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ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

Environmental educator Wim deWit, shown above with children, is among those featured in the handsome new book, *Legacy: Portraits of 50 Bay Area Environmental Elders*, by photographer Nancy Kittle and writer John Hart (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2006).

When deWit retired in 1985 as a toolmaker for Hewlett-Packard, he devoted his energies to duties he had previously relished in his spare time, introducing others, especially children, to the pleasures of nature. DeWitt formalized his efforts by becoming a docent at Hidden Villa, a natural preserve in Los Altos Hills, south of San Francisco, that offers gardens, an olive grove, a barnyard with farm animals and access to forested hillsides.

Kittle, who calls herself “a fully qualified senior (with a memory of Pearl Harbor),” began photographing veteran environmentalists in the late 1990s. In the 160-page book with black-and-white duotone images, she and Hart document “activists, educators, funders and writers—volunteers in the service of conservation long before and well beyond their retirement.”

Among those profiled are conservationists who helped stop efforts to fill the San Francisco Bay beyond recognition, blocked freeway construction through Golden Gate Park, created the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and raised the bar for environmental protection—and the power of civic involvement—across the United States. ❖