

Little mouse has a big fan in Bay Nature

By Harriot Manley

Photo: U.S. Geological Survey



Whether it's nibbling on pickleweed or lapping from a pool of salty bay water, the tiny salt marsh harvest mouse gets the nod for being one of China Camp's most remarkable (and cutest) mammals. So it's nice to discover a cool article about this endangered mammal in one of our favorite publications, *Bay Nature*, the quarterly magazine produced by the Berkeley-based Bay Nature Institute.

"With their broad ears, cinnamon belly, and eyes as wide as a surprised child's,

salt marsh harvest mice present an unusual mix of adorable and mysterious, the baby Yodas of rodents," writes author James Steinbauer in his recent [article](#) for *Bay Nature*.

Steinbauer goes on to share the latest discoveries about the mouse's diet, physiology, and habitat needs, as relayed by wildlife biologist Katie Smith. It's the kind of insightful and entertaining read we've come to enjoy from *Bay Nature*, which also shares essays, local events, and blog posts on its [website](#).

Thanks to organizations like the Bay Nature Institute, we can all continue to appreciate and learn about our local ecosystems, and remember how important it is to preserve and protect places like China Camp State Park.