

# Celebration marks the preservation of Tarplant Hill for rare species

*Endangered Species*  
Parcel in wetlands is home to tarplant, red-legged frog, others

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

Tarplant Hill is surrounded by hundreds of homes, built in the past few years between Ohlone Parkway and Struve Slough.

**WATSONVILLE** But the 6-acre parcel will never be developed, and instead stay the home of several rare and endangered species, such as the Santa Cruz tarplant, the California red-legged frog and the burrowing owl.

Other species likely to be found on the property include marsh harriers, short-eared owls, white-tailed kites, peregrine falcons and nesting cinnamon teal.

Preservation of the grassy knoll was guaranteed when Watsonville Wetlands Watch bought the property in 2006 with \$475,000 from the state Wildlife Conservation Board.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch will celebrate the purchase at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the property, across the street from Landmark Elementary School, 235 Ohlone Parkway. The celebration will include guided tours of the property and native plant displays.

Earlier in the morning, volunteers from the nearby Bay Breeze subdivision will plant native plants along a nature trail adjacent to Tarplant Hill, part of extensive restoration work Watsonville Wetlands Watch aims to complete with the help from the community.

For information about the celebration, call 684-1861. For information about the native planting, call 728-4106.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Watsonville Wetlands Watch will celebrate its acquisition of a 6-acre parcel of land known as Tarplant Hill at 11:30 a.m. Saturday on the site off Ohlone Parkway. The land sits between the Bay Breeze and Sea View Ranch subdivisions.