary Explorers (Ages 8–11)

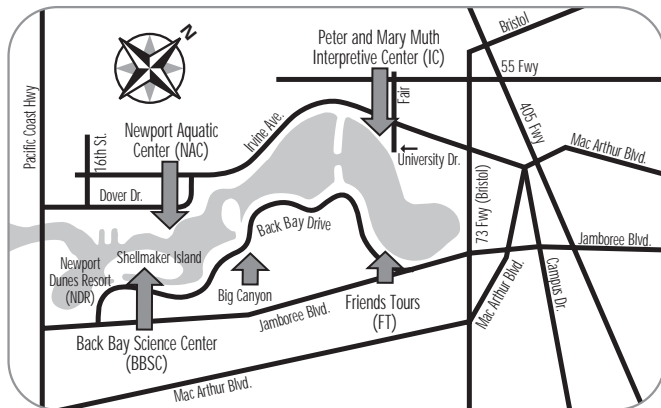
1:00–3:30 p.m. for ages 8–11. Join park staff as they investigate nature's mysteries. Take part in hands-on activities, experiments, nature crafts and a one-mile nature walk.

"Wetland Wonders"—Wednesday, June 27

"Nature Scene Detectives"—Wednesday, July 25

"Geology Rocks!"—Wednesday, August 22

Special notice regarding BBSC programs—Because of construction of the new BBSC on Shellmaker Island we are unable to publish a full schedule for marine programs and electric boat tours at this time. Please call (949) 923-2269 for latest information.



WEB SITES

Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends: www.newportbay.org
 Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center:
www.ocparks.com/unbic
 Back Bay Science Center: www.backbaysciencecenter.org
 California Coastal Commission: www.coastal.ca.gov

TRACKS CREDITS

Editor: Roger Mallett
 Design & Layout: Debora Brown
 Event Calendar: Candice McIntyre,
 Jean Whitaker

LOCATION KEY

Peter and Mary Muth
 Interpretive Center (IC)
 2301 University Drive
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Back Bay Science Center (BBSC)
 600 Shellmaker
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Newport Aquatic Center (NAC)
 1 Whitecliffs Drive
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Salute to our Volunteers (cont.)

and Second Sundays Community-Based Restoration Programs. Here he combines his knowledge of Bay plants and wildlife with his hands-on stewardship skills to help make these programs extremely successful.

Don often leads hikes with his close friend and fellow Class of 2001 Naturalist Dick Newell, who won



From left to right: Jean Whitaker,
 Marilyn LaBollita and Rita McCoy.

the OC Wild 2006 Volunteer Environmental Educator award. Dick has a United States Coast Guard License and took on the responsibility of training the Naturalists and other Back Bay Science Center volunteers who skipper low-tide and other boat tours and conduct other boating activities such as plankton tows, beach seines and bottom trawls, and on-the-water cleanups. When not training others he is often conducting marine programs or performing boat maintenance, but his water-related activities are only part of his involvement at UNB. Dick is both a botanist and a birder and enthusiastically shares both his knowledge and his passion with everyone and takes every opportunity to mentor new Naturalists, encourage others to join our ranks, and promote NBNF in the community.

Additionally Tom and Dick and fellow Naturalists Connie Bean and Norm Lacourciere received "Spirit of Volunteerism" awards from the County in collaboration with the Volunteer Center of Orange County. And Dick, Don, Lori, Norman and Tom all received Presidents Service Awards.

The task of coordinating and tracking the efforts of our many volunteers falls mainly on the shoulders of Rita McCoy, our part-time Volunteer Administrator with assistance from Jean Whitaker, our part-time Tours, Events and Outreach Coordinator. The two work as a great team and put in many extra hours to get the job done. They and fellow Naturalist Marilyn LaBollita (together nominated as the Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends Administration Team) were recognized at the seventh annual County of Orange Volunteer Recognition ceremony in April 2003. The three of them together have put in more than 6,000 volunteer hours. Unfortunately Marilyn has family commitments that currently prevent her from coordinating social activities or helping provide administrative support, but she still finds time to lead bird-watching tours. Marilyn graduated in the 1990 Naturalist Class along with Rita, while Jean is from the Class of 1999.

Roger Mallett, Executive Director
 Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends