

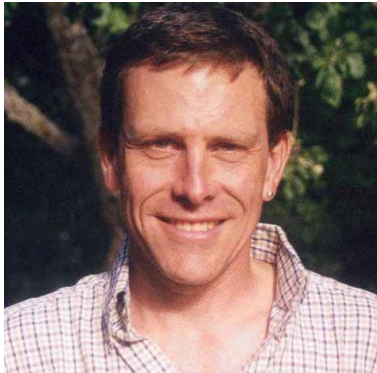


# UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh  
Interpretive Center  
Vol 23, Issue 2, Spring 2016

**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: Upcoming Lectures... Members-Only Canoe/Kayak Event... Work Days... Richard Wilson... TACO Day... Pints for Nonprofits... Science Fair Awards... What's New at AMIC... Wastewater Treatment Changes... Thanks Godwit Days Volunteers... Student Bird Art Contest Results... Indian Island Talk... Dog Park Talk... Plant Walk... Amazon Smile... John DeMartini... Artists... Seeking Volunteers... Calendar... Visitor Log... Members & Donors*



## Upcoming Friday 7:30 pm Lectures

FOAM's free community lecture for May is by local ornithologist and guide Ken Burton. On May 20, he will discuss the mechanisms, functions, and identities of bird sounds, with an emphasis on common Marsh birds. Ken has been passionate about birds most of his life. He has studied them all over the world and firmly believes that the Arcata Marsh is one of the best birding locales anywhere. A Marsh docent since moving here in 2005, Ken is the author of *Common Birds of Northwest California* and coordinates Audubon's Saturday morning Marsh bird walks.

Our June 17 speaker is none other than Arcata city naturalist Gretchen O'Brien, who will speak about "Recreation in the Arcata Marsh: Then & Now." She will focus on the progression of trail building over the years, culminating in a plan for a paved section of the South Bay Trail ("rails to trails") through the Marsh.

On July 15, we will hear from Jay Patton on the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

To guarantee a seat for any of these talks, call 826-2359.

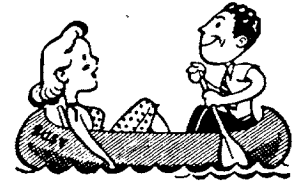
## Canoe/Kayak the Marsh Event for FOAM Members

On Saturday, June 25, FOAM Board member Dave Couch will lead a low-tide tour of the California State Oyster Preserve. This is the third in a series of FOAM Members-Only events, where members in good standing can attend for free and non-members can join on the spot to come along.

Attendees should meet in the South G Street parking lot at 8 am with their kayaks or canoes (no rafts). All participants must bring a life vest and sign a liability waiver.

Those who are not members but want to join and attend should bring a check made payable to FOAM or exact change for either \$18 (student/senior), \$25 (single), or \$35 (family).

As press time, Dave was working out the logistics and there may be a possibility to rent a boat if you don't have one. Closer to June 25, contact Dave at [bg\\_ranch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bg_ranch@sbcglobal.net) or 499-6758 for an update.



## Marsh Workdays on Tap for June & July

Please join FOAM and the City of Arcata on Saturday, June 11 and Saturday, July 9 between 9 am and 1 pm to clear litter and invasive plants such as cordgrass (*Spartina*) from the Arcata Marsh. Call (707) 825-2163 or email [Eservices@City-of-Arcata.org](mailto:Eservices@City-of-Arcata.org) for specifics on where to meet and the tasks to be accomplished. Help polish this jewel of Arcata's open spaces by donating a few hours of your time!

May is Wetlands Month!  
Celebrate by visiting  
the Arcata Marsh.

## 2015-16 Board of Directors & Officers

### Officers

*President:* Elliott Dabill

*Vice-President:* David Couch

*Secretary:* Katy Allen

*Treasurer:* Sue Leskiw (also UPWIND Editor)

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Ivan Soto

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George Ziminsky

**Website:** [www.arcatamarshfriends.org](http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Friends.of.the.Arcata.Marsh](https://www.facebook.com/Friends.of.the.Arcata.Marsh)

## The Marsh Says Goodbye to a True Friend

By Sue Leskiw

FOAM Board member and volunteer extraordinaire Richard Wilson passed away on April 29. If you spent time at the Marsh, you likely have met him, often in tandem with his wife Jane, both decked out in floppy hats, leading tours, staffing the desk, always welcoming. It was a mere 3 months since he was diagnosed with cancer to being buried in a green grave, "laid on cedar boughs and plants from our garden and covered with flowers," writes Jane. "Besides his homemade shroud, he was wrapped in stars."

Richard was a doer. Elected to the Board last fall, he and Jane plunged right in to take charge of FOAM's monthly Friday night lecture series and enlisted biology prof John DeMartini to tell stories once a month about the science behind the Interpretive Center permanent exhibits. Before that, they started a monthly Tuesday afternoon tour for those seeking a slower paced walk around the Marsh.

Richard was a playful, quirky, genuinely nice person who loved to share with Marsh visitors. Witness his obituary in the May 10 *Mad River Union* that began "Who's that old gorilla in a wide-brimmed helmet riding a bicycle?" and ended with his friends—to my mind, all members of the FOAM and Arcata Marsh family—being encouraged to smile in his memory. Please join me in a grin (with a glint of tears) for Richard Stanley Wilson, 1939-2016.

[NOTE: Richard's obit included a mention that FOAM is accepting donations in his memory.]



Jane, Richard, and those floppy hats.



FOAM volunteer Sue Leskiw helps with animal track activity.  
Photo by Gretchen O'Brien.

## TACO Day Attracts Hundreds

By Sue Leskiw

FOAM was among the many nonprofit environmental education groups that participated in the fourth annual Take a Child Outside (TACO) Day held March 19 at the Arcata Marsh. Some 350 people checked in at the welcome table in the South G Street parking lot, including teachers, children and their families.

FOAM Board members Ivan Soto and Betsy Elkinton took visitors out on the Log Pond dock to quietly observe wildlife, while Gretchen and Alex O'Brien, Katy Allen, and I staffed an activity table inside the Interpretive Center where kids identified animal tracks. Organizer Allison Poklemba from the HSU Natural History Museum and Redwood Science Project reports nothing but positive feedback from those visiting the activity stations around the Log Pond loop and AMIC during this nature exploration day and environmental education resource fair for kids, parents, and teachers.

### FOAM Board Notes

► Janet Zich has stepped down. She recently underwent surgery to remove a pituitary cyst. Thank you Janet for your many years of service!

► Ivan Soto has taken a leave of absence, as he has a summer internship in Oregon. Congratulations, Ivan, on being selected as HSU's student activist of the year!

## Pints for Nonprofits Event Raises over \$500

By Sue Leskiw

Isabelle (Izzy) Perry and Hailee Schmidt, two HSU recreation administration students, decided to benefit FOAM through their senior project. They originally thought they would host a run that started at the Arcata Marsh and ended at the Redwood Curtain Brewing Company on South G Street. But that plan eventually morphed into a Pints for Nonprofits event at the brewery between noon and 5 pm on Saturday, April 23. Izzy and Hailee enlisted three bands for entertainment (one featuring their business professor on drums!) and solicited chance drawing items to raise funds beyond the \$1 from every pint of beer sold being contributed by Redwood Curtain.

The two students created a poster to publicize the event, which raised \$300 from beer sales and \$235 from the chance drawing. The FOAM Board decided to allocate the money toward a new AV system at the Interpretive Center. Thank you, Izzy, Hailee, and Redwood Curtain Brewing Company, for including FOAM in your student project!

## FOAM's Science Fair Awards

By Sue Leskiw

For the 11th year, FOAM sponsored an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair in mid-March for the best project related to wetlands. Due to the quality of the projects in 2016, a second-place prize was given.

First prize of \$50 was awarded to Vivian Gerstein, a 7th-grader at Jacoby Creek School. Her project was "Climate Change and Oysters: Does water temperature affect oyster feeding rates?" She hypothesized that a water temperature increase of 4-5 degrees C would increase oyster feeding rates, as measured by changes in water clarity (turbidity). Vivian's results did not support her hypothesis. After six days, the turbidity of both of her temperature treatments was similar, with little effect on water clarity. She did conclude that temperature affects oys-

ter survival more than it does feeding, as more oysters died when the water temperature was higher. The real-life application of Vivian's experiment would be how local oysters would fare under a global warming scenario of a 6 degree C increase in Humboldt Bay water temperature.

Second place of \$25 went to "The Effect of Water Pollution on Microorganisms at the Arcata Marsh" by Perrin Turney, a 10th-grader at Six Rivers Charter High School. (This was the second year of a 2-year project where he won first prize from FOAM in 2015.) He examined the effects of chlorine and fertilizer, the most common pollutants in our area, on microorganisms (Euglena, diatoms, rotifers, green algae, Coleps, Daphnia, Colony). Perrin discovered that chlorine at concentrations based on drinking water was toxic and killed all the microorganisms within 3 days. However, fertilizer didn't kill anything; it actually increased the green algae population, which likely led to increases in other microorganisms that eat green algae and benefit from algae increasing oxygen in the water. Perrin said that if he had more time, he would have repeated the fertilizer test with higher concentrations to see where fertilizer became toxic instead of a benefit to the microorganisms.

## What's New at AMIC

By Gretchen O'Brien

► Out of This World (an optics dealer and science education supply store in Mendocino) and Nikon, Inc donated a new spotting scope to AMIC. I am considering either a permanent mount inside the center or, by adding a waterproof and vandal-proof encasing, mounting the scope outside. Maybe we'll incorporate it into the new amphitheater plan!

► *Deschampsia* (tufted hair grass) and *Grindelia* (gum plant) seedlings are being grown to add to the native plant garden.

► The Jr. Marsh Explorers activity book has been printed. Many thanks to Leslie Scopes-Anderson for turning my sketches and notes into a beautiful booklet that will be

available soon, courtesy of a grant through FOAM from the Strong Foundation for Environmental Values. The activity book will be used during the City of Arcata summer camps and FOAM events and be sold in the AMIC bookstore.

► The "Fun Facts about Dragonflies" display is being shown, since these fascinating insects are now flying around the freshwater ponds.

► The salt marsh below the AMIC deck is flourishing with natives: seaside arrow grass, salt grass, and little patches of Humboldt Bay owls clover! What a difference from the cordgrass (*Spartina*) that was outcompeting all these natives until numerous volunteer work days did such a great job removing this invasive plant.

► John DeMartini's interpretive talks on the first Friday of each month have been interesting and informative (see p. 9). John has such an interesting way of explaining things, such as the meaning of organisms' Latin names.

## Changes in Store for Marsh Wastewater Treatment

By Sue Leskiw

At an April 20 meeting, the Arcata City Council "expressed reservations about a proposal to add mechanical elements to the [Arcata Marsh] wastewater treatment system," according to the April 27 *Mad River Union*. Because the treatment plant has experienced repeated effluent discharges above pollution standards (132 noncompliance incidents in 2013-15), the City had contracted with two engineering firms to recommend improvements to bring the discharges into consistent compliance. Existing ponds and treatment wetlands were having problems May through December meeting biological oxygen demand (BOD) limits. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has required the City to develop and implement a facility improvement plan by December 2016.

The *MRU* reported that Council members questioned the need to install a mechanical extended aeration

oxidation ditch as a means of secondary wastewater treatment, given that the Arcata Marsh's 30-year-old wetland treatment system is not functioning at full capacity and its ponds are overdue for dredging. However, a representative from one engineering firm stated that taking the ponds offline to dredge them would make the system incapable of handling the volume of treatment needed.

At that April 20 meeting, HSU environmental engineering professor Robert Gearheart—who has been involved in the world-renowned marsh treatment system from the beginning—suggested that the city first concentrate on taking steps to make the current system operate at full capacity. Dr Gearheart brought his concerns to the May 23 FOAM Board meeting. Board member Katy Allen summarized his presentation as follows: "Dr Gearheart spoke to us about his take on the proposed sewage treatment plant upgrade. While he feels that the proposed system would be very effective, it would also be very expensive and does not include a plan to provide deferred maintenance on the existing treatment marshes until several years from now. Both he and Dave Couch felt that existing treatment marshes could be upgraded without taking the whole system offline. The bottom line is that Dr Gearheart, as well as some of the City Council members, are concerned that the original spirit of using natural treatment systems, which has overall been very effective over the years, is being lost and that, as Gearheart said, it's been a part of the very culture of our city. He encourages the public to pay attention to the City's planning for the treatment plant upgrade and voice their concerns."

City staff and consultants have been directed to revise the plan and return to the Council prior to presenting it to the water board in June. The engineering report given to the Council can be viewed at [www.cityofarcata.org](http://www.cityofarcata.org), select button "See Council Meetings, Agendas & Archives," then scroll to Meeting of April 20, 2016. The wastewater plan is covered in pages 48-90.



## Godwit Days Volunteers

By Sue Leskiw

FOAM sends out a heartfelt thank you to the following people who volunteered to help with FOAM activities at the 21st Annual Godwit Days Festival in April:

► FOAM's Bird Fair booth was staffed by Milt Boyd, Ken Burton, Dave Couch, Janette Heartwood, Sue Leskiw, and HSU students Bayan Ahmed, Adrien Bouissou, and Dylan Karl. Ken Burton set up the booth and Sue Leskiw took it down.

► Helpers who hung the 980(!) pieces of student bird art were Katy & Tom Allen, Louise Bacon-Ogden, J Berg, Gail Coonen, Frank Ferguson, Diane Harris, Jessa, Stephanie Leong, Sue Leskiw, Linda Magnuson, Marsha Mielke, Barbara Reisman, and George Ziminsky. Thanks to Donna Clark, Tom & Sue Leskiw, Lew Norton, Alex O'Brien, Alessandra Phelan-Roberts, and four CCC members for taking the show down.

► Jay Seeger for taking photos of the art winners and Alex Stillman for setting up the refreshments.

► Sue Leskiw, Susan Ornelas, Mary Romaidis, and HSU students Adrien Bouissou, Michelle Harris, Dylan Karl, Maxine Mota, Alessandra Phelan-Roberts, Julia Taranto, and Andrea Wijaja welcomed about 25 children plus their parents during 2 hours of nature craft activities. Stations were clay bird ornaments, paper bird hats, peace dove hand prints, peanut butter pinecone bird feeders, bird hangers, and oyster shell refrigerator magnets.

► Mary Burke led two children's bird walks at the Marsh, while George Ziminsky and Dave Couch led a combined bird walk/wastewater treatment plant tour.



(Top) Most of the intrepid art-hanging crew. (Other photos) Scenes from Godwit Days family nature crafts. Photos by Sue Leskiw.



## Indian Island Restoration

By Elliott Dabill

On March 18, Stephen Kullmann, director for the natural resources department of the Wiyot Tribe, gave a talk as part of the FOAM public lecture series. He spoke mostly about the restoration of Indian Island.

To set the mood, he showed a 12-minute video describing the 1860 massacre on the island, where the Tuluwat Village was located, considered to be the center of the world by Wiyot tribespeople. I have trouble with the mindset of six white men that would canoe out to the island and, using hand tools like clubs and axes, murder 200 women and children. (The tribal men were away.) This happened just days after a white man purchased the island.

The island became an industrial center revolving around the boats and timber that built the economy of Eureka following the takeover of Indian land. When that industry played itself out, the soil contained a toxic brew of everything from paint to dioxin (a carcinogen) to unknown chemicals that eventually would have to be cleaned up with the aid of the US Environmental Protection Agency plus a long list of agencies working with the Wiyots to reclaim the land.

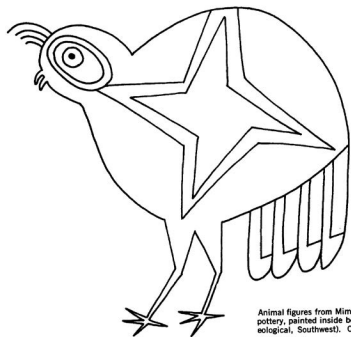
The only dry land at a high tide is within the 60 acres that Eureka returned to the tribe in 2004, the first case of a US city returning native land. That high section was the result of thousands of years of build-up of a midden created from discarded clam shells. It is interesting that white culture considers middens to be trash heaps, but for the Wiyot, a midden is likely a consciously designed accumulation of material that eventually created a solid platform for performing the sacred World Renewal Ceremony, as well as supporting the Tuluwat village. It also became a location where the white culture could site heavy machinery and produce toxic waste.

It is useful to put ourselves into Wiyot shoes as they began to assess the condition of their most sacred site on the planet when the island reverted to the Wiyot people: ma-

rine batteries, oil, machinery, and contamination of the very soil that absolutely cannot be contaminated. Some measure of the pain involved was the decision that had to be made about 23 cubic yards of precious soil that was hopelessly poisoned and had to be removed before the site could be used. The solution was to recapture the mindset of the ancient people that built the middens in the first place: if you remove the soil and replace it with oyster shells and other natural products, you become part of the dynamic system that built the area.

The tribe is not wealthy in the way that casino-owning tribes are, so all of this had to happen by contacting federal, state, and local governments, building relationships with the agencies that remediate environments, and (for Stephen) write a lot of grants. To stabilize Tuluwat from rising sea level, the tribe installed a sheet pile border and poured concrete to provide a landing site for future use of the village. This was all a heck of a lot of work, some of it by volunteers like the church group from Southern California that pulled out tons of trash.

In 2014, the Wiyot people were able to have their first World Renewal Ceremony on the Tuluwat site since the 1860 massacre. The tribe views renewal not just in the terms of recovery, but they also want to see the massacre with a perspective that allows peace and harmony to be restored along with the land. Wiyot people are now neighbors with all the other groups of people around here, but a people with much deeper roots to the local environment. There will be a future Tuluwat village at the site and a chance to see what was lost.



Animal figures from Mimbre pottery, painted inside bowl  
ological, Southwest. Circ

## Lynnette Chen on Dog Parks

By Jane Wilson

Lynnette is very knowledgeable about her subject, having been involved in the Arcata Dog Park Working Group ([www.arcatadogpark.com](http://www.arcatadogpark.com)) for 2 years and attended countless City government meetings to convince our leaders of the need. Plus she is an entertaining speaker.

Because pets have become such a huge part of American life, tourists look for places with dog parks when they travel. Where they spend their money can depend on the dog parks in an area. The working group is trying to establish a regional-scale dog park, covering 5 to 7 acres, divided into sections for big dogs and for little dogs. While little dogs can play with the big dogs, those who are timid would have a place to play with other little ones. Ideally, the dog park would be in walking distance of the Arcata Plaza, in an easy place to find, and be owned by the City. The former Little Lake Industries property on South I Street fills the bill. Its main drawback is possible high dioxin levels in the soil. The City plans to test the soil soon. Dioxin sampling costs \$10,000 a sample. The working group is committed to cleaning up and restructuring the site as soon as it has site control.

Many funding sources are open to the working group, some of which are not available to the City. There is quite a bit of money donated by pet owners for the benefit of pets. The group plans to put in trails that would enhance Marsh trails. Since the 12-acre site is larger than needed for an ideal dog park, the City could use the remainder for other purposes (eg, wetland mitigation). A dog park is a great use for land that is threatened by sea level rise, since there are no huge outlays for buildings and such.

Please pick up your dog's poop at the Marsh and everywhere. In the US, dog poop in public amounts to 10 million tons a year. We'd rather it not be in the Marsh, spreading diseases and parasites.

## Student Bird Art Contest Results

By Sue Leskiw

Some 980 Humboldt County K-12 students—a new record by over 200!—entered the 13th Annual Student Bird Art Contest held in association with Godwit Days in mid-April. FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) cosponsored the competition.

All entries were displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the festival, and copies of the first-, second-, and third-place winners, as well as Best Bird in Habitat awards, are hung at the Marsh Interpretive Center during May and June. A downloadable booklet containing the artwork, as well as group photos of the winners taken during the award ceremony, is posted at [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org)

Prizes totaling \$600 were given out, thanks to FOAM and RRAS. Thirty-eight were monetary prizes, plus 35 honorable mentions. The winners were:

### Kindergarten

First Place: Ricardo Freitas, Mattole Valley Charter School, Mallard

Second Place: Caroline Taylor, Jacoby Creek School, Snowy Plovers

Third Place: Natalie Williams, Mattole Valley Charter School, Great Egret

### Grade 1

First Place: Steve Adkins Hart, Dow's Prairie School, Varied Thrush

First Place: Kaylani Keley, Dow's Prairie School, Pileated Woodpecker

Second Place: Kendal Kingstrom, Dow's Prairie School, Steller's Jay

Second Place: Gaelen Creighton, Fuente Nueva Charter School, Hummingbird

Third Place: Rory Harling, Forks of Salmon Elementary School, Bald Eagle

Third Place: Violet Cook, Freshwater School, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

### Grade 2

First Place: Calvin Gans, Redwood Prep Charter School, Common Loon



First Place: Windstan Stratton, Coastal Grove Charter School, American Crow

Second Place: Lorenzo Amaro, Fuente Nueva Charter School, Snowy Plover

Second Place: Aleta LeGrand Stubblefield, Fuente Nueva Charter School, Bald Eagle

Third Place: October Mintey, Ridgewood Elementary School, California Quail family

Third Place: Jonah Morgan, Coastal Grove Charter School, Common Raven

### Grade 3

First Place: Charlotte Brands, Pacific Union School, Great Horned Owl

First Place: Alisha Paige Borglund, Jacoby Creek School, Wood Duck

Second Place: Layla Marshall, Pacific Union School, American Crow

Second Place: Solana Mendle, Fuente Nueva Charter School, Cedar Waxwing

Third Place: Saanvi Virnave, Fuente Nueva Charter School, Common Yellowthroat

Third Place: Ashlyn Bowen, Pacific Union School, Violet-green Swallow

### Grade 4

First Place: Bella Valentine, Orleans Elementary School, Spotted Owl

Second Place: Frida King, Fuente Nueva Charter School, American Avocet

Third Place: Caden Lewis, Redwood Coast Montessori, Great Blue Heron

### Grade 5

First Place: Keani Young, Redwood Coast Montessori, American Avocet

Second Place: Rogue Russell, Union Street Charter School, Peregrine Falcon

Third Place: Ciara Miller, Kneeland School, Peregrine Falcon

### Grades 6-9

First Place: Niniane Holland, Greensleeves Ctr for Education, Red-breasted Nuthatches



Second Place: Deja Coleman, Orleans Elementary School, Pileated Woodpecker

Third Place: Finn Murphy, Sunny Brae Middle School, Great Horned Owl

#### **Grades 10-12**

First Place: Tori McConnell, Academy of the Redwoods, Marbled Godwit family

Second Place: Martina Shannon, Eureka High School, Wood Duck

Third Place: Sage Balassa, Eureka High School, Snowy Plover chick

#### **Best Depiction of a Bird in Its Habitat**

Myah Visser, Kindergarten, Dow's Prairie School, Spotted Owl; Ellie-May Martin, Grade 1, Dow's Prairie School, Pileated Woodpecker; Daniel Hernandez, Grade 3, Pacific Union School, Marbled Godwit; Meguire Bartosz, Grade 4, Fuente Nueva Charter School, California Quail; Cheyanna Deaton, Grade 5, Kneeland School, Snowy Owl on the South Spit

#### **Honorable Mentions**

**Kindergarten:** Abby Omaha, Dow's Prairie School, Anna's Hummingbird; Taya Moore, Dow's Prairie School, Tufted Puffin; Cecilia Aultman, Dow's Prairie School, Purple Finches; Everett Gruetzmacher, Dow's Prairie School, Tufted Puffin; Breana Sloyer, Dow's Prairie School, Anna's Hummingbird; Talon Turner, Dow's Prairie School, Spotted Owl; Simon Zagone, Jacoby Creek School, Owl. **Grade 1:** Braden O'Brien, Jacoby Creek School, Marbled Godwit; Scarlett Wood, Fuente Nueva Charter School, Hummingbird; Emily Mather, Dow's Prairie School, Pileated Woodpecker; Ella Grosjean, Dow's Prairie School, Pileated Woodpecker; Brody Perkins, Dow's Prairie School, Bald Eagle; Riley Harmon, Dow's Prairie School, Varied Thrush. **Grade 2:** Patrick Wilson, Dow's Prairie School, Dancing American Avocets; Sheena Beeman, Dow's Prairie School, California Quail; Savannah Cringle, Dow's Prairie School, Great Blue Heron; David Kleinz, Dow's Prairie School, California Quail; Richie Alvarez, Fuente Nueva Charter School,

American Avocet; Catarina Freitas, Mattole Valley Charter School, Wood Duck. **Grade 3:** Tanayah Keisling-Limberg, Coastal Grove Charter School, Marbled Godwits; Ruby Williams, Mistwood Education Center, Great Blue Heron; Siena Krause, Pacific Union School, Great Blue Heron; Addison Wingate, Pacific Union School, Anna's Hummingbirds; Olivia Ralph, Cutten School, Owls. **Grade 4:** Lenin Jacobsen, Redwood Coast Montessori, Tufted Puffin; Sequoia Ashby, Redwood Coast Montessori, Black-crowned Night-Heron. **Grade 5:** Sadie Breen, Union Street Charter School, Red-shouldered Hawk; Autumn Landando, Six Rivers Montessori, Western Grebes. **Grade 7:** Symon McDonald, Mattole Valley Charter School, White-tailed Kite. **Grade 8:** Alora Trammell, Mattole Valley Charter School, Golden Eagle; Brett Welch, Mattole Valley Charter School, Great Horned Owl. **High School:** Anthony Kaftal, Alder Grove Charter School, Red-shouldered Hawk; Brandi May, Zoe Barnum High School, Lazuli Bunting; Ariane Cox-Lovel, Zoe Barnum High School, Black-capped Chickadee; Lydia Osborn, Zoe Barnum High School, Yellow-rumped Warbler.







*Student Bird Art Contest winners (from top): Grades K & 1; Grades 2 & 3; Grades 4-12; Best Bird in Habitat awardees. Photos by Jay Seeger.*

## April 16 Plant Walk

To help celebrate California Native Plant Week, FOAM docent Jenny Hanson led a plant-focused walk at the Marsh on April 16. She reports that the tour started small (4 people), but grew to nine participants. "Everyone had questions, the group was very engaged, and we ran overtime, in spite of my determination to get back by 3:30 pm. We barely made it around the Log Pond, after a final push to see the masses of glorious Humboldt Bay owls clover in full bloom just off the first South I Street parking lot."

## FOAM Can Earn \$ through Amazon Smile

Those of you who shop online through Amazon can have a percentage (0.5%) of your purchases automatically donated to FOAM. There is no extra cost tacked on to your purchase: all you have to do is go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select "Friends of the Arcata Marsh" as your designated charity. Then, begin any search for products at the Smile URL. (Starting at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) will remind you to do that).

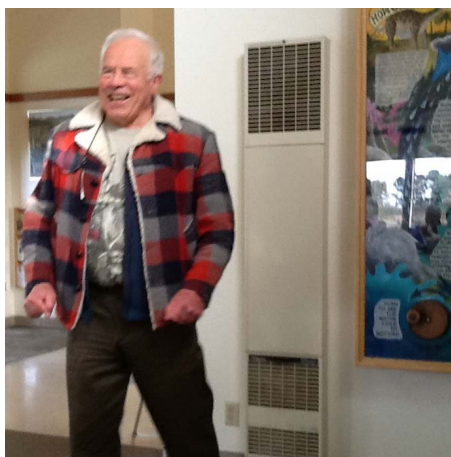


*Follow us on Facebook*

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

Don't forget to stop by the Interpretive Center during May & June and view the winners of this year's Student Bird Art Contest!





## Deciphering Marsh Exhibits

By Jane Wilson

FOAM sponsors a Marsh story hour on the first Friday of the month at 1 pm at the Interpretative Center. John DeMartini, a retired HSU biology professor, talks about different subjects inspired by the AMIC displays. I have spent many hours there by myself trying to understand, while John makes them come alive in a few minutes. He uses facts, word roots, and his wonderful story-telling style. I always mean to take notes, but I so enjoy his biorambling over the life and components of the Marsh that I just listen, am entertained, and remember what I remember. I partake of crumbs of the pie of knowledge and am satisfied. We watch with him the basic cycles of life, of the Marsh, and of the elements around us and are spellbound.

I believe it was in January that I asked John to talk about that wonderful display by Gary Bloomfield that turns around the seasons, the water cycles, and the lives that emerge. His first storytelling foray only got to one season, winter. But we learned about the word roots of amphibians and carnivores and how the word roots tell us much about the subjects.

At another session, John brought different kinds of clam shells, associating a story with each. What a wonderful way to spend an hour! Do you know what the roots of the term crustacean mean? Why are salmon pink in part of their life cycle? Why do various shorebirds hunt together?

What will we learn in the stories John tells next month?



*Egret's Flight by Aldaron Laird.*

## JULY/AUGUST ARTIST ALDARON LAIRD

### "Humboldt Bay Photographs"

Aldaron Laird is an environmental planner who has had the good fortune to professionally study and explore the shoreline and lands surrounding Humboldt Bay. Over years of walking and kayaking around the perimeter of the Bay, Aldaron has seen and photographed some amazing landscapes. The ever-changing atmosphere and lighting has provided him with ample opportunities to be in the right place at the right time. He hopes that you enjoy his images and the Bay as much as he does.

## Calendar of Events

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

May & June—Winners of 13th Annual Student Bird Art Contest

May 20—Bird sounds lecture, Ken Burton, 7:30 pm (see p. 1)

June 3—John DeMartini, 1 pm

June 9—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

June 11—Marsh Work Day, 9 am-1 pm (see p. 1)

June 17—Marsh recreation/trails lecture, Gretchen O'Brien, 7:30 pm (see p. 1)

July & August—Humboldt Bay photos by Aldaron Laird

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

July 14—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

July 15—Cascadia Subduction Zone lecture, Jay Patton, 7:30 pm (see p. 1)

## Volunteers Needed!

The City Naturalist has been scrambling to find enough help to keep the Interpretive Center open on weekends. It only takes a half hour to be trained how to staff the welcome desk. Here's your chance to give back to the Marsh and meet interesting people while you're doing it. Please call 826-2359 today!

## Visitor Log

The Interpretive Center had 672 visitors in January, 858 in February, 1190 in March, and 1475 in April.

## Thanks to Our Supporters, mid-January through April 2016

► Best Friends (\$100+): Debbe Hartridge & Ira Blatt; Marie Kelleher-Roy; Lorraine Miller-Wolf; CJ & Carol Ralph; Monica Simms & John Helie

► Sponsors (\$50-99): Fred Ferguson (Granada Hills); Patric Nagle & Frances Madrone (new Life Members!); Cynthia Rudick (Canton, OH)

► Friends (\$18-49): Pam Brown; Esther & Neil Gilchrist; Joyce Hough & Fred Neighbor;\* Glen & Dee Anne Jones; Alan Laurent; Patricia Marien (Ft Bragg); George Waller; Phyllis & Rob Willis;\* Connie Word (Redding)

► Donations: \$535 (proceeds of a Pints for Nonprofits fundraiser at Redwood Curtain Brewing Company, organized by HSU students Izzy & Hailee; Jim Harding (in memory of Sandra Wentzel, \$200—mistakenly reported as \$100 in Winter UPWIND)

► Capital Campaign: Jude Power (\$500)

\* = New member.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Mark Your Calendar for:**

**Bird Sounds lecture, 5/20**

**Stories behind AMIC Exhibits, 6/3**

**Marsh Work Day, 6/11**

**Marsh Recreation/Trails lecture, 6/17**

**Marsh Work Day, 7/9**

**Cascadia Subduction Zone lecture, 7/15**

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**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

[arcatamarshfriends.org](http://arcatamarshfriends.org)

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

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*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.*