



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh
Interpretive Center
Vol 13, Issue 3, Fall 2006

In This Issue: 2006 Annual Meeting & Election Results... Thanksgiving Leg Stretcher... Goodbye David, Patty, Richard & Anne... Plants of the Marsh... Christmas Bird Counts... Pastels on the Plaza... FOAM Annual Report... Artist Statements... Margaret Varga Memorial... Docent Training Held... Guest Book Comments... Visitor Log... Calendar... Thanks to Supporters

2006 Annual Meeting & Election Results

On Sunday, October 1, FOAM held its 12th annual meeting at the AMIC. More than 30 people attended the albacore barbecue lunch, with board members providing salads.

Board president David Couch reviewed highlights of the 2005/2006 FOAM Annual Report (see this issue). Secretary Janet Zich reported the results of the election. 39 ballots were returned by members in good standing. Elected (or confirmed) as board members were Leslie Anderson, Art Barab, Elliott Dabill, Lumei Hui, and Sue Leskiw. One open slot remains on the Board.

Art Barab and Janet Zich received Volunteer of the Year Awards for their many hours spent staffing the AMIC, leading tours, and serving FOAM.

Bayside artist Claire Iris Schencke showed attendees her mixed media artwork based on an aerial photograph of the AMWS. Arcata City Council members Mark Wheatley and Harmony Groves stopped by for lunch.

[Editor's note: At the October 12 board meeting, the following officers were chosen: President — Sue Leskiw, Vice-President — Elliott Dabill, Secretary — Janet Zich, Treasurer — Art Barab. Committee participation is listed below.]



New FOAM Board Members: (Back row, left to right) Gwen Thoele, Art Barab, outgoing president David Couch, Leslie Anderson. (Front row) Caitlin Collings, Sue Leskiw, Lumei Hui, Janet Zich, Sean Craig. Not shown: Jeffrey White, Elliott Dabill.



AMWS naturalist Denise Homer presents Volunteer of the Year awards to Janet Zich (left photo) and Art Barab (right photo).



2006-07 Board of Directors

Officers

President: Sue Leskiw (also UPWIND Editor; Mailing; Publicity; Exhibits; Webpage) — 442-5444

Vice-President: Elliott Dabill (Education) — 445-3836

Secretary: Janet Zich (also Membership; Webpage) — 822-4660

Treasurer: Art Barab (also Saturday Tour Coordinator; Exhibits) — 826-7017

Other Board Members

Leslie Anderson (Website; Scrapbook) — 822-6444

Caitlin Collings (Education; Art Exhibits) — 822-7803

Sean Craig (Habitat Concerns; Webpage) — 839-2640

Lumei Hui (Education) — 677-3164

Gwen Thoele (Education; Exhibits) — 826-1556

Jeffrey White (Education/WOW; Webpage) — 825-8567

Thanksgiving Leg Stretcher

Join veteran tour leader Art Barab for his 7th annual Thanksgiving morning walk around the Arcata Marsh. Meet on the porch of the Interpretive Center (building will be closed for the holiday) at 10 am on Thursday, November 23, for this 2-hour appetite builder.



Goodbye, David, Patty, Richard & Anne

By Sue Leskiw

FOAM bid a sad farewell to long-time board members David Couch, Patty Siering, and Richard Vincent at the October Annual Meeting. All three had reached the 6 years of consecutive service term limit specified under our bylaws.

Dave was one of the founders of the Friends of Arcata Marsh organization. He recently served as president and as a member of the committee working out an operating agreement between FOAM and the City of Arcata. Dave is a special event participant extraordinaire! He has organized Canoe the Goo trips, led wastewater tours for Godwit Days, cooked up oysters when FOAM had a festival booth, and barbequed albacore for our annual meetings. He will continue to interface with FOAM on a native oyster project to be described in the next UPWIND.

Patty, who steps down as vice-president, has led the HSU research grant project. She also served on the exhibits committee and organized a FOAM lecture series.

Richard has been the guiding spirit behind the monthly art shows at the AMIC for many years. He also will be relinquishing the role of Saturday tour coordinator, in charge of finding trained docents to lead the weekly 2 pm tours. He helps staff the FOAM booth at Godwit Days and pitches in on special events.

Anne Weiss, who has served FOAM for many years in just about every capacity, recently had to relinquish her long-time duties as membership chair and UPWIND mailing coordinator for medical reasons. The FOAM board sends its best wishes to Anne and her husband Roger.

The enthusiasm and energy of these four stalwart volunteers will be missed.

Plants of the Marsh

a series by Melinda Bailey

THE MIGHTY REDWOOD

There is one plant you may not think of going to the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary to see, but this plant does live here and it is truly awesome. It is the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Most of us are familiar with these trees, since our area is famous for them. What you may not know is that the specimens that dot the edge of Mount Trashmore supposedly are stump sprouts from when logs were brought in to hold the soil of Trashmore in place. The ability of these



trees to sprout from a buried stump is just one small example of the amazing adaptations they have made to survive.

These trees are the tallest conifers in the world. They can live to be over 2000 years old. A walk through an old-growth forest can make you feel transported back in time. Redwood needles are dark green and lie flat along the branches. Needles at the tops of tall trees alter their structure to reduce water loss, so appear stunted and rounded. The bark is a reddish color, fibrous, and thick and was used for many things by local Native American tribes. The thick bark and high tannin content give these trees resistance to fire, insects, and rot.

World renowned for high-grade lumber, most redwood forests were heavily logged in the early 1900s. Today, logging continues, taking a heavy toll on local watersheds. Only remnant old-growth forests remain, with less than 4% of the original old growth forests left. Because the coast redwood needs summer fog and mild winter temperatures, their range is limited to the ocean's influence. Almost all redwoods today occur in a narrow band about 450 miles along the northern California coast.

As reported in *New Yorker* magazine (10/9/06), a new tallest redwood has been discovered. Named Hyperion, it lives in Redwood National Park near another tall giant, Helios. This jewel of a find was officially climbed and measured in September 2006. At nearly 380 feet, the tree is over 8 feet taller than any previously known redwood. The previous record of 368.6 feet was the Stratosphere Giant found in Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

Dr Stephen Sillett, our local expert and recent recipient of the Scholar of the Year Award at HSU, has been studying the structure of old-growth redwoods for over 10 years. Limbs of these massive giants can get snapped off in a storm or strong wind, then send out a new shoot called a reiteration. Dozens of reiterated branches can form over the long life of these massive giants, giving bizarre shapes to their crowns. In the nooks and

crannies that these reiterated branches create, soils develop from large fern mats. Dozens of newly discovered species — mites, worms, salamanders, and mollusks — have been found in these microenvironments. Fire caves, fused limbs, canopy soils, and even a canopy waterfall are all new things recently documented in the canopies of these giants.

The coast redwood follows that classic ideology of discovery. The more you look, the more you find. What other gems await in our ancient redwood forests? Thank goodness some farsighted people understood the need to protect such an awesome place.

Christmas Bird Counts Just Around the Corner

Redwood Region Audubon Society invites UPWIND readers to participate in the 107th Christmas Bird Counts. Two counts will occur nearby:

- Arcata (includes McKinleyville, Bay-side, Samoa, Manila, Eureka) — Saturday, 12/16, contact Kerry Ross, 839-4365, kerry@madriverbio.com
- Centerville (includes Elk River, Loleta, Fields Landing, King Salmon, Fortuna, Ferndale) — Sunday, 12/31, contact Richard Ridenhour, 839-8300

Visit www.rras.org for maps of the count circle areas.

FOAM Square on Arcata Plaza

FOAM again participated in Pastels on the Plaza on October 7. Board member Caitlin Collings, along with fellow art students Rebecca Stanhouse and Juliana Tong, created a square that looked at the AMWS from a bird's-eye view. The event functioned as both a fund raiser for North Coast Children's Services and publicity for FOAM.





NOVEMBER ARTIST STOCK SCHLEUTER

It is always difficult to come up with an artist statement. What does it mean to paint? Why do we do it? What are we trying to say and to whom? The answers are as varied as the art and the artists themselves.

I paint because everything else seems like a waste of time. Painting is my job and in the best sense of the word, it is what I feel I am supposed to do. It is important to me to tell the story of being here. How fantastic it is to see the wonder and beauty of the world, the rich colors of a sunrise and the somber tones of the human condition all merge together into a single tapestry of tone and design.

Art is a byproduct of observation. I feel the more I observe life, the better chance I have to gain a bit of wisdom in my time here on planet Earth.

Stock Schleuter is a native of Humboldt County. He was born in 1949 and has been painting the rural landscape for 40 years. He is currently showing his original oil paintings in galleries in San Francisco, Sonoma, and Eureka.

DECEMBER ARTIST MARY HARPER

Although I got my degree in Theater Arts, I've been interested in drawing and painting all my life. I've worked in pencil, colored pencil, and watercolor, as well as an occasional acrylic or gouache painting. The Ink People's Monoprint Studio with Fred Schwab, however, really got me hooked. My mother said I enjoy monoprints so much because it's a lot like fingerpaints, which I managed to redecorate my kitchen with several times in my youth.

Monoprints are full of surprises. You never know quite how a print will look, or how two colors will blend, until you print. The wonderful, creamy smudginess of the ink seems to lend a warmth, and a certain nostalgia, to the shapes created. The process keeps me constantly engaged, curious, and fascinated with the almost magical results.

In Memory of Margaret

Long-time Arcata Marsh enthusiast and FOAM member Margaret Varga passed away on March 16. Her obituary noted that she was "an avid birder... a familiar sight with her binoculars, on local trails, especially at Arcata Marsh."

AMWS naturalist Denise Homer tells us that Margaret was at the Marsh several times a week, often with Catherine Walling (see Donor section, this page). "She would get a new bird list every month and fill it in. With over 10 years of records, she would often come in and announce what we should be seeing and the dates the bird showed up in years past... She was just a delightful person. Even when she was quite ill, she came to visit the Marsh with her son."

FOAM used Catherine's memorial donation to buy a new tripod for the scope and several pairs of loaner binoculars, to allow others to enjoy the marsh's birdlife as Margaret did.

Fall Docent Training Held

Six volunteers attended docent training on September 9-10. The new docents were instructed in tour leading, wastewater treatment, history, wetlands, birds, and plants by Denise Homer, David Couch, Caitlin Collings, Sean Craig, Ken Burton, and Melinda Bailey. Caitlin Collings organized the session.

Although the turnout was somewhat disappointing, a great group of participants withstood the 2-day bombardment of information while remaining active and excited. Congratulations to the new docents: Lumei Hui, Amy Kocurek, Susan Kornfeld, Stephanie Lof, Teresa Raschilla, and Lance Torgerson.

GUEST BOOK COMMENTS

It's always gratifying and enlightening to read what visitors from hither and yon take the time to jot in the AMIC sign-in book, in the unlikely event that we locals get jaded about the AMWS: "We're just (yellow-billed) cuckoo about the place... It's the best place for the spirit... Just what every town should have... A cool stop on a hot day... Arcata is in the forefront of environmental protection progress... My 5-year-old enjoyed it as much as I did... My favorite place to go... Thank God for this area."

Over the last few months, the AMIC welcomed visitors from Canada, Colombia, England, Germany, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Thailand, plus 31 states.

Visitor Log

The AMIC had 1687 walk-in visitors during May, 1697 in June, 2035 in July, 2001 in August, and 1350 in September.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

[Docent tours leave the Interpretive Center each Saturday at 2 pm; wastewater tour last Saturday of each month]

October --- artwork by Patty Sennott
November --- artwork by Stock Schleuter

November 9 --- FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

November 23 --- Thanksgiving Leg-stretcher, Art Barab, 10 am

December --- monoprints by Mary Harper

December 14 --- FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

Thank You to Donors, May-September 2006

- **Best Friend:** Elliott Dabill
- **Sponsors:** Pam & Bruce Kessler; Aldaron Laird; Richard & Carol Laursen; Sue & Tom Leskiw; Stuart Moskowitz; Patty Siering & Mark Wilson; Bill & June Thompson
- **Friends:** Mark & Melinda Bailey; Harvey & Jeannette Carroll; Karen Cunningham (Coos Bay); Mr & Mrs RC Dedekam; Frances Ferguson; Lance Hardie & Grace Marton; Lumei Hui; Fred Leissler (Reno); Robert Lockett & Adrienne Wolf-Lockett (Portland, OR); Archie & Sue Lee Mossman; Joan Plympton; Frank & Phyllis Schmidt; Bart & Florine Smith; Selma Sonntag; Tim Stewart (Santa Rosa); Pat & Dale Thornburgh
- **Memorial Donations:** Catherine Walling, \$200 in memory of Margaret Varga; The Mortgage House, Inc (Woodland Hills, CA), \$100 in loving memory of Margaret Franklin Troffey
- A special thank-you to September artist Gigi Floyd, who donated \$132 from her sales to FOAM