



UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh

Interpretive Center

Vol 15, Issue 4, Fall 2008

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Students, Board Members Turn Out for Workday

By Sue Leskiw

On October 11, ten students from the HSU Natural Resources Club, four FOAM Board members, and the president of the local native plant society met on Mount Trashmore to remove Himalayaberry bushes, grub out coyote brush roots, and extract teasel. Saturday morning was sunny, and toward mid-day, the stiff breeze offered welcome cooling. Dennis Houghton of Arcata's Environmental Services Department oversaw the opera-

tion, providing welcome bagels and drinks, as well as a gamut of tools from loppers, shovels, and Pulaskis to stout weed wrenches.

Although coyote bush (*Baccharis*) is native, its roots could pierce the clay cap over the former landfill and compromise the seal. Another work day featuring local AmeriCorps members will occur October 25 to finish the removals. Then, native grass and other seeds collected by volunteers recruited by FOAM habitat concerns chair Ken Burton will be sown on Mount Trashmore. The City will mow the area periodically to keep larger woody plants from re-establishing themselves.

FOAM and the City thank the following for spending their Saturday morning rehabilitating the Marsh: Mitra Abidi, Anna Belden, Bobbi Jo Brunkalla, Daniel Burrell, Ken Burton, Nick Chang, David Couch, Holly Cox, Elliott Dabill, Sue Leskiw, Jon Mitscha, Carol Ralph, Hol-lund Rudolph, Christopher Walls, and Albert Wolff. We also recognize Scott Hurst of News Channel 3 (KIEM-TV) for coming to film the event for airing as part of the station's new Green segment on its Friday 5 pm broadcasts.

2008 Annual Meeting & Election Results

On Sunday, September 28, FOAM held its 14th annual meeting at the AMIC. Approximately 20 people attended the albacore barbeque lunch by David Couch, with FOAM Board members providing side dishes.

Board president Sue Leskiw reviewed highlights of the 2007/08 FOAM Annual Report (see pages 5&6). She also reported the results of the election: 24 ballots were returned by members in good standing. Confirmed as a Board member was Robert Rasmussen. [NOTE: With the resignation of Lumei Hui on October 9, there are two open seats on the FOAM board.]

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Thanksgiving Leg Stretcher

Join veteran tour leader Art Barab on Thursday, November 27 at 10 am for his 9th annual Thanksgiving morning walk around the Arcata Marsh. Meet on the porch of the Interpretive Center (building will be closed for the holiday) for this 90-minute appetite builder.

2008-09 Board of Directors

Officers

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

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

Secretary: Janet Zich (also Membership; Website, Bylaws) — 822-4660

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

Other Board Members

Leslie Anderson (Design; Art Exhibits; Website) — 822-6444

Ken Burton (Habitat Concerns; Education) — 825-1124

David Couch (Special Events; Bylaws) — 839-4253

Robert Rasmussen (Education; Bylaws) — 822-5305

Lance Torgerson (Education) — 826-1525

Arcata Marsh Celebration, Plaque Dedication Held

By Sue Leskiw

Approximately 50 people came to help the City of Arcata celebrate the dedication of a recognition plaque at the Marsh Interpretive Center. Many attendees were intimately involved with the creation of the Arcata Marsh.

The plaque, to be posted on the front of the building plus on a rock on South I Street between Hauser and Gearheart treatment marshes, is dated July 3, 1981, and is "dedicated to Arcata's citizens, civic leaders, and biological and engineering professionals whose vision and pioneering technical expertise led to the creation of the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, allowing for the beneficial reuse of wastewater and the ecological restoration of a former industrial and landfill site."

Mayor Mark Wheatley, welcoming the crowd, stated that he should "bow down and thank the people who raised the bar on projects today in Arcata...Of the 60 cities in California's coastal zone, Arcata has the most restoration projects."

Dan Hauser touched on the history and significance of the Marsh Project, noting that it would take 2-3 days to go through the entire story. "The Marsh put Arcata on the map as an environmentally sound and concerned community; it's the crown that makes Arcata special." He termed the Marsh "an accidental alternative" to the proposed regional wastewater treatment plan and sewer pipeline between Arcata and Eureka, and acknowledged the important contributions of HSU professors to the project.

Alex Stillman recognized with bouquets four members of the Task Force on Wastewater Treatment, Dr Stan Harris (aka "Tweety"), Dr George Allen ("Fishy"), Dr Robert Gearheart ("Blue Eyes"), and Franklin Klopp ("Marsh Engineer"). Gearheart called George and Stan his "co-conspirators from HSU." Other people singled out for kudos were Ed Burton and Fran Demgan (designers of other early wetlands treatment systems), Roger Storey (Arcata City Manager), Edith Stromberg-Wall (Wastewater Task Force member), David Hull and David Couch (two of more than 20 graduate students who "never killed any fish in the treated effluent"), and Ed Brown (Wetlands and Creeks Committee member).

FOAM Board members Sue Leskiw and Leslie Anderson were on hand to cut and serve cake and take photos.



(Top) "Fishy" George Allen and "Tweety" Stan Harris at Marsh Dedication.
(Middle) FOAM Board members, 2008-09 — Leslie Anderson, Art Barab, Sue Leskiw, Robert Rasmussen, Ken Burton, David Couch
(Not shown: Elliott Dabill, Lance Torgerson, Janet Zich).
(Bottom) Denise Homer, Volunteer of Year Alan Laurent, and Sue Leskiw.

(continued from page 1)

City naturalist Denise Homer selected Alan Laurent and Wayne Butterfield as Volunteers of the Year. Alan was cited for his 10+ years of leading the monthly wastewater treatment plant tour, plus staffing the Interpretive Center, while Wayne's award was in recognition of his 92 hours of front desk staffing over the past 8 months. Each received a certificate and \$25 credit in the bookstore.

[Editor's note: At the October 9 board meeting, the following officers were chosen: President — Sue Leskiw, Vice-President — Elliott Dabill, Secretary — Janet Zich; Treasurer — Art Barab. Committee participation is listed on page 1.]

Fall Docent Training Held

FOAM docent training was held on September 13-14. Attendees were instructed by Art Barab, Bob Rasmussen, David Couch, Elliott Dabill, Melinda Bailey, and Ken Burton. Elliott Dabill organized the session.

Congratulations to the trainees: Karin Anderson, Jenna Aten, Scott Egan, Dave Griffiths, Amber Kirst, Sara Kravin, Megan McCue, Carolyn Merz, Nancy Pringle, Jean Santi, Richard Vincent, and Felicity Wasser. Christina Ernst and Maggie Stoudnour, education coordinators for Humboldt Baykeeper and Friends of the Dunes, came to observe and hopefully help devise collaborative volunteer training for our organizations.

FOAM Joins Environmental Education Group

By Sue Leskiw

In mid-September, FOAM president Sue Leskiw and City Naturalist Denise Homer attended a meeting of North Coast environmental educators held at the Samoa Recycling Education Center. Education Program Manager Allison Poklemba, who is also coordinator of the North Coast Region of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network, chaired the session attended by representatives from nonprofit groups, national/state parks, and HSU. The group hopes to hold quarterly meetings "to continue to build a sense of community among environmental educators in our region."

The meeting was a follow-up to a much-larger workshop in June, plus a subsequent special training about Questing, which is a "placed-based education model of creating and exchanging treasure hunts to collect and share a community's distinct natural and cultural heritage." Denise plans to create a Quest for the Arcata Marsh.

Some interactions have already come from the meeting, as students in an HSU Environmental Education class will be interviewing Sue and Denise for background on Marsh educational programs, plus shadow a docent tour. And educational coordinators for Friends of the Dunes and Humboldt Baykeeper came to observe FOAM's September docent training session.

Oyster Project Update

By David Couch

Our West Coast native oyster is the Olympia oyster. An argument over its scientific name includes *Ostrea lurida*, *Ostrea conchaphila*, and *Ostreola conchaphila*. This raging debate will be concluded after a few years of DNA analysis of different geographic populations. I like the term Oly's, used commonly by oystermen. In Washington State, when feeling curmudgeonly, I like to remind people that its original common name was the California oyster.

Oly's were harvested intensively in the last century. A properly descriptive term is "untrammeled exploitation." This led to crashes from which their populations have not recovered.

Oysters and bivalve shellfish are important in estuarine ecosystems. Through their filter feeding, they clean



the water. Oysters may form reefs or beds that provide a solid substrate in a muddy, silty environment. This habitat is important for many other species, making the term "cornerstone species" applicable.

Recent efforts to restore oyster populations in the United States have been administered by NOAA and have focused on the Chesapeake Bay. So far, they have not been very successful. Restoration efforts on Oly's also have begun: by 2006, about \$900,000 in federal grant money had been awarded on the West Coast.

When I was a student at HSU, I studied Oly's and was lucky to get to write the species profile for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2006, NOAA staff called me a few times to ask questions about possible enhancement projects. This gave me the opportunity to ask about funding an enhancement project in Humboldt Bay under the auspices of the City of Arcata. NOAA was supportive, so a grant proposal was put together by Julie Neander and me and submitted to the agency and to the Nature Conservancy. City staff time was considered matching funds for the grant. Funding we received was to be used to hire HSU students to monitor the project. Dr Sean Craig, a former FOAM board member and HSU invertebrate biology professor, was shanghaied to be faculty advisor on the project. He selected Julie and Robert Koepel to be the students working on the project.

The project consisted of putting out new substrate in areas of small Oly populations to give more area for colonization. Three sites are in Butcher Slough: the first is visible at low tide from the footbridge adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant, the second is in on oxbow shoulder halfway to the main Arcata channel, and the third is at the end of Butcher Slough in an area of dead Oly shells that was once part of the California Native Oyster Preserve. Each site is about a square meter in size and has quarry rock, broken concrete, bags of Pacific oyster shells (thanks to Coast Oyster for donating these), and artificial collectors, which are concrete-covered egg cartons. These were placed in the summer of 2007. Results to be determined....

[While cleaning out some files in the FOAM desk, I found this interesting historical document. — SL]

REPORT FROM LAURIE: Visitor Center's first weekend open

I'm sure you'd all like to know what went on the first weekend the visitor center was open.

The center was open from 1PM to 5PM Sat and Sun, June 5th and 6th. Saturday Anna and I staffed the building. We did not get the idea for a guest list until after the first had gone. We used the back of old FOAM stationery because that's the only paper we could find. One visitor was particularly interested in learning more about wastewater treatment. I told him all I knew and then gave him Gearhart's number at HSU. Most visitors were just curious to know what the building was there for, and many were pleasantly surprised to learn that tours were available. I led one family of four around the oxidation ponds. They were interested in learning how the plant operated, but we weren't able to go into the plant, nor was I able to open the gate that leads to the grassy area where we were told to lead plant tours. This was unfortunate since the family was really interested in seeing the aquaculture area.

Many visitors asked questions such as "What is this place?" and most people ended up taking flyers and brochures. All in all there were 30 visitors at the center on Saturday.

Paige and I staffed on Sunday. There were no walks. We spent our time brainstorming ideas and looking at art for the bookstore. I put all the straps on the new binoculars. We also moved the exhibit in the foyer to the main room. The main room is so big with hardly anything in it, and the table in the foyer was crowding the exhibit. There were about 20 guests altogether that day.

The following page is a list of things I thought would be good to have in the center.

WISH LIST FOR VISITOR CENTER

- A tape deck that we could play some natural sounds on. The visitor center is very VERY quiet.
- Name tags, vests, T-shirts or SOMETHING that indicates we work there. This may also come in handy if we were out around the marsh somewhere and people needed to ask a question. (ie, roving interpretation.)
- A guest book.
- A couple of chairs or stools. It's hard to stand for that long.



Larva (left), bird dropping (right).

Seasons Around the Marsh — Fall

By Denise Homer

Pete Haggard walked in carrying a plastic cup containing two willow leaves. He laid the leaves out on the counter.

"Do you know what these are?" he asked. I looked at the leaves. In the center of each was a lime-green, soft-bodied creature. "Well, they're caterpillars. If you were a visitor, I'd go get a copy of your book and look up what kind they are," I replied.

With a laugh, Pete grabbed a copy of his and Judy's book, *Insects of the Pacific Northwest*, off the shelf and opened it up to the correct page. "They're Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*) caterpillars." He pointed to a photograph in his book. The larvae resemble bird droppings. As they molt, they eventually turn bright green with a pair of ringed eyespots and a crescent shape at the base of the head. As adults, they morph into a large yellow butterfly with black stripes, a species frequently seen around the Interpretive Center.

"Look how they're attached to the leaf by a silk net. This is a good meal of protein for a bird, so the best defense is not to move, not to catch the bird's attention. With this silk net, they don't have to move, they don't have to worry about falling off," Pete explained.

Putting his thumb and index finger together, he started poking at the head of the caterpillar. I wondered what he was up to when suddenly a long, brown, forked tongue came out. The tongue looks like a snake's and will fool birds into leaving it alone.

"Do you smell that scent? The caterpillar's other major predator is ants. The scent keeps the ants away." A couple of hours, later I could still smell the odor, which interestingly smells a lot like Raid ant killer! Apparently, the caterpillar can use its tongue/scent defense several times, insuring that a least a few will metamorphose into beautiful swallowtail butterflies in the spring.

I have never seen these caterpillars on willow leaves before. I went out to look for more, but it's getting late in the year to find them now and I didn't succeed. But next spring and summer, I'll be searching.

I was reminded of Alan Watts' comment, "Normally we do not so much as look at things as overlook them." I resolved to look for what I have been overlooking.

Plants of the Marsh

A series by Melinda Bailey

BEACH PINE (PINUS CONTORTA)

Over the past few years, the Arcata Marsh has been planting Beach Pine (*Pinus contorta*) because, if ever there was a pine that would naturally be found in this coastal setting, that is it. Near Mount Trashmore, there are many pines, but those are Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*), a species with a very narrow natural range extending from San Francisco to Santa Barbara. The Beach Pine, in contrast, is the only naturally occurring pine for our area of the coast.

I don't want to confuse folks who use the word "pine" to mean "conifer." A conifer is a cone-bearing tree — such as pine, fir, or redwood. Generally, a pine tree has its needles (leaves) in bundles of 1-6 leaves. A skin-like membrane called a sheath holds the bundle together, making a fascicle. The number of needles in a bundle is a quick, easy way to identify different pine species. The genus *Pinus* had for many years held the honor of oldest living thing on the planet: the Bristlecone Pine, perhaps 5000 years old. Nowadays, however, the oldest living thing may be a creosote bush 12,000 years old.

Pinus contorta has a fitting name. It tends to grow differently in different places. There are three confirmed subspecies and perhaps a fourth or fifth, depending on the reference cited. Fast-growing *P. contorta* ssp. *latifolia* grows along the Rocky Mountains; *P. contorta* ssp. *murrayana* grows in the Sierra-Cascades much more slowly, giving it a

greater girth than height; *P. contorta* ssp. *contorta* grows along the Pacific Coast, where salt spray and wind contort the trunk into strange shapes.

The *Latifolia* subspecies, common name Lodgepole Pine, lives in the mountains all the way from Baja in the south to Yukon Territory in the north. It is the most abundant tree in Wyoming. Its common name stems from the fact that the tree grows long, straight trunks, typically 1-3 feet in diameter and 20-80 feet high. It was used by the Plains Indians as the lodge-pole of their tipis.

At first glance, the most-distinctive characteristic of Beach Pine is its short needles, which grow in bundles of two. The cones grow 1-2 inches long and are asymmetrical in appearance. They have a slight curve to them and remain closed for many years. These characteristics apply to all three subspecies. Our subspecies, the Beach Pine, has bark that is dark brown, somewhat furrowed as it ages, with scaly plates. The lower branches tend to grow downward, while the higher ones grow upward. At the Marsh, the trees are very young and therefore straight, but give them a few more of our wild winters and they might begin to take the shape of their coastal neighbors.

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- A clock. We shouldn't have to ask visitors for the time.
- Tide tables.
- A sign to put on the door that indicates when we are open.
- Soap for the bathrooms.
- A big banner to indicate we are open. (Maybe it should even be seen from the highway.)
- Projector and screen.
- A coffee maker.
- Something decorative in the center to spruce up the starkness of the white walls. Plants (native, of course) or murals of the natural surrounding painted on the high part of the walls.
- New numbered posts for the Butcher's Slough Self-Guided Trail.
- Regularly scheduled walks on the weekends while the center is open.
- A donation box.
- Postcard and brochure holders.
- Hand-held magnifying glasses, nets, jars, and other naturalist's goodies. Especially good for children's walks.
- Brochure box for the self-guided trail.



2007/2008 FOAM Annual Report (Issued 9/28/08)

Tours: Some 20,858 adults and children visited the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center between September 2007 and August 2008, up more than 2,000 from the previous 12-month period. Some participated in the weekly 2 pm tours offered rain or shine by FOAM docents. Tours of the wastewater treatment plant were given the last Saturday of each month by Alan Laurent. FOAM provided docents for about 100 special-request group tours, ranging from classrooms – preschool through college — to community groups.

Education: On July 24, FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society partnered to offer a day-long session for 17 children age 9-12 at the Arcata Marsh. The module was part of the Wildlife Biology week of the Arcata Recreation Department's Natural Resources Science Camp. The curriculum consisted of a bird walk and talk, a "Mud Walk," and viewing of invertebrates collected from the Bay and Log Pond through microscopes. Instructors were Tom Leskiw, Sean Craig, Bob Rasmussen, Melinda Bailey, and Rich Ridenhour. Sue Leskiw pulled together the schedule and baked "Hoot Owl" cookies as a special treat. FOAM also sponsored two children to attend the camp.

For the third year, FOAM funded an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair in March. The \$50 prize for the best project dealing with wetlands went to Piper Bazard, a 5th-grader at Freshwater School. Her project, entitled "Drains to the Bay," examined which areas of the community – residential, schools, or shopping areas – have the greatest percentage of permeable and impermeable surfaces. Sue and Tom Leskiw served as judges.

FOAM plans to collaborate with the Northern California Girl Scouts to offer a birding badge for Brownies (grades K-3). One session may be held in October and another in April 2009. Sue Leskiw is coordinating the curriculum development, modeled on the "In the Flyway" program by Richardson Bay Audubon Center, with instructors Leslie Anderson and Louise Bacon-Ogden. Modules on using binoculars, bird beaks, bird sounds, and Bird Bingo (incorporating migration, anatomy, habitat, threats, etc) will be offered.

Bob Rasmussen arranged for HSU chemistry professor Matt Hurst to present findings of his ongoing study of water samples from Humboldt Bay for the FOAM board and invited guests.

FOAM continues to add programs to the computer purchased last year for the Interpretive Center.

Design of a FOAM website nears completion. The URL will be www.arcatamarshfriends.org.

Training Opportunities: Finding volunteers to lead Saturday and weekday tours has been especially difficult this year. Docent training was offered twice: 8 people completed a 2-day training on March 8-9 and 12 attended a session on September 13-14, both organized by Elliott Dabill. Instructors were Art Barab, Bob Rasmussen, David Couch, Ken Burton, Melinda Bailey, Elliott Dabill, Lance Torgerson, and Sean Craig.

Public Events: In partnership with Redwood Region Audubon Society and a private donor, FOAM sponsored the fifth Student Bird Art Contest at Godwit Days. This was the biggest year ever, as over 550 entries were received from grades K-12 throughout Humboldt County! Forty cash prizes and 16 honorable mentions were awarded at the Godwit Days opening reception. The winning entries were displayed at the Interpretive Center during May and June. A new award category of "Best Depiction of a Bird in its Habitat" was added at the suggestion of Julie Neander, with 10 winners selected. Judges were Leslie Anderson, Louise Bacon-Ogden, Art Barab, Denise Homer, Sue Leskiw, Marsha Mello, and Sara Starr.

For the seventh consecutive year, FOAM will be the beneficiary of the California AAA Great Battery Roundup, again splitting the proceeds with the Manila Community Center. We have not yet received a report from AAA regarding how many batteries were turned in at Humboldt County locations during the April 2008 collection period.

In October, FOAM continued its participation in Arcata's "Pastels on the Plaza" fundraiser, sponsoring a sidewalk square drawn by Leslie Anderson featuring five birds: Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, and Red Knot. In November, Art Barab led his eighth consecutive Thanksgiving Day morning "leg stretcher."

FOAM raised over \$900 to support projects at the Marsh through offering a donated handmade wildlife quilt crafted by Open Heart Quilters. The winning ticket was drawn at Godwit Days.

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In April, FOAM continued its participation in the Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. Approximately 70 children and their parents took part in FOAM's free 1-day family nature activities coordinated by Sue Leskiw and Darlene Marlow, ably assisted by volunteers Julie and Sylvie Neander and Veronica Vega. The kids made Arcata Marsh water cycle bracelets, peanut butter pinecone bird feeders, 3-D paper birds and butterflies, and fish prints. Two 90-minute tours — one on history and ecology led by Art Barab and a wastewater plant tour by David Couch — were offered as part of the festival schedule. FOAM volunteers staffed an information and sales table in the Bird Fair vendor area, coordinated by Janet Zich.

Marsh and Wildlife Through the Eyes of Local Artists: Since December 1998, FOAM has sponsored monthly art shows representative of the scenery, plants, birds, and animals that inhabit the Marsh and Humboldt Bay. Our goal has been to provide interpretive works that reflect the beauty, ecology, and history of the Marsh as well as serve as a sales venue for our many talented local artists. This past year, photographs, silkscreens, fiber art, and paintings by Ellen Land-Weber, Leslie Scopes Anderson, Richard "Red" Jioras, Jan Ramsey, Amanita Mollier, Yael Bentovim, Peter Haggard, Darlene Marlow, Mike Anderson, and the Eureka Photoshop Users Group were featured. Leslie Anderson organized receptions for many of the artists. Winners of the Godwit Days student bird art contest were displayed in May and June.

Publicity & Communication: We would like to thank newspapers, radio, and TV stations for helping us get the message out about our weekly tours, docent training, art receptions and exhibits, and other special events at the Marsh. Front-page stories in the Eureka Times-Standard and Arcata Eye helped fill the need for volunteers, as more than 10 people called in to help. FOAM continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, UPWIND, which is mailed to an average of 225 addresses throughout the US. Anyone can receive a free issue by signing the guest book with a full address. Sue Leskiw marked 10 years of serving as its editor.

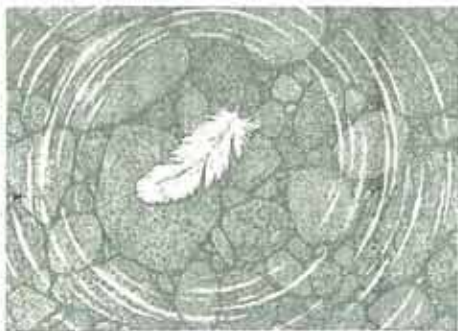
City Relations: FOAM began its partnership with the City of Arcata on Marsh work days to remove invasive plants. On December 8, Sue Leskiw and Janet Zich joined a dozen community members and students from the Academy of the Redwoods to pull teasel, wild radish, and poison hemlock near the Interpretive Center. Another work day is set for October 11. Ken Burton initiated a partnership with the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society to collect native grass hair seeds for reseeding sites after invasives are removed. In 2007, 11 people volunteered to collect seeds; the project will continue and expand to harvest other native seeds in fall 2008. FOAM funded two "Volunteer of the Year" awards, presented to Leslie Anderson and Darlene Marlow at the September 30 Annual Meeting. Appeals in UPWIND and the Audubon Society's Sandpiper resulted in donations of two new viewing scopes, to replace one stolen from the Interpretive Center.

Membership: As of September 11, FOAM had 123 members in good standing, down one from a year ago. Fifty-three of the 123 are Life Members, of which 5 are known to be deceased and 6 for which we have no current address.

Fiscal Accounts: FOAM began its fiscal year in September 2007 with a checking account balance of \$9,429, plus certificates of deposit and interest account investments totaling \$33,151. At the end of August 2008, FOAM had a checking account balance of \$10,104 plus a CD for \$34,500. The largest expenditures this year went toward the development of a website and prizes/expenses for the Student Bird Art Contest. FOAM's largest revenue source is membership dues, over \$2,000. FOAM has not yet received proceeds from the 2008 California AAA Battery Round-up.

Board of Directors: Eight current Board Members will be continuing: Leslie Anderson, Art Barab, Ken Burton, Elliott Dabill, Lumei Hui, Sue Leskiw, Lance Torgerson, and Janet Zich. Robert Rasmussen is running to confirm his appointment, and one opening remains on the Board.

-- Sue Leskiw, President



NOVEMBER ARTIST MARSHA MELLO

Water, Birds: A Show of Etchings

Eureka artist Marsha Mello has been a printmaker for over 30 years, defining her style with very detailed depictions of birds, marine wildlife, plants and other natural subjects. She uses the classic method of intaglio etching, drawing through an acid-resistant covering onto a copper plate and then etching the plate in acid to make permanent lines. The plate is then hand-inked and passed through a press for each print; all prints are numbered and signed in limited editions.

Marsha is endlessly fascinated by the elegance of her natural subjects, and finds many of them here in Humboldt County. "We are so lucky to be surrounded by such beauty and diversity here, and also very lucky to have caretakers of the environment like Friends of the Arcata Marsh, who have worked to help set aside these pristine areas we can all enjoy. I'm very pleased to be able to show my work in such a great setting."

Marsha is a member of the Arcata Artisans Gallery, and shows her work there as well as in two Oregon galleries. She also sells her etchings directly to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Campers Send Appreciation

The last issue of UPWIND (Summer) reported on the Wildlife Biology camp session co-sponsored by FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society. FOAM underwrote the cost of two children to attend a week-long camp by the Arcata Recreation Department. One of them sent a multi-page thank-you note that will be excerpted here:

"We searched for things that live in the mud and also had a bird walk. Me and my buddy Dion found the most kinds of birds. When we went looking for birds, we used binoculars. I learned that different birds live in different locations."

DECEMBER/JANUARY ARTIST Yael BENTOVIM

I received an MA at UCLA in Environmental Fiber Art. My graduate show consisted of several large room-sized fiber-constructed environments. I used crochet, weaving, wrapping, and knotting.

In the late 1970s, I devised a technique of shredding raw sisal, then dyeing it with bright colors. These small brilliant "pieces of color" were then glued on to canvas. It was a "Pointillistic" technique that allowed me to "paint" with fiber. The canvas became three-dimensional as layers of shredded fiber projected from the surface.

In the mid 80s, I began to incorporate handmade paper, then clay and more recently, glass and mosaic. I was moving away from a more "purist" approach to fiber. I enjoyed contrasting different textures, the shimmering quality of glass and glazed clay along side the more muted surface of fiber.



Visitor Log

The AMIC had 1953 walk-in visitors during July, 2007 in August, and 1532 in September.

FOAM Square on Arcata Plaza

FOAM participated in Pastels on the Plaza on October 4. Board member Leslie Anderson provided the template for artist Marliese Tollner of a square featuring a Great Blue Heron head. The event functioned as both a fundraiser for North Coast Children's Services and publicity for FOAM.



**This issue of UPWIND
marks 10 years of Sue
Leskiw's producing
FOAM's quarterly
newsletter.**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

October — bird photos by Charles Thisell and Eldon Knauf

November — etchings by Marsha Mello

November 13 — FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

November 27 — Thanksgiving Leg Stretcher with Art Barab, 10 am (see article, page 1)

December/January — fiber art by Yael Bentovim

December 11 — FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

January 8 — FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm

Recognition & Thanks, August-October 2008

- **Sponsors:** Susan Hanson; June & Bill Thompson; Catherine Walling
- **Friends:** Mark & Melinda Bailey; Karen Cunningham (Coos Bay); Francis Ferguson; Esther Gilchrist; Lumei Hui; Lucille Martin; Sue & Archie Mossman; Andrea Penn; Renay Radniecki (Crescent City); Jane Riggan; Jean Santi; Jack & Judy Shaffer; Selma Sonntag; Gretchen Stadler; Richard Vincent