



DELTA SCIENCE CENTER

*Preserving the Delta
for Future Generations*



SPRING 2011

New face of the DSC

★
From the President
DR. MIKE PAINTER

Over the past several months the Delta Science Center has been reorganizing and building a stronger marketing program. While doing so the Board of Directors has approved a new logo, begun an awareness and fund raising campaign and strengthened their existing website.

In January the DSC also moved into a new office and changed their existing phone number. While all these changes have added a new “face” to the Delta Science Center, the general ideals and mission statement of the organization has not changed.

Since the inception of the Delta Science Center, back in 1996, the non-profit, non-political organization has held to its mission to invite people of all ages and backgrounds to appreciate, understand and become active stewards of the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem—California’s most important but least understood natural resource.

The reorganization and new marketing program is so important this year as we get closer to the East Bay Regional Park District’s opening of the Science Center facility at Big Break Regional Shoreline Park. The hope is that the DSC will be adding more programs by fall 2011.



Follow the DSC

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<http://twitter.com/DeltaSciCen>

EXTREME DELTA - INLAND VOYAGE

Come get hands-on with
LIVE TIGER SHARKS & MORE

Saturday, May 7 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Hosted by the
Delta Science Center
Ironhouse Sanitary District
Diablo Water District
450 Walnut Meadows Drive
(Cross Streets Districts Way & Main St.)
Oakley

Get hands-on with the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Marine Life and Ecosystem.

Displays, craft projects, water conservation tools and fun facts about the Delta and the *water* you drink.

Special tours of the Ironhouse Sanitary District's New Wastewater Plant, (still under construction), will be available.

Free Family Fun! **Hosted in conjunction with Oakley Science Week.**

Students get hands-on Delta experience

Getting their hands dirty with the dregs from the bottom of the Delta was just part of the fun local fifth graders had last month when they took a tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on the science vessel Robert V. Brownlee. The DSC had the opportunity this year to sponsor a group of students from Oakley’s Gehringer Elementary School for the tour.

“We would like to see more students from East County have the opportunity to attend next year,” said



Students get ready to board the Brownlee at the Antioch Marina in downtown Antioch.

DSC board president Mike Painter.

For two months each year, the Brownlee is parked at the Antioch Marina ready to take students from

See Brownlee Page 2

Brownlee *cont.*

Contra Costa County on the Delta. With the current economy local elementary schools have had to cut back on programs for students. With the help of groups like the Delta Science Center the schools have been able to keep the field trips available.

While aboard the "science vessel" students have the opportunity to cultivate an understanding of natural science through hands-on educational activities that put students in direct physical contact with local marine life. Lessons focus on the Delta aquatic animals and the ecosystem that supports them.

In past years at least a couple of classrooms in each East County community had the opportunity to attend the Delta tours, however recently they have had to cut back to where several of the communities aren't even getting the chance to attend. The DSC is currently working on fundraising in hopes to extend the program for at

least one more week in the 2011-12 school year. This extension would allow another 10 East County classes to attend the program.

Aside from raising money for the actual trips themselves the DSC is hoping to also raise funds for sponsorships for busing students from a couple of the school districts. Surprisingly the cost of this program is considerable. Contributions to the program would be appreciated.



Local 5th graders getting their hands dirty as they shift through the dirt from the bottom of the Delta.

Delta Factoid

Water that ends up on the street enters the creeks and the Delta through storm drains. It does not go into the soil or into treatment plants.

This water is almost always contaminated. Even rain water, when it enters the storm drain system, takes the oil and other contaminants on the surface of the road with it.

Pictures of oil spills are devastating to most of us when we see the animals coated in oil.

Each year, about 23 times more oil is intentionally poured down storm drains that was spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster.



The average person uses over 500 gallons of water when they wash their car.



Pet waste contains nitrogen and phosphorus, two elements that fertilize algae and make it grow out of control.

Photo Essay

Just a few views for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta we'd like to share with our friends.



How Can You Help:

Become a sponsor of the Delta Science Center:

There are several sponsorship packages available through the Delta Science Center. Choose to become a Corporate Sponsor or an Individual Supporter.

Becoming a sponsor now means you will be getting involved with an organization that is dedicated to helping people appreciate, understand and become active stewards of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. Our Delta is California's most important but least understood, natural resource.

Please send contributions to:

Delta Science Center
P.O. Box 8
Oakley, CA 94561

or call us at: 925-289-5711
or e-mail:
rgehlike@deltasciencecenter.com

See our website for sponsorship packages at www.deltasciencecenter.com

Become a volunteer:

The DSC is looking for volunteers with the expertise to help write grants, build programs and provide lessons about the Delta.

Anyone with an avid interest in the Delta or with science educational experience would be of great help.

For more details on how you can become involved with this worthwhile group, contact the Delta Science Center at 925-289-5711.