



# OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS/MORRO BAY CHAPTER SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 6442 LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412 (805) 528-2579 AUGUST 1995

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## CALIFORNIA COASTWEEKS EVENTS

Coastweeks is the annual three week celebration of our shores and beaches from September 16th through October 19th. During this time, many San Luis Obispo County organizations, including SWAP, will present events which promote public awareness of our precious and fragile coastal environment. Look in newspapers and newsletters for a wide variety of events. SWAP will present a children's walk on September 16th, (see Third Saturday Walks for details.) and also will participate in the eleventh annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 23rd.

Because neighbors of the Elfin Forest and members of SWAP keep the Elfin Forest clean all year long, SWAP adopts the east end of the Morro Bay estuary for an annual cleaning. This year we will work to help clear accumulated trash from the right-of-way along Turri Road, as well as doing our annual scouring of Morro Bay State Park Day Use Area next to South Bay Boulevard. Meet at Turri Road and South Bay Boulevard at 9 am. Wear heavy gloves and sturdy shoes that don't mind getting wet. We will work until noon. To volunteer for SWAP's Coastal Cleanup activity, contact Yolanda Waddell, 528-4540.

COME  
LEARN  
WHAT  
IDEAS  
THE ELVES  
HAVE BEEN  
PLANTING!

The Elves are hosting the August Chamber of Commerce Mixer at "Wood Rat Hall" in the Elfin Forest. All members of SWAP are invited to join us for refreshments, conversation and a pleasant change of pace on Thursday, August 17th from 5-7 pm. Follow the signs from the north end of 15th Street. As always, please avoid driveways when parking. Call 528-7136 for more information.



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## Baywood Navy Supports SWAP

The Elfin Forest was a beneficiary of the Baywood Navy's hilarious and hugely successful "Instant Boat Building Contest" held recently as part of the Bayfest. The contest raised \$300 which was distributed among SWAP, Friends of the Estuary and the Morro Coast Audubon Society. Many thanks to the backbay sailors who take pride in not "sailing in water deeper than we can stand in" and their fund-raising supporters.

August 1995

### **Dear Elfin Forest Supporter,**

We are into a new phase of effort since the purchase of the Elfin Forest. We are taking care of the precious property purchased by so many. In addition to the worthwhile membership dues, we very much need "people hours."

We understand that all of you are busy people, and we want to use your volunteer time wisely. In late August and early September we will be telephoning our Elfin Forest supporters to help with the Harbor Festival and to make a master list of volunteers for the year. When we call, let us know if you are interested in limited commitments in the following areas:

- Planting and physical upkeep;
- Helping at the Harbor Festival;
- Working at an information booth for community outreach;
- Telephoning;
- Helping on educational walks; or
- Helping at fundraisers.

It's fine, too, if you're not able to give "people hours." Your loyal membership dues are very important.

Thanks for your cooperation. We will try to organize jobs efficiently. We are planning more programs for our volunteers and members to celebrate your support. The Elfin Forest is a special place for all of us.

The Volunteer Committee

### **SWAP Co-sponsors NRCS Bay Sediment Reduction Project**

In response to the watershed devastation caused by the Highway 41 fire last August, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has completed an Interim Emergency Response Plan/Sediment Control Project with 75% funding available from the state and 25% required from the local district. The project includes construction of a berm for the purpose of catching sediment at Chorro Flats before it enters the estuary and harms valuable aquaculture related products. SWAP contributed \$200 to co-sponsor this emergency response to the heavy rains and intensive sediment transport which followed the extensive burning of the Chorro Creek Watershed. This project will enhance the integrity of the NRCS District's long-term sediment-reduction project on the property.

### **SWAP Parcel near Sweet Springs Transferred to Audubon**

In an effort to streamline and consolidate protection of local wildlife habitat, SWAP has transferred ownership of a bayfront lot on Third Street to the Morro Coast Audubon Society. The relationship of this habitat (donated to SWAP by Claire Goedinghaus) to Audubon's wildlife management and protection efforts at Sweet Springs Marsh and SWAP's new management responsibilities for adopting the Elfin Forest made the transfer of ownership appropriate at this time.

### **SWAP puts Baywood/Los Osos Chamber on the Information Highway**

SWAP sponsored the Los Osos/Baywood Chamber of Commerce on SLONET for the month of June. Our sponsorship will be on the bulletin board throughout the year.

### **Second Annual Morro Bay Estuary Day**

On Sunday, September 17, Morro Bay Estuary Day will celebrate the recent inclusion of Morro Bay in the National Estuary program. The day's events will include an afternoon barbecue hosted by the Friends of the Estuary, showings of "The Living Estuary at Morro Bay" video, a bay/estuary walk with Harold Wieman, and a puppet show. For BBQ reservations, or for more info, call 528-7874 or 528-8212.



*Flo Ross and Janice Verity, former and new SWAP volunteer coordinators, raise a glass to salute SWAP's sensational volunteers!*

### Third Saturday Walks

☉ **Aug. 19** There are invaders in the Elfin Forest! John Nowak, a horticulturist and active member of the California Native Plant Society, will lead us on a search for "pest" plants which have made their way into the Elfin Forest, and, true to their weedy nature, are flourishing. John will identify some of the invaders, talk about their origins, and explain how they can be controlled. Bring paper and pen to take notes.

☉ **Sept. 16** Our annual walk especially for children: Yvette and John Nowak will be their guides. With hands-on experiments, they will help children, ages 8-12, discover how the Chumash used plants in their everyday lives, and how the Elfin Forest contains clues to the maritime activities of the Chumash. They will make discoveries about the Elfin Forest by using their eyes, ears, nose and sense of touch. Children must be accompanied by an adult; other interested adults welcome. This is a California Coastweeks event.

☉ **Oct. 21** Early bird walk with Audubon Society member Jim Royer. Jim coordinates Audubon's annual spring bird-a-thon, and is especially good at identifying birds by song as well as by sight. October is a month to spot birds in migration, stopping over to rest in the bay or to have a bite to eat in the Elfin Forest. Walk starts at 8:30 am.

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. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. The easy-paced walks will last 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Do not bring dogs or other pets. Call 528-4540 for more information.

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to

J. Aitken, F. Appel, R. Avelar, R. Ball, R. Barrows, Baywood Navy, J. Bennett, R. Bentley, E. Bowker, P. Brown, C. Buckley, F. Bush, R. Carr, P. Childers, Citicorp Foundation, J. Colglazier, D. Croy, E. Cunningham, A. Dana, L. Daniel, J.O. Dunn, F. Elswick, M. Gates, L.C. Grimes, P. Grimes, D. Harris, H. Hileman, D. Hofman, K. Hurd-Panetta, E. Hutchinson, K. Karikka, M. Leizear, H. Lichtenbaum, B. Machado, L. Markwort, J. Martin, E. McCracken, M. Munson, R. Newton, L. Noel, M. Norby, M. Osherenko, P. Perlman, C.E. Peterson, A. Phillips, E. Pierce, J. Ray, B. Rosenthal, F. Ross, B. Shippers, H. Schuchardt, B. Schwenoha, H. Sicher, L. Silva, J. Simek, A. Smith, C. Stephens, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, G. Taylor, J. Tewell, Trust for Public Land, J. Verity, K. Volk, M. Weiss, N. Wightman, R. Zeitew.

### Management Plan Taking Shape

SWAP's site committee has completed a first draft of a proposed management plan for the Elfin Forest as part of our "Adopt-a-Park" agreement with San Luis Obispo County. Members have proposed use policies, interpretive facilities, resource protection and restoration programs while discussing issues such as fire protection and access.

Mark Dariz, a neighbor of the Elfin Forest and an architecture student at Cal Poly focusing on whole access to outdoor public facilities, has begun working with the group. He will help broaden perspectives and suggest innovations that will make the Elfin Forest a uniquely accessible outdoor educational experience for people at all levels of ability.



*Winemaker Ken Volk and SWAP's special events coordinator, Elsie Deitz discuss the many benefits of Rain Forest Red.*

### Rain Forest Red Starts Whole Access Funding

SWAP's environmental and fund raising partnership with Ken Volk and Wild Horse Winery and Vineyards in Templeton earned \$8700 which will be earmarked for the first steps in developing access to the Elfin Forest for differently abled people. This joint private industry/non-profit project was particularly successful locally. We hope you enjoyed this special wine blended and aged to be "good for the heart and the environment" which has benefitted SWAP so handsomely. Many, many thanks to Ken Volk for his munificent support.

ADVISORS  
 Leslie Bowker, Ph.D., Ecologist  
 David Chipping, Ph.D., Geologist  
 Charles Dills, Archaeologist  
 Steve Fabry, 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

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Per Name or Current Resident

Los Osos /Morro Bay Chapter  
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## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY . . .

to be thinking about gifts for the upcoming holidays or any other special occasion, so keep in mind our beautiful Elfin Forest Mural T-shirts and sweatshirts. Not only are they available through SWAP and the Los Osos Rexall Drugs, but now this classic design is available in Morro Bay at California Images on the Embarcadero.



To order through SWAP, call Elsie or Jerry Deitz at 528-7136. Add \$2.75 per shirt for shipping and handling for mail order delivery.

Short Sleeve T-shirt . . . L, XL, XXL . . . \$15.02 w/tax  
 Long Sleeve T-shirt . . . S, M, L, XL . . . \$17.70 w/tax  
 Sweat Shirts . . . . . M, L, XL, XXL . . . \$34.32 w/tax

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <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