

Research Grant Awards

In 2004, FOAM initiated a program to support Humboldt State student research projects related to the Arcata Marsh. The program initially was funded by a bequest from the estate of Sylvia Fisher, on behalf of her late son, Marcus, who enjoyed visiting the Marsh. When the bequest was exhausted in 2011, new funding was provided by a donation from FOAM Life Members Richard Sanborn and Calista Sullivan.

2004: Ginger Tennant, a graduate student with Frank Shaughnessy in the Humboldt State Department of Biological Sciences, was awarded \$400 to support her study of the role of nutrient limitation in determining eelgrass shoot density in Humboldt Bay.

2004: Jesse Conklin and Tia Adams, graduate students with Mark Colwell in the Humboldt Wildlife Department, were awarded \$300 for their investigation of winter roost site fidelity by dunlin.

2005: Corey Jones was awarded \$175 for his project investigating the effects of antibiotic concentrations on nitrogen uptake in duckweed. He is a graduate student advised by Kristine Brenneman in the Humboldt Department of Fisheries Biology's Wastewater Utilization Program.

2005: Eric Zielke, an undergraduate in Humboldt's Environmental Resources Engineering Department, received \$100 to further his project investigating microbial fuel cell technology using Arcata Marsh water. His adviser is Charles Chamberlin.

2006/7: Erin Atkin received \$750 to support her project investigating genetic variation and dispersal of northern California's coastal river otters. Erin will collect otter scat from six study sites, including the Arcata Marsh, and extract DNA to determine genetic variation. This will provide insight into factors (such as geography) that influence genetic divergence, as well as estimate population size. Her adviser is Brian Arbogast of Humboldt's Department of Biological Sciences.

2006/7: Melissa Kreye received \$250 to support her project investigating metal accumulation in steelhead reared in reclaimed wastewater. She is a graduate student advised by Kristine Brenneman in the Humboldt Department of Fisheries Biology's Wastewater Utilization Program.

2009: Mary Burke received \$1275 (and an additional \$790 grant in 2010) to support her project to assess the Arcata Marsh for carbon sequestration potential. She planned to assess each component of the wetland as a source or sink of carbon. If the marsh is determined to be a net sink for carbon, it could potentially be registered as a carbon offset project. Her advisor was Robert Gearheart, emeritus professor of Environmental Engineering. Her thesis was completed in 2011, with a copy in the FOAM library.

2011: Ted Torgerson received \$1155 for travel and supplies to study latrine site selection and habitat use of a coastal river otter population. Also in 2011, Hilary Cosby received \$500 for travel and supplies to research diet and activity of river otters, based on seasons and

ecosystems. Both are advised by Dr Micaela Szykman Gunther in the HSU Wildlife Department.

2013: Kelsey McDonald received a \$761 grant to support her study of tidal seed dispersal of *Spartina densiflora*, an invasive cordgrass. Her adviser is Alison O'Dowd in the HSU Department of Environmental Sciences and Management.

On completion of their studies, recipients are expected to present their findings via a public lecture and to donate a copy of their thesis to the FOAM library.