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Patti Workover	Senior Naturalist	Jahlan Loche	Student Aide
Ann Graham	Senior Naturalist	Elaney Hailemariam	Student Aide
Nancy Ceridwyn	Naturalist	Jasmine Siroy	Student Aide
Linden Rayton	Naturalist	Randy Gates	Contributing Naturalist
Melissa Tarnowski	Naturalist Aide	Jessica Bella	Animal Care Coordinator

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FALL 2013



# tidal tales

The Newsletter of the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center Volume 28, Number 4

## Keeper FROM PAGE 1

the slightest apprehension. Thea is the princess of the snake world and wants things done her way and her way only. It has taken a long time to find what makes her happy and yet there are still days when she makes it loud and clear she wants nothing to do with anybody. There are also good times where she will go on a field trip to an elementary school and put a gleaming smile on every child's face while they gently touch her. Lastly, Biggie, the eldest of the three, does not get used as a program snake. He is only for visitors to admire behind the glass of his enclosure. He is very strong and, when being held, will try with his entire might to get away. We respect his wishes and see

his beauty from afar. All three snakes are beautiful in their own amazing way.



**Sunny the Gopher Snake**

The next time you feel the need to take a day and get back to your wild roots, come in and meet the animals

at the Interpretive Center's Habitat Room. Bring just yourself or your whole family; learn about the different niches each animal of the Hayward salt marshes inhabits, and then take a spectacular walk on the marsh trail and discover what a beautiful and wild world we live in. When you and your family are visiting a nature center, aquarium, or zoo, remember to quietly thank the captive animals as they are the ambassadors of their wild brethren.



*A facility of  
Hayward  
Area  
Recreation &  
Park District*

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SHORELINE

#### SEPTEMBER

- **Peeps-a-palooza!**  
Sat., Sep. 14, 9:30am-12:30pm

#### OCTOBER

- **Night Hike**  
Sat., Oct. 19, 6pm-7:30pm

#### NOVEMBER

- **Leopard Shark Feeding Frenzy**  
Sun., Nov. 24, 2:00pm-3:00pm  
*See inside for program details.*

### SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

We conduct hands-on wetland education programs for local school children. Call 510-670-7270 to bring your group out to discover the shoreline.

### INFO & HOURS

We are open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

4901 Breakwater Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94545  
telephone: 510-670-7270  
email: shoreline@haywardrec.org

on the web:  
**HAYWARDREC.ORG**

## Through a Keeper's Eyes

By JESSICA BELLA

Atop sturdy stilts above the marsh and near the edge of daily hustle and bustle, sits a hidden gem named the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. Inside, a small group of dedicated people cater to the growing minds of young children. There are different rooms for all to see and explore: the art exhibits, the Mud Lab, and, the star attraction: The Janice and Frank Delfino Wetland Habitat Room. It is here in the Habitat Room that visitors get an up close and personal look at the animals that live in the salt marsh. More than 150 million people visit nature centers, aquariums, and zoos every year in the United States, but why are people so attracted to these places and why are they so valued in our society? What role do they play in the conservation of wildlife? Who are the animal keepers?

Visiting these places strikes a very pleasant and somewhat mesmerizing state of mind. They offer us a timeless oasis from the usual business of daily life; a type of wild harmony. While walking through these places, one may notice how much emphasis is put on why preservation is important because their goal is to educate visitors on modern day conservation and their role in it. Many visitors to the shoreline have no idea the importance of a leopard shark to the salt marsh or why a gopher snake hibernates in the winter. It is education that will make a difference in the mindset of future generations.

As you visit zoos and aquariums, leisurely making the rounds to each animal enclosure, learning about sharks, great horned owls, or elephants, you may wonder, "Who takes care of these captive creatures?" Behind the scenes are animal keepers who dedicate most of their lives to the

care and well-being of those animals. You may get a quick glance of a keeper inspecting part of an enclosure or you may get the amazing chance to catch a keeper in passing and ask the secrets of animal husbandry. As the Animal Care Coordinator for the HSIC, I must say that it is truly a one of a kind job to work with animals and to be involved with the future preservation of animals in the wild. Of course, working with animals is not the most glamorous of jobs, but it is one of the most rewarding. Animal keepers usually wear earth-toned clothing to hide the dirt and goo that come with the job. They are very focused and busy making sure the animals are as happy and content

*Working with animals is not the most glamorous of jobs, but is one of the most rewarding*

as they can be in captivity. There are moments of sadness and frustration, but most of all, there are times of healing and success.

As an animal keeper, I get the wonderful opportunity to observe the unique, quirky behaviors of all the animals. This is most seen in the gopher snakes at the Interpretive Center. There is the youngest, Sunny, who was found injured at an equestrian facility; our adolescent snake, Thea, was captive bred; and our oldest, Biggie, was found in the Hayward marsh and in need of some food. Even though all three are of the same species, they are each quite different in personality. Sunny is the calmest snake I have ever encountered, allowing children to delicately touch him without

Current Resident or

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District  
hayward shoreline interpretive center  
4901 Breakwater Avenue Hayward, CA 94545



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# The Lure of the Wetlands

Artist June Yokell

ON EXHIBIT SEPTEMBER 21 - JANUARY 5, 2014

## Artist Reception:

Saturday, September 28, 1:00pm-3:00pm

This show is comprised of imagery inspired by the artist's meanderings of and musings on the various wetlands in the Bay Area. For the past six years, June has been working on paintings that are predominated by some aspect of water. All of her paintings are influenced by specific aspects of nature, particularly by water and its movement, light on shadows, reflections, the power of fluidity, or calming abilities. She is interested in how paint is used and likes working within the tension of control and chaos creating a coalition between representation and abstraction.



The Interpretive Center has a large exhibit space with vaulted ceilings and moveable display panels. We are always interested in any form of art exhibit that highlights local wildlife, wetland or Bay ecology, or any theme in keeping with our goal of educating and inspiring

the public. If you are an artist interested in holding an art show at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, please contact the Program Director at 510-670-7270.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### ADAPTING TO RISING TIDES THE NEW NORMAL?

Every winter our King Tides lap over the trails and fill the marsh. This winter, a new series explores the fun science that brings the tides to our doorstep and opens discussion and group innovative thinking about our collective future in light of projected sea level rise. This three-part series meets every other Saturday beginning November 16th and includes a special guest speaker, hikes during high tides and a discovery of the wonder of ocean tides and the history of the bay.

#### King Tides and Sea Level Rise

Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:00am-12:00pm  
King Tides may be a taste of our future. Join in the discussion as we peek into the future finding solutions together as a community. Enjoy an easy jaunt on the marsh trails as we look at our current tides to compare with the winter King Tide.

#### Hiking the High Tides

Saturday, Nov. 30, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Enjoy the wonder of the ocean tides as we walk trails with the 8 foot tide lapping at our feet.

#### Saving the Shoreline

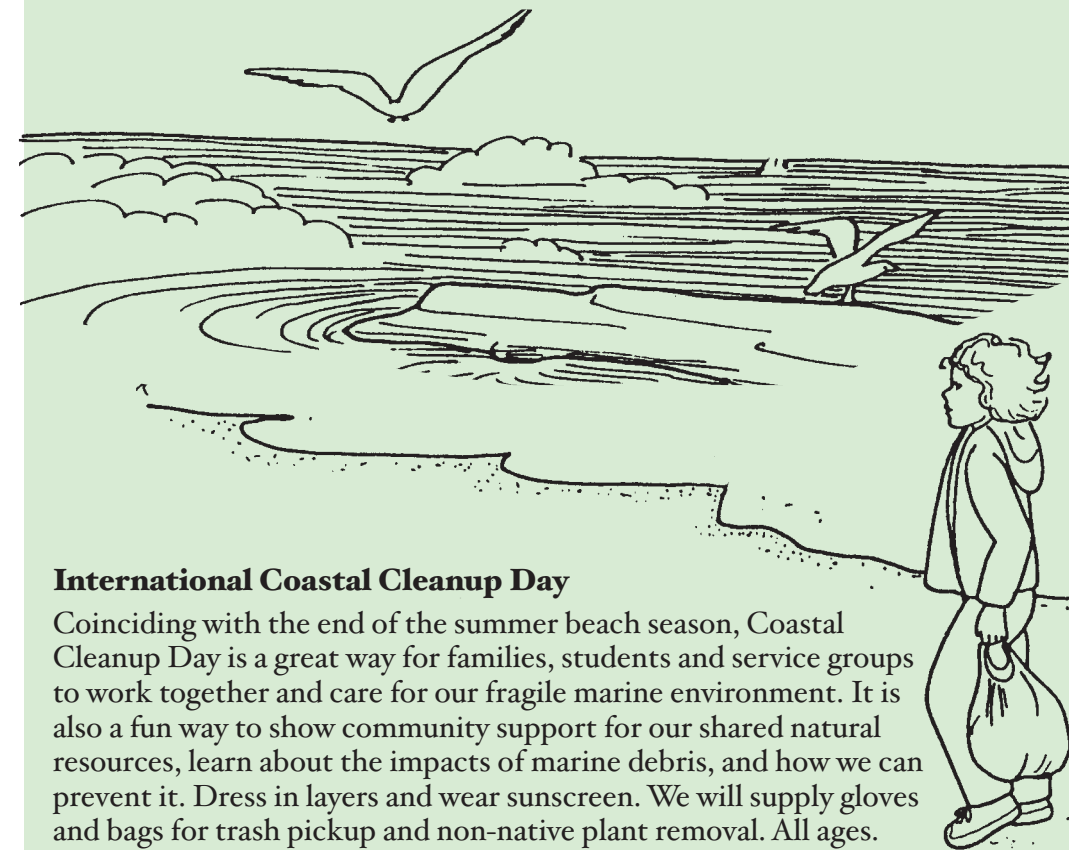
Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:00am-12:00pm  
We are in uncharted waters as we look at the history of saving the bay and discuss our future of shoreline stewardship.

Ages 15 and up. Fee: \$36 per person.  
Class #24067

CONNECT WITH US ON  
**FACEBOOK. SHARE YOUR  
SHORELINE  
EXPERIENCES!**



## spotlight program: fall 2013



### International Coastal Cleanup Day

Coinciding with the end of the summer beach season, Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students and service groups to work together and care for our fragile marine environment. It is also a fun way to show community support for our shared natural resources, learn about the impacts of marine debris, and how we can prevent it. Dress in layers and wear sunscreen. We will supply gloves and bags for trash pickup and non-native plant removal. All ages.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 9:00AM-12:00PM

### CREATURE FEATURE:

## Chameleon Goby

Right now, our Habitat Room has three Chameleon Gobies. These fish are small in size (5 inches long), but big in personality. During any fish feeding, you can watch the largest goby stuff itself until its stomach is literally bulging away from its body.

Chameleon Gobies are called such because of their ability to change their coloration. They may have two black stripes running down the length of their gray body or they may completely change their pattern to a series of brown, vertical bars in a matter of seconds. They are bottom-dwellers that eat marine worms, amphipods (small crustaceans), and most other things they can find on the bay floor. Like all gobies, they have two united pelvic fins which form a suction cup on their underside that allows them to stay on a surface in one place even during strong currents.

Male gobies build nests for the eggs that a female will lay, usually in old clam or oyster shells. If no shells are available, they will choose a crevice such as a discarded bottle. We see this behavior often with our largest goby which frequently hangs out in a glass bottle inside its aquarium.

Chameleon gobies are also an invasive species. They are native to brackish and marine waters off the coast of China, Korea, and Japan. They first appeared in the San Francisco Bay in 1962 likely transported by ships' ballast water. As with all invasive species, it is possible that they are impacting the populations of native estuarine fish, however, they are now well established and are common in the channels under the Interpretive Center. Children sometimes catch them while dip-netting providing two things any naturalist hopes for: A teachable moment and the incredible excitement of a student.

—Linden Rayton



### VITAL STATS: Chameleon Goby

COMMON NAME:  
Chameleon Goby

SCIENTIFIC NAME:  
*Tridentiger trigonocephalus*

PREDATORS: As fry, they are eaten by crabs, birds, larger fish.

FOOD Primarily worms and amphipods.

BODY LENGTH: 3 to 5 inches.

HOW TO OBSERVE: Drag a net across the bottom of a marsh channel. Or visit the aquarium in the Interpretive Center.

## summer sightings

THIS SUMMER, animals of all kinds were seen in the marsh. Notable sightings include:

- LEAST TERNS nesting in the freshwater marsh
- JACK RABBIT seen by hikers bounding along the trail
- ANISE SWALLOWTAIL CATERPILLARS found by children
- MUD CRAB EXOSKELETONS seen by the hundreds at the high tide line along the trail
- LINED SHORE CRABS caught by excited summer campers
- BLACK SKIMMER PAIR chasing a hawk from their nest
- PERCH caught by a junior counselor at fishing camp
- TWO BAT RAYS caught by campers during fishing camp
- ANISE SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY CHRYSALIS found on a fennel plant in front of the Interpretive Center
- PEREGRINE FALCON hunting over the marsh
- TWO WHITE-TAILED KITES searching for fish

The famed flamingo of the Hayward Shoreline appears to have moved south to the shoreline in Sunnyvale. It hasn't been reported at the Interpretive Center since June and sightings of a flamingo of the same species began in Sunnyvale at the same time. Although the staff here is sad to see it go, we hope it thrives well in its new home.

