



# O A K L E A V E S

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 ❖ JUNE / JULY 2010

## Welcome To The Elfin Forest Zoo

By Ron Rasmussen, Chair

*From Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary: Zoo n. [abbrev. <zoo-logical garden], a place where a collection of wild animals is kept for public showing.*

If one uses the above definition the Elfin Forest is certainly a zoo. But it doesn't fit most peoples' conception of what a zoo should be. There are no cages or moats to protect the animals from visitors (and vice versa), no regular feeding or medical care for the inhabitants, and no restocking as the animals on exhibit become ill or die. Viewed from another angle, the Elfin Forest is not only a zoo, but also an example of what a zoo should be.

When visiting the Elfin Forest Zoo, you are not likely to be attacked by lions or tigers. There are no elephants or giraffes and no fear of dangerous snakes or reptiles. But there are certainly wild animals, including reptiles, snakes and mammals. Gopher snakes, lizards, wood rats and rabbits are common. The larger animals, such as raccoons and opossum, are also common. At times coyotes can be heard along Los Osos Creek. Ordinarily, a daytime visitor to this zoo may not see many of these residents, but the sand along

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## Jan DiLeo Leaves County Parks, Joins SWAP Board

By Yolanda Waddell



*Former County Parks Planner (and new SWAP Board member) Jan DiLeo was feted at a lunch by SWAP board members and friends. County clockwise from left are Jan DiLeo, Pete Sarafian, Bob Meyer, Ron Rasmussen, Pat Brown, Pat Akey, Jay Waddell, Debbie Levi and Pat Murray. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

Members of the SWAP Board certainly had a seesaw of emotions during April when they learned that their longtime friend and "go to" person, Jan DiLeo, was leaving her post as County Parks Senior Planner. They invited Jan to join them for a "farewell and thank you" lunch to show their appreciation for her years of hard work on behalf of the Elfin Forest.

Then word got around that Jan was thinking about joining the SWAP Board, and what is more, she was willing to accept the job of TREASURER. Sorrow changed to glee. The farewell lunch turned into a "welcome aboard" lunch. The SWAP Board will be enriched by Jan's knowledgeable approach in County matters, her good humor, many skills, and her positive outlook.



## 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  
Jan DiLeo, Treasurer  
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary  
Pat Akey, Member at Large  
Debbie Levi, Member at Large  
Pat Murray, Member at Large  
Danna Weidner, Member at Large

The SWAP Board of Directors meets monthly  
at Sea Oaks Mobile Home Park,  
1675 Los Osos Valley Road.

The next meetings are  
**Thursday, June 10**  
**and Thursday, July 8.**

All Board meetings are open to the public.

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



## CONTACT SWAP

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

Bob Yetter

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  
or Bob Yetter at 781-4417.



## Elfin Forest Visitors

Elfin Forest neighbor Steve Tross (left) took his visitors Matt and Ryan (who jokingly prefer to be called Mario and Luigi) and their grandmother, Chris, for a tour around the Forest. They were resting at the Highest Point at the end of their walk; Steve commented that he enjoys the Elfin Forest and visits it often.

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## SWAP Board Changes Meeting Date

The Board members of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP have decided to move our monthly Board meeting day to the second Thursday of each month. That will make it possible for all on the Board to attend without inconvenience. If you have a 2010 Elfin Forest calendar and think you might be interested in attending one of the Board meetings, please change the SWAP Board meeting dates on your calendar for the months of June through December.

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## Welcome to the Zoo continued from page 1

the boardwalk shows fresh tracks of their presence. Most of these residents are either nocturnal or active in early morning, but rabbits and lizards are active all day.

Many ordinary zoos have enclosures for birds (aviaries) that ensure that the inhabitants will not just fly away. The Elfin Forest is a special kind of aviary with no screens or walls to keep the birds inside. Nevertheless, many species of birds either are residents of the Forest or spend some time here during the year. The Morro Coast Audubon Society's "Big Sit" in October routinely counts over one hundred species of birds in or around the Elfin Forest Zoo. The reason for this popularity is, of course, that the Forest offers food and shelter and ideal places for raising a family. Even though there may be some danger from predators, the Forest is a relatively safe place for these avian residents and migrants. Casual visitors will often hear the calls and songs of many species even though they may not see the birds themselves.

The Elfin Forest Zoo has something more in common with traditional zoos. A crew of dedicated people must maintain it. The volunteers and members of SWAP have this responsibility. With the help of our membership and generous donors, SWAP and its loyal volunteers will continue their work and ensure that the Elfin Forest Zoo will continue to provide a haven for residents and migrants.

And one more thing: Admission to the Elfin Forest Zoo is FREE!



# Weed Warriors Find “Treasures” 1.

Is the Elfin Forest a small wilderness or a small junkyard? That’s what our Weed Warriors sometimes wonder when they come across strange objects while removing invasive plants or installing erosion control bars. Some people are apparently tempted to get rid of unwanted objects by dumping them in the Elfin Forest. But one person’s junk is sometimes another person’s treasure.

See the accompanying photos (clockwise): 1) Steve Cake, shown holding a steam iron and an iron skillet that he found in some bushes, took the skillet home to add to his supply of pots and pans. Charlie Sitton, right, came up with a beer can and some netting. Alon Perlman, left, was amused.

2) Jay Bonestell and Dar Reynolds came across a suitcase filled with men’s clothes. Sadly, everything in the suitcase had become moldy and had to be discarded. 3) A toy airplane and part of a toy army tank were among items discovered near the 16th Street entrance to the Forest among the veldt grass that was being pulled.

4) Pete Sarafian is shown holding a large plastic battle-ax, possibly part of a Halloween costume. On the bright side, Elfin Forest neighbors and visitors often pitch in to remove litter and dog droppings, keeping the Forest clean. For them, every day is Earth Day.



2.



3.



## Also Found ...

Susan Chandler picked up these unsightly cigarette butts with her “teleshock reacher” at Bush Lupine Point. She and your editors wish to remind everyone that smoking in the Elfin Forest is illegal at all times and places our small wilderness treasure at high risk for fire.



# Katie Karikka, Member with Memories

By Yolanda Waddell

Back in the 1980s, Katie Karikka was a Morro Bay Natural History Museum docent, working in the Discovery Center. She met an enthusiastic “walks” docent named Don Klopfer who wanted to go on a scouting trip of a new State Parks acquisition along the east end of the Morro Bay estuary. We now call that oak woodland the Don Klopfer Grove. Katie accompanied Don on one of his explorations and was impressed with its twisted oaks and views of the bay. Whenever Don led a walk in the grove, he would find a tree branch in a sunny spot, tell children to touch the warm trunk, and inform them that the Elfin Forest elves had just been there. He would add that the elves were watching to make sure that the children were respectful of the Forest.

Katie, a long-time lover of natural places, became a member of SWAP soon after the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter was formed in 1985. She has kept up her membership to this day and volunteered for SWAP during the years when money was being raised to purchase the southern 40 acres of the Elfin Forest.

Katie grew up in eastern Idaho and Utah. As a daughter of a house painter and farm manager, her exposure to the out-of-doors began early. Her college education prepared her to teach home economics and nutrition. She is still in good health at age 93, working out at home and walking a mile a day.

One of Katie’s favorite things to do is to travel. As an army wife, she lived in 12 states. She has visited all of the states, except Alaska, and many other countries. Her favorite destination in recent years is the National Story Telling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee. A consummate birder, Katie has 600 birds on her life list. She also loves to take photos of wildflowers and has a library of 3,000 slides. Her motto is “keep moving and have a positive attitude.”

Katie has followed the progress of the Elfin Forest almost since it was given that name. She has been faithful in keeping up her membership and sets a good example for others who would like to support SWAP and the Elfin Forest.



*Calendar Committee members Jean Wheeler and Yolanda Waddell took Heather Hewitt (l), Larry LeBrane and other artists for an orientation walk in the Elfin Forest during March. Photo by Jean Wheeler.*

## 2011 Elfin Forest Calendar Features Juried Artwork

By Debbie Levi

Like a hearty plant forever growing and spreading, the Elfin Forest calendar will produce new shoots this year. Elsie Deitz and Steven Deluque served as a jury of professional artists and selected the artwork for the 2011 calendar. Everyone on the Calendar Committee believes their expertise will enhance the quality of the calendar and benefit this yearly fundraiser for SWAP. We sincerely thank the jurors for their time and effort.

A preview event will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010. Further details will be announced in the August/September newsletter. The public is invited to attend.

If anyone wishes to pre-order and secure a 2011 Elfin Forest calendar, the cost is \$15. E-mail [calendar@elfin-forest.org](mailto:calendar@elfin-forest.org) and indicate name, contact information, and quantity desired.

# Horkelia

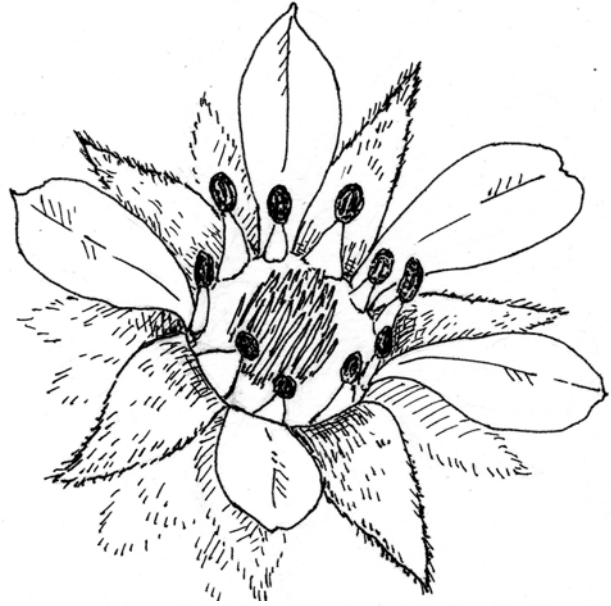
By Dirk Walters, Ph. D.; Drawings by Bonnie Walters

Some plants are so distinctive and easy to identify, it can be easily accomplished while simply walking casually past them. This issue's plant is one of the first plants I learned when I came to San Luis Obispo County back in the early 1970s. Its localized distribution and relatively small populations meant I couldn't use it in my taxonomy classes. So, mostly, I found it an easy plant to ignore. Why? Its solitary or small clusters of flowers are produced on isolated stalks that arise directly from the ground. Flower stalks are never more than a foot or so tall. As a result, I never got down on my knees to closely examine the flowers. If I had, I would have discovered how beautiful and quite fascinating they are. It's not the five petals or five green sepals that make it special, but its ten stamens.

Look at Bonnie's drawing and locate the stamens. They appear to be in two sizes. The ones in front of the triangular sepals are larger with big anthers borne on top of a showy, flat, triangular white filament. The stamens in front of the petals are made-up of a puny triangular filament and an even punier anther. The stamens, as well as the petals and sepals, are attached to the edge of a cup-shaped flower base. This structure is known as a hypanthium, as it is often found below (hyp-) the flower (anthium). Each flower contains many tiny pistils that are hidden down inside the hypanthium. Each of the pistils turns into a dry fruit containing a single seed. Botanists call such a fruit an achene. Technically, each flower matures into a cluster or aggregate of achenes.

The plant is currently placed in the genus *Horkelia*. It doesn't really have a common name other than its scientific generic name. The genus name, *Horkelia*, is named after J. Horkel, a German plant physiologist, who lived from 1769-1846. Members of this genus were placed in the genus *Potentilla* in older ID books such as Robert Hoover's *The Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County California*. *Horkelia* can be distinguished from most *Potentilla* by their triangular filaments (*Potentilla* is string-like.) and white to pinkish flowers (*Potentilla* is yellow.) Occasionally, one sees the common name cinquefoil applied. However this name is best applied only to members of *Potentilla* displaying a basic pattern of five (cinque) leaves or leaflets (foil).

The species of horkelia found in the Elfin Forest is *Horkelia cuneata*. *Cuneata* refers to the shape of the leaflets, which are cuneate or wedge-shaped. The species comes in three subspecies; two of the subspecies range over our coastal dunes while the third is found locally in well drained soils in our county interior. Unfortunately, in our area, the subspecies tend to inter-grade, so sub-specific identification is sometimes difficult. The subspecies found in the Elfin Forest should be *H. c. ssp. cuneata*. Some books call this the wedge-leaf horkelia. I have also seen it called Kellogg's horkelia. In older ID books, this species was identified as *Potentilla Kelloggii*. This is a case where the common name followed the plant into a new genus.



## Please Report Elfin Forest Sightings

Have you observed any unusual birds in the Elfin Forest? Mammals? Reptiles? Amphibians? Insects? Interesting activities or footprints of wildlife in our Elfin Forest? Unusual plants? Please report any interesting sightings to your Oakleaves editors at: oakleaves@elfin-forest.org for inclusion in future issues under "Elfin Forest Sightings." You can also leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, 528-0392.



### OAKLEAVES

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Contributors to this issue: Pat Brown, Susan Chandler, Betsy Kinter,  
Debbie Levi, Jim Royer, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell,  
Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jean Wheeler.

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oakleaves@elfin-forest.org.



# Trail Guide Box Vandalized

On March 23, during a walk in the Elfin Forest, SWAP Board member Pat Murray came across a distressing sight. The Trail Guide box at the 13th Street boardwalk intersection was minus

its lid, and the plexi-glass front had been smashed in. Pat found the lid and two screws and turned them over to Pete Sarafian. He gave them to Trail Guide Committee Chair Pat Brown, who repaired the lid, replaced the plexi-glass face and re-stained the weathered

box. Then she removed the 16th Street Trail Guide box and stained it as well. Thank you to both Pats for making sure that Elfin Forest visitors will continue to be able to use our Trail Guide.

*Photos by Pat Brown.*



*Mike Stiles (left) and Tom Edell joined Jim Royer in conducting their own Spring Big Sit at Bush Lupine Point in the Elfin Forest. They counted 96 species in 10-1/2 hours. Photo by Jim Royer.*

## Spring Big Sit in the Elfin Forest

*By Jim Royer*

Mike Stiles and I decided to do a Big Sit at the Elfin Forest in April, in addition to the usual October count. April 17th had a good weather forecast and seemed to be in the middle of migration, so we decided to set that date. We met at about 6:00 AM and counted till about 4:30 PM. Mike went out in the evening again to listen for owls, without any success. Tom Edell joined us for about half the time during the day. The weather did turn out well as we started with a slight offshore breeze and clear skies. While the wind switched to onshore late in the morning and was cold for a while, it later slowed, and the day warmed back up.

It was interesting to compare spring species with fall. Our total was down, but this may have partially been due to fewer counters. While the variety of shorebirds, ducks, grebes, raptors, gulls and sparrows was down, the land bird migration was better. Birds we saw or heard on this spring sit that we have never recorded in October included Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Rough-winged Swallow, Wilson's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting. The total was 96 species - about 15 species fewer than our typical October totals. It was also warmer and greener than the fall with more flowers, lizards and butterflies.

I had no new BIGBY (Big Green Big Year) species after birding continuously from this spot for over ten hours, but between the birds, flowers, butterflies, visitors and the view, it was still very enjoyable.

# Weed Warriors

By Pete Sarafian,  
Conservation Chairperson

Photos by Yolanda Waddell

## Warriors Hammer Hillside

In April the Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors' work party continued the removal of Veldt grass along the eastern border of the Elfin Forest. A large work crew of 15 volunteers crawled all over the South Bay Boulevard highway embankment. They included Scott Bertz, Dave Bowlus, Steve Cake, Matt Clonton, Lannie Erickson, Rich and Prisila Johnson, Charlie Lanini, Bob Meyer, Alon Perlman, Ron Rasmussen, Dar Reynolds, Pete Sarafian, Charlie Sitton, and Yolanda Waddell. SWAP essentially has converted what was mostly Veldt grass into a burgeoning home for native plants. The new natives range from tiny herbs to shrubs and oak trees. It has been a slow process, but we are winning the war thanks to the hard work of our SWAP volunteers. Thanks to all who help save California heritage in the Elfin Forest.



*After three hours of pulling veldt grass on the slope next to South Bay Boulevard in the hot sun, some of the members of the April work party stayed to drink water, eat cookies and chat. Shown left to right are Ron Rasmussen, Bob Meyer, Pete Sarafian, Dave Bowlus, Lannie Erickson and Alon Perlman. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

## May Day Brings Spring "Fling"

The Weed Warriors were flinging weeds into plastic bags and hauling them to the compost pile on May Day. The first of the month brought out a record number of volunteers to range all over the southern half of the Elfin Forest in search of nasty things to yank out and dispose of. Volunteers tracked down Veldt grass, two bromes, and fescue invasive grasses and also the narrow-leaved iceplant succulent. The Warriors forced them to surrender. Jay Bonestell, Steve Cake, Lannie Erickson, Prisila and Rich Johnson, Joseph Lansbury, Marty Levi, Bob Meyer, Denise Park, Alon Perlman, Ron Rasmussen, Pete Sarafian, Charlie Sitton, Yolanda Waddell, Ben Walther, and Norma Wightman contributed to the search and destroy efforts. Special thanks go to Denise and her friends Joseph and Ben (pictured at right) who are local residents starting a bike riding/good deeds organization. Their youth and enthusiasm contributed to a large amount of weeds that can no longer spread through the Forest. Thanks to all who turned out and made the day such a success.



*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.*



# Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

*Text and Photos By Jean Wheeler*

Although winter's huge flotillas of ducks, geese, and shorebirds have flown to their northern nesting territories, close inspection reveals there are still a lot of water birds around. For many species of ducks and shorebirds, some individuals remain all year or even arrive to nest here after vacationing for the winter farther south. Among waders, willets and killdeer remain very common. Also resident all year are great blue and black-crowned night herons, along with many snowy and greater egrets. Most of our raptor species are here all year and likely to be actively hunting with fledglings to feed in June and July. Many chaparral and oak woodland birds are also busy here all year—such as hummingbirds, flycatchers, wrens, warblers, sparrows, thrashers, finches, scrub jays, blackbirds, and quail (pictured top right).

We always have lots of wildflowers in bloom in the Elfin Forest even with the arrival of hot, dry summer weather. With the copious and late rains of this year, the shrubs should be able to bloom even more exuberantly and longer than in recent summers. Black sage and chamise continue to brighten much of the landscape with pale lavender and white flowers, and the glow of yellow and gold is provided by poppies, deerweed, and sticky monkey flowers. Blues are especially rich from the silver dune lupines as they host Moro blue butterflies near Bush Lupine Point. Woolly star provides low clumps of beautiful blue flowers, especially along the upper boardwalk near the 15th Street sand trail.

Adding color in the understory are yellow spikes of the succulent coastal *Dudleya* and bright red Indian pinks (pictured bottom right) whose red petals look as if they've been cut by pinking shears. Pink color is provided by spikes of California hedge nettle as well as cobwebby thistle (a native, unlike the alien and invasive purple Italian thistle). White flowers in the understory include pearly everlasting, the tiny white flowers of short grayish-green croton plants next to paths, and white flowers and ferny-looking leaves of horkelia (see Dirk & Bonnie Walters' article on page 5) in open areas. Enjoy the colorful beauty of early summer in our small wilderness area preserve.



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## SWAP Newsletter is Online

Did you misplace your copy of Oakleaves? Do you want a friend to see an article in a recent issue? Your problem is solved with a few keystrokes on your computer. Type in <http://www.elfin-forest.org> and you will reach our web site. Then click on the line that says, "Read the current copy of Oakleaves and more." You will find a line that says, "To read the (current month) issue of Oakleaves, click here." If you want to read a past issue, there is a column of links by date, extending back to December/January, 2004-05. Some of our members now prefer to read Oakleaves on line rather than receive it by mail. If you would like to be among our "on line only" readers, let us know at [oakleaves@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaves@elfin-forest.org).

### We'd Like Mail!

We encourage our readers to submit photos, letters to the editor, or interesting and timely information by e-mailing to [oakleaves@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaves@elfin-forest.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

*The editors.*



# WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

## Third Saturday Walks

### *June 19, 9:30 a.m. – Weather & the Elfin Forest*

John Lindsey, the PG&E Weather Man based at Diablo Canyon, will give a fascinating walk and talk about the effects of weather on the plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. John, an authority on coastal weather, will help us to understand why the topography of San Luis Obispo County plays an important role in where rain falls, and how much. This will be an excellent mini course in meteorology and will give us an edge in discussing that universal topic – the weather

### *July 17, 9:30 a.m. – Sketch Walk*

Join artist and naturalist Barbara Renshaw for a stroll along the Elfin Forest boardwalk. Take in views of the Morro Bay estuary, oak groves, expanses of coastal sage scrub and chaparral, and the volcanic Morros beyond. You'll stop in the Rose Bowker Oak Grove, made accessible for all with a recently built boardwalk extension, to enjoy the ancient gnarled Coast live oak trees. Barbara will tell you a bit about the native plants that you see along the way. She will choose a few favorite sites for sketching. No drawing experience is necessary. Bring a pad of drawing paper, colored pencils or pastels, and some drinking water. Bring a camera too. You'll be pleased to discover the artist hidden inside of you.

### *Aug. 21, 9:30 a.m. – Insect Walk*

Summertime brings out the creepy-crawlies that we often overlook. Local naturalist Al Normandin will search every nook and cranny along the boardwalk for the Good, Bad, and Ugly of the insect world as well as the pretty summer butterflies. The importance and ecology of our local insects will be discussed during the walk. Bring a hand lens if you have one, or close-focusing binoculars.

*Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at times stated above. Park at the north end of 15th Street (16th Street for wheelchairs) off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Walks begin on the boardwalk at the end of the 15th Street path. Wear comfortable shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. Please leave pets at home. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information call (805) 528-0392.*



*(Above) During his March 3rd Saturday walk, Ecologist Les Bowker (in hat) displays a visual aid to help walk participants understand a salt wedge in an estuary, where outflowing fresh water overlies the denser sea water.*

*(Below) In April, butterfly walk leader Pat Brown displayed a breeding cage that she made with nylon net, two embroidery hoops and a circle of cardboard. When a butterfly emerges from a chrysalis that is placed in the cage, it has room to fly without getting injured.*

*Photos by Yolanda Waddell.*



## Elfin Forest Sightings

During the April conservation work party the Weed Warriors spotted a large Coast horned lizard in the eastern portion of the Forest. These native reptiles are diminishing in number. The growing infestation of Argentine ants is overrunning the lizard's primary food source, the larger, native Harvester ants. It was gratifying to see that some lizards still are surviving.

Later in April, during the 3rd Saturday walk, walk participants heard some delightful bird song coming from a small gray bird perched at the top of a Coast live oak tree. Nature photographer Teddy Llovet caught the bird, a Bewick's Wren, in mid-song (see adjacent photo). Teddy remarked that Bewick's Wrens don't usually sing from the top of a bush or tree.

# Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter,  
SWAP Database Coordinator

## NEW MEMBERS:

Barbara Jo Carlson\*  
Bob Gathright  
Teddy Llovet

## RENEWING MEMBERS:

Susan and John Armstrong  
C. Dawn Aulenbrock\*  
Jay and Ann Bonestell  
Carolyn Boomer  
Leslie Bowker\*  
David Bowlus  
and Beverly Boyd\*  
Diane Clement\*  
Scott Danielson\*  
Phyllis Foulstone\*  
Alta Hall\*  
Beverly Hardy\*  
Marsha Houston\*  
Ginny Irving  
James R. Landreth\*  
Mary M. Leizear  
Sheila C. Montooth\*  
Robert Pavlik  
Wilson and Carolyn Pendery\*  
Shaunna Sullivan  
and Ron Ruppert  
Max and Helen Sicher\*  
Mary C. Topp\*  
Ungar family  
Elizabeth Will and Ben Burgoa\*

## SPECIAL DONATIONS:

Richard and Brenda Allmann \*  
James R. Landreth\*  
in memory of Esther Landreth

*\*Thanks to those listed above who donated more than the \$25 (regular) or \$15 (senior or student) membership dues. The additional donations will be used for special projects in the Elfin Forest.*



*In 1999, President Clinton awarded Dr. Edgar Wayburn, physician turned conservationist, the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his efforts in preserving open spaces in California, Alaska and elsewhere. Photo by J. Scott Applewhite, Associated Press.*

## Edgar Wayburn, Last Living Founder of SWAP, Dies at 103

In 1971, four people with a passion for the wilderness signed the SWAP Articles of Incorporation. They were Emily Polk who had the idea of saving small urban and suburban wilderness areas; Ansel Adams who spent most of his adult life taking majestic photos of the American West; Margaret Owings, founder of Friends of the Sea Otter and defender of the Big Sur wilderness; and Edgar Wayburn, awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999 and said by President Clinton to have “saved more of our wilderness than any other person alive.”

Dr. Wayburn, a practicing physician who taught at the UC Berkeley and Stanford medical schools and practiced medicine for over 50 years, was also a dedicated conservationist. He was a five-term president of the Sierra Club and had central roles in protecting 104 million acres of Alaskan wilderness, establishing Redwood National Park and Point Reyes National Seashore, and starting the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in and around San Francisco.

Wayburn’s goal was to keep jewels of nature from being paved over or turned into housing tracts. He wrote in his autobiography, “In destroying wilderness we deny ourselves the full extent of what it means to be alive.”

When Emily Polk contacted him with her idea of buying and conserving small pieces of land adjacent to cities and towns, he was more than ready to help her. He contacted an attorney who drew up the Articles of Incorporation for SWAP and then added his signature to them. Our organization is indebted to Dr. Wayburn for his generosity with his time and influence. Ansel Adams died in 1984 at age 82; Margaret Owings died in 1999 at age 85; Emily Polk was 98 when she passed away in 2008; and Edgar Wayburn, age 103, died at his home in San Francisco on March 9, 2010.

## Remembering Freeman Hall

Freeman Hall was an excellent birder. Although he was an active docent for the Central Coast Natural History Association (CCNHA), he also helped SWAP by leading an occasional bird walk and advising our Education Committee. During his professional life, Freeman was a meteorologist; he worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and taught meteorology at Colorado State University. Freeman and his wife, Worth, have been long-time members of our SWAP chapter. We extend our condolences to Worth. Donations for a scholarship in environmental science in Freeman’s name can be made to the CCNHA, 1320 Van Beurden Dr., Los Osos, CA 93402.





## Beautiful Mural Shirts Available from SWAP

Order these gorgeous shirts for yourself or as gifts. They are black with artist Barbara Rosenthal's lovely mural print in color on both the front and back of each shirt. They are available in adult sizes from small to triple extra large as short-sleeved or long-sleeved T-shirts or as thick, warm sweatshirts.



# SWAP Shoppers' Order Form

See Photos of All Items at [www.elfin-forest.org](http://www.elfin-forest.org)

All Prices Include Sales Tax

### 1. MURAL SHIRTS

Mural design by artist Barbara Rosenthal on both front and back. Words on shirt: "El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area" above mural and "Small Wilderness Area Preservation" and "Los Osos, California" below mural.

Circle Sizes:

\_\_\_ Short Slv. T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$19.00 = \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Short Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$22.00 = \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$23.00 = \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL) @ \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sweatshirt (XXL, XXXL) @ \$27.00 = \$ \_\_\_

### 2. PHOTOS OF THE ELFIN FOREST

Original photo note cards by Bob Meyer

\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 or \_\_\_ set of 5 @ \$14.00 = \$ \_\_\_

Original photo postcards by Bob Meyer

\_\_\_ @ \$1.00 = \$ \_\_\_

Indicate No. per View(s):

\_\_\_ All 5; \_\_\_ Don Klopfer Trail; \_\_\_ Ocean View;

\_\_\_ Wild Hyacinth; \_\_\_ Horned Lizard; \_\_\_ Dudleya

### 3. POCKET GUIDE

Useful 56-page guide to plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. Charts for bloom season, form, color, and habitat for 200 vascular plants plus lists of lichens and mushrooms known to occur. Habitat and peak months seen are charted for 187 birds. Also listed: 28 common mammals; 10 reptiles; 4 amphibians; 19 butterflies and moths (charted by size, months in flight, color, and host plants); 104 other arthropods and 7 gastropods.

\_\_\_ @ \$2.00 = \$ \_\_\_

### 4. ELFIN FOREST MURAL PRINTS

signed prints by artist Barbara Rosenthal, image size 4 1/2 x 16 1/2 in; mounted on foamcore

\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_

### 5. ALPHABET BIRD BOOK

With clever verses and superb photos, this book is sure to please young and old.

\_\_\_ @ \$21.65 (including tax) = \_\_\_

### 6. 2011 ELFIN FOREST CALENDAR (Pre-order)

Local artists have contributed to this stunning calendar, available after September 11. \_\_\_ @ \$15 = \$ \_\_\_

Shipping costs within zip 934 \_\_:

Bird Book, \$2.77 (book rate) per book = \_\_\_

Pocket Guides & Note Cards \$1.50 = \_\_\_

Mural Prints on Foamcore \$5.00 = \_\_\_

Shirts each: \$4.00 = \_\_\_

For shipping costs outside 934 \_\_, call (805) 528-0392

**TOTAL OF ORDER** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print when filling order, and indicate how many of each.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (w/area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

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

SWAP 2011 Calendars Available for Preorder - page 11.

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 www.elfin-forest.org



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# Help Boost SWAP Membership



When we apply for grants to finance our work in the Elfin Forest, agencies want to know how many members SWAP has. The more members we have, the greater is our ability to obtain grants for continuing restoration of the Elfin Forest. One thing you can do to help us keep our numbers up is to check the currency of your own membership. Check the renewal date located next to your name on the address label of this issue. Then urge friends to join SWAP by sharing this newsletter with them and taking them on a walk in our Elfin Forest.

You can use the membership form at the right for your renewal or for new memberships for your friends. Our basic membership fee covers our operating costs and brings members this bimonthly newsletter, the *Oakleaves*. Donations above that level provide funds to help us with projects to control weeds, prevent erosion, and restore habitat. Thanks for your help!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- New Member
- Member \$25
- Steward \$50
- Protector \$75
- Renewing Member
- Defender \$100
- Champion \$250
- Guardian \$500
- Seniors & Students \$15
- 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.