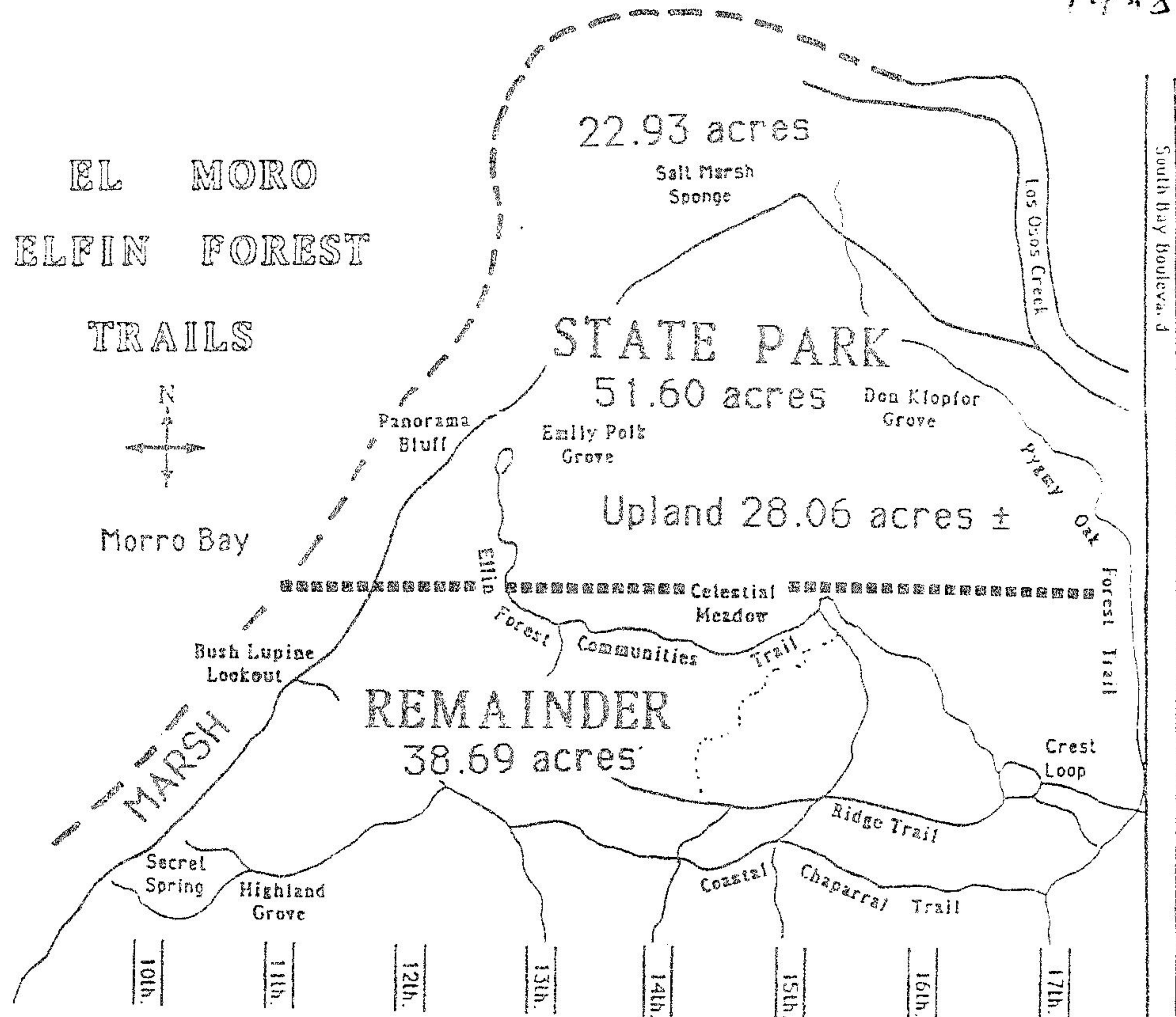


# OAK LEAVES

a publication of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of Small Wilderness Area Preservation

ISSUE 15

1988



## ELFIN FOREST UPDATE: FIRST DOWN - GOAL TO GO! Yolanda Waddell

Bright yellow boundary markers have been planted among the coyote bushes and oak trees in the Elfin Forest, competing with yellow Wallflowers for attention. State Park Surveyors have been pushing through the brush, marking the southern boundary of Morro Bay State Park's Elfin Forest addition. The project should be completed by the time this newsletter reaches your door.

S.W.A.P. members accompanied Ranger John Tranmer, Supervising Ranger of Morro Bay State Park, and Ranger Phil Rovai on a tour of the new park addition Saturday, February 20. The rangers want to learn as much as they can about the 51.6 acre wilderness formerly owned by Mrs. Shirely Otto so as to determine the best placement of suitable trails.

As shown by the map, the southern section of the Elfin Forest with established walking trails is not yet part of the State Park. This property is still on the



market for an as yet undetermined price. The unsecured 38.69 acres of oak and manzanita woodland, coastal chaparral, and marsh contains some excellent trails including the Ridge Trail with its views of the Bay, the ocean, and the seven morros. This area also contains two very large Chumash middens and a large portion of the Celestial Meadow, an excellent area for star-gazing. The new County Parks Plan proposes that the southern section be designated open space.

**GOOD NEWS ! ! ! ! !** The California Wildlife, Coastal and Parks Initiative obtained enough signatures to qualify for the statewide June 7 ballot. More than 750,000 signatures were collected statewide -- over twice the number needed to qualify for the ballot. Special thanks to those thirty or forty folks who volunteered their time to collect over 1600 signatures from this area alone. California voters now have an historic opportunity to permanently protect 776 million dollars worth of critical natural and park lands, wildlife habitat, and key areas along the California coast. S.W.A.P. plans to approach the State Coastal Conservancy for funds after the Parks and Wildlife Initiative passes in June. PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT to the initiative campaign!

## **ART EXHIBIT MOYING TO SOUTH COUNTY**

"Artists in the Elfin Forest," our exhibit of photos, paintings and drawings of the Elfin Forest by local artists is leaving La Patisserie on Second Street where it has been enjoyed by John and Pam Cutmore's customers for the past three months. Our thanks to John and Pam for their hospitality. The next stop for the exhibit is the South County Regional Library in Arroyo Grande where it will be on display for the month of March. To date, \$450 in donations for items from the exhibit have been added to our Land Fund.

## **DUES ARE STILL DUE!**

S.W.A.P. officers have adopted a modest annual operating budget of \$1400. Any funds above this amount will be added to our Land Fund. We are roughly half-way to our annual budget goal. Your \$10.00 membership donation will help to pay for postage, printing, meeting room rental, insurance, etc. Please make a statement that YOU care about saving the Elfin Forest for future generations!



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# QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 7 at 7:30

Board Room, South Bay Community Center

## Plants of The Elfin Forest

**Dr. David Keil**

Biological Sciences Department, Cal Poly  
Los Osos Resident

Dr. Keil will show slides and talk about the unique vegetation of the Elfin Forest, pointing out both native and exotic plants currently found in the area.

There will be an election of members to the Board of Directors.



Return to Larry Grimes, Treasurer, S.W.A.P., P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93402.

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Response Form

- I can give my time and energy to this effort
- Enclosed in my \$10 membership fee
- Additional donation of  to help with operating expenses

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**Small Wilderness  
Area Preservation**

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