he trouble with endangered species is that they tell the truth when people want myth.

The biggest myth is that Americans cannot afford to conserve their wildlife. The Endangered Species Act, in myth, damages the economy, while species and ecosystem losses supposedly have no cost. Reliable studies, however, show no correlation between endangered species listings and declining growth in two common indices of economic activity: construction employment and gross state product.

The real issue is not “jobs versus endangered species.” The truth is that development must obey the limits of sustainability. Endangered species are merely messengers of that reality. The question that needs asking is how shall we live within ecological limits?

Our economy depends on the sustained health of our environment. What is economic in the long run is what conserves endangered species. No accurate cost-benefit analysis would calculate in favor of extinction.

Just ask the salmon fishermen of the Northwest or the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay. They know from painful experience what happens when the long-term health of the environment is sacrificed in the name of economic development.

Myth-makers also frequently criticize the science used by the Fish and Wildlife Service, but rarely, if ever, has a listing been reversed because of poor science. If anything, we tend to be too thorough — and to list too late to avoid emergencies, not too early.

The myth says that the Act has halted thousands of Federal projects. The facts say that between 1987 and 1992 the Service conducted nearly 97,000 consultations with other agencies, producing only 54 project withdrawals or terminations.

The myth says that the Service has prosecuted hundreds if not thousands of landowners for things they did on private land, but a 1994 report by the General Accounting Office shows that from FY ’88 through FY ’93 the Service obtained injunctive relief only four times to stop or delay activities harming endangered species on non-federal lands.

The myth says the Service doesn’t balance human interests with those of animals, but when a species appears on the endangered species list, the “balancing” has already been done. Many listed species have already lost over 90 percent of their habitat. Advocates of “balance” now protest saving the last 10, 5, or 2 percent. Where is the “balance” in that?

In 25 years the Endangered Species Act has helped prevent extinction of over 200 species. Most important, the Act has given warning of ecological

Continued on page 7
At FSO we are seeing a new type of support for sea otters — it is from those who recognize that good environmentalism is good economics. In central California the sea otter is more and more associated with the economy; it is becoming an icon that represents harmony with nature, survival, independence and beauty. Visitors to central California can charter boat trips, kayaks, and tour buses to observe sea otters. The new California State University Monterey Bay has adopted the sea otter as its official mascot. The otter is emerging as a symbol for the new Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. And, we are seeing more businesses using otters in their logos. We at FSO see this as a healthy trend. It demonstrates that the economy and the environment can work together profitably.

Several businesses are recognizing this fact by contributing to FSO as corporate sponsors. In addition to financial contributions, corporate sponsors contribute in various other ways. These include: donations of services by artists, printers, and photographers; and donations of materials such as printing supplies, meeting rooms, and food for receptions.

Corporate sponsors are important to the work of FSO, and we intend to give recognition whenever possible so our membership will support the businesses. There are still many more opportunities for corporate sponsors. For example, FSO needs help in underwriting its important educational works — The Otter Raft, The Otter Pup, the Home of the Sea Otter brochure, and educational packets that are sent to schools.

FSO is the oldest and largest organization devoted to protection of sea otters. Here are opportunities for businesses to work together with a fine environmental group toward a common goal. A list of FSO's current corporate sponsors may be found at the back of this issue of The Otter Raft.

— Arthur W. Haseltine
President, Board of Trustees

As the new Executive Director of FSO, I find myself following in the footsteps of an illustrious group of people who throughout the years have been at the helm of this organization. It began with Margaret Owings who certainly had the foresight to identify that sea otters were at risk and the vision to create a safety net in the guise of this organization to ensure their long-term survival.

As I've become acquainted with those who followed Margaret as the leaders of FSO, either through their writings or by meeting them, I've realized what a tremendous impact they've had in assuring that the threats and risks facing sea otters have been reduced. The battles were hard-fought, but the winners were certainly the otters that are now once again an integral component to the make-up of our nearshore coastal community.

The issue I find myself facing in my new role is, Now what? The timbre of FSO has changed, as has the tone of the conservation movement. While we once were forced to be strident, we find ourselves now being temperate. The importance, however, of safeguarding sea otters must not be lost in the rhetoric being spread by those trying to diminish the need for environmental protections. Our voice must be heard, but in such a way as to inspire people to listen and hear our message, not tune it out.

So, the answer is clear. Communication becomes critical. As we head toward the 21st century and the wealth of opportunity it holds for disseminating information, FSO is on the brink of being able to tap into audiences heretofore unreachable. We must redefine our communication network and capitalize on the accessibility people now have to information.

To that end, we have increased our technological capabilities and have zoomed up the on-ramp of the information highway. Our new e-mail address is: Fndseaotrtr@aol.com. Please use it. Also under construction is a FSO Home Page on the Internet. Look for it in the months ahead.

Finally, let me know your thoughts on how to get our message out.

— Susan Brown
Executive Director
Under the U.S./Russia Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection, a workshop on sea otter biology was held from September 7 to 12, 1995 at Paratunka, near Petropavloask on the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian far-east. In Russia, sea otters occur along areas of the Kamchatka Peninsula, Commander Islands and Kuril Islands and are listed in the Russian Red Book of rare and endangered species. The status of these populations, as well as the California and Alaska sea otter populations, was discussed.

Russian presentations included discussions of: 1) protection of sea otters in the Kamchatka and Commander Islands regions including concerns about poaching in these areas, 2) research techniques to determine foraging patterns on Medniy Island, 3) comparative studies of benthic communities in areas with sea otters including Medniy Island, Cape Drovenskiy, and Glinka Harbor over several time periods, 4) sea otter abundance and productivity at Bering Island, Commander Islands and Cape Lopatka, 5) sea otter age evaluation, 6) genetic variability in sea otters throughout their range in Russia, and 7) brown bear predation on sea otters at Cape Lopatka.

Presentations of the U.S. delegation included discussions of: 1) California's oil spill prevention and response program, 2) radio telemetry studies on drift patterns of simulated sea otter carcasses in California, 3) effects of hydrocarbons on sea otter reproductive capabilities, 4) methods of estimating genetic diversity using mitochondrial DNA, 5) harvest levels and patterns of sea otters by Alaska Natives, 6) potential sea otter-fisheries conflicts in Washington State, 7) effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill on post-weaning survival of sea otters, and 8) status of the Alaska sea otter stock.

Delegates from the U.S. represented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Biological Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Russian participants attended from Kamchatka Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Kamchatka Institute of Ecology, Russia Academy of Sciences, Kronotski Zapovednik, and Kamchatka Fish Inspection Agency.

Several collaborative activities are being considered for future work by the Russian and American scientists including joint research efforts in both countries. Research activities may include: 1) exchange of sea otter tissues for comparative studies of genetics, contaminants and other life history data, 2) historical research on the history of sea otter harvest in Russia and Alaska waters in the 1800s, 3) benthic community research, 4) hydrocarbon fingerprinting of oil in Russia waters, 5) sea otter diving behavior, 6) training on tagging and capture techniques.

The next joint U.S./Russia sea otter workshop is planned for 1997 near Seattle, Washington. Sea otter specialists from Canada, Japan and Mexico will also be invited to participate.

Carol Gorbics is a wildlife biologist and the Sea Otter program leader for the USFWS in Alaska.
The Endangered Species Conservation and Management Act bill (HR 2275), introduced by Representatives Don Young (R-AK) and Richard Pombo (R-CA), will eliminate vital protections for all marine animals except fish.

Although this bill is only one of several we will see in the House and Senate during the next few months, its extreme provisions require that we act now.

We must send a message to our elected Representatives that we will not stand for massive extinctions and habitat destruction in the name of short-term economic opportunity to benefit big business and industry.

**What the Young/Pombo bill does:**
Abandons the ESA’s fundamental goal of recovering threatened and endangered species.

*Under this bill the Secretary of Interior could choose to take no action to prevent sea otters from becoming extinct.*

Severely limits habitat protection.

*Under the Young/Pombo bill, protection of sea otters from incidental takes in gill nets could be reversed, and our coast could be opened again for oil leasing and drilling.*

Abandons existing recovery plans.

*The proposed bill will waste millions in taxpayer dollars by abandoning recovery plans already developed for species’ recovery—it sets up new entitlement programs for landowners, and creates new bureaucratic hurdles for the listing and recovery of threatened and endangered species.*

In your letters, mention that you are a voter in your representative’s district, and that the Endangered Species Act is important to you.

Tell your representative to oppose the Young/Pombo bill (HR 2275) because it will eliminate vital protections for

**Sample Letter to Your Representative**

Date
The Honorable (Your Representative’s full name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman (Your Representative’s last name),

As a voter in your district, I am urging you to oppose the Young/Pombo bill (HR 2275) and instead, co-sponsor and support the Gilcrest bill (HR 2374).

It is critical in every aspect to preserve the Endangered Species Act. The Young/Pombo bill is much too extreme, and will eliminate protection for sea otters, the great whales, sea turtles, sea lions, seals and other marine mammals, which are vitally important for the natural and economic health of this region. They not only enhance the tourism industry but are also an important aspect of the health of the oceans, assisting in the preservation of the kelp beds and therefore the sustenance of fish for that industry. As a resident of this area, the presence of these animals is very important to me, and I work to preserve their habitat.

I cannot emphasize the importance I put on a vote against HR 2275 and your support of HR 2374. These animals deserve our protection. I look forward to hearing your position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Your name

c: The Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House

Note: Address for Newt Gingrich is the same as for your Representative.
Sample Letter to Your State Senators
(Please send one to each senator)

Date
The Honorable (Your Senator’s full name)
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator (Your Senator’s last name),

I am urging you to oppose any legislation that will weaken the Endangered Species Act. The bill introduced by Senator Slade Gorton earlier this year is one example of the type of bill I feel is too extreme to be tolerated by the environment, or by the majority of voters in this state.

It is critical in every aspect to preserve the strong, protective essence of the ESA. A bill such as Mr. Gorton’s will eliminate protection for otters, and will threaten the natural and economic health of this region. The health of the oceans determines not only the health of its associated wildlife, it sustains the businesses directly and indirectly dependent on those resources.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance I put on a vote against any weakening of the ESA. I sincerely believe that the reauthorization period can be used in a positive way to streamline management agencies and the regulatory process, while at the same time protecting business interests by promoting the diversity and recovery of our natural resources. Bills such as Mr. Gorton’s do not achieve this objective, and I hope you share the same point of view. I look forward to hearing your position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Your name

c: The Honorable Bob Dole, Senate Majority leader
Note: Address for Senator Bob Dole is the same as for your senator.

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We Want To Know
Tell Us What You Can Do To Help

Please let FSO know whether you sent a letter (or letters), the response, and whether you can be on a Fast Action Alert telephone tree.

Please complete the following, clip, and return it to:

Friends of the Sea Otter
2150 Garden Road, Suite B4
Monterey, CA 93940

☐ Yes, I wrote a letter to my Representative urging him/her to not support the Young/Pombo ESA bill (HR 2275) because it would remove conservation protections I feel are very important.

☐ My Representative’s name is:

☐ I can be on a telephone tree to make calls to my Representative in Washington, DC when issues are hot and timing is critical.

☐ I can act as a Telephone Tree Captain in my area, and make calls to activate others on ESA reauthorization issues when instructed by FSO.

☐ I would like more information on the Young/Pombo bill or other ESA reauthorization issues.

☐ My name, address and telephone number are:

☐ I am a FSO member.

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Continued from previous page

marine wildlife, including sea otters. Tell them that if they are a cosponsor you want them to withdraw their support immediately. Ask them to instead cosponsor the Gilcrest bill (HR 2374).

Use examples from your own experience (such as your strong interest in sea otter conservation and recovery) to personalize your letter.

Thank you!

On behalf of FSO, and most important, on behalf of the sea otters and other plants and animals that cannot speak out on the ESA without your voice.
The Otters Land at California State University, Monterey Bay

—by Dr. Jim Rote, Ph.D.

What do you do with a defunct army base? In Monterey you turn it into one of the most innovative and inventive new universities in the country.

At its helm you put someone whose vision of the university experience for students is to create graduates that will have an understanding of interdependence and global competence, distinctive technical and educational skills, the experience and abilities to contribute to California’s high quality work force, the critical thinking abilities to be productive citizens, and the social responsibility and skills to be community builders.

Certainly, high goals, but from my perspective as a new teacher in this creative environment, ones that are at the core of establishing an educational curriculum for students on the cusp of the 21st century.

On August 28, 1995, the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) opened. That’s less than one year after the federal government conveyed Fort Ord land to the state. In the last eight months land has been cleared, buildings have been refurbished, staff has been hired and a curriculum, unlike any at other universities, has been developed. We have set high expectations, both of staff and of the students, to embrace an educational environment that is untried and untested.

It’s a challenge that all of us at CSUMB are willing and eager to take, however. When I came on board to help establish the Science, Technology and Information Resources Center I was intrigued and excited about participating in a university program that provides a forum for students to be active participants in their college experience.

As a marine biologist, I am well aware of the limited employment opportunities inherent in my profession. But imagine, if you will, the idea of graduating from college with both an understanding of the marine environment and the skills to use that knowledge to help implement policy decisions that would encourage protection of our oceans, and you’ll grasp the heart of this program.

My focus for the Earth System Science and Policy Institute is to expose students to the whole gamut of what’s going on in the environmental community, to discuss how human activity impacts the wildlife and habitat throughout the bay and sanctuary, and to provide an understanding of the jurisdiction of the various government agencies and the management role they play.

With that in mind, my hope is that students will graduate with a better appreciation of how policy decisions are made; are they and should they be politically or economically driven, and if so, what should that balance be? If I can accomplish that goal, I know students will have a better chance job hunting, and will also know not just how government works but how to get it to work for the community in which they live.

Additionally, each student, as a requirement for graduation, will have to be proficient in two languages and must complete 40 community service hours through CSUMB’s Service Learning Program, a method through which citizenship, academic subjects, skills, and values are taught. FSO is a participant in this program and currently has five students out each week monitoring how recreational users of the bay affect otters and their habitat.

My long term goal is to establish a marine and coastal resource policy program as its own institute at CSUMB. In the short term, however, the business of creating a university out of an army base will continue.

Jim Rote is a professor of Earth Systems Science and Policy at CSUMB. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford University and has lived in Carmel for the past 28 years. His research at Hopkins Marine Station analyzed chemical pollutants in sea otters and their food change.
Farewell Jo Stallard,
You Will Long Be Remembered

Friends of the Sea Otter has been fortunate throughout the years to count as its supporters many people who have an unbending commitment and dedication to preserving the wildlife around us. We are saddened by the recent loss of one such remarkable woman.

Jo Stallard was a lover of sea otters, a protector of brown pelicans and mountain lions, and an idealistic visionary whose contributions to the environmental movement in Monterey County, California were without parallel.

Jo had an abiding affection for sea otters. She was instrumental in and greatly supportive of the establishment of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at the Monterey County SPCA which was home to the first otter rehabilitation program on the peninsula.

She and Margaret Owings, FSO's founding president, shared a love of many things, not the least of which were the sea otters off California's coast. Margaret and Jo spent many a time together reminiscing about the beauty of New Mexico, a spot both of them loved. Jo would speak with fondness about the crumbled, old adobes where she lived and the gathering of stray dogs and coyotes crying in the night with whom she shared her life. Those were her friends, her true friends, and one of the sources of her abiding interest in and affinity for all wildlife.

With Margaret, she listened to the cries from sea otters, sea lions, mountain lions, and the dwindling flocks of California's coastal shorebirds. They listened, they heard the call of these endangered wildlife and they united to save them from the ever-constant effects of mankind.

As a member of the Monterey County Planning Commissioner Jo often stood alone, voicing her concern on matters of wildlife habitat protection and enhancement during the review process for new developments.

"The feeling of open space is important to one's very soul," she said.

In recognition of her life-long efforts serving the environmental community of Monterey County, the Jo Stallard Wilderness Area was established last spring in the beauty of the Santa Lucia mountain range.

Her voice is now silenced, but its message will resonate for years to come.

Following is a prayer that hung in Jo Stallard's home.

A Prayer for Animals
by Albert Schweitzer

"Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful."

The Truth About Species Preservation

Continued from page 1

Crisis while time still remained to take action. The increasing frequency with which these warnings are sounding today does not mean that something is wrong with the alarm. It signals unsustainable use of natural resources — over-harvesting timber, pollution, destruction of wetlands and other habitats vital to both wildlife and human health.

Until we change our ways, such problems will exist whether or not we have an Endangered Species Act. Congress may change the Act, but it cannot repeal the laws of nature.

Mollie Beattie is director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This editorial first appeared in Common Ground (Vol. 6, No. 6), a publication of The Conservation Fund. It was excerpted from a speech Beattie made to the Society of Environmental Journalists.
Wildlife Diseases
Facts & Figures

Duck plague, a devastating, contagious herpesvirus was unknown in North America until a 1967 outbreak in the Peking duck industry on Long Island, New York. Then, in January 1973, more than 40,000 of 100,000 waterfowl died from duck plague at Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota. It was an unprecedented tragedy — and it was the impetus for the creation of the National Wildlife Health Research Center.

Avian botulism has killed more than a million birds in localized outbreaks in one year, outbreaks that kill 50,000 or more birds are fairly common. Center researchers believe that avian botulism could be the most important disease of migratory birds. As with avian cholera, the number of botulism cases has increased rapidly during the last 20 years, perhaps because of habitat alteration.

Center researchers have discovered unexplainable tumors in 10 percent of the wild population of Mississippi sandhill cranes, listed as a species threatened with extinction.

Animals raised in captivity and then released into the wild may introduce new diseases into the free-living population. Or, in contrast, the immune systems of captive-raised animals sometimes don’t cope very well with diseases animals encounter in the wild; a special concern within captive-raised. Center researchers, for example, are studying or confirming the role of disease in such endangered species as red wolves and whooping cranes. Canine heartworm may prove to be a serious threat to red wolf reintroduction; avian tuberculosis is a major disease problem in at least one flock of whooping cranes.

National Wildlife Health Center
by Dr. Lynn Creekmore

The National Biological Service’s National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) provides technical assistance and research on wildlife health/disease issues. We serve U.S. Department of Interior agencies throughout the United States and its territories. Our Center is staffed by a wide-range of professionals with expertise in diseases of free-ranging wildlife. These specialists include wildlife biologists, wildlife veterinarians, epidemiologists, veterinary pathologists, laboratory professionals in parasitology, microbiology, virology, and toxicology, biological technicians, and a biometrician.

If the link between the disease agent and the actual occurrence of a disease problem is not clear, NWHC seeks funding to conduct more focused studies to investigate the disease process in order to find ways to interrupt or prevent the disease cycle. We are also involved in the development of new techniques for the detection and control of wildlife diseases.

Collaboration Is a Must

FSO’s primary concern in the first day or two of the sea otter die-off this summer was whether we were seeing the beginning of some mysterious epidemic that would ripple through, perhaps even decimate, the southern sea otter population. Several months later, we are still dealing with the mystery of why and how the otters died, but there is tremendous relief that the deaths were localized, short-term, and ended without ravishing the population.

But our relief is far from complete. This mortality event simply added to our list of “unknowns” regarding the
Eleven Sea Otters Dead — Why?

Sea Otter Mortality Study May Provide Answers

by Dr. Lynn Creekmore

In July of this year, 11 southern sea otters were found sick or dead in Monterey County, California. The otter mortalities occurred over a short period of time, July 16-25, in the Monterey Harbor/Del Monte Beach area. Two of the otters were found alive, but both died despite supportive treatment received at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Mortality events involving groups of sea otters are unusual and a multiagency investigation involving the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Sea Otter Project, CDFG Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program, Marine Mammal Center (MMC), Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA), National Biological Service (NBS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was launched. Necropsies and diagnostic tests on 10 of the 11 animals were performed at NWHC and additional tests were performed through the CDFG and the MBA. The remaining animal, a decomposed otter found on July 25 was necropsied by the CDFG Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program and MBA personnel.

In addition to information collected from the animals found sick or dead, samples were collected from apparently healthy Monterey Bay sea otters to look for exposure to toxic and infectious agents. Mussels were collected from the Monterey harbor area to look for evidence of red tide toxins. A NWHC wildlife disease specialist traveled to Monterey to help collect additional epidemiological information. Through the course of the investigation, a great deal of useful information and potential leads were discovered, but no cause of the mortality has yet been identified.

Common causes of death in southern sea otters have been ruled out and many unusual infectious and toxic agents have been explored. No additional otters have been found sick or dead in the Monterey harbor area since July 25. The investigation is continuing.

Material for this article was provided by Dr. Lynn Creekmore, Wildlife Disease Specialist. She works at the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin and was involved in the investigation of the Monterey Harbor southern sea otter mortality event.

1st When Identifying How To Care For Sea Otters

by Ellen Faurot-Daniels

sea otter population status. Why does the population grow at only one-third the rate of otter populations in Washington state or Alaska? Why do only 50% of the pups survive to weaning (compared to an 85% survival in Alaska)? What role are environmental contaminants, such as trace metals or pesticides, playing when it comes to sea otter reproductive success or immune suppression? Why, in the face of an increased “need to know,” do we have politicians slashing the budgets and programs of biologists and managers struggling to advance the barest of toeholds in species and ecosystem recovery?

There is a message those 11 sea otters that died this summer in Monterey are passing on, and it is this, we need more attention to the plight of sea otters, not less. We need a renewed acknowledgement by politicians and agency managers that sea otters are the canary in the marine coalmine that we can use or ignore to our peril.

FSO’s concern for sea otters goes well beyond their photogenic good looks. Sea otters indicate whether our ecosystems, and the economies and human health dependent on those systems, are healthy or failing. We need a concerted redirection of our politicians to financially support the management agencies and biologists involved in sea otter issues (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Biological Service, the California Department of Fish and Game). We need those same agencies to sit down together and do some long-range strategic planning, and we need monies targeted specifically at elucidating what is killing sea otters.

The sea otters gave us a wake up call. It’s time to listen.
1995’s Annual Meeting
A Huge Success

A rousing round of applause to all who participated in this year’s Annual Meeting. Members came from far and wide to bask in the glory of the Monterey Peninsula and the sea otters that enrich the area. Each year we at FSO are renewed by you, our members’, excitement and joy at being near the remarkable creature we’re entrusted with protecting. Thank you for letting us share in your joy.

Thanks go out to a cadre of people and businesses who helped make this year’s meeting a success. Of course, we continue to benefit from the generosity of the Monterey Bay Aquarium which donates the use of the auditorium each year.

Thanks to Norm Hoffmann, the Area Manager for the National Weather Service based in Monterey. He helped us understand that the weather is more than just something at which to be mad. Our meeting presentation was also enlivened by four 4th grade students from Robert Down School in Pacific Grove. They enlightened us about their thoughts on sea otters.

Every year we try something new. This year we offered kayak trips to those interested in seeing an otter’s-eye view of the bay. Many thanks to the staff at Monterey Bay Kayaks for helping out.

Our annual boat trip just would not take place without the assistance of Randy’s Fishing Trips, a locally owned and operated outfit.

Our Open House has become a smorgasbord of great food, all donated by local companies. Our sincere thanks to Driscoll Strawberry Associates Inc., Nob Hill Foods, Allegro Pizzeria, Safeway, Aronson’s Deli, From Scratch Restaurant, Carmel Crumpet, Pezzini Farms, Fresh Express, the Fish Hopper Restaurant, Katy Curry, and A Taste of Monterey.

Special thanks go to The Monterey Vineyard, our newest corporate sponsor. FSO benefits from the sale of Sea Otter Melody wine. With each case sold The Monterey Vineyard makes a donation to FSO.

Raffles this year were made possible through the generosity of Randy Puckett, Patagonia, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

This year’s meeting was great. See you next year!

Monterey Bay Sanctuary
Special Issue License Plate

The Sanctuary plate, with its fetching image of a sea otter, is one of the latest in a series of commemorative environmental license plates to be issued in California. These plates raise money for both specific causes, such as the Sanctuary, and for the California Environmental License Plate Fund, which provides money to buy park land and preserve habitat.

Special legislation authored by State Sen. Henry Mello (D-Watsonville) allowed a plate to be created depicting the features or qualities of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The law was signed by Gov. Pete Wilson Sept. 14, 1994.

“This plate provides a meaningful state commitment to the Sanctuary, while at the same time giving members of the public a way to show their enthusiasm about the beauty of the Monterey Bay,” Mello said when the bill was signed.

The plate costs $50 per vehicle the first year and $40 each renewal year. The cost for personalized plates is $90 for the first year and $65 each renewal year. Plates will be issued once 5,000 paid applications are received by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the agency sponsoring the license plate. Deadline for applications is Dec. 31, 1995, though an extension may be granted.

Revenues generated by the plate will support the Sanctuary’s public information and education programs, an area that has been deemed a top priority by the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The plate would generate revenues of at least $100,000 per year for this purpose and will do so for many years to come. Additionally, the plate itself will promote the Sanctuary as it is seen on roads throughout the state of California. In these ways, the commemorative license plate will be the Sanctuary’s number one good will ambassador.
Special Thanks

It is with great appreciation that we thank the following contributors for their generous support of our special programs and events.

Many thanks to the Catherine L. and Robert O. McMahan Foundation for their assistance in funding the new educational kiosk at the Center.

We’re grateful to The Hunt Foundation for their continued interest and ongoing support.

A heartfelt thanks to member Allan Stone for his very generous donation.

Thanks to Julie Payne, and Trustees Jim Mattison and Ann Woodward who were responsible for sending staff to computer training.

It is with great appreciation that we thank Beverly Fabric’s of Salinas for their donation of material that helped in our educational efforts.

Kudos to volunteer Lois Sawyer and Center Director Sarah Pearson for their donation of merchandise displays for the Center.

Our gratitude to Colleen McCormick, harpist extraordinaire.

And finally, many times FSO receives generous contributions from those who want to remain anonymous — thanks to all of you.

Volunteer Notes

Without the many volunteers who graciously donate their time to FSO we would not accomplish many of the things we do. Our educational and retail Center is operated predominately by volunteers who are not only experts on retail sales, but act as docents for visitors with questions about sea otters and their marine habitat.

Much of the folding and stuffing of information done at the administrative office is completed by volunteers. We also have a number of very skilled computer people who are great at data entry and help us keep track of the many requests for information we receive at the office and the Center.

Just recently, we entered into a collaborative arrangement with the new California State University, Monterey Bay’s Service Learning Program. Students at the university must complete community service hours as a graduation requirement. We’re lucky to have five students who are helping to staff our Otter Spotting program. They’re out collecting data on otters and otter habitat as well as acting as ambassadors for FSO to the hordes of tourists visiting the area.

We are tremendously appreciative of the service all of our volunteers provide.

A hearty welcome goes out to new volunteers Tuana Keene, Lysa Francis, Pat Goetz, Anna Garcia, Rebecca Dunlap, Candy Stout, Hiroshi Nakao, Kathie Decker, Lewis Rogers, and Judy Cammer.

Book Review

Seals and Sea Lions
by David George Gordon

- 64 pages
- more than 75 color photographs
- species list

This latest offering from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Natural History series is an in-depth look at the fascinating lives of pinnipeds with a particular focus on five species — California sea lion, Steller sea lions, northern elephant seals, northern fur seals and harbor seals. It is an excellent general reference book touching on issues from life and death to feeding and breeding to migration and play.

Additionally it includes information on the endangered Steller sea lion population in Alaska as well as a look at the ongoing threats to these fascinating mammals.

Available through the Monterey Bay Aquarium at 408/648-4888.
### Benefactors

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our most recent benefactors who contributed $500 or more.

- Cathy Cole  
  New York City, NY
- Lucie Easley  
  Pensacola, FL
- Happy Fitzgerald  
  Carmel, CA

![Photo by Dennis Maricotes](image)

### Life Members

We deeply appreciate our new life members who chose to join or renew their membership at $200.

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<td>Hawthorne, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Wales</td>
<td>Manhattan Beach, CA</td>
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The Otter Raft, Fall/Winter 1995
Memorial Gifts

Although we are saddened at the passage of our friends, our hearts are lighter with the knowledge that their loved ones have chosen to honor their memory with a lasting gift — assistance in the preservation of a rare and threatened species, the southern sea otter. We proudly acknowledge these gifts in memory of . . .

Morley Bear from
Margaret W. Owings
Libby Ballard from
Margaret W. Owings
Rose L. Bellucci from
Georgette Bellucci
Bonnie from Hermine Beck
California Highways from
Susan Sanford
Dr. Ivan T. Christie from
Jean Mann MacDonald
Valeria DaCosta from
Robert Da Costa
Valeria DaCosta from the staff of
Friends of the Sea Otter
Margaret Estrada from
Doug & Judy Barnwell
Jean Eyre from Lucy Jane Owens
Frosty, beloved cat of
Laurie & Jeffery Mass
Jackie Geiser from Andrew Geiser
Edward Gilpin from Lindsay Mohn
Margaret Grayson from
Olga E. Kennedy
Jean Kellogg from
Margaret W. Owings
Ann Lampl from the officers of
the Santa Ana Police Department
Mimi McKeel from Frank M. McKeel
Mimi McKeel from Don Christianson
Mimi McKeel from
Norma & Brooks Marlar
Mimi McKeel from the staff of Friends of the Sea Otter
Mrs. John King from Helen Ireland
Muffin from Amber Bradford
Robert Neuhaus from
Mr. & Mrs. Rawlinson Reade
Robert Neuhaus from
Alden & Shirley Peterson
Robert Neuhaus from
Gerald & Dorothy Crane
Robert Neuhaus from
Carl & Akiko Owen
Peaches, Honey and their friends from
Larry and Janet Brown
Douglas Ramga from
Reggie & Kelly Kramer
William Rogers Sr. from
Laurie Mass
Evelyn Shack from Laurie Mass
Jim Shaughnessy from
Edwin Shaughnessy
Jo Stallard from
Margaret W. Owings
Eleanor Stewart from
Phyllis R. Morrow
Janice Wolff from
Jenny & Gary Cox-Steiner
Janice Wolff from
Lieselotte & John Witschel
Janice Wolff from Lynn, Diane, Gail, Roxee, Wanda, John, Peggy, Mary, Pam, Tori, Terre, Lilliann and Nan

". . . the flow of time, obliterating yet containing all that has gone before — the sea's eternal rhythms, the tides, the beat of the surf, the pressing rivers of currents . . . the stream of life flowing as inexorably as any ocean current from past to unknown future . . ."
— Rachel Carson

Jennifer C. Richardson
Australia — June 8, 1995
We associate the widening circles from an otter’s dive with the growing accomplishments of our work and the growing needs of our organization.

Many of our Life Members continue to make substantial contributions, thus helping the circles to expand.

Following are members who added another circle to the otter’s dive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Cowart</td>
<td>Cedar Crest, NM</td>
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<td>Chesney Grizzard</td>
<td>Ashland, VA</td>
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<td>Mitchell Kilbaner</td>
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<td>Hazel M. Koskenlinna</td>
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<td>Deborah Lockett</td>
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<td>Margaret Owings Big Sur, CA</td>
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The Otter Raft is a twice-yearly publication designed to educate the public about the mission of Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO), increase awareness of the situation and needs of the sea otter, and recognize those who contribute to meeting those needs.

The Otter Raft Staff
Executive Editor • Susan Brown

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(408) 373-2747 • Fax (408) 373-2749
Email: Fndseato@aol.com

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The Otter Raft, Fall/Winter 1995
Our Mission

Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1968 dedicated to the protection of a rare and threatened species, the southern sea otter, as well as sea otters throughout their north Pacific range, and all sea otter habitat.