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Southern California Free Workshops Train Volunteer ‘Dockwalkers’ to Guide Boaters How to Keep Ocean and Waterways Clean

Los Angeles, CA (February 24, 2015) - From Ventura to San Diego, free Dockwalker workshops will train volunteers in March and April to promote and educate boaters on environmentally-sound boating practices in Southern California. The workshops are provided by The Bay Foundation (TBF), the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, and the California Coastal Commission’s Boating Clean and Green Program, in partnership with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the US Power Squadron.

“We’ve found this program and its free training an extremely effective and engaging way to interact with boaters to keep California’s marinas, waterways, and the ocean clean,” states Grace Lee, TBF’s Director of Outreach Programs.

Literally walking along the docks, volunteer Dockwalkers conduct face-to-face boater education and distribute boater kits, which provide educational resources and pollution prevention tools to boaters. Since 2000, over 700 Dockwalkers throughout California have distributed more than 100,000 boater kits at local marinas, boat launch ramps, fuel docks, boat shows, and special events.

One new item they will share with boaters is the free, first-ever eBook / App of the Southern California Boater’s Guide, which is constantly updated and can be downloaded to an iPad (v. 2 and up) through iTunes (“[Boater’s Guide” App](#)). The traditional printed version is also available. The publication has long been the must-have reference for Southern California boaters.

Marinas and yacht club members are also encouraged to attend Dockwalker trainings. Benefits of the program include improvements in quality of harbor waters resulting from an increase of boater awareness about clean and safe boating practices. “Dockwalking at boat shows and yacht clubs is a fun way to meet local boaters and share important information on keeping our oceans and waterways clean and healthy for now and the future,” says Del Rey Yacht Club Director and Volunteer Dockwalker Debbie Wasserman. “I’ve found that every boater wants to preserve our precious environment, they just need to know what they can do to help.”

To become a Dockwalker volunteer, please contact Victoria Gambale at (213) 620-2271, vgambale@santamonicabay.org, or visit www.santamonicabay.org. Training is free. Registration is required.



2015 Spring Dockwalker Trainings will be held at the following times and locations, provided by the following organizations:

March 28, 2015- Dana Point

10am-12:45pm

Orange County Sailing and Events Center (Pilot House)

3441 Ensenada Place, Dana Point, CA 92629

April 4, 2015- Long Beach

10am-12:45pm

Long Beach Yacht Club

6201 E. Appian Way, Long Beach, CA 90803

April 18, 2015- San Diego

10am-12:45pm

Marina Village

1936 Quivira Way, San Diego, CA 92109

April 25, 2015- Ventura

10am-12:45pm

Ventura West Marina

1198 Navigator Drive, Ventura, CA 93001

Tom Ford, TBF Executive Director, notes, “The dockwalkers are another example of The Bay Foundation’s ongoing programs that provide helpful tools—from training to physical resources—to those who are connected with the water and who are either curious about or already engaged in keeping our waterways clean and healthy.”

About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation, also known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. The Foundation is the non-profit partner of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the Commission’s *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan*. As advocates for the Bay, TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists, to implement innovative policies and projects that clean up the waterways, create green spaces and natural habitats in the Los Angeles region. TBF conducts research and mentors student intern and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

(www.santamonica.org)



About DBW

Boating and Waterways is a division of California State Parks. DBW provides safe and convenient public access to California's waterways and leadership in promoting safe, enjoyable and environmentally sound recreational boating. (www.dbw.parks.ca.gov)

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