



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 28, Iss 1, Winter 2020-21

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... Student Bird Art Contest Entry Goes Digital... Native Plant Garden Makeover... Links to Access Past Zoom Lectures... What's New at the Marsh... King Tide... Calendar... Supporters



March speaker Mark Wilson.

Upcoming Lectures

On Friday, February 19, join Arcata wastewater plant manager and FOAM Board member David Couch for a Zoom presentation entitled "Remodeling the Marsh Mechanicals." Get the current status of the Arcata Treatment Plant upgrade process.

On Friday, March 19, HSU biology professor and FOAM Board member Mark Wilson will continue his discussion on "The Natural History of Microorganisms," zeroing in on the roles microorganisms play in treating wastewater.

FOAM members, volunteers, and past lecture attendees for whom we have an email will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting prior to each event. FOAM also plans to record and post all the presentations online, to enable access on your schedule (see p. 3). (Emails also will be sent out when the Zoom presentations are uploaded.) If you are not already on one of these lists, you can request to be added by sending an email to sueleskiw1@gmail.com.

*Godwit Days Goes Virtual
This Year! April 16-18
Details to be posted at
www.godwitdays.org.*

Student Bird Art Contest Entry Method Goes Digital

Due to COVID-19, there will be no in-person Godwit Days spring migration bird festival in April 2021. However, the festival board asked contest cosponsors FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon to continue this important environmental education event. The two groups agreed to fund up to \$550 in prizes.

However, entries must be submitted digitally, rather than as hard copies. There will be no display of all entries at the Arcata Community Center, nor an awards ceremony. Winning artwork may be shown at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, depending on its reopening date.

One entry per Humboldt County student in grades K through 12. Entries must be original work. They should be photographed or scanned and e-mailed as an attached jpg. The maximum file size is 5 MB. The



2020 winning art by Finn Murphy.

bird(s) depicted must be locally occurring wild species. Deadline for receipt: **5 pm, Friday, March 26.**

Visit www.godwitdays.org, www.rras.org, or www.arcatamarshfriends.org to view a flyer with complete entry instructions and a list of suggested birds. General questions about the contest can be sent to sueleskiw1@gmail.com. Specific questions about how to submit entries should be directed to bloomfieldstudio@mac.com.

2020-21 Board of Directors & Officers

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FOAM website: www.arcatamarshfriends.org
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Phase I cleared ground. Photo by Lynn Jones.

Revamped Native Plant Garden Underway

By Lynne Abels & Sue Leskiw

“We believe that the AMIC garden could be an ambassador garden for native plants, helping to inspire people to grow the many beautiful garden-worthy plants native to our region,” say Lynne and Paul Abels. The two are volunteering to design and install a renovated native plant garden in front of the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center.

Lynne and Paul are inspired by the work of author and professor Douglas Tallamy and the Homegrown National Park Movement he founded. Tallamy’s research showed that native plants support many more insects than non-natives because the plants have coevolved with their insect pollinators. By planting natives in our yards, we can help declining insect populations and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them. The Homegrown National Park Project aspires to replace half of America’s lawnscapes with native plants: the equivalent of adding 20 Yellowstones worth of habitat to the United States and would have an enormous positive impact.

The brother-and-sister gardening duo responded to an article in

UPWIND calling for volunteers to take over care of the existing garden when long-time volunteer Pete Haggard retired. “We worked together on a native plant garden on Paul’s property in Sunnybrae People walking by or even driving by would stop to ask about the plants. Many people had never seen native plants growing in a garden setting and didn’t realize how beautiful they are.” [Paul’s garden was featured on a wildlife and native plant garden tour co-organized by Sue Leskiw in 2003.]

Phase I, which is the upper third of the garden space bordering the Interpretive Center, is nearly complete. Paul notes that “truckloads of blackberries and a couple dead coyote bushes” were removed to prepare the ground for delivery of 10 yards of topsoil the first week in February, which will then be topped by wood chips. As with many building sites, the garden’s current soil is degraded, having been scraped and compacted by heavy equipment. Compost and other organic materials will be incorporated, to increase fertility and improve drainage to support vigorous growth and flowering.

A major goal is to remove all non-native plants: no weeds, non-native grasses, or other invasive plants. Many plants currently in the garden

will remain, with more woody plants added (coyote bush, Western azalea, coffeeberry, *Ceanothus*, dogwood, shore pine, Western red cedar, vine maple, currant, huckleberry, Oregon grape). Native perennials and grasses will be lifted out and replanted, whenever possible. Other native ferns, perennials, annuals, and grasses (e.g., leopard lilies, columbine, spikenard) will be brought in to create a diverse and bountiful planting featuring woodland riparian, coastal scrub, and coastal prairie-edge plant communities.

A focal point that the two hope to create in Phase II is erecting a tree snag, to educate visitors about cavity nesters. If you can help provide a dead tree that is at least 16 feet long, call Paul at 707-825-8647.

The AMIC garden has an important educational role to play for the many schoolchildren who come to the Arcata Marsh. Paths will be rerouted to encourage people to wander through and look closely at plants, to see the details of a flower or seed head or to watch pollinators in action. New interpretive signs and supportive educational materials will help make the garden a more complete and engaging learning experience.

“We are honored to have the support of FOAM financially [the Board approved \$2000 at its January meeting], to supply materials for the first section of work on the garden. We appreciate the trust that FOAM has given us to take the garden in a new direction, and, of course, for the volunteer work of FOAM members who may collaborate on this project,” state Lynne and Paul.

Volunteers are eagerly sought to help install and maintain the garden. If you have completed the City’s volunteer application process, call the Interpretive Center at 707-826-2359 and ask to be put on a help list. You will need to sign two additional forms before starting. If you have not yet been approved as a volunteer, you can call the Interpretive Center to make an appointment to start the application process, or show up on a scheduled garden work day, which will be advertised in advance. Tools provided; bring your own gloves.

FOAM Zoom Lecture Links

1/15/21 “Rat Poison Is Wildlife Poison” by Jaime Carlino:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EyK50q4XXhmWaVH3L8z1DFv-5T3IYF8bu3zDcMAsAeS9MglmXe-jaWJ1pL2emQdAVd.XdLxDAVvF-CX1E1Iq>

Passcode: 5.9Rh%xF

11/20/20 “Natural History of Microorganisms” by Mark Wilson:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8XRag_G1M3gLLXwKYT-Gy2ihf-QEZJvtpGvaAGSXDfS-rNC0nDWp4_tYM0xxtkJ3x.jVAL-f68UIbdPWPG

Passcode: !09NK2%?

10/16/20 “Twice as Many Wharves” by Jerry Rohde:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/B7uhyK-PoyfIne-u4UKJ0zph-KEEsb-dylHRz-fXvpfFKXas9oTDiq-jzTpXiyaBR1un53hMTvFLVyoZzH.Y9_DAh_WnLeOxHNW?continue-Mode=true

Passcode: 2gx3^ReS

9/18/20 “Botanical Ethnography” by Adam Canter:

<https://humboldtstate.zoom.us/rec/share/S22whWLNzDECu4iEm-CIz87LzhOatDM2DOauuqUm-tizh5s1DahyXhVj-zeS3DHuK7.085ZqYeXIP3EF8m>

No passcode required

What's New at the Marsh

By George Ziminsky

While AMIC remains closed to the public, there has been a flurry of activity within and out. Most apparent is the reworking of the native plant garden (see p. 2). A post on the front porch has been replaced and a small retaining wall was built between the walkway and new garden area. The bathrooms have had motion-sensor activated lights and fans installed for “no-touch” use and the doors have a foot plate mounted to open and close with less hand contact.

The bookstore is open for shopping by appointment on weekdays. Call 707-826-2359 to come peruse our great supply of shirts, hats, books, etc that we have on hand.



December 14 King Tide at the Marsh. Photo by George Ziminsky.

Spartina removal efforts continue at McDaniel Slough with RCAA’s Marshmaster more efficiently doing the work that would take a crew of many manual weed-whackers. Keep an eye out for the Humboldt Bay owl’s clover this spring! Restoring obstructed views around the Log Pond trail has been a winter project, by cutting back willows and Himalayan blackberries. The Log Pond relies on precipitation to build up and maintain water levels, which have been uncharacteristically low so far this winter since we are behind on seasonal rain. The King Tides in December and January were less dramatic this year, since they were not preceded by significant rainfall events that would have “prefilled”

tributaries to Humboldt Bay and led to higher levels on shore.

[Ed.—The *Mad River Union’s* “Arcata Police Log” noted that a mountain lion was reported at the Marsh on November 9 at 5:09 pm!]

Calendar of Events

All tours of the Arcata Marsh led by FOAM volunteers are cancelled until further notice.

Feb 19—Sewage treatment plant improvements lecture, David Couch, 7:30 pm, via Zoom (see p. 1)

March 19—Natural history of microorganisms, part II lecture, Mark Wilson, 7:30 pm, via Zoom (see p. 1)

March 26—Deadline for Student Bird Art Contest entries (see p. 1)

Thanks to Our Supporters, Oct 2020 through mid-Jan 2021

» Best Friends (\$100+): Sharon Levy, our NEW Life Member; Ed Murray; Daniel & Marilyn Ricketts (Modesto); George Waller

» Sponsors (\$50-\$99): Bob Peck; Carl & Susan Tuck

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» Life Member Donations: Vintage BMW House (aka Lee & Chris House, \$1000); Susan Hansen (\$500); Linda Rogers (Pullman, WA, \$400); Stephanie McCaleb (\$300); Calista Sullivan & Richard Sanborn, \$250); Paula Dawson (Mill Valley, \$200); Stuart Moskowitz (\$200); Barbara Barratt (\$100); Thea Gast (\$100); Steven & Carol Pearson (Portland, OR, \$100 IBM matching grant); Don Staudenmaier (\$100)

» Other Donations: Mary Ann Madej & Alan Wolski (\$100, “since Al has been unable to donate his weekend volunteer time”); Janyce Neiman (\$50, “in recognition of Stephanie”); Karmen Berger (\$25, “for Mara’s birthday”); Gail Coonen (\$25); Audrey Miller (\$25); Amazon Smile (\$14.88)

* = New member

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Mark Your Calendar for:

Remodeling Marsh Mechanicals Lecture, 2/19
Nat History of Microorganisms II Lecture, 3/19
Student Bird Art Contest Entry Deadline, 3/26

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.