Visitors & Programs:
The Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center (AMIC) was visited by 14,028 people in 2016 (Fig. 1), comprised of 11,029 adults and 2,999 kids (Fig. 2). The AMIC averaged slightly over 17,000 visitors per year in the last 5 years. Adult visitors had been steadily declining over that time frame while youth visitors generally are on the rise. Besides visitors from Humboldt County and many other areas of California, visitors who signed the guest book hailed from Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Maryland, Scotland, Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. A few of the visitors were locals who had lived here for years but had never been to the Interpretive Center. Many visitors came specifically to see The Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) monthly art show, lectures and tours. The City Recreation Department conducted marsh camps for 8 weeks with a total of 148 kids ages 4 through 9 attending.

Hours Open:
The AMIC was open for 2,377.5 hours in 2016, averaging 198 hours per month (Fig. 3). Approximately 33% of that time was staffed by volunteers. Most weekend days were staffed from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. with few closures. City staff kept the AMIC open on week days with some volunteer help, especially during the first-ever “winter hours”, which reduced regular hours to 12-2 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday in January, February, and March. The AMIC remains a valuable asset to the City of Arcata as a visitor center for the area.
Volunteers:
Twenty-nine volunteers contributed 795.75 hours of AMIC staffing time in 2016 and 130.75 hours of tour leadership throughout the year. There were 5 new volunteers acquired and trained in 2016. Barbara Reisman was awarded Volunteer of the Year for AMIC staffing AMIC, leading Saturday and special-request tours, and helping at special events. Pam Brown was also awarded Volunteer of the Year for staffing AMIC and diligently managing the dog waste bag dispensers and receptacles around the Marsh. Many volunteers also contributed to invasive plant removal work days.

Tours:
FOAM conducted weekly Saturday walks and other special tours of the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS). Volunteers conducted 46 regular tours for 204 participants in 2016 (Fig 4). July and December had the greatest number of regular tours and participants. There were 31 special-request tours given for 826 participants (Fig 5). April had the greatest number of special requested tours and participants, which were mostly local school field trips. The grand total of tours offered at the Arcata Marsh in 2016 was 77 with 1,030 participants. Several school groups visited AMIC without a scheduled tour.

Lectures & Events:
A new digital projector with hard drive was installed with funds raised by FOAM’s capital campaign for AMIC improvements. FOAM coordinated 12 presentations with 272 attendees. Subjects included zero waste in Arcata; gall-forming insects; earthquakes & tsunamis; recreation past, present, & future; weasels; proposed Arcata dog park, and more. City of Arcata’s Forest Ecology Lecture Series covered the topics of mutualism between epiphytes & host trees, the McKay community forest, and using tree rings to understand growth, climate, and fire in redwoods. Other events such as Godwit Days Optics Expo, Take A Child Outside Day, and the FOAM annual volunteer appreciation lunch took place at the AMIC.
**Bookstore:**
The bookstore did well in 2016, with sales of $11,587.17 (Fig. 6), making a profit of $4,436.88. Sales tend to peak in early spring when visitors are here for Godwit Days, late summer when weather is the most favorable for outdoor adventuring, and during winter holiday shopping time.

New book titles and new t-shirt designs were added to the inventory. A new Jr. Marsh Explorers activity book was created by Gretchen O’Brien and Leslie Scopes Anderson and printed with grant funding from the Strong Foundation. The booklet is for sale in the AMIC bookstore for $3 and FOAM has a supply of its own to give away during tours and events. Best-selling items continue to be the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary logo hats, Friends of the Arcata Marsh’s Common Birds and Common Plants books, and Water Is Life t-shirts.

**Displays:**
New poster displays were rotated through the plexi-glass cases: “Rare Plants of Humboldt Bay” and “Bats in Humboldt County” (created by Interpretive Naturalist Gretchen O’Brien). More children’s books were donated to the reading library thanks to FOAM’s plea through its UPWIND newsletter and a comfortable chair was purchased with donations to FOAM as a memorial to long-time volunteer Darlene Marlow who passed away.

New sculptures made of cigarette butts were added to the exhibit hall as a reminder to people how important it is to dispose of this trash appropriately so that it does not end up in our waterways. Thousands of cigarette butts were collected off the Arcata Plaza to create these sculptures by Maureen McGarry.

Friends of the Arcata Marsh continued with its monthly art shows, with a different artist every two months.

**Building:**
The Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center has new photovoltaic panels, new electric heaters and hand dryers, and is now a zero net energy building. The insulation under the building was replaced, new carpet was installed in the exhibit hall, and the tile flooring was polished.

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**Fig. 6 AMIC monthly sales income 2016**

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</tr>
</tbody>
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**AMIC bookstore.**

**Art show in AMIC exhibit hall.**

**Cigarette butt otter sculpture.**

**AMIC photovoltaic panels.**

**The new and improved reading corner.**
Marsh Wildlife:
In 2016, 192 bird species were recorded at the Arcata Marsh: 152 in spring, 105 in summer, 176 in fall, and 149 in winter (Fig. 7). Seventy-two species were recorded year-round. Rare sightings included Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Pygmy-Owl, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. To date 331 species of birds have been reported at the Arcata Marsh according to eBird records, making the AMWS the #1 birding hotspot in Humboldt County. Nine reports of river otter sightings came in, one of which reported 7 otters together. All reports were submitted to the HSU otter records data website. Other mammals seen in 2016 were opossum, raccoon, and long-tailed weasel. Northern Pacific tree-frog, Northern red-legged frog, rough-skinned newt, and garter snake were also seen.

Future Plans:
Additions planned for 2017 include more temporary poster displays and acquiring specimens for the new lighted glass display case that replaced one of the gas wall heaters. Outside AMIC, an outdoor amphitheater area has finally been approved by the California Coastal Commission and is scheduled to begin construction in summer 2017. This will serve as an intimate opportunity for visitors and locals to be surrounded by the marsh ecosystem during programs that may include an audio/visual presentation, fire-side storytelling, or simply a gathering place for groups to begin a tour. The City of Arcata has received grant funding for a beach wheelchair that will be available at AMIC for free rental to the public, allowing the alter-able community to navigate the marsh trails with ease. Grant funding for an “Explore the Coast” program for area youth has been awarded to the City of Arcata and will be implemented in the summers of 2017 and 2018, bringing kids to the Interpretive Center and the marsh trails. A proposal to register the City as a Wildlife Habitat Community with the National Wildlife Federation would include registering the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary as one of the locations that is to be a certified wildlife habitat.