



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 29, Issue 2, Spring 2022

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: On-line Duck Teapots Auction... New Board Member... Science Fair Awards... Thanks Godwit Days Volunteers... Roving Naturalist Stories... Student Bird Art Contest Results... Humboldt Pet Supply Clean-ups... Poo Pocket Guide Review... Marsh Toxins... What's New at the Marsh... Artists... Calendar... Supporters



*Red-breasted Merganser teapot.
Photo by Paul Johnson.*

Duck Teapots Donation Translates to FOAM Fundraiser May 20-June 1

By Sue Leskiw

Stanley Harris was a wildlife professor (ornithology) at Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt) for nearly 40 years. When "Doc" passed away in December 2019 at age 91, his son Michael decided to create an artistic tribute to his dad: 133 handcrafted ceramic teapots in the myriad shapes of Stan's beloved waterfowl.

While Michael already has gifted 102 teapots to Dr. Harris's former students, colleagues, and other birders, he has donated the remaining 31 to FOAM, to auction off to support the Arcata Marsh where he and his dad birded nearly every day post-retirement (1992).

So, starting Friday, May 20 at noon, you can bid on-line to own one of these beautiful creations—which also work as tea-brewing vessels!—with 100% of the proceeds going to support FOAM's environmental education and community outreach activities. The auction site is www.biddingowl.com/FriendsoftheArcataMarsh. Bidding will close on Wednesday, June 1 at 5 pm PST.

Species up for bid are teal (blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon), mergansers (common, red-breasted, and hooded), pintail (four different color treatments of females), canvasback, ruddy duck, long-tailed duck, redhead, black duck, and common goldeneye. There's even a Disneyesque "Fantastic Fowl" and a pair of ceramic swans from another donor.

Each on-line listing includes a color photo of the teapot, courtesy of FOAM Board member Paul Johnson. Winners will receive a species name card signed by Michael Harris. Successful bidders will need to either pick up their ducks at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center or pay to have it shipped to them. Information on payment and pick-up is included on the auction website.

Don't miss this opportunity to own a unique remembrance of Doc Harris AND support FOAM! Questions should be directed to info@arcatamarshfriends.org.



New FOAM Board Member

Ava Iorizzo was appointed to the FOAM Board on May 12. A Humboldt resident since 2017, she earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from HSU. She looks forward to putting her experience as a naturalist for the nonprofit Mad River Alliance to work educating people on the ecology and importance of the Arcata Marsh through leading tours and staffing the AMIC desk.

2021-22 Board of Directors & Officers

Officers

President: Elliott Dabill

Vice-President: David Couch

Secretary: Cindy Kuttner

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

Other Board Members

Ava Iorizzo

Paul Johnson

Lynn Jones

Bill Prescott

Jean Santi

Mark Wilson

FOAM website: www.arcatamarshfriends.org

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



FOAM Science Fair awardees Amalia Baugh (left) and Aubrey Lloyd (right).

FOAM Gives Three Science Fair Awards

By Sue Leskiw

For the 16th year, FOAM sponsored awards for the best projects relating to wetlands at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair, which was held virtually in mid March. Three cash prizes were awarded. Two of the three projects that FOAM judges Lynn Jones and Sue Leskiw selected competed in the California State Science Fair in April!

“Benthic Macroinvertebrates in Jacoby Creek” by Jacoby Creek School eighth-grader Genevieve Caruso was awarded first prize. She investigated the presence of benthic macroinvertebrates (insects that live along the bottom of a water body and are visible to the naked eye) to serve as an indicator of stream health. She placed two sample bags each at four locations along Jacoby Creek, collecting them after two weeks to sort and count macroinvertebrates. Genevieve also looked for a correlation between the types and amounts of macroinvertebrates and creek turbidity and flow, plus a correlation between increased flow and turbidity, by checking turbidity data twice a week. Her sites included two residential areas (upstream – South Quarry and Brookwood), adjacent to a farm, and along a busy road (downstream – Old Arcata). Collecting between January 1 and 16, at South Quarry, Genevieve trapped five different taxa (including one that is intolerant of polluted water); at Brookwood, four taxa; at Farm, four taxa (ranging from intolerant to very tolerant); and at Old Arcata, four taxa. The lack of rain may have affected macroinvertebrate collection during her second sampling block (January 16-30). Her prediction that macroinvertebrate numbers and diversity would increase as turbidity decreased was not supported, but she was correct that turbidity did correspond with flow levels. She noted that Jacoby Creek contains many salmon redds. [Genevieve competed at the State level, winning third place in the junior division of Earth & Environment. Her project also won a first-place award from North Group Sierra Club in the County science fair.]

Second place went to Freshwater Charter Middle School seventh-grader Amalia Baugh for “Oysters Unshelled! The Impact of Ocean Acidification on Oysters in Humboldt Bay, California.” She hypothesized that oyster shells in the lowest pH solution (most acidic) would break down the most, as dissolved carbon dioxide combines with seawater forms carbonic acid. Amalia tested five different solutions of vinegar (pH = 2), ranging from 0% to 50%. As she predicted, the shells in the most concentrated vinegar lost the most mass. While the calcium carbonate in oyster shells acts as a buffer to acidity, eventually the shells break down. She concluded that as the ocean becomes more acidic from dissolved carbon dioxide, the oysters living there lose calcium carbonate necessary to build their shells and carbonic acid levels increase. Her background research cited large decreases in oyster production along the northern Pacific Coast, with larvae being more affected by increasing acidity than adult oysters. [Amalia was selected to compete at the State level.]

Aubrey Lloyd, a sixth-grader at Kneeland School, was awarded third place for “Arcata Marsh Freshwater Amphipods Tolerance to Environmental Acidification.” [This is the second year of her two-year research project at the Marsh, where she switched from studying cyclops to amphipods.] Her project examined the mortality rates of amphipods at three pH levels in water: 6.0, 5.5, and 5.0. Aubrey added carbon dioxide to the jars, then counted the amphipods once a day for 5 days. Mortality was higher in jars with lower pH. She found that amphipods were more resistant to changes in pH levels than the cyclops she tested in 2021, explaining that this could be because they are larger and have a more-developed exoskeleton than cyclops.

FOAM received thank-you notes from Genevieve and Amalia. Genevieve’s project will be on display at AMIC until Marsh Explorers Camp starts on June 20.

Godwit Days Volunteers

FOAM sends out a heartfelt thank you to the following people who volunteered to help with its activities associated with April’s Godwit Days Bird Festival:

» Robbin Kohn, Mary Ann Madej, and Sue Leskiw for joining with Godwit Days volunteers to staff a display at Eureka Natural Foods during the first week in April. The 5-day effort raised over \$3200 for Godwit Days through ENF’s Change 4 Change register round-up program. FOAM also underwrote the cost of nearly 150 Marsh critter ornament kits (put together by Lynn Jones and Sue Leskiw) that were used as free handouts to children of store customers.

» Paul Johnson for snapping photos of the winning bird art and nature writing students and Elliott Dabill for helping Sue Leskiw hand out awards at the April 16 ceremony held at the Marsh amphitheater.

» Katy Allen, Martha Carneal, Gail Coonen, Jennifer Engel, Robbin Kohn, Sue Leskiw, and Elizabeth Meisman for welcoming about 40

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Otter mask maker. Photo by Sue Leskiw.

children plus their parents during 2.5 hours of nature craft activities at AMIC on April 16. Stations were clay Marsh critter ornaments, bird hats, bird and otter masks, and wooden bird calls.

» Mark Wilson for leading a God-wit Days kids' Marsh nature walk.

» Kate Seguierra and Sue Leskiw for hanging the May-June AMIC art show featuring winners of the Student Bird Art Contest cosponsored by FOAM.

Green Rovers, Come Over!

FOAM's Arcata Marsh Roving Naturalist program has been going since January, with Barbara Reisman and Sharon Levy as its most-recent recruits. UPWIND editor Sue Leskiw asked the six leaders to provide a paragraph or two about their experiences. Here are their stories.

Notes from a Roving Naturalist by Barbara Reisman

Ever wonder who those people wearing khaki vests roaming the Marsh trails are?? Well, one of them is me! Having recently moved to a house at the edge of the Arcata Marsh, I decided to join FOAM's Roving Naturalist program. Although I've been a FOAM Saturday tour leader on-and-off for 8 years, I now have a way to share my love of this unique habitat in a more informal manner. I've been roaming the trails in my official vest since Valentine's Day, going out several times a week during different periods of the day.

As I walk along, there's always something that catches *my* eye. But how do you connect with other people, who don't know what I'm here doing? Not being very gregarious,



(From left) Half of the Roving Naturalist team: Lynn Jones, Elliott Dabill, and Jean Santi. Photo by Paul Johnson.

I'm often reluctant to just start talking to people, so I listen for opportunities. My favorite interaction was with a family looking at trailside plants. I saw a little boy reaching for a plant and heard him say "thistle." I told him that it was actually a teasel and that it got its name because it was used to "tease" cloth to raise nap (the fuzzy surface on fabric). We had a fun discussion about different uses for plants. I discovered that the parents are teaching their children to recognize common plants and they welcomed this spontaneous lesson.

So remember, those khaki vests mean there is a naturalist available. My hope is that, as more people take advantage of FOAM's Rovers, we will be able to increase contact with visitors to the Marsh and share knowledge of this fascinating and invaluable local resource. So, come on up and ask me a question!!

Elliott Dabill's Trail Encounters as a Roving Naturalist

It's easy for me to schedule naturalist walks at the Marsh. I'm on South I Street every Monday servicing the DoggiPots. I make automatic stops at the first two parking lots, including the "Green Wall," then hitch up the dawg (Coco the boxer) and walk to the far side of Brackish Pond. The most-effective ways to engage strangers are almost too easy: anyone looking at the Marsh map at the Green Wall just requires asking if I can help, plus dog lovers abound on the trails. The map readers are always looking for something and it

often leads to FOAM's mission and the history of what they can see. The mappers have happened four times in the past several months.

Dog people may avoid each other to avoid the occasional clash, but people without dogs enjoy stopping to tickle Coco's ear. It's OK if that's all there is, but on a good day, I can engage them on Marsh topics. Another entry into conversation is the vest, with my name and Marsh patch. The official veneer should open people right up, but I can't count a lot of victories so far.

Lynn Jones Reports

I've gone out officially 9 times. I spend a couple of hours walking all the trails. I carry binoculars and brochures, but I don't stop in one area for long unless I see something unique. I say hello to everyone I cross paths with and generally let them initiate questions. If I've seen something noteworthy, I suggest that people go look. If someone seems to be observing something, I will ask what they've found. I mostly get questions about birds, then otters. What's the most-interesting interaction I've had? A dad and his son ran into me several times, and each time had a whole slew of new questions. The son, age 6 or 7, was quite engaged.

I think the Rover program is worthwhile for lots of reasons. I think people expect someone knowledgeable to be in the Marsh periodically, not just inside AMIC. Also,

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though we have no official capacity, people seem put at ease by there being some oversight, some rules being maintained. I like to be the in-person trail reminder that we are in a wildlife sanctuary, the place where humans and pets are visitors.

My Take on Being a Roving Naturalist by Jean Santi

As a Roving Naturalist, I feel I am still learning. I go out once a month for 2 hours. I usually concentrate on the South I Street ponds and McDaniel Slough because I am a birder and there are good viewing opportunities in these locations. I carry my spotting scope so I can give others a chance to see the birds close up.

I am often asked what I am seeing, which leads to other conversations about the Marsh, the Pacific Flyway, the types of ducks we have, the different lengths of bills the wading birds have, which leads to their ability to share the marshy areas, etc. I am always happy to “find” the otters or a fishing heron or egret, as some walkers do not notice these events and are happy to share them with me. I love to talk about the history of the Marsh and how much our community and its natural world have gained from the cooperation, knowledge, and perseverance of our community members over the last 40 years.

Paul Johnson's Story

I go out 2 to 3 times per month, often while prepping to lead an upcoming scheduled Marsh walk or while photographing something new. I spend anywhere between 1 and 3 hours. I make most of my contacts by showing some trailside “wonder”—caterpillars, a bunch of ducks in the slough, or whatever—to passing visitors. They often then ask questions about what I've shown them. There is no most-frequent question I receive: the queries almost always are connected to the item I point out to visitors. I think most of the people I talk with feel that the contact was worthwhile.

Sharon Levy

As of 5/9, I'd only gone out once as a Roving Naturalist, so I don't have much to write about. I hope to get out more as the weather calms down.



Student Bird Art Results

By Sue Leskiw

Over 650 school kids—more than twice the number that participated last year—entered the 19th Annual Student Bird Art Contest. Cosponsors were FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society.

The contest is held in association with mid-April's Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in Arcata. This year, since a slimmed-down, hybrid festival did not have a presence at the Arcata Community Center, we were unable to post all the entries for public viewing. But the contest did return to having an in-person awards ceremony, held at the Arcata Marsh outdoor amphitheater on April 16.

To view spectacular color versions of winning artwork and photos from the awards ceremony, click the link on the FOAM home page at www.arcatamarshfriends.org.

Some \$600 was awarded: 38 monetary prizes plus 35 honorable mentions. The winners were:

Kindergarten & Grade 1

1st: John Campbell-Crawford, Jacoby Creek School, Red-breasted Nuthatch

2nd: Sarafinn Clemans, Laurel Tree Charter, Purple Finches

3rd: Ariya Tortoriello, Jacoby Creek School, Northern Flicker

Honorable Mentions: Hannah Naylor, Redwood Coast Montessori, Anna's Hummingbird; Naomi Slau-son, Jacoby Creek School, White-tailed Kite; Celiya Acevedo, Jacoby Creek School, Western Grebe

Grade 2

1st: Penn Kerhoulas, Garfield School, Tufted Puffin

2nd: Doc Henry Strong, Coastal Grove Charter, Common Yellowthroat

3rd: Mary Kennedy, Jacoby Creek School, Sharp-shinned Hawk

Honorable Mentions: Olivia Osorio, Redwood Coast Montessori, Great Blue Heron; Madeline Kalson, Redwood Coast Montessori, Anna's Hummingbird; Heidi Tout, Garfield School, Red-shouldered Hawk; Dorothy Hall, Mistwood Educational Center, Anna's Hummingbird

Grade 3

1st: Alex Sanzaro, Garfield School, Spotted Owl; Tamarin Merry, Coastal Grove Charter, American Robin

2nd: Mia Hong-Novotney, Fuente Nueva Charter, American Avocet; Teus Kypta, Garfield School, Peregrine Falcon

3rd: Tayler LaPorte, Green Point Elementary, Osprey; Maya Knight, Coastal Grove Charter, Hummingbird

Honorable Mentions: Olive Conley, Willow Creek Learning Center, Anna's Hummingbird; Marayah Kaiser, Garfield School, Tufted Puffin; Jase Blackwell, Alder Grove Charter, Aleutian Cackling Goose; Jaxon Bryant, Redwood Coast Montessori, Great Blue Heron

Grade 4

1st: Alisa Cecchin, Union Street Charter, Varied Thrush; Adeleine Kennedy, Jacoby Creek School, Cedar Waxwings

2nd: Rosa Nofsinger, Union Street Charter, Cedar Waxwing; Ollie Goldstein, Union Street Charter, Belted Kingfisher

3rd: Tadeus Furaha, Coastal Grove Charter, Steller's Jay; Corabella Pagliuco, Union Street Charter, American Goldfinch

Honorable Mentions: Eliana Lindsay, Union Street Charter, Peregrine Falcon; Gracelynn Shepherd, Cutten School, Western Meadowlark; Esme Connell, Trillium Charter, Great Blue Heron; Grace Schmidt, Cutten School, Steller's Jay; Owen Quinn, Fuente Nueva Charter, Black-crowned Night-Heron

Grade 5

1st: Bony McKnight, Coastal Grove Charter, American Kestrel

2nd: Sofia Baker, Fortuna Middle School, Great Blue Heron

3rd: Ricardo Freitas, Northern United Charter, White-tailed Kite

Honorable Mentions: Elianna Emery, Agnes Johnson Charter, Anna's Hummingbird; Kjersti Macdonald, Garfield School, Anna's Hummingbird; Maya Klampt, Cutten School, Anna's Hummingbird; Zayd Kirby, Willow Creek Learning Center, Allen's Hummingbird



Best Bird in Habitat Awards

Eleanor Vanlathanith, Kindergarten, Jacoby Creek School, Pileated Woodpeckers; Morgan Fresz, Grade 4, Cutten Elementary, Spotted Owl; Duke Ester, Grade 5, Garfield School, Wood Duck; Ella Swanson, Grade 7, Zane Middle School, Anna's Hummingbird; Meguire Bartosz, Grade 10, St Bernard's Academy, Wood Ducks

Grade 6

1st: Tenley Weeks, Koinonia Academy, Anna's Hummingbirds

2nd: Kahlan Wilcox, Winship Middle School, Snowy Plovers

3rd: Summer Kennard, Alder Grove Charter, Belted Kingfisher

Honorable Mentions: Sydney Boone, Zane Middle School, Anna's Hummingbird; Kyle Cox, Jr, Stanwood Murphy Elementary, Mallard; Nyah Justice, Redwood Coast Montessori, Spotted Owl; Phoebe Paoli, St Bernard's Acad, Snowy Plover

Grade 7

1st: Kimberly Barreto, Stanwood Murphy Elementary, Blue Jay

2nd: Emma Jewel Kelone, McKinleyville Middle School, Anna's Hummingbird

3rd: Teagan Sailors, Sunny Brae Middle School, Rufous Hummingbird

Honorable Mentions: Natalie Reeves, Zane Middle School, Short-eared Owl; Grace Wilkin, Zane Middle School, Purple Finch; Oni Orcutt, St Bernard's Academy, Purple Finch

Grades 8&9

1st: Ram Virnave, Academy of the Redwoods, Osprey

2nd: Evie Dowd, Northern United Charter, Belted Kingfisher

3rd: Carter Hernandez, Zane Middle School, Spotted Owl

Honorable Mentions: Levi Hansen, Zane Middle School, Great-horned Owl; Macie Hinton, Zane Middle School, California Quail; Jezlynn Stokes, Stanwood Murphy Elementary, Purple Finch; Julie Burke, Fortuna High, Bewick's Wren

Grades 10-12

1st: Arien Goode, Eureka Learning Center, Varied Thrush

2nd: Matthew Contreras Velasco, Eureka Learning Center, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

3rd: Eilene Childs, Alder Grove Charter, American Goldfinches

Honorable Mentions: Krystal Huerta, Eureka High, Cedar Waxwing; Laylah Rios, Eureka High, California Quail; Bridgette Dunn, Eureka High, Northern Harrier; Maggie Odell, Eureka High, Peregrine Falcon; Brooke Grazis, St Bernard's Academy, Common Loon

Join Humboldt Pet Supply for Monthly Marsh Clean-ups

From now until October 15, our G Street neighbor is sponsoring pet waste/trash clean-ups at the Arcata Marsh every third Saturday. Stop by the store at 145 G Street to pick up supplies, then walk the Marsh at your leisure, picking up waste. Bring everything back to HPS by 4 pm to be weighed.

During the store's special Earth Day clean-up on April 22, 16 participants collected over 20 pounds of dog poop and trash.

For more information, visit www.humboldtpetsupply.com.

The Pet Poo Pocket Guide: A Book Review

By Cindy Kuttner

We all know by now that bagging and trashing dog waste at the Arcata Marsh is better than leaving it on the ground. We understand that untreated dog and cat waste carries bacteria and parasites toxic to wildlife. This is why we protect the Marsh flora and fauna by picking up our dog's poo with plastic bags and putting it in the provided bins.

But have you ever questioned the use of plastic bags in this effort? *The Pet Poo Pocket Guide* contains the answers we need. It's a good resource indeed.

Author Rose Seemann outlines in great detail how we can safely compost dog and cat waste in our own backyards, and how communities are dealing with the preponderance of pet poo around the world. I will leave you to read her book for guidance and detailed scientific-based ways to do backyard poo composting. (One super-important caveat is that such compost is NEVER used in soils for the production of food.)

What I will share with you here are simplified descriptions of how some communities have tackled their poo-in-plastic problem.

» Prague, Czech Republic: The FEDOG Company manufactures "an environmentally friendly bag for dog excrement." Made of recycled paper,

each bag contains a cardboard scoop. FEDOG now distributes bags and steel containers all over Europe and Asia.

» Toronto, Canada: This city's "Green Bin Project" accepts all organics, including pet waste AND disposable diapers! (We've all questioned "trashing" those diapers haven't we? Locally, they still go to the landfill.) A hydropulper separates out the plastic and spins all the waste into a liquid pulp. The pulp is digested by microorganisms in 20 days. The biogas becomes a power source, and the rest is used as a starter for composting yard waste.

» Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Park Spark Project mixes dog park waste to produce bacteria in a digesting tank. The methane produced by this process is used to "softly light" the dog park.

» Gilbert, Arizona: Arizona State University students use their E-TURD (Energy Transformation Using Reactive Digestion) Program to power their dog park and digest the dog poo.

» Olympia, Washington: The Pacific Shellfish Institute is investigating using PooPower to divert dog waste runoff into Puget Sound. (That must be a lot of dog poo...to threaten Puget Sound!)

» Denali National Park, Alaska: Since 1980, volunteers have been composting dog waste and using the material for ornamental park plantings. (By the way, it's mostly volunteers who empty the DoggiPots at the Marsh.)

Other interesting stories in *The Pet Poo Pocket Guide* include what a zoo does with its poo; how the author partnered with a dairy farmer to turn tons of Denver dog waste into EPA-tested and approved compost for ornamental soil enhancement (Hint: it wasn't easy or fast); and thermophilic microbes, our "universal ancestor."

There is so much dog and cat poo! Wait until you read her statistics! So how can we do our part in reducing our pets' poo pawprint? It's complicated AND possible. If you are interested, please read her book. My indoor kitty Palette and I are still pondering that project.



Marsh Clean-up Continues

By Lynn Jones

As though the threat of sea-level rise were not enough to menace the Marsh, it adds the hazard of disturbing legacy toxins embedded in the soil, since the Bay and its tributaries were lined with lumber mills. According to Jen Kalt of Humboldt Baykeeper ("Dioxin Hot-Spot in Arcata Marsh to Be Assessed," *EcoNews*, April 2022), one of many contaminated areas is the former Little Lakes Industries site on South I Street, within the borders of the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. "From 1950 to 1988, the site was primarily used for timber-related operations that included log storage, milling, and drying. The Johnson Tract site was used for a log pond. Structures on the site consisted of a re-manufacturing complex, kilns, maintenance shed, boiler building, drying shed, conical burner, and office building" ("Site Investigation Report Findings," SHN, Oct. 2019).

The contaminant of concern found on the site is dioxin. A commonly used wood preservative, pentachlorophenol, contains chemically related compounds, including dioxins, which are highly toxic, long-lasting, and linked to reproductive and developmental problems and cancer. Dioxins bioaccumulate as they move up the food chain.

Since 2015, the site has been observed and studied. In 2020, the City of Arcata received a Brownfield Assessment grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to develop a clean-up plan. The State Water Resources Control Board's 2019 recovery plan has been extended to 2025, but meantime, a Threatened and Impaired designation (that applies to all of Humboldt Bay) allows for testing before any development proceeds.

The perils hovering over the future of beautiful Humboldt Bay and its marshlands are imminent. Advance planning may help mitigate the impacts of the "New Normal."

What's New at the Marsh?

By George Ziminsky

Spring has arrived at the Marsh and the Humboldt Bay Owl's-Clover is blooming! Most of our overwintering shorebirds and waterfowl have moved on to their breeding grounds, while our returning breeders are busy moving back in. Yellow-breasted Chats can be heard from Mount Trashmore, along Butcher's Slough, and north of the Log Pond in the Little Lakes parcel. Our other colorful and conspicuous breeder, the Bullock's Oriole, can be heard throughout the Marsh. There were at least two Anna's Hummingbird nests around the Log Pond that successfully fledged, and two Black-capped Chickadee families have moved into old willow branches here at the Marsh. (Black-capped Chickadees are cavity nesters, using an existing hole or excavating one to suit their needs, Photos of the action have been posted on AMIC and FOAM Facebook pages.)

Sadly, society's ills have not spared the Marsh. It has been a very frustrating few months with trash dumping, graffiti, and vandalism enjoying a popularity not seen before. The parking lots and pullouts have become de facto campgrounds, sans facilities. I Street is a conduit for the 24/7 party scene at the Klopp Lake parking lot. This brings with it a level of collateral damage to wildlife that now includes one of the Marsh's river otters, victim of a pre-dawn hit-and-run a few Saturdays ago. The newly installed mounted binoculars at Klopp Lake—refurbished at FOAM's expense—lasted only 3 months before being stolen in early May. Then, thieves broke into Arcata's City Corp yard at the wastewater treatment plant and made off with equipment like the very useful red Kawasaki side-by-side, which had enabled the Natural Resources crew to efficiently move around the Marsh with their tools.

Marsh Explorers Camp will start the week of June 20 and continue through the week of August 15. This year, camp will have only an afternoon session (1-5 pm). The native plant garden continues to

generate steady compliments from visitors, with work starting on Phase III. Inside AMIC there will be some new faces behind the desk. City Environmental Services staff members Kelsey Martin and Jenna Boyse will be covering some shifts during the week, plus AMIC will again be open on Monday afternoons (1-5 pm).



*Anna's Hummingbird nestlings.
Photo by George Ziminsky.*



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*American Goldfinches by Eilene Childs,
3rd place winner, Grades 10-12.*

MAY-JUNE ARTISTS STUDENT BIRD ART WINNERS

Stop by the Marsh Interpretive Center to gaze at the 38 cash prize winners and 35 honorable mentions from the 2022 Student Bird Art Contest. The creativity of Humboldt County schoolchildren is boundless!

Calendar of Events

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

May 20-June 1—On-line Duck Teapots Auction (see p. 1).

May 19—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

May/June—Winners of Student Bird Art Contest on display (see p. 4)

June 16—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

July/August—Landscape paintings by Jody Bryant

July 14—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

Thanks to Our Supporters, Mid-January through Mid-May

» **Best Friends** (\$100+): William Alexander; Karen Isa (NEW Life Member!); Rich Ridenhour; Robin Rusk (NEW Life Member!)

» **Supporters** (\$50-\$99): Glen & Dee Jones; Lynn & Steve Jones; Christopher & Kathleen Lee; Lisa Monet & Rick Charles; Steve Replogle

» **Friends** (\$18-49): Andy Feinstein*; Esther & Neil Gilchrist; Ava Iorizo*; Sheila Marks (Morehead, KY); Joyce Hough Neighbor & Fred Neighbor; Rollin Richmond (Dunwoody, GA); Cynthia Rudick (Canton, OH); Patricia Sennott ("We love the new garden; it is amazing & beautiful!"); Ann Diver-Stamnes & Steve Stamnes; Katie White; Phyllis Willis; Mary Ann Madej & Al Wolski

» **Donations from Life Members:** Aldaron Laird, \$200 (half of the proceeds from his AMIC photo show sales); Susan Barnstein, \$100; Steven & Carol Pearson (Portland, OR), \$100; Timothy Stewart (Wild Birds Unlimited, Santa Rosa), \$100

» **Other Donations:** Patricia Farmer & Tim Talbot, \$100 (in honor of Dorothy Hampton & Bill Kieser); Ram Virnave, \$25 (rebate of student bird art contest prize); Benevity Giving Platform, \$24.28; Network for Good, \$10; AMIC donation box, \$168.89; Amazon Smile, \$15.43

* = New member

FOAM
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On-line Duck Teapots Auction, 5/20-6/1

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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.