

## 2015/16 FOAM Annual Report (Issued 9/25/16)

**Tours:** Some 14,192 adults and children visited the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center between September 2015 and August 2016, down 1,157 from the previous 12-month period. Some participated in the weekly 2 pm tours and monthly “Slower-Speed” tours offered rain or shine by FOAM docents. FOAM also provided docents for 36 special-request group tours.

**Education:** FOAM presented its second Arcata Marsh Bird of the Year Award(s) at its October 4 Annual Meeting. It was a tie between George Ziminsky for spotting a Sage Thrasher and Alexandra Lamb for finding a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

FOAM’s free lecture series, coordinated by Jane Wilson, continued, with presentations by John DeMartini on duck parasites, Jane Bothwell on medicinal plants, Mike Wilson on the Samoa Mill cleanup, Hanna Nielsen on climate change attitudes, Jennifer Kalt on water quality/billboard removal/sea level rise awareness, Stephen Kullmann on Indian Island restoration, Lynnette Chen on the Arcata Dog Park, Ken Burton on bird sounds, Gretchen O’Brien on Arcata Marsh trails and recreational history, Jay Patton on earthquakes and tsunamis, and Alec Howard on Zero Waste in Arcata. Retired HSU biology professor John DeMartini began a series of First Friday (at 1 pm) interpretive talks to explain the science behind the AMIC exhibits.

In March, for the 11th year, FOAM funded awards at the Humboldt County Science Fair. A \$50 prize for the best project related to wetlands went to “Climate Change and Oysters: Does water temperature affect oyster feeding rate?” by Vivian Gerstein, a 7th-grader at Jacoby Creek School. A \$25 second prize was awarded to Perrin Turney, a 10th-grader at Six Rivers Charter High School, for his research on “The Effect of Water Pollution on Microorganisms at the Arcata Marsh.”

FOAM received a grant from the Strong Foundation to underwrite printing a Jr. Marsh Explorers Activity Book, created by Gretchen O’Brien and Leslie Anderson, which will be used in Arcata’s summer camps at the Marsh and be sold in the bookstore.

FOAM cosponsored a Marsh District map being created by Scrap Humboldt.

**Public Events:** In September, Milt Boyd, Katy Allen, Stuart Moskowitz, Barbara Reisman, Pam Brown, and George Ziminsky staffed a FOAM table at the Volunteer & Community Involvement Fair held at HSU. In October, FOAM again sponsored a square at Pastels on the Plaza, with art by Melanie Dabill and Alex Cordoba. In November, Jenny Hanson led FOAM’s 16th Thanksgiving Day morning “leg stretcher,” attended by 25 people. Jane and Richard Wilson helmed FOAM’s 8th New Year’s Day Ramble, attracting 21 participants, and initiated a Christmas Day walk that boasted 22 people, 2 dogs, and 2 newsmen. A wooden flyer display case crafted by Eagle Scout Westin McHaney was mounted outside the AMIC front entrance.

In February, Barbara Reisman and Milt Boyd tabled on behalf of FOAM at the HSU Career Expo & Volunteer Fair. In March, FOAM again cosponsored Take a Child Outside (TACO) Day at the AMWS, a free festival of fun outdoor play for kids and their caregivers. Ivan Soto and Betsy Elkinton led groups out on the floating dock, while Katy Allen, Sue Leskiw, and Gretchen and Alex O’Brien staffed an activity table where kids identified animal tracks. In April, two HSU students organized a Pints for Nonprofits event at Redwood Curtain Brewery that raised over \$500. Also in April, Jenny Hanson led a plant-focused walk at the Marsh as part of a California Native Plant Week celebration.

In partnership with Redwood Region Audubon Society, FOAM sponsored the 13th Student Bird Art Contest at Godwit Days. A record-smashing 980 entries were received from grades K-12 throughout Humboldt County. Thirty-eight cash prizes and 35 honorable mentions were awarded at Godwit Days in April.

In April, FOAM continued its participation in the Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. Approximately 25 children plus their parents took part in FOAM's free family nature activities coordinated by Sue Leskiw. The kids made peanut butter pinecone bird feeders, clay bird ornaments, paper bird hats, peace dove handprints, oyster shell refrigerator magnets, and hanging paper birds. Two children's bird walks at the Marsh were led by Mary Burke, while Dave Couch and George Ziminsky led a combined bird walk/wastewater treatment plant tour as part of the festival schedule. FOAM volunteers also staffed an information/sales table in the vendor area, coordinated by Sue Leskiw, and helped hang bird art entries.

In June, Dave Couch led FOAM's third "Members-Only" event, a canoe/kayak tour of the California State Oyster Preserve.

In August, Leslie Anderson, Karolyn Merz, Alex Stillman, and Milt Boyd staffed a FOAM table at the Volunteer & Community Involvement Fair held at HSU.

**Marsh and Wildlife Through the Eyes of Local Artists:** Since December 1998, FOAM has sponsored monthly art shows representative of the scenery, plants, birds, and animals that inhabit the Marsh and Humboldt Bay. This past year, Patricia Sennott, Dana Ballard, Terry Dotson, Ray Fowler, Jan Ramsey, Kathy O'Leary, David Price, Student Bird Art Contest Winners, and Aldaron Laird were featured. Alex Stillman scheduled the art shows, which became bi-monthly in nature in May.

**Publicity & Communication:** We would like to thank newspapers, radio, and TV stations for helping us get the message out about our weekly tours, monthly art exhibits and lectures, and other special events at the Marsh. The *Mad River Union* deserves special recognition for continuing to publish a "Wren-o-meter" that displayed the progress of FOAM's Capital Campaign. FOAM continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, UPWIND.

**City Relations:** FOAM continued its Capital Campaign to build an outdoor amphitheater and upgrade the AV system in the Interpretive Center until the end of 2015(see "Fiscal Accounts" below). A new projector system was installed and the screen was raised

In October, January, July, July, and September (United Way Day of Caring), FOAM co-sponsored invasive plant workdays at the Marsh, with most focusing on invasive cordgrass (*Spartina*) removal.

FOAM funded two "Volunteer of the Year" awards, presented to Milt Boyd and Ivan Soto.

Susan Ornelas replaced Paul Pitino as FOAM's representative to the Arcata City Council.

**Membership:** As of August 31, FOAM had 161 members in good standing, 75 of which were Life Members and 4 were Honorary Life Members.

**Fiscal Accounts:** As of August 31, FOAM had a checking account balance of \$39,442.17. [NOTE: \$12,995 of that amount is earmarked for the Capital Campaign.] FOAM also has \$10,403.40 in a fund set up at the Humboldt Area Foundation.

Expenditures totaled \$5,173.17 and revenues totaled \$11,314.60 (of which \$2,050 is earmarked for the Capital Campaign). The largest expenditure incurred in the past year was \$1,400 for insurance. Revenue sources were membership dues (\$3,426), non-Capital Campaign donations (\$4,121.31), merchandise sales (\$1,024.75), reimbursements (\$464.14), and interest/dividends/capital gains on the HAF Fund (\$228.40 as of 6/30/16).

**Board of Directors:** Five current Board Members (Katy Allen, Elliott Dabill, Ivan Soto, Alex Stillman, and Jane Wilson) will be continuing, one (Dave Couch) is running for another term, and two new candidates (Cindy Kuttner and Stan Binnie) are running. Richard Wilson passed away. George Ziminsky, Mary Burke, Janet Zich, and Betsy Elkinton are leaving the Board.

-- Elliott Dabill, President