

2020/21 FOAM Annual Report (Issued 9/12/21)

Tours: After the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center reopened on weekends only starting June 5, 2021, 1,001 adults and children visited between then and August 31. Ninety-two of them participated in the 15 weekly Saturday 2 pm tours led by FOAM docents that resumed on May 15. There were no special-request tours between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

Education: FOAM's free lecture series continued via Zoom, with presentations by Adam Canter on Wiyot cultural geography, Jerry Rohde on historic Arcata wharves, Mark Wilson on the natural history of microorganisms, Jaime Carlino on rat poison is wildlife poison, David Couch on the Arcata wastewater treatment plant upgrade, Mark Wilson continuing his microorganism natural history theme (focusing on wastewater), and Karlee Jewell on her otter research and the HSU North Coast Otters art project.

FOAM underwrote the cost of sending 6 LatinX kindergarteners through second graders to Marsh Explorers Camp.

Katy Allen continued to represent FOAM on Redwood Region Audubon Society's Cat/Bird Committee, which is sponsoring a tour of seven "catios" (fenced outdoor spaces for cats) in September 2021.

Public Events: FOAM presented its seventh Arcata Marsh Bird of the Year awards at its September 12 Zoom annual meeting. The winner was Trumpeter Swan, discovered by Mark and Lucas Stephenson, Lucas Corneliussen, and Amaya Bechler. The runner-up award went to Yellow-throated Vireo, spotted by Greg Gray. Both were first records for the Marsh.

In March, for the 15th year, FOAM sponsored awards at the Humboldt County Science Fair. Sue Leskiw and Lynn Jones judged the online entries and awarded two \$50 first prizes. The winner in the junior division (grades 5-7) was Anya Seiler, a 6th grader at Jacoby Creek School, for her project to find bacteria that would decompose microplastics. The winner in the senior division (grades 8-12) was another Jacoby Creek School student, 8th grader Jackson Zagone, who investigated the presence of microplastics in Humboldt Bay oysters.

In partnership with Redwood Region Audubon Society, FOAM sponsored the 18th Student Bird Art Contest. Participation rebounded somewhat from a low of 160 entries in 2020 to reach about 300 digitally submitted entries from grades K-12 throughout Humboldt County. Twenty-seven cash prizes and 19 honorable mentions were given out--although not in person, as the mid-April Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival was held via Zoom.

In June, FOAM tabled at a LatinX outreach event at Arcata's Redwood Park. Lynn Jones and Paul Johnson handed out Spanish-language Marsh materials, answered questions about the Marsh, and helped children make otter masks.

FOAM underwrote the cost of displaying an otter sculpture--"The Humbirder" by Shawn Gould--as part of the North Coast Otters Public Art Initiative through Humboldt State University's Wildlife Department.

FOAM purchased a wireless tour guide system with one transmitter and 15 attendee headsets.

Marsh and Wildlife Through the Eyes of Local Artists: Since December 1998, FOAM has sponsored art and photography shows at the Interpretive Center that are representative of the scenery, plants, birds, and animals that inhabit the Marsh and Humboldt Bay. Due to AMIC closure, the only art show during the last year was a combined show of the Student Bird Art Contest cash prize winners from 2020 and 2021, which was displayed from June through August.

Publicity & Communication: We would like to thank newspapers, radio and TV stations, and online websites for helping us get the message out about our weekly tours, art exhibits, Zoom lectures, and other special events at the Marsh. FOAM continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, UPWIND.

Lynn Jones created a FOAM YouTube channel—where FOAM Zoom lectures have been posted—and reinvigorated the FOAM Facebook page.

City Relations: FOAM paid for construction materials (e.g., sand, gravel, wood chips) and plants used by the brother-sister volunteer duo of Paul and Lynne Abels to create the new native plant garden in front of the Interpretive Center.

FOAM funded two “Volunteer of the Year” awards, presented to Robbin Kohn and Susan Halpin.

Membership: As of August 31, FOAM had 189 members (same number as last year), 98 of whom are Life Members. [NOTE: Twenty-eight of the Life Members are either deceased or have an undeliverable address.]

Fiscal Accounts: As of August 31, FOAM had a checking account balance of \$33,162.52. As of 6/30/21, FOAM also had \$17,224.27 in a fund set up at the Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF).

Expenditures totaled \$8,344.48 and revenues totaled \$9,744.43. The largest expenditures incurred in the past year were for 1) purchasing plants and construction materials for the new native plant garden in front of AMIC, 2) insurance, 3) underwriting children to attend Marsh Explorers Camp, and 4) UPWIND printing and mailing. Revenue sources were membership dues (\$4,858) and donations (\$4,886.43). There were no merchandise sales this fiscal year, due to AMIC bookstore closure and no Godwit Days booth. FOAM also earned \$4,394.23 in interest/dividends/capital gains on its HAF Fund between 7/1/20 and 6/30/21 (minus management fees of \$279.95).

Board of Directors: Five current Board Members (David Couch, Paul Johnson, Lynn Jones, Cindy Kuttner, Bill Prescott) will be continuing. Three (Elliott Dabill, Jean Santi, Mark Wilson) are running for another term. Katy Allen, Richard Brown, and Cosette McCave are retiring.

-- Elliott Dabill, President