



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 20, Issue 2, Spring 2013

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: Student Bird Art Reception... AMIC 20th Anniversary Celebration... Share Your e-mail... Oyster Talk... Marsh Work Day... Phenology Project... Speed Limit... Plant Photo Album... Research Grant... New Signs Installed... Thanks, Godwit Days Volunteers... Science Fair Award... Duck Day... Student Bird Art Contest Results... Teacher Fair... I Love Mud... Slower-Speed Tours... Earthquake Lecture... Otter Research... Brant & Eelgrass... McDaniel Slough Update... Marsh Trail Stewards... June & July Artists... Visitors... Calendar... Donors

*Please Join FOAM for a
Reception to Honor
2013 Student Bird Art
Contest Winners
Friday, May 10
4:30 to 6:30 pm
at the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center*



All are invited to come celebrate the creativity of Humboldt County school children, in this 10th year of our contest. Copies of the first, second, and third place prize-winning entries—plus Best Bird in Habitat awards—will be on display. Refreshments, including special “Hoot Owl” cookies, will be served.

Keep Informed about FOAM Events

There has been a lot going on with FOAM at the Interpretive Center this year. We try to keep our members updated between issues of UPWIND via our Facebook page and media public service announcements. But if you want to be sure to hear about upcoming lectures, receptions, and other events, please send an e-mail to sueleskiw@suddenlink.net. Rest assured that you will not be besieged with messages; one per month is the norm.

I'm Turning 20 and ...



You're Invited to the Party!

FOAM & the City of Arcata are sponsoring a **Reception & Panel Discussion** to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center. The event will be from 6-9 pm on either Thursday, May 30 or Friday, May 31 at the Interpretive Center. Come enjoy refreshments followed by a trip back in time with those involved in the early days of the Arcata Marsh. Seating is limited to 65 people, so reserve your place by calling 707-826-2359.

2012-13 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

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

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

Betsy Elkinton (Education)—301-356-0571

Megan McCue (Education)—707-633-6226

John McNeely (Education)—860-248-0745

Lance Torgerson (Art Exhibits; 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

Oyster Talk June 14

Get psyched for the Arcata Oyster Festival by attending a talk by FOAM Board member David Couch about oyster biology, oyster species cultured for food, and a history of oysters and their culture in Humboldt Bay. This latest installment of the free public lecture series sponsored by FOAM will be held at the Interpretive Center from 7:30-9 pm on Friday, June 14. Seating is limited to 65, so call 707-826-2359 to guarantee your place.

Next Marsh Work Day 7/20

The twice-yearly Marsh work day cosponsored by FOAM and the City of Arcata is set for Saturday, July 20 from 9 am to 1 pm. Bring gloves and dress to get dirty; tools, snacks, and drinks will be provided by the City. Contact Dennis Houghton at 707-825-2163 for more information on work location and tasks.

Phenology Project Seeks Volunteers

Are you a frequent Marsh visitor interested in collecting data about vegetation changes at the Marsh? Redwood National Park is interested in establishing a site at the Marsh where volunteers would observe and fill out data sheets about specific plants. This is part of a national network (USA-NPN) that examines the impacts of climate change on plants and animals.

Phenology refers to key seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year—such as flowering, emergence of insects, and migration of birds—especially their timing and relationship with weather and climate. The USA-NPN developed [Nature's Notebook](#), a project focused on collecting standardized ground observations of phenology by researchers, students, and volunteers. The organization is hoping to collect 1 million observation records in 2013.

For more information, contact RNP ecologist Stassia Samuels at 707-465-7784 or go to www.USANPN.org.



It's a Start...

By George Ziminsky

Vehicular traffic on South I Street in the Arcata Marsh has tended to move too fast. With no speed limit signs, long straightaways with 2 sharp and blind turns, intermittent and soft shoulders, no sidewalks, frequent pedestrians and bicyclists, and many unmarked trail/roadway intersections, it is a small miracle there has yet to be a serious accident.

FOAM Board member George Ziminsky and Arcata Police Ranger Richard Bergstresser have lobbied the City's Transportation and Safety Committee to address the issue. A traffic study was conducted near the first parking area on I St to gain some basic data about the situation. All parties involved agreed that excessive signage should be avoided, to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the Marsh, so subtle measures like speed limits painted on the road surface will be employed. Speed bumps/tables are another potential measure being discussed. Stay tuned for more developments this summer and help keep our Marsh safe for everyone to enjoy.

New Plant Photo Album

FOAM volunteer Jenny Hanson recently completed an update of the Marsh plant photo album on the table in the Interpretive Center. The original album, initiated by former FOAM Board member Melinda Bailey, was incomplete, so Jenny, with the aid of photographer Tanya Wold, filled in the gaps and reorganized the book.

The first half of the album is devoted to flowers, subdivided by color (white; yellow to orange; red, pink, purple, blue; greenish to brown). The remainder is separated into ferns/rushes/sedges, shrubs, trees, wetland plants (saltwater and freshwater), and grasses. Each plant usually has 2 pictures: one showing it in its habitat and the other a close-up. The text below the photos includes the plant's common and scientific name, where it is native, and a little information about it.

If you are willing to share photos of Marsh plants that are not in the album, or if you have updated information about current botanical names, please contact FOAM at info@arcatamarshfriends.org.

Thank you, Jenny and Tanya, for your dedication to the Marsh!



Research Grant Award

FOAM has agreed to fund a \$761 research grant to study tidal seed dispersal of *Spartina densiflora* (an invasive cordgrass). Kelsey McDonald is a graduate student in the HSU Department of Environmental Sciences and Management whose major professor is Alison O'Dowd. Her thesis will examine how long *Spartina* seeds are capable of dispersing on bay and ocean currents and whether seeds tend to leave salt marsh sites to circulate in the bay. Her research uses floating mosquito netting to collect seeds in high-flow tidal creeks. When her thesis work is completed, Kelsey will provide a copy to the FOAM library and give a public lecture at the Interpretive Center. FOAM research grants are funded by a donation from Richard Sanborn and Calista Sullivan.



(Top) City workers install a metal “tree-trunk” base for the new sign by the Interpretive Center. (Bottom) Finished sign. Photos by George Ziminsky.

More Interpretive Signs

Three more colorful signs designed by Leslie Anderson were installed at the Arcata Marsh before Godwit Days. A “Migrations” sign graces the south side of Allen Marsh, a “Salt Marsh” sign informs on the way to the Oxidation Ponds, and an “Animal Homes” sign can be found on the path leading up to the Interpretive Center.

Thanks, Godwit Days Helpers

Volunteers who staffed the FOAM booth at the Godwit Days Festival in April were Katy Allen, Art Barab, Milt Boyd, Sue Leskiw, John McNeely, Bev Post, and Janet Zich. Katy and Sue set up the booth and Sue and Janet took it down.

Helpers who hung over 570 pieces of student bird art were Katy Allen, Sue Leskiw, Syn-dee Noel, Gil and Mediha Saliba, and George Ziminsky. The show was taken down by Alexa, Sue Leskiw, and Janet Zich.

Darlene Marlow, Sue Leskiw, Katy Allen, Sarah Fourby, Virginia Jimenez, and Mary Romaidis—plus

5 high-energy high school students from the Sequoia Park Roots & Shoots Club (Kendall Ludtke, Cesar Murillo, Marycarmen Murillo, Emily Simoni, and Talia Walker) and Charlotte Wehmeyer from the HSU student chapter of the California Waterfowl Association—welcomed over 50 children plus their responsible adults for nature craft activities. Stations were fish printing, peanut butter pinecone bird feeders, wooden bird calls, bird/owl paper hangers, oyster shell refrigerator magnets, and water cycle bracelets.

Mary Burke led two children’s bird walks at the Marsh and David Couch led a field trip of the wastewater treatment plant.



(Top) Creating a fish print. (Bottom) Nature crafts participants show off their bird calls. Photos by Sue Leskiw.

Science Fair Award Given

By Sue Leskiw

For the eighth year, FOAM gave \$50 to the best Humboldt County Science Fair entry related to wetlands. The winner was Alia Issa, an 8th grader from McKinleyville Middle School, with a project entitled “Swimming in Acid.” The purpose of her research was to investigate how rising atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels affect the calcium carbonate structures of sea animals. Alia conducted six different experiments, each with a different hypothesis concerning pH (acidity), salinity, CO₂ absorption, and calcium carbonate dissolution. She concluded that ocean pH would have to drop below 7.5 to have any noticeable impact on calcium carbonate.

In Alia’s thank-you note to FOAM, she relayed that science is her favorite subject and combining it with her love of the ocean inspired her to do the project. “I learned many things from these experiments and plan to do more research about global warming and ocean conditions in the future.”

Duck Day a Quacking Big Success

On February 23, FOAM and the HSU student chapter of the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) collaborated on a “Duck Day” of free educational activities for ages 5-12 at the Arcata Marsh. Activities included arts and crafts (drawing and coloring ducks; “Make Your Own Duck” out of rocks, feathers, and other natural materials) and hands-on educational stations (waterfowl ID; “What do I eat?”; importance to the ecosystem), plus guided walks out to Marsh ponds to identify ducks. Approximately 80 kids and parents attended.

Event volunteers were FOAM Board member Betsy Elkinton, local artists Louise Bacon-Ogden and Tim Clewell, and CWA club members David Orluck, Charlotte Wehmeyer, Maryjean Greitl, Blake Hubbard, Kent Barns, Samantha Smith, Elyssa Watford, Jessica Clark, Danielle Gerik, Joseph Trejo, and Brendan Leigh.

Follow
FOAM on
Facebook



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



(Top to bottom) Winning pieces by Kaylee Rocha, Dalice DeMars, Owen Harling, Ella Villamor, and Oliver Grant.

Student Bird Art Contest Celebrates First Decade

By Sue Leskiw

Over 570 local K-12 students pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the Tenth Annual Student Bird Art Contest held in association with the 18th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in April. FOAM again 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. In commemoration of the 10th year of the contest—which has attracted more than 4,600 entries over its first decade—FOAM is sponsoring a free public reception to honor this year's winners. All are invited to the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center on Friday, May 10, between 4:30 and 6:30 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 30 honorable mentions.

The winners were:

Kindergarten/Grade 1

1st Place: Lesl Sleeth-Keppler, CR Sleeth Academy, Bald Eagle

1st Place: Kaylee Rocha, Fieldbrook Elementary, Great Egret

2nd Place: Dalice DeMars, Orleans Elementary, American Avocet

2nd Place: Charles Young, Dow's Prairie Elementary, Spotted Owl

3rd Place: Meguire Bartosz, Fuente Nueva Charter, Cinnamon Teal

3rd Place: Oliver Corum, Junction Elementary, Chickadee

Grade 2

1st Place: Gabe Masters, Dow's Prairie Elementary, Golden Eagle

1st Place: Eva Devoe, Fuente Nueva Charter, Common Yellowthroat

2nd Place: Enza Zeppegno Mendonca, Fuente Nueva Charter, Common Yellowthroat

2nd Place: Sophia Phillips-Dar, Fuente Nueva Charter, Forster's Tern

3rd Place: Veda Raskin, Fuente Nueva Charter, Common Yellowthroat

3rd Place: Teryn Madison, Orleans Elementary, American Goldfinch

Grade 3

1st Place: Owen Harling, Junction Elementary, Belted Kingfisher

1st Place: Finn Murphy, Union Street Charter, American Kestrel

2nd Place: Mary Crow, Fuente Nueva Charter, Forster's Tern

3rd Place: Zea Weiss-Wynne, Fuente Nueva Charter, Marbled Godwit

Grade 4

1st Place: Emma Boykin, Junction Elementary, American Avocet

2nd Place: Alley Williams, South Bay School, American Goldfinch

3rd Place: Cheng-Yee Vang, South Bay School, Osprey

Grade 5

1st Place: Ella Villamor, Union Street Charter, Barn Swallow

2nd Place: Sophia Murray, Arcata Elementary, Anna's Hummingbirds

3rd Place: Rachel Walker, Forks of Salmon Elementary, American Wigeon

Grades 6 & 7

1st Place: Che-Mooch Logan, Orleans Elementary, Pileated Woodpecker

2nd Place: Oliver Grant, Mattole Elementary, Spotted Owl

3rd Place: Zackary Ward Rudin, Alder Grove Charter, Red-shouldered Hawk

Grades 8-12

1st Place: Desiree Trombla, South Fork High, Spotted Owl

2nd Place: Cirque Schlagenhaut, Alder Grove Charter, Belted Kingfisher

2nd Place: Nancy Lee, Zane Middle School, Varied Thrush

3rd Place: Kayla Nyberg, Zane Middle School, California Quail

3rd Place: Hezekia Blandford, Zane Middle School, Belted Kingfishers



Best Depiction of Bird in Habitat Award

Ruby Soto, Kindergarten, Junction Elementary; Ruth Amita Sullivan, Grade 2, Fieldbrook School; Acacia Beard, Grade 5, Alder Grove Charter; Ada Bavin, Grade 5, Fuente Nueva Charter; Maria Morehouse, Grade 6, Pacific Union

Honorable Mentions

Kindergarten: Alex Benway, Mistwood Montessori; Violet Curtis-Gabriel, Mistwood Montessori; Ahn-aleah Dixon, Mistwood Montessori; Ivan Logan, Ridgewood Elementary; Shekina McCullough, Forks of Salmon Elementary

Grade 1: Raquel Bell, Arcata Elementary; Naomi Iris Harrison, Redwood Prep Charter;

Malia Monk, Fuente Nueva Charter; Bruin Nave, Fuente Nueva Charter; Romey Prater, Willow Brook Learning Academy; Aati Tripp, Orleans Elementary

Grade 2: Wyatt Daynard, Morris Elementary; Danielle Marrs, Dow's Prairie Elementary; Allison McCray, Dow's Prairie Elementary

Grade 3: Rebecca Circe, Kneeland School; Espe Hoopman, Pacific Union; Theo Liotsakis, Forks of Salmon Elementary; Aiden Stokes, Fuente Nueva Charter

Grade 4: Devin Butcher, NG Ambrosini; Kyshia Donahue, Orleans Elementary; Kai Talamantes, South Bay School

Grades 5 & 6: Javon Mitchell, Orleans Elementary; Perrin Turney, Kneeland School

Grade 7: Sequoia Chastain, Willow Brook Learning Academy; Caitlin Foust, Hydesville School; Brenden Houseworth, Alder Grove Charter; Molly Mott, Hydesville School; Marlena Tavernier-Fine, Hydesville School

Grade 8: Maixia Chang, Zane Middle School; Maili Jewell, Zane Middle School; Norma Macias, Zane Middle School



Winners, Kindergarten through Grade 2. Photo by Art Barab.



Winners, Grades 3 through 5. Photo by Art Barab.



Winners, Grades 6-12. Photo by Art Barab.



(Top) FOAM Board member Betsy Elkinton helps a youngster spot birds. (Bottom) Tim Clewell points out duck coloration to aspiring artists at Duck Days. Photos by Justin Brice.

January Teacher Fair

By Katy Allen

On January 24, North Coast CREEC sponsored an Environmental Education Teacher Fair at the Natural History Museum in Arcata. The CREEC (California's Regional Environmental Education Community) Network is a project of the state Department of Education, HSU's Redwood Science Project, and the Natural History Museum. Board members Katy Allen and Betsy Elkinton staffed FOAM's table at the event, which also featured representatives from Friends of the Dunes, 4-H, the Wildlife Care Center, Sequoia Park Zoo, and several state and national park and wildlife organizations.

This second year of the Teacher Fair was better organized and offered more, generating much better attendance. Familiarizing local teachers and school personnel with the bounty of environmental information, field trips, and in-class presentations available in Humboldt County was well met. Betsy and I spoke with many teachers, HSU stu-

dent teachers, and interested parents about how a visit to the Arcata Marsh can supplement their science programs. By the end of the 2.5-hour event, the Museum was teeming with teachers, parents, school employees, and their children.



Betsy and Katy at FOAM table. Photo by Suzzana Fonesca.

I Love Mud Bilingual Event

On a chilly, windy early February afternoon, FOAM collaborated with Friends of the Dunes (FOD) to hold I Love Mud, a bilingual (Spanish) nature exploration event for kids and their adults. Some 110 people attended the free event at the Klopp Lake parking lot. FOAM Board members David Couch, Elliott Dabill, and Betsy Elkinton were among the 13 volunteers.

Hands-on activities included mudflat exploration (collecting and identifying mud-dwelling critters), finger painting with colored mud, bird beak buffet (associating bird beak shapes with types of food), and watching foraging birds through a spotting scope. FOAM welcomes future educational collaboration with local nonprofit groups.



Betsy Elkinton helps a young "Mudster" identify birds. Photo by Suzie Fortner.

Inaugural "Slower-Speed" Marsh Tour

By Jane Wilson

On February 26, 12 people gathered in the Klopp Lake parking lot to embark on FOAM's first Slower-Speed Marsh Tour. The walk was led by me and FOAM Board member John McNeely, a very knowledgeable birder. What a wonderful group turned out! Almost everyone knew about Arcata Bay history and pictures of the old wharf were not a surprise. Some were former Marsh volunteers. There was a father pulling twins in a red wagon and 2 people using walkers. There were quite a few different kinds of birds out, including a canvasback, and it was a beautiful, windless day.

We saw that 4 attendees wanted to stretch their legs, while others gathered at a good spot to look through John's scope and hear about the birds they could see. Therefore, we split the group in 2. My group walked about a mile to the other side of No-name Pond, then past salt marsh and Allen Marsh and across Mt Trashmore to the parking lot. A good time was had by all.

Join us on the last Tuesday of each month at 2 pm for our Slower-Speed Tour of the Marsh.



(Top) Jane Wilson and John McNeely lead walkers along the Klopp Lake levee. (Bottom) Meeting in the parking lot. Photos by Habib Robb Sadler.

Earthquakes & Tsunamis

By Elliott Dabill

Most people will survive the Big One (earthquake and tsunami) when it hits the North Coast, says Dr. Lori Dengler, who gave a free lecture sponsored by FOAM on February 22. Indeed, she said, even 10% mortality is unacceptable, now that we know what is happening and how to help ourselves. [Her PowerPoint notes are on the computer in the main room of the Interpretive Center and a safety brochure to prepare your home and family can be picked up from the brochure rack.]

Driving the trouble is plate tectonics. The Earth's surface moves in chunks. Where we live is a particularly interesting intersection of 3 of those plates (known as a triple junction). The San Andreas Fault that moves so much of the California coast ends at Petrolia, where it connects to the Mendocino fault heading west into the Pacific Ocean. North of those 2 faults, a plate of ocean rock called the Gorda Plate is diving (subducting) under the North American coast from Eureka up into Canada. The Gorda Plate becomes the Juan de Fuca plate north of Humboldt County, but the process is the same. This diving and grinding creates heat, melts rock, and has produced the Cascade Range of volcanoes, including Mount Shasta, Crater Lake, and Mt. St. Helens. The most urgent issue for us, though, is that the Gorda plate diving under the coastline builds up pressure that will be relieved in a big flap of the coastline rising and sinking during the big readjustment. The movement of land lifts water in the ocean, which then falls and creates the tsunami that rushes in to low areas onshore, and comes back in large pulses that may continue for more than a day. If you feel an earthquake that lasts for more than just a few seconds, move uphill quickly.

How far uphill should you move? If you are where the coast is level and flat, near the ocean, and feel an earthquake, grab your emergency backpack, corral the kids, and head uphill. A NOAA radio will give you

will give you details about the danger. Structural damage to your home or workplace has an evil twin: falling bookcases and glassware are dangerous enough to warrant thinking about beforehand. Need a checklist for preparation? Consult the brochure.

We could experience just an earthquake or just a tsunami, with different results and dangers. The Big One, however, would be a magnitude 9 or greater earthquake (imagine 5-10 minutes of severe shaking) and a wall of water over 20 feet high following the quake by just a few minutes. The movie "The Impossible" is a good depiction of a family enduring the Big One in Thailand in 2004.

We were lucky to have a world-class leader in earthquake science working at HSU who was willing to spend an evening with us talking about the inevitable disaster coming to our area. No one knows when it will come, but the fact that it's waiting to happen underscores Dr. Dengler's messages about preparation and practice to have the best chance of survival. She indicated a willingness to respond to questions not addressed in the booklets at the Interpretive Center and can be reached by e-mail at the university.

Otter Research at the Marsh

By Elliott Dabill

On March 13, we had the pleasure of hearing from both Ted Torgerson and Hilary Cosby about their research on river otters, *Lontra Canadensis*. (Actually, it was just the ghost of Ted, as he got stuck in a Bay Area airport and sent along his talk to be covered by Hilary.) For background, the otters here live to about 10 years old (double that if they are in captivity), usually give birth in March/April, receive maternal support for a few months, then reproduce themselves by 1-2 years old.

Ted undertook the Master's level research on use of latrines to study the animals; 61 latrines were compared to similar sites around Humboldt Bay. Preliminary analysis indicates the otters slightly prefer rivers in December/January, then



(Top) Hilary pointing out a latrine.
(Middle) Otter with sculpin.
(Bottom) Ted collecting data.

switch to marine habitats, but his numbers are still being crunched.

Hilary was more concerned with what the river otters ate. The work required collecting feces, washing them in a washing machine (not kidding), and sorting out the remainder to evaluate their diet. Yes, this means that somewhere at HSU, a washing machine is available for feces laundering! Aside from testing what the otters ate, Hilary explored how much otters were communicating with each other by hormones in their poop. Examining the clean poop, it turned out that about 73% of the 1400 samples contained fish (by examining ear bones, called otoliths, you can tell the type of fish and their size), 35% crustacean, and the remaining food types included birds (study the clean feathers for type of bird) amphibians, and insects. Hilary found some variance from her predictions, such as otters eating more sculpins (a type of fish) and fewer salmon meals, but the data are a useful measure of eating habits of our mammal neighbors at the Arcata Marsh.

From both Ted and Hilary, we appreciate the knowledge gained on otters. It was fun to see something of the time and effort involved in learning something real about them.

Black Brant & Eelgrass

By Elliott Dabill

HSU graduate student and FOAM Board member Betsy Elkinton's talk on April 26 dealt with her research on foraging strategies for black brant geese on Humboldt Bay. These birds are smaller than Canada geese. We don't see them as much because the brant are here for the winter and stay on the South Bay, where they eat eelgrass. They have to eat a lot of eelgrass, to build up fat stores that allow them to fly nonstop to Baja, Mexico (850 miles) and to their summer feeding and nesting in Izembek Bay, Alaska (2000 miles). The energy demand is huge; it takes 3 days to fly to Alaska at 65 mph.

Since the black brant goose is in population decline, this study could shed some light on the reasons. Sources of stress on the geese: their own high energy demands, hunting, loss of eelgrass habitat, and sea level rise. The birds are dabblers, meaning they don't dive to feed but instead tip their butts up to get down to the grass level. Therefore, they can only feed when they can reach the grasses (0.9 meters down is the maximum). High tide prevents them from reaching the eelgrass, while low tide mats the grass so that the preferred new leaves are harder to get at.



(Top) Brant eating eelgrass. (Bottom) Betsy observing birds on South Bay.



McDaniel Slough Wetland Enhancement Project Update

The City of Arcata completed an end-of-2012 status report on this multiyear project to restore tidal wetland functions to 212 of 280 acres of former tidal salt/brackish marsh and freshwater wetlands adjacent to Humboldt Bay. The project began in 2007 and is expected to be finished in 2014. FOAM provided some financial support for the work.

During 2012, the City constructed several sections of levees, a side channel to the Slough, as well as earth work to create wetlands and an island. Two tide gates were opened to allow for muted tidal action. Once the levees are done this year, the bayfront levee will be breached to restore tidal action to the 212 acres. A 23-acre freshwater wetland, and a 10-acre brackish wetland were completed on state property in 2012.

The brackish wetland adjacent to South I Street will receive input of treated wastewater following installation of infrastructure. Additional trail access will be undertaken in 2013, with benches and interpretive signs installed once the levee is breached.

Some of the exploration that Betsy did helped clarify that the black brant don't just feed at low tide; they "drift" feed during high tide to get at floating eelgrass that has broken off from the beds. In case you might think Betsy's work to be purely fun observation, remember what our winters are like, then put yourself in front of a spotting scope for hours on end. She did it, she got tougher during the data gathering, and she will have her Master's degree by later this summer as a reward. How lucky we are that people care about the details of nature and science to do this work, and that Betsy would share her enthusiasm with us! It was an evening well spent for the 25 people in attendance.

Trail Stewards to the Marsh?

FOAM Board member Katy Allen was one of 40 to attend a February 28 organizational meeting to recruit volunteers to cover the 8 miles of Arcata Community Forest trails. After the Forest gets its "eyes-and-ears presence," the group plans to expand coverage to Arcata Marsh.

The Volunteer Trail Stewards group, founded in 2010, provides 200 volunteers to walk the Hammond Trail in McKinleyville and the trail at Friends of the Dunes' Coastal Nature Center in Manila. They walk trails to report problems and pick up litter, as well as sponsor monthly projects for erosion control, graffiti removal, sweeping, adding fencing, and removing non-native plants.



(Top) Arcata Marsh. (Bottom) Arcata Marsh Egret. © Paul Rickard..

JUNE ARTIST

PAUL RICKARD

As a lover of California and the Great Northwest, my original watercolor paintings draw from the natural beauty of the windswept marine landscape. I studied art briefly in New Zealand and wood sculpture in Indonesia, graduated from UC Berkeley, and served in the Peace Corps with my wife Nancy.

I am a career educator and currently help train future teachers at HSU. I live on a hand-built homestead at the top of Fickle Hill with my wife, 3 children (Heather, Hazel, and Oliver), and our yellow lab Daisy.

My contact information is nrickard@gmail.com or www.paulrickard.net.



Duck Day art made with natural products. Photo by Kevin Hoover, Arcata Eye.

JULY ARTISTS

MARSH PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

This display will consist of artwork from students involved with The Marsh Project, a program for grades 6-12 through the City of Arcata's Recreation Department. Since February, these junior and senior high students have been learning about marsh ecology and using that knowledge to inspire their art. They have gone on field trips to the Arcata Marsh and the Humboldt Wildlife Care Center and received instruction from local artists such as Linda Parkinson. The Marsh Project was funded by a grant from the Robert M Lochtie Memorial Fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation.

Visitors & Comments

Since the last issue of UPWIND, visitors from throughout California and 15 other states (AR, AZ, CO, FL, MD, MI, MT, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, TN, UT, WA)—plus international tourists from Israel, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, and New Zealand—signed the guest book. Many of them took the time to write a short comment: "Wonderful... last here about 25 years ago"... "What a super discovery"... "Great place to run! Love the trails"... "Beautiful area and center. Hello from your fellow interpreters at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center in SF Bay"... "What an asset!"

Visitor Log

The Interpretive Center had 1376 visitors in January, 1413 in February, 1569 in March, and 1853 in April.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

May—Student Bird Art Contest Winners Art Show (see p. 4-5)

May 9—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

May 10—Reception for Student Bird Art Winners, 4:30-6:30 pm (see p. 1)

May 28—Slower Speed Tour (see p. 6) (also on June 25, July 30)

May 30 or 31—20th Anniversary Celebration for Marsh Interpretive Center (see p. 1)

June—Watercolors by Paul Rickard

June 13—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

June 14—Oyster lecture by David Couch (see p. 2)

July—The Marsh Project Art Show

July 11—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

July 20—Work Day at the Marsh, 9 am-1 pm (see p. 2)

Recognition & Thanks, February-April 2013

☛ New Life Members: Marian Perry; Gretchen Stadler Family; Bill & June Thompson

☛ Best Friend (\$100): Marian Perry

☛ Sponsors (\$50): Frances Madrone; Barbara & Fred Moore*; Janet Zich

☛ Friends: Karen Angel; Sam Burke* (Santa Ynez, CA); Esther & Neil Gilchrist; Karen Johnson (Newhall, CA); Glen Jones*; Elyse Kelly*; Volga & Melissa Koval*; Marie Kelleher-Roy; Mary Alan Laurent; Ellen Mahoney; Marsha Mielke*; Chet & Barbara Ogan; Jean Santi & Whitney Buck; Frank & Christel Shaughnessy; Lance Torgerson

☛ Special Donations: Stephanie McCaleb, \$100; Cynthia Noble, \$40 ("Thank you Lance for your help with my February art show at the Interpretive Center and thank you FOAM for the work you do"); Steven & Carol Pearson (Portland, OR), \$100, plus a matching \$100 grant from IBM; Evelyn & Mike Williams, \$100 (Camarillo, CA; "In honor of our granddaughter Sidney Williams Goddess graduating from Arcata High")

* = New FOAM member.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Arcata CA
Permit No 314

Mark Your Calendar for:

Bird Art Contest Reception, May 10
AMIC 20th Anniversary Celebration, May 30/31
Oyster Presentation, June 14
Marsh Work Day, July 20

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.