

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

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Blue Goose Alliance Holds Third Annual Meeting

Members and Officers of the Blue Goose Alliance gathered October 19-20, 2002, for their 3rd Annual Meeting. The meeting was held in Newark, California, across the highway from Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Among topics of discussion were the Alliance's growing membership and expanded Congressional and public outreach efforts. Over the past year, many personal Congressional contacts were made. Membership growth has been attributed in part to the new Alliance website (www.bluegoosealliance.org) and the publication of the Alliance's brochure.

Upcoming activities include attendance of BGA/Friends members at the National Wildlife Refuge Association Friends Meeting next February in Washington, DC, and participation at the Audubon Society of the Everglades annual "Everglades Day" at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, also in February. The Alliance expects to have strong representation at the Refuge System's Centennial Celebration at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, Sebastian, Florida, on March 14, 2003.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, Alliance President Noreen Clough met with Nathaniel P. Reed, former Assistant Secretary - Fish, Wildlife and Parks and current Alliance Honorary Board Member, to get an update on his activities in support of the Alliance's mission, which have included several crucial contacts and continued support of the Alliance's work.

On Saturday, the City of Palo Alto and the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, a support group for Don Edwards SFB Refuge, hosted a dinner for the Blue Goose Alliance at a city conservation wetland area. On Sunday, lunch was at the Refuge where Manager Marge Kolar updated Alliance members on acquisition activities for expanding the Refuge.

Officers of the Alliance were re-elected, and include: Noreen Clough, President; John Martin, Vice President; Evelyn Redfearn, Secretary; and John Eadie, Treasurer. Additionally, Bob Valentine, Commissioner of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission and member of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Friends Group, was elected to the Honorary Board.

The next annual meeting of the Blue Goose Alliance will be held in Sebastian, Florida, during the National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Celebration, March 13-16, 2003, at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. The 2004 Alliance Annual Meeting will be January 24-25, 2004, on the Texas Gulf Coast.