

# Conservancy Currents

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's Newsletter

*A partner for balanced ecosystem restoration and economic development in the Delta*

Fall 2014 Volume 3, Issue 3

## *The Heart of California: Delta Logo and Slogan Selected*

Using input from the community, Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission (Commission) board meetings, surveys, and focus groups, a Delta logo has been developed.

The logo brings together various aspects of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including the iconic bridges connecting communities, miles of waterways, fertile agricultural lands, and native wildlife. The pyramid shape of the logo also builds on the Greek letter for Delta. The colors are reminiscent of the blue waters, green crops, and warm sunsets. The accompanying tagline, "The Heart of California," was selected via public survey and speaks to the Delta's geographic location in

California as well as its importance to the Pacific Flyway and California water policy.

The logo has been designed to raise awareness of the Delta as a destination. Local businesses are invited to use the logo when promoting their business to show connection to a larger region with a wealth of activities and opportunities. A brand standards handbook is being developed to guide use of the logo.

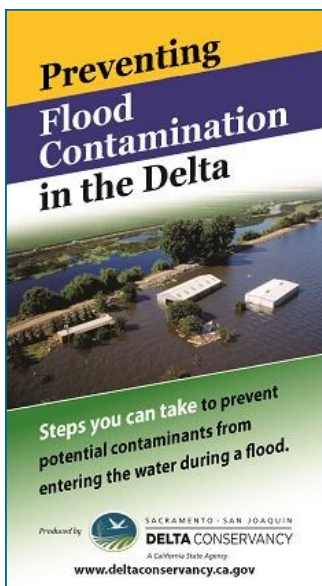
The Conservancy and Commission are continuing to work together to develop and implement a marketing plan to fully utilize the logo and promote the Delta as a tourist destination. The Conservancy has released



a Request for Offers to find a consultant to work with the two agencies and the community in coordinating the Delta marketing efforts.

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## *Conservancy Offers Ways to Prevent Contamination from Flooding*



In coordination with Flood Preparedness Week 2014, the Conservancy has developed a flood preparedness brochure.

Flood Preparedness Week provides outreach and education to increase public awareness of the dangers of flooding, provide information on how to prepare the community for a flood, and plan for flood recovery.

The Conservancy brochure contains tips on how water quality contamination can be prevented.

The brochure can be found during Flood Preparedness Week on the Conservancy's website at <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>. Flood Preparedness Week is October 20 – 25.

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

*Chair's Corner****New Chair Eager to Get to Work on Collaborative Projects***

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has grown and focused its work tremendously since its creation in 2009. Habitat restoration. Wildlife friendly farming. Delta as place. Branding and marketing. Recreation and tourism. Sierra to the Sea. As the newly elected chair of the Conservancy's board, I'm eager to work on these issues and guide staff

in their efforts to work collaboratively and in coordination with local communities. The Conservancy's work is especially important in light of the inclusion of a water bond on the November 2014 ballot. If approved by voters, the Conservancy will receive \$50 million to assist in watershed protection and watershed ecosystem restoration. The Conservancy will have the opportunity to assist

local farmers, communities, and wildlife in strengthening this place we all call home.

I'm also excited to continue to work with our sister State conservancies—namely the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Coastal Conservancy—on Sierra to the Sea. Water flows from the Sierra to the Delta and through the Bay into the ocean. We have the opportunity to pool our efforts and resources to address system-wide issues and create meaningful solutions.

The time is now to work together: as a Delta region, as an ecosystem, as a community. We have the opportunity to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta's economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.

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## ***DELTA WIN: Conservancy Receives Grant to Develop Estuary-wide Data Repository***

Critical components of the Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN) are effective communication, data sharing, and the leveraging of resources. Partnering with local, State, and federal partners, the Conservancy is expanding the existing San Francisco Bay Regional Data Center into an estuary-wide repository

which includes environmental data from the Delta. The Conservancy has received \$300,000 from the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to develop the repository. The result will be a centralized source of data for the Delta that is accessible and synthesized for scientists and decision-makers who use environmental data.

The data repository will also enable scientists to more easily augment and build on existing efforts, integrate Delta science in a transparent manner, accelerate the discovery of new information, and enhance communication of these discoveries.

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## ***Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Staff***

**Campbell Ingram**  
Executive Officer

**Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon**  
Assistant Executive Officer

**Nancy Ullrey**  
Program Manager

**Rhonda Hoover-Flores**  
Executive Assistant

**Kristal Davis Fadtke**  
Senior Environmental Scientist

**Amanda Bohl**  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Susan Roberts**  
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**Kathryn Kynett**  
Environmental Scientist

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## *Campbell's Corner*

### *Climate Adaptation Forum Offers Opportunities for Conservancy*

The California Climate Adaptation Forum held the state's first-ever adaptation forum in Sacramento, September 18–20. Over 800 participants from all over the state attended. I had the great fortune of leading a tour of the Twitchell Island carbon wetland research and pilot projects and participating on a panel entitled, *Win-Wins: How to Leverage Mitigation Funding to Adapt to Climate Change*. I shared all of the ongoing research and work to establish a California Wetland Protocol and the incentives developed to help reduce subsidence, reduce carbon emissions, and sequester carbon through managed wetlands in the Delta. People are always amazed by the significance of subsidence in the Delta and the magnitude of the carbon emission reduction and sequestration potential. While the bulk of the forum was focused on the daunting questions of how our state will

respond to rising seas, fiercer storms, more-frequent wildfires, and other phenomena expected to intensify as greenhouse gas levels rise, it was encouraging to hear about the many efforts around the state where people are creating win-win markets and incentives to address these issues. As both a significant source of carbon emissions and one of the largest spaces available for sequestration, the Delta could be a prominent feature of the state's climate adaptation future. The Conservancy will continue to work with our large partnership of agencies, research organizations, and Delta farmers to explore these opportunities.



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### *WHEP Program Available for Delta Farmers*

During winter 2015, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is rolling out a program in the Delta that provides incentives to farmers for voluntarily modifying their agricultural land management practices in small ways known to benefit migratory birds.

The Delta's agricultural lands provide critical food and other resources for many species of waterbirds during migration and throughout the winter, and with the small tweaks in management supported by this program, Delta farms can become even more valuable resources for birds while not taking the land out of production.

An expansion of NRCS's Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program (WHEP) that launched in Sacramento Valley's ricelands in 2012, this year's program has been expanded to include crops grown in the Delta including

corn, early harvested crops like wheat, sunflower, safflower, and fallow fields.

Eligible short-term practices include post-harvest flooding of corn, chop-and-roll of corn post-harvest, and short-duration late summer flooding. No long-term commitment is required in this one-year program. EQIP-eligible producers in Yolo, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, and Solano counties can apply. Since 2012, over 120,000 acres and 220

farms in the Sacramento Valley have enrolled in rice management practices, including staggered drawdown (February and March) which prolongs the availability of shallow water habitat in the late winter. WHEP will be available late this winter for Delta farmers, and practices will be implemented in 2015.

For more information about this program, please contact your local NRCS Service Center.

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Local NRCS Service Centers		
County	Address	Phone
Contra Costa	5552 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94521-4158	(925) 672-4577
Sacramento	9701 Dino Dr Suite 170 Elk Grove, CA 95624-4042	(916) 714-1104
San Joaquin	3422 W Hammer Ln Suite A Stockton, CA 95219-5493	(209) 472-7127
Solano	1170 N Lincoln St Dixon, CA 95620-4001	(707) 678-1931
Yolo	221 W Court St Suite 3B Woodland, CA 95695-2983	(530) 662-2037





Clockwise from top: A mound of illegally dumped tires collected in the Delta; volunteers enjoy the after cleanup picnic at R. Kelly Farms; kayakers stand amid their cleanup effort.

## ***Volunteers Help Clean Delta of Unwanted Trash***

Two hundred five volunteers and staff removed more than 16.5 tons of trash from seven sites at the Delta Waterway Cleanup on September 20. Sponsored by Delta Kayak Adventures, nine of the volunteers cleaned the Delta from their kayaks! It was an extraordinary act balancing trash and tires on the round surface designed for speed, not hauling.

More than 1,250 tires were removed during the cleanup! Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District sponsored a private tire recycling site for their residents and collected 776 tires as part of their annual cleanup. Holland Riverside Marina owner Kevin Hinman hosted a public collection site in Brentwood and collected 299 tires. The Conservancy received several calls from grateful farmers who were able to take advantage of the free recycling opportunity in their area.

Partnering with R. Kelley Farms, the Conservancy and Del-

ta Protection Commission hosted the first Fun in the Delta Celebration. Thirty-five attendees enjoyed the shade of rustling trees, a gentle Delta breeze, and a good variety of fresh farm foods provided by R Kelley Farm, Kevin Mallet's Back Yard Basics, and Greene and Hemly's. Sacramento County Master Food Preservers were on hand to give canning demonstrations.

Other donors for the event include: Nor-Cal Beverage, Walmart, Raley's, Nugget Market, and Home Depot.

The cleanup was hosted by the Conservancy and Commission and in partnership with the California Coastal Commission's Coastal Cleanup. Illegally dumped tire recycling was done through a partnership with Bridge-stone's 4ward Tire Recycling Program.



Carol A. Jensen

## ***Prohibition in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Was a Wild Time***

California Delta residents are enterprising and perhaps never more so than during Prohibition. Folklore contends that more saloons opened on January 17, 1920—the effective date of the Eighteenth Amendment—than had ever existed before. The Volstead Act clarified which spirits, wines, or beers were prohibited and how the Amendment would be enforced. Ratification of the Amendment one year prior to implementation allowed time for the illicit planning, manufacturing, and aging of alcohol. Delta residents were ready to satisfy that unlawful need with basement wine production, tule rush island distilleries, clandestine distribution channels, fast ‘rum-runner’ boats, and secret retrofit Ford Model T conveyances.

A unique convergence of skill, raw material, and transportation made the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta an ideal location for liquor production. One of the earliest legal distilleries in the State was the California (Jost) Distillery (est. 1869) in Antioch. The owners combined fresh Sierra Nevada water and San Joaquin Valley grain to produce rye and bourbon whiskey for easy river transport to the San Fran-

*Continued on back page*

## ***Fairs and Festivals***

### **November**

Sandhill Crane Festival, November 7-9, 2014,  
[www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com)

### **December (dates not yet scheduled)**

Lighted Boat Parade, Delta Loop, December TBD,  
[www.deltaloop.net](http://www.deltaloop.net)

Delta Reflections Lighted Boat Christmas Parade,  
Stockton, Marina West Yacht Club, 209-474-6992

Lighted Boat Christmas Parade, Rio Vista, Delta  
Marina Yacht Club, 707-374-2315

Delta Delites Lighted Boat Christmas Parade, Anti-  
och, Bridge Marina Yacht Club, 925-706-1187

Parade of Lights, Bethel Island, San Joaquin Yacht  
Club, 925-684-3220

Lighted Boat Christmas Parade, Isleton, Oxbow  
Marina, 916-777-6060

Lighted Boat Christmas Parade, Discovery Bay,  
Discover Bay Yacht Club, 925-634-1210

*Photo courtesy of ZoArt.*

## ***Sacramento-San Joaquin Conservancy Board***

**Jim Provenza, Chair**  
*Yolo County County*

**Dan Taylor, Vice-Chair**  
*Appointed Public Member*

**Darla Guenzler, PhD.**  
*Appointed Public Member*

**John Laird**  
*California Natural Resources Agency*

**Michael Cohn**  
*California Department of Finance*

**Don Nottoli**  
*Sacramento County*

**Mary Nejedly Piepho**  
*Contra Costa County*

**Ken Vogel**  
*San Joaquin County*

**Mike Eaton**  
*Appointed Public Member*

**Senator Lois Wolk**  
*Ex-Officio Member*

**Eddie Woodruff**  
*Solano County*

**Dolly Sandoval**  
*Appointed Public Member*

### **Liaison Advisors**

**Steve Chappell**  
*Suisun Resource Conservation District*

**Amy Hutzell**  
*California Coastal Conservancy*

**Robin Kulakow**  
*Yolo Basin Foundation*

**Joe LaClair**  
*San Francisco Bay Conservation and  
Development Commission*

**Ren Lohefener**  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

**Maria Rea**  
*U.S. National Marines Fisheries Services*

**David Murillo**  
*U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*

**Stu Townsley**  
*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**Michael Villines**  
*Central Valley Flood Protection Board*

**Erik Vink**  
*Delta Protection Commission*

*The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of every other month, beginning with January. For Board materials, please see the Conservancy website at: [www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov).*



Bootleggers in the Delta, circa 1931.

cisco market. Sicilian, Italian, Azorean, and Portuguese immigrants brought their Old World fishing, winemaking expertise, and family traditions to the successful establishment of the Delta fishing industry. They shipped many Mason jars of red wine during Prohibition via cleverly-disguised lockers on Ford Model Ts to the Ryde Hotel speakeasy. A large and illegal hard-liquor still produced booze on Bethel Island resulting in one of the largest Treasury Agency raids in California. Historically, Delta grain has made both Irish “Guinness

Great” beer and illegal “California Hooch”.

Stockton boat works—most notably the Stephens Brothers Boat Works—developed speedy personal watercraft for 19<sup>th</sup> Century agricultural commodity brokers. These “spud-boats” cruised islands west of Stockton to secure potato farming contracts. Document in hand, traders would “bend the throttle” through the Inland Channel, Suisun Bay, and Carquinez Straight to reach the Pacific Exchange hours before their competition arrived by slow, packet steamers. Many of these same speedboats and motor launches served as 1920s “rum-runners” outpacing Treasury Department agents’ ships to deliver bathtub gin, whiskey, and rum to secret Alameda, San Francisco, and San Mateo County bayshore landings.

The Twenty-first Amendment ended liquor prohibition in 1933 but not before many Delta characters established early reputations and financial success with the transport and sale of illegal booze. Al Adami ran illegal liquor out of Collinsville/Montezuma long before opening his restaurant and bar, Al’s Place in Locke, in 1930. Bill Foster bankrolled his passion for big game hunting by bootlegging in the East Bay before creating Foster’s Little Big Horn in Rio Vista, in 1931. Both men quietly stepped deeper into the Delta tule rushes and converted their illegal operations into more conventional restaurant and bar operations by Repeal.



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