A full-house gathered on October 18 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium to honor three heroes who founded the Mountain Lion Foundation. Those founders in turn helped honor three new heroes who continue our tradition of protecting California wildlife.

Singer, actor and Animal Planet regular, Olivia Newton-John served as master of ceremonies for the event, welcoming the crowd and thanking the Aquarium for hosting the event. Congressman Sam Farr and his wife Shary then offered a moving tribute to MLF Founder and President Emeritus Margaret Owings. Newton-John declared, to much applause, “Margaret Owings is who I want to be when I grow up.” Newton-John then presented Owings with notice from the celestial registry that a star has been named after her.

Caitlin Rivers, MLF Anti-Poaching Campaign Director, awarded the first annual Margaret Owings Anti-Poaching Award to DFG Warden Dave Bezzone who recently busted a million dollar abalone poaching ring (see story, page 5). Accepting the award on behalf of Bezzone, and receiving recognition of his own, was Sonoma County Deputy District Attorney Brooke Halsey. Halsey orchestrated prosecution of the ring which sent five of the seventeen poachers to San Quentin.

MLF President Kathy Fletcher then offered her tribute to another founder, immediate past president Bill Yeates. Yeates served as president of MLF for seven of its eleven years and saw the Foundation through two successful initiative campaigns. As a token of MLF’s respect and affection, Fletcher presented Yeates with a hand-written poem by Margaret Owings. The poem lamented the killing of a particular lion, a death that prompted her to begin the mountain lion protection movement.

Yeates then invited Margaret Owings to join him in a moving tribute to the late Senator Fred Farr who successfully authored the bill continued on page 9
Start-up work is underway on the Mountain Lion Foundation's new legal defense program, which now has a name and its first legal fellow.

The new program is called the California Legal Advocates for Wildlife, which will be known by the acronym CLAW.

The goals of the new legal program, which were outlined in the recently-approved MLF strategic plan, is to provide low-cost or free legal assistance for small, grassroots wildlife groups in California.

When fully implemented in 1998, CLAW will match the grassroots groups with private law firms willing to do pro bono work on their behalf. CLAW will also make extensive use of law students to help with legal research.

At a dinner honoring MLF founders held in Monterey in October, MLF awarded the Fred Farr Legal Fellowship to Mary Akens, a law student who will graduate next May from the Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. The late Farr was a long-time mountain lion supporter who represented the Monterey area in the State Senate for 10 years.

The fellowship was presented to Akens by Fred Farr's son, Sam Farr, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the Monterey area.

For the past six months, Akens has worked as a law clerk for Bill Yeates, a Sacramento environmental attorney and co-founder and former President of the Board of Directors of MLF.

She has also worked as an intern for the Consumer and Environmental Protection Division of the Sacramento District Attorney's office.

On her first day on the job, she was given the challenge of helping staff create a catchy name for the legal project that would reflect its work.

She not only suggested the name, but did the legal groundwork necessary to protect it from use by other groups.

Funding for start-up work for the program has been provided by the Elise and Giles Mead Foundation, donations from individuals and money raised from the Monterey event.

For more information on the project or to provide financial support, contact MLF staff member Tom Martens in the Sacramento office.
With the passage of SB 879 by Senator Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) was amended to the joy of many environmentalists and to the skepticism of others. Using the standard established by our Core Values Statement “We will measure our success by how well it works for wildlife,” MLF staff and attorneys believe wildlife is better protected now than before the passage of SB 879. See box below.

It should be noted that while this bill was moving through the legislature, a lower court decision (thanks to a lawsuit filed by MLF and several other groups under the direction of our own AW director Bill Yeates) had said that DFG had no authority to issue any take permits. The court then told the developers if they wanted this fixed not to come to the courts but to take it to the legislature. Needless to say, that is what they did!

Several groups felt that the court decision meant environmentalists had the upper hand and should gamble for more protections than even SB 879 contained. If the gamble had been money, MLF might have agreed, but the risk was to living creatures. When the existence of a species is at stake, we believe the risk ratio must, of necessity, be more conservative.

In general, SB 879 makes CESA more like the federal endangered species act which is considered to be a stronger law continued on page 4

OLD CESA

1. There were no provisions for any standards to determine under what, if any, circumstances permits to kill endangered species and destroy habitat (take permits) could be issued.

2. Permits to kill endangered species and destroy habitat were routinely issued by the Department of Fish and Game with no standards, no public comment and no scrutiny. Thus far, we have discovered 138 such permits that have been issued.

3. There were no provisions to require developers to consider other alternatives to their plan to destroy habitat or to sufficiently explain why this permit is needed.

4. Finally, there were no provisions to require developers to minimize the damage they cause nor to mitigate the impacts of that damage to endangered species. While strong DFG officials occasionally forced developers to set aside additional land to help endangered species out, at other times developers could simply throw a few dollars into a “land bank” pot and call it even, even when that land bank did not contain lands similar to those destroyed. Further, the Attorney General had issued an opinion that destruction of habitat did not constitute take of a species.

NEW CESA after SB 879

1. Now there can be no “take” permit if the permit would preclude either survival or recovery of an endangered species. Now DFG cannot issue a permit if it is inconsistent with the legislative policies and goals of CESA. That includes the purpose of CESA which is to conserve, protect, restore and enhance the status of endangered species.

2. Now there can be no “take” permit without providing public notice and a 30-day review period. This is an important opportunity for local wildlife activists to make a difference.

3. Now, permittees must consider alternatives to their plan and provide sufficient reason why the alternatives are not being implemented.

4. Now, permittees must minimize and fully mitigate the direct and indirect impacts on affected species. By referring to indirect impacts, this new law finally makes it legally clear that destruction of habitat will mean harm to a species. And the plan must include legally binding assurances that it can be implemented. This provision alone would have been an enormous victory for wildlife.
Special Featured Volunteer

Carrol McDonald is one Southern California’s leading lights in wildlife efforts. A self-taught expert on the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Endangered Species Act, Carrol is one of the few “average folk” who have managed to master the public process.

“One of the most difficult things for the citizenry to affect protection of their wildlife is the largely hidden nature of the legislative process,” McDonald laments. She recounts numerous times she tried to get information from the Resources Committee members as the Prop 197 battle began. In another effort, she would travel all the way to a hearing only to discover the dates or times had been changed. It is so difficult to integrate the public into the legislative process,” she adds.

In the early days of her own activism, she says she was shocked to discover that two elements of a general plan — conservation and open space — are actually rights of the citizenry. It was not long before she realized that the provisions of open space included wildlife. Her city of Thousand Oaks has not been the same since. In fact, MLF is designing a program based on those successes that will assist the grassroots in including wildlife protection elements into their cities’ general plans.

McDonald also represents MLF and helps coordinate public outreach. Just last week she was a featured guest at Patagonia talking about MLF, mountain lions, land use and of course how people can get involved in wildlife protection. She has also been active in wildlife initiative campaigns and is currently coordinating signature gathering for ProPAW, the anti-trapping initiative.

McDonald worries that increasing urbanization is causing many people to lose direct contact with wild animals and wild places. She is concerned that the deep emotions people feel toward other living creatures may be lost as these bonds disintegrate. It motivates her to keep fighting.

“I want to keep the wild and life in wildlife, the ark in park, the wild in wilderness and the kind in mankind,” McDonald explains.

CESA continued from page 3

than CESA. Does this make it good? Not necessarily. For example, just this last week the federal government declared five species extinct — species that they had not even gotten around to listing as endangered. Make no mistake however, SB 879, especially combined with other existing law such as the California Environmental Quality Act, does provide more protection than without its passage.

So, for those who use CESA as a shield to protect endangered species, this bill is a tremendous improvement. For those who would use CESA as a sword to stop all development, this bill is not the panacea for which they hoped.

We are extremely grateful to the Planning and Conservation League, the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club for their guidance of this bill as it moved through the process. We are equally grateful to those who fought its passage in hopes of getting something better. We will continue working with both factions to make CESA and other laws work better for our wildlife.
A t its Founder’s Gala on Saturday, October 18, the Mountain Lion Foundation presented Department of Fish & Game Warden Dave Bezzone with its first annual “Margaret Owings Anti-Poaching Award.” Working much of the case on his own time, Warden Bezzone succeeded in busting the biggest felony poaching operation in California’s history.

What began as an offhand comment from a Santa Rosa resident in 1993, ultimately led Bezzone to an international poaching ring operating out of San Diego. Using Sonoma County poachers to strip the north coast of its abalone— a rare, delicious and protected mollusk— the poachers then distributed their contraband via a San Diego seafood dealer to restaurants in Los Angeles, New York, Japan and China. Before they were caught, these criminals had stripped 10,000 abalone worth $1 million in California’s beautiful and fragile coastline.

Working day and night, Bezzone went undercover to tail suspects and identify restaurant buyers. He also infiltrated the poaching ring itself, recording incriminating conversations, identifying co-conspirators, and unraveling a complex, worldwide operation. But the finest moment, according to Bezzone, occurred at the San Francisco International Airport. Having intercepted an illegal shipment to San Diego, DFG officials then escorted both the poachers and the abalone back to San Francisco. When Dave cracked open one of the boxes to reveal the stolen abalone he finally felt a sense of completion. It was not, however, the end of the story.

Bezzone, who is now warden for South Lake Tahoe, was unable to attend the event in Monterey. Accepting the award on his behalf was Brooke Halsey, a friend, colleague and Sonoma County Assistant District Attorney who worked closely with Bezzone on this case. Thanks to the vision and commitment of Warden Bezzone and D.A. Halsey the sentences in this case were the most severe ever handed down in a California poaching case. Seventeen suspects were convicted of felony conspiracy, resulting in jail time for them all and fines ranging from $7,000-$50,000. Five of the defendants in this case — which biologists fear may have “threatened the sustainability of this vital resource”— are serving time in San Quentin.

The Mountain Foundation also wishes to thank Sam and Mary Mills of the Vanguard Foundation, the Regina Frankenberg Foundation for Animal Welfare, and wildlife artist Dwight Lutsey. Their support has been instrumental in realizing both the award and its advancement of poaching prevention.

For more information on this and other Anti-Poaching Programs, please contact Caitlin Rivers.
new t-shirts!

Your family and friends will all want this magnificent T-shirt designed for the Mountain Lion Foundation by artist Gaylord Bennett. The T-shirt comes in either white or natural with 4-color imprint. Available in sizes S/M/L/XL/XXL. $15.95 plus tax (7.75% CA residents)
Shipping: $2.00 >

Also available are a limited number of our special commemorative T-shirts which celebrate MLF's ten years of protecting California's wildlife (1986-1996.) T-shirts are available in white and natural in small and medium; in white only in sizes L/XL/XXL. $15.95 plus tax (7.75% for CA residents) Shipping: $2.00

1998 mountain lion calendar

Track the coming year and the wild cougar with a new 1998 calendar! Each month brings a new and startlingly beautiful color portrait of this magnificent predator. With stunning images captured by wildlife photographer Denver Bryan, this calendar will enhance the days and months of all who receive it. $10.95 plus tax (7.75% for CA residents) Shipping: $3.00

wild holiday gifts

cat and mouse

Now you can keep the Mountain Lion Foundation at your fingertips with the MLF mousepad. What a lovely gift for the computer buffs on your holiday list! The art on this handsome mousepad is the same beautiful illustration by Gaylord Bennett featured on our new MLF T-shirt. $10.95 plus tax (7.75% for CA residents) Shipping: $2.50 <

wild cougar key chain

Designed exclusively for MLF, this attractive bronze key chain features a bas relief image of a mountain lion. It will not only carry your keys but will serve as a reminder of why we need to protect this elusive creature. $8.95 plus tax (7.75% CA residents) Shipping: $2.00 <
christmas cards

We still have a limited number of the "Killens First Winter" greeting cards. Tom Brakefield's "Kitten in Snow" complements the holiday season with the simple greeting, "Wishing you a warm and joyous holiday with the ones you love". Cards are 7” x 4 7/8” in a box set of 15. $15.95 plus tax (7.75% for CA residents) and shipping ($3.00 >

cougar: the american lion

Written by Kevin Hansen in association with MLF, Cougar: The American Lion is the most definitive book to date on the mountain lion in North America!

This beautiful and informative book is enhanced by black and white illustrations, color photographs, and a forward written by Robert Redford.

< $19.95 plus tax (7.75% for CA residents)
Shipping: $2.00

christmas ornament

Add a golden snowflake ornament to your Christmas decorating or wrap it up for a special person. These ornaments with a image of a cougar in the center make wonderful stocking stuffers too! Ornaments are packaged in individual polybags. < $7.95 plus tax (7.75% for CA residents) Shipping ($1.50)

adopt-a-lion gift package

The Adopt-A-Lion is a wonderful gift for the young person on your list. It is a great way to tell them about the behavior and characteristics of this magnificent animal. Please note, the mountain lion is a wild and elusive creature and this is a symbolic adoption. One Year "Adoption" Fee is $25.00

When you Adopt-A-Lion, you'll receive:
1 Adoption Certificate which includes a photo of a mountain lion “adoptee”
2 Personalized adoption papers
3 Fact and survival sheets
4 Over the course of the next year, you will receive quarterly issues of MLF’s quarterly newsletter, “MLF Review.”
5 Personal satisfaction
Fish & Game Still Fighting Prop 117

In this and future newsletters, we will publish news clips and stories that graphically illustrate how much work there is to do on behalf of wildlife. We encourage you to submit well-documented anecdotes or short articles that speak for themselves and that can be reprinted in their entirety.

While reading a news item in the Redding Record Searchlight regarding a killed lion, MLF Director Lynn Sadler became suspicious that no necropsy had been done on the lion. Proposition 117 requires a necropsy on all lions killed under a depredation permit.

When the original bill that preceded Prop 117 was being formed, the necropsy provision was added with the blessing of the Department of Fish and Game. At the time, DFG wanted to learn more about cougars in general.

Further investigation of the recent incident in Redding revealed the following disclosure from a source close to the situation, “DFG officials told me they aren’t doing any necropsies. It’s too hard, too time consuming and too expensive.”

Suddenly, a few days later, in a Sacramento Bee story written by former DFG flak Steve Capps, DFG was bemoaning the fact that Prop 117 never gave them any money for necropsies. Ironically, DFG never asked for money for this purpose, either when the bill was being written or at any time since. They later whined to a Bay Area television station that the department had spent $21,000 on cougar issues. MLF would point out that is $21,000 out of a budget of $90 million.

In the Bee article, the Department’s lion guru Steve Torres made the bizarre remark that even the $30 million that Prop 117 provided for habitat for endangered species and wildlands and wildlife corridors could be better spent. We would point out that without the efforts of MLF volunteers and others, DFG would not have that funding to spend at all. Even Torres admits in the article “the biggest threat large mammals are facing right now is habitat loss.”

Basically, the folks at DFG just don’t get it. In 1990, their boss — the people of California — gave them an altered mission. The voters said they wanted some of their assets managed in a different way. Specifically they wanted mountain lions managed in a way that did not include trophy hunting.

Amazingly, these seven years later, DFG is still whining they don’t wanna. They are so mad that they even begrudge the $30 million per year that goes to fight habitat loss. They are so mad that they even drag their feet at performing scientific experiments that would help them better accomplish their mission. They even went back to the voters in 1996 and tried to talk the public out of their decision.

And when caught not doing their job, they came up with the lame excuse — after the fact — that they weren’t given any money to do it.

It is just this type of foot dragging and sabotage that is leading many states to consider complete reformation of their Fish and Game departments. That seems to be the only way the voters can tell their employees what to do and expect it to be done.

We’ve picked up information off the NRA’s web page that the gun lobby is working on a State constitutional amendment that would overturn Prop 117 and many other wildlife laws (such as CESA) by giving Fish and Game Commission absolute authority over all wildlife issues. They cite a twisted logic that wildlife issues should be removed from politics and left to the experts. We remind you that FGC members are political appointees with no wildlife expertise and no biological background. Watch future alerts and newsletter for information as we receive it.

New Credit Card

Watch for the new Mountain Lion Foundation Credit card.

Early in 1998, members will be asked to sign up for the new card, which will provide income for MLF programs.

In cooperation with MBNA America, the foundation will also make the special gold card available. The cards will feature a stunning mountain lion image that was taken by Janice Clark, a Sacramento photographer who donated the use of the photograph.

Clark’s photos have been used in many MLF educational and promotional material pieces.
continued from page 1

that first removed the bounty on mountain
carcasses. Senator Farr’s son, Sam Farr,
then presented the first Fred Farr Fellows­
ship to Mary Akens who will be working to
establish the California Legal Advocates for
Wildlife. CLAW is an MLF program to pro­
vide legal support to grassroots organiza­
tions. (See story, page 2.)

The gala evening began with guided tours
at the Aquarium and a special sponsors’ re­
ception at the stunning home of long-time
MLF supporter Mary Shaw. In the tradition of
the founders so honored, old friends joined
new in celebrating California’s wildlife heri­
tage. It was a glorious evening of heartfelt
gratitude that left us all newly enthused and
rededicated to protecting California’s wildlife.

Congressman Sam Farr [l] with Fred Farr
Fellow Mary Akens [c], her husband John and
MLF Director Lynn Sadler [r]

Sonoma County DA Brooke Halsey accepts award
from Anti-Poaching Director Caitlin Rivers

Founder Bill Yeates confers with Shary Farr at the
sponsor’s reception

Margaret Owing [c] receives well-deserved
applause from world-renowned lion
expert Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Hornocker [l],
her family [r] and friends.

Founders’ Gala Coordinators Plasha Fielding [l]
and Darlene Dunham [r] share a moment of
celebration with Lynn Sadler.

Mary Shaw [r] hosts family and friends for a
special sponsor’s reception

Special Thank You’s

Jack & Peggy Baskin
Harriet Burgess, American Land
Conservancy
Carmel Plaza
Cecil Carne
Sharon & Dennis Cavallo
Collette Chuda Environmental Fund
Don Dianda
Darlene Dunham
Sam & Shary Farr
Plasha Fielding
Kathy Fletcher
Jeff & Martha Froke
Tom & Alayna Gray
Paul & Eileen Growald
Marian Heiskell
Scott & Tamara Hennessey
Horan, Lloyd, Karachole, Dyer,
Schwartz, Law & Cook, Inc.
Michael Jones
Kathleen Kettman
L.W. Lane, Jr.
George Lindsay
Dwight Lutsey
James & Joanne Mattison
Sam & Mary Mills of the Vanguard
Foundation
Dr. Seeley & Virginia Mudd, Argonaut
Charitable Foundation
William Newsom
Olivia Newton-John
PG&E
Julie Packard
Pebble Beach Company
Post Ranch Inn
Rancho San Carlos Foundation
Diana Rowan Rockefeller
Marshall & Marilyn Sachs
Mary Shaw
Jill Sweitzer
John & Melody Taft
Russell Train
Peter Weiner

event photos by Steve Brafka
MLF
WISH LIST

Ask and you shall receive.
That's a time-tested rule of fundraising.

In the last newsletter, we included a “wish list” of our needs around the office, opportunities to volunteer and programs to underwrite.

Based on that article, we received the donation of a slide projector from Elizabeth Mayer of Los Angeles. The projector will be used by MLF volunteers to do Southern California presentations.

Coincidentally, slide shows have been the topic of discussion around the MLF office, particularly because our newly-created Wild California dual-projector presentation had to be canceled at a fundraising dinner at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, because of a breakdown in some rather ancient, borrowed equipment. The computer that runs the show croaked — leaving us literally in the dark.

So here’s the pitch. For a donation of $1,000, we will be able light up the Wild California slide show (we’ll even do a private show in your home ... what a deal).

In response to a pitch for help with our web page on the Internet in the last newsletter, we received an generous offer from computer expert, Jim McCormick of a Sacramento-based Internet design firm, JMC Internetworking.

In the next few months, you will see some big changes in our presence on the Internet.

Thanks to all who responded to last month’s requests. Here is the list of our current needs:

GIFTS IN KIND
• Kodak carousel autofocus slide projector (1)
• Point and shoot cameras for outreach events (3)
• Window air conditioners (3)
• Portable exhibit for conferences
• Membership in other wildlife societies

VOLUNTEERS
• Someone to help update our web page weekly
• Office help in Sacramento
• Artists to do pen-and-ink sketches of wildlife

If you wish to donate an item, please contact Mikey at 916-442-2666 ext. 100 or e-mail us at mtnlion@ns.net.

Donations to the Mountain Lion Foundation are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Wildlife through the eyes of artist George Ostroushko

WINTER SOLITUDE ©George Ostroushko

$85.00

13½" x 18½" Published from original mixed media painting

Artist George Ostroushko, brings to life the wildlife subjects he paints. Skillfully capturing the intense gaze of this Mountain Lion here for you, in his first limited edition print of 950 entitled, Winter Solitude.

1/800-668-8365 (ask for George)

Visa Mastercard, Discover, American Express
3% will be donated to the Mountain Lion Foundation, Sacramento, California
Some cynics say that an individual really can’t make a difference in the environment.

We don’t believe that’s true.

The new Mountain Lion Foundation strategic plan contains not only overall programs, but also specific projects that help build the organization and save mountain lions and other wildlife.

You can make a difference by helping underwrite one of these projects with a major gift (in most cases, MLF, a funder or a foundation will provide matching funds, so you need not contribute the entire amount listed):

**Wildlife Education**
- Purchase a multiple-projector slide show computer setup and host education events around the state ($2,500).
- Study how to expand the MLF work in wildlife education in the schools ($15,000).
- Convert our mountain lion and poaching book to CD ROM for distribution to schools ($5,000).

**CLAW Legal Program**
- First-year start-up to organize the program ($20,000).
- Pay out-pocket-costs of law firms providing pro bono help to small grassroots wildlife organizations ($1,000).
- Legal interns for one year ($5,000).
- Sponsoring a fundraising event in February, 1998 in San Francisco ($1,000).

**Anti-Poaching Program**
- Update our book on poaching in California ($25,000).
- Completion of ongoing work to create and distribute a practitioner’s guide to enforcing wildlife laws for wardens, district attorneys and judges ($25,000).
- Expanding distribution of MLF-produced anti-poaching public service announcements on television ($1,000).

**Public Policy Research**
- Develop public policy strategies for using Internet to increase the involvement of grassroots wildlife groups in decision-making by state resource agencies ($5,000).
- Assess the effectiveness of E-mail to educate state legislators on wildlife decisions ($2,500).
- Conduct a study of the ideal warden force needed to enforce wildlife laws in California ($15,000).

**Organizational Improvements**
- Computer network to increase our efficiency in reaching grassroots members ($5,000).
- Survey of the MLF members to assess their priorities and areas of interest ($1,500).
- Software to help us target our letter-writing and fundraising to specific interests of members ($1,000).
- Expand the ability of the MLF web page on the Internet to stimulate involvement by grassroots activists on state issues ($2,500).

For information on any of these projects, call Tom Martens at the MLF office (916-442-2666, ext. 106).

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**Working Assets Long Distance Donating to MLF**

Working Assets, the leading phone company committed to working for peace, equality, civil rights and the environment, has chosen the Mountain Lion Foundation as one of its donation recipient groups for their California donations pilot program.

Working Assets was established in 1985 to help busy people make a difference in the world. Through their long distance, credit card, paging and online services, they’ve raised millions of dollars for non-profit groups. They do this by giving a portion of their customers’ monthly payments to organizations working for change.

Their Citizen Actions provides additional benefits. Every month their phone bill outlines two important issues that can be effected by targeted action to a company or individual. That phone call is free to customers.

To become a Working Assets customer, call 1/800/788-8588.
Help Create a Legacy for Lions in Your Estate

Everyone likes to be remembered for something. That's just human nature. The Mountain Lion Foundation invites those planning their estates to leave a legacy for mountain lions and other wildlife.

This can be done in a number of ways:
• By earmarking a donation in your will.
• By naming the foundation as beneficiary of insurance policies or retirement plans.
• Through donations of appreciated stocks or property.
• With a charitable remainder trust.
• Through a gift that is directed to a specific purpose.
• Or with another planned-giving mechanism.

With highly personalized service, we can help you through the process — whether it's understanding estate planning options or by helping solve a tax problem.

For more information, please contact Tom Martens, Mountain Lion Foundation, Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95812 (916-442-2666, ext. 106).

Together, we can create an enduring partnership for wildlife, a legacy for lions.