



OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS/MORRO BAY CHAPTER SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
P.O. Box 6442 LOS OSOS CALIFORNIA 93412 (805)528-2579 MARCH 1992

From the Los Osos Oaks to the Elfin Forest

Emily Polk, Founder of SWAP

General Membership Meeting

7:30 p.m. Monday March 9, 1992

South Bay Community Center

Los Osos



Emily Polk in the Los Osos Oaks

This month's meeting offers an opportunity to meet the lady who started it all!

In 1971 a delightful lady walking through the woods noticed surveyors at work. Upon learning that a mobile home park expansion was in the works, she was able in just 21 days to raise the necessary funds to purchase the property that is now known as the Los Osos Oaks Preserve. Emily Polk was this lady and that was the beginning of SWAP.

Mrs Polk recently returned to Los Osos after eleven years in England and will speak about her kinship with the earth and efforts to save some of it for all of us. History, geography, travel have long been her interests. She states that "Living every discovery of small earth-kingdoms unscarred by inroads of our current civilization offered me a time and chance for actions that would say "thank you" for all these gifts of nature."

Continuing in the tradition set by Mrs Polk, we will present Dr. Frederick P. Novy III with a plaque for his generous donation of \$1000 to SWAP as a life member. Tickets for Nancy Kolliner's drawing "Pygmy Oaks" and tickets to our sock hop will be sold. Plan to attend what promises to be a lively and interesting meeting!

A Year Ago and Now.

This has been a hectic yet rewarding year for SWAP. Thanks to the skills of Barbara Machado, our development director, we went through a strategic planning effort that led to a major membership drive, increased efforts to educate the public about our project, our bi-weekly column "View from the Elfin Forest" in the Sun Bulletin, our monthly walks, our Financial Advisory Board, membership in the Chamber of Commerce, the production of our teacher's packet, t-shirts and sweatshirts, participation in the State of the Bay Conference, and development of a fund-raising strategy. We had a baroque concert under the oaks in June and an art show in September.

We achieved our goal of 500 new members. We want to double that for 1992. Our land fund has grown substantially and we are now "property owners" of lots donated to SWAP by Bea Richmond's estate and Claire Goedinghaus. Thank you to all of you who made this happen!

It's In Sacramento!

SWAP and San Luis Obispo County Parks have submitted a joint application for \$500,000 from the 1992 California Department of Transportation budget for environmental mitigation and enhancement toward the purchase of the remaining acres of the Elfin Forest.

We had a lot of help from Carol Arnold, Coastal Conservancy, Tim Gallagher, County Parks, Gary Ruggerone, Cal Trans, Maria Singleton, PG&EA, and Eric Daniels, Andrea Seastrand's administrative assistant. Awards will be announced in June. We are now in the process of seeking matching funds.

Volunteers Do It Again!

Yolanda Waddell, one of our tireless volunteers, represented SWAP at the Harbor Festival Dessert Banquet in January.

Proceeds from festival gate receipts were distributed to the various organizations who helped staff the festival. SWAP received \$281.30 for the efforts of our terrific volunteers.

Thanks again to everyone who helped at the festival and during our recent square footage sales. In every facet of our organization, at every level of fund raising, in every aspect of our success, volunteers make the difference. It's impossible to over estimate their value to SWAP whichever way they choose to help. In a non-profit organization where no one is paid, volunteers are simply a priceless resource—the lifeblood of our group. SWAP volunteers—pat yourselves on the back, smile broadly, take a bow—and keep on volunteering. You're the best!

Help Wanted !!!!

We need people to man our information table at upcoming events this spring such as the environmental fair at Cuesta College and the Baywood Junefest. We need "real estate agents" to help sell our certificates of stewardship on weekends. Call Margaret Mehring at 528-2552 if you can donate a 2 hour block of your time for an event.

"Fire Sale and Retrospective"

**An Art Show by Emily Polk
to benefit**

the Elfin Forest Land Fund

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday May 15

Sunday May 16

Los Osos Community Park

SWAP's founder Emily Polk is a multifaceted person who has achieved international recognition as a painter. As a child of 15, she was selected for special training with the Oregon artist Williard Greer. Her work has been exhibited in Calcutta, New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Santa Fe and London. She has published books, prose and poetry, illustrated magazines, designed furniture, fashions and fabric, and been an active volunteer in the interests of art and literature.

Between 1970 and 1979 her involvement with SWAP included the Wilderness Gardens Regional Park in San Diego County, the Hedge Creek Falls Reserve, the Martin Wood in Miller Creek Park, Marin County, the Bolinas View Points, Bolinas Bay, Shepherd Canyon Corridor in Oakland, and the Boranica Conejo Gorge in Thousand Oaks.

Upon returning to Los Osos, Mrs. Polk contacted SWAP and generously offered to hold an art sale as a fund raise to benefit the Elfin Forest Land Fund.

Some of her work had suffered smoke damage while in storage during her absence. Thus the title for this unusual art show which will be held on the lawn of the Los Osos Schoolhouse in the Community Park on Los Osos Valley Road.

Large oils, black and white drawings and collages will be included in this diversified showing of abstract and realistic work that will be offered for sale at very reasonable prices. Plan to come!

Impressions of the Elfin Forest On Display at Cal Poly

Our travelling art show is up again! In May of 1986 SWAP hosted an "Artist's Day in the Elfin Forest." Over 35 local artists working in a variety of media from pencil sketches to pastels participated. Each artist donated signed original work to this art show that has been on display at various locations.

You can see their impressions of the Elfin Forest Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. outside the Biological Sciences Museum on the main floor of Fisher Hall at Cal Poly. All items are for sale to benefit the Elfin Forest land fund. Contact Larry Grimes, 756-2368 or Rose Bowker, 756-2616 for more information.

Can You Spare \$8.33?

Our Financial Advisory Board has set a goal of raising \$500,000 from within the community within one year. We could meet this goal if each member of SWAP made a commitment to find 10 people willing to pledge a donation of \$8.33 a month to the land fund for one year.

In these times of lean budgets, there are many worthwhile organizations asking for help. We also are very realistic about the fact that we have a limited amount of time to raise the money to complete the purchase of the Elfin Forest. The owner does want to sell the property, has offered to sell it to us at a reasonable price -- and cannot be expected to wait "forever" for us to raise the money that is needed.

Unfortunately, the beautiful rural character of our county works against us in finding sources of funding. Many charitable foundations and corporations that fund projects such as ours restrict their gift giving to the specific geographical areas in which they are located. This is great if you are working on a project in the Los Angeles or San Francisco area. It makes it more difficult for us to find appropriate sources of outside funding.

So it gets back to looking into our own community for more financial support. Can you spare \$8.33?

Teachers Packet Funded

San Luis Obispo County has awarded SWAP a grant of \$400 from its budget for environmental projects to cover the cost of producing of 100 copies of the Elfin Forest Teachers Guide. A teacher may obtain a copy of the guide by calling Shanda Gibbs at 528-3936.

Elfin Forest Slide Show

One picture is worth a thousand words and our slide show definitely says it all.

If you belong to a group or organization that is looking for a speaker for part of your regular meeting program, we would be delighted to present our slide show program -- which can be tailored to fit the time available and the interest level of the expected audience.

Public awareness is the key to successful fund raising. While those of you who receive this newsletter are committed to saving the Elfin Forest, there are still many people who are unaware of our project or think we are talking about the Los Osos Oaks!

Please call Yolanda Waddell, SWAP secretary, at 528-4540, to schedule a slide show presentation for your organization.

Get a New Spring Wardrobe

Chilly volunteers suggested that sweatshirts might be more practical than t-shirts for persons staffing our booth.

We now have warm, fuzzy white sweatshirts with our green and black SWAP logo in L and XL for \$18. Our new T-shirts are available in gray or white with the green and black logo, in L and XL, for \$12. Call 528-2579 or send a check with \$2.50 for mailing to SWAP, P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412.

Swing into Spring at a Sock Hop for SWAP in the South Bay Community Center on March 14th.

Dance from 8 until midnight to your favorite big band tunes from the swinging Thirties, Forties and Fifties - the familiar melodies you'll always remember by Glenn Miller, the Dorsey Brothers, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Charlie Barnet, Kay Keyser and all the rest. Ben Squires, our volunteer d.j., has a selection of records and tapes. You can dance to "your song" if you bring your favorite audio tapes and LP's.

The informal dance is a fund raiser to help defray the expenses of the process of fund raising (for example, we had to prepare 10 copies of our proposal for CalTrans funds). So kick off your shoes, have a great old time, and help save some ancient oaks and threatened manzanitas!

Tickets are \$25 per couple or \$12.50 for singles. There will be door prizes and free snacks, fruit punch and coffee. Beer and wine will be available from a no-host bar sponsored by the Community Center.

Mark your calendar and make this a "don't miss" event. Call Flo Ross at 528-1647 for tickets. The elves will thank you for helping to save their home by coming to the sock hop.



SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
LOS OSOS - MORRO BAY CHAPTER
PRESENTS

SWING INTO SPRING

A SOCK HOP FOR SWAP

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 - 8 pm - MIDNIGHT
SOUTH BAY COMMUNITY CENTER
2180 PALISADES AVE., LOS OSOS

BIG BAND MUSIC FROM THE 30's, 40's & 50's
PLAYED BY D.J. BEN SQUIRES FOR YOUR DANCING PLEASURE
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FREE SNACKS • NO HOST BAR • DOOR PRIZES

\$25 per couple (21 and over please) donation benefits
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TO PRESERVE THE ELFIN FOREST

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 528 - 2579

BURKE DESIGN & GRAPHICS, LOS OSOS

Mark Your Calendar!

General Membership Meeting March 9th
Sock Hop For SWAP March 14th
Adopt-A-Beach Earth Day Clean Up

April 22nd

Cuesta College Earth Week Fair April 24th
San Luis Obispo County Environmental
Fair May 2nd

Baywood JuneFest June 14th

Third Saturday Walks for Spring

**March 21st. Dave Keil
"Wildflowers of the Elfin Forest "**

**April 18th. Dirk Walters
"Ethnobotany: human uses of
native plants"**

**May 15th. Ron Rupert
"Animals of the Elfin Forest"**

Our walks through the Elfin Forest will continue through the Spring. Meet at 9:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of the Month at the north end of 15th. Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Wear comfortable shoes. Walks will last about an hour and a half and are at an easy pace. Call Shanda Gibbs, 528-3936 for more information about these or upcoming walks.



Cal Poly Plant Ecologist V.L. Holland led a walk through the plant communities of the Elfin Forest on Saturday, January 18th.

Thank You !!! Thank You !!! Thank You !!!

Janice Wolf, William Kirk Knopf, Mary Engle, Phyllis Mackey, Virginia Tenant, Joe Arcuni, Marsha Parker, Patricia Hill, Donna Schmalz, Brenda Nichols, Barbara Hasler, Margaret Weiss, Patricia Furtado, Helen Morrison, V.L. Holland, Rosalie Valvo, Rose & Les Bowker, Mary Coffeen, Jane Bailey, Elizabeth Sheridan, Peggy Peterson, Mary Lou Wilhelm, Sally Knight, Neal Dyste, Nancy Kolliner, William Jackson, Mary J. Harrison, Eileen Zokolski, Norma Wightman, Jo LaFond, Robert Mountain, Erma Peter, Jane Conway, H. G. Meyer, Frank Avila, Emma Jean Gold, E & G Wondra, Lois Norwood, Susan Howe, Jane Bailey, Margaret Nybak, William Newman, Lindi Doud, Roger Verity, J. Smalley, Barbara Machado, Yolanda Waddell, F. Rostovsky, K. Miller, Roberta Sherry, Darlene Kellett, Char Lea Bruzenak, Grace N.M. Berg, Henlie Sturgeon, Shirley Lefebvre, Edwin Shaul, Helen Sicher, Gary Evans, Harold Barnes, Martha Hansen, Frederick P. Novy III, Gail Comer, Robert Crum, Laura Farwell, Bryan Brown, Jessie Crane, Barbara Rosenthal, Terry Gates, Shirley Texeira, Gayle Goodman, Laurel Jenner, Martha Autrey, Bruce Clyde, Kenneth Stoddard, Gary Karner, Jane Lotz, Sarah Chesebro, Bob Semonsen, L. Newton Wylder, Anna Alexander, Eileen Bowen, Leora Markwort, Clement Jeffrey, Scott Robbins, Karen Antonel, Stan Autrey, Dianne P. Blakeslee, Jay Bonestell, Kathleen Budge, Central Coast CPA Study Group, Elizabeth Clover, Virginia S. Culbert, William Deneen, Barbie Dugan, Erin Englund, Jay Fergus, Barbara Flynn, Roger Gambs, Pat Gimer, Myron Graham, Ken & Arylane Hill, Robert Judd, Arthur Knodel, Rose Lane, Lawrence L. Laurent, Annette Lindeman, Ed Lister, Frank H. Little, Rodney A. Meador, Beverly Moylan, Keith Nielson, Dixie Patterson, Emily Polk, Mary Reynolds, Luba Staller, Betty Stump, Ralph Jacobson, and Patricia Wyse.

Our thanks go also to Andy Hays and the Eastman Charitable Foundation for a \$500 contribution to our Land Fund. . . to Shamrock Gardens for the loan of a "forest" to Karen and Scott Kimura for donating bows and candy for the elves to toss, and to Mac Magid for use of his vehicle for our entry in the Los Osos Christmas Parade.



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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.

Name _____

Address _____

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- _____ \$12 Member - Newsletter subscription with membership
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- _____ \$250 Champion - Newsletter and Framed Elfin Forest Print
- _____ \$1000 Life Member. - Newsletter and Bronzed Plaque
- _____ Send information on how I can help as a volunteer

Celebrate Earth Day !

Purchase some Elfin Forest Square Footage. For \$2 a square foot plus \$0.75 postage, you will receive a Certificate of Stewardship in recognition of your gift to Mother Earth.

Make check payable to SWAP
 Mail to Treasurer, SWAP
 P.O. Box 6442
 Los Osos, CA 93412