Why Wouldn’t YOU Make a Good FOAM Board Member?

We are looking for TWO FOAM members (or people willing to join the organization) who care about the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary and would like to translate that feeling into action. If you’ve wondered about a new way that you can help the Marsh, here’s your opportunity! Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings, serve on at least one committee, and volunteer 4 hours/month (see pages 5&6).

FOAM has a small membership base on which to draw. Why not attend our August 14 Board meeting, to see what it’s all about? You’d be working with a great group of people to improve a place we all love. Please call me at (707) 599-1212 to find out more.

P.S. Board applications are due by Friday, August 29.

Mary Burke

FOAM Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Oct 5

Members and volunteers, please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5, starting at noon. That is when FOAM will hold its yearly get-together with you.

We’ll begin with delicious barbecued albacore by Dave Couch, supplemented by salads, drinks, and dessert. Then, Volunteer of the Year awards will be given out (a certificate, $25 AMIC bookstore voucher, and our immeasurable thanks) and the election results announced.

A new award that will debut at this year’s meeting is the announcement of the Arcata Marsh Bird of the Year. You’ll also get an advance look at FOAM’s annual report, which summarizes what we’ve accomplished during the last year.

Kites at the Marsh

On Friday, August 15, starting at 7:30 pm, Alan Peterson will show a 30-minute film featuring a family of White-tailed Kites at AMWS. Peterson is the volunteer president and videographer for Redwood Planet Media, a nonprofit educational media group he helped form that covers local wildlife, ecology, and humanity. This is the latest in a series of free lectures sponsored by FOAM on topics related to the Arcata Marsh. For more information or to guarantee a seat, call (707) 826-2359.

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)

Other Board Members
David Couch (Special Events)
Betsy Elkinton (Education)
John McNeely (Education)
Janet Zich (Membership; Website; Facebook)
George Ziminsky (Habitat Concerns)

FOAM website: www.arcatamarshfriends.org
Mars(h) Needs Women (and Men)!

By Sue Leskiw

Now that I’ve got your attention by showing the poster for this schlocky 1967 straight-to-TV sci-fi movie, I’d like to share the sobering information that your beloved Arcata Marsh is woefully short on volunteers. In fact, the Interpretive Center was closed for several weekend shifts in June and July because we were unable to find anyone to greet visitors who come from down the street to around the globe.

FOAM asks all those who enjoy recreating in our world-renowned AMWS to consider becoming a Marsh volunteer. The main need at this time is for people to staff the welcome desk in AMIC on weekends. The shifts are four hours, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Training by a City employee will be scheduled at your convenience (weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Interpretive Center) and takes about 30 minutes. You will need to fill out paperwork and get a Live Scan (fingerprinted) at the Arcata Police Department (at no cost to you) before becoming an official City volunteer.

Tasks include opening and closing the building, selling bookstore merchandise, and directing people to the bathrooms. The experience of volunteering at the Interpretive Center is never the same from day to day, because you never know what interesting people will stop by and talk with you. Sometimes, things are slow and you can get a lot of reading or needlework done!

Volunteers receive UPWIND, are invited to FOAM’s annual meeting and volunteer appreciation lunch, and receive a free long-sleeved T-shirt (after volunteering six times in a calendar year). It goes without saying that most of the rewards of being a Marsh volunteer are intangible: feeling good about sharing this wonderful place with others.

FOAM has published a brochure about volunteering at the Arcata Marsh that can be picked up at the Interpretive Center or found online at http://arcatamarshfriends.org/reports/volbrochure-web.pdf. It includes testimonials from many of our volunteers about what they enjoy during public outreach at the Marsh. Opportunities range from half-day invasive plant pulling and occasional children’s crafts to becoming trained to give 90-minute tours of the Marsh. Please consider joining our great group of helpers by calling (707) 826-2359 or e-mailing info@arcatamarshfriends.org.

May 10 Plant Walk & Tea

By Sue Leskiw

A good-sized crowd came to AMIC the day before Mother’s Day to drink iced tea, munch on my homemade cookies, view Student Bird Art Contest winning pieces, and join a special plant tour led by authors Jenny Hanson and Rich Ridenhour. The walk proved to be a good test of how easy it is to find species in FOAM’s new guide to 101 common plants at AMWS, using flower color or growth form. The group moved slowly past the area in front of the Interpretive Center, where quite a few species have been planted, before moving on along the Log Pond trail and beyond.

Two young children enjoyed Jenny’s demonstration of how to clean a penny by rubbing it with an Equisetum (horsetail) stem and how buttercups reflect yellow when held under chins.

September Lecture & Tour

Conor Shea, hydrologist with the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife & Coastal Program, will enlighten us about the McDaniel Slough Wetlands Restoration & Enhancement Project. His lecture, on Friday, September 19 at 7:30 pm, will be followed the next day by a 2 pm tour of the affected area. The project restores connectivity to Janes Creek for anadromous fish after more than a century. For more information or to guarantee a seat, call (707) 826-2359.

Seeking Artists & Photographers

Did you know that the Marsh Interpretive Center has been showcasing local artists and photographers monthly since 1999? FOAM is now seeking participants for shows in October and November 2014 and February and March 2015.

All artwork exhibited must be complementary to the Marsh’s activities and mission. Artworks must be a somewhat representational depiction of flora, fauna, or landscapes of the Marsh or the Humboldt Bay region. Interested artists should submit 3 digital samples of the works they wish to display, for evaluation of appropriateness by FOAM.

The Interpretive Center is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Mondays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The display space has an installed hanging system of wires extending below a fixed rail. A minimum of 10 art pieces are sought per show; display space on two walls of the Center is punctuated by windows. There is no commission on sales. Opening receptions are optional and the responsibility of the artist. FOAM distributes publicity about the monthly shows to local media and publishes pre-show information in its quarterly newsletter when possible.

To receive complete “Guidelines for Showing at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center” or more information about showing at the Marsh, e-mail info@arcatamarshfriends.org or call Sue at (707) 442-5444.
Marsh Lovers Say Goodbye to Denise

On May 29, more than 30 current and past volunteers descended on the Interpretive Center to wish Denise Homer good luck in her retirement after 17 years as City Naturalist. Attendees brought wonderful appetizers and desserts, while FOAM provided drinks and a cake sporting the Scottish flag.

Welcome, Camden & Gretchen!

With the retirement of Denise Homer (see article, page x), the City has hired two part-time staffers to fill the naturalist position at the Interpretive Center. Hopefully, many of you have had the opportunity to stop by to meet and greet them and see the improvements they have helped make (see this page).

Camden Bruner is a recent HSU graduate in wildlife management and conservation. His classwork emphasized shorebirds, insects, plants, and wetlands management. He helped run HSU’s Admission Center for the past few years, leading over 400 campus tours for 3500 prospective students. Camden has a second job as a keeper at Sequoia Park Zoo and has 13 years of experience at five different Association of Zoos and Aquaria-approved facilities. He has had the privilege of working with a huge variety of animals, from elephants to cranes. He has field experience with bird banding and studying invasive eelgrass. Camden is an avid birder and naturalist and says he is extremely excited to be working at the Marsh!

Gretchen O’Brien has been a wildlife biologist and Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival organizer for the past 15 years. After receiving a wildlife degree from HSU in 2000, she worked for a private wildlife consultant for 8 years before starting her own consulting business with her husband. As a Godwit Days board member, she coordinates field trips and other festival activities that always include the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. Her passion for nature and wildlife stems from her childhood in Central Oregon. Gretchen and her family spend as much time outdoors as possible, exposing the kids to nature and teaching them to respect the environment and all the creatures it houses.

New at AMIC & AMWS

The long block wall near the South I Street entrance is looking great! A copy of the Marsh scene by artist Larry Eifert has replaced the peeling mural. Next to it is mounted one of the new “You Are Here” maps and a copy of the blue sign with regulations and information that greets visitors arriving from the South G Street parking lot.

A temporary exhibit showcasing local insects is now on display in the Interpretive Center! The display, created by Camden Bruner, features over 100 local insects, most of which can be seen at the Marsh.

The large Marsh map in AMIC created years ago by Amy Uyeki has been replaced with a copy of the new map with updated boundaries that appears on the “You Are Here” signs around the Marsh.

Camden created a new white board display to list of all birds that have ever been recorded at AMWS for the current season (summer). The staff then checks off the species that have been seen so far in 2014, totaling 104 in June and July.

AMIc soon will have a hydration station—a fancy name for what is essentially a water fountain unit with a state-of-the-art motion sensor tap for water bottle filling.

Thanks to Alex Stillman, a new FOAM donation box has been put up by the AMIC welcome desk. The old one had been removed by the City after two break-ins occurred. Hopefully, visitors will feel generous following their wonderful experience at our beloved Marsh!

Camden has teamed with local eBird liaison Rob Fowler to upload historical bird sightings for the Marsh onto the citizen science website eBird. The site now lists all 327 species that have been seen at AMWS. This adds to historical knowledge of birds over time in the area and attracts visitors to bird the Marsh. On eBird, AMWS now has the largest species total of any location in the Pacific Northwest above Point Reyes and is considered by the website to be one of the top 100 birding hotspots in the United States, based on total species recorded!

In addition to FOAM’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/friends.of.the.arcata.marsh), AMWS has its own page. Check it out at www.facebook.com/arcatamarsh.

A new batch of interpretive signs are in the pipeline.
FOAM Cosponsors Camp

By Sue Leskiw

On July 7, FOAM joined with Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) to host a day-long camp for children age 10-12 at the Arcata Marsh. The session was part of the Wildlife Biology week of the Arcata Recreation Department’s Natural Resources Science Camp. This is the seventh year that FOAM and RRAS have collaborated on the camp.

Nineteen kids went on a bird walk led by RRAS volunteers Tom Leskiw, Chet Ogan, and Louise Bacon-Ogdyn, plus George Ziminsky from FOAM. The campers then went on a low-tide “Mud Walk” to a new location below the footbridge near the treatment plant. FOAM volunteers Elliott Dabill, Katy Allen, Dave Couch (who donned waders), and John DeMartini set up the microscope stations and computer FlexCam to view the crabs, clams, worms, and other animals collected. FOAM treasurer Sue Leskiw was responsible for pulling together the schedule and volunteers, bringing lunch, and taking photos.

On July 12, FOAM and the City of Arcata co-sponsored a work day at the Marsh. Over a dozen volunteers, along with Javier Nogueira from the City, came to eradicate Vinca (periwinkle), teasel, and Himalaya berry. Most work was done near the Interpretive Center. Probably due to three other invasive plant work days being held that day, turnout was small, but 4 cubic yards of material were removed. Thank you Tom & Katy Allen, Chaunice Bodkin, Elliott Dabill, Ned Forsyth, Esther Gilchrist, Sue Leskiw, Ron Mendez, Gretchen O’Brien (and her kids Alex and Braden), Barbara Reisman, Ivan Soto, George Ziminsky.

July Marsh Work Day

By Sue Leskiw

On July 17, biologist Sandra Hunt-von Arb gave a passionate, energetic presentation on local dragonflies and damselflies. She noted that not a lot is known about their basic biology (e.g., range, migration), but anecdotal evidence indicates they can roam surprisingly far. For example, one species takes 17 generations to migrate from India to Africa and back.

Sandra is setting up a local study, so reports of dragonflies (with environmental data like location and temperature) can be forwarded to her by Interpretive Center staff. Sandra couldn’t be confident of the species that are in the area, but some were shown during her presentation: Blue-eyed Darner, the red Canada Darner, various Skimmers and Forktails. She noted that books on these insects are improving and at least one is for sale at the Marsh bookstore. Sandra was enthusiastic, with many hand motions, as she described how infectious observing dragonflies can be. She said many folks will surrender to the dragonfly suite of charms, but not everyone has to wear her collection of earrings, necklaces, and fabric prints with their images! Much research has shown that one could pile up a mountain of flesh killed over a year by a single cat. Part of the problem with these very efficient predators is that they are subsidized by humans with food, so that they exist in the area in higher numbers than if they had to gather their own. Audrey’s cameras photographed five cats in the Marsh, but Board member George Ziminsky commented that he knew of five others that weren’t captured on film.

Nicole used a different collection method, putting a version of carbon paper in a box so that any animal entering to reach bait at the back would leave footprints. She got 122 “hits,” including raccoons, opossums, and one ermine (!). Invasive species were mostly rats and cats. Nicole discussed a good mix of native vs invasive species, but again noted the impact that cats can have on native species. Both research papers and their associated PowerPoint presentations are on the AMIC computer.

By Elliott Dabill

Cats & Dragonflies Discussed

On May 27, FOAM continued its free lecture series with a double presentation from HSU wildlife students Audrey Sohikian and Nicole Clement, who carried out senior projects at the Marsh. Audrey used six camera traps to photograph anything that walked by, although her focus was on domestic cats that might be preying on some of the 270 species of birds mentioned in her paper. She started her presentation by announcing that she was a cat lover, which matters because her research report goes on to describe the devastating effects even one cat can have on anything cat-sized and smaller.

Much research has shown that one could pile up a mountain of flesh killed over a year by a single cat. Part of the problem with these very efficient predators is that they are subsidized by humans with food, so that they exist in the area in higher numbers than if they had to gather their own. Audrey’s cameras photographed five cats in the Marsh, but Board member George Ziminsky commented that he knew of five others that weren’t captured on film.
Application for Membership on the FOAM Board of Directors
for a 3-year term beginning October 2014

FOAM by-laws allow for individuals to request nomination for election to the Board of Directors. The election will be held by mailed ballot prior to the Annual Meeting. Information about nominees will be sent to all members in early September as part of the Call to the Annual Membership Meeting process. To insure inclusion in the membership mailing, this form must be received by Friday, August 29.

Questions? Contact Mary Burke at 707-599-1212, e-mail mburke@caltrout.org.

1. I would like to be a candidate for the Board of Directors for a 3-year term beginning in October 2014.

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone (home/cell) ____________________________ e-mail ____________________________

2. I have read and accept the provisions of the “Specific Duties of Board Members” (details on reverse)

☒ Attend the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors and actively participate in its decision-making process.
☒ Commit to at least four (4) hours a month of additional activities, which can include staffing the Interpretive Center, leading tours, and/or participating on at least one committee or special project.
☒ Participate to the extent possible toward the success of public events that promote the Marsh.
☒ Assist with fundraising by making a personal donation so as to be a current member of FOAM and solicit donations from friends and individuals known to support our goals.

3. Candidate statement: Suggested content — What is your vision for the Marsh, your area of active interest in the Marsh, any related background/expertise? (Continue on separate sheet if needed.)

Mail to Sue Leskiw at 5440 Cummings Rd, Eureka CA 95503 or scan and e-mail to sueleskiw@suddenlink.net. Deadline for receipt: Friday, August 29.
**FOAM Officers & Standing Committees**

*The Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of all FOAM activities. Working together, its membership assures that the work needed to fulfill FOAM's mission is accomplished.*

**Board Officers:** Responsible for timely conduct of meetings, correspondence, financial accounting, and making sure all task-related positions are filled.

- **President:** Notice and call meetings, prepare and send agendas and supporting documents; chair meetings. Responsible for day-to-day, routine management of FOAM; responsible for advising Board of vacancies and upcoming needs. Recruit staff for standing positions with help of full Board
- **Vice President:** Fulfill duties of President when necessary.
- **Secretary:** Take minutes at meetings, prepare and submit to president in time for inclusion with agenda of upcoming meeting; record correspondence by type and addressee; pick up and distribute mail, maintain Minutes Book with copies on file at AMIC.
- **Treasurer:** Maintain financial records, submit periodic reports as requested; pay bills and maintain checkbook; track budget on a monthly basis.

**Standing Committees:** Need not be a Board Member to fill these positions but all Board Members are expected to contribute substantially to at least one of these activities and report as necessary to the full Board. Some positions can be combined but all must be filled by name.

- **Tour & Volunteer Coordinator:** Be actively involved with docents to know their strengths, interests, etc. Coordinate and direct docent training program; maintain active pool of volunteers; find a docent for every Saturday tour; keep Board informed as to status of docent/volunteer program.
- **UPWIND Editor:** Produce UPWIND quarterly (January, April, July, October); edit and layout for printing; find volunteers as needed to assist with copying, mailing, etc. Must know desktop publishing or have reliable access to same.
- **Mailing Coordinator:** Label, sort, and deliver UPWIND mailing to post office. Be knowledgeable about regulations relating to non-profit bulk mailing.
- **Membership Coordinator:** Track dues and membership status, maintain up-to-date membership list; make mailing labels available as needed; send thank you notes to donors.
- **Publicity Coordinator:** Send releases to publicize FOAM activities and mission; maintain up-to-date publicity mailing list; coordinate with outside groups to promote interest in Marsh.
- **Special Events Coordinator:** Recruit a chair and a working committee for each event as needed. Responsible for scheduling and staffing special events as agreed upon by Board in September of each year. Traditionally, these have been Godwit Days in April and the Annual Meeting in September. Additional events include exhibit openings, art exhibits, educational events.
- **Exhibit Coordinator:** Work with City to facilitate and fund exhibits at AMIC. Plan and mount special, temporary exhibits. Report to Board as to exhibit progress and needs.
- **Education Coordinator:** Develop materials and programs that bring FOAM mission to public: Wetlands on Wheels (WOW), bird guides; up-to-date docent manual, submit articles to UPWIND, etc.
- **Habitat Enhancement:** Study and advise on issues relating to integrity of marsh habitat Represent FOAM at City planning meetings and Council meetings that affect the Marsh and immediate vicinity.
- **Community Education Liaison:** Respond to requests from government entities, scientists, etc, regarding how the Arcata system works and might be adapted to needs of person inquiring. Report these requests to Board and UPWIND editor. (Information and referral — not professional consulting.) Consult with local wetlands projects (especially school related) as requested to enhance their programs.
- **Webpage Coordinator:** Post FOAM publicity materials on the Internet -- lectures, art exhibits, special walks, UPWIND articles, etc. Serve as liaison with city to link through Arcata's homepage or obtain separate domain for FOAM. Design pages that display bylaws, membership application, photos, historical material, and other information to promote FOAM's goals.
was all it took. Through the tutelage of my husband, I learned the right combinations of sand and Portland cement, dyes, and fiberglassing. I see exciting things to create all around my 10 acres on Kneeland Mountain. I loved having cement figurines in my garden, but could not believe how much they cost, and now I know why! I wanted to be able to supply our local area where I was born and raised with the figurines I enjoy around my home at an affordable price. I provide specific designs at Trinidad Trading Company, Garden Gate, Moonrise Herbs, the Natural History Museum, Freshwater Glen Farm Stand, Eureka Natural Foods, Ferndale Emporium, and River Lodge Gift Shop. These wonderful local shops that will delight your senses showcase Humboldt County artisans.

Dyes and sealants in my pieces are water based with the lowest amount of chemicals I can find. I never discard a piece I create: they find homes, missing ears and all, adorning my garden paths. Reach me at gardenfigurines@yahoo.com.

Keep Up with FOAM Events

Find out what’s going on at the Arcata Marsh by sharing your e-mail with FOAM. We promise not to overwhelm you with messages—expect to receive 1-2 per month reminding you about lectures, art receptions/shows, and invasive plant work days. We might also piggyback events from like-minded nonprofit groups, so you don’t miss something of interest to you. Why not give the FOAM e-mail list a try by sending a message to info@arcatamarshfriends.org?

Recognition & Thanks, April-July 2014

❖ Best Friends ($100+): Susan Halpin*; Humboldt Traders; Lorraine Miller-Wolf
❖ Sponsor ($50): Rachel Carlson*
❖ Friends: Sam Burke; Thomas Cairns & Family; Janette Heartwood*; Glen & DeeAnn Jones; Margaret Lasak; Lance Hardie & Grace Marton; Marsha Mielke; Carol Monè; Sue Lee & Archie Mossman; Susan O’Connor; Carol & CJ Ralph; Robin Rusk Family*; Frank Schmidt; Frank & Christel Shaughnessy; Patricia Smith & Frederick Pierce; Gwen Thoele
❖ Donations: Katy Allen ($100); Talia Rose ($30 from art show sales); Alex Stillman (donation box)

* = New member
Mark Your Calendar for:

White-tailed Kite Movie, Aug. 15
Candidate Application Deadline, Aug. 30
McDaniel Slough Lecture, Sept. 19
    (with special tour on Sept. 20)
Day of Caring/Coastal Cleanup:
    Spartina Abatement at AMWS, Sept. 20
FOAM Annual Meeting &
    Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Oct. 5

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         www.arcatamarshfriends.org

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

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.
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.