



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 28, Issue 3, Summer 2021

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: Board Candidates Sought... FOAM Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation Lunch September 12... Monthly Marsh Cleanups on Tap... Native Plant Garden Update... FOAM's Latinex Outreach... Board Candidate Application Form... What's New with Joint Cat/Bird Project with Audubon... North Coast Otters Public Arts Initiative... September/October Artist... Calendar... Members & Donors

Why Wouldn't YOU Make a Good FOAM Board Member?

We are looking for at least three FOAM members who care about the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary and would like to translate that feeling into action. If you've wondered about a new way that you can help the Marsh, here's your opportunity! Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings (held the second Thursday, starting at 6:30 pm) and volunteer at least 4 hours/month (see page 3).

FOAM has a small membership base on which to draw. You'd be working with a great group of people to improve a place we all love. Please call me at 707-502-5080 to find out more.

P.S. Board applications are due no later than **Friday, August 13.**

— **Elliott Dabill**

FOAM Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Set for September 12

When this newsletter went to press, FOAM was planning to host an in-person event for members and volunteers at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center on Sunday, September 12, starting at noon.

We'll begin with delicious barbequed albacore by David Couch, supplemented by salads, drinks, and dessert. Then, Volunteer of the Year certificate(s) will be given out and election results announced.

The 8th annual Arcata Marsh Bird of the Year award will be presented. You'll also get an advance look at the FOAM Annual Report, which summarizes what we've accomplished during the last year.

If changes to COVID-19 guidelines occur, we will inform you about any revisions to this plan.

Help Clean Up Marsh Trails Every Third Saturday

Our G Street neighbor, Humboldt Pet Supply (HPS), plans to sponsor Arcata Marsh cleanups on the third Saturday of each month. Beginning at 10 am on August 21, stop by their



Pic from 7/17/21 HPS Marsh cleanup.

store at 145 G Street to pick up supplies (buckets, gloves, poop bags, pooper scoopers, etc.). All participants will receive a "goodie bag." Those who pick up the most dog poop and trash by weight are eligible to win their choice of prize bundles from Marsh District businesses.

Return by 4 pm to the HPS store to have your collection weighed. For more information, visit the Humboldt Pet Supply Facebook page or call 707-633-6216.

2020-21 Board of Directors & Officers

Officers

President: Elliott Dabill

Vice-President: David Couch

Secretary: Katy Allen

Treasurer: Sue Leskiw (*Ex Officio*; also UPWIND Editor)

Other Board Members

Richard Brown

Paul Johnson

Lynn Jones

Cindy Kuttner

Cosette McCave

Bill Prescott

Jean Santi

Mark Wilson

Website: www.arcatamarshfriends.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Friends.of.the.Arcata.Marsh



Viewing AMIC through beach buckwheat planted in the new Native Plant Garden.
Photo by Heather Schmidt.

Native Plant Garden Update

By Heather Schmidt

With generous support from FOAM, the vision of dedicated volunteers Paul and Lynne Abels has now come to life in the new Native Plant Garden in front of the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center. We hope that you will come by as often as you can to enjoy all that it has to offer.

FOAM Board members are working on developing educational components to complement the garden, including plant labels and eventually an interpretive panel.

We need the help of volunteers to keep the garden healthy and happy. If you are interested in assisting with watering and weeding, please contact George at the Interpretive Center at 707-826-2359 or via email at AMIC@cityofarcata.org to get your name on the list. Training and guidance will be provided. Tools will be available on site. As a volunteer, you can sign up to assist when it is most convenient for you. Whether that is once a month or once a week, it will take the continued support of volunteers to keep the horsetails at bay and the flowers blooming.

son and myself answered parents' questions about our Marsh tours and camps.

It was valuable and fun to be included in this developing outreach effort. We hope it results in our county's Hispanic students and families being aware, comfortable, and excited to check out our beautiful Arcata Marsh.



(Top) Lynn modeling an otter mask.
(Bottom) Paul staffing the FOAM table.

FOAM Tables at Latinex Outreach Event

By Lynn Jones

On a hot and sunny Saturday, June 26, the Bay Area-based Save the Redwoods League sponsored its first local Latinex outreach event in Arcata's Redwood Park Picnic Area. The event was designed to encourage Latinex families to find, use, and explore the beautiful outdoor venues in our area.

FOAM joined Redwood National and State Parks, United Indian Health Services, and other organizations to share our love of the great

outdoors. Ten tables of Spanish-language brochures, maps, and hands-on activities engaged families from noon until 4 pm. Guided tours of Community Forest trails were full. Los Giles food truck provided tacos and horchata to volunteers and participants.

Although competing with the Arcata Farmers' Market and Oysterfest, the response was enthusiastic and fun. At our booth, children eagerly made otter masks. FOAM's Spanish-language brochures, bird checklists, junior exploration guides, and matching games were popular. FOAM Board members Paul John-

At its May 13, 2021 meeting, the FOAM Board of Directors approved the following language that acknowledges the historical precedence of the Wiyot tribe in the Humboldt Bay area. The words will be read at the beginning of FOAM lectures and other sponsored events, as well as printed in each issue of UPWIND.

"The Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the unceded land of the Wiyot People, who continue to remain in relationship to these lands through ceremony, culture, and stewardship. They are important parts of the history of and continuing knowledge of this place."

Application for Membership on the FOAM Board of Directors for a 3-year term beginning October 2021

FOAM bylaws allow for individuals to request nomination for election to the Board of Directors. The election will be held by mailed ballot prior to the Annual Meeting. Information about nominees will be sent to all members in mid-August as part of the Call to the Annual Membership Meeting process. **To insure inclusion in the membership mailing, this form must be received by Friday, August 13.**

Questions? Contact Elliott Dabill at 502-5080, e-mail edabill@me.com.

1. I would like to be a candidate for the Board of Directors for a 3-year term beginning in October 2021.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home/cell) _____ e-mail _____

2. I have read and do accept the provisions of the “Specific Duties of Board Members” below:

- ▶ Attend the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors and actively participate in its decision-making process.
- ▶ Complete the paperwork and training to become a City of Arcata volunteer within 3 months of taking office.
- ▶ Commit to at least four (4) hours a month of additional activities, which can include staffing the Interpretive Center, leading tours, and/or participating on at least one committee or special project.
- ▶ Participate to the extent possible toward the success of public events that promote the Marsh.
- ▶ Assist with fundraising by making a personal donation so as to be a current member of FOAM and solicit donations from friends and individuals known to support our goals.

3. Candidate statement: Suggested content — What is your vision for the Marsh, your area of active interest in the Marsh, any related background/expertise? (Continue on separate sheet if needed.)

**Snail mail to Sue Leskiw at 155 Kara Ln, McKinleyville CA 95519 or
scan and e-mail to sueleskiw1@gmail.com. Deadline for receipt: Friday, August 13.**

The Importance of Keeping Cats Indoors

By Katy Allen

FOAM continues to maintain a presence on the Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) committee devoted to the ever-increasing problem of domestic cat predation on birds. This small group has been working to make progress on two fronts: educating the general public about this issue and encouraging municipalities to create and enforce regulations relating to roaming cats, both abandoned and housed.

This is an issue of which many people are completely unaware. Therefore, making real change is a slow process. During the City of Eureka's rewriting of its municipal code on domestic animals, members of our committee contacted council members and spoke during public comment periods about the importance of keeping cats indoors, both for their own health and that of wildlife. Some council members seemed quite concerned; however, in the end, the only revision that was made to the old code in this regard was to require that cats be immunized for rabies.

The committee has had more success with getting the word out through local media and businesses. The *Times-Standard* has run two lengthy articles on this issue, interviewing Jude Power and Harriet Hill of RRAS as well as Monte Merrick of the Humboldt Wildlife Care Center. We continue to place pamphlets in local pet stores promoting "cats indoors."

The committee's next big project will be a Catio (short for Cat Patio) Tour on Saturday, September 18 from noon to 4 pm. This self-guided tour will feature at least four catios (enclosed outdoor spaces for cats) in the Arcata/McKinleyville area. Come learn how to keep your cat—as well as our precious wildlife—happy and safe. Admission is \$10. A detailed description with instructions on how to purchase tickets will be published in the September issue of RRAS's *Sandpiper* newsletter.

Finally, the committee continues to hold discussions with appropriate



Catio photo from www.rras.org.

representatives from the City of Arcata, encouraging them to enforce its own municipal code that states that it is unlawful to "release or cause the release of any animal into the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary," as the "City Council finds that the presence of non-native animals disrupts the native ecology of that environment." We encourage everyone to report to the City of Arcata sightings of roaming cats at the Marsh.

Otter Spotted Inside Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center

By Sue Leskiw

Thanks to a creation sponsorship by FOAM members and long-time volunteers Katy and Tom Allen, and display underwriting by Friends of the Arcata Marsh, AMIC boasts one of the 108 colorfully painted sculptures on display now through September across Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Trinity, and Siskiyou counties. The Marsh's otter by artist Shawn Gould is named "The Humbirdler." It portrays an otter with binoculars around its neck sporting a Hawaiian-style shirt featuring local birds (see photo on page 5).

The colorful mustelids are part of the North Coast Otters Public Arts Initiative, a merger of citizen art and science. The project is the brainchild of Dr Jeff Black of the Humboldt State Department of Wildlife. All the sculptures can be bid on through an online auction (at <https://otterart.humboldt.edu>), with the funds generated going toward river otter studies and student internships with community-based watershed projects. Bidding on each otter starts at \$500, with a maximum of \$5,000. The online bidding deadline is 6 pm PST on September

15, 2021. Thirty selected otters will then enter a COVID-safe live auction (date to be determined).

Fourteen of the otters were painted by Native artists. The remainder feature a "Who's Who" of local artists, including nature-focused ones like Carol Andersen, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Gary Bloomfield, and Patricia Sennott.

All artists were given a 3-foot-tall white otter sculpture and asked, "What would you like your North Coast Otter to say to the world?" Responses included river, ocean, and watershed scenes; Native designs; otter food items; bugs; banana slugs; butterflies; plants, including an old-growth tree; musical instruments; otters wearing real clothing; an HSU student; a logger; a "termin-otter"; an eco-conscious citizen; a zero-waste mosaic; Rainbow Pride; Day of the Dead; and a wire otter by acclaimed wire artist Elizabeth Berrien.

Otter Spotter activities booklets for youngsters to learn about our North Coast otters are available at AMIC. The booklet was prepared by HSU's Environmental Education & Interpretation Practicum. Activities include first spotting, then coloring in the outline of three otter statues; answering questions about fish and other watershed creatures; working through a maze, a word search, and a crossword puzzle; and finally taking the Junior Otter Spotter Pledge. After completing the activities, children can turn in the booklet at AMIC (or other locations listed on line) to receive an otter spotter sticker.

(continued on page 5)



Wiyot Connection

The tribe's word for otter is *sukseswilh*, which translates to "take an ugly mouthful."



"The Humbirder" otter sculpture by Shawn Gould enhances the Student Bird Art Contest winners from 2020 and 2021. The kids' art continues on display at AMIC through August. The Interpretive Center currently is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am to 5 pm. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

(continued from page 4)

The project is intended to celebrate life, otters, and waters, in order to promote clean water and healthy habitats where we work and play. The North Coast Otters website includes maps to find all 108 otters. Those who document at least 20 of them are eligible to win a raffle prize. There are even "Most Sustainable Otter Spotter" prizes for those showing how they completed their treasure hunt in a sustainable way (such as biking, hiking, and using an electric vehicle). You have until September 21, 2021 to submit your entries, either online or by mail.

Calendar of Events

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

August 13—Deadline to apply for FOAM Board candidacy (see p. 3)

September 9—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

September 12—FOAM Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Noon-2 pm (see p. 1)



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of.the.Arcata.Marsh***



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ARTIST LIBBY GEORGE

Since 1974, my work has been exhibited in solo and group shows at galleries and museums in the United States and abroad, including the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka, the California Museum of Art, Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa, the University of California-San Francisco, and the College of Art in Kumasi, Ghana. In addition, my pastels and prints are in public and private collections, including those of the US Department of Interior in Washington, DC; College of the Redwoods; the Clarke Memorial

Museum in Eureka, the Save-the-Redwoods League in San Francisco, and the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento.

The intaglio prints in this show are a result of my exploration with nontoxic printmaking. I received two grants and was fortunate to study at the Making Art Safely Studio in Santa Fe, NM. These prints were made with sunlight, water, and soy inks. It is a fun process with many variables and happy accidents. My editions are intentionally varied and low in number.

Much of my joy as an artist comes from sharing my work with others. If viewers are drawn to my work, I believe it is because there has been a point of intersection in our lives. There is an inner acknowledgment that we saw or experienced something in a similar way.



(Top) "The Guardian Bird" and (bottom) "The Juvenile" by Libby George.

Thanks to Our Supporters, May through mid-July 2021

- ▶ Best Friends (\$100+): Susan Halpin (NEW Life Member); James Harding; Nancy Noll*; Rich Ridenhour; Emily Sinkhorn*
- ▶ Sponsors (\$50-\$99): Rick Brown; Lynn & Steven Jones; Paul Pitino
- ▶ Friends (\$18-49): Melanie Dabill; John Helie & Monica Simms; Moonlight McCumber; Marsha Mielke; Mary Romaidis; Frank & Christel Shaughnessy; Patricia Sundgren-Smith & Frederick Pierce; Karen Zeck
- ▶ Other Donations: \$50 from Mary Romaidis; \$117 in AMIC donation box!

* = New member.

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

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Mark Your Calendar for:

Board Candidate Application Deadline, 8/13

FOAM Annual Meeting/Volunteer Lunch, 9/12

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

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.