

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS / MORRO BAY CHAPTER OF SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 \* (805) 528-2579 \* AUGUST 1996

#### From the President



Taking a lead from the Internet, we are going to address Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the Elfin Forest.

## Why has SWAP closed the trails from Bush Lupine Point to the Bay?

Bush Lupine Point offers a terrific overlook of the bay. Trails from the point have become a popular route down to the marsh. Unfortunately, these unstabilized, sandy, down-hill trails created by "people use" have suffered from considerable soil erosion. Roots of the nearby oak trees have been exposed to the air and sand is being pushed into the bay. The beautiful bush lupines that gave this overlook its name have all but disappeared. Closing the area temporarily to pedestrian traffic was necessary to begin erosion control and restoration work.

# Why did SWAP put up that ugly green and black fencing across the hill?

SWAP has replanted Bush Lupine Point with manzanitas and oaks and other Elfin Forest natives to help restore the natural vegetation that prevents soil erosion. While the plants are still young, the fence is necessary to keep people out until the plants are well established. The black silt fence will help to prevent more soil erosion and help to protect the growing plants as their roots become established.

### What is the status of the Elfin Forest Boardwalk Access?

The Environmental Coordinator's Office is requiring that the County obtain an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before construction of the boardwalk can begin. The EIR will examine all potential impacts of the boardwalk and indicate where any changes in the design of the boardwalk may be necessary. SWAP will use this time to raise the necessary matching funds.

From the President continued on page 3

#### Volunteer News

SWAP has got to be one of the greatest volunteer organizations in the world. From the officers and board members, grant writers and consultants, to the every-event and even the one-event volunteers, everyone is incredibly generous with their energy and enthusiasm. We say it every newsletter and it's not said often enough:

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

SWAP IS...

VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

#### Work Parties in the Elfin Forest

Thanks to the great volunteers who are helping on a regular basis to water the plants in the revegetation project and to eradicate the invasive, non-native plants. It's HARD WORK and you deserve a MEDAL! Your commitment to this time-consuming effort will pay great rewards over time. Again, our special thanks to the Rentz family for their ongoing generosity in providing the water for our parties until arrangements for county water are finalized.

A majority of our newly planted oaks are thriving and we are making some progress against the "weeds." Patches of german ivy and ice plant have been removed by hand from sensitive areas and we've hired a professional horticulturist to apply Round-up directly on the extremely invasive veldt grass. Round-up is used because it is not sprayed but dribbled on specific plant surfaces only and it deactivates rapidly upon application. This method protects other plants, creatures and people.

If you want to be included in the next Elfin Forest Work Party, call 528-4540.



See more Volunteer News on page 2

#### THIRD SATURDAY WALKS

August 17- Here's a walk that will bring us to our senses - seeing, hearing, smelling and touching, that is. Steve Mueller, Cuesta College biology instructor, will take us on a sensory discovery tour of the Elfin Forest. It's a walk the whole family will enjoy.

September 8, Sunday, Estuary Day, 1pm - Before the barbecue, enjoy a walk in the Elfin Forest with marine biologist and county supervisor Bud Laurent. He will talk about both the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay Estuary, and how they fit together as an environmental whole. Don't miss this one - you will come away with a clear idea of why the Elfin Forest and the estuary are vital to all who live on the Central Coast.

September 21 - Weed control? Erosion control? Habitat restoration? Here's a chance to learn what's going on in the Elfin Forest and why. Dr. Les Bowker, Cal Poly ecologist, will take us on a tour of SWAP's projects in some of the degraded areas of the Elfin Forest, and contrast them with sections where the plant cover is still intact and natural diversity exists.

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. We ask that you not bring dogs or other pets. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Call 528-4540 for information.

# Volunteers Needed Coastal Clean-Up and Harbor Festival Coming Up

Although it's mid-summer now, before we turn around it will be fall and time for the annual Coastal Clean-Up and the Morro Bay Harbor Festival. Both events have become traditions for SWAP members and volunteers.

Yolanda Waddell will be looking for scroungers and scourers with sharp eyes and sturdy gloves to spruce up the estuary coastline on Saturday, September 21st. This Coastal Clean-Up event is from 9 a.m. to noon, and we'll meet at Turri Road and South Bay Boulevard. Call Yolanda at 528-4540 if you're interested in this statewide event which promises many surprises and a great sense of satisfaction from taking care of our share of the coastline.

Workers will also be needed for the Harbor Festival the weekend of October 5-6 to raise money for our treasury. It's an easy money maker for SWAP and it's fun to be part of this big festival. Since there will be many hours to cover, Volunteer Coordinator Janice Verity will be calling soon to line up people to work. If you're not already on our volunteer list and you'd like to help out, please give Janice a call at 528-8151.



Celebrate the wonders of the Morro Bay Estuary during the 3rd Annual Estuary Day, Sunday, September 8, 1996! As in previous years, there will be day-long events highlighting our local estuary, as well as a BBQ in the afternoon to thank everyone involved in estuary efforts.

This year SWAP will be a co-sponsor of the event, joining charter founders Friends of the Estuary and the Central Coast Natural History Association and its Docent Council, as well as other first-year sponsors - the staff of the California State Parks, and the Morro Bay Watershed Council.

As always, this day promises to provide fun for everyone, so check the schedule and start planning how you'll enjoy it!

Please note that
if you wish to attend the barbecue,
you must send or fax in your reservation form
no later than September 1st to
Friends of the Estuary,
P.O. Box 1375, Morro Bay, CA 93443-1375,
FAX # 528-6483.

→ Remember to bring a salad or dessert to share at the BBQ! ←

For more information about the day's events, call 528-7874, 549-8212, 528-1262, 528-4540, or 466-3472.

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS for the 3rd ANNUAL ESTUARY DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

8 a.m. - Birding Walk,

led by Jim Royer, meet at marina parking lot

10 a.m. - Estuary Walk

led by Harold Wieman, meet at museum

10:30 a.m. - "Something Strange on the Wetland"

Puppet Show in the museum's learning center

11:30 p.m. - Birding Walk "for a younger audience" led by Jim Royer, meet at marina parking lot

1 p.m. - SWAP Walk in Elfin Forest, see "Walks"

3:30 p.m. - BBQ in MB State Park campground

In the spirit of reduce / reuse / recycle, please feel free to bring your own place setting (plate, cup, silverware, etc.). (We'll provide settings for anyone not bringing their own.)

ONGOING ACTIVITIES (at the Museum): Screenings of the video "The Living Estuary" 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Interactive Kids Exhibit

#### SWAP Thanks Our Young Friends

The history of SWAP's preservation work became the focus of several local sixth grade students for their History Day presentations last February. Adam Van Coops-Lotspeich and Jeannie Duong from Teach School and Julia Davis, Holly Banfield, Courtney Caudilla and Mallery Dillingham from Sunnyside researched the history of SWAP as an organization and found answers about the importance of land preservation and how it has worked historically in our community.

The result of the work by these young Elfin Forest friends was three beautifully constructed display panels for the county-wide contest. All the displays helped make those attending History Day aware of the importance of

preserving small wilderness areas, and Adam's display won first prize! The students then lent the displays to SWAP for the Rancho El Chorro Environmental Fair so parents and children from all over the county were introduced to SWAP and the Elfin Forest. Adam plans to donate the materials he collected to the South Bay Branch Library.

SWAP thanks our young friends for the many hours and talents they devoted to presenting information on the Elfin Forest and promoting the idea of a small wilderness. With friends like these, we know that the future of the Elfin Forest will be in good hands.



Elementary student's History Day displays tell the preservation story to the next generation.



Environmental Fair goers try to guess the contents of Elfin Forest "Mystery Socks."

# A BIG THANK YOU to PG&E.

SWAP is very pleased to announce that it has received \$3,000 from PG&E toward the Elfin Forest Boardwalk Access. The application for \$167,961 from the state's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program requires a 20% match (approximately \$33,000) in local funds.

This very generous gift from PG&E is a significant start toward making our matching funds campaign a success.

#### From the President continued from page 1

#### Who uses the Elfin Forest?

A recently completed survey by Cal Poly students Missy Stine and David Wilson indicates that over 70% of the people who visit the Elfin Forest are residents of Los Osos. Of these, many indicated that they visit the Elfin Forest at least once a week. This further documents the value of the Elfin Forest as a passive recreational resource for Los Osos.

We will have an information booth at the Estuary Day Bar-becue on Sunday, September 8th. (Make a reservation using the form on the back of this newsletter.) so stop by to see us. You can also take a special walk in the Elfin Forest before the barbecue at 1 pm (see Saturday walk schedule for more info). Hope to see you there.

Rose

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

to S. Armstrong, S. Bauman, L. Bennett, L. Bowker, S. Boydstun, A. Broneske, P. Brown, H. Car, P. Childers, G. Cochrane, K. Copeland, D. Croy, L. Daniel, C. Dickey, K. Donohoo, J. Dunn, E. Ellis, B. Fahrenbach, J. Fairbrother, P. Grimes, M. Hamilton, M. Harrison, G. Henkel, H. Hilerman, J. Hoffman, V. Jones, L. Kass, R. Knapp, E. Landreth, M. Leizear, J. Mantooth, J. Marshall, E. Mathias, S. McLeod, A. Mertz, D. Minnix, K. Muschenetz, E. Newton, L. Nielson, R. O'Dell, E. Olson, G. Palmer, P. Paradies, D. Parham, R. Parker, C. Peterson, J. Ray, B. Rosenthal, F. Ross, N. Ruhl, R. Ruppert, B. Salter, M. Sicher, J. Simek, J. Smalley, G. Stahl, G. Taylor, V. Thedaker, M. Tittle, M. Topp, F. Villa, D. Vincent, S. Vladuchick, Y. Waddell, D. Walters, D. Weir, J. Wright, J. Young, and R. Zank.

Dave Sears, California State Parks Aryan Roest, Ph.D., Zoologist Bill Newman, Friends of the Estuary Bud & Alice Meyer, C.N.P.S. Bud Laurent, SLO County Supervisor David Keil, Ph.D., Botanist Don Hoffman, Central Coast Natural History Assn. Jim Havlena, CPA Ray Belknap, SLO Land Conservancy Myron Graham, Morro Coast Audubon Tim Gallagher, SLO County Parks Steve Eabry, Morro Bay Task Force Mark Dariz & Antoni Artho, Boardwalk Design Charles Dills, Archæologist David Chipping, Ph.D., Geologist Leslie Bowker, Ph.D., Ecologist ADVISORS

> Pat Orimes & Katy Budge, Newsletter Editors Ruth Allen, Membership Chair Jerome Deitz, Treasurer

Yolanda Waddell, Corresponding Secretary Rosemary Bowker, President

Per Name or Current Resident

OFFICERS 1996

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Name

Phone \_\_\_\_

# RESERVATION FORM ESTUARY DAY BBO

Space is limited, so please return this form no later than September 1 to Friends of the Estuary, P.O. Box 1375, Morro Bay, CA 93443-1375, or fax it to 528-6483.

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Total # attending

# preferring chicken \_\_\_\_ # preferring beef

(Please be sure to fill out this form in its entirety. We need to know choices so we can plan accordingly!)

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Name				
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☐ Member \$12	☐ Defender \$100			
☐ Steward \$25	☐ Champion \$250			
☐ Protector \$50	☐ Life Member \$1000			
I want to help, please call me!				

Have you renewed your membership on time? Check out the label on this newsletter for the date you last sent in your membership. We need to strengthen our membership rolls!!

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