



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 SEPTEMBER 1992

HISTORY OF LOS OSOS

with

Mark P. Hall-Patton

**General Membership Meeting
7pm Monday September 14th**

**South Bay Community Center
2180 Palisades Avenue
Los Osos**

Have you ever wondered where the Chumash camped in our area? Who first settled the Los Osos/Baywood Park area? Why Los Osos Valley Road goes where it goes? Who went to school in the little schoolhouse in the park? Why there are row trees in Baywood Park? Mark P. Hall-Patton, the director of the San Luis Obispo Historical Museum, will be with us at our next general meeting to answer these questions and many others about the history of Los Osos and Baywood Park. Mr. Hall-Patton will show slides to illustrate this presentation which should give us new insights about the origins and development of the community.

SWAP has played an important role in developing the character of Los Osos since the 1970's, so we will also include a short presentation showing how our land preservation group has made history in Los Osos as well. Join us and bring a friend for a new perspective on the community surrounding the Elfin Forest.

First Half-Million Raised

On July 14 the California Transportation Commission approved a \$500,000 environmental enhancement and mitigation grant for the Elfin Forest. The application was ranked #1 in all Southern California. **BRAVO!** and **THANK YOU** to **Rose Bowker** and **Barbara Machado**, heads of our very successful grant writing team! Among other projects approved was a reforestation project along Highway 46, applied for by the San Luis Obispo County Land Conservancy.

SWAP and Tim Gallagher, SLO County Parks Director, were notified of the award by the San Luis Area Coordinating Council, which will also oversee the funding. With this substantial sum committed, the Site Committee and SWAP Board will look at options for the immediate future. In the meantime, the fund raising effort goes on and is more important than ever.

Yolanda Waddell and **Pat Grimes** are moving forward on a Wetlands grant application. **Barbara Machado** is working on a Bank of America Environmental Community Grant. **Elsie Deitz** continues to work on business solicitation and distribution of SWAP's major fund raising brochure, which she and **Rose Bowker** designed.

You can help in Phase II of our fund raising to save the Elfin Forest. With \$500,000 behind us, it's easier to convince prospects that saving this last unique bayfront property is possible. Call Barbara Machado at 528-3835 if you want materials and pledge cards.

JUNE MEETING BRINGS CHAMBER MEMBERS TO THE ELFIN FOREST



"And to think all this splendor could belong to us."

"SMALL CHANGE BUT NO SMALL DEAL" CATCHES ON

In the last issue of "Oak Leaves" we asked members to place a spare change jar at home or work to effortlessly set aside money for the Elfin Forest Land Fund. We can be as enthusiastic about this source of funding as we are about our grant possibilities. In addition to Lori Buzzetti's donation of her \$70 penny collection, we have received over \$131 in the first month. Flo Ross and Mary Coffeen have worked hard to get lots of jars out in the community. We are especially grateful for the support of the Los Osos, Baywood Park, and Morro Bay merchants who have placed small change jars in their businesses: **Home Video/LO, Whiz Kids, Los Osos Rexall, Valley Management Services, Baywood Video/LO, Vanity Beauty Shop, Kelly's Deli, Natural Nutrition, Sylvester's, I-Scream for Ice Cream, Los Osos Book Exchange, Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce, Poor Boys Sub, Baywood Video/BP, Rosie's, The Medicine Shoppe, Garland's, Coffee 'N Things, Coalesce Bookstore, Mills Stationary, Sunshine Health Food Store, Beacon--Ultra Mart, Lighthouse Liquor, Home Video/MB, Book Peddler, Mills Copy Center, Parcels to Go, Jug Liquor Store, Foster's Freeze, One Hour Foto Store, TCBY Yogurt Shop, Baker's Ice Cream Palace.**

If your jar is getting full, or you would like an official jar for your business, call our energetic "small change" chair, Flo Ross at 528-1647 and she will put you on our official list. Remember only \$2 saves a square foot. All our pennies add up to a "big deal" for our Elfin Forest Land Fund.

LAND TRUST ROUNDTABLE

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is holding a membership get-together at the City/County Library Conference Room in San Luis Obispo, Sunday, September 13th. You're invited for a pot luck from 1-2:30 pm followed by a roundtable discussion on the future of the land trust movement in SLO County. Members of land preservation groups from throughout the county will be there. RSVP: 544-9096.

The Elves must have been pleased at the turnout for the recent Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce mixer hosted by SWAP. A. Woodrat Hall was the location, native foods the menu, with several succulent varieties of fish supplied by Cordero Winston & Co., prepared by Pacific Cafe and wine donated by Salty Pelican. The guests, including Assemblywoman Andrea Seastrand and her legislative assistant, Eric Ramsey, reached into baskets suspended from oak tree branches for salsa and chips and wondered aloud why they had never before visited the Elfin Forest. We hope this delightful interlude marks the beginning of a partnership of working toward common goals for the betterment of the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch the newspaper, mark your calendar, sign up today, join in the fun for these SWAP activities:

In late September or early October we will take part in the **Annual Coast Week Clean-Up**. Call 528-2579 for the official date and time we will have our traditional Elfin Forest and estuary trash pick-up in conjunction with the statewide program. There is always a prize for the person who finds the most unusual item!

We need lots of volunteers for the **Harbor Festival** on the waterfront in Morro Bay on **October 3 & 4th**. We need people to staff our SWAP information booth for each day and volunteers to serve as crossing guards as well. All this people power pays off because we earn money for SWAP from the festival fees based on the number of volunteer hours we give. Come enjoy the fun on the Embarcadero, spread the word about the Elfin Forest project, and help us bring in the ever-necessary cash. Call our volunteer coordinator, Flo Ross, at 528-1647 if you can work a 2-hour shift. We need you.

If you can't make it for the Harbor Festival, come help us at the **Octoberfest** in Baywood Park the last Sunday in October. This is always fun and very important because it helps us continue to acquaint more and more people with the details of our project. Call Flo--528-1647. She'll love to hear from you!

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO
WORKED AT THE MORRO BAY
WATERSHED FAIR
AND FESTIVAL OF THE BEARS
YOU WERE GREAT!**

Third Saturday Walks

All walks meet at 9:30 am at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Everyone is welcome.

On September 19th, **Shirley Sparling** will draw our attention to the many fascinating lichens of the Elfin Forest so we can learn about their role in the forest ecosystem.

On October 17th, **Melissa Mooney** and **Sally Knight** will focus on appreciating the value of the oaks in the community.

Watch the newspapers for details of our November and December walks. Our tireless education chair, Shanda Gibbs is working on some more very special events. Call her at 528-3936 if you would like to give a walk, or if you would be willing to accompany the walk leader for SWAP.



On a Third Saturday Walk, Ron Ruppert shows a creature who inhabits the Elfin Forest.

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

Thank you to Lori Buzzetti who literally gave us all her "small change" by donating her penny collection which amounted to over \$70 for the Land Fund!

Thank you to Kirk Knoph who sent to everyone his love from Oildale along with a contribution. And to K. Appel, J. Ashbaugh, A. Armstrong, J. Armstrong, L. Armstrong, J.J. Asire, J. Bailey, K. Baker, M. Bayhan, Baywood Video, K.H. Bell, A. Bersie, P.G. Bhuta, V. Black, C. Bock, M. Bondello, C. Boomer, E. Bowen, R.C. Bowker, M. Boyle, D. Brandt, W. Brown, F. Budlon, F. Burris, D. Butler, California Native Plant Society, A. Calhoun, M. Campagna, H. Carr, N. Caruso, R.R. Clark, P. Clayton, A. Cleworth, M. Coffeen, T. Coleman, G. Comer, N. Conant, M. Conkling, J. Conway, C.O. Conkey, M. Crane, J. Crosby, V. Croy, D. Croy, S. Daniel, D. Deack, J. Deitz, W. Denneen, I. Doering, E. Dover, R. Ehrmann, M. Eifling, Elks Lodge/SIO, W. Flynn, W. Freeman, C. Goff, K.J. Gregory, D. Griffiths, L. & P. Grimes, H. Hammer, L. Hand, J. Havlena, J. Heaton, M. Hecht, P. Hill, I. Hoffman, Home Video, A.M. Johnson, L.D. Johnson, E. Kane, K. Kaill, K. Keil, A. King, A. Knodel, C. Larsen, L. Larsen, J. Laughlin, M. Lauser, L.S. Lawler, J. Litwin, J. MacDonald, B. Machado, E. Mathias, Jr., J. McCullagh, M. Michel, M. Marvier, K. Miller, Morro Coast Audubon Society, M. Munson, K. Muschenetz, J.J. Myers, L. Neville-Olson, D. Norwood, G. Ochoa, M. Owings, N. Page, D. Parham, C. Peters, M. Peterson, L. Phillips, E. Polk, J. Pollock, J. Porter, J.F. Preihs, E. Pritchard, G. Pullen, K. Ramsland, R. Ralston, M. Reents, K. Roberts, M. Rodacker, A. Roest, B. Rosenthal, W.L. Ross, K. Ryan, Scenic Coast Board of Realtors, J. Shepard, L. Sinton, J. Smalley, B. Smay, D. Smith, S. Sparling, G. Stanton, C. Stephens, J. Sullivan, S. Thompson, E. Tindall, K. Toscano, J. Tusler, United Way/SIO, J. Verity, Y. Waddell, E. Walt, N. Warner, M. Weiss, J. Whitmire, P. Wiedenkiller, H. Wieman, R. Wieser, S. Wilson, P. Winstanley, J. Wolf, J. Wood, K. Worcester, W. Wurster, P. Wyse, D.J. Young, J. Ziegler. Thank you for memorial Land Fund contributions from Jane Bailey in memory of Eugene W. Hulse, and to Ernest & Barbara Eddy in memory of Scott Eddy.

Special thanks to Katy Budge for her desk-top publishing help with the newsletter!

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's
lives may be,*

*I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the
great heron feeds.*

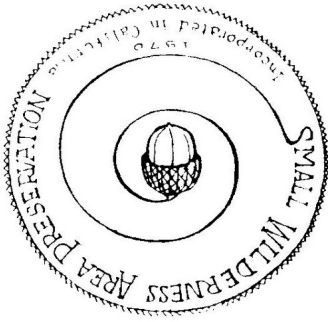
*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still
water.*

*And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am
free.*

- Wendell Berry

Wendell Berry's lines remind us of the healing power of the natural world which sustains us all. Our El Moro Elfin Forest is such a powerful place. The members of SWAP recognize this value in the Elfin Forest and count it a major reason for preserving this unique area. We want to secure public access to its soothing, restorative qualities--to be able to reach down over time so all those who come after us may also "come into the peace of wild things."

Our goal is a lofty one, but it is within our reach. When we choose to write a monthly check to SWAP, to staff an information booth, to volunteer to help at a fund raiser, or even to put our small change in a collection jar--simple as these things seem--we are in effect acting so each of us may "rest in the grace of the world." We say it every newsletter, but it's never over said: What you do is important; thank you for supporting SWAP.



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SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
 A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
 P.O. Box 6442 Los Osos CA 93412

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Are You a Member of SWAP? Check your mailing label. If you are, the date that you last paid dues is in the upper right hand corner of the label. Your membership is a vote of support for preservation of the El Moro Elfin Forest. We are an all-volunteer organization. Your annual dues cover our operating expenses and fund raising expenses. Special memberships go to the Elfin Forest Land Fund after dues and premium costs are covered.

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