



# O A K L E A V E S

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS/MORRO BAY CHAPTER SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 6442 LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412 (805) 528-2579 MARCH 1994

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## **ITS UP TO US! SWAP needs \$125,000 by April 1st**

Many of you have already heard that SWAP's application for federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds was denied in December. We have been told our application was rated number one in California and number two on the west coast, but with \$70 million in requests and only \$3 million to award, not one project in the west was funded last year by the NAWCA council.

Although our disappointment was great, it has not weakened our resolve to raise the \$125,000 we need to complete the purchase. In fact, we have been buoyed by the money that has quietly started coming in since the grant denial was first announced. Many people realize the gravity of our situation and have responded generously.

We need to make everyone aware of our plight. Years of work and commitment to preserving the Elfin Forest and our success in raising \$1.45 million through grant awards and individual donations cannot be abandoned now. Working together, we can do it.

SWAP is facing the eleventh hour. **WE ARE IN JEOPARDY OF LOSING OUR PREVIOUSLY AWARDED FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS IF WE CANNOT RAISE THE MONEY TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF THE ELFIN FOREST BY APRIL 1ST.** Government budget guidelines require that grant monies be spent within the current budget year which ends June 30. This means the purchase of the Elfin Forest has to go into escrow in April.

### **GENERAL MEETING "From Cypress To Sandspit: The Plants & Plant Communities of the Morro Bay Watershed"**

**by Melissa J. Mooney**

**Monday, March 7th, 7pm  
South Bay Community Center  
2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos**

☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

Melissa J. Mooney, San Luis Obispo County Environmental Specialist, will be the speaker at our March quarterly meeting. Ms. Mooney holds an M.S. degree in plant ecology and has over thirteen years experience in environmental review and planning. She has conducted vegetation studies in California, Nevada, Idaho and Utah. At our meeting she will present a slide show and give an overview of approximately twenty plant communities found within the watershed and discuss the relationship of the vegetative communities to the estuary.

The SWAP board had hoped to complete this project without having to go to the community once again for money, but our situation is critical. Your support last year when we faced not getting the \$500,000 CalTrans grant is proof that we can do it.

Everyone must give now — more than they have ever given before — because now is our last chance. For the Elfin Forest, it means everything.

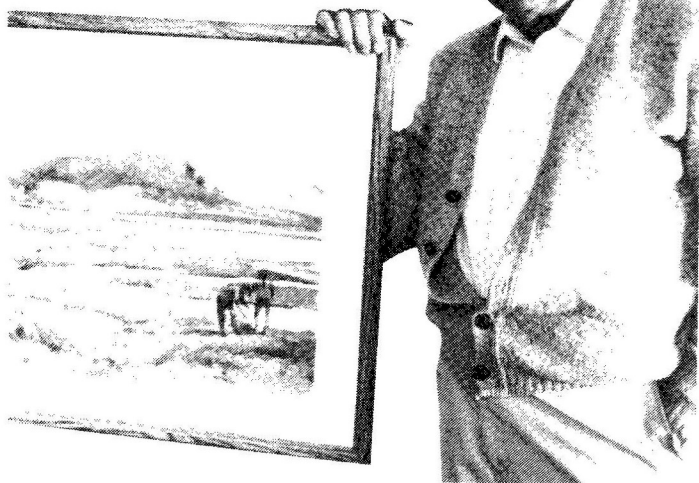
## Earth Day

The 1994 Earth Day celebration will be held in Mission Plaza this year on Saturday, April 24th. If you would like to get involved with this year's fair, leave a message for Bob MacAfee at ECOS-LO, 544-1777.

## Ridges to Rivers Watershed Day

Do you know that you live in a watershed no matter where your house is? Mark your calendar to spend some time at the Ridges to Rivers Watershed Information Day sponsored by the Valley of the Bears 4-H on Saturday, March 12, at the South Bay Community Center between 10am and 4pm. SWAP will join a number of environmental and conservation organizations presenting information on the importance of watersheds in our lives. There will be many discovery and exploration exhibits for children. Don't miss it!

## Gibson Painting Raffle



Don't forget to stop in at Books & Company to get a raffle ticket for George Gibson's beautiful watercolor of the estuary. Now that our fund raising period has been defined, we plan to draw the lucky ticket at our June general meeting. You will have plenty of opportunities to visit the bookstore, get some tickets, and help preserve the Elfin Forest at the same time. Books & Company is on the corner of Santa Ynez and 9th St. in Los Osos. Thanks again to George Gibson for his generous donation and to Ginny and Art DeBolt for displaying it for SWAP.



*Third Saturday walkers learn the secrets of the lichens and mosses of the Elfin Forest from Shirley Sparling.*

Books & Company  
2/5/94

Dear Swap Members,

Enclosed is your 10% contribution of books purchased in December and January. Bravo to you all!

Your patronage here at Books & Company for 1993 resulted in total sales of \$2484.00!! I in turn donated a total of \$248.38 (10%) to help in obtaining the Elfin Forest. A wonderful example of a truly cooperative effort by which we have all benefitted.

My sincere thanks to you all and especially to your officers for their continuing efforts and support.

Sincerely,  
Virginia DeBolt

*Ginny*

*We have today to learn to get back into accord with the wisdom of nature and realize again our brotherhood with the animals and with the water and the sea. ... If you will think of ourselves as coming out of the earth, rather than having been thrown in here from somewhere else, you see that we are the earth, we are the consciousness of the earth. There are the eyes of the earth. And this is the voice of the earth.*

— Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth*

## Third Saturday Walks

- ☑ March 19 - Mary Coffeen, author of *Central Coast Wildflowers*, will introduce us to the many wildflowers and shrubs blooming in the Elfin Forest at this time.
- ☑ April 16 - Jim Royer, Audubon Society spring bird census coordinator, will help us identify the creatures who sing and fly on this early bird walk. 8:30 am\*
- ☑ May 21 - Roland & Karen Muschenetz, nationally published photographers, will lead a photographic exploration of the Elfin Firest. Bring your camera at 8:30 AM for the best light.\*
- ☑ June 11 - Special Double Feature Star Walk: astronomer Lee Coombs and members of the SLO County Astronomy Society, will focus on stars and planets of the summer sky and naturalist Yvette Nowak will relate star lore in the Celestial Meadow. Scheduled on the moon calendar, not the Third Saturday, from 8:30 -10:00 pm.\*

*Walks begin at 9:30 am (unless otherwise noted) at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Wear comfortable shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. The easy paced walks last 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Call 528-4540 for information.*

*\* Note different walk time or date.*

## Feathered Friends Featured

The next Friends of the Estuary general meeting will focus on birds of prey. Featured speakers will be Steve Schubert, a local naturalist with Camp Keep, and Merlin Felton, a peregrine falcon advocate who will be bringing along his live falcon named "Glass".

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th at 7:30pm at the Inn at Morro Bay. For more information contact Ray Easton at 528-7874.



*Amanda Howey of Fresno captured Dennis Sheridan captivating walkers with mushroom tales and fungus facts.*



*The magical allure of the lace-like lichen dripping from the oaks always captures the imagination of Elfin Forest visitors.*

*Photo by walker Amanda Howey of Fresno.*

## • • • THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU • • •

to R. Allen, R. Amert, S. Armstrong, J. Bailey, L. Balent, R. Bowker, W. Brown, M. Chapman, V. DeBolt, E. & J.

Deitz, G. Felsman, H. Graves, C. Hall, B. Harootunian, K. Hurd-Panetta, S. Jobst, S. Keif, S. Knight, T. Lott, W. Miller, A.

Mosher, N. Reid, E. Risley, C. Rivers, S. Schweizer, S. Sparling, K. Sperow, I. Tennant, United Way, and J. Weir.

**ADVISORS**  
 Leslie Bowker, Ph.D., Ecologist  
 David Chipping, Ph.D., Geologist  
 Charles Dills, Archaeologist  
 Steve Eabry, Morro Bay Task Force  
 Tim Gallagher, SLO County Parks  
 Myron Graham, Audubon  
 Ray Bellknap, SLO Land Conservancy  
 Jim Havlena, CPA  
 Don Hoffman, Natural History Association  
 David Keil, Ph.D., Botanist  
 Bud Laurent, SLO County Supervisor  
 Bud & Alice Meyer, C.N.P.S.  
 Bill Newman, Friends of the Estuary  
 Aryan Roest, Ph.D., Zoologist  
 Dave Sears, State Parks

*Per Name or Current Resident*

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Los Osos /Morro Bay Chapter  
**SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION**  
 A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation  
 P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442

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## Memberships needed NOW!

We need your membership urgently. With all the excitement of our land fund drive membership renewals have been forgotten. Our work and our expenses from the general fund for day-to-day operations (xeroxing, mailing, etc.) go on. We anticipate additional expenses to complete the purchase and hope to continue with educational and improvement/revegetation programs in the future. Land preservation is a living responsibility. Check your address label on the front of this newsletter. The date reveals the last time you paid your membership dues. Are you current? Your membership brings you the SWAP quarterly newsletter and it supports our general fund. We're an all-volunteer, non-profit organization so your financial support is critical to our success.

**P L E A S E   R E N E W   N O W !**

## M E M B E R S H I P   F O R M

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$12    | <input type="checkbox"/> Defender \$100     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Champion \$250     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protector \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to help | — please call me.                           |

Make checks payable to SWAP.  
 Mail to Small Wilderness Area Preservation,  
 P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412