

The Paradoxical Wrentit Au Revoir to

By Rosemary Flamion

Did you know that we have an inhabitant in our Elfin Forest with strong ties to Asia? Did you know that it is the only species in its family *Chamaeidae*? Did you know that it is also virtually endemic to California and limited to the chaparral?

Since I have been studying the babbler group *Paradoxornis* (Parrotbill grouping which is exclusive to Asia except for the Bearded Reedlings) for several years, I became aware that the Wrentit may be closely related. Its placement on the phylogenetic tree has always been in question until Sibley and Almquist studied and compared DNA samples which revealed its close affinity to babblers and the Old World warblers. If, indeed, it was closely related to my Bearded Reedlings and Parrotbills (both members of the Paradoxornis group), then the behavior of the Wrentit (Chamaea fasciata Gambel 1845) might be similar.

"Where could I easily access Wrentits?" I asked myself. "The Elfin Forest, of course." I easily found them there. They draw me like a magnet. Their call is unmistakable — one calling and one answering from another oak copse reminds me of a ping pong game.

Wrentits are about 6 inches in length, have a short bill, dark brown head, flanks and upperparts. Their underparts are lighter. About half of their length is a brown tail which they carry cocked like a wren. They have a white eye. Their spread wing is the shape of a silver dollar similar to my Parrotbills and Reedlings. Their short, whirring wings are built for aerobatics when catching insects and not for long distance migrations.

Sexes are similar but

end their call with a trill and females seemingly don't.

males

Six sub-species have been recognized: Chamaea fasciata phaea (coast of OR), rufula (N. CA), intermedia (San Francisco area), fasciata (coast of Central CA), henshawi (SW Oregon, N & C CA), and canicauda (NW Baja California, Mex). As henshawi is pallid, I believe that ours must be the fasciata sub-species as ours is deeply

Wrentit continued on page 2

Au Revoir to Harold and Pat Weiman

By Yolanda Waddell

It was 1985, and a fledgling organization in Los Osos called Save Morro Bay was casting about for ways to preserve a 90-acre tract called the Otto Property. The tract had been part of a larger piece of land purchased in the 1920s by Richard Otto, founder of Baywood Park, and was owned by Shirley Otto, Richard's widow. The Otto

Property was a beautiful piece of land, home to many species of birds and plants. There were reports that Mrs. Otto had received proposals from more than one developer to build houses on it.

I was a member of Save Morro Bay, and our small group had a very small treasury. There was little hope that we neighbors of what is now the Elfin Forest would be very effective in saving the property.

Enter Harold Weiman. He and his wife Pat were among our local heroes because of their adventuresome kayak explorations Harold was an excellent writer and a skilled facilitator. He listened patiently while I moaned on about the problems of trying without success to find a means to save the Otto Property.
Then he said, 'Why don't you become a chapter of SWAP?"

around Morro Bay and because Harold was one of the founders of the Docent program of Morro Bay Natural History Museum. Harold was an excellent writer and a skilled facilitator. He listened patiently while I moaned on about the problems of trying without success to find a means to save the Otto Property. Then he said,

Weimans continued on page 2

SWAP Awarded Morro Bay NEP Conservation Grant

Thanks to hard work by Treasurer Bob McDougle, a grant request for conservation funds has been awarded by Morro Bay National Estuary Program. The grant of over \$7,000 may be used for erosion control and revegetation projects to assist in abatement of bay sedimentation. The award covers the current year and two additional years.

Weimans cont. from page 1

"Why don't you become a chapter of SWAP?" "Of what?" I asked. "SWAP stands for Small Wilderness Area Preservation. It was founded by Emily Polk in Los Osos, and it became a statewide organization after Emily saved the Los Osos Oaks."

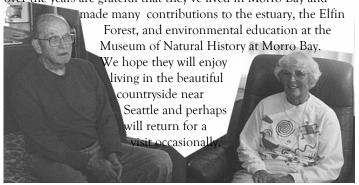
I'd certainly heard how Emily Polk had saved the Los Osos Oaks. Harold and Pat were members of SWAP, and Harold gave me an address to write to. With our group's approval, I wrote a letter of inquiry, and received a reply from Jane Conway, the Secretary of SWAP's Board of Directors. She told me how we could become a chapter of SWAP.

So – thanks to Harold Wieman's suggestion, the Los Osos/ Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP was formed, and eventually (in 1994) we were able to buy the southern 40 acres of the tract from Shirley Otto. The northern 50 acres was purchased by State Parks in 1987.

While SWAP was working on saving the Elfin Forest, Harold was busy writing as well as remaining active with Morro Bay Museum Docents. He collected some of the 1000 articles that he had written for the Morro Bay Sun Bulletin newspaper into a book called Morro Bay Meanderings (now out of print). Then he wrote Nature Walks on the San Luis Coast, published by Padre Productions in cooperation with the Natural History Association of San Luis Obispo Coast, Inc. In 1987, he compiled a history of the Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History called Window Onto Nature: From a Dream to Reality. His title was inspired by the long rows of windows on the west side of the museum, overlooking the Morro Bay Estuary. Next, in 1991, the Natural History Association published a book that Harold wrote for them, Estuary: A Natural Wonderland. In it, Harold describes the estuary as "...a great mixing bowl – the place where land and sea overlap, where the ingredients of new life are brought together..." Poetic, yes - and accurate as well - that has been characteristic of Harold Weiman's writing.

This year, the time came for Harold and Pat to leave Morro Bay and the home they have lived in for 34 years. In October, they moved to Shoreline, Washington, a suburb of Seattle to live closer to their three children. Harold is 84 now. I didn't ask Pat her age. but her smooth fog-bathed skin and cheerful alertness put the lie to any number of years that she claims.

Their absence from Morro Bay, the Natural History Museum, and the greater community of San Luis Obispo County leaves us with a deep feeling of loss. But all of us who have known them over the years are grateful that they've lived in Morro Bay and



Harold and Pat Weiman shared a quiet moment in their home of 34 years, a few days before moving to Washington State. Photo by Yolanda Waddell

Wrentit continued from page 1

brown and not pale.

Wrentits are reclusive. You will hear them with their booming, metallic voice which ends in a trill. You may not see them. They scratch in the oak duff so if you're really quiet and stationary, you might see them. They are so reclusive that they may not even cross trails. Rarely will they perch in the open.

According to Arnold Small, "Local brush fires within the chaparral are devastating to Wrentit populations because they do not or cannot flee the flames and often perish. The chaparral recovers rather quickly from the burn, but years may pass before enough Wrentits from adjacent unburned areas infiltrate and repopulate it." Obviously, they feel secure in the Elfin Forest. If I am very quiet in my walk, they will openly roost within a few feet of me.

Wrentits are non-migratory and may range within a 1 to 2.5 acre area their entire lives. But they are territorial within that range when nesting. They feed mainly off invertebrates (ants, bugs, beetles, caterpillars, spiders, etc.) but also on fleshy fruits, namely poison-oak, blackberry, laurel sumac, elderberry, christmasberry, grape, waxmyrtle, snowberry, salmonberries, pricklypear, and turkeymullein. They feed their young an exclusive diet of insects.

Pair bonds are solid as they mate for life. Longevity records have noted Wrentits as old as 12 years 7 months, which is a very long lifespan for such a small bird. Besides pairs living in proximity throughout the year, they also forage together, contact perch (touch or make contact while sitting), allopreen (preen each other), and when cold, will fluff their feathers into a ball while they sit together looking like one ball of feathers. My Bearded Reedlings and Vinous-throated Parrotbills display similar behaviors.

In Sibley-Monroe classification, my Bearded Reedlings (Panurus biarmicus) (#7999) are followed by the other 19 Paradoxornis (#8000-8018), three members of Rhabdornis, and then #8022 Chamaea fasciata. According to this phylogenetic tree, the Wrentits and Paradoxornis are more similar than different. This one and only species of the one and only genus left fossil records that reveals its presence in California during the Pleistocene age (2 million years ago). To cross the ice bridge from Asia (Russia, China, India) that long ago without huge differences from their babbler brothers is truly a paradox. They came to California, some to the Elfin Forest of Los Osos, and found a suitable environment and stayed!

According to Small, 586 species of birds have been recorded in California in modern times. The California Condor and Yellow-billed Magpie are endemic and breed no where else in the world. Another 5 species are not known to breed in any other state in USA but do breed in Mexico: Ashy Storm-Petrel, Black Storm-Petrel, Elegant Tern, Xantus' Murrelet and California Thrasher (Elfin Forest). And the Wrentit and Tricolored Blackbird are near endemics (ranging from southern Oregon to

Where To Call, Where To Write

If you have questions about SWAP activities or want to volunteer please call 528-0392 and leave a message. A recorded message will have information about our

3rd Saturday Walks, Work Saturdays, and other events.

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If you have questions, concerns or comments about anything that's happening in the Elfin Forest, call or write: Pete Jenny, SLO County Parks Facilities Manager, 1087 Santa Rosa Street, SLO, CA 93408, (805) 781-5930.

NEP Grant for Mutt Mitts

By Sandra Beebe



Mutt mitts from dispensers like this one at Morro Rock have proven effective in diminishing the amount of dog feces being washed into the bay and ocean. Photo by Jean Wheeler

SWAP has had a problem with dog feces in the Elfin Forest since its inception. Although supplying provisions for dog owners to pick up their dog waste has been discussed within the group and with the County Parks, the lack of funds has curtailed this project in the past.

I have been instrumental in

getting a program in Morro Bay for Mutt Mitt dispensers placed around the city. (We now have 12). Funds have been provided through Morro Bay Beautiful, Parks and Recreation of Morro Bay, Morro Bay State Park, and a grant from National Estuary Program. Since NEP has as one of its goals to reduce the amount of dog fecal matter in the bay and to provide supplies to the public to accomplish this, it seemed logical to apply for a grant for the Elfin Forest. The SWAP board was approached about applying for such a grant and they were unanimous in their approval. Then I discussed this with Mike Multari, Program Director of NEP, who encouraged me to prepare the grant application.

An NEP grant must be approved by three committees. The first is the Technical Committee, who look over the feasibility of the project. Since this

project was simple, that was not a problem. The next committee is the Implementation Committee. There we did hit a roadblock in that there was some concern voiced that an increase of dog traffic might occur because the mutt mitts were available. Since we have had a marked reduction of dog fecal matter where the dispensers were placed in Morro Bay, I voiced my conclusion that this will not happen. The group was, as a majority, very favorable to the project and it passed. Finally, the board of NEP has to approve the grant and they did so.

SWAP now has the grant approval and it is time to begin its implementation and to order and put in place the dispensers. Small trash cans will also be placed on the poles with the Mutt Mitt dispensers so that dog owners will be less tempted to discard these biodegradable bags in places that are not acceptable. Hopefully, the Elfin Forest will have the same positive results that we have had in Morro Bay.

The Jim and Mabel Weldon Bench



Jim and Dean Weldon (and Dean's dog Sully) enjoyed looking out over the Morro Bay Estuary from the bench which they dedicated to their parents. Photo by Lynda Weldon

By Jean Wheeler

After his father died in 1990, Jim Weldon and his mother moved to a home in Bayview Heights, which is next to the Los Osos Oaks State Preserve. They even had Pygmy Oaks on their 2-1/2 acre property. They so enjoyed this natural setting that when a neighbor asked for a donation to help save the Elfin forest they were more than happy to help out. As the years passed, Jim became more and more active in Elfin Forest preservation efforts. He eventually became a member of the SWAP Board of Directors and is currently Chair of the Board.

Unfortunately, Jim's mother's age and trouble walking in sand prevented her from enjoying walks in the Elfin Forest. And even more unfortunately, she did not live long enough to benefit from the boardwalk through the forest. Jim says, "So when the boardwalk was completed, my brother Dean and I decided to honor our parents by donating a bench. We picked the location for the bench for obvious reasons (the view)." The bench dedicated in memory of their father, Jim Weldon, and their mother, Mabel Weldon, is situated near Bush Lupine Point, where the main loop of the boardwalk branches north toward the lower portion of the of the Elfin Forest. The view from the bench is indeed magnificent, overlooking the tops of the forest to the blue waters of Morro Bay and beyond to the sandspit and the rugged mass of famous Morro Rock on the skyline.



is published six times per year beginning in February.

Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler; layout is by Katy Budge.

Contributors to this issue:

Wendy Brown, Rosemary Flamion, Pat Sarafian, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jim Weldon and Jean Wheeler. Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.

> Printed at Hay Printing, Morro Bay on recycled paper. Labeled and mailed at Achievement House.

Deadline for copy to Oak Leaves is the 1st Wednesday before the month of issue.



Pete and Pat Sarafian took the early shift at SWAP's booth during the Baywood Oktoberfest. Photo by Jim Weldon

Cheers for our Terrific Volunteers

By Pat Sarafian

"Oktoberfest 2001" was a big success this year. Great weather, a variety of booths and visiting with our local folks as well as those vacationing here helped to provide for a fun-filled day. We enjoyed sharing everyone's enthusiasm about SWAP, what it stands for, and of course letting them know all about the Elfin Forest. Thanks ever so much to all of our volunteers. Our booth was set up by Jim Weldon and Pete and Pat Sarafian. Booth attendants included faithful support members Rose and Les Bowker and Yolanda Waddell decked out in their SWAP Mural T-shirts and Sweat shirts. Our youngest volunteer was 6th grader Aaron McTaggart, who chose for his school Community Action Project to get to know all about SWAP. Another shift worker was newly interested member, Kate Martin. Also involved were booth supporter Deborah Hutchins and our wonderful County Parks liaison and SWAP member Jan DiLeo.

Our booth had a new 3-panel picture display beginning with the formerly disturbed area near Bush Lupine point which was a motorcycle track a decade ago. Then the nasty veldt grass invasion was shown. Finally, the now-restored native condition was pictured in all its splendor showing off vibrant colors of yellows and purples. This excellent visual aid and discussion of it led into what our "Weed Warriors" are all about. The sale of our beautiful Mural shirts did quite well along with miscellaneous items. There were also enlarged colored pictures of the five Interpretative Signs that we will soon be seeing displayed in the Elfin Forest. With many helpful hands, our booth was dismantled and loaded into Bob McDougle's truck by 4:15, ending a very satisfying day of SWAP outreach to the community.

Message from Jim Weldon, SWAP Chair

Thank you to those who attended SWAP's Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13th. Jan DiLeo, County Parks Planner, gave an excellent presentation on the interpretive signs which are soon to be installed in the Elfin Forest. Five signs will be located on the boardwalk loop, and a welcome sign will be placed at each end-of-street entrance to the Elfin Forest. Jan announced that Russell Hunter, a member of Boy Scout Troop 6 will construct the sign supports. Two other members of Troop 6, Cory Reents and Matt Rees, will construct wooden rail fencing at street ends. Jan also discussed County Parks' plan to build connector boardwalks between the main boardwalk and 13th, 14th and 15th Streets.

Winner of the Nancy Kolliner pen, ink and acrylic drawing was Stan Gustafson, member of the Los Osos Community Services District Board of Directors. He was happy to receive the drawing. Our heartfelt thanks to Rose Bowker, who sold 100 raffle tickets for the drawing. She will receive a mural T-shirt as our appreciation gift.



Stan Gustafson, Board member of the Los Osos
Community Services District, bought a raffle ticket from Rose Bowker (LOCSD President and past President of SWAP), and won the Nancy Kolliner drawing of Pygmy Oaks.
Photo by Jim Weldon

The SWAP Board would like to expand our community outreach with an information booth at the Los Osos Farmers' Market at least once a month. We need volunteers to help with the booth. If you're interested, please leave a message on our answering machine, 528-0392. Someone will call you back. Thank

SWAP Contracts Conservation Work

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

SWAP recently contracted with Josh Carmichael, formerly with AmeriCorps to collect native seeds and perform certain conservation activities in the Elfin Forest. He began by expanding the cache of seeds collected in 2001. Josh and SWAP will broadcast the seeds and plant natives from last year's seeds later this rainy season. Josh also will germinate and grow native plants in a greenhouse for next year. Josh helped build the greenhouse facilities now being used by the California Conservation Corps at Camp San Luis. He is doing maintenance and planting at the erosion control project that SWAP started last year at Bush Lupine Point, and he will be doing erosion control and revegetation projects later in the rainy season.

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third Saturday Walks

December 15 - 9:30 a.m.

Brent Roberts, who has been involved in the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association in Morro Bay as well as restoration of the Port San Luis Lighthouse, will tell us the story of the sinking of the oil tanker Montebello by a Japanese submarine on December 23, 1941 - 60 years ago - as we stroll along the Elfin Forest Boardwalk. The tanker was sunk in 900 feet of water off the coast of Cambria and the wreck has been sitting upright, filled with oil, teeming with sealife and littered with webs of snagged fishing lines and nets. Brent will fill in the details. Its a story you won't want to miss!

January 19 - 9:30 a.m.

"The Little Things Count" is the title of entomologist Richard Little's walk in the Elfin Forest. It's also the title of a book that he wrote on invertebrates of Oak forest. He'll bring specimens of arthropods (insects, spiders, beetles, etc.) that we might come across in the Elfin Forest. Rich - and walk participants - will keep an eye peeled along the walk to discover whatever critters might be out and about. Until 1999, Rich was the staff entomologist for the SLO Co. Agriculture Department. Currently, he is the North SLO County District Supervisor for the County Ag Department. Obviously, he is well qualified to answer any entomology-related questions you might have - questions about Elfin Forest arthropods preferred. Bring a hand lens for a better view of smaller specimens.

February 16 - 9:30 a.m.

It's time again for SWAP's annual Fungus Foray with fungophile Dennis Sheridan. Here's hoping that we'll have plenty of rain to entice the multitudes of mushrooms living below the forest litter to pop their varied heads up for us to see. Dennis knows where all of the fascinating fungi are, and will help us to find Earthstars, Wood blewits, Yellow staining agaricus, the very poisonous Amanitas, Shaggy parasol mushrooms and dozens of others. Dress for the possibility of getting dirty - mushrooms grow low to the ground. Bring a magnifying lens.

Let's All Pull Together!

SWAP First Saturday work parties are held at 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteers should meet at the north end of 15th Street. Dress for sun and wind and bring work gloves if you can. Some work gloves, tools and drinking water are provided. Call 528-0392.





Curt Beebe pointed out poison oak leaves on the ground to SWAP Walks Coordinator Petra Clayton and other walk participants during his September walk which focused on poison oak.

Photo by Yolanda Waddell

Weeders Continue Weed War

By Pete Sarafian, SWAP Conservation Chair

The Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors of SWAP continued the war on Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) in October and November. The region of relatively veldt-free Elfin Forest is being expanded ever closer to the street ends at 15th and 16th. This continues the work done earlier this year by SWAP, AmeriCorps and the California Conservation Corps. In October, Yolanda Waddell led the warriors, assisted by Susan Bertrand, Jay Bonestell, Kathy Dugan, Sharon and Bob Meyer, Ron Rasmussen, Dana and Terry Roselli, and Linda Young. In November, Pete and Pat Sarafian led the charge with Rosemary Flamion, Susan and Aaron McTaggert, Ron Rasmussen, Alec Rodden and Linda Young assisting. The November crew included two young students, Aaron McTaggert and Alec Rodden, performing a Community Action Project for Monarch Elementary School.



Sixth grade Weed Warriors Alec Rodden and Aaron McTaggart, and Aaron's mom Susan McTaggart get a lesson in identifying the Morro Shoulderband Dune Snail from SWAP Conservation Chair Pete Sarafian. Photo by Pat Sarafian

Twenty-Third in a Series

Beach Sand Verbena

By Dirk Walters, Ph.D.: Drawings by Bonnie Walters

The plant featured this time is the beach sand verbena (Abronia maritima). Beach sand verbena is usually found growing in small hillocks directly behind the ocean beach and just above the high tide line. It is rarely found further inland, and if it is, it rarely persists there for very long. I have not actually seen this species in the Elfin Forest, but it is currently on the plant list. If I were to go actively looking for it in the Elfin Forest area myself, I would look for it where there were sandy soils just above the bay's high tide line. This type of area is extremely rare in the Elfin Forest. This species ranges along the Pacific Coast from just north of Morro Bay south into Baja California, Mexico. Therefore, Morro Bay is at the extreme North edge of its range. As expected, this species is not to be found in the new Flora of Monterey County by Mary Ann Mathews.

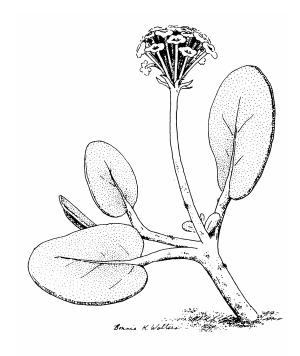
All of the *Abronias* are commonly known as sand verbenas. *Abronias* are actually in the four-o-clock family (Nyctaginaceae) and are not related in any way to the true verbenas that are members of the Verbenaceae. Besides the sand verbenas, the Four-o-clock family includes the garden four-o-clock (*Mirabilis*) and the tropical vine *Bougainvilea*. Members of the four-o-clock family remind us that parts of a flower are identified not by their appearance or function, but by their position.

Beach sand verbenas bear flowers with a uniformly dark purple colored perianth. This perianth consists of a single series of five elements. Botanists recognize these elements as sepals. This is because they define petals as the inner whorl of perianth elements when the perianth consists of two whorls. Since all members of the four-o-clock family, including *Abronia*, have only one series, that series must be defined as sepals. In this family the colored sepals are fused into a tube.

The flowers are regularly arranged into rounded clusters with all the flowers arising from a single point at the end of the peduncle (stalk). An inflorescence of this type is called an umbel. The umbel of the beach sand verbena is very tight and the long linear flowers are quite sticky to the touch. In most of the genera, the base of the pistil (ovary), which produces the fruit, is enclosed within a hard to leathery base of the calyx. The "fruit" is therefore an achene that is totally enclosed by often-winged calyx base. Botanists call such a "fruit" complex an anthocarp. Beach Sand Verbena anthocarps rarely contain seed. This is probably because the severe environment found on coastal beaches (shifting sand, salt spray, excessive daytime temperatures) means there is little energy left in the plant to mature seed; most of it is required just to maintain the parent producing the anthocarp.

Beach sand verbena's stems and leaves are thick and succulent and quite sticky to the touch. They use this stickiness to trap sand grains on their surface. The sand coating forms a protective shield that prevents the soft stem and leaf tissue from being sand blasted by constantly blowing sand found on sandy coastal beaches.

Most sand verbenas are found in the interior deserts. However three species are found in sandy soils along the Pacific Coast. The common or pink sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*) is



Beach Sand Verbena (Abronia maritima)

Drawing by Bonnie Walters

one found in vacant lots in Los Osos & Morro Bay and is the most common sand verbena found in the Elfin Forest. The second sand verbena, yellow sand verbena (A. latifolia), is the only sand verbena with yellow flowers and is restricted to the intermediate dunes along the immediate coast. It has not been seen in the Elfin Forest. A. umbellata was discussed in an earlier article.



Elfin Forest Sightings

On the morning of October 29, Mary Mitchell saw a deer only about a hundred feet from the boardwalk. It was a

two-point buck. Pete and Pat Sarafian report that deer tracks are often seen down close to the water, but they've never seen or heard of a deer observed so close to the boardwalk before.

On October 30, Rosemary Flamion had a great time observing the seldom-seen **Northern Harrier**. She writes: "I'm a little over 5 feet tall. The Northern Harrier was flying huge circles about five feet off the ground and in some instances just above the scrub. He covered the complete Elfin Forest several times, and flew over Bush Lupine Point. He was very up close and personal with me. I watched him flying for at least 30 minutes."

Then on November 1, Jean Wheeler watched a pair of **peregrine falcons** hunting for several minutes over Bush Lupine Point. She got a very good look at one flying almost directly overhead when they turned inland over the Elfin Forest.

Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, SWAP Database Coordinator

New Members:

Mike & Heidi Baird Susan L. Bertrand Charles E. Blair Mr. & Mrs. Mark Cohen Cheryl Dove* Robbie Freiler Sherry Heber* Heidi Kausch Jennifer Trautman

Renewing Members:

Michael Barrows
Helen & Bruce Bennett
David & Rosemary
Bentley
Jay Bonestall*
Ray & Sonya Bracken*
Eleanor Brown
Pat Brown*
John & Betty Burnham*
Ann Calhoun
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Taylor*
Maureen Titus
David & Libby Tolley*
The Van Coops Family*
Margaret L. Weiss
Richard & Lesle Wenzel*
June Wright*

*Thanks to those listed above who donated more than the \$12 membership dues. The additional donations will be used for special projects in the Elfin Forest.

SWAP BOARD MEETINGS

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The SWAP Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Coast National Bank, 1193 Los Osos Valley Road on Monday, December 10, and Monday, January 14. All Board meetings are open to the public.

To confirm the date, time and location (which are subject to change), phone 528-0392.

SWAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Small Wilderness
Area Preservation (SWAP)
consists of the following members:
Jim Weldon, Chair
Pete Sarafian, Vice Chair
Bob McDougle, Treasurer
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary
Pat Sarafian, Member at Large



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Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter



Holiday Gift Season and End of Tax Year **Coming**

Gift ideas?? What a wonderful gift for that special someone~a year subscription for "SWAP Membership" of \$12.00 or more. Do you know a teenager who has the desire to learn more about our environment and the saving and preserving of our land? Our new version of the beautiful Elfin Forest Mural, painted by our local artist Barbara Rosenthal, has been reproduced on shirts done by "Seri Graphic Designs" in San Luis Obispo. See the order form on page 7 for sizes and styles available. Or order a print of the mural for only \$20. For an additional \$1.00 tuck in one of our Pocket Guides along with one of our brochures. And are you aware that if you were to join or renew your SWAP membership for a \$100.00 or more you are entitled to a FREE T-shirt?

Want to inspire your kids? Give a Christmas, or Chanukah, or Kwanzaa donation to SWAP in their names. You get the year-end tax deduction and they get the thankyou note. It could spark in them both the joy of giving and an interest in the environment around them, especially in our Elfin Forest.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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- ☐ Protector \$50 ☐ Guardian \$500
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- ☐ I want to help, please call me!

Have you renewed your membership on time? Check the label on this newsletter for your renewal due date.

EVERY membership counts!!

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