



# 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 2011

## Stewardship: It's a Big Job

By Ron Rasmussen, SWAP Chair

According to Webster's dictionary, the role of steward can include overseeing, supervising, and actually performing all administrative and financial activities of an organization on a daily basis. Examples are supervising personnel, planning and implementing special projects, and record keeping. This has been SWAP's responsibility since the Elfin Forest Natural Area was established.

In July 1994 when the Elfin Forest became a San Luis Obispo County Park, SWAP made an Adopt-A-Park agreement with the County to act as Steward for the Elfin Forest. Under the terms of this agreement, SWAP implements "restoration of native habitat, litter pickup, and other routine trail and staging area maintenance." These activities require continuous attention by unpaid SWAP volunteers or subcontractors paid from SWAP funds or grants SWAP secures from other agencies.

In its role as Steward, SWAP is guided by the "Elfin Forest Natural Area Resource Management Plan" that was prepared in 1997 by SWAP in consultation with SLO County and other government agencies having an interest in the site. In its final form this plan incorporated public comment as to how the Elfin Forest should be maintained for the future. When visitors see SWAP

*Stewardship continued on page 2*



*Those four circles on boardwalk boards are just four of over 1,000 circles that Ron Rasmussen painted to mark boards that need to be replaced. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

## Boardwalk Repair Alert!

Ron Rasmussen never dreamed that he would be spray painting the boardwalk. It's not graffiti, mind you, but large red dots – one on every one of the 1060 boards that need to be replaced by the CCC. The boards in the accompanying photo, full of cracks and damaged by eleven years of sunshine, rain and foot traffic, will be removed and replaced with new ones.

As the SWAP representative on the Boardwalk Repair Project

*Boardwalk Repair continued on page 2*

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### From an Elfin Forest Visitor

*Dear SWAP,  
I have used your Boardwalk at the Elfin Forest several times. I use a wheelchair and appreciate it being accessible (with a little help in the steep parts).  
Thank you so much for saving and maintaining this place - and enabling a person in a wheelchair to experience it!*

*Jonathan Wittwer  
Santa Cruz, CA*

*(Ed. Note: Mr. Wittwer sent a donation along with his note. SWAP appreciates his generosity.)*



## 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  
Jan DiLeo, Treasurer  
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary  
Pat Akey, Member at Large  
Debbie Levi, Member at Large  
Pat Murray, 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 9,**  
**and Thursday, July 14.**

All Board meetings are open to the public.  
To confirm the date, time and location  
(which are subject to change),  
call (805) 528-0392.



## CONTACT SWAP

If you have questions about SWAP activities or  
want to volunteer, please call

(805) 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:

Mark Wagner

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.



*A notice of a permit to  
repair the boardwalk as  
well as install a bulletin  
board and rails for steps  
was posted  
at the entrances of the  
Elfin Forest.*

*Photo by Ron  
Rasmussen.*

## Boardwalk Repair *continued from page 1*

Team, Ron is working closely with County Parks Senior Planner Shaun Cooper and CCC Crew leader Mike Anderson. SWAP Conservation Committee member Bob Meyer will be the Snail Monitor for the project, checking to make sure that any Shouderband Dune Snails in the work area are safely out of the way.

The CCC began work on the Boardwalk on May 9th. Their schedule in May allowed for two weeks of work. They will close off sections of the boardwalk while they work, starting with the boardwalk extension at the north end of 16th Street. The rest of the boardwalk will be open to visitors. Large signs will be posted at both ends of their work area, notifying the public that the area is temporarily closed. Also, at each of the street-end entrances to the Forest, notices have been posted about the work to be done (see accompanying photo).

We ask our members to notify friends and relatives who might be planning a walk in the Elfin Forest about the closed repair areas. Thank you for your patience while our Boardwalk is being renewed for another eleven years of use.

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## Stewardship *continued from page 1*

volunteers or County personnel at work in the Forest they can be certain that their activities will not cause harm to the animals and plants of the Elfin Forest.

SWAP's original Adopt-A-Park agreement, beginning in 1994, was for 10 years. The agreement was renewed in 2004 for a further 10 years. The success of SWAP's stewardship during this time in restoring and maintaining the Elfin Forest is especially evident to visitors from outside the immediate area as well as to the local community. Most of the Elfin Forest is free of invasive plants. Areas that have been cleared of these invasives and replanted with native plants are doing well. The boardwalk installed in 1999 has allowed extensive repopulating by natives in areas formerly damaged by human activities. SWAP's continuing stewardship requires support of our loyal membership and crew of volunteers, and especially the surrounding communities. This will ensure that the Elfin Forest Natural Area will continue to be a beautiful place to visit and will show that a "Small Wilderness" can exist in our community.



## Spotlight on Our Volunteers

*Text and photo by Yolanda Waddell*

The Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP functions because of the time, energy and expertise of its volunteers. Many of them work behind the scenes, including the volunteer featured in this issue.

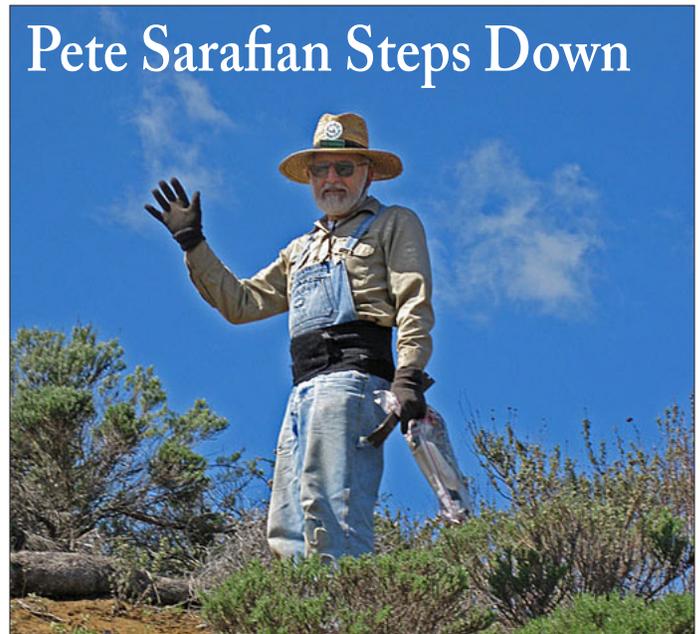


### Ann Bonestell – Calendar Committee

Ann Bonestell's husband, Jay, has been a SWAP Weed Warrior for many years. Until recently, Ann was busy with a full-time job at Cal Poly, doing research with the University Advancement Division. We only saw her at the annual Morro Bay Bird Festival, helping Jay to sell his artwork and her own as well. She specializes in mixed media and jewelry. Now that Ann is retired from Cal Poly, we felt more comfortable in asking for her help.

In January, 2010, Ann said yes to joining the Calendar Committee's Artist Subcommittee. We needed help in compiling a database of artists and the works that they submitted for our 2011 calendar. While at Cal Poly, Ann worked with spreadsheets and personalized mailings, using mail merge functions, authoring and proofing tools. In a word, as far as the Calendar Committee was concerned, she was "heaven-sent." She has produced our spreadsheets, used her computer magic to address letters and envelopes, and has sent group e-mails to possible calendar contributors.

Ann also assists in selection and placement of artwork and photos for our calendars. She shares her good eye for art to help produce a visually pleasing calendar. Also, we count on her knowledge gained from years of working with artists to help us avoid copyright problems and other pitfalls that might occur. Thanks to Ann, the Calendar Committee selection and record-keeping process runs very smoothly.



*By Yolanda Waddell; Photo by Susan Chandler*

Pete Sarafian, SWAP Conservation Chair and Board of Directors Vice-Chair, has left both of those posts.

However, he will remain as a member of the Conservation Committee, taking care of the 100 Morro Manzanita seedlings that were planted early in January on the slope where a large swath of Manzanitas were destroyed by a vandal in 2009. He will also continue as a docent with the Education Committee, leading school walks whenever he can.

Pete became an active member of SWAP in 1999. Our description of him at the time stated, "The retired engineer lives close to the Elfin Forest and has been hard at work weeding Slender-leaved iceplant from the west end of the Forest. He also is participating in seed collection for habitat restoration, installing toe rails on the Boardwalk, and working on the Veldt Grass Control Project along South Bay Boulevard."

By August, 1999, Pete had begun writing a series of articles titled "Alien Invasion," about the most invasive plants in the Elfin Forest. The articles are included in the Conservation section of the SWAP web site, [www.elfin-forest.org](http://www.elfin-forest.org). If you would like to read the articles, click the button, "SWAP's collection of weed management techniques." Next click "General Techniques and Various Common Weeds." Finally, click on the button next to Pete Sarafian's name.

The invasive plants that Pete wrote about have been greatly diminished in numbers and area, thanks to the constant work of Pete and the SWAP Weed Warriors, a group of volunteers that he founded and named. The veldt grass that covered the area near Bush Lupine Point as well as most of the street-end entrances has been almost eliminated. Slender-leaved iceplant is almost non-existent in the Forest, Tocalote can no longer be found in the Celestial Meadow, and Italian thistle is just about gone from the lower grove by the bay.

Though there are still invasive plants such as Cape ivy and African bridal creeper (also called Smilax) that are yet to be conquered, Pete is leaving the Elfin Forest in much better condition than it was in 1999. SWAP thanks Pete for his years of dedication.



# California Quail

*Text and Photo by Jean Wheeler, Ph.D.*

A bird call often heard in the Elfin Forest and invariably described in birding sources as “chi-ca-go” (but sounding more to my ears as “quer-CA-go”) announces the presence of at least one and usually a whole covey of California Quail (*Callipepla californica*).

Sized and shaped like a football sporting a small head and a moderately long tail, these quail have a gray breast and a belly with creamy yellow and brown feathers in syncopated stripes looking like scales. Their sides are gray-brown with horizontal white dashes and their backs are brown to gray. The most distinctive adornment is the plume of black or very dark brown feathers drooping forward to eye level from the top of the head. The male has a larger plume and also has an oval of rich brown on his face and neck surrounded by a narrow white ring. As usual, the grays and browns of adult males are richer and more vibrant, while females and immature birds are less distinctive in lighter grays and gray-browns.

These quail, designated the state bird of California, live in shrublands and open shrubby woodlands in the coastal mountains and valleys from southern British Columbia through Baja California and inland into northern Nevada and Utah. They dine mainly

on seeds and leaves but also eat insects and some flowers and berries, including toyon berries.

California Quail nest on the ground in a shallow scrape lined with vegetation. In April or May the female lays a dozen or more eggs and incubates them for about three weeks. The chicks leave the nest soon after hatching, are cared for by both parents, and begin flying within two weeks. In good years, the female may leave them with the male and double clutch with another male. Coveys may consist of multiple families often including two or three dozen birds. They remain together through the winter breaking up in March for mating season. Coveys of one to two hundred quail have been observed elsewhere, but are unlikely to be nearly that sizeable in the Elfin Forest.

From the boardwalk and sand trails, we can often see quail scratching on the ground for food. They also like to wallow in the sandy soil for dust baths. When startled they usually prefer to scurry away under the shrubs, but sometimes they explode noisily into short flights before diving under brush. Occasionally during the mating season, a male like the one in my photograph will perch on a stout branch above most of the shrubs calling for a mate.

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## Banded Brant Along Los Osos Shore

*By John Roser; Photo courtesy of Lasse Olsson, 2004*

In March, Jim Royer read the band on a Brant along the shore of Los Osos and he passed the info along to me. It turns out Jim’s Brant was a male banded near Liverpool Bay, Northwest Territories (along the Beaufort Sea) in 1995.



For six years, beginning in 1997, I spent a lot of time reading Brant bands on Morro Bay and I would see this particular bird multiple times per year from the fall through the spring for all six years. My records indicate that for all six years when I saw him he was always standing side by side with his mate, another bird banded in Liverpool Bay. On some successful years they had surviving kids that they’d bring with them, and I’d see the family together through the season. Assuming that his parents brought him to Morro Bay on his first winter, this would probably be his 16th winter on the bay. However, he’d have about another 12 years to go to be setting any longevity records for the species.

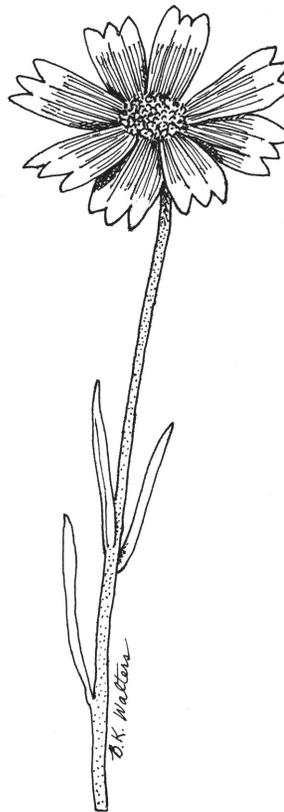
As a side note — for 14 years I’ve been monitoring the number of Brant using Morro Bay from the November through April season. ***For the past 10 years there has been a steady decline in the number of Brant using the bay and this year is posting the lowest use out of the past 14 years.***

# Tidy Tips

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

The plant featured in this issue of *Oakleaves* is one of San Luis Obispo County's more common spring wildflowers. It is becoming relatively rare in the Elfin Forest due to succession of open areas to shrubs. It is most common on open grassy hillsides where it can turn them a shade of yellow. When people talk of great wildflower displays, it is often this plant of which they are speaking. Its flowers are predominantly yellow. The center is dark yellow to even orange while the bases of the petal-like structures are medium yellow. The tips are pale yellow to white. When in mass, they appear as medium yellow patches as opposed to the dark orange-yellow of goldfields (*Lasthenia*). It is the pale tips that give this plant its common name -- tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*). *Layia* is named for George Tradescant Lay (ca. 1800 - November 6, 1845). Lay was an English naturalist (plant collector), missionary, and later diplomat to China. He was the naturalist on the English sailing ship HMS Blossom under the command of Captain Frederick William Beechey from 1825 to 1828, and collected specimens in the Pacific including California, Alaska, Kamchatka, China, Mexico, South America, Hawaii and other Pacific islands. Lay is credited as a co-discoverer of a species later placed in the genus named for him (*L. gaillardioides*).

*Layia* is a member of the sunflower family, (Asteraceae or Compositae). The family name, Compositae, is an older, alternative name that has been conserved by the *Rules of Botanical Nomenclature*. It refers to a trait shared by nearly all the members of this



very large family; that is, having its tiny flowers aggregated (composited) into flower-like clusters commonly called heads. The heads are made up of two types of flowers. In the center of the head is a tight, disk-like cluster of dark yellow to orange flowers with their fused petals (corollas) formed into a tube. These flowers are called tube flowers based on this trait or disk flowers referring to their forming that tight disk in the center of the head. However it is the 'petals' that surround the head that give us the common name. The 'petals' are actually the modified corollas (petals) of the second type of flower, the ray flower. Ray flowers are so named, I assume, because they radiate out from the outer edge of the disk. The flat strap-shaped petal-like corolla is termed a ligule and is made up of three fused petals. The ligule in tidy tips generally has a medium yellow base and pale yellow to white tip and is quite broad. '*Platyglossa*', translates to thin, flat (platy-) tongue (-glossa). I wasn't able to find a reference as to

what specifically '*platyglossa*' refers to. I assume it logically refers to the relatively wide ligules of its ray flowers. A second common species of *Layia* is called white layia, because its pale tip appears to extend all the way to the ligule base. White layias are found in the drier portions of our county. Patches of tidy tips may be visible from the Elfin Forest, as they inhabit the serpentines associated with some of the Morros.

## Elfin Forest Sightings

Pat Brown and Yolanda Waddell went to the Elfin Forest on a sunny April afternoon to determine what plants were in bloom and what butterflies were out and about. Pat was preparing for two walks about butterflies and native plants, and neither she nor Yolanda expected to have their path blocked by a good-sized gopher snake. But there it was, soaking up warmth from the sand and apparently digesting a meal. The two humans observed the snake, and the snake watched the humans. It didn't take the hint to move when poked with a stick, so Pat and Yolanda returned the way they came. After all, the Elfin Forest is the snake's home; human beings are the guests.



*A gopher snake enjoying the last of the sun's rays on the 11th Street path.  
Photo by Pat Brown.*

## 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, (805) 528-0392.

# Education Corner

By Pat Akey, Education Committee Chair

During the Spring months, the Education Committee has been in full swing. In May, we prepared and gave a field trip for 45 second and third graders from Monarch Elementary School. For this walk, SWAP provided funds to Monarch School for the rental of a school bus. Also in May, we gave an insect walk on two different days for 60 first graders from Baywood School in Los Osos. We also gave an informational walk for a group from the Central Coast Head Injury Support Program.

The Committee has finished six Docent Manuals, all now in use. Our library has grown to 20 books dealing with birds, plants, insects and many other subjects relative to the Elfin Forest. Thanks to Education Committee members for giving their time to meetings, planning for walks, working on the Docent Manuals, packing school walk bags, preparing walk activity materials, attending orientations in the Elfin Forest, and doing research for additional walk activities.

The committee can always use more members. We meet every third Friday for one hour or so. Call (805) 528-0392.



Pat Akey, far left, led a nature walk for members of the Central Coast Head Injury Support Group.

Farther along the boardwalk was a Cuesta College biology class on a field trip – a busy day in the Elfin Forest!

Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

## Elfin Forest Calendar News

By Debbie Levi, Calendar Committee Chair

It's difficult to believe that we are already turning the pages to June and July on our 2011 Elfin Forest artist calendar. By the time you read this, the writing and photo selection will be complete for the 2012 Elfin Forest calendar, and it will have been handed over to Katy Budge, our graphic designer. It's looking very good! Everyone on the Calendar Committee thanks all the photographers who submitted to SWAP's annual fundraiser. We give special thanks to Peggy Mesler, owner of The Photo Shop in San Luis Obispo for her professional help with this difficult selection.

Our gratitude is also extended to the sponsors who contributed to our hefty printing costs. This is SWAP's annual fundraiser that helps to pay for continued conservation, maintenance and education efforts in the Elfin Forest.

We encourage every SWAP member and their friends to lend support and purchase one (or several) 2012 Elfin Forest calendars. The public is invited to attend the calendar release party to be held on Saturday, September 10th, 2011 from 2 - 4:30 p.m. We'll give more details in the August/September *Oakleaves*. Please save the date — we hope to see you!



The SWAP Calendar Committee gave a Photographer Orientation Walk in the Elfin Forest for local photographers. The twisted Coast live oak branches and wildflowers in the Don Klopper Grove next to the estuary provided interesting subject matter. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

## Things for Kids to do in the Elfin Forest During Summer

**Explore** with a camera. Come early when bunnies are **hopping** around and quails are foraging.

Send "best" photos to *Oakleaves* at the end of the summer and we'll publish them.

Pack a lunch and have a **picnic**. Look at the flowers and butterflies.

Become a birder. Take binoculars and a bird guide and see how many birds you can identify.

Become a *writer*. Make a journal about your visits to the Forest, and turn that into a story.

Get exercise. **SHAPE UP** by walking or running around the boardwalk.



# Weed Warriors Do Some Fencing

The April 2nd work party in the Elfin Forest consisted of five stalwart warriors: Jay Bonestell, Steve Cake, Bob Meyer, Alon Perlman and Ron Rasmussen. Ron has taken on the job of Work Party Coordinator, and assigned Alon and Steve to a fence repair job at Butterfly Hill. Local miscreants had crushed the fence in their eagerness to make their way down the hill to the bay. Hopefully they found themselves hip deep in sticky bay mud. Bob, Jay and Ron continued the veldt grass removal project at the edge of the Forest between 15th and 16th Streets. At this time of year, when the Morro Shoulderband Snails are out and about, veldt grass removal can only be done when Bob, our certified Snail Monitor, is present. He is the only weed warrior qualified to move a Shoulderband snail.

Thanks to all for three hours of productive work.

## Let's all pull together

*Dear Weed Warriors*

*We really miss Pete*

*But the Forest's replete*

*With veldt grass and smilax so dense,*

*Not to mention a broken-down fence.*

*So please bring your tools,*

*You know all the rules.*

*This message is for real;*

*We need you, that's the deal.*

*Oh well, I'll never do rhyming like Pete*

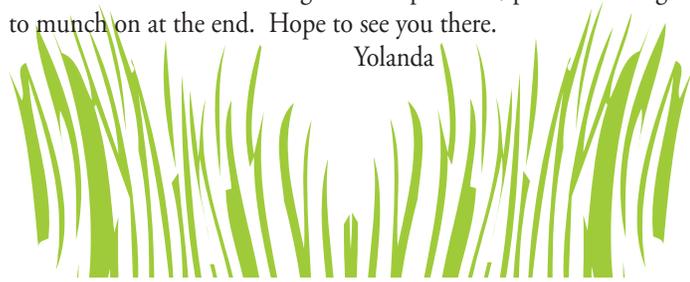
*To get you up and over to 15th Street.*

*But we hope you'll have time,*

*Notwithstanding this rhyme,*

Do come out and join us on First Saturdays at the end of 15th St. at 9 a.m. Some tools and gloves are provided, plus something to munch on at the end. Hope to see you there.

Yolanda



## 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 (805) 528-0392.



*Steve Cake (left) and Alon Perlman repaired a damaged fence at Butterfly Hill during the April work party. Photo by Ron Rasmussen.*



*Bob Meyer, a licensed snail monitor, checks a clump of veldt grass for Morro Shoulderband dune snails. Photo by Ron Rasmussen.*

# Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

*Text and Photos By Jean Wheeler*

June and July are especially good months in the Elfin Forest for fanciers of lovely blue flowers. Silver dune lupine inspired the name for Bush Lupine Point and is spreading in the nearby revegetation area along the south edge of the boardwalk. Its spikes of silvery leaves with blue flowers feed the caterpillars of the Morro Blue Butterfly in these months. Woolly star is a low-growing bush with herbaceous shoots and bright blue flowers above a woody root crown. It is best seen along the 15th Street sand trail and where that trail meets the boardwalk. My picture shows it growing around the tall red stalks of Dudleya, which rise from gray rosettes of succulent leaves and are topped by bright yellow flowers.

Yellow and orange flowering plants dominate the Elfin Forest in summer, including sticky monkeyflower, featured in my other picture with Morro Rock beyond them. The yellow flowers of deerweed cover much of the Elfin Forest in these months, and California poppies also remain conspicuously in bloom.

Black sage should still have some white to lavender blossoms showing, while many have already dried to black pom-pom balls circling the stems. At the inland end of the boardwalk, chamise shows white flower spikes. Pink flowers show in spikes of California hedge nettle as well as in cobwebby thistle (a native, unlike the alien and invasive purple Italian thistle). Red flowers in the undergrowth that look like they've been cut with pinking shears are called Indian pinks.

June and July also remain good months to look for butterflies. Under the Flora and Fauna button on our website ([elfin-forest.org](http://elfin-forest.org)), eighteen of the twenty-two butterfly species listed are shown as flying in these months. These are also good months to watch fence lizards doing pushups on the boardwalk and to search for other reptiles. Nearly all our birds are busy raising their youngsters.

## 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.*



## OAKLEAVES

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Betsy Kinter, Debbie Levi, Ron Rasmussen, John Roser, Yolanda Waddell,  
Dirk and Bonnie Walters, and Jean Wheeler.

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[oakleaves@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaves@elfin-forest.org).



# WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

## Third Saturday Walks

### *June 18, 9:30 a.m. – Solstice Walk*

With Summer Solstice but a few days away, Bob Field will help us to understand why the longest day of the year was so important to Native Americans including the Chumash, and for that matter, to all past cultures. As we tour the Elfin Forest, Bob will talk about how seasonal changes and the interactions of sunlight and water affect the diversity, abundance and distribution of life. He will discuss the oceanic influence on everything that can be seen in the Elfin Forest, and will point out a variety of plant adaptations to seasonal change.

### *July 16, 9:30 a.m. –*

### *Marine Mammals and the Ocean's Health*

The Central Coast enjoys an abundance of marine mammals. Lisa Harper Henderson of the Marine Mammal Center will introduce us to the various species with which we share the coast, in particular the seals and sea otters that inhabit the estuary. Seals are more than lovable, intelligent creatures. They are mammals, just like us. So, when something in the ocean makes them sick, we too are at risk. Since 1975, The Marine Mammal Center has rescued thousands of these sentinels of the sea, and continues to identify the causes of marine mammal illness and how that affects the health of the ocean. You will come away knowing the difference between California Sea Lions and seals, and so much more.

### *August 20, 9:30 a.m. – Geology Walk*

Take a journey through time with Jeff Grover, Cuesta College Geology instructor. Jeff will focus on the geologic history of the Morro Bay area from the formation of the ancient morros, or Seven Sisters, to the recent development of the dunes that form the Elfin Forest. He may even give us a glimpse of what the Elfin Forest and Morro Bay will be like in the geologic future. Of course, he will describe our local earthquake faults and talk a bit about earthquakes in general. Jeff brings rock samples and draws diagrams of local geologic action. Join us for a lively and informative walk and talk.

*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, mosquitoes and ticks. Park carefully; avoid driveways and mailboxes. Please leave pets at home. The easy-paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For details call (805) 528-0392.*



*During her Butterfly and Native Plants walk in April, Pat Brown shared many sources of information about butterflies with walk participants. Photo by Jean Wheeler.*



*On a sunny day in April, Pat Brown gave a butterfly walk for six members of the Los Osos Garden Club. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

## View Oakleaves on Our Web Site

Many of our sister conservation organizations are “going green” by publishing their newsletter on their web site only – no more printed copies. SWAP is definitely NOT at that point yet. So far some twenty or so of our members prefer to read *Oakleaves* on their computers rather than receive a printed copy in the mail. Others, especially those who don't use computers, look forward to the arrival of our newsletter in the mail right around the first of each even-numbered month.

If you would like to be among our “online only” readers, let us know at [oakleaves@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaves@elfin-forest.org). You can wait until you renew, and on the Membership Form on page 12 of your newsletter, check the box that says “Check here to receive the online version only.” Should you decide that you want to read the electronic *Oakleaves* instead of the paper version, we will send you an e-mail notice with a web address that, when clicked, will take you directly to the new issue. You can see what we are talking about right now by visiting our web site, [www.elfin-forest.org](http://www.elfin-forest.org), and clicking the button that says, “Read the current copy of *Oakleaves*.” You will be pleased to see that all of our photos are in color. SWAP chooses not to afford printing in color, but color online is very doable.



# Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

*Compiled by Betsy Kinter,  
SWAP Database Coordinator*

## **NEW MEMBERS:**

Yvette Baca  
Central Coast Head Injury Support Group\*  
Melissa Mooney\*

## **RENEWING MEMBERS:**

Joan Anderson	Sally and Randy Knight*
Florence Appel*	James R. Landreth*
Carolyn Boomer	Annette Lindeman
Stephen Cake*	Wendy McKeown
M. Bertrand and R. Dodge	Sheila Montooth*
Otis W. Carter	Brian Nofziger*
Ruth and Les Christiansen*	Lori Olson
Marion De Cruz	Randall and Shirley Palmer*
Mary and Allan Conkling	Carolyn Pendery*
Katie and Jerry Davis	Dominic and Chris Perello*
L.R. Erickson	Nova Poff
Siegrid Fenn	Shauna Sullivan and Ron Ruppert*
Guy and Libbie Fitzwater*	Mr. and Mrs. Max H. Sicher*
Nada Fuller	Dean Thompson
Carla Grindle	Bonnie Von Rauner
Alta Hall*	Lisa Wallender*
Joyce Heller	Norma Wightman
Marsha Houston*	Jacquoline Williams
Katie Karrika	

## **DONATIONS:**

Andrea Davis, in memory of Evan Goodwin  
Dick and Betty Harris  
Jonathan Wittwer  
Gift from: Judy Witzig, Betty and Richard Stucky,  
and Kay and Bob Hock in memory of Mrs. Averil Stevig

*\*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 Memoriam* Peggy Peterson, SWAP Life Member

We are sad to report that SWAP Life Member Peggy Peterson died in her sleep at home on Tuesday, April 19. At age 88 Margie Peterson, whom everyone called Peggy, was so full of enthusiasm and energy that all who knew her were shocked to hear of her death.

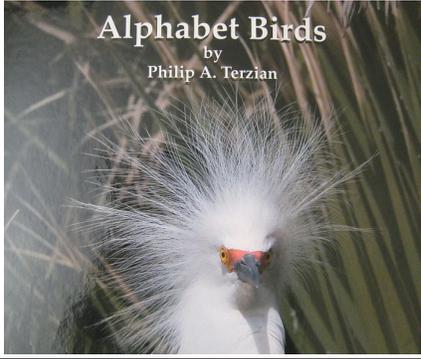
Peggy and her husband Gerry, who preceded her in death in 2008, firmly believed in giving back to the community where they lived and raised their family – they had three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Although the primary recipients of their generosity were in the music arena: the San Luis Obispo Symphony, the Vocal Arts Ensemble, Opera San Luis Obispo, and many other groups, they both loved the out-of-doors. Peggy said, “... whatever makes life beautiful, we want to be part of because that’s what makes us whole...there’s a sense of satisfaction in watching things grow.”

Peggy and Gerry donated \$1,000 to SWAP and became Life Members at a time when our chapter was working hard to raise funds for the purchase of the southern 40 acres of the Elfin Forest. That confidence in our struggle toward an almost impossible goal: the \$1.6 million dollar purchase price, gave us a boost when it was most needed.

Peggy was a role model for all of us. She loved to laugh and tell stories – and she had many to tell because she had been an eighth-grade English teacher for twelve years. One of her former students is Bill Morem, columnist for *The Tribune*, who was given the task of writing his former teacher’s obituary. He included a quote from Peggy that sums up her life: “What’s important is that we get to share something. If one can end one’s life feeling that they’ve brought joy to someone else’s life – and their own – why, then it’s worth every bit of it.”

*“Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a songbird will come.”*

*- Chinese proverb -*



## Alphabet Birds: Book for Kids

SWAP is selling this wonderful book by Philip A. Terzian with gorgeous pictures of birds, one for each letter of the alphabet. The facing page features a clever little poem for each bird in large-sized text and child-appropriate wording.



# 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 print note cards

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

Printed postcards

\_\_\_ @ \$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

\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_

### 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

Local artists have contributed to this...

\_\_\_ @ \$15 = \$\_\_\_

**SOLD OUT**

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.

Elfin Forest Boardwalk is being repaired.  
 See page 1.

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



Address Service Requested  
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## Introduce a Friend to The Elfin Forest

Amaze a friend with the beauty of our small wilderness preserve, now in glorious bloom after our outstanding winter rains. Your friend will marvel at the flowers in bloom and the diverse bird, butterfly, and other animal life.



Pick up a trail guide where the 16th Street Entrance meets the boardwalk or where the Bush Lupine Point spur leaves the boardwalk loop. Encourage your friend to enjoy the information in the trail guide and on the beautifully-illustrated Interpretive Signs.

Report your friend's reactions and especially wonderful or unusual sightings to the editors for "Visitor Comments" or "Elfin Forest Sightings" in a future issue of *Oakleaves*.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member              | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$25             | <input type="checkbox"/> Defender \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$50            | <input type="checkbox"/> Champion \$250  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protector \$75          | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian \$500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors & Students \$15 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1000      |  |

I want to help, please call me!

Memberships include a subscription to SWAP's bimonthly newsletter, *Oakleaves*.

**Check here to receive the online version only.**

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.