



# UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh  
Interpretive Center  
Vol 21, Issue 2, Spring 2014

**Our Mission: To stimulate understanding of the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary, its relationship with Arcata's integrated wastewater treatment system, the surrounding watersheds and bay, and their link with the Earth's water cycle**

*In This Issue: Invasive Plant Work Days... Help Prove That Arcata's Cool... Plant Walk, Tea & Student Bird Art Reception... Godwit Days Thanks... Science Fair Awards... Research Grant Given Out... "You Are Here" Signs... Improved Marsh Quest... Student Bird Art Contest Winners... Artists... Calendar... Visitor Log... Members & Donors*



CCC members work at the Marsh.  
Photo by Dennis Houghton.

## Whacking the Weeds; Next Chance Is July 12

On February 1, 11 volunteers from the California Conservation Corps and FOAM worked to remove 2 cubic yards of *Vinca*, teasel, and other assorted invasive species. Volunteers were Sophia Acosta, Paul Bache-min, David Castro, Eduardo Ciriario, Richard Hinojos, John Norris, Kaily Pecoraro, Dominick Ramirez, Barbara Reisman, Luis Zbaris, and George Ziminsky.

The next invasive plant and trash pick-up work day at the Marsh, cosponsored by FOAM and the City of Arcata, will be on Saturday, July 12. Contact Dennis Houghton at 707-825-2163 or [dhoughton@cityofarcata.org](mailto:dhoughton@cityofarcata.org) for details.

## Arcata's Cool—Help Prove It

The Environmental Services Department is asking FOAM members, volunteers, and supporters who live in Arcata to help the City compete

for this year's Coolest California Community title. With your help, the City can win this fun, innovative competition between California cities to earn points and prizes just by doing what we do best—BEING GREEN! Sign your household up before the end of May at <http://cool-california.org/community-challenge>. Arcata receives 100 points for each sign up. If you can measure a bit of conservation success, the City can receive mega-points! It's easy—please share with your Arcata friends and neighbors!

When the numbers are in, the City will vote on what to do with any prize money. Some ideas are adding solar panels to power Bayside Community Park and Farm, installing a water hydration station near the Plaza or Marsh, or adding an electric vehicle charging station in Valley West. Feel free to suggest other community benefits that help us Cool Arcata and slow climate change.

## Plant Walk, Tea & Art Reception May 10

All are invited to a Pre-Mother's Day Tea & Student Bird Art Winner Reception on Saturday, May 10, starting at 1 pm at the Interpretive Center. Come peruse copies of the 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place winning art pieces (plus best bird in habitat awards) from the 11th annual Godwit Days contest for Humboldt K-12 schoolchildren, cosponsored by FOAM. Free refreshments will include cookies, iced tea, and punch.

Starting at 2 pm, Jenny Hanson and Rich Ridenhour, two of the authors of FOAM's new guide to 101 common plants at the Arcata Marsh, will lead a special plant walk. The walk is cosponsored by the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. FOAM's plant book can be purchased at the Interpretive Center for \$14.95 plus tax.



## 2013-4 Board of Directors & Officers

### Officers

*President:* Mary Burke (also Education, Website)

*Vice-President:* Elliott Dabill (also Education; Lectures; Computer)

*Secretary:* Katy Allen (also Education; Exhibits; Membership)

*Treasurer:* Sue Leskiw (also UPWIND Editor; Mailing; Publicity; Exhibits; Scrapbook; Website)

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Janet Zich (Membership; Exhibits; Website; Facebook)

George Ziminsky (Habitat Concerns)

**FOAM website: [www.arcatamarshfriends.org](http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org)**



*Intrepid Bird Art hangers (from left) Ken Burton, Gil Saliba, George Ziminsky, Barbara Reisman, Mediha Saliba, Mary Romaidis, Sue Leskiw, Louise Bacon-Ogden, and Judith Scharnburg. Photo by CJ Ralph.*

### Thanks, Godwit Days Helpers

Volunteers who staffed the FOAM booth at the 19th Annual Godwit Days Festival in April were Art Barab, Kayla Bonette, Milt Boyd, Sue Leskiw, Bev Post, and Jane and Richard Wilson. Some 55 copies of FOAM's new Marsh plant book were sold over the 3-day event! George Ziminsky helped Sue load and unload a car full of bird art, craft supplies, and booth stuff.

Helpers who hung the 765 pieces of student bird art were Katy Allen, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Ken Burton, Sue Leskiw, Mary Romaidis, Gil and Mediha Saliba, Judith Scharnburg, and George Ziminsky. Thanks to Sue, Christine Long, Jean Santi, and three student helpers for taking it down. Our appreciation goes out to Jay Seeger for taking photos of the art winners and to Denise Seeger, new Audubon education chair, and Sue for handing out the awards.

Katy Allen, Alex Espe, Sue Leskiw, Darlene Marlow, Lora Martin, Susan Ornelas, Barbara Reisman, and Mary Romaidis—plus Scott Capra, Cobie Cavanaugh, and Charlotte Wehmeyer from the HSU student chapter of the California Waterfowl Association—welcomed nearly 100 children and parents for nature craft activities. Stations were peanut hummingbird ornaments, rock ducks, fish prints, peanut butter pinecone bird feeders, owl hangers, oyster shell refrigerator magnets, and water cycle bracelets. FOAM thanks Godwit Days Board member Gene Lodes for donating supplies and sharing how to make the hummingbird ornaments that he saw at a bird festival in Texas.

Mary Burke led two children's bird walks at the Marsh.



*(Left) Painting a peanut hummingbird. (Right) Charlotte gluing rock ducks. Photos by Sue Leskiw.*

### FOAM Gives Two Science Fair Awards

For the ninth year, FOAM sponsored an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair in mid-March for the best project related to wetlands. Due to the quality of the projects in 2014, a second-place prize was given.

First place of \$50 went to “Feed Me Sea... More: The Effect of Tides on Nutrients in Humboldt Bay” by Nigella Mahal Baur, a 7th-grader at Sunny Brae Middle School. She investigated the question of whether there are more nutrients on an outgoing tide or an incoming one, hypothesizing that levels will be higher coming in because phytoplankton eat nutrients, leaving less in the water when the tide goes out. Nigella collected water samples between the Bay mouth and McDaniel Slough, testing them to compare the average total organic carbon present at high tide and low tide. Her results did not support her hypothesis, as there were slightly more nutrients in the water at low tide. She discovered that nutrients decreased as she sampled further from the Bay entrance (i.e., nutrients came from the ocean) and that concentrations increased closer to McDaniel Slough at low tide (i.e., nutrients possibly from land runoff). Results could be used to know whether there is a limit on the shellfish that can be grown in the Bay.

Second prize of \$25 was awarded to “Benthic Macroinvertebrates as Indicators of Watershed Health” by Zane Taylor, a 7th-grader at Pacific Union School. He hypothesized that a healthier watershed with low amounts of fine sediment will have a more diverse BMI (benthic macroinvertebrates) and a higher abundance of creatures such as caddisflies, mayflies, and stoneflies, which are highly sensitive to pollution. Zane tested three creeks with different levels of urbanization and fine sediment: Widow White Creek in McKinleyville, Strawberry Creek at the mouth of Clam Beach, and Prairie Creek in Prairie Creek State Park. He netted one riffle in each creek, classifying, counting, and releasing the macroinvertebrates cap-

tured. Zane also tallied water temperature and sized the rocks (pebble count) where he sampled. Water temperatures were similar in all three streams. Prairie Creek had a wider range of particle sizes and more larger ones, whereas Widow White contained the most silt. He found his hypothesis to be correct: there was greater diversity and numbers of BMI in Prairie Creek (57), compared to Widow White (3) and Strawberry (15). Zane noted that he could have improved on his experiment by sampling in the summer, by testing for water quality and dissolved oxygen, and by sampling other stream habitats (e.g., leaf litter, pools).

### FOAM Awards Research Grant

HSU student Nicole Clement has been awarded \$150 to support her senior research project, “A Wildlife Area Surrounded by Humans: Is It Successful in Supporting Native Mammals?” Her objective is to determine what mammal species are utilizing AMWS and the surrounding area.

She set up track plates baited with cat food and an oat/peanut butter mix in several locations inside AMWS, as well as on property bordering the Marsh and on urban residential land. Animals entering the open box enclosures would leave footprints in soot-painted contact paper for Nicole to collect and identify on weekends in March and April.

According to Nicole, “The data collected will provide information about mammal species richness in the Marsh, compared with the border urban area and the true urban area. It will show how mammals are utilizing the three different areas and allow comparison along a gradient of habitat types. This information can be used to determine if the Marsh is successfully promoting the presence of native species. If results show primarily invasive species, current AMWS management practices may need to be altered to promote the presence of native species and prevent invasive species.”

FOAM is particularly interested in what she will discover about cat

abundance within AMWS. Nicole will provide a copy of her final report to the FOAM library and give a free public lecture later this year. Her advisor is Barbara Clucas in the HSU Department of Wildlife.



### “You Are Here” Signs Installed

Seven new directional signs—three of them underwritten by FOAM—were installed at locations throughout AMWS during late February and early March. The City is also working to upgrade the block wall at the South I Street entrance.

### Redwood EdVentures Quests on the North Coast

By Denise Homer

A new longer version of the Arcata Marsh Madness Quest is part of Redwood EdVentures, a project created and developed by the Humboldt County Office of Education. The Marsh Quest’s expansion and inclusion in the Quest series was made possible through a Children’s Forest grant through Six Rivers National Forest and in partnership with BLM, California State Parks, and the Humboldt County Office of Education. The grant was one of two Children’s Forest grants awarded in California through the US Forest Service. The goal is to get families out exploring Humboldt County.

What’s a Quest? It’s a treasure hunt with interpretive clues that teach you about each place, as well as movement clues guiding you along

the trail to find your final clue. After the Quest is finished, participants turn in their final clue at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center (or Visitor Centers in other parks) to claim a unique Redwood EdVenture prize specific to each Quest. If the center is closed, go to [www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org) to register your Quest and clue and the prize will be mailed to you.

Other Quests include Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Patrick’s Point State Park, Redwood National Park, Arcata Community Forest, Fort Humboldt State Historic Park, Headwaters Forest Reserve, Humboldt National Wildlife Refuge, Grizzly Creek State Park, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, and Richardson Grove State Park.

For more details and to download a copy of the Quests, visit [www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org). The Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center has brochures and prizes for the Arcata Marsh Madness Quest and the Arcata Community Forest Quest. Some of the comments left in the log book so far: “Great Quest,” “Beautiful,” “Liked it,” “Had fun.” Where will your next Quest take you?





(Top to bottom) Winning pieces by Finn Murphy, Alia Prentiss, and Enza Zeppegno Mendonca.

## Student Bird Art Contest Sets New Record

Some 765 local K-12 students—a record by nearly 50 entries—pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the Eleventh Annual Student Bird Art Contest held in association with the 19th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in mid-April. FOAM cosponsored the competition with Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS).

All entries were displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the Festival, and copies of the winners will be hung at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May and June. FOAM is sponsoring a free public reception at the Interpretive Center on Saturday, May 10, between 1 and 2 pm to meet the young artists and partake of refreshments.

Prizes totaling \$550 were given out, thanks to FOAM and RRAS. Thirty-five of those were monetary prizes, plus 11 honorable mentions.

The winners were:

### **Kindergarten**

First Place: Ruby Smith, Freshwater Elementary, Black Oystercatcher

Second Place: Gary Albers, Orleans Elementary, Spotted Owl

Third Place: Oly White, Orleans Elementary, Anna's Hummingbird

### **Grade 1**

First Place: Glen Ferrara Frame, Alder Grove Charter, Peregrine Falcon

Second Place: Psalm Gaskill, Mistwood Educational Center, Red-tailed Hawk

Third Place: Ruby Williams, Mistwood Educational Center, American Kestrel

### **Grade 2**

First Place: Meguire Bartosz, Fuente Nueva Charter, Wood Duck; Naomi Iris Harrison, Redwood Preparatory Charter, Steller's Jay

Second Place: Alia Prentiss, Coastal Grove Charter, Great Blue Heron; Breann Smith, Pacific Union, American Robin

Third Place: Sean Olsen, Morris Elementary, Great Blue Heron; Jordan Gaskel, Fuente Nueva Charter, Varied Thrush

### **Grade 3**

First Place: Enza Zeppegno Mendonca, Fuente Nueva Charter, American Goldfinch; Sienna Rother, Mistwood Educational Center, Ruddy Duck

Second Place: Gabe Masters, Dow's Prairie Elementary, Osprey; Cedar Birdsall, Fuente Nueva Charter, Bald Eagle

Third Place: Eva Devoe, Fuente Nueva Charter, Black-capped Chickadee; Luna Buchin, Forks of Salmon School, Spotted Owl

### **Grade 4**

First Place: Finn Murphy, Union Street Charter, Peregrine Falcon; Lee Pobiecke, Trillium Charter, Spotted Owl

Second Place: Deja Coleman, Orleans Elementary, Belted Kingfisher; Luan Scrivner, Redwood Coast Montessori, Peregrine Falcon

Third Place: Roselyn Soto, Junction Elementary, Northern Flicker; Amele Stroven, Mistwood Educational Center, Steller's Jay

### **Grades 5 and 6**

First Place: Ella Villamor, Sunny Brae Middle School, American Goldfinch

Second Place: Owen Smith, Freshwater Elementary, Spotted Towhees

Third Place: Kayla Nelson, Mistwood Educational Center, Ruby-crowned Kinglet

### **Grades 7 through 12**

First Place: Tori McConnell, Alder Grove Charter, Marbled Godwits

Second Place: Cassidy Kessler, Zane Middle School, Peregrine Falcon

Third Place: Phengchee Yong, Zane Middle School, Western Grebes

### **Best Depiction of Bird in Habitat Awards**

Isaac Lien, Grade 4, Dow's Prairie School, Marsh Wren; Sam Gaiera, Grade 4, Union Street Charter, American Goldfinches; Adam Luke Harrison, Grade 5, Redwood Preparatory Charter, Osprey; Shirley Ferrara Frame, Grade 6, Alder Grove Charter, American Robin; Sharon Rose Harrison, Grade 11, Alder Grove Charter, Bald Eagle

**Honorable Mentions**

**Kindergarten:** Alexandra Phelan, Fuente Nueva Charter, Spotted Owl

**Grade 1:** Abbey Garcia, Trinidad School, Spotted Owl

**Grade 2:** Lulu Marsh, Redwood Coast Montessori, Anna's Hummingbird; David Gutierrez, Dow's Prairie Elementary, Spotted Owl

**Grade 3:** Kyu Hang, Arcata Elementary, Great Blue Heron; Julia Grant, Orleans Elementary, Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Emma Mitchell, Dow's Prairie School, American Robin; Lilac Estevez, South Bay School, Snowy Owl

**Grade 6:** Rubi Sanmiguel, Sunny Brae Middle School, Peregrine Falcon

**Grade 7:** Caleb Micah Harrison, Redwood Preparatory Charter, Northern Harrier; Lenci Pole, Orleans Elementary, Forster's Tern



*(Top) Peregrine Falcon by Luan Scrivner. (Bottom) American Robin by Breann Smith.*

**More Artwork  
on Page 6!**



*Winners, Kindergarten through Grade 2. Photo by Jay Seeger.*



*Winners, Grades 3&4. Photo by Jay Seeger.*



*Winners, Grades 5 through 12. Photo by Jay Seeger.*



(Top to bottom, left column) Wood Duck by Meguire Bartosz, Northern Flicker by Roselyn Soto, Western Grebes by Phengchee Yong.  
(Top to bottom, right column) American Goldfinch by Ella Villamor, Steller's Jay by Amele Stroven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee by Eva Devoe.



(Top) Darlene's tree frog photo.  
(Bottom) Beth's artwork.

### JULY ARTISTS

#### DARLENE MARLOW & BETH GIN

"Two Artists, Two Ways to See the Marsh" will be shown during July. Beth used Darlene's photographs of Marsh animals and plants as inspiration for her art, which includes watercolors, oils, zentangle, batik, collage, and fractured or enhanced images. Each photo will be hung next to its interpretive artwork.

Darlene: "Volunteering at the Arcata Marsh has been my honor for over a dozen years. Being able to capture occasional moments there with my camera has been fun. Having my friend Beth use my photographs as inspiration for her art has made me see the Marsh in new, beautiful, and interesting ways."

Beth: "I have only recently been introduced to the Marsh and am really enjoying this new world. The photographs by my friend Darlene have given me a new focus for my art. She captures life in a new setting and encourages my efforts of using different mediums to express my interpretation of what she sees through the lens."

Beth and Darlene invite everyone to a reception on Sunday, July 6 from 2 to 4 pm that will include music and treats.

### AUGUST ARTIST ALAN PETERSON

My work is intended to foster appreciation of the natural world. I use photography and video to capture the moments of drama, tenderness, peculiarity, and sheer beauty that the animals and landscapes supply, so that they can be shared with the world and engage people with the ecology and natural curiosities of the Redwood Coast.

I grew up a nature lover, spending many of my childhood hours in the regional parks of Oakland and Berkeley. Having had lessons in photography from my parents, using their aging Nikon equipment, I quickly took to digital photography and video when it became accessible to consumers and made it a part of my excursions into the wilderness. I studied film and video at California College of the Arts and was a social worker in the Bay Area before moving to Humboldt County in 2010.

After finding out that nobody hires locally for natural history videography, I started working with a handful of other people to put together an educational media non-profit to cover the region's wildlife, ecology, and humanity. I am now the volunteer president and cinematographer for Redwood Planet Media and am working on a series of films about the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

To show the benefits that sustainable infrastructure and forward-thinking bring to both wildlife and humanity, I've spent a great deal of time filming and photographing at Arcata Marsh, studying its occupants, and waiting patiently so that their stories and fascinating moments can be captured and shared.



White-tailed Kite by Alan Peterson.

### Calendar of Events

*[Docent tours leave the Interpretive Center every Saturday at 2 pm]*

May/June—Display of Student Bird Art Contest Winners (see p. 4)

May 8—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

May 10—Pre-Mother's Day Tea, Plant Walk & Student Bird Art Reception (see p. 1)

June 12—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

July—Artwork by Beth Gin, inspired by photographs by Darlene Marlow

July 6—Art Reception, 2-4 pm

July 10—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm (subject to rescheduling)

July 12—Invasive Plant Work Day, 9 am-1 pm (see p. 1)

August—Photographs by Alan Peterson

August 14—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

### Visitor Log

The Interpretive Center had 1475 visitors in January, 1357 in February, and 1477 in March.

### Recognition & Thanks, January-March 2014

- ☛ New Life Member: Wild Birds Unlimited (Santa Rosa)
- ☛ Best Friends (\$100): Fred & Doris Ferguson (Granada Hills)
- ☛ Sponsors (\$50): Frances Madrone; Jane Wilson; Janet Zich
- ☛ Friends: Nathan Copple; Neil & Esther Gilchrist; Volga & Melissa Koval; Alan Laurent; Mary Mahoney; Kira Weiss; Connie Word (Redding)
- ☛ Donations: Life Members Tom & Melanie Johnson (\$200); Redwood Camera Club (\$100, for talk by Leslie & Mike Anderson); Jean Santi & Whitney Buck (used spotting scope & tripod); Jim & Donna Clark (\$10.25); Natalie, new nurse at St Joseph's Hospital, attendee on Elliott Dabill's tour (\$10)

FOAM  
Friends of the Arcata Marsh  
PO Box 410  
Arcata CA 95518

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**Mark Your Calendar for:**

**Pre-Mother's Day Plant Walk,  
Tea & Student Bird Art  
Reception, 5/10  
Art Reception, 7/6  
Invasive Plant Work Day, 7/12**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate membership category:

Individual \$25       Family \$35       Student/Senior \$18

Sponsor \$50       Best Friend \$100       Life Member \$750

I would like more information about volunteering for FOAM,

FRIENDS OF THE ARCATA MARSH, PO Box 410, Arcata CA 95518

[arcatamarshfriends.org](http://arcatamarshfriends.org)

**A tax-exempt, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN #68-0232871. All donations are tax deductible.**

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*If you are receiving a complimentary copy of this newsletter, please consider joining FOAM.*

*If you were a member, but have allowed your membership to lapse, please renew.*

*(See mailing label for your expiration date.)*

*Interpretive Center street address is 569 South G Street, Arcata (no mail delivery).*

*FOAM mailing address is PO Box 410, Arcata CA 95518. You can reach us by phone from 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday and 1 to 5 pm Monday at 707-826-2359.*