



# UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh

Interpretive Center

Vol 14, Issue 1, Winter 2008

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## Quilt Drawing at Godwit Days

In April 2003, FOAM received a letter from the Open Heart Quilters asking if we would like to be included in their new list of nonprofit organizations that go into a "hat" to receive a hand-made quilt. "Of course," we responded. "Would it be possible to work birds into the design?"

The quilt/wall hanging FOAM received on February 5 took our request to heart and expanded it to include frogs, fish, plants, and insects as well as birds. The black-and-white photo reproduced at left cannot do it justice. We urge everyone to stop by the Interpretive Center to see the quilt hanging from the ceiling. And, of course, buy a ticket or three to benefit FOAM's efforts to promote and improve the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary! Possible projects are producing a new 1-hour DVD tour of the Marsh and buying native grass and flower seed to repopulate areas where invasive plants are removed during workdays [see story, page 2].

Tickets for the drawing are available at the Interpretive Center front desk for a \$2 donation each or three for \$5 (cash or check payable to FOAM). The quilt will be on display in FOAM's booth during Godwit Days, April 18-20, with the winner drawn at the close of the festival.

If you can't make it by the Interpretive Center by mid-April, or visit the Arcata Community Center during the festival, but would like to participate in the drawing, send a check (minimum \$10 donation) payable to FOAM to Sue Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Road, Eureka CA 95503, and we will fill out tickets with the name, address, and phone number you specify.

Below is information from Jan Werner of the Quilters about the group and how they created the Arcata Marsh quilt:

The Open Heart Quilters are a loosely organized group of 15 multigenerational women who love to get together to save the world and quilt. We wanted to put the

## 2007-08 Board of Directors

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*President:* Sue Leskiw (also UPWIND Editor; Mailing; Publicity; Exhibits; 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

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Ken Burton (Habitat Concerns; Education) — 839-5179

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

Lumei Hui (Education) — 677-3164

Robert Rasmussen (Education; Bylaws) — 822-5305

Lance Torgerson (Education) — 826-1525

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## March 31 Deadline for Student Bird Art Contest Entries

For the fifth consecutive year, FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society are co-sponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest. \$500 in prizes will be awarded to students from kindergarten through high school who submit a drawing of one of 40 selected bird species. Special prize(s) will be awarded to the best depiction of birds in their natural habitat.

Entries will be judged by local wildlife artists and educators. Winners will be announced at the opening reception of the Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival on Friday, April 18. Entries will be displayed at the Arcata Community Center during the Festival. In 2007, nearly 375 pieces of art were received. Copies of winning artwork will be shown at the Interpretive Center during May.

Artwork may be in color or black and white. Any media may be used (e.g., crayons, pastels, paint, pencil, collage). Subject must be a rendering of bird(s) from a list of 40 species. One entry per person.

Flyers with complete rules are available at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center and Strictly for the Birds in Old Town Eureka, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Sue Leskiw, 5440 Cummings Road, Eureka 95503. Artwork may be dropped off at Strictly for the Birds, 123 F Street, Eureka, or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, South G Street, Arcata, or mailed to Ms. Leskiw. Entries must be received by Monday, March 31 to be considered.

## Spring Docent Training Being Planned

In March – possibly the 9th and 10th – FOAM will sponsor training to prepare docents to lead Arcata Marsh tours and volunteers to staff the Interpretive Center. Please call the Interpretive Center at 826-2359 and leave your name, phone number, and e-mail if you are interested in participating.

The 2-day session will be held on a weekend, starting at 9 am and ending at 4 pm each day. Topics will include inside lectures as well as outside walks and observation of marsh ecology, so dress accordingly. Please bring a lunch; FOAM will provide morning bagels and drinks. Trainers will cover the following topics: tours and interpretation, birds, wetlands biology, plants, local history, and wastewater treatment.



*Godwit Days Poster Art, Joan Dunning*

## Help Needed with FOAM's Godwit Days Activities, April 18-20

The 13th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival is just around the corner and, once again, FOAM will be sponsoring free family activities. The activities will be held in the Arts & Crafts room at the Arcata Community Center from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, April 19.

The activities span all ages and interests and will include making water cycle bracelets, peanut butter pinecone birdfeeders, and fish prints. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

This is a fun event for both the kids and the volunteers who staff the activity stations. If you can spend a couple of hours helping kids discover the many wonders of our marsh, call Darlene Marlow at 677-9242.

FOAM also needs volunteers to staff its table at the Bird Fair. Hours of operation are Friday 5-7 pm, Saturday, 10 am-5 pm, and Sunday 10 am-3 pm. If you can help hand out literature and sell items, call Janet at 822-4660.

As part of the Godwit Days program, FOAM board member David Couch will be leading a tour of the wastewater treatment plant on Saturday from 3-4:30 pm and treasurer Art Barab will head up a walk focusing on the history and ecology of the Marsh on Sunday from 1-3 pm. Both tours are offered at no charge, but preregistration is required. Call Godwit Days at 826-7050 to sign up.

A complete schedule of events can be seen at [www.godwitdays.com](http://www.godwitdays.com).

## Invasive Plant Workdays

In the photo below, FOAM Board member Janet Zich carries a bundle of teasel that she pulled out during a December 8 invasive plant work day at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. FOAM co-sponsored the event with the City of Arcata to remove teasel, wild radish, and poison hemlock near the Interpretive Center. A dozen community members and students from Academy of the Redwoods spent a sunny morning removing the invaders. The City schedules monthly volunteer work days, alternating between the Marsh and the Arcata Community Forest.

FOAM plans to sponsor a workday in October 2008 (tentatively scheduled for the 11th) geared toward removing Himalaya berry from the top of Mount Trashmore. The City plans to mow as much as possible beforehand, so work will involve removing root crowns and seeding with *Deschampsia* (hairgrass) seed and natives. Habitat Concerns chair Ken Burton plans to coordinate seed collection this summer and fall by volunteers. Watch future UPWINDs for details.



## Science Fair Award

For the third year, FOAM is sponsoring an award at the Humboldt County Science Fair for the best project related to wetlands. The event will be held the week of March 17 at Humboldt State University. FOAM volunteer judges will evaluate exhibits created by elementary, middle, and high school students to choose a winner of \$50.



## McDaniel Slough Marsh Enhancement Progresses

By Julie Neander

Work on the McDaniel Slough Marsh Enhancement project moved forward last summer and fall. The project eventually will restore tidal wetland function and create two freshwater and one brackish pond on 240 acres of former Humboldt Bay tidelands adjacent to the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The project area, owned by the City (88 acres) and the California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) (166 acres), is part of more than 1000 acres of contiguous public land on north Humboldt Bay. The City of Arcata is responsible for implementing the project under a cooperative agreement with CDFG.

One of two freshwater ponds and the levees and islands in the brackish pond were completed last fall. Excavated fill from the ponds was used to build levees and raise marsh plain elevations in low-lying areas. Funding was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, CDFG, Coastal Conservancy, and the City.

The public is enjoying the new trail on top of the eco-levee that separates the brackish and freshwater ponds from what will eventually be the McDaniel Slough tidal area. The eco-levees are designed to support a wider range of salt-tolerant vegetation and provide a more-diverse variety of habitat. A levee elevation of +8.0 feet provides protection against the 100-year extreme tide and accounts for sea level rise.

The levees and islands were reseeded with native grasses, including *Deschampsia cespitosa* (tufted hairgrass) collected by FOAM and California Native Plant Society volunteers. The revegetation work is being performed by Redwood Community Action Agency with grant funding from NOAA and assistance from the City, HSU students, Roots and Shoots volunteers, and the community at large.

Earthwork will resume in summer 2008 to continue levee construction and excavating the second freshwater pond.

**NEEDED:** One member to serve a 3-year term on the FOAM Board of Directors. Join a great group of people who care about the Marsh. Get motivated by reading "The Joys of Being a Marsh Volunteer," then call Sue Leskiw to find out more!



## Thanksgiving Sojourn, 2007

By Art Barab

Threatening weather did not deter an enthusiastic group of 18 — mostly locals along with visitors from SF and Hawaii — from attending my 9th annual Thanksgiving Day walk at the Marsh. It was a day full of cooperation: the weather steadily improved from damp gray to pleasant sunshine and the Arcata marsh birds were in prominent display.

This annual walk has been a successful event from the start. Thanksgiving weekend brings visitors, there is little going on in town, and a sizable number of people are looking for morning activity beyond sitting around waiting for a late-afternoon feast. Everyone seems to be in a good mood, if only because they're not stuck in a kitchen, which suits, I think, every tour-giver's style. I get repeat business — a few people have shown up more than once, which certainly strokes my ego! I've done perhaps a hundred tours at the Marsh over the last 9 years and, admittedly, for one reason or another, there are times I go to one hoping nobody will show up, but I always look forward to the Thanksgiving Day tour.

## The Joys of Being a Marsh Volunteer: In Our Own Words

For at last a year, FOAM and the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center have experienced a shortage of volunteers. Other local nonprofit organizations that rely on the time and talents of community members to carry out their missions have reported the same problem.

The Arcata Marsh needs help in three main areas: weekend staffing of the Interpretive Center (4-hour shifts, with occasional shorter openings during the week); leaders for FOAM's regular Saturday 2 pm tours and MANY school and other group tours by special request during the week; and FOAM board members.

As President of FOAM, I am entreating our members and all Marsh enthusiasts to get involved. We will tailor training to your needs and schedule. Please, we want to avoid having visitors encoun-

ter a locked door because no volunteer could be found, or turning down a teacher wanting a tour for his or her students. You don't need a college degree in biology to qualify.

But that's enough from me. Following are the responses to my call to current volunteers to describe their experiences at the Marsh. If, after reading their personal experiences, you feel motivated to join our crew, please call 707-826-2359.

— Sue Leskiw

"As a tour leader, I enjoy the chance to introduce people to some of the special features of the Marsh that have captured my imagination. Regardless of a walk's official focus, nature's special happenings often take center stage! Perhaps it's the wheeling flights of birds over Klopp Lake, or a tiny tree frog, discovered on a leaf by a small child. I've led walks with just two people, and up to 30, and the challenges are very different. But the rewards are the same. Because almost every participant arrives ready to be pleased, guiding is a pleasure, and we all return from a tour satisfied and full of enthusiasm." —

Jenny Hanson

"One of my favorite things about staffing is meeting people from all over the world. Birders and travelers have heard about Arcata's innovative Marsh and want to experience it. I met a group of Buddhist nuns from Japan, with shaven heads, pale orange robes, and conical straw hats. They picked lots of blackberries and had a picnic at the log pond. I met elderly scientists from Paris and young wastewater specialists from Egypt, hearty backpackers from Germany and bemused tourists from Peru, middle-aged birders from Switzerland and children from Wales, and — just last week — a 20-ish couple from London riding a motorcycle from LA to the redwoods. They all enjoy the Arcata Marsh and envy me my volunteer time there. I learn something new and see something wonderful every time I go." — Darlene Marlow

"As a recent transplant to the Arcata area, I was anxious to learn about the natural and cultural history of my new home. I attended the free docent training and received a wealth of valuable, interesting information. Now I enjoy imparting that knowledge to Marsh visitors — as a tour leader or interpretive center staff. People come from around the world to learn from our amazing Marsh, and it

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is a wonderful experience to be able to interact with them in such beautiful, tranquil surroundings." -- **Leslie Anderson**

"The most-important thing to know about volunteering at the Interpretive Center is that it's a lot of fun! I meet very interesting and nice people, whether locals or impressed out-of-towners, every time I'm there. I'm a birder, but don't own a scope, so I enjoy watching birds out the windows. (An almost-sure bet -- the white-tailed kite on his favorite roost busily eating a bird or mouse -- a sight not to be missed!) Art shows are impressive and changed each month. My favorite experience was caring for an exhausted snipe that was found in the parking lot. Enrich your life -- volunteer at the Marsh!" -- **Gwen Thoele**

"I cannot say there have been singular, big flashes of light when there has been a sudden revelation concerning the Arcata Marsh. There have been many little items that collectively make my day and indicate that it is all worthwhile. There are the perceptive questions, such as the high school student who wanted to know how sulfur dioxide neutralizes the chlorine -- I had to do some digging to find the answer. There were the elementary school children who spotted a very small tree frog on the tip of a bulrush when I was pointing out the difference in the blossom of a cattail compared to a bulrush. There is the delight when something they did not see is pointed out, like the otter trail between ponds. And the never-ending enthusiasm when the black-crowned night-herons are shown. There is the awe and delight of first-time visitors when they see what has been accomplished -- virtually making a silk purse from a sow's ear. And the support and satisfaction of those who are visiting after being gone for some years and seeing that it is working as intended. Each day at the desk and every guided tour has its moments like these that make the time spent worthwhile." -- **Rich Ridenhour**

"A refugee from the SF Bay area, I quickly became an aficionado of the Arcata Marsh. I began staffing at the AMIC about 9 years ago. One Sunday, I brought two odd stones I had gathered from a beach south of SF and put them out with a note asking for ideas concerning identification. A visiting geologist saw the note

and told me what they were. I really enjoy interacting with visitors and gradually picking up info about the various aspects of the Marsh. Some months later, I attended a docent training session and began leading tours. I am certainly no speech maker and the first tour was a challenge for me: a St. Bernard's class whose teacher was determined to go out, despite hail and frigid winds. It was also the year's highest tide, which buried much of the marsh under wind-whipped waters. Fortunately, everyone made it back to the center and I felt strangely elated at the tour's conclusion, perhaps realizing that, as far as tours went, the worst was over! Giving tours quickly became a pleasure. I enjoy chatting with and meeting the variety of people that attend. I particularly like FOAM's Saturday afternoon tour, which is very casual. I've found that visitors appreciate my efforts, even if I'm not an expert on every subject." -- **Art Barab**



"When I moved to Humboldt County 3 years ago, one of the first things I did was attend a Marsh docent training session. I began leading tours shortly thereafter, then started staffing the Interpretive Center, and eventually joined the FOAM Board, on which I chair the Habitat Concerns Committee. The Marsh is one of the reasons I moved to Humboldt in the first place, and volunteering there helped integrate me into the community. It's gratifying to be able to share this very special place with visitors. Serving on the Board gives me a way to make it an even better place!" -- **Ken Burton**

"I've been staffing the Interpretive Center one or two Sunday mornings a month for almost 4 years and I've found the rewards far outweigh the effort. First of all, the center is like a warm, dry bird blind where, in-between visitors, I can take advantage of its (dare I say) birds-eye view of the Marsh. I've found staffing offers a great way to meet people -- neighbors and out-of-town folks alike. It doesn't take an enormous amount of

knowledge of the Marsh; I'm often amazed at how much I've learned just by being there and how many questions I can answer. I learn from visitors, too, who come from all over this country and abroad. I've had as few as 10 visitors in 4 hours and as many as 110 in 15 minutes. That was when two busloads of tourists, some of them from China, stopped at the wastewater treatment plant for a pre-arranged tour, then dropped by to use the two bathrooms before heading to Crater Lake. I like to think when they returned to Guangdong Province, they remembered the hospitality of Arcata. Staffing doesn't require a lot of training; it's easy to be an ambassador for a place you love." -- **Janet Zich**

"I walk the Marsh almost every day, so leading a tour is just an extension of a beloved activity while a pleasing way to demonstrate my personal commitment to being a Friend of the Arcata Marsh (and Wildlife Sanctuary) and a member of FOAM, with the added joy of most often having interested and interesting companions. At the same time, leading tours allows me a very personal communion with Mother and a greater comprehension of what John Muir may have meant when he wrote "...when going outside I really feel I am going inside"..... So, sharing tours, whether with locals, their guests, or other visitors from near and far, offers bountiful opportunities to invite others into a World restored Green. I've learned that walking side-by-side through the Marsh with folks is frequently a very intimate philosophical encounter. Such moments remind me that the most-satisfying hospitable community in which to live comes with certain wonderful qualities, one of which is open green space. So, when asked if the Arcata approach to treating its waste water is more or less expensive than more-traditional methods, I usually reply, it doesn't really matter, because the results of what has evolved/is evolving provides the FOAM volunteer the gift of so many social, spiritual, physical, and environmental blessings: ecological appreciation of a successful wastewater treatment, awareness of the habitat restoration for our migrating winged friends on the Pacific Coast Flyway, contentment of the calming civilizing influence for its weary, yet energetic citizens. There is no way possible to over-estimate the contribution of the Marsh as a community value. So, spending time at the Marsh, on your own or as a volunteer, is good for whatever ails you." -- **Alan Laurent**



## What Have You Seen?

FOAM supports a greater law enforcement presence at the Arcata Marsh. In order to present the strongest case possible to the City Council during upcoming budget cycles, we need real-world examples. So, we'd like to hear from you — the eyes and ears of the AMWS — about situations you have experienced that would be improved by more police patrols. For instance, encounters with unleashed dogs, illegal campers, trash dumping, vandalism, or threats from other visitors. Please e-mail specifics to [sueleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:sueleskiw@suddenlink.net). Note whether you would want to be identified by name in any materials we produce during our campaign.

## Humboldt Bay, Hub of Commerce

By Lance Torgerson

Over the last century, the area surrounding what is now the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary and Arcata Treatment Plant has been managed in many ways. Remnants that remind us of the past include pilings of what used to be a wharf — seen popping out of the Bay mud as one looks south from Klopp Lake — railroads that once operated along the North Coast, the foundation of a sawmill, and the former county landfill.

Lumber and other goods once were transported by railroad. Tracks can be seen at many points along the trails through the Marsh. Now, you'll hear a bird chirping rather than a whistle blowing.

The Interpretive Center was built on the site of a former sawmill, with the pilings and concrete view out the window the remnants of a plywood mill. The old bottles on display behind the front desk are artifacts that surfaced during efforts to restore Butcher's Slough to its original course and wetland habitat.

The former county landfill, "Mount Trashmore," remains an area for restoration efforts and has earned a clever name.

Treatment and enhancement marshes and oxidation ponds reduce the biological oxygen demand, suspended solids, and inorganic nitrogen from City wastewater, prior to final treatment at the chlorine contact basin. Then, the wastewater is expelled into the bay, completing the 50-day cycle. Wow, what a transformation through the years: from log pond to wastewater treatment and wildlife sanctuary!



## Plants of the Marsh

A series by Melinda Bailey

### WILD OR RED-FLOWERING CURRANT

If you have been experiencing a typical day on the North Coast this winter, then you probably are more than ready for some real sunshine. Any day now, early spring flowers will emerge with the growing amounts of daylight, many of which tend to be yellow in color like wild mustard, daffodils, and dandelions. However, one early bloomer could easily be described as "pink sunshine" because of its bountiful and early display of bright clusters of pink flowers. This plant is Wild or Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*).

There is something very uplifting about this species of *Ribes*, no doubt partly due to its early bright display. Once the steady gray rainy days depart, this plant can truly dazzle you. Hummingbirds and some bees like it, as it is a welcome source of nectar along with other early blooming shrubs like manzanita, gooseberry, and huckleberry. If you like flowers, this one will truly make you smile in February (and into March). This is somehow fitting around Valentine's Day, as the blossoms are a deep reddish pink.

Members of the *Ribes* genus belong to the Grossulariaceae family or, more commonly, the gooseberry family. Unlike gooseberries, Red-Flowering Currant has no spines or thorns. Its flowers form clusters of 10-20 individuals that dangle from branches before the leaves are fully grown. This shrub rarely reaches more than 10 feet tall and is an excellent addition

to your garden. The leaves are irregularly toothed, finely serrated, and usually five lobed, with a sparsely hairy lower side. They grow alternately up woody stems. The flowers have five petals that are 4-5 mm long and range in color from white to red. Edible berries are produced in the summer and last until the birds pick them clean. Because the berries are pithy and not very sweet, they have not been prized as a human food source.

This shrub grows in many different habitats — from dry, open woodlands to the foggy coast of California north to British Columbia. A beautiful conspicuous specimen is growing near the path to the Interpretive Center and more are being planted in this area. Many can be seen growing along the 101 corridor and adjacent to many coastal trails. So, when you encounter this species, notice what it does to your mood. Is it truly a little ray of "pink sunshine"?

## Seasonal Changes Around the Marsh – Winter

By Denise Homer

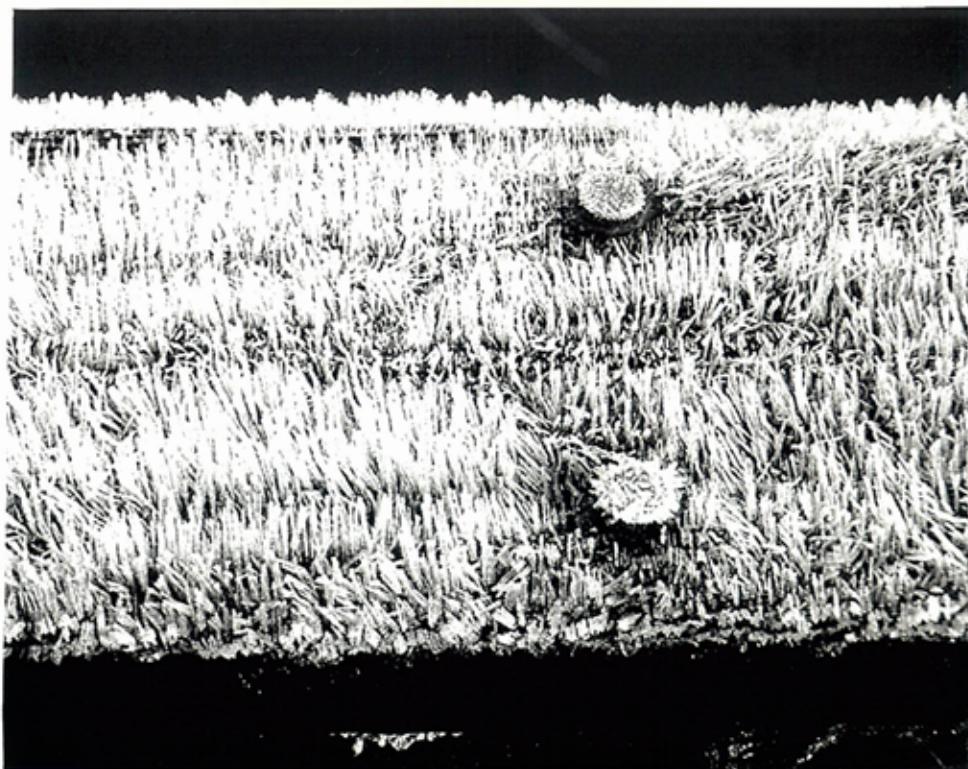
It was cold this morning. I wore a wool sweater, down coat, and wool gloves along with my binoculars. The first bird I saw was a tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Watching it darting around the tree limbs, I laughed at the realization that I probably had more feathers on me than this tiny, four-and-a-quarter-inch, olive-green bird with a white eye ring. In the spring, males will show off their ruby crown. By summer, they will have flown inland to nest.

We've had lots of frosty mornings this year. One morning, with nearly everything frosted in white, I set out with my camera. The pilings in Butcher's Slough all had white caps of frost on them. It looked like a fairy tale winter wonderland. When I got to the bridge, the railing was covered in hoar frost. It's rare that we see hoar frost here. It happens when the air is supersaturated and moves directly from vapor to ice crystals without passing through an intermediate liquid phase. The interlocking ice crystals take the shape of nails, spines, or feathers and also attach to trees, leaves, and grass blades.

It's been a true winter this year, with lots of fog, rain, hail, and frosty mornings. All we needed to complete our enjoyment of water in all its phases was snow. It

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*Hoarfrost at Arcata Marsh, by Denise Homer*

(Naturalist column, continued from p 5)

arrived at the marsh at 1:45 pm on January 27! I was in Westhaven taking in Ron LeValley's photography show and lecture. The snowflakes were huge, piling up on the ground and beautifully dusting the trees. Ron's lecture was outstanding; I occasionally got so involved in the images and what he was saying that I would forget it was snowing. It's pretty tough to compete with snow along the coast. The presentation was based on Ron's near-daily free e-mail post, "Outside My Window." Anyone can sign up at Ron's website: [www.levalleyphoto.com](http://www.levalleyphoto.com)

Another winter treat I look for are Spotted Towhees. They often scratch in the litter under the Red-Flowering Currants in front of the Interpretive Center. I stepped out on the porch and could hear lots of leaves being worked over. I saw one, two, three Fox Sparrows and bingo, a Spotted Towhee. It's easiest to see them in late fall and winter when they migrate towards the coast, adding to the population already here. Come summer at the marsh, all the Spotted Towhees move inland to nest. As Rachel Carson reminds us, "There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."



### *Pelican Dive*

What a Rush,  
Rushing Down,  
Out of the Sky,  
Like a Boulder,  
Rolling Down,  
The Skies,  
Like a steep Cliff,  
Tumble,  
To a Resting Place,  
Found the Feast,  
Found Peace,  
'Till the next Fly,  
'Till the next Time,  
For a Pelican Dive!

—Lance Torgerson

"bee" back into quilting, so we started in 1996 to make quilts to give to local nonprofits and have completed over 36, all but one to benefit Humboldt County organizations. We have also made quilts for Katrina victims.

We meet once a month on the second Saturday 11 months of the year. Sometimes we sew a top together, sometimes we sew binding on, sometimes we plan for the next quilt, exchange round robins, or turn in our assigned squares. All the while we share personal stories, woes, and concerns for the world.

The quilt that we created for Friends of the Arcata Marsh was specific to the Marsh in what we call a theme quilt. We brainstormed what the Marsh meant to all of us. After choosing each of our favorite images, we made quilt blocks with them in mind. Sunsets, wildflowers, water, trees, birds, fish, frogs, and even blackberries are represented. Many forms of quilt making are represented: pieced blocks, applique, painted, and dyed. The criteria was to make the blocks in multiples of four, then put them together anyway they would fit with the 4-inch sashing. Then, it was machine quilted and the binding hand sewn on.

It takes a while and a little nudging at times to make a quilt like this, but the results are always worth it. I can't remember when we actually started it, but once we got going, it took about 3 months to finish.

Our funding comes through our own contributions to our supply pool once a month, sometimes donations from Fabric Temptations, and lately a quilt we made to raffle off ourselves to keep the quilts coming. We have five new groups on our donation list and will complete that list before we start a new one.

We enjoy what we do and appreciate what all of the people do that work with the nonprofits to keep our community strong and healthy. It is an honor for us to be able to do this. We probably will do this until we run out of fabric, and if you're familiar with quilters, you know that end won't be anytime soon!

P.S. Good luck and I hope FOAM raises lots of money. My husband and I love to walk at the Marsh all year long.

The FOAM quilt was created by Dana, Desiree, Jan, Jenni, Jill, Joan, Laura, Lu, Marianne, Marilyn, Marylou, Merry, Sarah, Shirley, and Susan.

FOAM sends heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them.



## FEBRUARY ARTIST RICHARD "RED" JIORAS

Richard "Red" Jioras has been interested in photography since his high school days in the 1960s. He has taken many college courses in photography, as well as attending seminars and workshops presented by Nikon. On his way to Vietnam in 1966, Red purchased a Nikon FTN camera, which served him well for many years. More recently, Red's adventures into the digital world have opened new vistas for his photography by allowing more images to be captured in the field and through the use of the computer as a digital darkroom. A recent convert to birdwatching, Red has turned his camera to recording the beauty and vibrancy of the bird world. Fascinated by colors and habits of birds, Red has tried to move away from the common "posed" bird images and is focusing on images showing birds and other wildlife going about their everyday lives.

## MARCH ARTIST LESLIE SCOPES ANDERSON

*"CIRCLE OF SEASONS: A Year at the Marsh & Environs in Photographs"*

This show tries to capture the turns of the seasons in marsh environments, with many moods, changing foliage, and various local "residents." The photographer, Leslie S Anderson, recently moved to Arcata from Utah, and was anxious to assimilate the natural world in her new home. As a life-long nature lover, she was impressed by the stunning beauty of the Northwest, and found endless subjects for photography here. Leslie is a former film photographer, and credits her husband, Mike for pushing her into the digital world. She is grateful for his technical expertise, and loves nothing better than being out in the field with him, sharing the wonders of nature. Leslie endeavors to catch "the moment" in her photos - whether it is the fleeting color of light, dew on a petal, or antics of a bird.



## APRIL ARTIST ELLEN LAND-WEBER

Ellen Land-Weber is a photographer and emeritus professor of art at Humboldt State University, where she taught photography and digital imaging for close to 30 years. She has exhibited her work in solo or group exhibitions every year since 1968. Her photographs are in the permanent collections of museums in 12 states and in France, Japan, Canada, and Australia. She has received various grants over the years, including National Endowment for the Arts Photographer's Fellowships, Polaroid Artist's Support, and a Fulbright Senior Fellowship. Her photographic work has appeared in many books and other photography publications. She is the author of and photographer for two books: *The Passionate Collector* and *To Save a Life: Stories of Holocaust Rescue*.

Beginning in 1997, one of her favorite projects is an evolving series of photo collages about the Arcata Marsh. Her show will include 10 photo collage prints made over an 8-year period. One picture (below), entitled Marsh Corals (1999), was part of a series imagining what organisms might appear at the Marsh following global warming. For a second collage (top right), Pine Cone Bud (2007), Land-Weber made a scanning electron microscope image of a botanical specimen from the Marsh. It serves as a landscape setting for an unlikely Marsh bird. A wall label will explain the ideas, concerns, and techniques in the exhibition.



## Visitor Log

The Interpretive Center had 1728 walk-in visitors during October, 1463 in November, 1290 in December, and 1228 in January.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

February — bird photographs by Richard "Red" Jioras

February — No FOAM Board Meeting will be held (Board retreat Feb 9)

March — photographs by Leslie Scopes Anderson

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

April — photographs by Ellen Land-Weber

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

April 18-20 — 13th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival, [www.godwitdays.com](http://www.godwitdays.com) or 826-7050

May — Winning artwork from Student Bird Art Competition (see page 2)

## Recognition & Thanks, November 2007-January 2008

- **Best Friends:** Barbara Barratt, in honor of Elissa Barratt; Chandler & Paula Dawson; Chris Frolking & Margaret Nulsen; Steve & Carol Pearson (Portland, OR)
- **Sponsors:** Fred Hummel; Aldaron Laird; Audrey Miller; Anne & Roger Weiss
- **Friends:** Lee & Duke Albright; George & Beverly Allen; Ruth Gravanis; Lilyan Haigh; Mary Kay Hartman; Don Janes & Gina Kollaru; Marie Kelleher-Roy; Alan Laurent; Lance Torgerson; Connie Word (Redding)
- **Donations:** Richard Sanborn & Calista Sullivan, \$500 (reached Life Member status); Vintage BMW House, \$250; Bruce Fisher, large framed Audubon print