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Wild about wildflowers

Aptos gardener leads the way to beautify Seacliff entrance

APTOS — Sometimes the best jobs are one's you do yourself. Just ask Bob Schomberg.

Schomberg took it upon himself to plant a wildflower garden at the entrance to Seacliff State Beach in Aptos. Today, the pie-shaped parcel about a quarter-acre in size is abundant in wildflowers — everything from poppies to sweet peas, baby's breath, bachelor button and phlox.

The former weed patch is now a color spectacular. Motorists often stop Schomberg while he is on one of his weekly weeding missions to ask what a certain flower is.

"It's amazing," says Schomberg, who lives just a few doors down from the new garden. "Every time I'm down there, I get comments from someone about how nice it looks."

While Schomberg and his wife, Helen, did the actual seeding, the

project itself was a joint effort by many entities.

Schomberg enlisted the help of Helen Cheney, president of the Aptos Garden Club, of which both are members. Cheney continues to help with the weeding. The Seacliff Improvement Association paid for the rototilling, while the Aptos Neighbors pitched in to spray and kill the weeds.

The Monterey Bay Natural History Association gained the necessary approval from the state Parks and Recreation Department for the type of planting.

"The state was really picky about what we put in there," says Schomberg. "They're the ones who wanted wildflowers. I think they're tickled to death about how it turned out."

And, as for Schomberg himself, he's just happy he doesn't have to look at weeds any more.

Keith Muraoka/Sentinel

Bob Schomberg enjoys the wildflower garden he planted at the entrance to Seacliff State Beach in Aptos.

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