

**UPPER NEWPORT BAY
ESTUARY AWARENESS DAY 2004**

Organized By: **Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends**

On Behalf Of: **Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks
California Department of Fish and Game
City of Newport Beach
California Coastal Commission
Orange County Health Care Agency**

An estuary is a coastal wetland where salt water from the ocean mixes with nutrient-rich fresh water from inland sources. It is a place where the ocean tide meets the river current. The mouth of the Mississippi river is an estuary.

Upper Newport Bay is the largest of only a few remaining natural estuaries in Southern California and is the home of nearly 200 species of birds, including several endangered species, as well as numerous species of mammals, fish, other creatures and native plants.

The Bay is an important rest stop and/or winter home for birds migrating from Canada and Alaska and up to 30,000 birds can be seen here on any day during the winter months. During the spring and summer many year-round residents and birds migrating from the south nest here. These include the endangered light-footed clapper rail and California least tern. The Bay is also a spawning ground and nursery for many fish, including halibut and bass. Many shellfish, worms and other invertebrates are found in the mud below.

Freshwater drains into Upper Newport Bay from a 154 square mile watershed area that includes Irvine, Lake Forest and parts of Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana and other cities. During storms, trash and other pollutants get washed into the Bay from this watershed. Please do your part to protect the Bay by using pesticides and other products properly, recycling, and disposing of all wastes wisely.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING INFORMATION

Grand prize: "Sublime Afternoon" by Plein Air Artist Val Carson. This painting was on the cover of the Newport Navigator. It is valued at \$1,000.
Other Prizes: \$250 gift certificate to Back Bay Fitness, Newport Beach
Two Geosphere photographs autographed by Tom Van Sant
Autographed Angels Baseball Club photograph
Gift certificates to restaurants
Tickets and passes to the theater, museums, events, etc.

Tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 tickets for \$5.00, and 25 for \$20.00. They are on sale at the Welcome Booth. Proceeds benefit Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends.

EVENT TIMETABLE

	Main Stage	Amphitheater Program	Other Program
11:30			Boat Tour
11:45		Sharks of Newport Bay	Boat Tour
12:00	Official Welcome – Mayor Tod Ridgeway of the City of Newport Beach		
12:15		Bird Adaptations	Exotic Weeding
12:30			Boat Tour
12:45		Indian Life at the Bay	Boat Tour
1:00	Poster Contest Awards – Newport Beach Arts Commission		
1:15		Plants and Food Webs	
1:30			Boat Tour
1:45		Sharks of Newport Bay	Boat Tour
2:00	OC Wild Awards		
2:15		Bird Adaptations	Native Seeding
2:30	Shark Naming Awards		Boat Tour
2:45		Indian Life at the Bay	Boat Tour
3:00	Opportunity Drawing		
3:15		Plants and Food Webs	

Amphitheater programs last about 20 minutes. They provide a sampling of the hands-on school and scout programs offered by the Department of Fish and Game; Harbors, Beaches and Parks; Naturalists; and Coastal Commission at Upper Newport Bay.

Boat tours of the Upper Bay last about 40 minutes. They provide great close-up views of birds and jumping fish with commentary from a Naturalist discussing the ecology of the Bay. These tours are free, but reservations are required at the Water Tours booth over by the dock. Naturalist-led kayak and canoe tours, as well as electric boat tours, are offered weekends throughout the year. Find out how easy and fun kayaking and canoeing can be. Try out either and practice basic paddling strokes on dry land at the booth.

Join the California Coastal Commission at the Native Plant Nursery for Exotic Weeding and Native Seeding. These 30-minute hands-on classes show how to remove non-native exotic plants and how to grow native ones. Plants will be on sale here.

Make sure the kids each get a "Passport". Take this to each of the designated Passport Booths to complete an activity and get a different stamp. When the Passport is full, bring to the Welcome Booth for a gift.

Music provided throughout the day by Common Ground.

For information on programs, tours and events go to newportbay.org