

**Tours:** Over 17,600 adults and children visited the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center (AMIC) this past year. Some participated in tours provided by FOAM docents. Within our schedule of weekly 2 pm Saturday tours were tours of the wastewater treatment plant given the last Saturday of each month by Alan Laurent.

In addition to public tours, FOAM provided docents for many group tours, ranging from classrooms - preschool through college - to community groups. Many self-guided groups visit the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS). Several teachers bring their students to this wonderful outdoor classroom weekly to note changes with the seasons and take advantage of the ever-growing AMIC exhibits.

FOAM treasurer Art Barab led his fourth consecutive Thanksgiving Day morning "leg stretcher," attracting 21 people in 2003. FOAM president David Couch guided an interpretive canoe trip to the native oyster reef in early July.

**Education:** FOAM instituted a research grant program for HSU students pursuing research projects that are broadly or specifically related to the AMWS. Up to \$500 may be awarded to graduate or undergraduate students, to support up to three proposals per year. The first awards will be made in fall 2004. FOAM also supported an HSU senior project where nearby pet cats were radio-collared to track whether they spent time at the AMWS.

FOAM continued its association with Humboldt State's Redwood Science Project (RSP) by cosponsoring a Lesson Study team. A group of 3-4 elementary school teachers will develop a small unit of study (4-5 lessons) aimed at learning opportunities at the AMWS. The products of this effort will be shared with local teachers as well as preservice teachers at HSU during 2005.

The Wetlands on Wheels (WOW) outreach program was put on hold this year due to the departure of Melissa Neuffer and Jenny Gelber. The WOW program currently is under review by the education committee and may be restructured to better suit the needs of local schools and improve opportunities for HSU students who typically take instructional roles as instructors.

FOAM again collaborated with the HSU Natural History Museum's summer Marsh Explorers program.

**Training Opportunities:** Docent training was held three times this year, condensed from past 3-day sessions. Eleven people completed the session on October 25, three participated on March 27, and two in the session on July 24. Focus tour packets have been created on marsh history, wastewater, birding, plants, and aquaculture, plus a general one on interpretative technique and rules and safety guidelines.

**Public Events:** FOAM was selected by the Godwit Days Organizing Committee to serve as its first "Spotlight Organization," due to FOAM's support from the festival's inception through organizing tours and family activities. FOAM received 5% of each basic registration fee, plus 20 Godwit Days tour leaders contributed all or part of their stipend to FOAM.

In partnership with Redwood Region Audubon Society, FOAM sponsored the first Student Bird Art Contest. Some 143 entries were received from grades K-12 throughout Humboldt County, with 13 cash prizes awarded at the Godwit Days opening reception.

For the third consecutive year, FOAM was the beneficiary of the California AAA Great Battery Roundup. During the April collection period, over 1800 dead car, boat, and motorcycle batteries were turned into 14 locations throughout Humboldt County, bringing in \$3630 to FOAM. Louise Jeffrey, waste reduction coordinator for the county Division of Environmental Health, deserves a large part of the credit for the more than fivefold increase over the previous year's collection.

In September, FOAM board members staffed at table at the Humboldt Bay Maritime Expo on Woodley Island. In October, FOAM continued its participation in Arcata's "Pastels on the Plaza" fundraiser, sponsoring a panel by Rick Kruse.

In March, FOAM co-sponsored a free 1-day public symposium on the physical and biological processes in Humboldt Bay, where present and former board members Sean Craig and Frank Shaughnessy were featured speakers. In April, FOAM honored individuals who have volunteered at the AMWS by sponsoring a volunteer appreciation lunch and presenting "Volunteer of the Year" awards to Vanessa Mobley and Christopher Shutt. Also in April, FOAM continued its participation in Arcata's Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. Approximately 40 parents and children attended the free weekend family activities offered at the AMIC, coordinated by Ginger Tennant. Five 90-minute tours – led by Ode Bernstein, Art Barab, Skip Shoemaker, and David Couch – served another 30 individuals. Visitors learned about wetland ecology and had fun exploring pond water, coloring mazes, building bird feeders and peanut butter pinecone bird treats, and making fish prints and buttons. In July, FOAM co-sponsored Weed Awareness Week. The Monday night lecture series was discontinued.

**Marsh and Wildlife Through the Eyes of Local Artists:** Since December 1998, FOAM has sponsored monthly art shows representative of the scenery, plants, birds, and animals that inhabit the Marsh and Humboldt Bay, both above and below water level. Our goal has been to provide interpretive works that reflect the beauty, ecology, and history of the Marsh as well as serve as a sales venue for our many talented local artists. This past year, works by Jay Brown, Robert and Martha Haynes, Linda Parkinson, Mary Harper, John Wesa, Gary Bloomfield, Rick Kruse, Amanita Mollier, Roy Irving, and Bill Van Fleet were featured. FOAM board member Richard Vincent organized receptions for most of the artists and several included music at their event. A special display of historical Arcata photographs selected from the collection of the Clarke Museum was created by FOAM treasurer Art Barab, with the assistance of Steve Homer. Children's artwork, including winners of the Godwit Days student bird art contest, was displayed during June.

**Publicity and Communications:** FOAM continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, UPWIND. Notices of art shows and receptions, docent training, special events, and weekly tours have appeared in local media, including the Arcata Eye, EcoNews, North Coast Journal, Times-Standard, Eureka Reporter, and radio and TV PSAs. We take this opportunity to thank them for helping us get the Marsh message out. UPWIND is mailed to an average of 550 addresses from Washington to Maine and Florida. Anyone can receive free issues by signing the guest book with a full address.

**City Relations:** A screen door, sound system, and safety lighting were installed in the Interpretive Center. Repairs were made to the oxidation pond dike that broke during a high tide in December and trails were surfaced with rock. A new 5-year contract was signed between FOAM and the City of Arcata in January. Board members David Couch, Jenny Gelber, and Jeffrey White were on the negotiating team. The exhibit committee has begun planning for the "History Wall." The City has filmed interviews with Robert Gearheart, Bob Rasmussen, Stan Harris, Frank Klopp, and Dan Hauser for a "Founding Fathers" video series. A new AMWS video is also planned.

**Membership:** As of September 1, FOAM had 128 members in good standing, up from 106 one year previously. Several of the 36 Life Members continue to contribute on an annual basis, even though their \$750 qualifying amount has long since been met.

**Fiscal Accounts:** FOAM began its fiscal year in January 2004 with total cash on hand of \$28,075.28, of which \$24,064.89 was in a money market account. In March, FOAM purchased two certificates of deposit having a total principal of \$15,000, with maturity dates of 3/17/2005 and 3/24/2006. As of August 1, 2004, FOAM had total cash on hand of \$15,068.45, of which \$9175.65 was in a money market account, plus the two CDs. Proceeds from the AAA Battery Roundup will contribute another \$3630 and donations from the Ninth Annual Godwit Days will bring in \$785 (neither received yet). FOAM has incurred no major expenses in 2004, as anticipated costs for the WOW program and AMIC exhibits have yet to materialize. Encouragingly, 2004 has seen a rebound in membership dues (after a

4-year decline) and donation numbers, with \$3612 in income as of September 1. FOAM received a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Sylvia Fisher, in recognition of the enjoyment that her late son Marcus received from visiting the Arcata Marsh.

**Board of Directors:** Five current Board Members will be continuing: David Couch, Sue Leskiw, Patty Siering, Ginger Tennant, and Richard Vincent. Sean Craig and Jeffrey White are running for re-election; mid-year appointees Gwen Thoele and Janet Zich are running for their first term; and Caitlin Collings and Erik Schwinger are new candidates. Turnover was high among board members this year, as Darlene Marlow resigned for health reasons, Melissa Neuffer graduated from HSU and found a wonderful environmental education job, president Jenny Gelber moved to Zambia to start a farm and educational endeavor, and Ode Bernstein also graduated and took an internship with the Rancho Allegre Outdoor School in Santa Barbara. Long-term board member David Couch graciously agreed to take over the office of president when Jenny left.