



From the President

Volunteer News

Work Parties in the Elfin Forest

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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. Boydston, A. Broneske, P. Brown, H. Car, P. Childers, G. Cochran, 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.

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

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Per Name or Current Resident

Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter
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RESERVATION FORM for ESTUARY DAY BBQ

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.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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!)*

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

- ☐ 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