



# A Quest at the Arcata Marsh

## This looks like a case of **MARSH MADNESS!**

This quest is something fun for you to do on a day when you want to get out and see wildlife, or if you're just looking for something fun to do with your family. The marsh has been a popular Arcata landmark, where people go to watch birds and walk the trails, for over thirty years.

In this quest, you will start at the Marsh & Wildlife Interpretive Center. From here you will follow the clues to reach your destination: a hidden cache filled with interesting facts about the marsh and a stamp to mark your accomplishment. You can even write your name in the logbook to prove you were here! Along the way we hope you become better attuned to the beautiful flora and fauna we are blessed to have here in Arcata. To begin this quest, find a multi-layered puzzle that depicts Humboldt Bay's change over time (this will be in the Interpretive Center).

Play this game just for fun  
You will see when you're done  
How the marsh was tamed  
When the people came.

*Towards the parking lot  
Across the slough  
Take a right on the pebble path  
To take you through.*

Here is a great place  
To stop and rest  
While you contemplate  
This quest.

The visitor's center  
Used to go by another name  
It was the plywood mill...  
They're one and the same!  
A forest of dead trees  
Still standing upright  
Used to be  
The sawmill's site.

*Continue south across the track  
There you'll find  
The orange sock clue  
Don't slack!*

You flush it down  
And you can see  
This is where  
Your waste will be.

*Now cross the bridge  
And make a left  
To find the sign  
You'll need to be deft!*





His name was Dr. Harris  
 He was just like you and me  
 He was expert in ecology  
 And also ornithology.

This pond's name belongs to him  
 Although he named it on a whim  
 So you may think it rather odd  
 That its name is No-Name Pond.



*While looking at the sign  
 Head to your left  
 And you will find  
 The next clue  
 From the first bird blind.*

We treat these lovely ponds  
 With Nature's magic wands  
 And in Klopp Lake otters play  
 On a bright and sunny day.



Sport fishers often come to Klopp Lake  
 To catch some fish, with shorebirds in their wake.  
 Some birds to expect:  
 Willets, godwits, and avocets.



*Continue along the trail  
 And take the first left without fail  
 Once you get to the sign  
 The next clue's only 30 steps forward, not behind.*



Out in Klopp Lake you can see  
 Pilings that used to be.  
 Horses drove the first train in Humboldt,  
 One of them named Spanky Fury,  
 Although the trains nowadays aren't driven  
 By things that are huge and furry.  
 This train ran through  
 What used to be a wharf  
 Though now it's a tiny piece of ground,  
 One dirty, marshy dwarf.



Spanky Fury's Replacement



*Retrace your steps and up the hill  
 Continue straight  
 Stop at the bench  
 With your back to the lake.*

Many people are aware  
 That the marsh is a great place  
 But, beware!  
 You may find more  
 Than cattails there.

Arcata Wharf



Arcata City Dump 1950's

This marsh is a mound  
 Of garbage in the ground.  
 The garbage is covered evermore  
 We call it Mount Trashmore.



*Go down the hill  
Follow the pointing rock  
When you get onto the left path  
The bird blind's where you stop.*

The Allen Marsh was named after  
Our dear friend George Allen  
Who had the idea  
Of recycling wastewater—by the gallon!

*Continue past Allen Marsh  
The area here looks very harsh.*

When the salt marsh  
Fills real high  
And it looks like it could  
Touch the sky,  
You may think it's fake  
Because it looks like a lake.



You know your favorite flower?  
The one whose name  
Sounds rather sour?  
Its name is pickle weed,  
And here belongs its seed.  
It is a native plant  
But you'd be surprised  
That a lot of people can't  
Differentiate between these  
And foreign plants.

Our quest is coming to an end  
But you can do it again and again

*Find this log  
And you will see  
The treasure there—  
It's fabulous! Trust me, you'll agree.*



Now the quest is over  
There is no more  
We hope that it  
Was not a bore.

Questions? Comments?  
Random words?  
Ask the folks at the Interpretive Center  
(They're the bird nerds)!

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