

Why the Elfin Forest is Important

By Ron Rasmussen, Chair of the SWAP Board of Directors

A little over five years ago I retired from the University of California at Irvine and began looking for a place to settle down anew without the responsibilities of teaching and research. A drive up the coast of California from San Diego to San Francisco convinced me that there were very few places that offered a quiet, relatively unspoiled environment. The outstanding exception was the Big Sur coast and the small towns around San Luis Obispo, in particular Morro Bay and Los Osos. I believe the reason that this region has avoided over-development so apparent elsewhere is the

commitment of the folks here to preserving the priceless resources of open space and parklands. It did not take long to decide that this was the place I had been looking for.

Within a short time after moving to Morro Bay it became clear to me that there were strong pressures for continued development from both local and outside sources. It seems to me that residence in this community carries with it a responsibility to contribute in some way to the maintenance of its highly desirable "Environment". This could be a material contribution, e.g., money, or volunteer activities in any of

It seems to me that residence in this community carries with it a responsibility to contribute in some way to the maintenance of its highly

several organizations. I have chosen to join the local SWAP chapter and participate in their various activities throughout the year. By serving on the Board of Directors I feel that I am making a significant contribution toward maintaining the environmental health of this region.

The primary current responsibility of the local SWAP chapter is the care of the Elfin Forest. After transfer of the land from private to public control, SWAP volunteers have continuously fought invasions of alien plants, initiated re-vegetation, and controlled erosion. These activities have resulted in more than simply a nice place to walk your dog (although dogs on leash are welcome!).

I see at least three direct contributions of the Elfin Forest to the community. First, and probably what most immediately im-

The Elfin Forest continued on page 3

Alien Invasion, Part 3, Revised

Malta Starthistle (Tocalote)



by Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

Photo by Charles Webber © California Academy of Sciences

This is a revision of the third in a series of articles on alien plant species which was published in an earlier issue of *Oakleaves*. Unchecked, the aliens will take over and destroy the plants that have been part of the Elfin Forest for centuries. It is hoped that these aliens will become more recognizable to members of SWAP and the Los Osos community. Community members are encouraged to volunteer to assist SWAP and San Luis County Parks Department in controlling these pests. Community involvement could make a big difference in restoring and maintaining the health of the park for the long term.

The original alien invasion article was written for yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). Sometime later, two Cal Poly professors corrected the identification of the Elfin Forest weed to be Malta starthistle or tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), a close relative. Like the better known yellow starthistle, tocalote also is a member of the plant family Asteraceae (sunflowers). Although a scourge in its own right, Malta starthistle does not infest as much of the U.S. west as its better known cousin.

Tocalote is an annual weed that reproduces by seed production. It grows one to two feet high and has multiple branches, each ending with a terminal yellow flower. The flowers

Starthistle continued on page 4

Graffitidiots Attack Elfin Forest

A graffitidiot hit the Elfin Forest some time between Monday afternoon, February 24 and Tuesday morning, February 25. Most of the interpretive signs within the Forest where sprayed with bright red paint, along with a bench, some parts of the boardwalk and the Fairbanks Family Monument. The vandalism was reported to SWAP early on Tuesday.

The Sheriff made a visit to the Forest to see the graffiti, and County Park Ranger Lew Texeira came out with a bottle of "Tag Off" graffiti paint remover. The Tag Off worked very well on the interpretive signs, but paint stuck in the crevices of the letters of the Fairbank Monument, and it required well over a half hour of

scrubbing. By late Wednesday morning, February 26th, all signs of the graffiti were gone. SWAP appreciates the fast action by County Parks in removing the graffiti. Ranger Lew said that it made him sad to see the Elfin Forest vandalized, and this feeling was echoed by others who visited the Elfin Forest on Tuesday.

If you are out enjoying the Elfin Forest and see someone committing vandalism, or if you happen to have seen the graffitidiots, please report it to the Sheriff's Department at 528-6083. Always contact the Sheriff FIRST. Thank you.

Top Right -A "graffitidiot" sprayed red paint on this and five other interpretive panels on February 24th. Photo by Bob Meyer.

Bottom right — SLO County Park Ranger Lew Texeira removed all of the red paint from the Elfin Forest interpretive signs and the Fairbanks Monument within 48 hours after they were vandalized. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.





Reporting Trouble in the Elfin Forest

By Yolanda Waddell

You're strolling along in the Elfin Forest, come around a bend in the boardwalk to the Siena's View overlook, and there in front of you is someone spraying graffiti on an interpretive panel. What do you do?

Ernie Del Rio, Park Superintendent for County Parks, advises that you be the best possible witness. As Yogi Berra said, "You can observe a lot just by watching." Ernie says it's a bad idea to confront another person who is in the act of committing a misdemeanor or worse crime. One of the best things to say is, "Hey! What's going on?" Notice what the person is wearing, and memorize as best as you can what he/she looks like, but don't follow him/her. If the graffiti sprayer drops the spray can and runs, take the can with you. Then call the Sheriff's office at 528-6083. With luck, there will be a deputy nearby. Next, notify Chuck Lowe, County Parks Supervising Park Ranger at 781-1969. And when there's time, leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, 528-0392. Remember — call the Sheriff FIRST, then County Parks, and if you have time, let SWAP know what's going on.

There are other cases where someone besides the Sheriff might need to be called. In another article in this issue, you learned that our Weed Warriors saw a hunter chase some sheltering Brant geese into an area where they could be shot at. That required a call to California Fish and Game. Per Ernie Del Rio, 911 would have been a good number to call also, as the 911 dispatcher could forward the call to Fish and Game.

Following is a clip-out coupon with useful phone numbers to call when you want to report something. Please cut it out and keep it handy. Who knows — someday you may need to use one of the phone numbers. Thank you!

Important Phone Numbers for Reporting Trouble in the Elfin Forest

Emergency911				
Any situation threatening life or property, needs immediate attention				
SLO County Sheriff				
Vandalism and other crimes (call the Sheriff FIRST)				
Fire Department528-1053				
Injuries and fires				
County Parks				
(Chuck Lowe, Supervising Ranger)				
Anything that happens in the Elfin Forest				
California Fish and Game772-8908				
Wildlife protection (Elfin Forest or Morro Bay estuary)				
Pacific Wildlife Care543-9453				
Injured or orphaned birds or small mammals				
(not bears, deer, or mountain lions)				
Morro Bay Harbor Patrol772-6254				
Emergency in Bay taking place within Morro Bay city limits				
SWAP message machine				
Anything that happens in the Elfin Forest				



Weed Warriors Spring to Action

by Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

At the last two Saturday work parties in February and March 2003, SWAP's Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors sprang into action (it's springtime, you know). In both February and March, the Warriors pulled veldt and other nonnative grasses from the fenced triangle and other areas above and to the east of

Bush Lupine Point. The March effort was led by Bob Meyer and also included a mopup of narrow-leaved iceplant and trash left along the boardwalk.

The late rains are resulting in a bumper crop of grasses this year. Unfortunately, most are non-natives. We need to jump on this year's crop before the seeds fall to the ground.

Our spring grass puller corps included Linda Ashworth, Jay Bonestell (both times), Pat Brown, Steve Cake, Ann Calhoun, Tony Kranse, Bob and Sharon Meyer (both times), Barbara Murray, Ron Rasmussen (both times), Pat and Pete Sarafian, Charlie Sitton (both times), Sally Sitton, and Jean Wheeler.

Our thanks go to all these volunteers who are helping to restore the dune habitat to healthy, native conditions.





Weed Warriors Tony Krause (at left) and Charlie Sitton (above) joined the weeding crews in February and March, pulling fast-growing grasses to make space for native plants to sprout.

Photos by Yolanda Waddell.

'Sportsmen' Display Poor Sportsmanship

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

On Saturday, February 1, 2003 the Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors viewed a shocking and unpleasant hunting drama as it unfolded. This first weekend of the month was also the last weekend for waterfowl hunting season on Morro Bay. It was called "youth hunting weekend," a time when sportsmen could take youths under 18 years of age out to teach the sport of waterfowl hunting.

The day started with the usual unpleasant sound of shotguns popping in the center of the Bay where the legal hunting zone is located. At the same time, Weed Warriors out to do volunteer conservation work, were treated to the contented sound of hundreds of Brant geese honking from the "safety" of the estuary, some distance outside the hunting zone, just to the north of the Elfin Forest.

At one point, around 10:00 or 10:30 am, one of the hunting boats turned on its outboard motor full throttle and raced into the estuary out of the legal hunting zone, heading east along the Los Osos Creek channel. As soon as the Brants were flushed from their sanctuary and resting area and were airborne, the boat rushed back into the legal hunting zone, and guns began blasting away.

SWAP immediately called the local office of California Fish and Game. When that line was found to be busy, we called the State Fish and Game office in Sacramento. There, a representative took the call and indicated that there would be follow up. The ugly incident was also reported to a representative of the local Audubon Society. So much for teaching youth good sportsmanship!

The Elfin Forest continued from page 1

presses the visitor is the ESTHETIC value. A walk along the boardwalk with its magnificent views of the bay and the morros, and the profusion of native plants I'm sure leaves a lasting memory for all.

Second, and in some way perhaps most important, is the EDUCATIONAL value. The plant and animal community that has developed in the forest is an unique example of coastal dune scrub. The species present do not exist in isolation, but interact, protect, and actually feed each other, all in an area with only nutrient-poor sand as a substrate. This community thus serves as a microcosm of the larger biosphere, and one that can be easily understood by young students.

Finally, although it may not be immediately apparent, is the ECONOMIC value of the Elfin Forest. Tourists to the area often visit the Elfin Forest, as well as other local attractions. A significant value that may be overlooked is the enhancement of property values along the southern edge of the park. I am sure that a well-maintained Elfin Forest adjoining your property is much preferable to a field of veldt grass, or 67 acres of playground for off-road vehicles.

For these reasons, among others, I plan to continue my association with SWAP, and also urge members of the community to support the activities of SWAP and other like-minded organizations.

Posse Mangles Manzanitas

by Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

"Hi, ho Silver, awaaay!" The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Dept. mounted patrol rode through the Elfin Forest on Thursday, February 20, looking for a distraught man who was thought to be suicidal. Unfortunately, no one from SWAP or County Parks was present to warn them that they were not welcome on horseback. The steeds made short work of native plants underfoot and were a hazard to the federally listed and endangered Morro Shoulderband Dune Snail. Several areas were found to have suffered broken and mangled vegetation. Dogs also were used to track the man, and would have been more effective than the noisy, heavy-footed horses. The man was not found in the Elfin Forest. SWAP plans to ask the Sheriff not to use horses in the Forest in future searches.

SWAP Board Elects Officers

At its January 13th meeting, the SWAP Board elected officers for 2003. Ron Rasmussen agreed to be the Board Chair. Pete Sarafian will continue as Vice Chair; Robert McDougle will continue as Treasurer; and Yolanda Waddell will continue as Secretary.

Pete Sarafian is also SWAP's Conservation Chair and Yolanda Waddell is Chair of the Publications and Walks Committees. Pat Sarafian, Board member at large, will continue as Chair of Property and Records; Bob Meyer, Board member at large, is Chair of the Pocket Guide Revision Committee.

Committee Chairs who are not on the Board of Directors include Pat Brown, Trail Guide Committee Chair; Petra Clayton, 3rd Saturday Walks Coordinator; Sharon Meyer, SWAP Historian; Dorothy Norwood, Mutt Mitt Committee Chair; and Jean Wheeler, *Oakleaves* Co-Editor. The Membership Committee, which has no Chair (anyone interested?) includes Wendy Brown, Database Coordinator, and Ruth Zank, Correspondent. Terry Gates is our Publicity Person.

SWAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) consists of the following members:

Ron Rasmussen, Chair
Pete Sarafian, Vice Chair
Bob McDougle, Treasurer
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary
Bob Meyer, Member at Large
Pat Sarafian, Member at Large

april 14

SWAP BOARD MEETINGS

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, April 14, and Monday, May 12.
All Board meetings are open to the public.
To confirm the date,
time and location
(which are subject to change),
phone 528-0392.

may 12

Starthistle continued from page 1

are at the end of a stiff bract that sports a crown of slender spines that range from 1/8 to 3/8 inches long. The spines radiate out from the bract as in yellow starthistle, but are shorter. The basal leaves can be recognized in growing plants by their lobed structure and bluish gray-green color. Stiff hairs and minute resinous dots also cover the basal leaves. The stems are ridged and have narrow, alternate, non-lobed leaves. The plants send down a prominent taproot.

Malta starthistle is native to southern Europe. It was introduced to the U.S. in the 1700's. Tocalote is common in western California, but its distribution is as far as Washington State, Nevada and Texas. It also can be found in scattered pockets in the Midwest and eastern U.S. It also is prevalent in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley. It usually is not found in desert areas, however.

Unlike yellow starthistle, tocalote is not toxic to horses. In fact, it is used medicinally in Spain. Seed production is highly variable. There may be 1-60 seeds per seed head and 1-100 heads per plant.

Although undocumented, the means of controlling tocalote probably are the same as for yellow starthistle. This would include the herbicides picloram, dicamba and 2,4-D. Digging or pulling is effective in small infestations. Grazing is effective prior to formation of spiny flower heads. Mowing is effective just before flowers bloom. Burning is effective when plants dry out, but only prior to seed production. A small beetle that was accidentally introduced to the U.S., *Lasioderma haemorhoidale*, will feed on the seed heads, but it is not effective in controlling infestations. A heavy, early treatment with the rust fungus, *Puccina centaurea*, is effective, however.

The tocalote infestation in the Elfin Forest is mainly in the meadow areas. SWAP first attacked it by manual pulling during the flowering phase in the summer of 1998. At that time the plants were often 2 feet in height with vibrant yellow flowers. Weeding took more than 12 man-days of labor. Since that time, the plants have been progressively smaller and weaker in appearance. In 2002, the fifth consecutive year of weeding, it took only 6 man-hrs. labor. Obviously, the bank of seeds in the soil is being depleted, and control is being established.



OAKLEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.

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

Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.

Contributors to this issue: Wendy Brown, Dave & Linda Chipping, Bob Meyer,

Ron Rasmussen, Pat Sarafian, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Charles Webber, Jean Wheeler.

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WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third Saturday Walks

April 19 - 9:30 a.m.

Pat Brown will take you on a butterfly walk. One of Pat's hobbies is taking photos of butterflies and collecting information about them, especially in relation to the Elfin Forest. She has a shelf of books on butterflies, and before the walk will display some of her books and all kinds of butterfly-related materials. Pat will show walk participants some of the plants that are host to butterflies and describe the life cycles of various Elfin Forest butterflies. During the walk you¹ll see Variable Checkerspot caterpillars munching on Monkeyflowers and endangered Morro Blue butterflies flitting around Silver Bush Lupines hoping to find a mate. Pat recommends that you bring a hand lens and a pair of close focusing (5-10 ft.) binoculars.

If you want to read about butterflies ahead of the walk, one of Pat's favorite books is Common Butterflies of California by Bob Stewart. It has excellent photos.

May 17 - 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Dirk Walters, Cal Poly botanist and author of a botany text, will take us on a wildflower walk during one of the best months for Spring wildflowers in the Elfin Forest. Dirk writes the column on native plants for *Oakleaves*, and has a piece of information or good story to go with every plant that is in bloom. Don't miss this one!

June 21 - 9:30 a.m.

Join artist Barbara Renshaw for a Sketch Walk in the Elfin Forest. As you stroll along the boardwalk, taking in the views of the Morro Bay estuary and enjoying the gnarled Coast live oak trees in the Woodrat Hall grove, Barbara will give you time to stop and sketch the bay, birds on the saltmarsh, oaks, or some of the Elfin Forest¹s varied plant life. No drawing experience necessary. Bring a pad of drawing paper (no larger than 9-1/2 by 12-1/2 inches), colored pencils or pastels, and some drinking water. Consider bringing a camera too. You'll be surprised how quickly you bring out the artist in you!

Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at 9:30 a.m. (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. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. We ask that you not bring

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.



Some 3rd Saturday walkers and wheelers enjoyed a lovely January morning in the Elfin Forest, learning the story of the designing and building of the boardwalk. Leading the walk were architects Mark Dariz (in wheelchair) and Paul Wolff (seated on bench).

Photo by Pat Sarafian.



Dennis Sheridan and his Fungus Foray group were lucky enough to have rain before the 3rd Saturday in February, and found many different mushrooms to identify. Photo by Jean Wheeler.

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. If you have questions, concerns or comments about anything that's happening in the Elfin Forest, call or write: Chuck Lowe, SLO County Parks Supervising Ranger,

1087 Santa Rosa Street, SLO, CA 93408, (805) 781-1967.

Thirtieth in a Series

California Aster

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

The California Aster drawn by Bonnie for this issue of Oak-leaves is not mentioned in any of the popular plant identification books. Neither is it listed in the indices of any of my books on native plant gardening although it is one of our more common coastal plants. It is currently known as Lessingia (formerly Corethrogyne) filaginafolia. I have recently heard that it is probably going to be changed back to the genus, Corethrogyne. I did find a reference to it in a very complete, but older, listing of plant genera along with a note that its genus (Corethrogyne) contains three cultivated California species.

In another source, the species is listed in one place as an herb, and as a shrub or sub-shrub in another place in the same reference. Another measure of its obscurity is its common name: most of the time, there is no common name given at all, and if there is a common name listed, it is California aster. The name California refers to its distribution from southern Oregon, south along the coast, Central Valley and Sierra Foothills, into northern Baja California. It is particularly common in the plant community know as coastal scrub or soft chaparral. It appears to be restricted to below 2600 m.

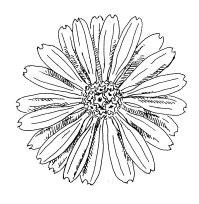
Neither California aster nor any of its near relatives are listed in any of my references dealing with useful, medicinal or poisonous plants of California. In the Elfin Forest its white to pale pink flowers can be found every month of the year if you look for them. It is the scrawny, weak-stemmed plant with the usually whitish leaves isolated among the larger more robust shrubs. It is common wherever shrubs are dominant. So what more is there to say about it?

First, it should be apparent to all that it is a member of the large family known variously as the "composite," lettuce, dandelion, sunflower, or aster family. This very large family possesses an inflorescence that resembles a single flower from a distance. The center of the head can contain over 100 yellow tube-shaped flowers topped with five teeth. Radiating from the edge of the head are variable, but large numbers of tongue-shaped corollas consisting of three fused petals. These are called ray corollas and they are attached to sterile ray flowers.

The common name, aster, is a name applied to many members of the family with white, pink or purple ray flowers. It refers to the distribution of the ray corollas. They seem to spread out like the radiating shafts of light from a star. Ray corollas in this species vary in color from pure white to pink to purple. Rarely does one find large numbers of heads in bloom at anyone time. However, along the immediate coast, California aster can be found blooming every month of the year. Is the plant an herb or a shrub? It is probably both or neither. It has a habit that botanists call a half-shrub (suffrutescent). It is woody at the base, but puts out herbaceous shoots.

How common is the plant? A group of California Native Plant Society members were doing a survey of the plants growing in the back dunes near Morro Bay. They were surprised to find more individuals of this species than of any other shrub. However, they did not find this out until they analyzed their numerical data. None of them suspected from their eyeball observations that this "obscure" plant species would turn out to be so common.





Elfin Forest Sightings Spring Blooms and Birds

By Heather Johnson

During several hours in the Elfin Forest on a recent day we found many Suncups (Camissonia) in full bloom. The Ceanothus looks great, lots of Deerweed (Lotus scoparius) waving its yellow signal flags in the breeze. A beautiful Harrier Hawk was reconnoitering up and down and all around the shrubbery. The Black sage (Salvia mellifera) has newly elongated stems each with a tight flower bud at the top-almost ready to bloom. Found more Peonies (Paeonia californica) in bloom and going to seed. Several coastal California poppy clumps are blooming and my favorite, the Wallflowers (Erysimum insulare) are in bloom and so sweetly fragrant when it is warm and there is no wind. The Fuchsia-flowered gooseberries (Ribes speciosum) are all flaunting their bright red tubes and each seems to have an attendant hummer closely.

Please Report Elfin Forest Sightings

Have you observed any unusual birds in the Elfin Forest? Mammals? Reptiles? Amphibians? Insects? Interesting activities or footprints of wildlife in our Elfin Forest? Unusual plants? Please report any interesting wildlife activity or plants that you see to Jean Wheeler at 528-0568 or jeanwheeler@charter.net for inclusion in future Oakleaves issues under "Elfin Forest Sightings."

Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, SWAP Database Coordinator

New Members:

Michael C. Bondello Bruce & Susan Cook Mike & Melissa Leahy Barbara Penner*

Joan Radabaugh Charles Sitton*

Renewing Members:

Pat Albertini* Florence Appel* Steve Auslender* Lois Barber C.I. & Grace Beigle* Eilleen Bowen* Les & Rose Bowker* Willa M. Butts* Mary & Allan Conkling* Otto & Sue Davidson* Stephani & Stuart Denker* John Dilworth & Carol Maurer* Ernest & Barbara Eddy* Phyllis M. Foulstone* Winton & Adele Frey* Nada Fuller*

Susan & Pascal Grimaud* Tom & Rita Hadiiyane Kenneth & Arlayne Hill Clement H. Jeffrey Joseph Johnson* Charles & Laura Kass* Aya Kimura* Phillip LaFollette* Mary M. Leizear* Barbara Machado* Robert & Ceil McDougle* Sylvia McLaughlin Audrey W. Mertz* Mr. & Mrs. George Miller William H. Newman* Dorothy J. Norwood Tom & Sharon Pritchett*

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*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.

New or renewing members who donate \$100 or more will receive

a Boardwalk T-shirt as SWAP's thank you gift.

Interested in Becoming a SWAP Docent?

In June, we plan to begin a series of free training sessions for those interested in leading tours of the Elfin Forest for adults and their families. The sessions will help you create a nature tour that keeps your audience interested while expanding their knowledge of the characteristics and advantages of the Forest's plant and animal habitats.

You can sign up by leaving a message on SWAP's answering machine at 528-0392. Leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, and state that you are interested in being a SWAP docent. We'll return your phone call and give you more details.



SWAP Shoppers' Order form

Shop with SWAP!!



(Please *print* when filling order – and indicate **HOW MANY**)

Name		Phone (with Area code)	
1. MURAL SHIRTS (indicate sizes) Words on shirt: "El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area, Small Wilderness Area Preservation, Los Osos, California"		3. POCKET GUIDES A very useful 24-page guide listing plants and animals of the Elfin Forest @ \$1.00 =	
Short Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg) Long Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg) Sweatshirt (med., Lg, Xlg., XXLg)	@ \$15.00 = @ \$17.00 = @ \$25.00 =	4. MURAL PRINTS signed 5 1/2" X 17" prints by artist, Barbara Black matted Mural White matted Mural	Rosenthal @ \$20.00 = @ \$20.00 =
2. BOARDWALK SHIRTS (Only Sho Small, Med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg	rt Sleeve T-Shirts) @ \$15.00 =	Shipping cost if outside of Los Osos/Morro Bay	\$2.50 =

Booth Workers Needed

Per Name or Current Resident Address Service Requested

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Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter



SWAP Needs Booth Workers For: Botanic Garden Festival

— Saturday & Sunday, May 3-4 Rancho El Chorro Environmental Fair — Sunday, May 10

The first two weekends in May bring two wonderful events which will involve SWAP. The annual San Luis Obispo Botanic Garden Festival will be held at El Chorro Regional Park the first weekend in May, followed the next weekend by the Rancho El Chorro Environmental Fair, just north of the Regional Park. . By all means enjoy and support these fun and worthy festivities. At the same time you can support SWAP by volunteering 2 or 3 hours at the booths we'll have set up at both events.

Do you enjoy talking to people? Our booths are set up to be self-explanatory, and we'll provide you with a sheet of the most commonly asked questions. We'll sell T-shirts and other items listed on page 7 of this newsletter. Also available will be brochures, newsletters, and trail guides. Help us to get the word out about SWAP and the Elfin Forest.

Please call our answering machine, 528-0392, if you can help us, and state whether you'd prefer a morning or afternoon shift.

MEMBERSHIP FORM
Name
Address
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Phone
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 □ Member \$12 □ Defender \$100 □ Steward \$25 □ Champion \$250 □ Protector \$50 □ Guardian \$500 □ Life Member \$1000 □ 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