

Bay Lines

MARINE
SCIENCE
INSTITUTE

500 Discovery Parkway
Redwood City, CA 94063-4715



Fall
2008

www.sfbaymsi.org

R.V. Robert G. Brownlee Turns Ten!

For anyone who has experienced it, floating aboard our 90-foot, 226 ton Research Vessel **Robert G. Brownlee** is a timeless experience. We pride ourselves on making this the safest ship possible as well, so we are happy to report on the recent maintenance performed during the haul out at Bay Ship & Yacht in Alameda.

Stripped of all her oceanographic equipment, great care was taken to remove all signs of rust and other wear and tear. Fifty-eight tons of sand was blasted on her to remove all of the paint! After taking almost 200,000 people out on the Bay, this tender loving care is richly deserved!

Over half a million people have participated in MSI programs since our founding in 1970. Passengers have come with school groups from all over the county, including Washington D.C. and Hawaii! As the Bay's only 'Floating Classroom', the **Brownlee** designed for MSI with the help of John Christich, a former Captain with MSI. The boat was built in Seattle, Washington by Marco Boatworks.

Built with a shallow, 5 foot draft, the **Brownlee** has served ports in Sausalito, Benicia, Richmond, Rio Vista, Antioch, San Francisco, and our home port of Redwood City. We've taken her to Mile Rock, outside the Golden Gate Bridge, and up past Rio Vista to learn about the fresh water ecosystems feeding the Bay.

Our first ship, the **Inland Seas**, served MSI's programs for twenty-eight years. We certainly hope the **Brownlee** will be happily chugging along teaching kids about the Bay for at least that long.

We've never lost a passenger in all these years! Actually, Marilou Seiff and Dennis Rogers both fell off the boat, well, they jumped. But it was to test our overboard rescue response times! (We got them back, you can ask them).



MSI Executive Director Marilou Seiff dwarfed by the **Brownlee** in drydock.

Summer Marine Camp wrap-up

This year MSI Marine Camp introduced over 1,000 campers in 9 weeks to the wonders of our amazing marine environment. We had campers come as far as the east coast in the states and globally China.

Campers participated in a week of exploration learning about everything from marine mammals to plankton and sharks to invertebrates. They experienced exciting field trips to Pescadero State Beach, the Marine Mammal Center, Farallone's Visitor Center and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. The older campers adventured out on Canoes to Bair Island, a trip to Angel Island and overnight on the Robert G. Brownlee. Each week ended with an exciting slide show, for the campers and their families, showcasing the weeks activities.

Remember, priority registration for Marine Camp 2009 members opens on **February 2nd at 10:00am**. Mark your calendar; this year we had 172 campers on waiting lists! Don't miss out on the wonderful opportunity for your children.

A Salute To Our Funders

The Marine Science Institute receives grant support from many different foundations and businesses. We would like to recognize those who helped MSI bring science to life in the past year.

\$50,000 and above

Contra Costa Water District
David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Robert Brownlee Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program

Does your company have a matching gifts program? Please contact your HR Department or MSI for more information.

Did you know you may make a charitable bequest to MSI? Please contact MSI for details.

Welcome Aboard!



Douglas R Zaebst Land Program Coordinator

Ever since Doug first went for his first snorkeling trip, he has been enthusiastic in learning about marine life and helping to protect it. He graduated from Ohio University with a BS in Marine Biology, which included participating in a study abroad program on the coast of Australia. His first job after college was a summer camp counselor position with at-risk youth, which led him into the field of outdoor, environmental education. His passion for teaching and knowledge of the outdoors grew as he spent time teaching in Ohio, Florida, Rhode Island, and California. He spent two years teaching an outdoor, environmental, marine biology program on Catalina Island learning much about California's history, flora, and fauna. He then moved to San Francisco where he became an educator at the Marine Science Institute. After growing in knowledge about the bay area, he spent a year in the classroom teaching marine biology and other classes. Through his experiences, he decided that the best way for people to learn science is through hands-on, experiential lessons. He rejoined the MSI team as an educator, and showing inspiration for helping the program grow, moved into the Land Program Coordinator position.

Missy Howard Development Director

Raised in Stockton, the Bay has been a new adventure for Missy Howard since coming to MSI from the Tracy Hospital Foundation, a Sutter Health Affiliate in the Central Valley. Prior to her position with the Foundation, Missy also worked in fundraising and community event planning for the American Cancer Society and Barnes & Noble, as well as in Mall Marketing. Missy is a past Board Member for Communities in Schools, a current American Cancer Society volunteer, and is a graduate from the University of the Pacific with a B.A. in Communication, Public Relations and a double minor in English and Religious Studies. Missy has a 5 year old daughter who she loves spending her free time with.

Bay Lines
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Life In the Bay



Hemissenda crassicornis Nudibranch

Our middle school camp offered at the Marine Science Institute is called Underwater Investigators. It offers truly the most in-depth look into what makes San Francisco Bay tick. The highlight of the week's activities is the overnight trip to Angel Island aboard the **Robert G. Brownlee**. Departing from our home port of Redwood City, the voyage offers our campers amazing views of the Bay, and new waters to investigate.

Studying fish populations in South San Francisco Bay most of the year, our Captain and crew are quite familiar with just about anything we might catch on our typical trips. But rarely do we get a chance to do a trawl underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. Not to miss such an opportunity, Captain Jackson did just that, and struck pay dirt. This year, our Underwater Investigators were offered a rare glimpse into just how beautiful and diverse life in the Bay can be.

With San Francisco taking up most of the horizon, and the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge towering above, the Brownlee plotted a course to see just what might be swimming in this famous stretch of water. After just 5 minutes of our otter trawl net hitting the water, a dazzling array of fishes was pulled up: rainbows of colors, bizarre shapes, and a diversity not seen aboard our deck in quite a while. For our Ship Program Coordinator, Karen Peluso, it presented a golden opportunity to teach the campers (and some of our befuddled staff) about some of the more rarely seen fish in the Bay.

And not just fish! The crew noticed a stunning nudibranch, a type of shell-less mollusk, as well. It's inspiring to see what is still out there in the Bay, and it certainly re-affirms our belief that we must keep looking closely!

The Golden Trawl



A beautiful Rainbow Surfperch

Rubberlip Surfperch



Dwarf Surfperch



Walleye Surfperch



To see even more from the golden trawl, go to [Baylines online](#)

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Join the cause—add MSI to your facebook causes and tell your friends about us!

F a l l E v e n t s 2 0 0 8

SEASIDE STORY HOUR Third Saturday of Each Month, 11am ~ noon

Join MSI naturalist for whales of tales and touch live fish & amazing artifacts from the seas. This FREE event is held on the third Saturday of every month at the Redwood City Library's Main Branch on 1044 Middlefield Road in downtown Redwood City—AND at the new Redwood Shores Public Library. On **October 18th** we bring along our favorite **Tide Pool** critters (11am at RWC, 1pm at RWS). We'll be highlighting the secrets of the **Deep Sea** on **November 15th** at the RWC Library. Our feature for **December 20th** will be our adorable **Sharks** at Redwood Shores. Don't miss it!



Kayak Exploration of Tomales Bay October 18th 9 am ~ noon

Come explore one of California's most wild and wonderful habitats. Tomales Bay is nestled in between Point Reyes National Seashore and the mainland, making it a kayaking mecca. Join MSI naturalists and take to the water. Cost is \$50 / person. Minimum age is 7. Limited enrollment, please sign up if you are interested right away!

Seymour Marine Discovery Center Tour October 25th, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Come Visit the famous **Seymour Marine Discovery Center** in Santa Cruz. Visit a working marine laboratory. Exhibit halls, aquarium, touch tanks, tours to marine mammal research overlook, Ocean Discovery Shop, and unsurpassed vistas of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the coastal views and meet other MSI families upon completion of our special tour. \$10 person, register on-line.

Plankton Day!!! Saturday, November 1st 9am ~ noon

Copepods, Diatoms & Rotifers - it's everything Plankton at MSI! Come and see the wonderful and weird world of plankton like you have never seen it before. With microscopes hooked up to our 25 foot screen in our Marine Science Center, we can bring to life all those little creatures drifting in the Bay that we take for granted every day. This is a FREE event, but donations are warmly welcomed. Space is limited.

Evening Low Tide Walk Wednesday November 12th 3-6pm

A perfect alignment of Earth, Moon and Tides will make this a very special walk indeed! Join MSI naturalists as we explore the diverse and colorful intertidal marine life of Pillar Point, near Half Moon Bay. Already one of our favorite events, the extreme low tide with a full moon should prove memorable. Bring appropriate shoes & a flashlight. This event is free, but advanced registration is required.

Discovery Voyage in San Francisco! Saturday, Nov 22nd 10am ~ noon

Back for an encore, we are offering another Discovery Voyage for MSI members this Fall. Departing from Pier 40 in San Francisco, this voyage offers you a unique opportunity to see Golden Gate and Bay Bridges and Alcatraz from Central SF Bay. At the same time, delve through mud samples to discover the fascinating invertebrates that thrive at the bottom of the Bay, use a trawl to catch a wide variety of fish species, including sharks and rays, and catch plankton to view under a microscope! These voyages are for MSI members only. Must be at least 5 years old to attend, and ALL children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Closed-toe shoes required. Cost is \$10 / person. Space is limited - online registration required

Find out more about our programs and sign-up information at www.sfbaymsi.org
Contact Aaron for reservations (650) 364-2760 x16, or email aaron@sfbaymsi.org