



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 19, Issue 2, Spring 2012

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: Ocean/Bay Activities June 9... Marsh Work Days... Wildlife Biology Camp... Volunteer Training Held... Thanks to Godwit Days Volunteers... Adam's First Tour... Marsh on Radio... Science Fair Award... Plant Walk... FOAM on Facebook... McDaniel Slough Grant... Student Bird Art Contest Results... June & July Artists... New Signs & Bench Installed... Calendar... Donors



Above: FOAM Board member Mary Burke helps a young participant enjoy an aquatic critter touch tank. Center top: Making oyster shell refrigerator magnets. Photos by Sue Leskiw.



July 2011 work day participants. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

Upcoming & Recent Marsh Work Days

Seven California Conservation Corps members, plus Sarah Stawacz visiting from Michigan, joined habitat concerns chair George Ziminsky for a pre-Godwit Days Marsh clean-up event. The volunteers removed Scotch broom, pampas grass, and English ivy from many locations. George reports that the CCCs were great to work with and expressed interest in future Arcata workdays.

It just so happens that the twice-yearly Marsh work day cosponsored by FOAM and the City of Arcata is set for Saturday, July 21. Participants will remove non-native invasive plants and pick up trash. Bring gloves and dress to get dirty; tools and refreshments provided. Meet at first parking lot on South I Street at 9 am. For more information, call Dennis Houghton at 707-825-2163.

Ocean/Bay Activities June 9

FOAM will be offering free educational activities at the Interpretive Center between 10 am and 2 pm in conjunction with Oceans Week. Dave Couch will put together a "touch tank" of bay and ocean-dwelling creatures to interact with. Free ocean-related kids craft activities — such as stringing bracelets with fish charms, making oyster-shell refrigerator magnets, and putting together egg carton oysters — will be offered.

Volunteers will be needed to help set up, clean up, and supervise the kids craft activities. If you can give a few hours on Saturday, June 9, contact Sue at 442-5444 (sueleskiw@suddenlink.net).

2011-12 Board of Directors & Officers

Officers

President: Sue Leskiw (also UPWIND Editor; Publicity; Exhibits; Scrapbook; Website) — 707-442-5444

Vice-President: Elliott Dabill (also Education; Computer) — 707-445-3836

Secretary: Katy Allen (also Education; Exhibits; Membership) — 707-822-2312

Treasurer: Art Barab (also Exhibits; Saturday Tours) — 707-826-7017

Other Board Members

Leslie Anderson (Design; Art Exhibits; Exhibits; Website) — 707-822-6444

Mary Burke (Education; Website) — 707-599-1212

David Couch (Special Events) — 707-839-4253

Megan McCue (Education; Art Exhibits) — 707-826-7487

John McNeely (Art Exhibits) — 860-248-0745

Lance Torgerson (Education) — 707-269-0576

Janet Zich (Membership; Exhibits; Facebook; Website) — 707-822-4660

George Ziminsky (Habitat Concerns) — 707-826-9240

FOAM website: www.arcatamarshfriends.org



FOAM Board member Elliott Dabill shows campers how to dissect a clam. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

Wildlife Biology Camp July 10

For the fifth year, FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society will be cosponsoring one day of activities during the Wildlife Biology week of the City's Natural Resources Science Camp. Tuesday, July 10 will be the day for FOAM activities that center around a "Mud Walk" to the Bay to collect "critters" for viewing with our flex-cam and under microscopes. The camp is for kids age 10-12.

So far, Elliott Dabill, Melinda Bailey, Jean Santi, Bob Rasmussen, and Sue Leskiw have volunteered to help with this event. We could use at least one more person to help set up, operate, and clean up the microscope stations. Contact Sue at 707-442-5444 (sueleskiw@suddenlink.net) if you are available to volunteer.

Spring Docent Training Held

On March 10-11, FOAM held its spring docent training, organized by Elliott Dabill. Three people attended the sessions taught by Bob Rasmussen, Dave Couch, Rich Ridenhour, Jenny Hanson, and Elliott Dabill. Those completing the training were Tyler Waterman and Joe and Veronica Orosz. FOAM thanks the instructors for sharing their time and expertise.

Thanks, Godwit Helpers

Volunteers who staffed the FOAM booth at the Godwit Days Festival in April were Milt Boyd, Esther Gilchrist, Bob Hughes, Megan McCue, John McNeeley, Bev Post, and Janet Zich. Katy Allen set up the booth and Sue Leskiw took it down.

Darlene Marlow, Sue Leskiw, Susan Ornelas, Chris Mello, Jean Harvey, Sarah Stawasz, and Katy Allen – plus the high-energy high school students from the Sequoia Park Roots & Shoots Club (Cesar Murillo, Marycarmen Murillo, Hayley Corral, and Talia Walker) — welcomed 80-100 children and parents for nature craft activities.

Mary Burke led two children's bird walks at the Marsh and Dave Couch led a field trip of the wastewater treatment plant. Helpers who hung the record number of 721 pieces of student bird art were Katy Allen, Leslie Anderson, Anita Leipper, Sue Leskiw, Syn-dee Noel, Gil and Mediha Saliba and grandson Silas, Jean Santi, Sarah Stawasz, Lis Swingdler, and George Ziminsky.



Top: Showing off a hanging bird made during FOAM nature craft activities. Bottom: Roots & Shoots volunteers Talia Walker, Marycarmen Murillo, Cesar Murillo, and Hayley Corral. Photos by Sue Leskiw.

Leading My First Marsh Tour

By Adam Webster

Leading my first tour of the Arcata Marsh was a wonderful experience. Before starting, I was nervous about a few things: Would I get friendly guests? Would it rain and deter anyone from attending? How would I remember everything for an hour and a half? But the weather smiled on us and my nervousness evaporated away as we left the Interpretive Center. We were a large group of interested and friendly people with evenly distributed age groups. I established credibility at the beginning, telling them I was a student of Environmental Management and Protection at HSU. They thought that was exciting.

I wanted to talk about everything that lives in the Marsh, so my theme for the walk was "the Marsh provides perfect habitat for life of every type." I said it enough to be sure they all remembered it. We started off with the red flowering currants and discovered how they feed hummingbirds with nectar and then other animals with their berries. At one point, a frog jumped across the trail right in front of me, making for a great interpretive moment about habitat provided by the Marsh. We made a clockwise circuit of the Marsh, walking past Mt Trashmore and up South I Street.

Timing was perfect: we got back to the Interpretive Center right at 3:30 pm without rushing. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. A few visitors even hung around with me to see if we could spot some black-crowned night herons near the log pond. We found them hanging out right next to the trail.

Marsh on Radio

KQED's California Report radio show broadcast a feature on May 4-6 entitled "Arcata Marsh provides a scenic solution to a messy problem." MP3 audio can be downloaded from <http://www.californiareport.org/archive/R201205041630/b>.





Science Fair Award Given

By Elliott Dabill

For the seventh year, FOAM gave \$50 to the best Humboldt County Science Fair entry related to wetlands. The winner was Mitchell Monge, an 8th grader from St Mary's School, with a project titled "The Effect of Water Salinity on Freshwater Plants." He was compelled to try this experiment after the tsunami in Japan caused him to wonder about the effects of sea water on freshwater plants. Mitchell changed water from fresh to saline, but saw no effect in the few days he had available. We hope that he can repeat the experiment someday when there is more time for observation and that the \$50 award encourages Mitchell to stay interested in wetlands science.

A Crazy Weather Plant Walk

By Jenny Hanson

Only people with good all-weather gear could have been attracted to this introduction to non-native and native plants at the Arcata Marsh on March 31! It was in turns sunny, grey but dry, pouring with rain, or growling with thunder. Seven of us headed outside, and managed to get almost half-way around the log pond before being chased inside by thunder, black skies, and a heavy downpour. Most of the flowers in bloom were non-native herbs such as henbit (*Lamium purpureum*), spring vetch (*Vicia sativa*), cranesbill (*Geranium molle*), wild garlic (*Allium triquetrum*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), plus a big Darwin's barberry (*Berberis darwinii*) shrub. But of the natives, the most dramatic blooms were the trees and shrubs: red alder (*Alnus rubra*), big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*),

blueblossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), and the last of the willow catkins (*Salix*) and Oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) flowers. After our field trip, some of us returned to the Interpretive Center to look at plants through 10-power lenses.

The walk was co-sponsored by FOAM and the California Native Plant Society (Northcoast Chapter), and led by me and Rich Ridenhour. Rich's two-page list of "100 most common and/or conspicuous plants of the Arcata Marsh" is available free in the Center's brochure rack. Information includes common name, botanical name (inevitably in need of updating), and locations where the plants can be found at the Marsh.

A project in development is a photo album documenting these plants. Help from photographers is welcome; please contact me at 707-444-2553 for details.

Follow
FOAM on
Facebook



[www.facebook.com/
Friends.of.the.Arcata.
Marsh](http://www.facebook.com/Friends.of.the.Arcata.Marsh)

Arcata Receives Grant for McDaniel Slough Project

The City of Arcata's multi-phase McDaniel Slough Restoration and Enhancement Project was the only California project to receive a \$75,000 Small North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant in 2012. The McDaniel Slough area was historically a connected wetland system of tidal estuarine and freshwater habitats. The project restores lost hydrologic function and habitat to 222 acres of former estuarine habitat, as well as enhances 33 acres of freshwater wetlands. It provides one of the best opportunities on Humboldt Bay to restore coastal landscape processes to over 250 acres of former tidelands because unlike other areas, the site is not constrained by the railroad or Highway 101.

The McDaniel Slough project helps establish a connectivity of habitat encompassing over 1,300 acres of local, state, and federally protected lands near the north edge of Humboldt Bay. The project is adjacent or near to Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Jacoby Creek Land Trust holdings, the Arcata Baylands, and the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary and is incorporated in the 508-acre California Department of Fish & Game (CDF&G) Mad River Slough Wildlife Area. The Project Area is part of the larger Bay ecosystem that accommodates waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, fish, and other water-associated wildlife. Humboldt Bay is second only to San Francisco Bay in the number and diversity of migratory water-associated birds wintering in the coastal segment of California's Pacific Flyway. It is one of the state's most important stopovers site for migrating birds. Humboldt Bay (including the Eel River mouth) is recognized as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site of International Importance for shorebirds (greater than 100,000 shorebirds/yr or greater than 10% of a flyway population).

Human services include improved flood capacity and sediment routing as tidegate removal and resulting tidal scour increase channel capacity. Enhanced palustrine wetlands provide water quality benefits by increasing retention of stormwater, providing settling of solids and biological treatment of potential pollutants prior to waters entering the McDaniel Slough estuary and Humboldt Bay.

The \$75,000 NAWCA grant is matched by over \$85,000 in contributions from Redwood Region Audubon, FOAM, CDF&G, and the City. The McDaniel Slough Restoration and Enhancement Project has also received over \$1.5 million in contributions and in-kind support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, California Coastal Conservancy, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, CDF&G, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For more information, visit www.cityofarcata.org.

Student Bird Art Contest Brings Record Entries

Some 721 — a new record! — local K-12 students pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the Ninth Annual Student Bird Art Contest held in association with the 17th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. 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 are hung at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May.

Prizes totaling \$550 were given out by FOAM and RRAS. Thirty-five of those were monetary prizes, plus 29 honorable mentions. Judges were Leslie Anderson, Louise-Bacon Ogden, Art Barab, Gary Bloomfield, Denise Homer, Sue Leskiw, Marsha Mello, and Sara Starr.

The winners were:

Kindergarten

1st Place: Henry Fulk, Alder Grove Charter, Pileated Woodpecker

2nd Place: Bella Feinstein, Fuente Nueva Charter, Varied Thrush

3rd Place: Elana Griffin, Casterlin Elementary, American Goldfinch

Grades 1&2

1st Place: Owen Harling, River Homeschooling Collective (Orleans), Marbled Murrelet

1st Place: Eva Stubblefield, Fuente Nueva Charter, Western Grebe

2nd Place: Daniel House, Morris Elementary, Mallard

2nd Place: Finn Murphy, Union Street Charter, Bald Eagle

3rd Place: Enza Zeppegnomendonca, Fuente Nueva Charter, American Robin

3rd Place: Roselyn Soto, River Homeschooling Collective (Orleans), Pileated Woodpecker

Grade 3

1st Place: Anderson Fulk, Alder Grove Charter, Northern Flickers

2nd Place: Cheyenne Weekly, Pacific Union, American Kestrel

3rd Place: Alexa Morehouse, Pacific Union, Double-crested Cormorant



Winning artwork by Perrin Turney, Olivia Robinson, Enza Zeppegnomendonca, and Jacquelyn Opalach.

Grade 4

1st Place: Megan Lukasha, Willow Brook Learning Academy, Spotted Owl

1st Place: Marina Benson, Cutten Elementary, Barn Owl

2nd Place: Acacia Beard, Alder Grove Charter, Peregrine/Tufted Puffins/Pileated Woodpeckers

2nd Place: Elias Surber, South Bay School, Red-tailed Hawk

3rd Place: Sam Torgerson, South Bay School, Western Grebe

3rd Place: Ella Villamor, Union Street Charter, Great Egret

Grade 5

1st Place: Alexandra Diers-Parker, Union Street Charter, Anna's Hummingbird

2nd Place: Jacquelyn Opalach, Arcata Elementary, Wood Duck

3rd Place: Perrin Turney, Kneeland School, Northern Flicker

Grades 6&7

1st Place: Olivia Robinson, Sunnybrae Middle School, Osprey

1st Place: Mina Mayer, Jacoby Creek, Great Egret

2nd Place: Angelica Garrison, Junction Elementary, Great Blue Heron

2nd Place: Olivia Kline, Coastal Grove Charter, Osprey

3rd Place: Connor Richmond, Homeschooled, California Quail

3rd Place: Morgan Bailey, Kneeland School, Barn Owl

Grades 8-12

1st Place: Savannah Wick, South Fork High, American Goldfinch

2nd Place: She'ifa Punla-Green, North Coast Performing Arts & Preparatory Academy, Spotted Owls

3rd Place: Lucas Woodard, South Fork High, Peregrine Falcon

Best Depiction of Bird in Its Habitat Award

Isaiah Cappelen, Jasmine Collings, Virginia Houle, William Logan, Dakota Young

Honorable Mentions

Bianca Barajas, Cassandra Brousseau-Valvo, Megan Cardoza, Ruby Devoe, Tobias Forth, Kylee Gartan, Nathan Glass, Eliza Jane Haley, Michelle Holden, Lauren House, Naomi Huddleston, Holly James, Sierra Kapale, River Kiener, Fiona Koval, Gwyneth Krierim-Dozier, Mitchell Lyell, Callie O'Connell, Eva Pearlingi, Emily Pesch, Tyler Petrusha, Venice Pope, Sienna Radelfinger, Emily Rogers, Wally Siedschlag, Alison Silver, Iris Van Bebbler-Wiest, Kelen Vasquez-O'Callahan, and Crystal Xiong



Alders at Houda Point.

JUNE ARTIST

VAUGHN HUTCHINS

I have been photographing around Humboldt County for the past 35 years. While I am often in the redwoods with my camera, my images at the Interpretive Center are from a self-directed project working with the light I found around Humboldt Bay and the areas that surround it.

I employ large-format view cameras that use sheets of film from 4"x5" to 11"x14" in size. The images in my show are from negatives that are 4"x5", printed on traditional silver gelatin photo paper. I use the qualities of light I find to create for viewers a sense of place – a contemplative look at the environment that we live in and share with others.

I am a member of the Arcata Artisans Cooperative, which operates an art gallery on the Arcata Plaza. I also work at HSU, taking care of the teaching darkroom for the art department. I spent a decade working as a wilderness ranger in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness area and now live in Eureka with my three 15-year-old sons.

JULY ARTIST

WILLIAM WOOD

All the bird photographs in this show were taken during the last year at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. To capture these images, I stopped by the Marsh several times a week when weather permitted. Many of the close-up images were shot using a digital camera and a mirror lens with an effective focal length of 1500 mm.

I started photographing wildlife over 40 years ago. Bird photography can be very challenging and a matter of luck: being at the right place at the right time. Photographing birds at the Marsh is easier than in other places because they are used to people on the trails and do not flush as readily.



*Top: American Crow.
Bottom: Northern Shoveler.*



Installing replacement bench at Klopp Lake. Photo by George Ziminsky.



New Signs Installed; Replacement Bench in Place

The first batch of new interpretive signs have been installed at the Marsh: 4 along the trails (the one shown is at east side of, Klopp Lake, along Butcher's Slough), the Wingspan sign on the porch of the Interpretive Center, and 6 panels on the Butler Memorial kiosk to the north of Mt Trashmore.

The memorial bench for Rosalind Novick on the south side of Klopp Lake has been replaced (see Fall 2011 UPWIND).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

June — photographs by Vaughn Hutchins

June 9 — Ocean/Bay Activity Day, 10 am-2 pm (see p. 1)

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

July — bird photographs by William Wood

July 12 — FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

July 21 — Work Day at the Marsh, 9 am-1 pm (see p. 1)

Recognition & Thanks, February-April 2012

- ☛ Best Friends (\$100): Claire Perricelli; Marian Perry
- ☛ Sponsors (\$50): Fred & Doris Ferguson; Frances Madrone & Patric Nagle
- ☛ Friends: Billie Bresnahan (Chico); Vaida Cosgrove; Elliott Dabill; Esther Gilchrist; Karen Harlan (Newhall, CA); Alan Laurent; Mary Ellen Mahoney; Keith Mobbs (Brisbane, CA); Sue Lee & Archie Mossman; Carol Moné Presnall; Jean Santi & Whitney Buck; Frank & Christel Shaughnessy; Lance Torgerson; Jane Wilson; Janet & Art Zich
- ☛ Special Donors: Chandler & Paula Dawson (Mill Valley, \$160); Robert Ehrstrom (\$100 for autographed Marsh bird book); Sara Turner, matted wildlife stamp sets (donated to Godwit Days silent auction)