

UPWIND

from the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center Vol 20, Issue 1, Winter 2013

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

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Mallard by Daniel House. 2012 Second Place Winner for Grade 2.

FOAM to Cosponsor Duck Day at the Marsh

By Sue Leskiw

Last fall, the president of the HSU Student Chapter of the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) approached FOAM about collaborating on a kid's winter event at the Marsh that would focus on waterfowl. Following a presentation to the Board, FOAM agreed to help out on this day geared around waterfowl conservation and getting kids interested in ducks and geese.

Duck Day will be held on a Saturday in late February or early March, between 9 am and 2 pm. It will include crafts and educational presentations at the Interpretive Center and guided walks to view and identify wintering waterfowl. This free event is targeted at ages 5-12; all children must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Student CWA members and FOAM volunteers will staff the event, to "provide a hands-on experience for young minds about waterfowl and their environment."

For more information, contact David Orluck at cwa.hsu@gmail.com or 510-648-9050.

I Love Mud Bilingual Event Feb 9

FOAM is collaborating with Friends of the Dunes (FOD) to hold I Love Mud, a bilingual (Spanish) nature exploration event for kids and their adults. The free event will occur at the Klopp Lake parking lot (end of South I Street) from 3-5 pm on Saturday, February 9.

Bring your child(ren) to discover the cool creatures that live in mud through hands-on activities and games (mudflat exploration, mud finger painting, bird beak buffet, and birdwatching). Wear boots if you have them and be prepared to get muddy!

Space is limited, so RSVP to FOD at 707-444-1397. More information can be found at <u>www.friendsofthedunes.org</u>.



FOAM Produces Dog Poster

By Sue Leskiw

In 2011, FOAM obtained a grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation to design and print a brochure about the impacts of off-leash dogs in natural areas. Several thousand copies have been distributed to government agencies, nonprofit groups that manage land, veterinarians, and dog-related businesses.

Last winter, the Arcata field office of the US Bureau of Land Management expressed an interest in funding creation and printing of a poster based on the brochure. In the interim, Friends of the Dunes (FOD) had also published a dog brochure with the added feature of a map of Humboldt locations where dogs can and can't be taken off leash. Board member Leslie Anderson accepted the task of redesigning a brochure

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2012-13 Board of Directors & Officers

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George Ziminsky (Habitat Concerns)—707-826-9240

FOAM website: www.arcatamarshfriends.org

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into a poster, with input from Sue Leskiw and Julie Neander. An updated FOD map has been incorporated into a 13" by 19" full-color poster, which was published in December. Copies will be distributed to the same entities as was the dog brochure that are willing to display the poster in kiosks or on bulletin boards.

The remaining BLM funding will be used to develop additional educational outreach on dogs and wildlife.



2013 Godwit Days poster art by Patricia Sennott.

Help Needed with FOAM's Godwit Days Activities

The 18th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival is just around the corner and, once again, FOAM will be hosting free family nature craft activities. The drop-in session will be held in the Arts & Crafts room at the Arcata Community Center on Saturday, April 20 between 12:30 and 3:30 pm.

Planned activities span all ages and interests and will include making fish prints, peanut butter pinecone birdfeeders, bird calls, bird mobiles, water cycle bracelets, and refrigerator magnets. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. This is a fun event for both kids and volunteers! If you can spend a couple of hours helping kids discover the many wonders of our Marsh, contact Sue at <u>sueleskiw@</u> <u>suddenlink.net</u>.

FOAM also needs volunteers to staff its table at the Bird Fair. Hours of operation are Friday 5-6:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm (optional 5-7:30 shift), and Sunday 10 am-3 pm. If you can help hand out literature and sell items, call Janet at 707-822-4660.

Another volunteer opportunity is helping to hang the hundreds of entries received in the Tenth Annual Student Bird Art Contest, cosponsored by FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society. This will occur on Friday, April 19 starting at 1 pm. Bring a light-weight hammer and be prepared to push-pin artwork along the hallways and lobby of the Community Center. Contact Sue at sueleskiw@suddenlink.net.

For more information on Godwit Days, visit <u>www.godwitdays.org</u>.

March 22 Deadline for Student Bird Art Contest

For the tenth year, FOAM and Redwood Region Audubon Society are co-sponsoring a Student Bird Art Contest in conjunction with Godwit Days. \$550 in prizes will be awarded to Humboldt County students from kindergarten through high school who submit a drawing of one of 40 suggested species or another common local bird. Special prize(s) will be awarded for the best rendition of birds in their natural habitat.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Arcata Community Center, as part of the 18th Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. All entries will be displayed at the Community Center during the Festival and copies of winning artwork will be shown at the Interpretive Center during May.

A flyer with complete rules and a list of suggested birds is posted at www.arcatamarshfriends.org or www.rras.org or can be picked up at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, Strictly for the Birds in Old Town Eureka, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Louise Bacon-Ogden, 2337 B St, Eureka 95501. Flyers have been mailed to



Barn Owl by Marina Benson. 2012 First Place winner for Grade 4.

all schools in Humboldt County.

Artwork may be dropped off at Strictly for the Birds, 123 F St, Eureka, or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, 569 South G St, Arcata, or mailed to Louise at the address listed above. Entries must be received by Friday, March 22 to be considered. Questions should be e-mailed to sueleskiw@suddenlink.net.

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 16-18

Spend as little as 15 minutes as a citizen-scientist to help create a population snapshot for more than 600 bird species. This 16th annual event—hosted by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada—is perfect for beginning birders who don't want to spend hours in the field on a Christmas count. The event is free and no registration is required. Simply watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the 4-day period, then enter your results at www.birdcount.org.



Ecoclub Visits the Marsh

By Katy Allen & George Ziminsky

On December 2, the Bilingual McKinleyville Ecoclub paid a visit to the Marsh. Days of nearly nonstop rain halted long enough to fit in a bird walk and invasive plant removal. The group of elementary school children and their parents toured the Marsh and offered their services for a little clean-up as well.

Audubon tour guide Frank Anderson headed up the bird walk, speaking in both Spanish and English, as needed. The group returned to the Interpretive Center during a brief squall to look at the exhibits. Katy Allen, Betsy Elkinton, and Alex Stillman provided some background on Marsh history and sewage treatment plant operations. Logistics were performed by Katy and Sue Leskiw.

Then, George Ziminsky organized about an hour's work time for the group, which headed out the trail south of the Interpretive Center parking lot to clip seed heads off fennel. It was pretty cute watching the kids cooperate, one bending down the tall fennel stems so their sibling could reach the seeds and take them off, while another held the bucket to collect them for transfer to big yardwaste bags. George took the time to tell each little work group about what they were doing and why. One woman talked about how bad the environmental scene was in Mexico where she grew up and relayed how she is so happy to be raising a family in a beautiful place that is taken care of by the people and the government.

Most of the children are enrolled in Morris Elementary School's Spanish Immersion program. Some of the parents, although living in McKinleyville, had never heard of, let alone visited, the Arcata Marsh. After the tour, they indicated that they enjoyed all that it has to offer and plan to return. Those whose native language is Spanish particularly appreciated being given the Marsh bird list in Spanish (courtesy of the free Redwood Region Audubon Society translation, compiled by Frank with Chet Ogan).





(Top photo) Some of the Ecoclub tour participants. Dr Gustavo Iturralde is at left; bird tour leader Frank Anderson is third from right. Photo by Katy Allen. (Bottom photo) Ecoclub members remove teasel. Photo by George Ziminsky.

The EcoClub was honored to have with it a special visitor from El Paso, TX: Dr. Gustavo Iturralde, a physician who works for the Pan American Health Organization. Part of his mission is to promote environmental health, development of life skills, and healthy habits for children. He was very impressed with the beauty and wildlife at the Marsh, as well as its potential for recreational and educational opportunities.

FOAM Square on Plaza

FOAM again participated in Pastels on the Plaza on October 6. Artwork featured a Black-crowned Night-Heron by former Board member Leslie Anderson. FOAM's square was underwritten by Life Members Lee & Chris House. The event functioned as both a fundraiser for North Coast Children's Services and publicity for FOAM.







(Top) Betsy with 4th and 5th graders at Klopp Lake. (Middle) Elliott and friend. (Bottom, from left) Leaders Sue, Katy, Elliott, Tom, and Betsy.

Fuente Nueva Tour

By Sue Leskiw

On October 12, FOAM held its first Spanish-language bird walk for students from Arcata's Fuente Nueva Charter School. Elliott Dabill led a group of second-grade girls, while Katy Allen shepherded the second-grade boys around the Marsh for 90+ minutes. Tom Leskiw and Betsy Elkinton served as docents for the fourth- and fifth-graders, while Sue Leskiw took photos and kept the bird sighting list.

Despite some last-minute occurrences that decreased the amount of Spanish spoken during the tour, the kids were very engaged and lined up to view birds through FOAM's spotting scope. The highlight of the tour was watching a Great Egret take its time swallowing a huge rat!

Rohde on History of Arcata Marsh to 1950

By Elliott Dabill

There was a lot of information in this lecture, including many old photographs and maps, so stop by the Interpretive Center and watch Jerry's PowerPoint on the FOAM computer. Most of us know, for example, that California's first railroad ran from Jacoby's Storehouse down 2 miles of track to load ships with lumber, pulled by Spanking Fury, the horse. We also learned that there were two other railroads, with evidence of them still around the Bay, if you know where to look.

Mr. Rohde talked quite a while about the developing economy of Union (Arcata) and the mule trains that hauled freight to stores in Del Norte and Trinity counties. There were many clashes with Native Americans, a theme common to the times, but Jerry indicated that the Hoopa Reservation was the most successfully negotiated treaty (from the tribal viewpoint) that he knew of with any tribe in the U.S. The Hoopa people got most of the land and treaty rights that they wanted, and the treaty was largely honored by the dominant culture, not a given with most of our treaties.

Via Jerry's PowerPoint, view development of the road that eventually become Route 299 through the mountains to Redding, look at map changes as the population around the Bay grew, and enjoy the photos from the 19th and 20th centuries as you wonder what life must have been like in Union, California. There was also a series of photos of the mills that labored on the site that has become the Arcata Marsh.

Boyd on Ecology of Northern Humboldt Bay

By Elliott Dabill

If you missed Milt's talk, you didn't get to hear narratives about many animals that live in the Bay and under the mud, animals we seldom see. One of his PowerPoint slides showed a square meter of surface mud on the Bay that had been excavated a

meter deep by one of his classes. All the animals captured were cleaned of their mud and spread out for a photograph (can be viewed on FOAM computer). It is amazing that the variety and mass of flesh in that picture came from such a small space, and more amazing still to imagine the huge quantities of life under the entire Bay. What do these creatures eat?

Milt explored the enormous crop of Chilean cordgrass, Spartina, and how it forms detritus that plays a role in the food web in the marshes and mud. The plants get covered with bacteria that help break them down and the pieces get carried out with the tides to provide breakfast for the many creatures in and above the mud. It turns out that the creatures actually prefer the bacteria themselves over the plant material, which is difficult to digest. Another point to reflect on is that many groups of humans are now planning to or are actually removing the Spartina, but it forms denser populations than the native grasses. Successful removal would leave a smaller nutrient load available to our lovely innkeeper worms and their neighbors.

Together with Jerry Rohde, Milt's talk provided deep and rich layers of introduction to the present and past lives of the Arcata Marsh.

Slow-Speed Tour(s) Under Development

FOAM volunteer Jane Wilson and Board member John McNeely are laying the groundwork for a Marsh tour aimed at people whose physical abilities require a slower pace.

They are testing routes that would be achievable for those unable to walk far or who use walkers or wheelchairs. The tour would be held on a weekday and would be publicized to senior centers and residential facilities in addition to local media outlets..

If you know of someone who would benefit from such a tour, please email Sue Leskiw (<u>sueleskiw@suddenlink.net</u>) with contact information, so he/she could receive notice of the event.



Some of the workday workers. Photo by Dennis Houghton.

FOAM December Workday

A small but hardworking crew of 5 volunteers continued work at the South I Street salt marsh mitigation site on December 8. They removed 3 cubic yards of *Spartina* (invasive cordgrass). The volunteers were Katy Allen, Esther Gilchrist, Jacques Lemarie, John Norris, and George Ziminsky. In 2013, FOAM will sponsor invasive plant removal days at the Marsh on July 20 and December 7.

Spartina Meeting Held

By Mary Burke

A public meeting on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for *Spartina* (invasive cordgrass) eradication in Humboldt Bay was held at the Harbor Commission office on Woodley Island on Dec. 12. Approximately 10 people attended.

The first half of the presentation was by Joel Gerwein from the California Coastal Conservancy, who laid out the need for the eradication in 5 points. Allowing Spartina to remain means 1) a loss of native plants, 2) a threat to native wildlife, 3) a reduction in marsh productivity, 4) a potential loss of mudflat habitat, and 5) it will continue to spread.

The second half of the presentation was given by Adam Wagschal from HT Harvey and Associates, who described the PEIR and 4 combinations of treatments that are being considered as removal methods. These are 1) only mechanical handheld equipment; 2) only mechanical but including large equipment, 3) manual tools such as shovels, and

4) chemical herbicide Imazapyr. It is expected that different combinations of these techniques will be used, depending on the site where removal is occurring. Public comments on the PEIR were due by January 15.

T-Day Leg Stretcher

By Art Barab

Thanksgiving 2012 was a beautiful one for this 13th annual holiday walk around the Marsh. Fourteen people attended the morning stroll led by me and George Ziminsky. We took a route that passed along Butcher's Slough to the wastewater treatment plant and, from there, to a tour of Klopp Lake and the enhancement marshes, returning to the Interpretive Center along the trail beside the Log Pond. George brought a scope along for bird IDs and both he and I provided info about Marsh history and functions. Along with the weather, the birds were also cooperative, present in abundance. A good time seemed to be had by all uring the 90-minute walk, leaders as well as guests.



Jenny Hanson (left) points out a plant during Jan. 1 ramble. Photo by Betty Fowler.

New Year's Day Ramble

By Jenny Hanson

The sun was warm, there was no wind, and it was perfect for a stroll to welcome in the New Year. Most of the 15 or so participants were familiar with the Marsh, but the trail around the Oxidation Ponds was new to several people.

In the plant world, the seasons were confused. Coyote bush was going to fluffy seed, while the alders looked bare and wintery. But spring had arrived in the new leaves on the fennel stems, and there were hardy plants that were already blooming, as if they didn't realize it was January. We relished the interesting mixture of scents among the plants, from the licorice of fennel leaves, to the distinctive spiciness of yarrow, the carroty odor of Queen Anne's Lace, and the sweet scent of mustard. Our bouquet of blooming flowers included radish, mustard, yarrow, and periwinkle flowers, as well as the look-alike white, umbrella-shaped flowers of water parsley, poison hemlock, and Queen Anne's lace.

The ponds were full of ducks, though the bright sun reflected off the water as we squinted to look at them. When the light was behind us, we got good looks at the huge bills and bright coloration of the shovelers. The combination of lovely weather, pretty scenery, and pleasant company made this January 1st walk a nice way to welcome in 2013.

Chase Charity Benefits FOAM

By Sue Leskiw

Imagine my surprise last August when, through the FOAM website, I received an email from Chase Community Giving. The message informed me that FOAM had been nominated to be part of the 2012 Chase Community Giving program and share in \$2.5 million. Some customer or employee had told Chase that FOAM was a charity that "meant the most to them."

All I had to do was fill out an online form and provided proof that FOAM was an eligible 501c3 organization. I also had the opportunity to post some photos from FOAM activities and write about what we do, making the information available to the entire nation to view.

In late December, FOAM received a check for \$335.30 from Chase. We thank the company for offering such a program.



Replacement Exhibit Panels Shine

The west end of the Interpretive Center got a lot brighter recently when FOAM and Open Heart Quilters underwrote the cost of replacing two interpretive panels that had become badly faded by the sun. One was a "How Marshes Treat Wastewater" display by Gary Bloomfield, originally installed in 1997. The other was a Larry Eifert Marsh painting, which was originally installed in 1995 (and had already been replaced once in 2002). A faded green California Quail and poppies were restored to a graphic that shows the state bird and state flower as they should appear. Stop by and revel in the rejuvenated artwork!





Seasons Around the Marsh–Winter

By Denise Homer

I've taken the Small Stone Writing Challenge 2013. The idea is to "notice something properly every day during January and write it down. A small stone is a short piece of writing (prose or poetry) that precisely captures a fully engaged-moment. The process of finding small stones is as important as the finished product – searching for them will encourage you to keep your eyes (and ears, nose, mouth, fingers, feelings and mind) open," according to the founders Fiona and Kaspa. There are around 600 of us all over the world committed to writing small stones this January.

I was talking to someone about this project and he said he was doing the same thing with his painting. The point, I think, is to be someone who pays attention. "A naturalist is someone who pays attention. To be a naturalist you must be curious, observe actively and closely, describe and identify what is before you, take good notes, look for patterns at all scales, reflect on where you've been and what you've seen, and immerse yourself in the natural world," according to Saul Weisberg, co-founder and Executive Director of North Cascades Institute.

Here are a couple of my small stones from the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary:

3 January 2013

In the ordinary moment of talking with a friend
The extraordinary happened just outside the window
A Red-shouldered Hawk flew by, did a pirouette
And gently landed on a tree branch

5 January 2013

Two leafy trees
One orange, one red
Brighten the gray sky in January
Didn't they get the memo?
Fall leaves fall

The author Silas House writes about meeting a famous author:

"I met James Still, a novelist and poet known for his keen insights into the natural world shortly before he died.

I was a young, naïve, foolish writer who was searching for my way. I swallowed hard and asked him if he had any advice on how to be a better writer. He didn't answer for a long minute, gazing off at the hills as if ignoring me.

But then he spoke, and I realized that he had taken that moment for quiet thought. 'Discover something new every day,' he said. That advice changed me as a writer and as a person.

I give it to you now and hope that you will take it out into the waiting world."

I know that we are all in a very busy world these days. But it really doesn't take so much time to "discover something new every day." It can be as easy as noticing something properly and writing it down. It could change your life.

FEBRUARY ARTIST CYNTHIA NOBLE

Over 35 years ago, when I moved from LA to Humboldt County, I found intimate yet vast spaces helping me to realize the local beauty and grace; elements dependent on climate and isolation. As today's world becomes more frantic, the natural world inspires me to paint.

My style—which alternates between realism and expressionism—depends on my mood. Sometimes I paint with more expression, which is active and textural and shows the dynamics of nature and my emotional response to it. My different styles reflect the varied ways I perceive the world. I express my feelings of harmony with the outside world through color, shape, volume, space, form, and texture.

Watercolor allows me to interact with the subject and the medium in a way no other does. Watercolor can be so mutable and seems so appropriate for painting this wet and changing weather. The seasons are important to my landscapes and offer new perceptions year after year. To me, clouds, plants, and flowers, as well as their shadows, have a strong presence and personality that I need to honor in my paintings.

I select scenes and plants from pictures I take on my travels around the North Coast and in gardens. My paintings are mostly on 140-pound Arches Cold Press paper. I use a variety of watercolor paints and brushes and other tools, including sticks, knives, and resists. I love the effects of glazing or layering paint and the interaction between paper, paint, and water.

Feeling at one with and awed by nature is what I wish to express. Through painting, I want to invite others into my world and interpretation of local scenes and plants.

While working as a graphic artist for many years, I took art classes at College of the Redwoods and in 1987 received a degree in art from HSU. Several years after taking private painting classes, I have been showing at businesses and public buildings in Eureka and am a member of the Redwood Art Association.



Marsh Egret, Fall by Cynthia Noble.

MARCH ARTIST JIM LOWRY

It is a pleasure to show my limited edition archival digital prints at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center. I am very fond of the dunes, beach, ocean, and marsh as subject matter. I love seeing the egrets sleeping around the ponds, looking like white pillows hanging from marshy Christmas trees. It seems like the Interpretive Center and my work belong together, purely for the shared vision.

My prints have won numerous national, as well as international, awards. Additional prints can be seen locally at the Arcata Artisan Co-op on the Plaza, at the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka, and at the Trinidad Art Gallery. For more information, visit www.jimlow-ryart.com or phone 707-822-5249.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

February—watercolor paintings by Cynthia Noble

February 8—Artist Reception, 6-8 pm (concurrent with Arts Arcata)

February 12—FOAM Board Meeting, 6:30-8 pm [note change away from second Thursday to accommodate Valentine's Day!]

Late February or early March— Duck Day, date TBD (see p. 1)

March—digital prints by Jim Lowry

March 9—I Love Mud Bilingual Event, 3-5 pm, Klopp Lake (see p. 1)

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

March 22—Student Bird Art Contest deadline (see p. 2)

April—photographs by Mike & Leslie Anderson

April 11—FOAM Board Meeting, $6:30-8~\mathrm{pm}$

April 19-21—Godwit Days (see p. 2)

May—winners of Student Bird Art Contest

Visitor Log

The Interpretive Center had 1666 visitors in September, 1828 in October, 1360 in November, and 1280 in December.

Recognition & Thanks, October 2012-mid-January 2013

- New Life Member: Alex Stillman
- Best Friends (\$100): Sally & Richard Botzler ("To FOAM with appreciation for your work. Para FOAM con apreciacion por su buen trabajo!"); Tom Inouye (Sacramento, "Regards to Bob Rasmussen who served on my master's degree thesis committee. I hope to take some time and travel through your area some time during the coming year."); Aldaron Laird
- Sponsors (\$50): Fred & Doris Ferguson; Sheila Marks; Keith Mobbs; Beverly Post
- Friends: Mary Burke; Nathan Copple; Karen Cunningham; Bruce Dickmeyer Family; Nina Haedrich & Family; Lilyan Haigh; Jim Lennon; Megan McCue; Anne Merryfield; Audrey Miller; Susan Pence; Judy Shaffer; Charles Swanson; Carl & Susan Tuck; Katie White ("Thanks for being awesome."); Jane Wilson; Connie Word (Redding)
- Special Donors: Calista Sullivan & Richard Sanborn, \$1000; Lee & Chris House, \$200; Sue Lee & Archie Mossman, in memory of Lori [Mrs. Stan] Harris

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

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Mark Your Calendar for:

Artist Reception for Cynthia Noble, 2/8 I Love Mud! Event, 2/9 Student Bird Art Contest Deadline, 3/22 Godwit Days, 4/19-21

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	Name		
	Address		
	City, State, ZIP		
	Phone	E-mail	
	Please check the appropriate membership category:		
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	Sponsor \$50	Best Friend \$100	Life Member \$750
	I would like more information about volunteering for FOAM,		
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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.

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.