

watershed

Save The Bay Launches The Bay Classroom

Save The Bay launched The Bay Classroom (www.saveSFbay.org/bayclassroom) in August as an interactive, educational website for students of all ages to learn about San Francisco Bay. Features on the site include Bay history, Bay plants and animals, issues affecting the Bay, a glossary, links, at-home activities and more.

The Bay Classroom also gives visitors a chance to test their Bay knowledge. How well do you know the Bay?

- ▶ What percentage of the Bay wetlands remain?
- ▶ How many San Francisco Bay species are on the Federal Endangered Species list?
- ▶ What percentage of California is included in San Francisco Bay's watershed?
- ▶ How many tidal cycles does the Bay experience every 24 hours?

You can find the answers to these questions or take the entire quiz in The Bay Classroom.

The Bay Classroom also helps students who participate in Save The Bay's Watershed Education programs get the most out of their Bay experience. Every year, Save The Bay takes more than 5,000 students on a Canoes In Sloughs (pronounced "slews") program, an award-winning, on-the-water field trip that teaches Bay science to middle and high school students throughout the Bay Area.

"Teachers can use The Bay Classroom to get students excited about their outing, since a Canoes In Sloughs trip is often a student's first on-the-water experience. Exploring the website in the classroom will enhance students' knowledge of what they experience from the canoe," says Save The Bay's Education Pro-

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▼ *The Bay Classroom offers a rich educational experience to anyone interested in learning about the Bay.*



Visit Our Website
www.saveSFbay.org

- ▶ Join the Bay Savers e-mail action network
- ▶ Learn about the Bay in The Bay Classroom
- ▶ Sign up for exciting Discover The Bay outings

SAVE THE BAY

THE BAY CLASSROOM

Learn about Bay history, Bay plants and animals, and how you can help Save the Bay.

saveSFbay.org/bayclassroom



Member Support Brings Great Bay Victories



▲ *David Lewis*
Executive Director

Forty years ago, Save The Bay members helped to secure a moratorium on the devastating practice of massive Bay land-fill that had already reduced the Bay's size by one-third. By convincing the legislature and governor to create the

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), we stopped the Bay from being narrowed to a river.

BCDC has prevented hundreds of square miles of unnecessary landfill and permitted wetland restoration and mitigation projects that will make the Bay thousands of acres larger. It has authorized more than \$14.4 billion in shoreline development that has spurred the region's economic engine. It has opened up more than 900 acres of new public access for trails, parks and water recreation along more than 90 miles of Bay shoreline for all Bay Area residents to enjoy.

The Bay Area's economy and quality of life depend on a healthy and vibrant Bay, and Bay Area residents want to see it protected. The Bay needed those Save The Bay members who helped to create BCDC forty years ago, and the Bay still needs all

of us to save it for future generations.

Runoff carrying hazardous pollution like mercury, bacteria, pesticides and other industrial toxics is one of the greatest threats to the Bay. Scientists estimate that we need to restore 100,000 acres of wetlands to make the Bay and Delta healthy again.

I'm proud of our successful campaign that forced the U.S. Navy to clean up a toxic Superfund site on the Bay shoreline at Moffett Field so that wetlands can be restored there. We're tackling pollution so people can fish, windsurf, sail and swim safely. We're mobilizing thousands of adults and students to restore the shoreline by hand. But we can't protect the Bay without you.

Save The Bay depends on generous support from our members to protect and restore the Bay. I hope you will remain engaged in our fun and rewarding efforts, and make a generous, tax-deductible gift to Save The Bay before the end of this year.

Thank you for making our work possible!

watershed

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Make a Stock Gift to Save The Bay

Gifts of stock are an outstanding way to help Save The Bay continue its crucial work to protect and restore San Francisco Bay. Donating appreciated stocks can help you avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable tax deduction for the full market value of the shares. To make a gift, please provide your broker with the following information:

Our brokerage firm and their phone number:	Charles Schwab 1-800-435-4000
Brokerage DTC number:	0164-40
Our account name:	Save San Francisco Bay Association
Our account number:	2682-5218
Our tax-payer ID number:	94-6078420

In addition, please contact Save The Bay's Development Director Eliza Dexter at (510) 452-9261 x106, so we may ensure that your gift is recorded accurately.

The Sandhill Crane

Sandhill cranes are one of only 15 crane species in the world today, and the majority are endangered or near extinction. They are also the oldest living species of bird, with fossils dating back over 6 million years!

One subspecies of crane that spends the winter in California's Central Valley is the greater sandhill crane. At approximately five feet, the greater sandhill crane is one of the tallest birds in the world. Each weighs eight to twelve pounds and has a seven foot wingspan. They are grey with a bare red patch on the skin of the forehead and have heavy bodies, long necks and legs.

Cranes eat a variety of plants and animals, including snails, crayfish, worms, mice, frogs, snakes, and insects. These birds do a lot of digging with their bills and can creep several inches below the surface in search of food.

Listed as a Threatened Species by the State of California, the survival of the greater sandhill crane is imperiled by habitat loss and degradation and collisions with power lines in the foggy Central Valley. Greater sandhill cranes also reproduce at a very low rate—one or two offspring a year—which makes it diffi-

cult for the population to recover.

Sandhill cranes select one mate for life and return to the same nesting location year after year. When a pair migrates, they are usually accompanied by their one or two offspring from the previous mating season. However, sandhill cranes are very territorial and don't allow other sandhills near their nesting area, not even their young from the previous year.

Cranes look for nesting places in remote wetland areas. Their large nests are constructed of vegetation to form a mound surrounded by a moat. Sandhill cranes typically lay two oval-shaped eggs, which can be twice the size of a chicken's egg. Both parents incubate the nest and raise the young. The sandhill crane offspring grow rapidly and within two and a half months, are ready to fly.

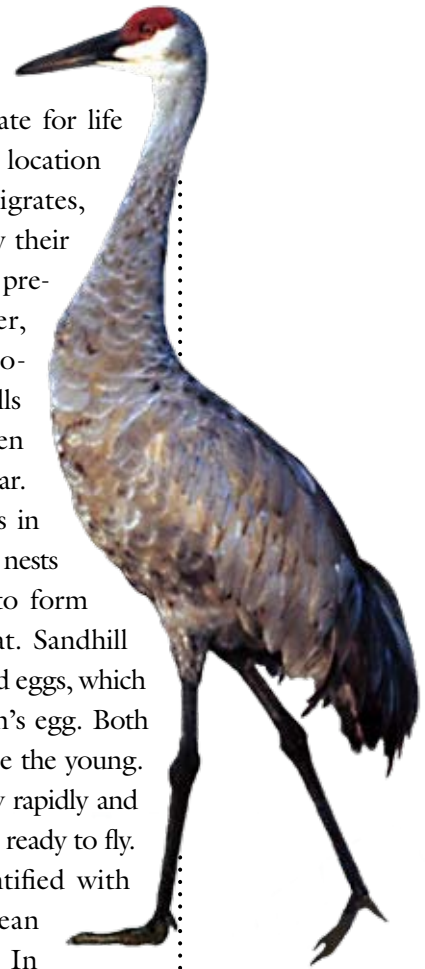
Cranes have long been identified with beauty and vitality. In European folklore, cranes deliver babies. In Japan, cranes are symbols of long life and a happy marriage. Still other cultures consider cranes to be birds of peace.

To learn more about Bay animals, visit:

www.saveSFbay.org/bayclassroom

the Bay is a home to fish and wildlife seems to make the ecosystem more 'real' to them." And Carol Gray, executive director of the Center for Venture Philanthropy added, "This new Save The Bay classroom is just fabulous! I am so excited about it and particularly the way that you are embracing the building blocks for creating environmental stewards. Really beautiful presentation and extremely rich, engaging content. I am hooked!"

To keep visitors coming back, The Bay Classroom will host monthly "Creature Features" about Bay wildlife, more quizzes and surveys as well as updated information about current issues facing the Bay.



US Fish and Wildlife Service

Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

SIZE: 37"

RANGE: *Migratory. From the Great Lakes to the west coast, north to British Columbia, Alaska and eastern Siberia*

FOOD: *Snails, worms, frogs, insects*

The Bay Classroom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grams Manager Jessica Parsons.

Response to The Bay Classroom has been extremely positive. Former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan noted, "Excellent Bay Classroom information on your web site. Makes good reading for everyone, not just students. Congratulations!" Teacher Charlie Stephen commented, "I like your website and will use it with my students. Over my twenty years as an educator, I've found that students K through 8 respond best to living things in the Bay; the notion that



English Channel Swimmers Raise Funds for Save The Bay

Swimming the English Channel takes phenomenal skill, energy, time and dedication. But it also takes money. Swimmers who take on the ultimate swimming challenge of the English Channel must find money to pay for their transportation, accommodations, registration, the crew who guide them on their swim, and more.

So Tom Keller, Neal Rayner, and Brian Herrick, who all swam the Channel in August,

decided to do a little fundraising. In addition to raising money for their swim, they also raised money for Save The Bay.

“The swim was directly relevant to Save The Bay’s work. We prepared for the English Channel by swimming in the Bay,” noted Keller.

Thousands of people use more than 50 beaches surrounding the Bay for activities like swimming. To make Bay beaches safer for people, Save The Bay sponsored Assembly Bill 1876 to require regular, uniform water quality monitoring at Bay beaches, and posting health advisories or beach

closures when contamination of the water exceeds safe levels. AB 1876 was signed into law by the Governor late last year.

“We were deeply honored by the commitment shown by Brian, Neal and Tom



▲ Brian Herrick (left), Tom Keller (middle) joined fellow Dolphin Club member Neal Rayner (right) in completing the Channel crossing this year.

to our work and to San Francisco Bay. As they prepared over the past year for this important and difficult swim, they somehow found the time and energy to let their community of friends and family know that the Bay waters in which they trained should

be celebrated, protected and restored. Save The Bay deeply thanks all of them for raising funds for, and awareness of our work, through their amazing journey!” says Save The Bay’s Development Director Eliza Dexter.

Hosting two fundraising parties, the trio pledged 25% of their net proceeds to Save The Bay. Working with Dexter, they raised over \$5200.

All three swimmers completed the English Channel swim, a cold, current-swept 21-miles from England to France, in under 14 hours. They credit the support, training and facilitation of the San Francisco Dolphin Club (www.dolphinclub.org) with much of their success. Established in 1877, The Dolphin Club has grown to approximately 950 members. “They are a great resource that continues to support Bay swimmers,” adds Keller.

To learn more about their swims, visit: www.dolphinclub.org/big_swims.html.



◀ Herrick, Keller, and Rayner added their names to the list of Channel swimmers on the ceiling of the White Horse Pub in Dover.

Bay Resident Walks Around the Bay



On October 12, Roy McCandless completed a walking circuit of San Francisco Bay, becoming only the third person known to have walked

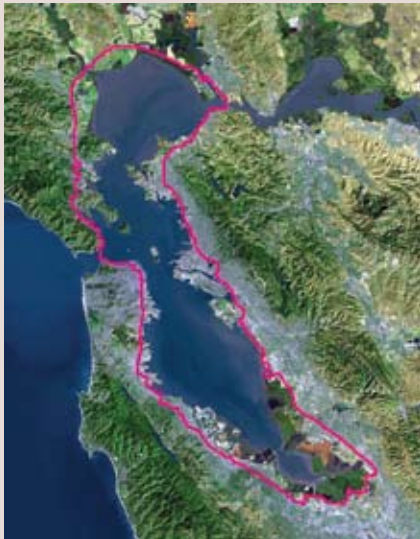
entirely around the estuary. On a series of hikes with his children, McCandless realized that walking around the Bay was possible and a good way to set an example for his kids, so he decided to go for it. He believes he has set a record by walking around the Bay in 12 non-consecutive days.

“I seem to be the third person to walk around the Bay, at least in documented history. If and when the Bay Trail becomes a full loop around the Bay, this is going to become a fad. People will be aiming for the shortest time, seeing if they can do it in the largest group, or running it in extraordinary costumes. Some ultra-marathon

runner will do it in two days flat,” he declares.

Although McCandless says, “I walk around the Bay to walk around the Bay,” his walks were in support of one friend’s efforts to raise funds and awareness for the Walk to Cure Diabetes, which supports the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. To learn more about McCandless’s feat, visit his website:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~rayo04>.



▲ Roy McCandless completed a walk around the Bay in October and is already planning to break his record.

From his experience, McCandless has very clear ideas about how to continue saving the Bay. “The survival of the Bay depends on restoration of marshlands, prevention of further pollution, and increases in freshwater from the Sacramento River. There are no alternatives. Without those, the Bay is just a big bathtub,” he says.

To find out where you can walk on the Bay shoreline, visit:

<http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov/>

Governor Schwarzenegger Signs the San Francisco Bay Water Trail Bill

Save The Bay proudly supported this new law authored by Berkeley Assemblywoman Loni Hancock. It requires that the California Coastal Conservancy and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission develop a plan that enhances existing water-oriented recreational areas throughout the Bay, and create new recreational opportunities. The water trail could link existing access for watercraft, and identify priority areas for enhanced access infrastructure, such as launches and docks. The water trail will be developed using extensive guidelines on how to create public access facilities that protect wildlife.



Restoring Native Eelgrass in the Bay

Save The Bay announces our newest restoration partnership project—restoring native eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds in San Francisco Bay. Once abundant in our estuary, eelgrass is submerged aquatic vegetation that is habitat for algae, invertebrates, and fish.

The project involves collecting flowering shoots from existing eelgrass beds and placing them in mesh bags. The bags are then hung from buoys at restoration sites, allowing seeds to drop to the Bay floor where they will sprout and grow.

This past summer, San Francisco State University graduate students, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Save The Bay staff and volunteers monitored existing eelgrass beds and installed the buoys

at restoration sites. This spring, volunteers will monitor how well seeds are sprouting and growing.

This is a collaboration between Katharyn Boyer's lab at San Francisco State's Romberg-Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies and Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria at the University of Washington, with guidance from Natalie Cosentino-Manning at the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center in Santa Rosa. The NOAA Restoration Center, NOAA Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology Program, and California Coastal Conservancy are supporting the project.

To volunteer, contact Jocelyn Gretz at jgretz@savesfbay.org or 510.452.9261 x109. No experience is necessary, but you should be comfortable on boats, wearing a wetsuit, and being submerged up to chest height in the Bay.



▲ Save The Bay staff member Marilyn Latta hangs mesh seed bags in San Pablo Bay.

Prevent Pollution at First Flush

What you can do:

Fall is here, and that means the first major rainfalls of the season. Rain runoff brings with it pollution from cars, streets and curbs, and chemicals from lawns, pesticides and insecticides, which flow into the Bay untreated. This first, large accumulation of pollutants carried through storm drains is called "First Flush." There are simple things each of us can do to limit urban runoff to the Bay.

Your Home

- Buy nontoxic cleaners and use sparingly.
- Properly store all toxic products.
- Take hazardous materials to a household hazardous waste facility.
- Clean up toxic spills.
- Recycle.

Your Car

- Properly dispose of used motor oil and antifreeze.
- Have your car maintained regularly to check for leaks.
- Use public transportation.
- Take your car to a car wash rather than washing it at home.

Your Lawn

- Do not use harmful herbicides or pesticides on your lawn or in your garden.
- Sweep up lawn clippings rather than hosing them down the gutter.
- Divert hoses and spouts to grass.
- Pick up animal waste and dispose of properly.

blue Benefit a Great Success

Thank you for making **blue**, Save The Bay's annual fundraiser, a tremendous success! Your generosity raised over \$54,000 for Save The Bay and will enhance our efforts to celebrate, protect and restore San Francisco Bay.

Two hundred and fifty guests enjoyed the

live and silent auctions, fine wine and food and beautiful views of the Bay at the Port of San Francisco's Pier One.

We would like to offer special thanks to Frank Bizzarro and his auction team, Quivira Vineyards, Kenwood Wineries, Lagunitas Brewing Company and all event sponsors.



▲ Guests enjoy a break in the bidding at **blue**.

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Tropix Caribbean Restaurant
Wendy Tokuda
Zee Zee Mott

calendar

For more outings or to register on-line, visit our website: www.saveSFbay.org or call our office: (510)452-9261 x109.

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blue

Sat., Dec. 3 | **Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline Restoration Project** Lend a hand planting native marsh seedlings in our native plant nursery. During the winter rainy season, we will plant these seedlings along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline.

Sat., Dec. 3 | **Marin Islands Restoration Stewardship Paddle** Paddle out to the beautiful Marin Islands and help remove invasive French broom to improve habitat for nesting birds Experience this unique island site that is usually off-limits to the public.

Sat., Dec. 10 | **San Francisquito Creek Wetlands Restoration Project** Help us grow seedlings in our Palo Alto native plant nursery. This winter, we will transplant the seedlings to the banks of San Francisquito Creek.

Sat., Jan 14 | **Birds of the Bay at Charleston Slough** Spend the morning strolling along the banks of Charleston Slough in Mountain View. Discover what the winter migration brings to this part of the South Bay.

Sat., Jan. 21 | **Marin Islands Restoration Stewardship Paddle** Spend the day kayaking and doing valuable habitat restoration at a unique island site that is normally off-limits to the public.

Sat., Jan. 28 | **Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline Restoration Project** It's planting season, and we need your help! Please join us to help plant more than 10,000 native marsh seedlings along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline.

Sat., Feb. 4 | **Brooks Island Kayak** You know of Angel and Alcatraz, Treasure and Alameda, but have you ever been on Brooks Island? Enjoy a gentle kayak paddle across a protected inlet, then journey on foot around this two mile-long island just off of Richmond.

Sat., Feb. 11 | **Valentine's Day Schooner Sail** Celebrate your love for the Bay on an afternoon cruise aboard the Gaslight, a beautiful replica of an historic San Francisco scow schooner.

SAVE THE BAY celebrates, protects and restores San Francisco Bay by waging successful advocacy campaigns and building the community's connection to the Bay through hands-on watershed education and restoration programs.



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