



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 30, Issue 3, Summer 2023

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 24... New AMIC Staffer... Leaky No Name Pond... FOAM at Prairie Creek Centennial... Weekend Staffing Help Needed... What's New at the Marsh?... Board Candidate Application Form... Goodbye Bill & Jean... Kudos to Our Tour Leaders...September/October Artists... Visitor Log... Monthly Marsh Cleanups on Tap... Calendar... Our Supporters

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

We are looking for 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 p. 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 must be received **no later than Monday, August 21.** — ***Elliott Dabill***

FOAM Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Set for September 24

All FOAM members and volunteers are invited to this in-person event at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center on Sunday, September 24, starting at noon.

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

The 10th 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.

New Staffer at AMIC

My name is Carmen Sahagun. I work as an environmental program aide mornings at the Interpretive Center. I graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt in spring 2023 with a BS in environmental science & management, with a concentration in interpretation and education. I have always had a passion for environmental stewardship and conservation. Throughout my time in college, I developed a

strong interest in improving access to outdoor education and experiences for historically underrepresented and impoverished communities like the one where I grew up. When I'm not working, I am usually hiking somewhere in Humboldt County or exploring new river spots. I am excited to connect with the local community here on the North Coast and with those who visit from far and wide. See you at the Marsh!



Carmen Sahagun.

2022-23 Board of Directors & Officers

Officers

- President:* Elliott Dabill
- Vice-President:* David Couch
- Secretary:* Cindy Kuttner
- Treasurer:* Sue Leskiw (*Ex Officio*; also UPWIND Editor)

Other Board Members

- Maria del Carmen Baron
- Andy Feinstein
- Ava Iorizzo
- Paul Johnson
- Lynn Jones
- Bill Prescott
- Jean Santi
- Mark Wilson

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



Close-up of outflow channel from No Name Pond to Butcher Slough, looking east. Photo by Paul Johnson.

No Name Pond Is Leaking

By Paul Johnson

On the day after the Ferndale earthquake last December, Jeff Black, a wildlife professor at Cal Poly Humboldt, was walking the Klopp Lake trail along the east side of Stan Harris's No Name Pond. This portion of the trail is built atop a dike that separates the pond from nearby Butcher Slough. Dr Black noticed water flowing out from under the dike and spilling into the slough. The earthquake apparently had caused a rift that allowed water from the pond to penetrate through the base of the dike. Water has been outflowing for almost seven months, eroding a sizeable channel that is easily visible from the trail.

For years, No Name Pond has supported a vibrant population of cattails that has expanded to become the primary feature of the pond. As I write this in mid-July, the cattails in all the other wetlands of the Marsh have recovered from their winter dormancy, grown to maturity, and are beginning to bloom. But in No Name, where the water is nearly gone, the cattails have failed to respond and the pond looks like a ghost of its former self.

The word from the City is that it will look at the possibility of repairing the leak when new water pipes are installed in the Klopp Lake dike. If the repair is not feasible (the size or depth of the rift is unknown), the cattails will almost surely disappear. It will be fascinating to watch what happens after that.

FOAM to Be Part of Prairie Creek Centennial

By Lynn Jones

This summer marks the 100th anniversary of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. FOAM has been invited to host a table in celebration. Come spend a day in the redwoods on Saturday, August 26 at the park near Orick (https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=415).

This free community celebration will offer a variety of activities, including ranger-guided walks, Junior Ranger programs for kids, and food. The goal is to provide a fun and memorable experience that commemorates the last century of conservation and stewardship at Prairie Creek and inspires the next generation of land stewards.

FOAM is excited to be included in this festival of conservation and naturalist communities. Our booth will display some of Paul Johnson's beautiful photos of the Arcata Marsh. Along with information about the Marsh, we will offer activities that compare the redwood and marsh ecosystems. A nest-building activity will explore the needs of different kinds of birds.

Join the hikes, activities, and general festivities to honor the continuing efforts to restore and protect the special plants, animals, water, and heritage at Prairie Creek SP.

Weekend Staffing Help Needed

A few steadfast volunteers have been keeping the Interpretive Center doors open on Saturdays and Sundays. More helpers are needed to staff the front desk (4-hour shifts) between 9 am and 5 pm. If you would enjoy welcoming visitors, ringing up bookstore purchases, giving out maps, and answering questions, this is the job for you! To become a City of Arcata volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old and complete paperwork (including LiveScan fingerprinting). City staff will schedule one-on-one training on how to open and close the facility. For more information, call 707-826-2359.

What's New at the Arcata Marsh?

By George Ziminsky

It has been a fairly hectic start to summer here at the Marsh, with the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade figuring prominently in the mix. Construction is taking place at several locations simultaneously, leading to intermittent trail closures and detours. The full closure of I St for three weeks has perhaps been the most dramatic aspect, with many enjoying the lack of speeding traffic, decrease in dumping of trash, and absence of blaring car stereos. This has made things very busy on the G Street side of the Marsh, with more people passing through AMIC and an occasionally full parking lot. The Volunteer Trail Stewards recently held two workdays at the Marsh, helping out with basic trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, restoring views to Butcher Slough and Allen Marsh, and trash cleanup. Thanks to this great volunteer group for its continuing stewardship at the Marsh.

We welcome Carmen Sahagun to the AMIC staff (see p. 1) and extend many thanks to the volunteers who helped fill in the weekday schedule to keep the building open for the Marsh-going public. Weekend coverage has been a bit spotty, owing to the relatively small pool of volunteers who staff consistently. Marsh Explorers Camp is in full swing, with some weeks having up to 20 campers who ebb and flow between AMIC and the Marsh trails.

The river otters have been doing their thing this summer. There are two families (a mother with a single pup and another with two) who frequently have been seen in Klopp Lake and Brackish Pond, to the delight of locals and visitors alike. There have been a few reports of folks getting too close to the otters for photo ops. If you are changing their behavior, you are too close and need a better phone or a longer camera lens.

In addition to the WWTP upgrade construction, work has begun

(continued on p. 4)

**Application for Membership on the FOAM Board of Directors
for a 3-year term beginning October 2023**

FOAM Bylaws allow for individuals who are FOAM members in good standing 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 Monday, August 21.**

Questions? Contact Elliott Dabill at 707-502-5080, 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 2023.

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: Monday, August 21.**



FOAM Board, fall 2018. Jean Santi is second from the right and Bill Prescott is third from the right. Photo by Tom Leskiw.

Bye, Bye, Bill Prescott

By Elliott Dabill

We owe a lot to Bill Prescott for his stint on the FOAM Board since 2016. He was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2016 and may have won it more often for his many hours spent staffing the Interpretive Center (but FOAM waits at least 5 years between honoring the same person, to spread the recognition). Being at the front desk every Saturday for years allowed him to observe the traffic flow and get to know what visitors like. This led to FOAM creating patches and pins for sale. He also kept an eye on the bigger picture and prodded the Board to do more to encourage volunteers to avoid closing AMIC on the weekends. So we did.

I know Bill's mind was on improving the Marsh experience because he would ask to meet for lunch in Eureka or Arcata occasionally and pursue issues that bugged him. For example, the two of us surveyed the existing osprey nests in the area a few times. It was fun to do but the persistent focus on that pole inside the fence at the wastewater treatment plant meant that the state Coastal Commission would approve the plan. We are now just waiting for lumber and expertise to build an osprey nest there. The point of all of this is that Bill cares about the Marsh, he thinks about it a lot, and he will persist until some resolution happens. I love it that he cares so much, I love it that he has clear ideas about how an organization should run, and I hate it that

he suggested the last Board meeting at least five ways I could be a better president. I hate it that all his ideas had some merit.

Thanks for your perspective and hard work, Bill. We'll have to look hard for another gadfly to replace you.

Farewell to Jean Santi

By Lynn Jones & Elliott Dabill

After five energetic years, Jean Santi will be sorely missed as she steps down from the FOAM Board to travel and explore new horizons. Her measurable contributions—such as managing the rotating art displays at Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, serving as a monthly Roving Naturalist (spotting scope in tow), leading tours, and collecting data for City projects—will be hard to replace. Her immeasurable contributions—including her strong voice in discussions, well-thought-out opinions and ideas, easy laugh, and supportive engagement—may be even more difficult to substitute.

Jean had many years of teaching, leadership, and business savvy before joining the Board, so it comes as no surprise that all her projects were organized and systematic. Display artists appreciated that show prep fell into place as it was supposed to. Her human-centered process actually reflected how much they and the audience appreciate the artwork. Jean leaves the job with bi-monthly planned through the end of 2024!

It is important for FOAM Board members to participate in discus-

sion and planning for the Arcata Marsh and Jean needed no prodding to work for the widest perspective in those discussions. When she spoke, Board members listened: the room went otherwise silent, a clue to the respect shown to a wise and long-serving board member.

Thank you, Jean. We'll meet on the trails at the Marsh.

(continued from p. 2)

on the new dock that will extend out into the Bay from the southeast corner of the Klopp Lake parking lot. This will make it easier for kayakers, canoers, rowers, stand-up paddle boarders, and wind surfers to access the bay (tide permitting). The eastern edge of the parking lot will have a new sidewalk and handicapped parking spaces. The increase in a structured layout will hopefully make it easier to be a pedestrian there, rather than having to squeeze between vehicles parked densely vying for a view or patch of shade.

Kudos to Our Tour Leaders

► One never knows how many people will show up for a weekly tour, but Ken Burton had 22 participants for his June 19 Saturday tour and Barbara Reisman entertained 17 visitors on July 1.

► On June 24, one tour participant enjoyed Andy Feinstein's tour so much that she dropped \$18 in the FOAM donation box!

► Fortuna Junior Academy sent a thank-you card relaying that, despite May 25 being a rainy day, the "kiddos" enjoyed their time in the Interpretive Center, learning about the food web and wastewater system. FOAM docents were Andy Feinstein, Katy Allen, Barbara Reisman, and Elliott Dabill.

► Ken Burton and George Ziminsky led a tour for California Coastwalk that brought a \$200 donation to FOAM. The accompanying card expressed thanks for "making this a memorable part of Coastwalk's Humboldt Discovery Weekend." The organization had specifically requested Ken and George as repeat leaders because their registrants so enjoyed last summer's tour.



*“Sunset with the Pines”
by Nancy Rickard.*



*“George (Ziminsky) at the Marsh”
by Paul Rickard.*

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
PAUL & NANCY RICKARD**

“Spirit of Arcata Marsh, 2023”

Paul Rickard picked up a watercolor or brush as soon as he retired from teaching full time 11 years ago. He has never put it down, painting out on the landscape almost every day; through fog or sun or Humboldt mist, Paul has picked up plein air painting with a passion.

That passion could not help but spread to his spouse Nancy. Five years ago she started painting with soft pastels.

These two artists attempt to capture the beauty of Humboldt’s coast, the majesty of the redwoods, and the alluring landscapes of Humboldt County. Their show features these two artists’ impressions of a community treasure. Nancy’s work embodies the joy of a colorist’s approach to the Arcata Marsh landscape, with an emphasis on the vibrant tones of light that stretch across the day. Paul’s work focuses on the human community and its interplay with the light and color of the landscape.

This show celebrates a contemporary depiction of the now 54-year-

old Marsh. The wastewater treatment plant, native flora, fauna, and human community continues to thrive and coexist in 2023. A free public reception will be held at the Interpretive Center on Sunday, September 10 from 1 to 4 pm.

**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 20, stop by the store at 145 G Street to pick up supplies (buckets, gloves, poop bags, pooper scoopers, etc).

Choose your own route and pace, but 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.

Visitor Log

Besides California, people from the following states signed the front desk log book: Alaska, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. International visitors hailed from Canada, France, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

Adjectives used to describe the Marsh: “great,” “lovely,” “fantastic,” “beautiful,” “nice,” “peaceful,” and “well done.” Several signers complimented the native plant garden, the art display, and City staffer George Ziminsky, “who was very helpful and friendly to share his passion and knowledge.”

Wiyot Acknowledgment

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.



Follow us on Facebook

***www.facebook.com/Friends.
of.the.Arcata.Marsh***

Calendar of Events

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

August 10—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

August 21—Deadline to apply for FOAM Board candidacy (see p. 3)

August 26—FOAM at Prairie Creek Redwoods SP (see p. 2)

September/October—Art show by Paul & Nancy Rickard

September 10—Free public art reception, 1-4 pm

September 14—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

September 24—FOAM Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, noon-2 pm (see p. 1)

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

Thanks to Our Supporters, mid-May through mid-July

- ▶ Best Friend (\$100+): Rich Ridenhour
- ▶ Supporters (\$50-99): Pamela Brown; Lisa Monet & Rick St Charles; Jane Riggan; Patricia Sundgren Smith
- ▶ Friends (\$18-49): Karen Cunningham (Coos Bay, OR); Melanie Dabill; Ava Iorizzo; Lynn & Steven Jones; Jean Kaiwi; Nancy Noll; Mary Romaidis; Phyllis Willis; Karen Zeck
- ▶ Donations from Life Members: Vintage BMW House (Lee & Chris House), \$2000; Ira Blatt & Debra Hartridge, \$200; Steven & Carol Pearson (Portland, OR), \$100
- ▶ Other Donations: Coastwalk California, \$200 (see p. 4); Trillium Realty Group (McKinleyville), \$150 in memory of Rinda McClure; Mary Romaidis, \$50; AMIC donation box, \$191.23; Amazon Smile, \$18.54

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

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Mark Your Calendar for:

Board Candidate Application Deadline, 8/21
FOAM at Prairie Creek Redwoods SP, 8/26
FOAM Annual Meeting/Volunteer Lunch, 9/24

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.