



# The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

4TH QUARTER, 2005

12/16/05

## Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

## BP Shipping USA Wins Environmental Award

Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7963

Congratulations to our customer, BP Shipping USA for winning the *2005 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award* which was presented at a ceremony on November 22, 2005 at Cal/EPA headquarters in Sacramento.

The *Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award Program* is the State of California's highest environmental honor. The award program recognizes Californians and California-based organizations and businesses that demonstrate outstanding environmental leadership by voluntarily working to conserve precious resources or improve the Environment.

BP Shipping USA won this award in the *Sustainable Practices Category* for their commitment to spill prevention and establishment of best management practices. BP provides hundreds of millions of barrels of crude oil to the California refineries every year. Thirty-eight of their fleet of forty-two ships are double-hulled. They were also honored for their recent purchase of the double-hulled tankers built here at NASSCO with redundant propulsion and steering systems that incorporate the latest technology in navigation, cargo handling, machinery control and pollution prevention. Our tankers will carry more oil and are more fuel efficient thereby resulting in aggregate emission reductions. The company will also be reducing its engine usage in ports by plugging into dockside electricity and testing new technologies to treat ship's ballast water that may carry non-indigenous invasive species.

For additional information on the *Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award Program* visit the California EPA website: [www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA).



# Bird Control: A Fowl Problem

Grant Gibson, Environmental Engineering Student Intern



A growing problem for NASSCO is how to deal with all of the birds. Our fluttering friends are constantly squawking, getting in the way, and always creating a general mess. Although they may seem to be a small inconvenience to working by the Bay, they continue to create problems throughout the yard.

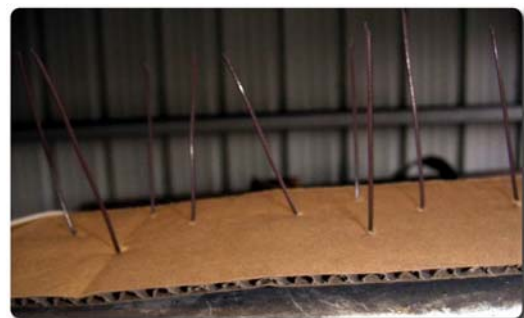


The birds, due to constant human interaction, have become increasingly daring and aggressive in their daily behavior. Seagulls are often seen fighting and attacking each other and digging through trash looking for food. Various areas in Production have taken steps to limit the presence of seagulls and their dependence on human food by covering trashcans and dumpsters with lids.

Environmental Engineering has installed lids on the trashcans in the parking areas to prevent food trash from being pulled out of the trashcans by seagulls and then blowing into the Chollas Creek bed and eventually ending up in the Bay and our Ocean. SOC 3 has followed suit by also covering trashcans and placing metal grates over white trash skip tub dumpsters.

Recently, another problem has arisen and the birds have created quite a stink in areas where birds have better access than people. The Riggers Y and SOC 3 Lunch Area have had especially bad problems with birds roosting in the rafters, but have managed to create interesting solutions. These solutions were developed by their department personnel to discourage the company of birds through different methods. The Riggers bought a mesh net to cover the inside of the loft therefore not allowing the birds access to any place to roost. SOC 3 used a similar idea when they created a type of bird repellent strip. SOC 3 light-duty personnel utilized scrap welding wire and cardboard to create bird repellent strips.

You can help reduce our problems with birds especially pigeons and seagulls by not feeding them. Food intended for humans is not part of their regular diet and is not healthy for these birds. Carl Whitaker, Maintenance, General Supervisor and self-proclaimed seagull conservationist, feels that efficient methods of bird control are important. Others in the yard have voiced concerns about diseases that birds can carry such as West Nile Virus and Avian Flu. Although we are not presently at risk from these diseases who knows what can happen in the future, so please do your part to discourage birds from hanging out at NASSCO, by not feeding them. It is not good for them or us.



## NASSCO Receives General Dynamics Environmental Achievement Award

John Martin, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x3553

Last August NASSCO was recognized by General Dynamics for its 2004 Environmental Metrics Reporting. This data, compiled by Blast, Paint, and General Services, Reclamation, HazMat, and Environmental Engineering, charts NASSCO's progress towards reaching our recycling, waste disposal, and hazardous waste management goals. NASSCO was recognized by General Dynamics for exceeding the 2004 goals set for these programs to reduce pollution.

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**



## Keeping Your Holidays Green

By Sara Giobbi, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x8764

Do your childhood holiday memories include a recycling relative? You know, the aunt who screeched "SAVE THE PAPER" every time you opened a package? Or perhaps you remember a grandmother who recycled the same bows and boxes year after year? Although you didn't realize it at the time, these folks were way ahead of their time when it came to minimizing the environmental impact of the Holidays. Recycling wrapping materials is just one of many ways to incorporate pollution prevention into your holidays, here are some other ideas:

- \* Reuse boxes and gift bags when giving gifts, or try making your own wrapping paper from the Sunday comics, magazine pages, or last year's calendar. If you do purchase wrapping paper and cards, choose products that are made from recycled paper and that can be recycled later.
- \* Save energy by keeping holiday lights shining only when someone is around to see them. Mini-lights are more energy efficient than larger bulbs.
- \* Give environmentally friendly gifts such as canvas shopping bags, cloth napkins, trolley passes, and composting bins.
- \* If electronic gadgets or toys will be under your tree, a battery charger with rechargeable batteries is a great gift.
- \* Reduce waste paper by reducing the amount of junk mail and unwanted catalogs being sent to your home. For more information, visit the Direct Marketers Association website at: [www.dmaconsumers.org/offmailinglist.html](http://www.dmaconsumers.org/offmailinglist.html)



If your holiday tradition includes a Christmas tree, consider participating in a tree recycling program which will process it into compost or mulch. In the weeks after Christmas, many cities in San Diego County operate tree recycling drop off points. If your neighborhood already participates in a curbside greenery collection program, check with your city or trash collection program to see if they will pick up your tree with other green wastes.

Remember, you must remove the tree stand and all ornaments before the tree will be accepted for recycling. For information on Christmas Tree recycling in the City of San Diego, visit the Environmental Services Website at [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/) or call the City of San Diego Recycling Hotline (858) 694-7000.

For information on recycling programs in other cities, contact I-Love-A-Clean-San-Diego's recycling hotline 1-800-237-BLUE. Another option is to buy a living Christmas tree that can be re-planted in your yard after the Holidays or kept in a pot and re-used for many years.

# National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W)

Grant Gibson, Environmental Engineering Student Intern



Every year for the last four years, the Environmental Engineering Department holds events and programs designed to create awareness and promote pollution prevention techniques for National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W). Environmental bulletins and posters were distributed throughout the yard to notify employees of the events of the week.

This year was no different; NASSCO began celebrating Pollution Prevention Week early by helping in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Forty-two NASSCO employees, family



members, and subcontractors turned out for this great event. The participants helped to rid Chollas Creek of 940 pounds of trash and debris that otherwise would have polluted San Diego Bay and potentially our Ocean. This cleanup along with the others organized by the NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee is a great example of a pollution prevention program that NASSCO maintains year round.

On Monday of NP2W, Environmental Engineering held its second annual Pollution Prevention Slogan Contest which encouraged departments to submit slogans. We received 21 slogans from various departments but it was finally narrowed down to an entry from On-Board SOC 6 T-AKE. Their slogan "Clean Today for a Clean Tomorrow" is our 2005 Pollution Prevention Slogan.



On Tuesday & Wednesday of NP2W, Environmental Engineering conducted Annual Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Training for approximately 100 organizations representing our customers, team members, subcontractors and suppliers. Many of our key team members, subcontractors, and suppliers are given an Annual Environmental Performance Review by Environmental Engineering. Those organizations that actively pursue Pollution Prevention projects in the last year receive a 10 point bonus on their review.

The main event of NP2W each year is the NASSCO Environmental Star Awards, held on Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>, honored those who best embody NASSCO's Commitment to the Environment. These employees and groups were nominated by

NASSCO employees who had recognized their outstanding performance and respect for Our Environment.



The Environmental Star Awards began with a welcome and introduction from Kacey Christie, who congratulated and handed out certificates to all of the E-Star nominees.

NASSCO President Dick Vortmann then addressed all the attendees and reiterated the importance of NASSCO's Commitment to Our Environment and how our company has developed, partly through the E-Star Awards, to embrace and recognize environmental leadership. "Five years ago, the responsibilities of regulating and maintaining an environmentally safe workplace rested solely on the Environmental Engineering Department. Today, environmental

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## National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) *cont. from page 4*

responsibility and commitment are shared by all our employees, customers, team members, subcontractors, and suppliers.”

Mike Chee presented the awards to the winners in each category that were selected by the Compliance Assurance Committee consisting of Dave Baker, Ship Manager; Mike Chee, Manager Environmental Engineering; Mark Kukuchek, Director Test & Trials, Maintenance, Facilities; Lane McVey, Vice President Business Affairs & Law; Bob Watson, Manager Safety; Dave Wilhelmi, Director Repair. As it is every year, the E-star Awards were a fun-filled event dedicated to showing appreciation to the hard work put in by some of our most dedicated employees. With the support of all NASSCO employees and departments, Environmental Engineering continues to make these weeklong festivities run year round.

### The 2004 - 2005 NASSCO Environmental Star Award Winners are:



#### Myrna Contreras - NASSCO Environmental Star Employee

“Myrna has distinguished herself by being extremely proactive when it comes to the operation of the wastewater treatment facility. She is extremely thorough in performing system checks, which is very important to the proper operation of the plant. She is quick to report equipment and system concerns to appropriate departments, and can always be counted upon to keep the many records associated with this facility. She works very closely with the Environmental Staff to keep them informed of any potential issues that can be mitigated before they become compliance problems. Myrna also works closely with subcontractors who dispose of waste at the treatment facility to ensure that they comply with environmental requirements. This is not always an easy job, but it is one that Myrna performs with pride and care.”

#### Larry Flores - NASSCO Environmental Star Employee

“Larry developed an innovative method for sealing pier drains at 32nd Street Naval Station. NASSCO Repair Department was having constant problems keeping the pier drains sealed in high risk areas on a continuous basis. NASSCO Repair Department was using tape to seal the drains but vehicle traffic or rain would cause a failure of the adhesive tape over time. Mr. Flores developed a sealing system using insulated foam that eliminated the use of tape and made it easy for removal of the foam. Our customer, the U.S. Navy, was very interested in the method developed and it is to be used in other areas of the Naval Station for spill prevention and storm water control on their piers.”



#### Gary W. Leggett - NASSCO Environmental Star Employee

“One of Gary's many responsibilities is keeping the environmental pumps working and routed correctly. These pumps are used to evacuate water collected in the Ways and Graving Dock, and their proper function is essential for NASSCO to maintain environmental compliance. Although the record rainstorms this past year made this task much more difficult, Gary was always up to this challenge. Additionally, Gary was very proactive in notifying the Environmental Department of any potential problems or issues that could impact NASSCO's environmental compliance. Additionally, Gary has assisted the Environmental Engineering Staff by providing information that has been helpful in tracing potential sources of pollution.”



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## National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) *cont. from page 5*



### Frank Reyes - NASSCO Environmental Star Employee

“Frank Reyes from the Maintenance Department deserves the award for his support and professionalism of the Paint Department. He has consistently been active with numerous environmental projects and issues with the Paint Department. He is instrumental with maintaining and upgrading the Wheelabrator/Primeline #1. Frank has also helped to upgrade the Fiberglass Machining Facility. He has helped with a number of projects for the Blast/Paint Pit. Once he gets involved there is no doubt the improvement, problem, or issue will be done in a timely manner.”

### 2005 Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee - NASSCO Environmental Star Team Award

**Hugo Bermudez, Kacey Christie, Daniel Dugan, Martin Espinoza Jr., Larry Flores, Sara Giobbi, Rey Guerrero, Chad Haza, Neil Henry, Julius Manabat, Vince Palencia, Daniel Reed, Bryan Ruiz, Dave Samudio, Ben Smith, Ronnie Truitt, Carol Valencia, Marc Vignocchi, Ken Wright.**

“This group of NASSCO employees from various departments such as Blast, Paint, and General Services, Engineering, On-Board, Safety, Maintenance, Reclamation, Environmental Engineering, and the Professional Development Program, plan and conduct 3 Chollas Creek Cleanup Events each year during their lunch break. They then give up their Saturdays demonstrating their Commitment to Our Community and Commitment to Our Environment.”



### General Services Wastewater Management Team - NASSCO Environmental Star Team Award



**Myrna Contreras, Jesus Cordoba, Bobby Flores, Roman Garcia, Michael Guillen, Jovino Hernandez, Miguel Loaiza, Engleberto Macias, Adolfo Nunez, Carmelo Ortiz, Mario Piedra, Mauro Preciado, Angel Vazquez, Yolanda Zaia**

“Over the past year, one group of General Services employees has been instrumental in maintaining compliance with the sewer discharge permit. These employees are responsible for operating the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the oil/water separators used to treat process wastewater that is discharged to sewer. Maintaining compliance with an environmental permit is usually a thankless task. Generally, people only notice when something goes wrong, rather than all

the work that goes into getting it right. These employees should be commended for their work in this area, which has resulted in 100% compliance with the sewer discharge limits in the last year. It is only through careful attention to the treatment process and monitoring of the equipment that this is possible. These employees also perform other tasks essential to environmental compliance; whether the job is spill cleanup, storm drain cleaning, transfer of oily wastes on/off ships, or removal of collected storm water, these employees play an important role in protecting our Environment.”

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## National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) *cont. from page 6*

### Repair Pier Coordinator Team - NASSCO Environmental Star Team Award

**Alfredo Flores, Michael May, Lonnie Morgan**

"The Pier Coordinator Team on the Repair berths have once again shown consistency and quality in maintaining environmental excellence throughout 2004-2005. They have done a great job in support of environmental concerns while continuing to do their job on & off site for NASSCO. They are responsible for all HazMat handling and processing for an assigned ship repair project and coordinate the correct handling of NASSCO, subcontractor and Ship's Force Hazardous Materials Waste streams. They also put a great deal of effort forward in the training of NASSCO employees and others to clean up after themselves and provide daily reminders of proper hazmat handling. They take this responsibility seriously and are vigilant for HazMat handling errors, environmental concerns and pier cleanliness and provide quick response in correcting any errors."



additional environmental awareness on a daily basis by recycling paper (each buyer has a recycling bin in their office), cans, and plastic bottles."

### MRO Purchasing - NASSCO Environmental Star Department Award

"MRO Purchasing is at the front end when it comes to ensuring overhead materials and services are received in compliance with NASSCO's environmental requirements. The buyers are diligent about checking the online MSDS database to ensure purchased materials are approved to enter NASSCO and that new products go through the approval process prior to entering the yard. Managing environmental compliance for supplier work performed at NASSCO has always been a challenge. This year MRO Purchasing worked very closely with the Environmental Department to develop a more comprehensive and clear Environmental Checklist for suppliers and have made that document standard language in all new quotation requests and purchase orders for overhead facilities services. The MRO Purchasing group also demonstrates

### IMIA - NASSCO Environmental Star Organization Award

"Despite being new to the shipyard, IMIA quickly adopted NASSCO's environmental policies and made them their own. They have shown a dedicated commitment to strictly adhering to all of our environmental rules, regulations, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as Container Labeling, Abrasive Blast Containment, Cleanup, and Storage, Paint and Solvent Container Management. IMIA was especially cooperative in complying with BMP #301-Over Water Protection at Berth 2 where they constructed and sealed a ramp that prevented any potential abrasive blast grit from falling into San Diego Bay."



## Dive to Save a Seagull

Hugo Bermudez, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7780

To those of you who know him, Junior Lopez is a diver with NASSCO's Water Front Services, but something you may not know is that Junior does more than just dive.

A few weeks ago, Junior, during a routine operation spotted something moving in the water just off the shoreline. He turned the boat towards the subject and proceeded to get a closer look. To his surprise, he found a seagull struggling to stay afloat. Junior reached in the water and grabbed the frightened and cold bird. He immediately covered the bird in a towel and notified NASSCO's Environmental Department. The bird was tangled in fishing line and was unable to get loose. If not for Junior, the bird would have drowned.

Thanks to employee awareness, NASSCO has saved numerous birds and other animals within and outside the yard. Injured and/or orphaned birds are taken to *Project Wildlife* where the birds are cared for.



*Project Wildlife* is a non-profit volunteer organization located throughout the County to provide emergency first aid, long term treatment, and veterinary care if needed. Experienced volunteers offer rehabilitative therapy and proper rearing of wildlife orphans.

Each year *Project Wildlife* gives a second chance to over 11,000 wild creatures. All types of wild land and sea birds, as well as all wild land mammals, can be helped by *Project Wildlife*. Contributions from companies such as NASSCO make a difference for our community's injured and orphaned wild creatures and support *Project Wildlife's* mission: **Conservation through Education and Wildlife Care.**

Carlos Loya and Arnold Patterson saved the morning dove chicks in the photo below.

How can we help?

To protect the birds, departments within NASSCO have installed controls to keep birds out of areas where they would normally get caught or tangled and injure themselves. We can also help by simply not feeding the birds and reporting injured or orphaned birds of any type to NASSCO's Security Department (X8401).

More information for *Project Wildlife* can be found at [www.projectwildlife.org](http://www.projectwildlife.org).



This newsletter is generated by the NASSCO Environmental Engineering staff and is intended for the enjoyment of its readers by providing information on a variety of environmental topics. Information and/or opinions expressed herein reflect the knowledge and opinions of the author and not necessarily the Environmental Engineering Department, NASSCO or General Dynamics.

If you are interested in submitting an article of environmental interest, or would like us to address one of your questions/concerns, please contact us at Environmental Engineering, Mail Stop 22A.

Editor: Kacey Christie (619) 544-7963, [kchrist1@nassco.com](mailto:kchrist1@nassco.com) | Layout: Chad Haza (619) 544-8826, [chaza@nassco.com](mailto:chaza@nassco.com)

Contributors: Hugo Bermudez, Grant Gibson, Sara Giobbi, John Martin, Ken Wright

All back issues of the NASSCO Tidepool are available at [www.nassco.com](http://www.nassco.com) under Environmental & Safety Leadership.