



# SAVE WETLANDS

Newsletter of the Citizens Committee To Complete The Refuge

Newsletter Issue 46

2016-2017

Although Citizens Committee had many noteworthy accomplishments during 2016, the biggest news by far was Florence LaRiviere stepping down after 32 years as the illustrious Chair of our organization. And so, our 2016-2017 Newsletter will be a heartfelt tribute to Florence's decades of inspirational leadership as CCCR worked to expand and advocate for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Under her leadership, thousands of acres of newly purchased baylands could finally have lasting protection in the Refuge, where a diversity of habitats are preserved, restored and enjoyed by both wildlife and people.

As Arthur Feinstein stated when recommending Florence for a recent award, "Florence's efforts have resulted in a large urban National Wildlife Refuge that sustains immense numbers of waterbirds and many endangered species. It has brought the awareness of the value of wetlands to the entire Bay Area, and vastly improved the quality of life of Bay Area residents by providing public open spaces where families can escape the bustle of urban life and reconnect with nature. And behind it all is this quiet, caring woman who charms bureaucrats and politicians and reporters and activists and convinces all of us to do far more than we ever thought we could."

Of course Florence hasn't acted alone, and her early compatriots who began working to create the refuge in 1967 included her husband Philip and many environmental leaders and members of the scientific community from around the Bay. Florence helped recruit other dedicated members through the years and always fostered a true "team effort", which contributed greatly to the continuing success and effectiveness of CCCR. As Chair Emerita, she is still very much a guiding force behind our advocacy to protect the Bay.

In addition to Congressman Don Edwards, Florence has worked on Bay and Refuge issues with many Bay Area leaders from all levels of government including Congresswomen Anna Eshoo and Zoe Lofgren, and Congressmen Mike Honda and Pete Stark. She is well-respected by numerous State and federal agency representatives and through the years, she has been a strong and supportive partner with many different Refuge Project Leaders and managers.

Florence has received well-deserved recognition for her decades of environmental work, receiving awards from agencies and organizations too numerous to list here. However, two recent awards definitely stand out: the Environmental Law Institute's National Wetlands Award Program when Florence traveled to Washington D.C. to be receive the 2012 Wetland Community



Leader award. And in 2014, Florence was selected as a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Recovery Champion for her tireless efforts to protect tidal marsh species.

We are forever grateful to Florence for her commitment, inspirational leadership and for being our mentor. We expressed our love and appreciation at a gathering in October of 2016, but we believe the best way to honor Florence's legacy is to celebrate the incredible value and beauty of what she has helped save. We will let the pictures on the following pages tell the rest of the story.

***On behalf of all the members and supporters of CCCR, thank you Florence!***

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## Welcome Jared Underwood!

We'd like to give a huge "Welcome!" to the "new" Wildlife Refuge Manager for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Jared Underwood.



Photo courtesy of Jared Underwood

Jared Underwood has been on board since earlier this year and worked from 2010 for the USFWS as the Refuge Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Zone Biologist for Hawaii

and Pacific Refuges. In this capacity, he assisted in the development, implementation, and analysis of Refuge I&M activities for 21 Refuges scattered across the Pacific. During this time, Jared also spent one year managing a complex of National Wildlife Refuges found on three of the main Hawaiian Islands. In this capacity he oversaw Visitor Services and environmental education programs, wetland restoration and maintenance activities, and conservation actions for various endangered species and migratory birds. In both capacities, Jared worked with many partners to identify and implement conservation and management strategies.

Before working for the USFWS, Jared worked for the County of San Diego as the County's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinator in charge of developing and implementing large multi-species HCPs in the county. He also worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department as the state mammal conservation coordinator. In this position he oversaw inventory, monitoring, and conservation efforts for all mammal species in Arizona that were not game species (hunted). The species in this group ranged from kangaroo rats and prairie dogs to jaguars and coatis.

Jared earned a Bachelor and Masters of Science in Conservation Biology from the Brigham Young University, and a Ph.D. in Biology from Arizona State University. In his spare time he enjoys spending time in the ocean, surfing, scuba diving, kayaking, and swimming. He also enjoys hiking, bird watching, and exploring new places with his family.

## Congratulations to Arthur Feinstein and Barbara Salzman!

A hearty "Hooray!" and "Congratulations!" are in order! This year at the State of the Estuary Conference, long-time advocates Arthur Feinstein and Barbara Salzman were awarded special Estuary Legacy Awards for their decades of efforts to protect and preserve wetlands and open spaces of the San Francisco Bay Area. Arthur and Barbara are also founding Friends of the San Francisco Estuary Board members.

When asked for comment, Arthur replied, "It was really a surprise and very overwhelming, as was the audience response at the Estuary Conference. But, I was just doing what I felt needed to be done. And as a member of the Citizens Committee the support and camaraderie was so very reinforcing. It is a family of like-minded and caring people that encourages all of us to do all we can."

The presentation of the awards was overseen by California State Coastal Conservancy Executive Director Sam Schuchat and Senator Diane Feinstein prepared a video message offering her congratulations.

CCCR member Eileen McLaughlin observed: "I stood on the floor of the main room at the annual State of the Estuary Conference amidst some 800 participants from the Bay Area and Delta. We were all on our feet in applause. For the first time ever, the Conference presented an Estuary Legacy Award to two amazing people: Arthur Feinstein and Barbara Salzman! For decades each of them has made incredible contributions to conservation of wildlife, habitat and water, much of it in unrelenting, grass roots leadership, persistence and passion. It can be no surprise that their own actions inspired Conference leadership to honor them with this award."



Photo of Arthur and Barbara courtesy of Arthur Feinstein

## CCCR actions during 2016-2017

**CCCR advocates devoted 6000+ volunteer-hours defending potential and current Refuge lands, special-status species, wetlands, watersheds and more, at meetings and workshops, in project plan analysis, in document and field research, with written comments, and at times working with expert contractors and non-profit partners.**

**Actions protecting threatened lands that lie within the Refuge Acquisition Boundary, particularly:**

- Cargill-owned ponds, Redwood City: Sustained agency contact and situation monitoring
- Newark Area 4: Sustained, post-lawsuit vigilance on City actions through revised EIR and General Plan
- Ravenswood Triangle & University Avenue wetlands, Menlo Park: Revisions to General and Area Plans

**Actions to avert threats to lands held by the Refuge including:**

- Clean Water Act permit non-compliance issues
- ACEForward/San Joaquin Rail Commission: 4+ miles double-track, UPRR expansion in Refuge lands
- Drone Ban Ordinance, Menlo Park: Drones banned in Bedwell Bayfront Park, adjoining the Refuge
- Dumbarton Corridor Feasibility Study, Palo Alto General Plan/Transportation Element: Build in Refuge
- Facebook Expansion Project: Negotiation of permit language to protect snowy plovers on Pond R3
- Facebook Expansion Project: consultation regarding Pedestrian/Bike bridge
- Foster City Marina Project: With community, stopped project with extensive impacts on mudflats
- Redwood City: Marina permit non-compliance issues
- Residence Inn & Fairfield Suites Hotel, San Jose: Alviso Slough by Refuge, approved without mitigation
- San Francisquito Creek SF Bay to 101 Flood Reduction Project: Monitored actions launching the project

**Actions on Bay/Regional Projects:**

- 557 East Bayshore Road Project (Century 12 site), Redwood City, potential impacts to Bair Island
- Byxbee Park, Palo Alto: Ballot-approved park change dropped when organic waste shipped to San Jose
- Cilker Ranch Project, San Jose: Proposal along lower Coyote Creek, near bird-banding field station
- Google Projects, Mountain View: Charleston Retention Basin; Charleston Rd @ Shoreline Blvd.
- Google Projects: "Charleston East" and BayView; Google Bay Trail Improvements; Landings Campus Concept
- Inner Harbor Specific Plan, Redwood City: Extensive comments to the DEIR
- Levee vegetation removal, Redwood City: Several sites; endangered species and wetland violations
- Marina Center Project, Foster City: With community, stopped project and extensive mudflat impacts
- Mountain View: Revisions to the North of Bayshore Precise Plan (would allow adding ~ 10,000 housing units)
- Oracle Design Tech High School Project, Redwood City: Belmont slough endangered species impacts
- Riparian and Bird-safe Design Policy Update, City of San Jose

- Creek/riparian encroachment, Santa Clara County/SCVWD: Residential use of publicly-owned lands
- SFEI "ReOaking" Vision
- South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Phase 2 EIR/S (West/South Bay and Eden Landing documents)
- TopGolf at Terra, San Jose: Golf entertainment range with 170' high net, next to lower Guadalupe River

**Actions on Projects impacting special-status species and water quality impacts in the Bay Region:**

- Clean Water Act/Endangered Species Act violations
- Carnegie SVRA, Tesla Park, Alameda County: Extreme special-status species habitat destruction
- Niles Canyon Projects, CalTrans, Alameda County
- Upper Berryessa Creek Flood Reduction Project, Milpitas: Outdated design and inadequate mitigation
- Lower Penetencia Creek Project

**Actions commenting on Bay Region, State and Federal Plans and Policies:**

- California Wetlands and Riparian Area Protection Policy, Stakeholder contributor
- Collier Creek Mitigation Bank Proposal
- Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, San Francisco Bay Estuary
- Draft Recovery Plan for Central California tiger salamander
- Newark Slough Mitigation Bank Proposal
- USACE Nationwide Permits and Regional Conditions

**Actions of CCCR as Facilitators, Stakeholders, Representatives at meetings/conferences and on Boards:**

- CCCR-Hosted, Wildlife Agency & Environmental Groups Meeting: Regional endangered species topics
- Adapting to Rising Tides
- Alviso Neighborhood Community Meetings
- Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update
- BCDC Rising Sea Level Workshops
- East Bay Regional Conservation Investment Strategy
- Facebook Environmental Community Group Representative, Corporate Real Estate Planning
- Friends of the Estuary Board Member
- Google Ecology Club Member, Corporate Real Estate Planning
- Menlo Park Stakeholder, Bayfront Bedwell Park Master Plan Oversight Committee
- Resilient by Design – served as "Local Leader" speakers for tours at various locations
- San Jose Environmental Services Division, Environmental Community Group Representative
- Santa Clara Valley Conservation Council
- Santa Clara Valley Water District: Potable Water Reuse; OneWater Watershed Master Plan
- San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board
- San Francisco Estuary Partnership Implementation Committee
- SFEI Visioning Project – Calabasas Creek/ San Thomas Creek/ Pond A8 integration
- Shoreline Advocacy Workshop
- South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project



# Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve

FAWR members have had some recent successes. In 2016 we embarked upon a Wild in Alameda program having a morning event at our main library with speakers offering stories about 5 celebrity species seen in Alameda. Accompanying the presentations the library hosted a 38 photo exhibit of wildlife all taken in town. The event also had an afternoon of docents stationed to show the public local wildlife: Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Plovers, Bay Farm Island Heronry, Osprey nest, Harbor Seal float, Western Bluebirds, and amazingly the first 2016 least terns showed up at Elsie Roemer.

It was an amazing success. Even Mayor Spencer came to the presentations which filled the room with a seating capacity of 110. What FAWR enjoyed most was cooperation from so many parts of the community: EBRPD, wildlife photographers, Peregrine Falcon monitors, USFWS, harbor seal monitors, and of course GGAS/FAWR involved with all. The event established that wildlife is big here and it has support.

Least Terns had a shaky start this year, but the season was long and we think productive. By mid-August we had well over 400 nests counted. Fledgling ratio isn't known yet. In addition, Caspian Terns have returned to AWR. We are hoping to maintain their breeding successes at the site. AWR now has a bird list of over 200 species and 26 breeding bird species.

Alameda's Osprey nest offered another season of soap opera drama, with a pairing, nest building, arrival of an interloper, divorce, new mate (I think female from last year arrived late and created a fuss), new nest building, and finally incubation (in May). The suspense had us tuned in daily. A single chick fledged with promising skills. We are hoping it is making its way to winter habitat safely. Surprisingly, a new Osprey platform was generously installed by an Alameda contractor.

A rickety dock used by harbor seals was replaced with a "seal float" by WETA. The float was a voluntary project (ferry maintenance facility) mitigation gesture to accommodate seals



Photo of Frank with his Least Tern Chalets, photo courtesy of Richard Bangert

(and their noisy fans). To our delight, the seals took to it quickly. Our high number for this haul out site went from near 30 to over 70! Seals must communicate!

Snowy Plovers at Crown Beach have been monitored for a few years now to find that these treasured birds choose about the same place to roost each winter. With some negotiating, EBRPD will install a fence and signs seasonally to protect the plovers. The birds appear to be taking advantage of the protected area.

Frank Delfino will always be remembered. His chick chalets were gathered from the colony on Oct 9th and carefully stacked and protected from weather with much love. They will be used again and again for as long as possible. They are but one symbol of his work with us. We will deeply miss our annual lunch with him where he brought treats from his garden and stories to make us laugh.

**Leora Feeney, FAWR Co-Chair**  
leoraalameda@att.net



Photo of Least Tern adult and chick outside one of Frank's chalets. Photo courtesy of Rick Lewis

Editor's note: We are extremely grateful to Richard Bangert and Rick Lewis for sharing their photos of Frank and his handiwork and to Leora!

# Friends of Redwood City

Over the past two years, development in Redwood City has continued at an unprecedented pace, and the City's bayfront area has been no exception. Redevelopment projects near Whipple Avenue have placed 642 new condominiums and apartments on the small peninsula right across the street from the Refuge's newly restored Inner Bair Island. An additional 338 units are planned in a new proposal for the old Century 12 Theater site called the 557 East Bayshore Road Project. This development plan would place a five-story apartment building adjacent to the Bay Trail running along the southwest boundary of Inner Bair. CCCR has submitted an EIR scoping comment letter, and will continue to be involved with this project proposal in the months ahead.

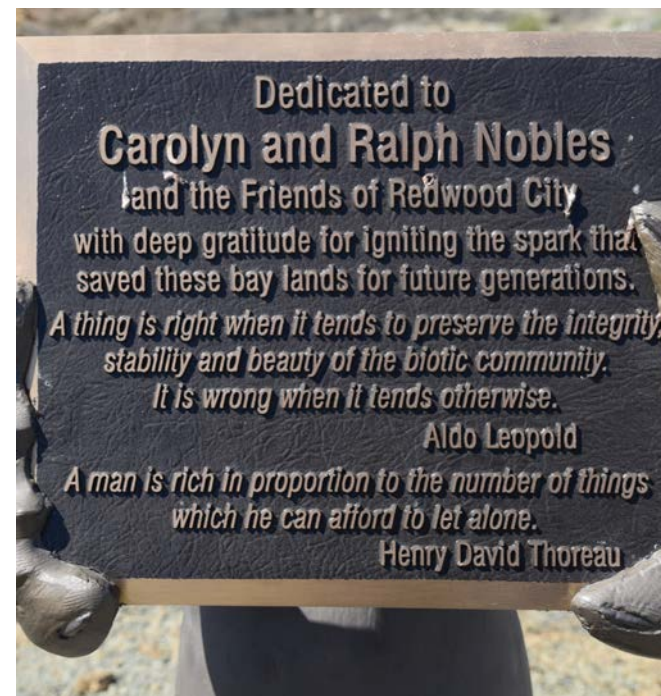
The significant increase in housing so near to this part of the Don Edwards SFB National Wildlife Refuge presents opportunities and challenges. Already, the number of Redwood City residents walking, jogging and biking on Bair Island trails has greatly increased, and we have spoken to many people who are truly amazed at the island's transformation back to tidal marsh that is happening before their eyes. These new members of our community are learning more about the Bay and Refuge wildlife and can see and experience firsthand the value of saving former salt ponds from development.

The challenges are not insurmountable with good project site design and planning and educational outreach. Dogs, outdoor cats, litter, shadowing, bird strikes, night lighting, nuisance predators and other impacts to Bay habitats and wildlife can be addressed through signage, barriers, building/landscape design and facility operations. The key is engaging early on with the City in the planning and environmental review process.

Meanwhile, at the southern end of Redwood City's bayfront, City Council recently voted to initiate an environmental study for the proposed Harbor View Project that would place four, seven-story office towers east of Hwy. 101 along Seaport Boulevard. The Harbor View redevelopment project could significantly increase pressures to develop on the 1400 acres of Cargill salt ponds which are directly across the street. Just like the massive Saltworks project withdrawn by Cargill/DMB in 2012, Harbor View would also require a change in the current Redwood City General Plan Land Use and Zoning designations, create significant traffic impacts to Hwy. 101 and the Woodside Road interchange, and place additional structures in an area at risk from sea level rise.

There is great concern that the estimated 5,000 new employees working in the Harbor View office towers would exacerbate the serious jobs/housing imbalance in Redwood City. With housing already a critical community issue, calls for building residences to house these employees on the nearby salt ponds could be the 'justification' given for another bayfill project proposal. Growth-inducing impacts from the Harbor View project have a significant potential to put Cargill's 1400 acres of restorable wetlands at greater risk for development, especially when the Williamson Act Open Space Conservation Contract that has protected these lands for decades expires next year.

Gail Raabe and Matt Leddy  
mtleddy@sbcglobal.net



Friends of Redwood City at Bair Island trailhead and dedication plaque



# Recollections of the Fight to Save Bair Island by Florence La Riviere

Rick Coleman was a young man in 1986 when he was assigned as the new Refuge Manager here on San Francisco Bay. He immediately came up with advice for us. “Wildlife is mobile,” he said, “so get the bookends restored,” referring to the Baumberg Tract in the East Bay and Bair Island across on the other side. This would create resting, feeding and nesting spaces on both sides of the Bay.

Well, Rick, it may have taken 30 years, but we’ve done it. After myriad meetings with all the agencies we could get together, the State Lands Commission purchased the site in Hayward, renamed it the Eden Landing, and restoration is on the way.



Florence La Riviere and Rick Coleman 2008

To enjoy the fruits of our labors on the other bookend, cross to the west on the San Mateo Bridge and head south. From the Bayshore Freeway in Redwood City you can spot the 3,000 acres of Bair Island beginning to sprout green expanses of marsh vegetation. That acquisition in 1997 has turned out to exceed our expectations.

**Act 1.** I still consider the acquisition of Bair to be high drama.

It all began one night in 1981 when Redwood City resident Ralph Nobles, on his way home from the airport, stopped in at the city council meeting. On the agenda was an immense development plan for an area that was once tidal marsh. That was Bair Island, and the vote was unanimous to approve the Mobil Development Corp. plan for building a town of 15,000. Asphalt and concrete would have buried hundreds of acres.

Instead of despairing, a group of like-minded citizens met Ralph after the meeting and decided to fight to reverse the council action. That night the *Friends of Redwood City* was born. There followed a full-force political campaign, with the dining room of Carolyn and Ralph’s home serving as operation headquarters. The Friends group referended this immense development plan in spite of almost

unanimous opposition from all the local political bodies and the press.

A few of the group members are still around to describe the actions -- Sandra Cooperman, John Wade and Nita Spangler. There are tears in their eyes as they tell of losing the election by a slim margin, but then winning it the next day when the recount and absentee ballots brought victory!

That was the end of Act 1. Enter the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge.

**The 2nd Act.** Rick Epstein, sitting at our table one evening in 1985, wondered aloud what on earth we could do to stop the next development plan that would surely be presented to the Redwood City Council.

“Bair Island isn’t really protected,” he said, “so let’s go back to Congress and get it included in the Wildlife Refuge.”

There was dead silence, but we decided to do just that and while we were at it, to try to get all the remaining Bay wetlands into the refuge also. That was the birth of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge.

**The curtain rises on Act 3.** I always feel humbled when I think back to the outpouring of support we had for our new committee, and especially for the commitment from people from all walks of life to acquire Bair Island and return it to a lush tidal marsh.

It was Arthur Feinstein and the Bay Area Audubon Council that decided that they would use the settlement money they had acquired from an oil spill to fight for Bair Island. They hired a publicist named Bill Rukeyser to wage the battle.

By this time Kumagai Gumi, a Japanese industrial giant, had acquired Bair Island. In a few weeks, Rukeyser had come up with a striking plan—a full-page ad in the western edition of the New York Times, the one read in Japan. Rukeyser learned that a photograph of the owner, Kumagai Taichiro, was vital for the ad to be successful. Obtaining that image was an adventure in itself, but one was finally purchased from a photographer who had taken it years before for Forbes Magazine. Bill had to track him down all the way to his home in London.

The ad, which appealed to the company to return Bair Island to nature, was endorsed by American environmental organizations, and importantly, by many Japanese ones as well. It was a wonderful success. It was just three weeks later that the Kumagai lawyer called the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) headquarters in Portland to say,

“Can we talk...?”

{Continued page 7}

# ~Bair Island Continued~



{Continued from Page 6}  
Our effort to secure Bair Island included a lobbying campaign to make members of Congress aware of the role Bair played in the survival of endangered and threatened species. We prepared elaborate multi-page folders with maps, photographs, testimonials by local academics, and wildlife counts done by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

**Act 4.** That is when Audrey Rust of the Peninsula Open Space Trust stepped up and gave the Service 15 million borrowed dollars to purchase the land. The repayment moneys came from foundations, the federal government and local citizens, among them Palo Altans Betsy and Pete Peterson. That was 1997, and just this month the Service will celebrate the levy breachings that have given all of Bair Island back to the ocean tides.

~  
**Florence LaRiviere**

*Editors Note: To see a video video produced for CCCR regarding Acts 1-3 of the Bair Island story please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gldFX8ika5k> to view “Saving Bair Island: A Noble Cause”*

## Bair IslandWalking Tour

On a beautiful day this past June, Jared Underwood (DESFBNWR) Refuge Manager, and Ivette Loredo, Wildlife Refuge Specialist, led local residents and environmental groups on a walking tour of the Bair Island public access trail. The tour began at the new information kiosk where Ivette gave a short recap of the fight to save Bair Island. The kiosk features colorful interpretive panels summarizing the importance of protecting Bair Island from development, the citizen efforts to save these 3,000 acres and the individuals, organizations and agencies that came together to make this crucial purchase possible. All the while, the proceedings progressed under the watchful eye of a Peregrine Falcon perched on a nearby tower.

*“It’s just amazing to see how quickly life takes hold, and we feel privileged that we are able to witness this transformation, up close and personal, and in our lifetime.” ~Gail Raabe, from the video “Saving Bair Island: A Noble Cause”*

Jared and Ivette then unveiled a beautiful and touching statue of a harbor seal, holding the dedication plaque to Carolyn and Ralph Nobles and the Friends of Redwood City clasped within its hind flippers. A few photos were taken, and we proceeded to the observation platform along Smith Slough. We could see that the transformation of Inner Bair Island in the past few years is nothing short of spectacular and a true testament of the ability of nature to restore itself when given the chance.



Photo of Inner Bair transformation courtesy of Sam High

~~See page 5 for additional photos~~



## Remembering Frank Delfino June 1927 - January 2017



### Tribute by Dr. Peter Baye

Long before the term “citizen-scientist” became popular jargon, Frank Delfino embodied it literally, and in combination with extraordinary tenacity and determination as an advocate for the environment of San Francisco Bay. Frank was an industrial scientist who, as a private citizen, dedicated more time and effort to environmental investigation and analysis than almost any government resource or regulatory agency staff I ever met. That is not rhetorical exaggeration. I’ve known a precious number of agency staff scientists who have gone (and still go) above and beyond the call of duty in the pursuit of environmental protection in the public interest. But I can’t think of anyone in government who delved as deeply, diligently, and thoroughly as Frank when he was uncovering (contaminated) dirt on harmful development projects in the East Bay. Only a few others on the public side of a land-use controversy, like Phil LaRiviere, could match Frank’s intensity and breadth in citizen-scientist work.

Frank was one of my first technical mentors in environmental assessment of contaminated post-industrial soils in the East Bay, when I was new at preparing NEPA documents, and unfamiliar with industrial legacies in diked baylands undergoing rapid residential development, like Citation Homes at Roberts Landing in San Leandro – the first project he educated me about. Nobody I knew in any of

the resource agencies had anything close to the detailed and complete accounts of land use history, ownership, manufacturing processes, forgotten or buried dump locations, explosives testing, and the industrial chemistry behind it. Frank and Janice would take me out to the field and show me locations of suspiciously scented soils with perplexing dieback and discoloration of vegetation - locations which were somehow omitted in sampling data presented to regulatory agencies. Once he pointed them out, government staff raised questions, and of course, Frank’s leads turned out to be real and important. No public comment letters could compare with the vital education Frank provided me about places, history, and applied science.



Frank and Janice

Photo courtesy of the Delfino Family

Frank and Janice were a perfect partnership as an environmental investigative team: Frank could generate overwhelming amounts of significant technical information, and only Janice could keep track of it all and organize it enough to hand over – and I mean literally hand over pre-digital era stacks of files – to regulatory agency staff. Sometimes Janice would deliver the packages (always with “bribes” of paper bags full of citrus or apples) and narrate through highlights of each file, and sometimes both she and Frank would go over them.

With Frank, it was usually a full lecture with footnotes! He knew hours of more oral information

than any written page could contain. Frank could recite and explain from memory almost every stage of the brine concentration and crystallization process in Leslie (and later Cargill) salt ponds, in each of the Baumberg and Newark salt ponds he knew individually, along with their histories. When I later obtained a used rare copy of “Salt in California” (the standard reference text about 20th century salt manufacturing), I was amazed at how much of it he had independently learned and memorized accurately. Frank was one of the only people I knew who knew Leslie/Cargill saltmaking operations (and equal or better understanding of salt pond physics and chemistry) with such accurate detail, but who was fortunately an independent, encyclopedic technical critic and advocate for environmental protection. Like Phil LaRiviere, Frank’s curiosity and doggedness



Photo courtesy of Peter Baye

wasn’t just fueled by protectiveness of the environment and love of places. There was more than a whiff of moral indignation to spike the intensity and tenacity of Frank’s investigations, especially when he suspected (or knew of) complicity between local government and developers and industrial interests, or knowingly incomplete or misleading information in the public record. Unless staff seemed to understand and share his concerns, and the technical basis for them, he and Janice would just keep explaining until they did! He wasn’t above a little heckling, either, when he felt public meetings or hearings were

manipulative dog-and-pony shows with contrived or misleading information. There was never a chance that Frank or Janice could become politically tamed or shamed into compromise.

But Frank wasn’t just interested in the combative aspects of conservation when controversy was high during the permit process. Like Phil LaRiviere again, Frank would knowledgeably and expertly critique and offer positive improvements on hydrological engineering designs of wetland restorations, including mitigation for projects he had fought. Frank and Janice had affirmative, inspired ecological restoration visions quite independent of land use and development controversies. One of the last times I saw both Frank and Janice in the field was at one of the sites they loved and knew (knowledge and love of places in the Bay were as inseparable as they themselves were), Roberts Landing sand spit, or Long Beach. They took me on an educational field trip where they shared vivid (and always accurate) memories of the former sand dunes and shorelines, illustrated with notebooks of annotated photographs. The USFWS plans to re-establish populations of the endangered California sea-blite at Roberts Landing relied on the missing history of the beach which they provided. I still hope that project will soon be re-initiated (storms destroyed the first attempt in 2010), and dedicated to Frank and Janice.



Frank and Florence October 2016



## Far South Bay Wetlands

With just one advocate deployed to cover Charleston Slough to Coyote Creek and sometimes upstream tributaries, CCCR continued to use partnerships in 2016 to act on behalf of the shoreline and Refuge. In Mountain View, we carried on our work with Google's Ecology team to advise, recommend and, fortuitously, support certain Google proposals to City Council, even serving as the environmental contingent's speaker at a joint City-Google event. In Florence LaRiviere's "go-to-the-meeting" footsteps, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we participated as stakeholders in planning processes on several projects: management of reverse osmosis brine that would be produced by expansion of advance water purification and watershed plans for Coyote Creek under the One Water program. Upstream, we engaged to ensure that the Upper Berryessa Creek Flood Project had protections under both the Federal Clean Water Act and the State's Porter-Cologne Act. Importantly, we put new emphasis on meeting with



*Florence and Philip at Charleston Slough 2005*

the Alviso Community to address escalating impacts the community and the shoreline will suffer as San Jose launched multiple, major development projects on rare open land that is also under high-level threats from climate change. Again and again, we attended meetings, wrote letters and lobbied officials. Nonetheless, early in the year CCCR and environmental partners had a major loss when the City approved the massive Residence Inn & Fairfield Inn & Suites (Marriott) project on the lower Guadalupe River, using a CEQA addendum of an outdated 2000 FEIR and refusing to incorporate any mitigations to avoid impacts to adjoining Refuge, wetlands and marsh wildlife.

Some 2016 issues continued in 2017 but with additions. Attention was maintained on the Berryessa Watershed, monitoring the Upper Berryessa project while adding the Lower Penitencia Creek project, the final downstream reach with sensitive, tidal wetlands as it joins Coyote Creek.

We continued activity in Alviso where there has been expanded community involvement at meetings. Maybe that change is the outcome of San Jose's persistent onslaught of development north of Highway 237. This year, construction began on a "Top Golf" entertainment center with 170' high nets adjacent to the Guadalupe River. The City approved the project and changed the



*Florence and Eileen 2016*

zoning to allow a hotel and retail complex but, upon approval, the developer put the entire property, except the golf center, up for sale. Along Coyote Creek, a private owner's proposal for a data center included infrastructure extensions through the Regional Wastewater Facility's buffer lands, which could induce future, dense office and industrial development in this area. Concerned about loss of and impact to rare Bay-transition lands, CCCR spent considerable time and effort and commented on both of these projects.

In the meantime, the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) proposed to double-track the UPRR tracks to expand service between San Jose and Merced on a route that runs 4-5 miles through Refuge wetlands and must address sea level rise. CCCR met with the ACE team and submitted comments.

Along the way, we continued our partnership with Google, participated in SFEI's visioning of renewed watershed routes through Refuge Pond A8 and were speakers at Resilient By Design tour events.

Eileen McLaughlin  
wildlifestewards@aol.com

## Baylands Conservation Committee

In 2016, Menlo Park became the focus of a great deal of CCCR's attention. In the prior year, the City had launched parallel and complementary planning processes to allow Facebook to expand: a General Plan and M-2 Area Plan Update and a Facebook Expansion project. They also evaluated the use of drones in City parks.

CCCR led the multi-group effort to keep drones and other recreational aircraft out of the parks, focused particularly on Bedwell Bayfront Park, edged on three sides by the Refuge. That park had become a destination for both recreational users and businesses testing drone products, launching from there to fly over the wetlands and Refuge. To our delight, the City Council voted unanimously to ban these devices from the parks!

Following up on our NOP comment letters in 2015, CCCR responded to the draft CEQA documents for both the General Plan/M-2 Area Update and the Facebook Expansion projects. In doing so, our continuing Facebook partnership was helpful, even advisory on a pedestrian bridge, but not always smooth sailing. We were disappointed that the City failed to acknowledge and incorporate significant special status species and wetland impacts into Final EIRs, prompting CCCR to hire legal support in the weeks before approval votes. Then the City and Facebook paid attention, incorporating changes into Facebook's conditional permit and into the Update's final EIR. CCCR was able to protect wetland and wildlife with focused and timely negotiation. As modelled by Florence, perseverance got us there.

In early 2017, Menlo Park began development of a new Master Plan for Bedwell Bayfront Park and CCCR was invited as a stakeholder on the Plan's Oversight and

Outreach Committee. Committee meetings, public workshops, and surveys produced a draft plan that had mostly good features and some not: threats to habitats and species included a dog park, a boat launch in Flood Slough and hand-launched gliders. Topical research and strategy meetings with the like-minded Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park ensued to inform the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council of pitfalls. Those efforts worked! No more dog park, the boat launch or gliders! The approved Master Plan will be rolled into the City-wide Park Master Plan during 2018 with the combined plan's CEQA process in 2019. Stay tuned. Nothing is written in stone.

Continuing our partnership with Facebook, we were invited to comment early on its Willow Road project, participated in a Facebook Festival (and beneficiary of its fundraising!) and consulted on the Pedestrian/Bike bridge. But our partnership is always based on clear-eyed fact, not smoke.

A red flag: SAMTrans, with extensive political support and Facebook funding, is pursuing revival of the Dumbarton rail corridor. It would rebuild the old railroad bridge through extensive marsh, most of it on the Refuge, impact wetlands within Menlo Park and apparently is blind to conflict with sea level rise. The feasibility studies vastly underestimated the issues and costs. CCCR believes the best rail solution is a tunnel, not a bridge.

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*Greco Island-Westpoint Slough at Pond R4 Photo courtesy of Eileen McLaughlin*



## Fremont

One has only to look to the western edges of the city of Fremont to see the benefits that have accrued from Florence LaRiviere's decades of environmental activism.



Florence's efforts have resulted in a permanent, positive contribution to our quality of life in this community - from the marsh that bears her name at the Fremont entrance of the wildlife refuge she worked so tirelessly to establish, to the southern end of the city and the addition of the 400+ acres of the Pacific Commons vernal pool wetland mitigation to the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. All of this was accomplished under Florence's watch.



*Endangered Contra Costa Goldfields, Warm Springs Unit*

**Patterson Ranch:** In north Fremont, 306 acres of the former Patterson Ranch site has been donated to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). This fall, EBRPD has held several community meetings regarding the plans for restoration and public access within the donated lands. The plans differ in agricultural intensity, the number of trails, the placement of a new entry kiosk and the locations of picnic facilities and 100 to 200 new parking spaces.

CCCR has attended the community meetings and offered numerous comments including the importance of not locating picnic and parking facilities adjacent to areas of proposed restoration. Of particular concern, are proposals to locate picnic facilities near the proposed riparian restoration. The existing willow run along Patterson Slough supports migratory and nesting song birds, introduction of picnic facilities in this area would attract nuisance species and negatively impact sensitive resident and migratory species. Another comment made by CCCR is that new public access trails must not bisect areas proposed for restoration. To learn more about the planning process, please visit: <http://www.ebparks.org/about/planning#patterson>

**Habitat Means Home Poster Contest:** 2017 was the 11th year CCCR co-sponsored the Habitat Means Home poster contest. This contest was created to encourage K-6 students in Fremont, Newark and Union City, to learn about the habitats and species that exist at Coyote Hills Regional Park. The goal was to get students and their families to venture out and experience first-hand, the beauty and wonder of the natural environment. Over the past eleven years nearly 3200 students have participated and the posters submitted have been inspiring and amazing. Due to the phenomenal group of volunteers who have helped over the years, almost every single poster submitted has been displayed in the visitor center at Coyote Hills Regional Park.

Carin High  
cccrrefuge@gmail.com



*2017 Habitat Means Home 1st Place Poster Adrish Kar, 6th Grade*

## Save Wetlands In Mayhews

Mayhews Landing has been teeming with wildlife this summer. Habitat that would have been lost without the guidance and encouragement of Florence LaRiviere. The City of Newark and developers proposed high density housing and a golf course for the site. With Florence leading the way, concerned Newark residents were able to fend off development pressures and see Mayhews Landing become part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

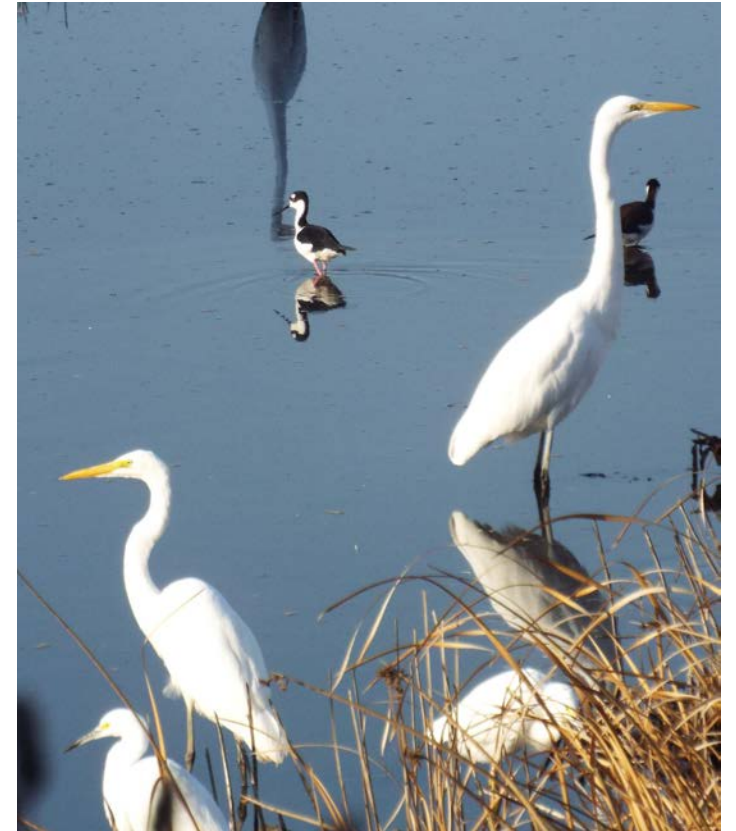


*Gray fox at Mayhews Landing photo courtesy of Wayne Miller*

The Mayhews Landing unit provides an important link to the greater Refuge by providing a buffer against encroaching development on the margins of the Refuge. The various wetland habitats provide food and shelter to shorebirds, waterfowl, and hawks along with resident and migrating songbirds. Mayhews Landing is of value in its role of flood protection to nearby residential development. The marsh and wetlands including the upland areas absorb water and recharge groundwater resources.



*Mayhews Landing*



*Egrets and stilts in marsh at Mayhews Landing photo by Wayne Miller*

In Newark, our work to preserve and protect wetlands is not done. Land that once contained two duck hunting clubs in its marshes is proposed for housing and recreational uses. Natural open spaces along the margins of the bay and the headwaters of Mowry Slough would be lost forever. The ability of this site to contain the effects of sea level rise would also be lost. We must not allow this to happen. Under the guidance of Florence we will strive to protect this unique and valuable resource.

Margaret Lewis  
(510) 792-8291



# Citizens for East Shore Parks

Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) became a member group of CCCR in the summer of 2016. CESP has a long history of open space protection. The following description is from their website [www.eastshorepark.org](http://www.eastshorepark.org):

“Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) was founded in 1985 to counter development proposals put forth by Santa Fe Railroad, which wanted to build large-scale developments on its shoreline properties in Albany and Berkeley. Over a period of 20 years, area residents and organizations have fought to preserve 1800 acres of open space in one of our nation’s most densely populated urban regions. On December 6, 2002, the Eastshore State Park was established. In 2012 the Park was renamed McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in honor of San Francisco Bay champion Sylvia McLaughlin and all the volunteers who helped establish the Park. 8.5 miles of Shoreline Park now stretches through five cities – from the foot of the Bay Bridge in Oakland through Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany to Richmond.

CESP’s mission is to create a necklace of shoreline parks from the Oakland Estuary to the Carquinez Strait. Our main project areas include completing McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, expanding the Park north to the Carquinez Strait, and organizing a unified voice for a resilient shoreline in the East Bay and beyond to address rising tides due to climate change.”

Citizens for East Shore Parks is one of the driving forces behind the shoreline park movement in the East Bay. Mobilizing with community groups, such as CCCR, and the East Bay Regional Park District, State Dept. of Parks, local cities and counties, and thousands of community residents over three decades, CESP led the successful movement to create the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in 2002. Together we all created this wonder-filled shoreline park extending 8.5 miles from Oakland up into Richmond. Over the past 30 plus years we fought off multiple shoreline development schemes to expand and complete our many shoreline parks.

In addition to expanding and completing shoreline parks, CESP will be working on sea level rise in the coming year. Climate change is the most serious challenge of our time and presents major threats to San Francisco Bay shorelines. We will lose our shoreline parks and communities to flooding unless we act soon. CESP has launched the Resilient Shoreline Program, combining advocacy, science, and education, to mobilize communities and public leaders to protect our shoreline parks and communities from destruction by sea rise.

We are working to build a coalition of political leaders to push for funding (federal, state and local) to address sea level rise, and climate change.

To save our shoreline parks we need public funding now for resilient shoreline solutions like restored marshes,



Photos above and below courtesy of Wayne Miller

horizontal levees, in preference to sea walls. There is research to be done, solutions to arrive at – no one solution will work for every part of the shoreline. We need to study, to vet ideas, to do pilot programs such as the Oro Loma Project - and to raise awareness and get public focus and support.

CESP will be working with CCCR and other groups on the Resilient Shoreline Program. To date CESP has staged a series of demonstrations in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond marking where the new shoreline will be with 2 meters of sea rise. While people have a vague idea of what sea rise might mean, they are shocked when we show them that much of Jack London Square and the Berkeley Marina will be flooded, that the upland habitat along the Richmond shore will be submerged. CESP’s demonstrations include volunteer-held sea-blue banners extending the length of a football field set at the new shoreline, showing in a dramatic visual way where our new shoreline will be.

We invite you all to come out and join us – we have fun, get some fresh air and help raise awareness and support regarding sea rise and climate change.

Robert Cheasty, E.D. and Shirley Dean, President  
[cespmanager@eastshorepark.org](mailto:cespmanager@eastshorepark.org)



# The Uneasy Chair



Dear Friends,

In late 2015, I decided the time had come to turn over the reins of the daily responsibilities of running this incredible organization to others, but as you can see, I have not gone away. I have continued to be involved with CCCR as Chair Emerita, and I will continue to fight to Save Wetlands!

It is with delight that I tell you of our new co-chairs! They have both been integral activists with us for several years, and bring tremendous backgrounds to lead us in our work to preserve San Francisco Bay’s wetlands. At the December 2015 CCCR Annual Meeting, Gail Raabe and Carin High were nominated and elected to serve as Co-Chairs. They each enjoyed notable careers concerning local uses of land and water. Gail was Commissioner of Agriculture for San Mateo County, and Carin, with a background in Marine Biology, served in the regulatory branch of the Corps of Engineers.

All their successes in those areas are not what gladdens my heart the most. They both bring passionate devotion to wetlands, but even more importantly, they are kind, compassionate and warm in their dealings with everyone. It gives me great pleasure that our wonderfully devoted

*Editor’s notes:*

*Thank you to our many contributing writers including Dr. Peter Baye.*

*I’d like to extend a huge “Thank you!!” to my proof-readers and volunteer editors - Sam and Howard High and Gail Raabe.*

*Cover photo of Florence LaRiviere, courtesy of Howard High.*

*All other photos unless noted otherwise are courtesy of Carin High.*

~~ Carin High, Editor

all-volunteer group will continue with more intensity than ever!

I know you will continue to support the vision and hard work of our organization to protect wetlands, the edges of the bay and our beloved Refuge. There’s still a lot of work to be done to complete and protect the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and there are still huge hurdles to overcome in Redwood City and the City of Newark. The 1600 acres of salt ponds in Redwood City and the 500 acre mosaic of wetlands and uplands, the former Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs in Newark, must be added to the Refuge. I believe Carin and Gail are providing the leadership and that you will continue to support protection of these significant sites.

Now here is something special. Thanks to Ricardo Cortes, who volunteered many hours to update and refresh our website, we’re hoping to have the new website up and running in early 2018. In the meantime, you can go to [www.bayrefuge.org](http://www.bayrefuge.org) and see for yourself Sam High’s charming video of the Bair Island story, if you have not seen it already.

As always, I give my special thanks to those who have been my eyes--Gwen, David, Jean, Betsy, Eileen, Ginny and Anne. I am profoundly grateful to them.



Florence LaRiviere



Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____	
City _____	State/Zip _____
Here is my contribution to help preserve our wetlands:	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	
You may use my name as a donor to CCCR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
I would like to help by writing letters to save wetlands. Please add me to an e-mail ACTION ALERT LIST. My e-mail address is _____	
Please make your tax-deductible check payable to CCCR and mail your check and this form to the Committee at: P.O. Box 50991, Palo Alto, CA 94303.	
Thank you for your support -- you make it all possible!!	



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# Save Wetlands!

Newsletter Issue 46  
2016 - 2017



*Photo of Frank Delfino courtesy of Delfino Family*

***Save Wetlands*** is the annual Newsletter of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, an all-volunteer nonprofit public benefit corporation.

*The mission of the Committee is to save the Bay's remaining wetlands by working to place them under the protection of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and to foster worldwide education regarding the value of all wetlands.*

*Support is welcome from anyone interested in saving wetlands, and a tax-deductible contribution of \$10 per issue would be appreciated.*

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