



OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS / MORRO BAY CHAPTER OF SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ❖ (805) 528-0392 ❖ FEBRUARY / MARCH 2005

Is the Elfin Forest an Unnatural Wilderness?

By Ron Rasmussen, SWAP Chair

SWAP and San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Parks have been criticized for turning the Elfin Forest into a “Park” rather than leaving it as an untouched area. In one sense this is a valid criticism. Construction of the Boardwalk, installation of “symbolic” fencing, and extensive restoration efforts give the impression of an artificial managed environment.

To answer this criticism we need to consider three factors:

- The Mission of SWAP itself;
- The fate of the Elfin Forest if no action was taken;
- And the Elfin Forest as a resource for the Community.

When SWAP was incorporated in 1971, a stated general purpose was “to provide neighborhood places for the environmental education of young people, sanctuaries for small wildlife, breathing space for over urbanized districts, and other parcels of land close to urbanized regions in which to renew natural awarenesses (sic) and relationships”. How well this aim has been met is exemplified by the Los Osos Oaks preserve, the Elfin Forest and the East-West Ranch property in Cambria.

If no action had been taken by SWAP and SLO County Parks, the eventual fate of the Elfin Forest is easy to imagine. Our local chapter has recently had access to a series of air photos going back to the 1930s. The photo record shows the progressive development of the Los Osos area with new roads (e.g., South Bay Blvd.), agriculture, new homes and other buildings, and the degradation of the Elfin Forest itself. As the area surrounding the Elfin Forest was further developed in the 1970s-1990s, the impact on the Forest became severe with large areas being denuded of native vegetation and invasion by exotics like veldt grass, smilax and iceplant. Without action by SWAP and County Parks, the Forest today would be in large part bare sand with clumps of veldt grass. Instead, there is now a healthy re-growth of native plants with a population of small and not-so-small (coyotes) animals.

Through the efforts of SWAP, SLO County Parks, the California Conservation Corps (CCC), and many volunteers the Elfin Forest is now an invaluable community resource. Rather than

Elfin Forest continued on page 2

Banded Brant

Story & Photo by John Roser

If you see a flock of Black Brant Geese (*Branta bernicla*) standing on the shores of Morro Bay this winter, get personal and take a look at their legs. When I say get personal, I mean take out your binoculars or telescope and take a gander. With a little luck you may notice a colored plastic band adorning those black, scaly legs.



These bands were placed on them far from Morro Bay, by the groping fingers of arctic biologists.

The Black Brant that we see here each fall through spring come from summer arctic nesting sites located in northwestern Canada, Alaska, and Russia. Many years ago, in reaction to declining populations, scientists began a long-term banding study. They hoped to answer many questions about the Black Brant’s life history that focused on reproduction, migration and mortality factors.

Biologists converge on Brant breeding colonies in midsummer. At this time, Brant goslings haven’t yet grown flight feathers and the adults have molted theirs. The flight muscles on their breasts have shrunk, but their leg muscles have become huge. They can’t fly, but they can run like crazy. Biologists strap on hip waders and start acting like sheepdogs, herding Brant through the marshes and tidal sloughs in an aerobic effort that could be an Olympic event. The geese are herded into corrals where they are weighed, measured, sexed and banded.

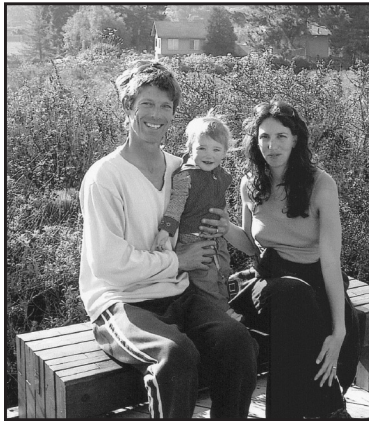
All Brant receive two bands. One is a long-lasting stainless steel identification band issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This band is difficult to read unless you have the bird in hand. The other is a colored plastic recognition band, which is engraved with three alpha-numeric characters that can be read with a telescope. These bands come in different colors signifying different banding localities. Each colored band and character combina-

Brant continued on page 2

Visitor Comments

Pat Grimes e-mailed us the following: "Lots of our Christmas company enjoyed the Elfin Forest. Leah (her granddaughter) told her imaginary companions that she could show them where to go on the boardwalk because she had been there many times before. She is just now old enough to walk the whole way and she can recognize the California lilac, the fairy lanterns on the manzanita, and the fuchsia-flowered gooseberry with great pride."

In December we encountered Sharon and Matt Gellerman and their daughter Elly, resting on a bench at the highest point of the Elfin Forest - where the 17th Street trail meets the boardwalk. Sharon remarked that she walked around the boardwalk every day when Elly was on the way. After Elly was born, she was carried by her mom on frequent visits to the Elfin Forest. Now she's able to walk part of the way. The Gellermans live in Los Osos. (See photo above by Y. Waddell.)



And the following came from Christine Ahern along with her membership check: "I took another delightful walk through the Elfin Forest yesterday. I hadn't been there in awhile and noticed that a great deal of work had recently been done. I so appreciate the careful labor that goes into preserving this precious area while allowing controlled yet abundant access. I love the roped off walkway to the tree grove. I think that is a wonderful way to allow us to observe those little worlds while keeping them safe. Thank you again for all of the good work you and your volunteers do. It is so very appreciated."

Elfin Forest *continued from page 1*

the perceived "artificiality" discouraging visitors, over the past two years, the number of daily visitors has actually more than doubled. Without the Boardwalk and symbolic fencing, the Forest could not withstand this increased usage. With support from the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, educational programs are underway for local school children to visit the Forest and learn something of its plant and animal communities. Many nearby residents visit the Forest daily, and comment to volunteers working in the Forest how much they appreciate their efforts. This increasing use of the Forest makes the primary goal of SWAP and its volunteers to allow maximum access to the Forest without destroying the Forest in the process. Because the Elfin Forest is a community resource SWAP and SLO County Parks welcome comments from local residents about activities in the Forest and are glad to answer any questions you may have.

Brant *continued from page 1*

tion is unique and represents a specific individual. Here is a list of the colors we see on Morro Bay:

- Red: Wrangle Island and Anadyr River Basin, Russia.
- Dark Blue: Banks and Victoria Islands, Canada.
- Aqua: Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.
- Green: Teshekpuke Lake, Alaska.
- White, Yellow, Orange, Gray, Black:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska.

Over the past several years I've obtained almost four thousand Black Brant band re-sightings on Morro Bay. These re-sightings have been added to a database utilized by waterfowl researchers up and down the Pacific Flyway. Last winter I had a most unusual observation. I saw a Brant at Baywood Cove with a strange band combination unlike any I had ever seen. After several weeks of inquiry, I finally found out that the bird had been banded by a Russian biologist on the Lena River Delta in central arctic Asia. He had banded only eight Brant the previous summer in this remote region and I saw one in Morro Bay!

The banding program has resulted in some interesting findings: Black Brant can live over 28 years and may migrate over 11,000 miles annually. Male and female pairs follow the creed "Till death do us part" and are side-by-side, even during nonstop migratory flights from Alaska to Baja. This spectacular flight can be accomplished in less than 55 hours with birds losing over one-third of their body weight. Families stay together for almost a year while Mom and Dad teach their offspring about migration routes and wintering sites.

Eelgrass is the main forage for migrating and wintering Brant on Morro Bay (their last remaining winter stronghold in southern California). Historic data suggest that local Brant numbers have undergone a significant decline in the past few decades. This may be correlated with a reduction in available eelgrass, but nobody knows for sure. Seasonal high counts on Morro Bay the last few years have reached over 4,000. High counts from the 20s and 50s topped over 11,000.

If we conserve our important and valuable local eelgrass beds and keep human disturbance on the bay within tolerable levels, we will surely be graced by the sight and sounds of these avian arctic travelers for decades to come.



In Memoriam - Gloria Walter



In 1998, Gloria Walter of Morro Bay, an active docent for the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History and a lover of the Elfin Forest, took on a volunteer job for SWAP. She became the distributor of our Pocket Guides, placing them in local bookstores and chambers of commerce as well as the Natural History Museum. Thanks to her initiative, our Pocket Guides were consistently available to the general public instead of sitting in our storage room. After a few years, Gloria retired from that job, and Property and Records Chair Pat Sarafian took it over. SWAP has recently learned of Gloria's death, on January 6. We are saddened at the loss of this very fine lady who did her part for the Elfin Forest. Our condolences to her husband Ed.

Big Sit! Birders Add Three Species to Elfin Forest List

By Jim Royer, *Big Sit!* Coordinator
with additional information by Mike Stiles

Despite thick fog on the day before the count (for the SWAP field trip), the day of the Big Sit count was beautiful. Unfortunately, there was practically no land bird migration on count day. This caused the counters to miss several passerine species, which were expected to be passing through at this time of year. Several species of waterfowl had not yet arrived either (for some reason they arrived later than usual this year). The total tally of birds for the day was still 104 species - all seen from Bush Lupine Point. The big surprise was a beautiful immature Sabine's Gull which flew right by the counters. This is a pelagic species - normally seen only over open ocean. This, along with Great-tailed Grackle and Yellow Warbler, which were also new to the count, raised the all time Big Sit list for the Elfin Forest to 165 species.

The counting started on October 10 at 5:30 am, with two birders standing quietly in the dark. The lights from the town of Morro Bay were reflected in the arms of the rising bay. Some ducks and herons were already calling and at least a dozen species were counted before light. With the first daylight, the counting was fast and furious, with 96 species by noon. The addition of new species coincided with the arrival of birders. As many as a dozen birders with eight spotting scopes crowded the wooden overlook at a time. In all, 20 birders showed up to scope the bay between 5:30 am and 8:00 pm. Addition of new species was slow in the afternoon, but the beauty of this location in the Elfin Forest kept birders way past their shift times and even returning for other shifts as the tide pushed the shorebirds, terns, herons and ducks back and forth below.



It was all business for the Big Sit! birders on Sunday, October 10. No one wanted to turn around and "smile for the birdie" because they were too busy spotting birds. Birders on duty are (l to r) Linda Tanner, Jim Hawlena, Deb Villa, Karen Hawlena, Mike Stiles and Al Schmierer. Photo by Pete Sarafian.

Unseen Virginia Rails called for much of the day in the reeds below. A California Thrasher sat high in nearby bushes - its curved bill held up as it sang its varied song for most of the morning. Participants shared food that was brought by many individuals - from chocolate cake, to fruit, banana bread and drinks. This was a splendid way to spend a day!

The Big Sit, now an international event, requires that observers stay inside a 17 foot diameter circle to count species of birds in a 24 hour period. A few years ago, our Elfin Forest count circle, from the overlook at Lupine Point, was the world leader with 122 birds found. Look for our next Big Sit, October 9, 2005. It is always a fun event and everyone is welcome.

Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter Hosts SWAP, Inc.

On Saturday, November 13, 2004, the Directors and Officers of SWAP, Inc. held their Annual Meeting at Coast National Bank in Los Osos. Our Chapter was the host, and seven Directors attended. In addition to hearing a report from the Treasurer and from each chapter, the Directors discussed and passed revision of the organization bylaws, which hadn't been updated since 1984. The revision was written by Treasurer Bob McDougle.



On Saturday, November 13, the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter was host to a meeting of the Board of Directors of SWAP, Inc. Shown (l to r) are Rob Trask, North Coast SWAP Treasurer; John Brunner, Santa Barbara SWAP Treasurer; Alese Bell, North Coast SWAP President; Kathleen Modugno, Santa Barbara; Los Osos/Morro Bay SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen; Los Osos/Morro Bay Secretary Yolanda Waddell; and Los Osos/Morro Bay Treasurer Bob McDougle.

SWAP, Inc. is the statewide organization, that includes the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter, North Coast SWAP, and the Santa Barbara Chapter. It holds our non-profit tax status as a 501(c)3 organization. SWAP, Inc. was founded by Emily Polk in 1970. The first directors were founder Emily Polk; famed photographer Ansel Adams; Margaret Owings, champion of Big Sur and founder of Friends of the Sea Otter; and Edgar Wayburn, then President of the Sierra Club. Each chapter contributes \$3.00 per member to SWAP, Inc. annually. The amount collected pays for preparation of a non-profit tax report, membership in the Land Trust Alliance, and Errors and Omissions insurance, which covers all chapters, and protects directors and officers from being sued as individuals.

Officers elected for 2005 were: Ron Rasmussen (Los Osos/Morro Bay Chair) President; Kathleen Modugno (Santa Barbara Chapter), Vice President; Bob McDougle (Los Osos/Morro Bay Treasurer), Treasurer; and Yolanda Waddell (Los Osos/Morro Bay Secretary), Secretary. Additional Directors attending were John Brunner, Santa Barbara Chapter Treasurer; Alese Bell, North Coast SWAP President; and Rob Trask, North Coast SWAP Treasurer.

2004 Ranks First in Conservation Efforts

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

In a joint effort in 2004 between SWAP, San Luis Obispo County Parks and Recreation Dept., and the California Conservation Corps, the Elfin Forest had the largest conservation effort undertaken in its entire history. The project was funded by a large Coastal Resources grant to County Parks, and some supplemental money from SWAP.

SWAP and the CCC planted over 1650 native plant seedlings in an area of over three acres. First the areas were fenced to keep out traffic; then seedlings were planted, caged with chicken wire to protect them, mulched with wood chips, and watered. SWAP watered the seedlings following the end of the planting and kept them maintained throughout the growing season.

By the end of the year, most of the plantings had been rechecked and re-mulched by SWAP to optimize survival. In addition, many of the sand trails and areas adjacent to the boardwalk had permanent symbolic fencing installed by the CCC. This low visual impact fencing is designed to outline permanent trails and dissuade the creation of many redundant and destructive trails in the brush.



New Weed Warrior Craig Huff (left) and Conservation Chair Pete Sarafian return from the battle, hauling bags of veldt grass removed from the hillside next to South Bay Boulevard. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

Let's All Pull Together!

*Come on out and get a start
On next year's crop, let's make it flop.
No hem or haw, we'll show our stuff,
And show the weeds we're really tough.*

*They've turned the ground a brilliant green,
Enough to make a warrior keen
To stop their growth right in its tracks,
Let's show them that we're not just backs.*



SWAP First Saturday work parties ...

are held at 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteers should meet at the north end of 15th Street. Dress for sun and wind and bring work gloves if you can. Some work gloves, tools and drinking water are provided. Call 528-0392.

Wily Warriors Weather Winter

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

In November 2004, the Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors turned in force to stem the tide of erosion. The hillside along South Bay Boulevard is unstable, washing away at the first sign of rain. The early winter rains began to form small erosion channels down the hill. SWAP organized the Warriors to replace weathered straw wattles that had been placed along the top of the highway embankment two years ago. Workers installed new wattles and re-used some of the old ones. Some weeding was done along the hillside as well. The trail along the embankment also needed trimming to give pedestrians more room to walk without tramping on the wattles. The work crew on this project included Donna Banks, Jay Bonestell, Steve Cake, Bob and Sharon Meyer, Pat and Pete Sarafian, Jean Wheeler, Norma Wightman, and Linda Young. The regulars were joined this month by Cal.Poly. student community service volunteers including Doug Jones, Scott Neiman and Justin Trudeau. Thanks to all for doing a magnificent job along the hillside!

In December 2004, everyone was away shopping, or so it seemed. In the meantime, a small Weed Warrior crew of Craig Huff, Pete Sarafian and Yolanda Waddell weeded along the hillside on South Bay Boulevard. The early rains require SWAP to get an early start on veldt grass. Good show!

In January 2005, the rains washed out the weed party on New Year's Day. So Weed Warriors Ron Rasmussen, Pete and Pat Sarafian and Yolanda and Jay Waddell retired to a dry home to celebrate anyway. Sorry you all missed out on the champagne and goodies!

SWAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The Board of Directors of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of
Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP)*

consists of the following members:

Ron Rasmussen, Chair
Pete Sarafian, Vice Chair
Bob McDougale, Treasurer
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary
Bob Meyer, Member at Large
Pat Sarafian, Member at Large

SWAP BOARD MEETINGS

The SWAP Board of Directors
meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
at the Coast National Bank, 1193 Los Osos Valley Road.
The next meetings are

Monday, February 14, and Monday, March 14.

All Board meetings are open to the public.
To confirm the date, time and location
(which are subject to change), phone 528-0392.

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third Saturday Walks

February 19, 9:30 - Fungus Foray

If there is plenty of rain in February, entomologist and fungophile Dennis Sheridan will be able to lead us to many beautiful, and some ugly, species of fungi sprouting from the Elfin Forest floor. He'll help us to find Earthstars, Wood blewits, Yellow staining agaricus, the poisonous Amanitas, Shaggy parasol mushrooms, and dozens of others. Dress for the possibility of getting dirty - mushrooms grow low to the ground. Bring a magnifying lens. *Note: this is not a mushroom collecting walk, as all plant material in the Elfin Forest is protected by law.* If we guessed wrong and there hasn't been enough rain to bring out the mushrooms, join Dennis for an equally fascinating walk about the lichens which grow abundantly in the Elfin Forest.

March 19, 9:30 - Geology of the Estuary

From the vantage points of Bush Lupine Point and Siena's View, the Elfin Forest's two observation platforms overlooking Morro Bay, geologist George Mason will tell you about the evolution of Morro Bay and the extinction of the mega-mammals as the Central Coast, and the world, came out of the ice age. George Mason is a retired faculty member from Orange Coast College, and has been a State Park Docent for the past eleven years. He has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey and Phillips Petroleum, and applies the knowledge he has gained from his work and teaching experience to take you very far back in time to the tremendous changes that took place in Morro Bay as the ice melted and the oceans rose.

April 16, 9:30 - Butterfly Walk

Butterfly enthusiast Bill Bouton will take you on a butterfly hunt in the Elfin Forest. He'll tell you how to identify the common butterflies of the Elfin Forest, and will give you hints on photographing them. During the walk you might see Variable Checkerspot caterpillars munching on leaves of the Sticky monkey-flower plant, and Moro Blue butterflies hovering around Coastal silver lupines. Bring a hand lens and, if you have one, a pair of close focusing (5-10 ft.) binoculars. Check out the butterfly images at Bill Bouton's web site: <http://community.webshots.com/user/bbouton43>.

Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Wear comfortable shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. We ask that you not bring dogs or other pets. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information call (805) 528-0392.

Where To Call, Where To Write

If you have questions about SWAP activities or want to volunteer, please call 528-0392 and leave a message.

A recorded message will have information about our 3rd Saturday Walks, Work Saturdays, and other events.

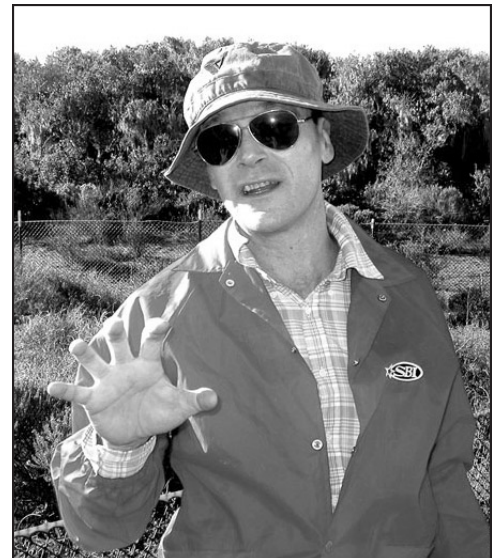
If you have questions, concerns or comments about any problems in the Elfin Forest, call or write:

Chuck Lowe, SLO County Parks Supervising Ranger,
1087 Santa Rosa Street, SLO, CA 93408, (805) 781-4417.

If you witness vandalism or other crimes,
call the County Sheriff at 781-4550.



(above) Dennis Sheridan, during the 2004 Fungus Foray, identifies a very large mushroom for fascinated walk participants.



(right) During his December Third Saturday walk, leader Al Normandin gives a very graphic description of the size of a grizzly bear track.

All photos
by Bob Meyer.

(below) Geographer Dr. Jean Wheeler's objective during her November Third Saturday walk was to tell how geographic location affects all aspects of life. Here she displays a chart showing why we have fog on the coast.



White Alder

By Dirk Walters, Ph.D.; Drawings by Bonnie Walters

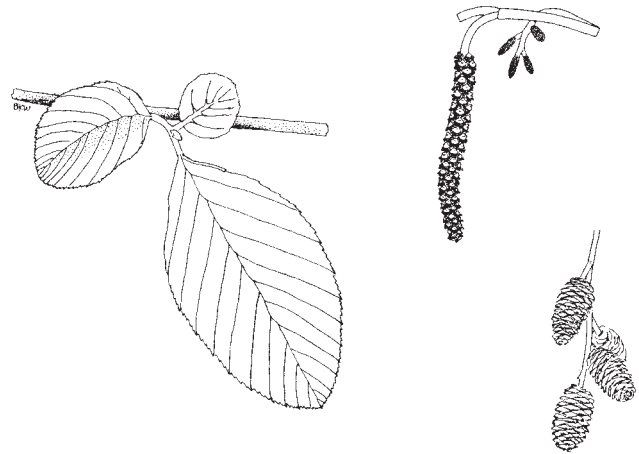
Bonnie's drawing for this issue of Oak Leaves is a composite of something new and something old. The leafy branch is newly drawn from life while the two drawings of the staminate and fruiting catkins are from Dr. David Keil's and my plant taxonomy textbook. The plant is *Alnus rhombifolia*. Its common name is usually listed as either white or California alder.

This small to moderately sized tree is on the Elfin Forest species list, but I have not actually seen it within the Elfin Forest. Since the roots of this tree require that they be constantly wet, I assume white alder should be sought in the band of thick growth produced where there is an outwash of fresh water from the base of the dunes. At this point, all I know is that there are no white alders visible from the boardwalk.

Having said that white alder is probably rare in the Elfin Forest, it must be said that it is not rare elsewhere. White alders are usually found along streams below 7000 feet from British Columbia to Idaho and South into San Diego County. They generally stay north and west of the deserts. White alder is replaced along the immediate coast by the red alder (*Alnus rubra*) from Marin County North to Alaska.

Alnus rhombifolia usually has a single trunk bearing smooth light-gray bark. It can be distinguished from the other three species of alder in California primarily by its leaves. White alder leaves are quite thick and flat all the way to their margins. The margins bear very small teeth on teeth (doubly serrulate). Both pistillate (female) and staminate (male) flowers are borne in separate cone-like catkins. As one might guess, the pistillate catkin enlarges and turns into the fruiting catkin that can stay on the tree for a year or so.

The woody fruiting catkins have a superficial resemblance to conifer cones, especially those of the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). This resemblance is due to them both having the same pollinating agent -wind. The unseeing, un-smelling and unpredictable (over a season) wind would not be impressed with large flowers or sweet smells or bright colors. In fact, the large flower parts would actually be counter-productive. Since the amount of pollen the wind can carry is proportional to its speed, large petals or sepals would slow the wind speed down and produce entrapping eddies. Consequently, many wind pollinated deciduous trees (such as



white alder) flower during the early spring before they leaf out.

The separate male and female flowers reduce the chance of self pollination while increasing the chance of cross pollination. Male or staminate flowers produce huge anthers that produce lots of pollen. (Hay fever sufferers probably would not like to be around them when they bloom.) Female flowers consist of a single pistil with (in this case) two largish sticky stigmas. Each pistil would contain a single seed. The single seed follows from the low probability that a given stigma will catch more than one pollen grain. Since it takes one pollen grain for every seed produced, it would be wasteful for the fruit to contain more than one seed. In the case of the alders the fruit is a small winged fruit that is called a samara.

Whenever there is a drought in California, water managers recommend that we turn our landscaping into dry landscapes or xeriscapes. Since much of California is dry at least periodically, California native plants are often strongly recommended. Just a quick note! Not all California native plants are suitable for dry landscapes. White alder can be and is planted regularly in water hogging, turf-dominated landscapes. It is a fine native plant for drainages, and other landscapes that receive regular watering. I still think that its best and highest use is to stabilize stream banks and in the process provide food and shelter for native wildlife.

Elfin Forest Sightings



Several SWAP members have seen an adult coyote out in the Elfin Forest during the winter. Some have heard coyote pups yapping in the distance. In December, one SWAP member actually saw two pups hunting in the salt marsh area. Their clumsy attempts were unsuccessful at catching ducks.

After winter rain storms, raccoon tracks can be seen along and near the boardwalk. Look in the sand for tracks that match the size of a small dog, but with long toe marks and claw marks. In places there appear to be regular raccoon thoroughfares.

Drawing of raccoon tracks showing trail pattern by Kim A. Cabrera © 1999.



OAK LEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.

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layout is by Katy Budge.

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Contributors to this issue:

Wendy Brown, Bob Meyer, Ron Rasmussen, John Roser, Pete Sarafian, Mike Stiles, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jean Wheeler

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If possible, all copy should be submitted by e-mail to: ywaddell@kcbx.net AND jeanwheeler@charter.net.

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, SWAP Database Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS:

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Mimi Bull

JoEllen Butler*
Ryan Mann*
Annette & Guy Rathbun*

Steve Sawyer
Marcia S. Servedio

RENEWING MEMBERS:

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June Wright*

*Thanks to those listed above who donated more than the \$12 membership dues. The additional donations will be used for special projects in the Elfin Forest.



SWAP Shoppers Order Form

1. MURAL SHIRTS (Older Design) - circle sizes

Words on shirt: "El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area,
Small Wilderness Area Preservation, Los Osos, California"

___ Short Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$15.00 = ___
___ Long Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$17.00 = ___
___ Sweatshirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$25.00 = ___

2. MURAL SHIRTS (New Design) - circle sizes

___ Short Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$15.00 = ___
___ Long Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$17.00 = ___
___ Sweatshirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$25.00 = ___

3. NOTE CARDS by Bob Meyer ___ @ \$3.00 = ___

4. PHOTO POSTCARDS by Bob Meyer ___ @ \$1.00 = ___

5. MURAL PRINTS

signed 5 1/2" X 17" prints by artist, Barbara Rosenthal
___ Black matted Mural @ \$20.00 = ___

SUBTOTAL (Prices include tax) _____

Shipping cost if outside of Los Osos/Morro Bay \$2.50 = _____

TOTAL OF ORDER _____

(Please print when filling order — and indicate HOW MANY)

Name _____

Phone (with Area code) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make checks payable and mail to:

SWAP, P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412 - 6642.

Call-in orders may also be made: (805) 528-0392

New Stationery Items for Sale

We recently added a few new items for sale. Bob Meyer, one of SWAP's very faithful members is a man with many amazing talents. Among these is his enjoyment of taking pictures out in our lovely Elfin Forest. He has made some of his absolutely wonderful colored photos into note card stationery and post cards for SWAP. There are currently about 5 different views. The note cards sell for \$3.00 each and the post cards for \$1.00 each. When we have our booth during the year at different events, do come by and check out these new items.

Introduce a friend to
the Elfin Forest this Spring!

Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter
SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442
(805) 528-0392



Address Service Requested
Per Name or Current Resident

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Permit No. 112

Introduce a Friend to The Elfin Forest

This is a great time of the year for birds and wildflowers in the Elfin Forest. In February, our winter bird visitors will be preparing for their flights back to their northern nesting grounds. By March, we'll be hosting more birds on their way north from wintering grounds in Central and South America. The red fuchsia-flowering gooseberry is in bloom and attracting many hummingbirds. So it's a fine time to bring a friend to the boardwalk for an introduction to our beautiful preserve.



Pick up a trail guide at one of the dispensers (where the 16th Street Entrance meets the boardwalk and where the Bush Lupine Point spur leaves the boardwalk loop). Encourage your friend to enjoy the information both in the trail guide and illustrated by lovely pictures on our Interpretive Signs. Watch for lizards, butterflies, and unusual birds and look for animal tracks in the sand.

Report especially wonderful or unusual sightings for our Elfin Forest Sightings report in a future issue of Oakleaves.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Defender \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Champion \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protector \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to help, please call me! | |

Have you renewed your membership on time?

Check the label on this newsletter
for your renewal due date.

EVERY membership counts!!

Make checks payable to: SWAP

Mail to: Small Wilderness Area Preservation,
P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412 - 6442