



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 ♦ APRIL / MAY 2006



Debbie Levi, SWAP Historian, will be organizing photos and articles for use by SWAP volunteers and booth visitors.

SWAP's New Historian, Debbie Levi

By Yolanda Waddell

Debbie Levi and her husband Marty moved to Los Osos early in January of this year. By the middle of January, as a result of visiting SWAP's information table at the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, Debbie became our SWAP Historian, and Marty became a Weed Warrior.

Debbie, a retired elementary school teacher, said that after years of driving the Los Angeles area freeways, she and Marty (a surgery RN) wanted to live a more rural lifestyle, away from the city and close to the ocean. They found a home in Los Osos that met their requirements, not far from the Elfin Forest. They enjoy walking along the boardwalk at every opportunity. Also, they are pleased to live in the same area as one of their sons, an engineering student at Cal Poly. Another son lives in Santa Cruz.

As SWAP Historian, Debbie will assemble twenty years of photos, press clippings and newsletters into useful formats for reference by SWAP officers and volunteers, and for information by visitors at our information booth. We welcome Debbie as our SWAP Historian and Marty as a Weed Warrior.

A Letter to the Editors

Few people realize the tremendous dangers to our native habitats from invasive plants. Even fewer realize the importance of restoring habitats destroyed by invasive plants.

The more veldt grass, beach grass, Cape ivy, pampas grass and other non-native plants take over our habitats, the more plant and animal diversity we lose.

So I wish to extend my most profound gratitude to the Weed Warriors and all the volunteers who have spent so many weekends working in the Elfin Forest removing the pests, planting new native plants and putting up fences.

If there were a Golden Globe Award for Habitat Restoration, I would bestow it on each and every one these dedicated folks. Thank you all so much.

Liz Scott-Graham

Development Consultant for the SLO Botanical Garden

Numbers:

Some Statistics from the Elfin Forest

By Ron Rasmusen, SWAP Chair

In a former life as a research scientist I was continually concerned with numbers. Without careful attention to numbers no meaningful conclusions could be drawn from laboratory studies. After examining the numbers of SWAP volunteers, their activities related to the Elfin Forest Natural Area, and the value to the community of the Forest, I conclude that the Forest is an irreplaceable asset to the surrounding area. A dedicated group of volunteers ensures that it is currently well maintained and managed. It deserves the support of our community.

As you probably know, the **Forest Area** is about 90 acres, which is small as nature preserves go. But its location, with sweeping views of the estuary and surrounding hills make it highly valuable. A conservative estimate (i.e. my opinion) would price it at about \$50M. The purchase prices: roughly 50 acres by the State in 1987 for \$1.6M and 40 acres by SWAP in 1994 for \$1.5M or a total of \$3.1M show that we were fortunate to buy the land when we did.

The Forest belongs to the County and State Parks, but routine maintenance is the responsibility of a SWAP Board of Directors, currently made up of six volunteers. In addition, specific activities are handled by **Eight Standing Committees** (Conservation, Publications, Education, Property and Records, Membership, Walks, Historian, and Volunteer and Outreach) together involving an additional 40-50 people (including Weed Warriors, Mutt Mitt caretakers, walk leaders, and booth workers). Each of the committees has its own chairperson and budget and reports regularly to the Board. Some of the Standing

Numbers continued on page 4

Mutt Mitt Manna for the Elfin Forest

By Yolanda Waddell

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "manna" as "food miraculously supplied to the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness." So what does that have to do with Mutt Mitts? This story began when the Monarch Grove Homeowners Association in Los Osos had trouble with their sewage treatment system and were fined by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for polluting the Bay.

Dan Berman, Director of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), told me that fines like this either go to a statewide cleanup fund in Sacramento, never to be seen again from our perspective, or they can be directed to local environmental projects called SEPs (Supplemental Environmental Projects) that are related to the offense, both in terms of location and pollutant. The entity paying the fine has final say over whether they want to do an SEP, and if so what it should be. The Monarch Grove Homeowners Association asked the MBNEP to develop an SEP, and in consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board staff, a proposal was made in the amount of \$26,000 to purchase and dispense Mutt Mitts to the City of Morro Bay, Morro Bay State Park, SWAP for the Elfin Forest, Morro Coast Audubon for Sweet Springs, and Cuesta By the Sea for dispensers which have been installed there.

Mutt Mitts are specially designed plastic bags for cleaning up after your dog. The dispensers are placed at well-used dog walking areas around the bay shoreline. Why would the MBNEP be interested in Mutt Mitts? The answer is a serious one. A *Los Angeles Times* article, reprinted in *The Tribune* on Monday, January 30, 2006 ("Seeking the source of beach pollution") stated that "Scientists using microbial source tracking in San Luis Obispo county identified birds, humans, cattle and dogs as contributors to bacterial pollution that restricted shellfish harvesting in Morro Bay." Maintaining supplies for pickup of pet waste is identified as a Bacteria Action Plan in the Estuary Program's Management Plan.

The MBNEP has provided numerous small grants to local organizations (including SWAP) to install, maintain, and stock dispensers in Morro Bay and Los Osos. Ongoing funding is becoming a problem for the groups maintaining the Mutt Mitt dispensers. Dan Berman stated, "There are currently 7 Mutt Mitt dispensers along the Elfin Forest funded in part by the MBNEP, and approximately 25 around Morro Bay funded by MBNEP, City of Morro Bay, State Parks, and private donations. It costs roughly \$500 per year in supplies to keep a Mutt Mitt dispenser stocked (busy sites go through 5000 bags a year, up to 20 a day at \$.07 each). The \$26,000 SEP, matched one to one with the other funding sources, will keep the 32 dispensers stocked for at least three years."

Dan Berman asked Sandra Beebe (who obtained grants for, and with



Above: Dorothy Norwood (L), Mutt Mitt Committee Chair, and Pat Sarafian, SWAP Property and Records and Volunteer Chair, keep track of the supply of Mutt Mitts and committee volunteers.

Below: (L-R) Linda Young, Pat Sarafian, Curt Beebe and Sandra Beebe happily loaded 20 boxes of Mutt Mitts for SWAP into Linda's van for transportation from the Beebe garage in Morro Bay to Los Osos.



Manna continued on page 3

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
Pat Akey, 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, April 10, and Monday, May 8

All Board meetings are open to the public.

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

Manna *continued from previous page*

husband Curt installed, most of the 32 Mutt Mitt dispensers mentioned by Dan) to coordinate the writing of the proposal and distribution of the Mutt Mitts. The Monarch Grove Homeowners Association approved the SEP and paid the \$26,000 fine to the Bay Foundation, fund-holding organization for the MBNEP. Then Sandra notified SWAP that we are going to receive a 3-year supply of Mutt Mitts. That is where the word “manna” applies. This gift of Mutt Mitts is unexpected, if not miraculous financial nourishment for SWAP and the other groups maintaining Mutt Mitt dispensers. In February, SWAP received 20 boxes of Mutt Mitts, a year’s supply. The cost of 20 boxes would have been \$1,060. Therefore, SWAP can use that amount for other projects such as paying the CCC to continue weeding veldt grass this summer or continuing with revegetation of the Elfin Forest.

SWAP is grateful to the MBNEP, Sandra Beebe and the Monarch Grove Homeowners Association as well, for this gift of Mutt Mitts. We also appreciate SWAP’s Mutt Mitt dispenser caretakers: Carolyn Boomer, Scott Danielson, Rosemary Flamion, Susan McTaggart, Dorothy Norwood (Mutt Mitt Committee Chair) and Beth Wimer. What all of us ask of the community is that the Mutt Mitts be used (see associated article, “Pet Poop Proliferates” below). Some folks incorrectly think that pet waste makes good fertilizer. Rather, if not picked up, it increases the bacteria level when rain washes it into the bay. When heading out to walk your dog, put one or two plastic bags into your pocket, or if going to the Elfin Forest, all one has to do is reach for a Mutt Mitt. You can learn more about the state of the Morro Bay Estuary by visiting www.mbnep.org. If you’d like to contribute to the Mutt Mitt Fund, you can send a check to the Bay Foundation c/o Morro Bay National Estuary Program, 601 Embarcadero, Suite 11, Morro Bay, CA 93442.



A Mutt Mitt dispenser like this one can be found at all seven street-end entrances to the Elfin Forest.

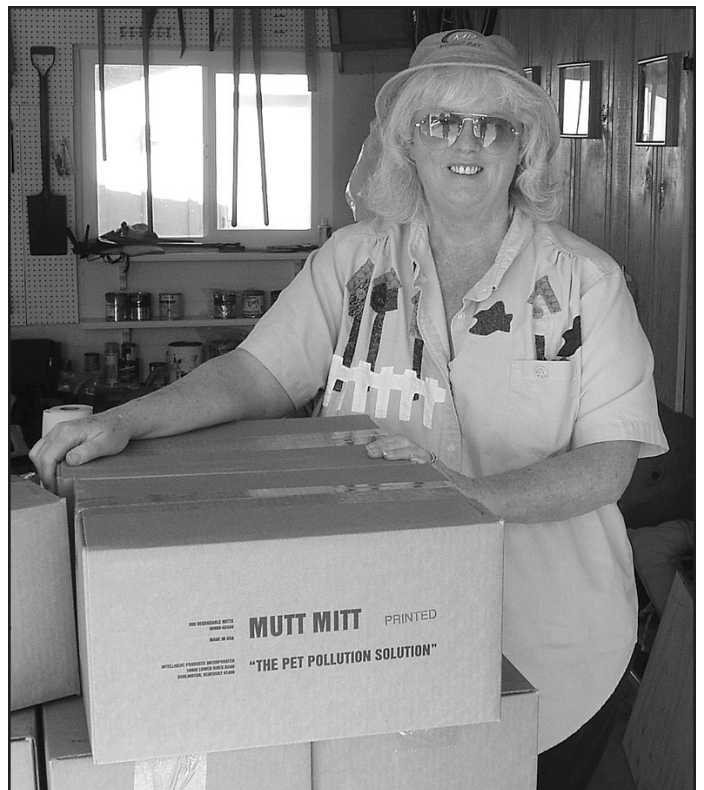
Pet Poop Proliferates

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

Sandra Beebe of Morro Bay has worked tirelessly to obtain funds for mutt mitt dispensers and bags. She single-handedly initiated the SWAP program in the Elfin Forest to responsibly dispose of pet poop. There now is a dispenser and garbage bag at every street entrance to the Forest. What could be more convenient for pet owners? Unfortunately, not everyone in Los Osos and the surrounding area has responded as a responsible citizen and good pet owner. Lately, it has seemed as though locals have taken great pride in leaving unsightly, smelly, polluting poop around the Forest. This irresponsible behavior does great harm in polluting Morro Bay with fecal matter and causing high bacteria counts. Pet poop even is implicated in the die-off of sea otters along our coast.

Recently the Conservation Committee went out in the Forest on two separate occasions about a month apart and gathered up the disgusting dog doo. Over a one-month period, there was an accumulation of nearly five gallons of canine crap. This disgusting task yielded about 20 pounds of dried bowser b.m. At this rate, about a half-ton of turds are deposited in the Elfin Forest each year. That’s 1,000 pounds, folks. The community cannot sustain this kind of pollution without serious environmental consequences. Please remind your dog-owning neighbors to pick up their fido fecals.

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Sandra Beebe, coordinator for the MBNEP’s Mutt Mitt SEP, received a very large shipment of Mutt Mitts in February, enough to supply 32 Mutt Mitt dispensers for a year.

Numbers *continued from page 1*

Committees have Subcommittees, such as Pocket Guide, Trail guide, Mutt Mitt, and School Walks.

Current paid **Membership** of our SWAP chapter is about 340. Our bimonthly mailing of *OAKLEAVES* is over 450. Copies are sent to local and county officials, newspapers and schools. Of the individual mailings, 411 live in San Luis Obispo County, 47 elsewhere in California, and 12 out of state. Our out of state membership is widespread, currently two each in Washington D. C. and Texas and one each in Washington, Minnesota, Missouri, Virginia, Oklahoma, Idaho, Hawaii, and New Hampshire.

Other Publications than *Oakleaves* include a Brochure describing the Forest and its location, a Trail Guide for visitors that points out some interesting plants, and a Pocket Guide to the plants and animals of the Forest. The latter was a "labor of love" for the 17 Volunteers who prepared it, listing 200 plants, 28 mammals, 10 reptiles, 4 amphibians, 198 birds, 105 arthropods, 19 butterflies and moths, 6 snails, 55 lichens, and 36 mushrooms. It has been distributed to local libraries, County and State Park offices, and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP).

Volunteer Hours are reported to SLO County Parks. In 2005 volunteers put in nearly 1,000 hours. These represent time contributed at our monthly work parties and at other times as maintenance is required. In addition to SWAP volunteers, other organizations such as Boy Scouts and members of MBNEP have contributed their time.

At each of our monthly **First Saturday Work Parties** we typically remove 200-300 pounds of invasive plants. This amounts to more than a ton of material per year, which is undergoing composting at the end of 15th street. The compost pile contains an estimated 4-5 tons of plant material that has built up over the years.

When invasive plants have been cleared, **Natives are Replanted**, and not just any natives either. Although many native species are widespread in California, the genetic characteristics within a species can vary from region to region. To ensure that plants destined for the Elfin Forest are of a compatible genetic background, seedlings are grown from seed either harvested in the Forest or from a source known to have the same genetic background as that in the Forest. In the past two years more than 1,500 seedlings have been planted, with an excellent overall survival of more than 60%. This program is ongoing.

To protect newly planted seedlings and other areas needing time to recover, **Supplies and Equipment** are needed. Hundreds of feet of black cable and stanchions are used to define trails off the boardwalk. Also, a similar amount of green plastic fencing is used to protect areas where new plants have been placed or where an area has been degraded due to overuse. Due to success of our replanting and recovery efforts, some of the green fencing near Bush Lupine Point has been removed. Other supplies include wattles and lumber used for erosion control, and tools used by volunteer weed warriors.

The total **Number of New Visitors** to the Forest during the last year is estimated to be at least 4,000. This number is based on the number of trail guides used annually and has about doubled over the past two years. Neighbors and regular users of the Forest are not likely to pick up a guide at each visit.

SWAP's **Monthly 3rd Saturday Walks** are announced in *OAKLEAVES* and in the local press. Other walks are provided to school classes and groups that request them. Over a year, about 20 walks are held that include birding, sketching, fungi, and plants and animals.

Public Events conducted by SWAP volunteers include the Los Osos Family Fest, Oktoberfest in Baywood Park, and the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. SWAP volunteers also constructed a float and marched in the December 2005 Los Osos Holiday Parade.

The Budget. Perhaps the best indication of the cost of helping County Parks to maintain the Elfin Forest can be found by examining the annual Treasurer's Report. For the fiscal year 2004-2005 our total income from all sources was \$14,873. Total expenses for the same period were \$19,042. Thus, in the past year, there was a loss of \$4,170. This does not mean that SWAP is going broke. However, it does mean that to maintain our current level of activity in the Elfin Forest we must have a continuous source of income. Our major source of income is from our loyal members who continue to support SWAP with their regular memberships and special gifts. We thank them especially and pledge that we will use their contributions wisely to maintain our precious Elfin Forest. We thank them especially and pledge that we will use their contributions wisely to maintain our precious Elfin Forest.



Our volunteer snail monitor, Dr. Tom Richards, explained to the Weed Warrior crew how to tell what a Morro Shoulderband Snail looks like, using a display of several kinds of snails for comparison. February's crew included (L-R) Steve Cake, Janet Hillson, Ron Rasmussen, Dr. Richards, and Pat Sarafian, hidden behind David Middlecamp, Tribune photographer who came to photograph the Weed Warriors.

Winter Warriors Victimize Veldt

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

The mild winter this year has allowed the weeds to begin popping up their evil heads. Enter the Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors with a vengeance in February. They pulled, dug and bagged the daylighters out of veldt grass near the 15th Street entrance to the Elfin Forest. (They even removed some smelly dog poop in the process.)

The intrepid warriors included Jay Bonestell, Steve Cake, Janet Hillson, Ron Rasmussen, Tom Richards, Pat Sarafian, and Yolanda Waddell. Thanks so much for all the hard work out in the Forest. Special thanks go to Ron Rasmussen and Yolanda Waddell for leading the work party, and to snail monitor Tom Richards (while I carefully inspected the snow in Aspen, Colorado. Hey, someone has to do it.).

SWAP First Saturday Work Parties

SWAP First Saturday Work Parties are held at 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Please dress for wind, fog or sun. Layers work well. Long pants and long shirt sleeves are good. Sturdy shoes are a must.

Meet at the north end of 15th Street at the Elfin Forest entrance. Take care not to park in front of driveways or mailboxes. Call 528-0392.

Let's All Pull Together!

Come join us for this spring fling,
You have nothing at all to bring.
We'll supply gloves, water and tools,
All we need are the weed pulling fools.

— Pete Sarafian



WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third Saturday Walks

April 15, 9:30 Wildflower Walk

Dr. Dirk Walters, retired Cal Poly botanist and author of a botany text, will take us on a wildflower walk during a perfect month for Spring wildflowers in the Elfin Forest. Come along and enjoy the bright yellows of Fiddleneck and Rush rose, the blue of Silver dune lupine, the whites of Popcorn flower and Pearly everlasting, and many more. As one of the Central Coast's best plant raconteurs, Dirk will share a choice piece of information about each plant. He writes columns on native plants for SWAP's *Oakleaves* as well as the California Native Plant Society newsletter.

May 20, 9:30 Butterfly and Plant Walk

Late spring provides an abundance of butterflies in the Elfin Forest. Join local naturalist Al Normandin to see and learn the habits and life cycle of our local butterflies. Al will also focus on identifying the host and nectar plants that these butterflies rely upon. 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.

June 17, 9:30 All About the Estuary

What is an estuary and what is being done to preserve and protect the Morro Bay Estuary and adjacent habitats? Cheryl Lesinski, Outreach Coordinator for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program will tell walk attendees about the work of the MBNEP and the health of the Morro Bay Estuary. She will lead walkers to the Elfin Forest's overlooks to view the results of silt buildup in Morro Bay, talk about the effects of pollution on the Bay, and explain the connection between Forest and the Estuary. She'll also introduce walk participants to "denizens" of the Bay, and tell us how local residents can help to protect this important natural resource.

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 leave pets at home. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information call (805) 528-0392.

Thanks to a good rain the day before his Fungus Foray, Dennis Sheridan and walk participants found 20 species of fungi in the Elfin Forest.

Here Dennis displays Turkey Tails, bracket-like mushrooms that grow on branches and tree trunks.

Below: Janet Hillson, one of our newer Weed Warriors, displays the tools she used for removing veldt grass from an infested area between 15th and 16th Streets.



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.

Owners of dogs off-leash can be cited.

If you witness dogs off-leash, vandalism or obvious crimes, call the County Sheriff at 781-4550.

Annual Cambria Wildflower Show

The Cambria SWAP chapter, North Coast SWAP, will present their second Annual Cambria Wildflower Show Saturday, April 22 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street in Cambria. Donation at the door is \$2, and students are admitted free. On display will be specimens of wildflowers collected between the Monterey County Line and the Morro Bay Estuary, and east from the coastal bluffs to the Santa Lucia Mountains. Each plant will be labeled. For information call 927-2856.

Deerweed

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

Some plants are much more common than they appear. These are ones without conspicuous characteristics. This allows them to blend into the greens and gray-greens of the surrounding plants. However, the plant profiled today is not one of these. Although it is nondescript, it prefers to be right along the paths where we can see it. The plant is common shrubby deerweed or *Lotus scoparius*.

A glance at Bonnie's drawing will lead most readers to quickly recognize the pea shaped flower and elongate green-bean shaped fruit characteristic of the Legume family (*Fabaceae*). Shrubby deerweed is a semi-shrub that produces abundant three-foliate leaves in the spring and a scattering of yellow flowers. It blooms most prolifically in the spring, but a few flowers can be found in our area every month of the year. Shrubby deerweed is extremely drought deciduous. That is, with the first days of summer, it loses most of or all of its leaves. After that, all that remains is a tangle of thin wiry green stems.

The list of Elfin Forest species contains two shrubby species of *Lotus*: *L. scoparius* and *L. junceus* (rush deerweed). These two species differ only technically. *L. scoparius* has calyx (sepal) teeth that are long and pointed and a small but standard shaped (i.e., straight) legume fruit. *L. junceus* has very short, blunt calyx teeth and a fruit that makes a sharp bend just as it leaves the calyx tube. Dr. Hoover, in his *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County*, states that these two species often grow in close proximity but usually on different soil types. *L. scoparius* is soil neutral whereas *L. junceus* is almost always restricted to rocky outcrops. Based on Dr. Hoover's observation, I suspect that *L. junceus* is in fact not in the Elfin Forest, certainly not in the fossil sand deposits that underlie the boardwalk.

Why do I say that shrubby deerweed is less common than it actually appears? Shrubby deerweed is a pioneer. It is most common immediately after an area of vegetation has been removed or destroyed by some kind of disturbance. In Southern California, that disturbance usually is fire. Immediately after the fire, deerweed germinates and rapidly covers the bare ground. The extra high nutrient ash left on the ground after the fire as well as the lack of competition from the taller shrubs that were there

before the fire aids it. However, within a few years, other shrub species have grown tall and the soil fertility has diminished, causing the deerweed to gradually die out. This is true everywhere except where there is localized disturbance such as along trails.

We humans are among the largest of land animals. We certainly have very large feet such that whenever we make trail we create wide paths that let in the extra sunshine needed by this pioneer. In other words, deerweed gradually becomes rarer and rarer out in the native vegetation but becomes quite common right along our paths. This is certainly the case next to the boardwalk in the Elfin Forest. The boardwalk was put in over the top of a heavily used trail, which, before the boardwalk was becoming quite wide. The boardwalk has stopped the widening of the trail but there is still a narrow band of disturbance immediately adjacent to the boardwalk. About the only plant growing in this band is our shrubby deerweed.

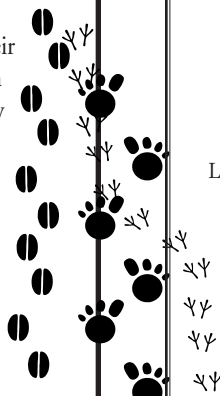
A retired Cal Poly professor of wild game management, Dr. Douglas Donaldson, called this plant "deer ice cream". If asked to assess an area for its ability to support deer and other wildlife he would simply count the number of individual deerweed plants. He could do this because deerweed is most common immediately after a disturbance, especially fire, and then it gradually disappears. So the number of deerweed plants is inversely correlated with the time since the fire. Early pioneer plants are able to incorporate the nutrition freed by the fire and convert it into green plant material that herbivores can digest. In mature shrub communities, like chaparral and dune scrub, most of the energy that plants trap goes into producing woody branches that are indigestible. Since the pioneers are herbaceous or at most semi-woody more of this productivity is available to animals.



Elfin Wild Critters Abound

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

It would seem that at dawn, dusk and in the dark, when only the elves are around to observe, the animal population in the Elfin Forest emerges. Expert tracker Evan Albright led the nature walk in January to identify the critters that bound out of their hiding places and seem to abound everywhere. Even though we daylight visitors seldom see wild animals, except for a few ground squirrels and rabbits, many more creatures frequent the Forest. Their traces in the sand can be read and interpreted by an expert like Evan. He showed the interested onlookers signs of bobcat, gopher, quail and other birds, raccoon, red fox, skunk, and woodrat as well. Clues to their identity and activity could be found in tracks, scat, hair left on branches and fences, and tooth marks on gnawed vegetation.



OAKLEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.

Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler;
layout is by Katy Budge. Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.

Contributors to this issue:

Dan Berman, Wendy Brown, Ron Rasmussen, Pat Sarafian, Pete Sarafian,
Liz Scott-Graham, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jean Wheeler
All photos this issue by Yolanda Waddell.

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the first Wednesday before the month of issue.
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:

Ronda & Larry LeBrane	Lisa & Don Rains
Leslie Lee, RE/MAX Ocean West*	David Stevig*

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Arthur & Lillian Armstrong*	Larry & Jennifer Levine*
Karen Beatty & Frank Ausilio*	Annette Lindeman*
Alese Bell*	Merrill Lynn
Mimi Bull	Susan McGinty
Siegrid Fenn	Duke McPherson*
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Kirsten Holmquist*	Dorothy E. Sylvester
Clement H. Jeffrey*	Norma & Peter Wightman*
Mike & Melissa Leahy	Keith & Beth Wimer

**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.*



Booth Coordinator Pat Sarafian (L) and SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen were among the volunteers staffing the SWAP booth at the Morro Bay Bird Festival in January.

Booth Volunteers Attract Elfin Support

By Pat Sarafian

Information tables and booths staffed by SWAP volunteers are vitally important contributions to SWAP's efforts on behalf of our Elfin Forest. They help us to reach people who otherwise wouldn't know about SWAP and the Elfin Forest. While conversing with visitors to our booth, our enthusiastic volunteers motivate others to become interested in helping out. This was demonstrated with our information table at the 2006 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, held the weekend of January 13-16 at the Morro Bay Community Center. The willing volunteers capably staffing our booth were Pat Akey, Les Bowker, Mike Kinter, Dorothy Norwood, Ron Rasmussen, Pat Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, and June Wright. They did much networking, sold T-shirts and pocket guides, and gave information about the Elfin Forest to dozens of local, out-of-county and out-of-state visitors.

Watch for SWAP's booth at the Los Osos Family Fun Fest on June 11.



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

3. PHOTOS OF THE ELFIN FOREST

Original photo note cards by Bob Meyer	___ @ \$3.00 =	___
Original photo postcards by Bob Meyer	___ @ \$1.00 =	___

4. MURAL PRINTS

___ signed prints by artist Barbara Rosenthal, image size 4"x16"; mounted on foamcore	@ \$20.00 =	___
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5. NEW POCKET GUIDE

Useful 56-page guide to plants & animals of the Elfin Forest	@ \$2.00 =	___
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SUBTOTAL

(Prices include tax) ___

Shipping cost if outside Los Osos/Morro Bay

Pocket Guides & Note Cards \$1.00 = ___

all other items \$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 Item!

SWAP has recently published a 56-page Pocket Guide update titled, "Plants and Animals of the Elfin Forest Natural Area." It contains lists of the Forest's mammals; reptiles and amphibians; birds; common arthropods including a separate list of butterflies and moths; gastropods; a descriptive list of vascular plants, mushrooms; and a 56-species list of lichens. There is also a Habitat Map of the Elfin Forest.

The Pocket Guide sells for \$2.00.

Encourage your friends and neighbors
to pick up after their pets. See article on page 3.

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



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Did You Know SWAP Membership Is Nationwide?



Most SWAP mem-
bers and subscribers to
Oakleaves live within driving distance of the Elfin Forest. But
it might surprise you to know how far away some of our sub-
scribers live. Our *Oakleaves* mailing list has over 450 entries,
some of which go to local and county offices, newspapers,
and schools. Of the mailings to individuals, 411 live in San
Luis Obispo County, 47 live elsewhere in California, and 12
live out of state. Our out-of-state membership is quite wide-
spread. We currently have two each in Washington, D. C. and
Texas, and one each in the states of Washington, Minnesota,
Missouri, Virginia, Oklahoma, Idaho, Hawaii, and New
Hampshire. From Hawaii to New Hampshire — now that's a
nation-wide circulation!

For more fascinating statistics about SWAP, including
its volunteers, their activities on behalf of the Elfin Forest,
and the value of the Natural Area to the community, see Ron
Rasmussen's article on page 1. Reminder: please check your
mailing label to see if it's time to renew.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

☐ Member \$12 ☐ Defender \$100

☐ Steward \$25 ☐ Champion \$250

☐ Protector \$50 ☐ Guardian \$500

☐ Life Member \$1000

☐ I want to help, please call me!

Memberships include a subscription to
SWAP's bimonthly newsletter, *Oakleaves*.
All donations to SWAP are tax-deductible.

EVERY membership counts!

Make checks payable to: SWAP.

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