



# Diatom Digest

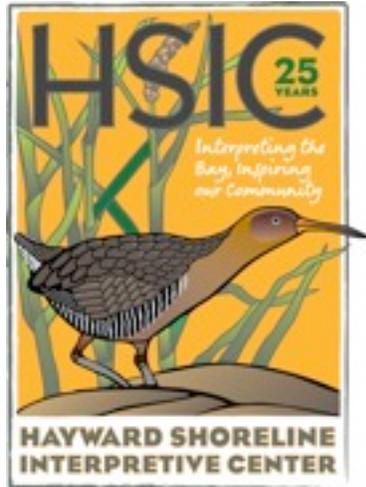
*Inspiring a sense of appreciation and stewardship for the Bay through education*

Teacher Newsletter of the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center

Spring 2011

## Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary

This year, the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center is turning 25! The building opened its doors in July 1986, but the planning for our facility and its wetland ecology program began in 1967. That was the year that teacher Phil Gordon, who had been busing students to the shoreline to explore the rich ecology of the salt marsh, was chased off the shoreline at gunpoint by the farmer leasing the land from the City of Hayward. It was at that point that the problem of shoreline access was crystalized for local agencies and educators.



*Artwork by Madeleine Budnick Designs*

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District invited their Citizen Advisory Committee to study the options for creating greater access to the Bay at the Hayward shoreline. They realized quickly that the job was too monumental for one agency to handle and combined their efforts with the East Bay Regional Park District, the City of Hayward and Alameda County, forming the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA). This joint powers agency was created in 1971. They were soon joined by the San Lorenzo and Hayward Unified School Districts. Through the efforts of HASPA, what was once only a total of 8 miles of

accessible shoreline around the Bay doubled to 16 miles in the 1970's. Now, through the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, 290 miles of the San Francisco Bay-Estuary shoreline is accessible to the public. It's hard to imagine those early days of limited accessibility to enjoy this amazing salt marsh resource. So much has changed for the betterment of salt marsh habitat and public access.

Our current staff and volunteers are grateful for those citizen scientists and forward-thinking public agency administrators who came before us. They saw the shoreline as a habitat that should be preserved for wildlife and appreciated by the general public at the same time. Through the interpretation and conservation of the salt marsh habitat, it has been preserved for future generations.

## Picture this! Shoreline Program Overview

Our popular Shoreline Discoveries program begins with a brief introduction on wetlands and general ecology. After the rules have been established, the class is split into two groups, where each naturalist will take their half of the class out on the trail. Along the trail, the naturalist will stop and talk about the various wildlife within the area. On a typical day there are tracks to observe which tell stories, and there is always pickleweed for tasting! Students will also find many birds like egrets, sandpipers, and curlews that offer great opportunities to talk about adaptation and the importance of marshes.



Program	Length	In-District Fee*	Out-of-District Fee	Recommended Grade
Salty Stories	1 hour	\$109.00	\$136.25	1st Grade
Saltmarsh Wonders	2 hours	\$163.00	\$203.75	2nd grade
Shoreline Discoveries	3 hours	\$206.00	\$257.50	3rd and 4th grade
Wetland Ecology	4 hours	\$244.00	\$305.00	4th - 8th grade

\*The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District includes Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and the unincorporated areas of Fairview, Ashland and Cherryland.

At the end of the hike, the class reaches the mudflats, where they have some time to search the bayshore mud for clams, snails, algae, and worms on their own. This is always a favorite activity for students. After a group discussion about all the treasures we find, we head back up the trail for lunch.

After lunch, students are each given dipnets and encouraged to try to catch insects and other creatures living in the channel. Once everyone has had a chance to catch channel critters, we head inside to the mudlab. The students are able to use mud taken from the mudflats and strain them into samples which they can look at under the dissecting scope to discover planktonic life. This is often a special time for students who have never used a dissecting scope on their own.

This is a general idea of what awaits you and your students during one of our three-hour Shoreline Discoveries program. We offer a variety of programs for each grade level. A one or two-hour program focuses on salt marsh ecology and generally does not go to the bayshore nor include the mudlab. We are happy to work with you to design a program that is specially tailored to your class.



Photo by Melissa Tarnowski

### General Program Descriptions

**Salty Stories** An hour on the trail, experiencing the salt marsh with our 5 senses. Students learn the definition of habitat and identify plants and animals they encounter along their hike.

**Saltmarsh Wonders** Students can “go fishing” in the channel and examine the fish, snails, bugs and other aquatic life they discover in addition to hiking the trail.



### Shoreline Discoveries

A two-hour hike along the Bay Trail down to the shoreline, identifying wildlife as we go, stopping for teachable moments as we see them. Mud students collected at the Bay is brought back and examined for plankton in the “Mud Lab”.

**Wetland Ecology** A chance for students to work with scientific equipment and to go into areas of the marsh that are closed to the public and other school groups. Students get to compare freshwater, channel water and Bay water parameters.

We can incorporate any of your earth or life science requests into your program to make it suit your needs. Call us to discuss how we can fulfill your curriculum requirements.

### Partners in Education: Sulphur Creek Nature Center and the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center

Please take an opportunity to look over the enclosed flyer about programs offered at our sister-center. Sulphur Creek is a wildlife rehabilitation facility and education center. They offer classes focused on California native animals. Call 510-881-6747 for more information.

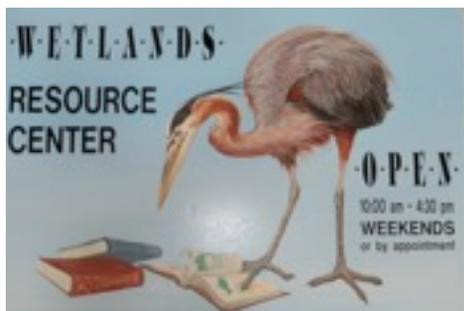


Photos by Melissa Tarnowski

# Take Advantage of the Outdoor Classroom

*The shoreline is a mosaic of salt marsh, mud flats, salt ponds, freshwater marsh, tidal channels and open Bay. Your students can experience these wetland habitats during a naturalist-led program. We strive for the education of today's youth for tomorrow's success. Please call us at 510-670-7270 to schedule your field trip.*

## Teacher and Student Wetland Resource Center



If you are looking for exciting, hands-on and interactive activities for your classroom, we have resources for you. Visit our Wetlands Resource Center to find in-

formation specific to the Hayward shoreline and wetlands nationwide that may be unavailable or difficult to find online. We have recently updated the center with new publications and resources that can enhance your classroom curriculum.

In addition to our large variety of resources for teachers, we also have many research papers and magazines for your students to use to complete reports. Refer your students to the Wetlands Resource Center at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center for one-on-one assistance by our experienced staff naturalists.

**Open Saturdays and Sundays 10AM to 4:30PM.  
Wednesday through Friday by appointment.**

## 4th Grade Salt Pond History Program Available in Fall: Solar Salt Farming on the Hayward Shoreline

Participate in a program designed for 4th grade students studying California history. Due to the nesting season of the threatened snowy plover, **this special program is only available during the fall and winter.** The salt ponds offer a historical site ideal for bringing fourth grade social science to life. As a state designated historic landscape, the salt ponds provide students a living "sense of place" where abstract facts, from Ohlone life to the gold rush, become an engaging and interactive discovery. This program is based on California State Standards for Social Science and Environmental Study, Interpretive Center naturalists present the dynamic picture of ancestral and early California. Plan ahead for Fall 2012 and book your program today!

*Take advantage of this introductory rate!*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Salt Ponds History Hike</b>
<b>Length</b>	4 hours
<b>In District Fee*</b>	\$125.00
<b>Out of District Fee</b>	\$156.25
<b>Grade Level</b>	4th Grade

# Celebrating 25 Years of Interpreting the Bay

*Through interpretation understanding, through understanding appreciation, through appreciation protection - Freeman Tilden*



Photo by Warren Holcomb

Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center

Spring 2011

*A program and facility of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District*



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