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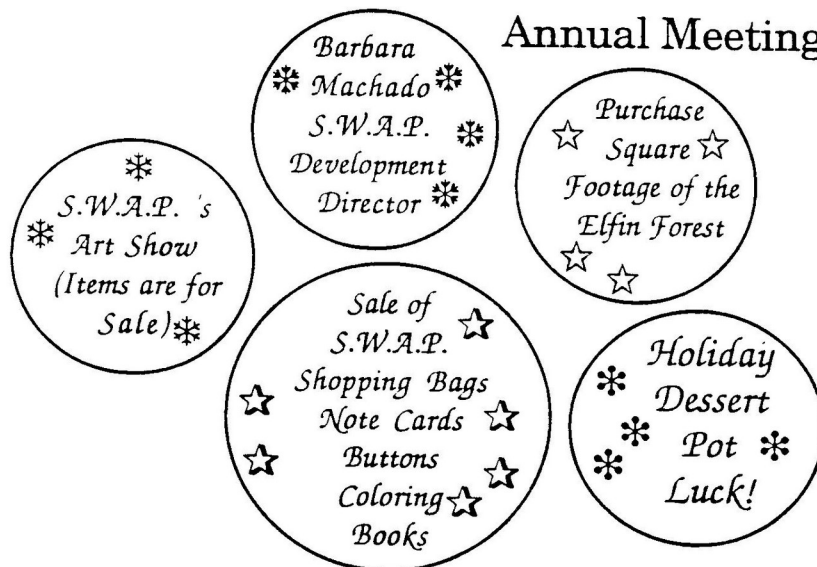
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A Publication of the Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter of

P.O. Box 6442 Los Osos CA 93412 **SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION** Message Phone (805) 528-4540

Annual Meeting and Elections



Monday
 December 3
 South Bay
 Community
 Center
 7:30 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT In 1985, after three years as a nameless group, concerned neighbors of the El Moro Elfin Forest formed the Los Osos/Morro Bay chapter of Small Wilderness Area Preservation (S.W.A.P.). I became President, and Larry and Pat Grimes were elected Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Five years later, we still hold the same offices. We have learned much about what to do -- and what not to do -- in running a small volunteer organization. This year we realized that one of the things we should not do is allow ourselves to be re-elected year after year. In spite of efforts to keep our enthusiasm and energy level high, we realized that S.W.A.P.'s movement toward accomplishing our goal -- purchase of the 39 remaining acres of the Elfin Forest -- is not fast enough.

One of the solutions was to bring in a Development Director, Barbara Machado, who will focus on raising large sums of money for our land purchase fund. Barbara has started working with the Board of Directors on strategic planning. Be sure to attend our December general meeting to meet her and learn what she and the Board have come up with.

Another solution is to bring a fresh approach to the leadership of S.W.A.P. The three of us have resigned our positions as of January 1, 1991. We are also going to recommend a change in the chapter by-laws to limit terms of officers and provide for rotation of board members. We are confident that our nominating committee will provide an excellent slate of officers for you to vote on at the December meeting.

I am starting to organize my files so they will be ready to hand over to the next President. In sorting through meeting notes, letters, reports, etc., I have come across dozens of names of S.W.A.P. members and supporters who should be thanked individually. But all I have space for is one big THANK YOU to all for your time, energy, money, ideas, skills, and dedication to an important project - preserving a very special small wilderness so that it will continue to be home for countless species of birds, animals, reptiles, insects and plants; and a source of pleasure to human beings who value it.

Our founder, Emily Polk, said it best: "A gift of nature gives itself in return not alone to the giver or receiver but to all creatures of earth for all time." May it be so.

Yolanda Waddell

S.W.A.P. DEVELOPS STRATEGIC PLAN by Barbara Machado, Development Coordinator

A strategic plan is a road map: it outlines a route between your starting point and destination. You'll hear about S.W.A.P.'s strategic plan at our December 3 meeting. We need your input!

Personally, I'm convinced that when people on the Central Coast work together toward a goal, there is no stopping them. And what a noble goal we have: acquisition of the El Moro Elfin Forest . . .for all people, for all time.

I've been privileged to work with several organizations that set high goals and reached them. The Center for US-USSR Initiatives in San Francisco began as a handful of private citizens concerned about the threatening relationship between the two superpowers.

Their citizen diplomacy trips led to projects like the annual Leningrad environmental conference, and the Soviets, Meet Middle America exchange, which I managed for a year.

I don't think anyone involved was prepared for the stunning suddenness of goal achievement when the iron curtain plummeted a year ago. All of this group's money came from private sources. I wasn't there at the beginning, but I witnessed what a handful of determined people can do.

I was involved in the beginning of a drive to build a Performing Arts Center in Orange County. Many of us in public relations served on an advisory board that gave advice to the elected board about how to begin. That huge, \$68.5 million fund raising project went through several evolutions before the goal was achieved. But achieved it was.

A year ago my brother and I purchased a home in what we term "paradise." We're among many new kids on the block who want to help preserve what all of you have protected. In all my travels, I've never met finer people than those who live along the Central Coast. S.W.A.P.'s volunteers are a distilled version of people's general environmental concern and selflessness. We need your support to make this project a success.

Please join us December 3 to give us your input about S.W.A.P.'s new plan.

SUNDAY IN THE ELFIN FOREST Our last general meeting, held in the graciously offered patio of Kathy and Mike Marvier was a great success. Over 50 people walked the trails of the Elfin Forest and enjoyed refreshments and conversation afterwards. Our all-important volunteers were recognized for their many significant contributions to our project, and, as always, volunteers were recruited for the many jobs still to be done. (If you have time, energy, talents, etc. to share -- we still need you!)

Many thanks to those who organized and led walks, helped with publicity, prepared the Volunteer recognition certificates and generally made the day the delight it was. You were great!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our recent donors: Don & Josephine Parham, Barbara Machado, Betty Daugherty, Jean Bartell, Thomas Vaughan, Harry Roden, Harold & Leona Barnes, Clarice Arakawa, Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Hamilton, Jr., Anne Jenkins, James & Jean Gold, and Charles & Eileen Bowen.



S.W.A.P. Shopping Bags For Sale

Heavy cotton canvas bags sporting a green Pygmy Oak are available from S.W.A.P. for \$7.50 each (price includes tax). These bags make a well-appreciated -- as well as environmentally useful -- holiday gift.

Call Shaunda Gibbs at 528-3936 today!

And don't forget our other S.W.A.P. gift items (Elfin Forest Footage, note cards, coloring books and any item in our Art Show) when putting together your Gift List. These Items will be well appreciated and will help us in our work toward preserving the Elfin Forest for the enjoyment of future generations.



Yes! I want to help preserve the Elfin Forest for the Future.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Certificates of Stewardship: __ Square Feet at \$2.00 per square foot plus \$0.75 for mailing to each address.

_____ S.W.A.P. Notecard Assortment: 5 cards for \$7.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing.

_____ I can give my time and energy to this effort.

_____ Enclosed is my \$10 membership fee.

_____ Enclosed is an additional donation of _____ to help with operating expenses.

Make check payable to S.W.A.P. and return to: Larry Grimes,
Treasurer, S. W. A. P., P. O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93402

Small Wilderness Area Preservation

P. O. Box 6442

Los Osos, California 93402

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