



OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION

P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ♦ (805) 528-0392 ♦ AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2019



1994 to 2019 – Bush Lupine Point Recovery

By Yolanda Waddell

At left: Bush Lupine Point area in 1994, by Larry Grimes.

Below left: The same area after SWAP rehabilitation, by J. Wheeler.

Recently I came across a photo taken in 1994 near the Elfin Forest's Bush Lupine Point. It took me back to the 1980s when the area was a racetrack for local youngsters on their ATVs. Almost two acres of dune sand, once covered with coastal dune scrub, had been laid bare by the time the property's owner, Mrs. Shirley Otto, was notified and asked the Sheriff to restrict ATVs. By 1994, when SWAP board member Larry Grimes took this photo, invasive plants were taking hold of the area.

SWAP and San Luis Obispo County Parks completed purchase of the southern 38.7 acres of the former "Otto Property" in May, 1994, and in July of that year the deed for what is now the El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area was turned over to the County. SWAP volunteers then began removing invasive plants and restoring the area to native plant habitat. We learned over and over during the following years that restoring a piece of land to its original state is a long and difficult process.

Twenty-five years after SWAP acquired the southern portion of the Elfin Forest, one would never know what a wasteland it had been. A recent photo taken by Jean Wheeler of the same area illustrates what good planning and hard work can do. Protective fencing and construction of the boardwalk in 1999 gave long suppressed native plants the chance to grow back and eventually flourish. SWAP volunteers, sometimes with the help of the California Conservation Corps (CCC), worked constantly to remove the highly invasive veldt grass as well as other introduced grasses and three iceplant species.

Between the late 1990s and 2015, over 2,000 native plant "starts" grown from Elfin Forest seeds by horticulturist Dagmar Collins, were planted in the Elfin Forest under the supervision of SWAP's then-Conservation Chair Pete Sarafian and County Parks. Weeding continued near Bush Lupine Point for about 20 years before the native plants "took over" and there were almost no invasive grasses.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

consists of the following members:

Jan DiLeo, Chair
Skip Rotstein, Vice Chair
Dave Bowlus, Treasurer
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary
Beverly Boyd, Recording Secretary

The SWAP Board of Directors meets monthly
at 2 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month
at the Hobby House,
Morro Shores Mobile Home Park,
633 Ramona Ave., Los Osos.

The next meetings are
Tuesday, August 13
and Tuesday, September 10.

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: Bob Yetter
SLO County Parks Supervising Ranger
1144 Monterey Street, SLO, CA 93408
(805) 781-1196

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 781-1196.



Blainville's Horned Lizard

Text by Jean Wheeler, Ph.D.;

Photo by Kristen Nelsen, Terra Verde Environmental Consulting

In the June/July issue of 2013, I wrote one of my page 4 Natural History articles on the Coast Horned Lizard.

That story opened with the lizard's well camouflaged appearance combined with its habit of remaining motionless for long periods of time, making it very difficult to observe. In discussing its behavior, I said: "Ants comprise as much as 50% of its diet, particularly a species of red ant called harvester ants. A major conservation concern is the replacement of native ants by invasive species, especially the Argentine ant, which is both less familiar and less nutritious."

The species was then identified as the Coast Horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma coronatum*. But at the conclusion of that article I reported that a group of researchers from U.C. Berkeley were arguing that former subspecies have developed into fully separate species, and that our horned lizard in California should be now be recognized as *P. blainvillii*. I can now report that opinion has prevailed and conclude with the following update paragraph from the excellent and extensive report of our Biological Assessment by Terra Verde Environmental Consulting:

"Blainville's horned lizard is considered a California Species of Special Concern by CDFW. A single adult individual was observed on open sand in chaparral habitat in the center of the boardwalk loop during the 2018 surveys (see Appendix E – Photo 42) [a copy of that photo is above this Oakleaves article]. The preferred food source of Blainville's horned lizard is native harvester ants, although they will also consume small invertebrates such as spiders, beetles, termites, flies, honeybees, moth larvae, and grasshoppers (Nafis, 2018). The extent of the Blainville's horned lizard population in the Forest is not currently known."

Recovery *continued from page 1*

Although we rejoice over having been able to restore the treasure that is the Elfin Forest, we know that our work will never be done. Veldt grass has taken over almost every vacant lot in Los Osos, and can be seen growing around the edges of the Elfin Forest. Its seeds blow in the wind and each veldt grass plant drops hundreds of seeds. SWAP's Weed Warriors work from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of every month. We invite you to join us in that great outdoor sport, "Beat the Weeds." Weed Warriors meet at the north end of 15th Street (the Elfin Forest entrance) at 9:00 a.m. and are rewarded with home-baked cookies when they finish at noon. For more information, e-mail skip@elfin-forest.org or leave a message at 805-528-0392. Hope to see you there.

E-Bird – A Source of Information About Elfin Forest Birds

By Yolanda Waddell and Petra Clayton

Editor's Note: The first three paragraphs of this article and the picture clipping are taken from the E-Bird website.

E-Bird is the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year by eBirders around the world. A collaborative enterprise with hundreds of partner organizations, thousands of regional experts, and hundreds of thousands of users, eBird is managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

E-Bird data document bird distribution, abundance, habitat use, and trends through checklist data collected within a simple, scientific framework. Birders enter when, where, and how they went birding, and then fill out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. E-Bird's free mobile app allows offline data collection anywhere in the world, and the website provides many ways to explore and summarize your data and other observations from the global E-Bird community.

E-Bird is available worldwide, comprising a network of local, national, and international partners. E-Bird data are stored across secure facilities, archived daily, and are freely accessible to anyone. E-Bird data have been used in hundreds of conservation decisions and peer-reviewed papers, thousands of student projects, and help inform bird research worldwide.

Petra Clayton, an avid "photobirder" as well as being SWAP's 3rd Saturday Walks Coordinator, has contributed many Elfin Forest bird checklists to E-Bird. She says, "Ebird is an amazing, versatile tool, both for tracking local sightings and for preparing trips out of county or out of state." Checklists may be illustrated with photos and sound recordings; they are vetted by San Luis Obispo County's regional reviewer, Tom Edell, who insures that the photos and recordings represent the correct species.

To use this marvelous tool, type in <https://ebird.org> on your computer. From the list at the top of the site's home page, select "Explore." You will be given two choices: "Explore Species" and "Explore Regions." Under "Explore Regions," type in San Luis Obispo, California, United States (USP). You will be taken to a new page with the San Luis Obispo name at the top. Click on "Hotspots" and you will have another new page with a list of birding hotspots in San Luis Obispo County.

There are two birding Hotspots in the Elfin Forest. Click Hotspot number 28, Elfin Forest Preserve; and number 39, Elfin Forest Preserve - Lupine Point Overlook.

Each ebird hotspot features three tabs: "Overview" – "Recent Visits" – "Illustrated Checklist" as shown in the picture clipping below:

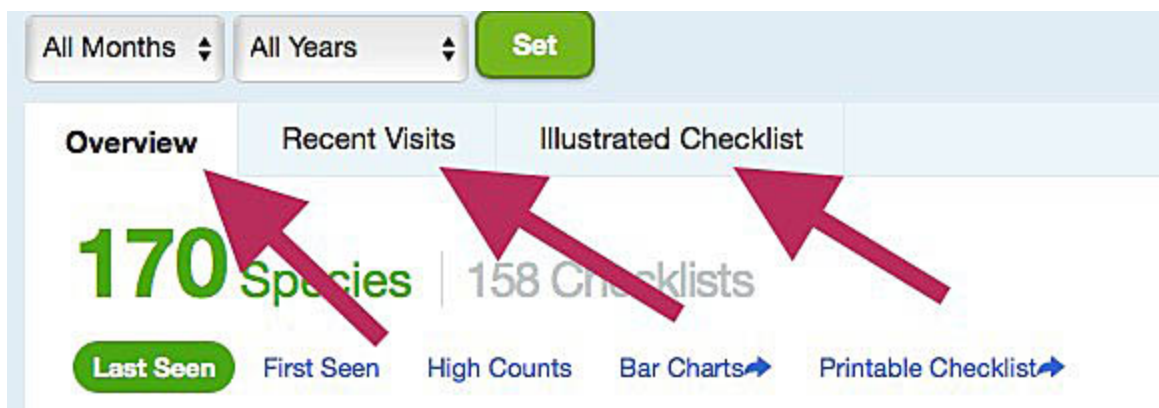
Each tab opens up a treasure trove of data. For example "Recent Visits" provides a date hyperlink (in blue), leading to that date's checklist.

Clicking on "Illustrated Checklist" produces a list of all species ever reported on ebird for that hotspot, complete with bar graphs and a link to photos and sound recordings.

If you would like to have a more in-depth experience with this complex and marvelous open-access system, simply bring up the ebird.org website on your computer, and click "Get started." You will be asked to create a Cornell Lab account, and from there you too can become one of the millions of citizen scientists who contribute to the knowledge of birds.

Please Report 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? Taken a good photo? Please report any interesting sightings to your Oakleaves editors at: oakleaf@elfin-forest.org or leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, (805) 528-0392.



Yellow Warbler

Text by Jean Wheeler, Ph.D.; Photo by Petra Clayton

Of more than 50 species of wood warblers in North America, the Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) is one of the easiest to see. It occurs at some time of year almost everywhere on the continent. Only about 4-7 inches long with a wingspan up to 8 or perhaps nearly 9 inches, Yellow Warblers come in easily seen shades of yellow nearly all over. They are the only wood warblers flashing yellow between the darker stripes on the short tail. Their large black eyes stand out from otherwise unmarked yellow faces. As is usual for birds, adult males are more brilliantly yellow than the young or females. Males also usually have narrow reddish streaks on the breast and abdomen. Vocalization is clear and distinctive, usually described as “sweet, sweet, I’m so sweet” or “sweet, sweet, sweeter than sweet.”

Yellow Warblers breed over much of our continent, from as far north as the Arctic Circle to the southern boundaries of states from Utah to Virginia, and south of there in highlands. In California, they breed in the north, southward through the Cascade Range, and in a very narrow belt along our coast into Baja California. Our Pocket Guide (sold on page 11) shows their peak period in the Elfin Forest from May to September. We saw them at Siena’s View on our Third Saturday Walk on October 13 last year, when Petra took the accompanying photo. There are also breeding populations in uplands of northern Mexico and on some Caribbean Islands.

This species migrates south to winter from Mexico to northern South America (some sources indicate small numbers do winter in Southern California). Migration starts earlier for Yellow Warblers than for most species, almost as soon as their fledglings are out of the nest—as early as July. Yellow Warblers from the east side of the continent are among species flying south in one continuous flight all the way across the Gulf of Mexico. Some of those easterners do take a longer but “easier” route along the shoreline around the Gulf when returning, their northward migration also being among the earliest of all migrating species.

Shrubs and low trees close to streams and lakes are the favored habitat of Yellow Warblers. Their diet consists almost exclusively of insects gleaned or flushed from foliage, such as mosquitoes, beetles, damselflies, wasps, and especially moths and their caterpillars, with caterpillars favored in feeding hatchlings. In fact, the genus name *Setophaga* comes from Greek words translated as “moth eating.” Females build nests in territory defended by a male, in forks of shrubs or low trees—open cups of twigs, weed stalks, bark, plant fibers, and grasses, and lined with hair, feathers, and plant fluff. Usually 4-5 eggs are laid.

The open nests of Yellow Warblers are very often parasitized by female Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). Cowbirds leave their eggs in nests of other species, sticking those parents with the job of incubating and feeding cowbird hatchlings as well as their own. Yellow Warblers are, however, among a very few species who often recognize that the cowbird eggs are not their own. They react by abandoning their own previously laid eggs with those of the cowbird



and build a new nest, often on top of their previous nest, laying a new clutch of eggs in their new nest. There have been reports of as many as 6 layers of Yellow Warbler nests as they try to defeat repeated cowbird additions to their own eggs!

The breeding population of this species is estimated around 90 million, and although slowly declining, they are not on threatened or special concern lists. Migrating at night, they risk collision with buildings and towers. However, they favor 2nd growth and edge habitats, which means they’re less susceptible to habitat loss than wood warblers that require mature, densely wooded habitats.

Letter to the Editor

Carmen Fojo kindly sent also to Oakleaves editors the following letter she addressed to the editor the Tribune at the end of May.

I walk in the Elfin Forest every couple days. It is now a magnificent garden of all native plants and pigmy oaks. It has been brought to life by the good work of building trails and pulling weeds by the non-profit organization, SWAP.

I used to jog there in the early nineties, before SWAP came on the scene. It was a maze of dirt trails that neighbors walked and biked on, pretty much eroded, and weed-ridden.

While walking there I’m reminded and encouraged that if people get together for a common purpose, and are willing to work, wonderful things happen, and that there is hope for the world. It took eight years to reach the moon, from the time Kennedy envisioned it in 1961 to reach it in 1969. We are all interstellar travelers on a common planet, earth. Couldn’t we preserve and enhance it like the Elfin Forest? We can do it.

Creek Dogwood (Newly Discovered Western Dogwood)

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

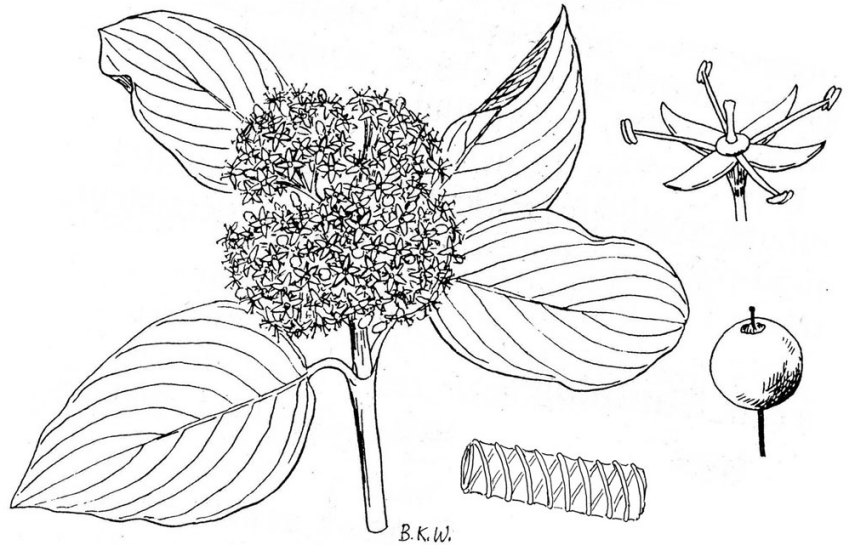
*Editor's Note: We are reprinting his Creek Dogwood article by Dr. Walters from Aug/Sep of 2014 as published then because in it he went "out on a limb" predicting that a dogwood species (*Cornus sericea*) NOT in the official Elfin Forest species list should be present in an area of limited accessibility in our natural preserve. He specified just where he expected specimens of that not yet recorded species should be growing. We are delighted to report that, during our very recent Biological Assessment, Kristen Nelsen of Terra Verde Environmental Consulting found and identified a few small trees as *Cornus sericea* ssp. *occidentalis* (Western Dogwood) within exactly the location predicted by Dr. Walters! Our congratulations go to Dr. Walters for his very accurate prediction and to Kristen Nelsen for her stalwart efforts in reaching the difficult locale as well as her excellence as a skilled field botanist.*

For this issue of *Oakleaves* I'm going out on a limb, so to speak. Since the plant is a very small tree or moderate shrub, that limb will prove to be slender. The plant is NOT in the official Elfin Forest species list. I selected it because it might be hiding in a less accessible location. The plant is the red osier, creek dogwood or, as stated in the new Jepson California Flora, American dogwood (*Cornus sericea*).

This dogwood is the ugly sister to the 'flowering' dogwoods. Its clusters of tiny flowers are not subtended by large white to pink bracts as seen in its beautiful sisters. The beautiful sisters include the Sierra dogwood (*C. nuttallii*) and the even more famous eastern dogwood (*C. florida*). Individual flowers of all dogwoods species are small. The showy difference is only the presence of large showy bracts surrounding the flower clusters.

If you don't have the large bracts to go on, how do you know it's a dogwood? Take another look at Bonnie's drawing. Note the unusual arrangement of the secondary veins (the ones branching from the central midrib on leaves). They don't go directly to the leaf margin but curve toward the tip where they all converge. This leaf vein pattern is relatively rare and all dogwoods have it. I know of only one other family (Melostomaceae) with a similar pattern and it is tropical, so we would encounter it only in cultivation.

There is also a trick that can be demonstrated with dogwood leaves taking advantage of those really long veins. If you gently tear a dogwood leaf in two near its middle, the two halves will still be connected by thin 'strings' arising from the veins. These strings come from cell walls of a special type of water conducting cells (vessels). A drawing of a single greatly enlarged vessel cell



with spiral thickenings is shown. A stack of these cells placed end to end conducts water and dissolved minerals throughout the leaf. The thickenings prevent the vessel from collapsing when water is drawn through it. Water isn't generally pushed through a vessel but is sucked through; i.e. it is similar to a drinking straw rather than a fire hose. (Some readers probably remember paper straws of our childhood which soaked up and collapsed before we had finished our drink.) The strings are spiral wall thickenings found in the inter-connected stacks of vessels. Other leaves have secondary veins that are either too short or have different types of wall thickenings that don't stretch such as rings or a solid wall pierced with pores.

As 'creek dogwood' correctly suggests, it is usually found growing along creek banks or in other situations where it can get lots of permanent water near the surface. In the Elfin Forest I would search the willow thickets on the up-slope side of fresh or brackish marshes between the dune base and the salt marsh. As creek dogwood prefers clay soils to sand, I'd not expect there to be many of them and they definitely won't be visible from the boardwalk.

American dogwood is found from Pacific states to New England. It seems to dislike southeastern states. Red osier dogwood refers to its thin, willow-like stems. 'Osier is a common name for willow, also woody plants preferring moist to wet soils. So, red osier dogwood simply tells us it is a dogwood resembling (or maybe growing with or flexible like) willows. Dogwood leaves and flowers are definitely not 'willow-like.'

When I entered "*Cornus sericea*" into Google, there were lots of hits. Almost all of them discussed the use of this dogwood in landscaping. The traits emphasized were the bright red twigs and white berries that are particularly prominent in the early fall.

Weed Warrior Reports

By Vicky Johnsen and Skip Rotstein, Conservation Co-Chairs

May 4, 2019 – Battling the Invaders

In the Weed Warriors' ongoing battle with invasive species at the Elfin Forest, nine hard working volunteers spent a total of 25-1/2 hours, focused on the removal of invasive plants.

Jeff Riefel went down below Bush Lupine Point and returned with a large armful of *Asparagus asparagoides*. Pete Sarafian, Pat Brown, Vicky Johnsen and Cindy Roessler pulled veldt grass, rat tail grass and rip gut brome from the South Bay slope below the Rein Orchid trail. Yolanda Waddell started work on 16th street entrance and was joined by Pat B. as there was a large swath of veldt grass to deal with.

We were joined by two young ladies from Los Osos Middle School who were working on their Community Service hours. They both worked hard the entire time and seemed to enjoy the cookies afterwards. Although there's still more to be pulled, the morning was a success, indeed!

June 1, 2019 – Trail Trimming, Bench Painting, Weed Pulling and Boardwalk Maintenance

Twelve energetic volunteers came to the June workday, and much was accomplished.

Skip Rotstein and Dave Bowlus painted five benches, so we are up to eight completed with 14 more to go -- maybe two or three months more of work. Rich and Prisila Johnson replaced boardwalk fastenings. Dean Thompson and volunteer John Cloninger trimmed the 11th street trail.

Vicky Johnsen and Pete Sarafian were joined by new volunteers Kerry Lattimore, Megan Hupp, and Chloe Cuellar as well as Frances Leitch in raking up veldt grass seed stalks in the County right-of-way off of 16th Street. Yolanda Waddell pulled veldt grass in the same area.

Pat Brown refinished and reinstalled lids on the 2 trail guide boxes and then did some weed pulling.

Thanks to Vicky for a well-organized workday.

Join First Saturday Work Parties

We invite you to join us on any first Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the north end of 15th Street in Los Osos to enjoy satisfying physical activity in fresh air amid lovely surroundings. Please dress for wind, fog, or sun. Layers work well. Long pants and long shirt sleeves are good. Sturdy shoes are a must. Take care not to park in front of driveways or mailboxes. To request more information, call (805) 528-0392.



In May, Weed Warrior Cindy Roessler worked her way along the South Bay Boulevard slope to remove veldt grass and other invasive grasses.



In June, Pat Brown repairs a trail guide box to get it ready for use by summer visitors. Photo by Rich Johnson.



Education Co-Chair and docent Cheryl Dove tells a group of second graders about the butterflies of Butterfly Hill. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

School Walks for Baywood School 2nd Grade Classes

By Cheryl Dove, Education Committee Co-Chair

Docents Vicky Johnsen, Chris Van Beveren and Cheryl Dove guided two 2nd grade classes on walks through areas of the Elfin Forest on the 21st and 22nd of May. The focus of instruction was that students become aware of ways that particular plants thrive in the Elfin Forest and how some insects may benefit those plants and also use them to survive. Teachers Mrs. Newell and Mrs. May planned the trip with the purpose to enhance students' understanding of ways that insects encourage pollination of plants and how plants change as they go through their growth stages.

The docents chose plants that were highly visible in the forest to illustrate insect attraction, including deerweed, sticky monkey-flower, black sage, ceanothus, and bush lupine. Equipped with magnifiers, jars, clipboards for recording, and great enthusiasm, docents led six groups of students through paths filled with an abundance of plant and insect life! Students were also fascinated by the samples of seeds they were able to observe and touch. They were encouraged to think about ways that seeds might be dispersed in the Elfin forest. One resident scrub jay gave them a clue when it appeared on both days with an acorn in its mouth. Feedback from the teachers after the field trips was very positive!



Docents (L-R) Vicky Johnsen, Chris Van Beveren and Cheryl Dove prepare for a field trip in the Elfin Forest by Baywood School second graders.

Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

*There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew.*

- Marshall McLuhan, 1964 -

Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Text and Photos by Jean Wheeler

Flowers and fruit both adorn the Elfin Forest in August and September, well into our dry season. Mock Heather blooms almost exclusively in these two months, its yellow flowers brightening much of the low shrub cover in our Elfin Forest. Other yellow to gold flowers still decorating the Elfin Forest include California Poppies and California Goldenrod. Seeds set by earlier bloomers are providing food for birds and other animals, including rapidly maturing offspring of this year.

Dune Buckwheat flowers have been blooming white, but are now aging to pink and will ultimately turn to a dark rust color heralding autumn. California Asters bloom mainly from August to December with ray flowers in white to pink or lavender around yellow central discs.

Colorful fruits add their beauty to the Elfin Forest in late summer and early autumn. California Coffeeberry is especially attractive along the lower boardwalk. Their berries, the size of large blueberries, appear whitish to yellow at first, gradually darken to red, and finally turn rich, ebony black. Berries in all three colors are often clustered together on these shrubs in late August and September. A smaller bright red berry grows on Hollyleaf Cherry shrubs in the same area.

Western Fence Lizards dart actively and do their amusing push-ups along the boardwalk in these warmest months, and you may be lucky enough to see a Garter, Gopher, or California King Snake, none of which is poisonous. You might try to spot the very elusive Blainville's Horned Lizard (see article, page2), but you'll need very good luck on that attempt. Tracks of our nocturnal animals, notably Raccoons, can often be seen in the sand next to the boardwalk on early morning walks.

Resident birds are weaning their young and migrants are already moving in for the winter or passing through on their way to winter homes to the south. Birds likely to be active are White-crowned, Chipping, Lark, Savannah, and Song Sparrows; House and Purple Finches; Lesser and American Goldfinches; Bushtits; Bewick's Wrens; and Anna's Hummingbirds. Fairly common but usually staying low in the bushes are California and Spotted Towhees, California Thrashers, and Wrentits. The blue flash and noisy screams of California Scrub Jays are everywhere, and California Quail can be seen scurrying through the underbrush. Over a dozen raptors are active in our area all year and may be seen flying or gliding overhead as they search for prey. Also, begin to keep an eye out for the earliest arrivals of birds migrating south for the winter. Several species of ducks and some wading birds begin to arrive as early as August, and more come in September.

The abundant and active life displayed by so many plants and animals adapted to our dry climate and sandy dune soils is marvelous to observe at this most stressful season of their year. For detailed charts of colors, habitats, and peak seasons for hundreds of plants and animals, see our Pocket Guide, sold on page 11.



*Above: Coffeeberry.
Below: California Towhee.*



*This Cobwebby thistle bloom
seems to have caught an insect.
Photo by Vicky Johnsen.*

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST Third Saturday Walks

August 17, 9:30 a.m. -

The Elfin Forest's Past, a History Walk

Do you enjoy hearing stories about bygone days? As we walk around the boardwalk with her, Los Osos history writer Lynette Tornatzky will tell us about the Chumash, the Mexican land grant for all of the Los Osos Valley, plus the various owners of the El Moro land and their fallen plans. She'll describe Los Osos/ Baywood Park's development under Walter Redfield and Richard Otto. She will also give an overview of all of our town's open spaces and parks, with an emphasis on the unique story of the Elfin Forest and how it came to be. Ask her about a future for parks in the area

September 21, 9:30 am -

Fall Equinox Preview Walk

Come join local naturalist Al Normandin as we tour the boardwalk looking for the last signs of summer and the beginning of fall, which starts two days later, September 23rd, on the equinox. Al will address all aspects of plant and animal life as the seasons change and explain why these changes occur. This "discovery walk" will be looking for flowers, birds, lichens, reptiles, butterflies and whatever else comes our way on our journey.

Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at times stated above at the north end (1100 block) of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes, and leave pets at home. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information or if you use a wheelchair call (805) 528-0392

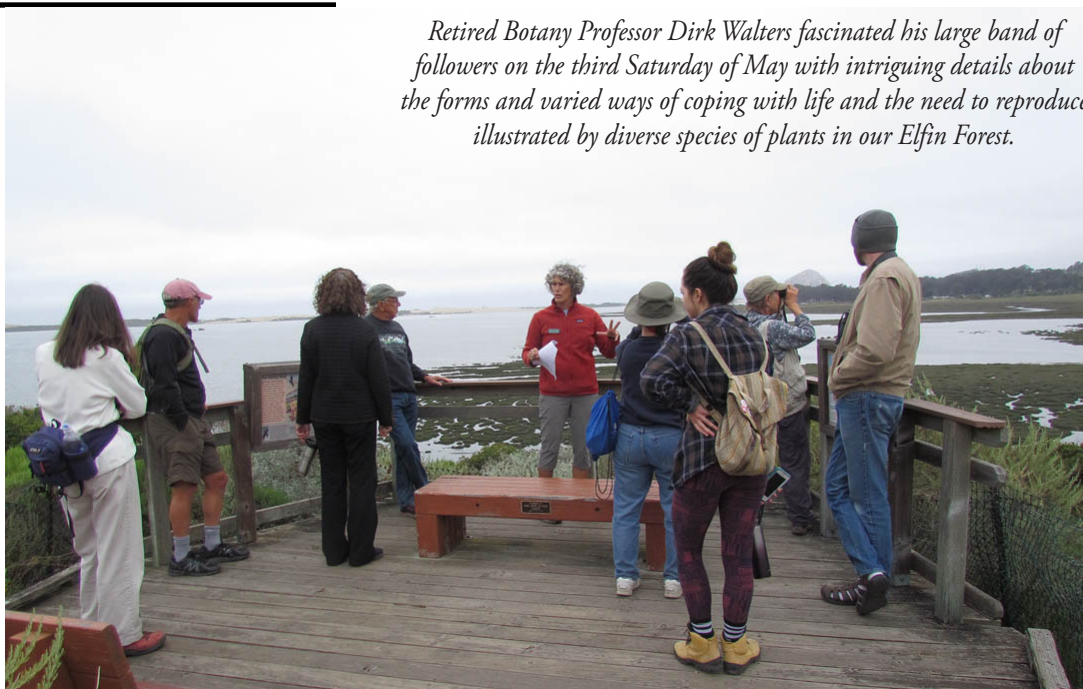


Misty, a Screech Owl. Blinded in an accident, she cannot live in the wild, so has become an Animal Ambassador for Pacific Wildlife Care.



Retired Botany Professor Dirk Walters fascinated his large band of followers on the third Saturday of May with intriguing details about the forms and varied ways of coping with life and the need to reproduce illustrated by diverse species of plants in our Elfin Forest.

*Pacific Wildlife Care
volunteer Virginia
Flaherty (center, facing her
audience) described the
varied tasks and problems
she and her colleagues
encounter in their efforts
to rescue injured wild
animals, rehabilitate them,
and as often as possible
return them to their
natural way of life.*



Thank You to Our Generous Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, SWAP Database Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS:

David Cox & Carolyn Niblick*
Judy & Mike Green
George Lusich*
Deborah Schlanser*
Irene Schmidt

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Pat Akey*	Gaby and Ken Levine*
Joan Anderson	Shirley Mednick*
Susan & John Armstrong*	Sheila Montooth*
Kay Blaney*	Melissa Mooney
Kay Bolin*	Mike Multari & Denise Fourie*
Pat Brown*	Jack Murphy*
Wendy Brown*	Louise Noel
Leslie & Charlie Cohn*	Anne Norment &
Scott Danielson*	Lawson Schaller
Leland & Valerie Endres*	Paul O'Connor
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Bruce & Cherie Gibson	Bill & Callie Sandoval*
Debra Groom	Charles & Sally Sitton*
Debra Hansen*	Pebble & Terry Smith*
Marlin & Connie Harms*	Diane & Frank Snow*
Mary Harrison*	Kathleen Spencer*
Joyce Heller*	Mary Stone*
Steven Jobst & Jill Anderson*	Bert & Elaine Townsend*
Gail Johnson	Michael Walgren
Phillip & Joyce Kerce*	Dave & Julie Wolter*
James Koga & Judy Lee*	June Wright*

DONATIONS:

Roger & Claretta Longden

**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.*

If you recently sent a donation to SWAP and don't see your name in this issue's New and Renewing list, be assured that your gift will be acknowledged in the next bimonthly issue. Gifts are processed by two different volunteers before reaching our editors, and newsletter copy deadline is one month before the date of the issue.

Remembering a Member – Dawn Aulenbrock

By Yolanda Waddell



I first met Dawn Aulenbrock in the mid 1990s after a 3rd Saturday Elfin Forest nature walk. She told me that she lived in Torrance but had a second home in Cayucos, and offered the use of her home to SWAP for meetings or to house guests if we had the need.

It never worked out for SWAP to take Dawn up on her offer, but she became a SWAP member at the Steward level, and renewed every year for the next twenty-five years. We learned recently of Dawn's passing on November 6, 2018 at age 90.

Dawn was a math teacher who taught in many school districts and colleges in southern California, retiring from teaching at Los Angeles City College in 2008 at age 80. Her obituary stated, "She loved nature and natural creatures, especially turtles. She and (her husband) Joe loved trees, flowers, native plants and herbs. They spent time in deserts and beaches observing native plants and animals." Undoubtedly they returned many times to the Elfin Forest, and were able to see the effects of the changes that her membership helped to bring about.

The active members of SWAP appreciate very much the trust of contributing members like Dawn, who with their yearly membership renewals remind us that they are part of the community called SWAP that cares for a very special place – the Elfin Forest. May Dawn rest in peace.



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.

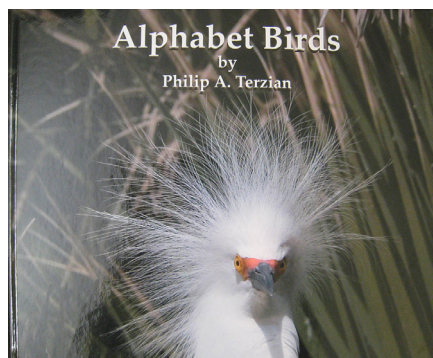
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Thinking of Switching to Online Oakleaves?

If you use your computer a lot, we encourage you to take a look at the online *Oakleaves* at www.elfin-forest.org. Being able to see the 20 or so photos in full color makes it a very attractive alternative to the black-and-white printed copy. If you miss an issue for some reason, it is there, waiting for you. Simply click on "Forest Library," then "Oakleaves Index" and finally the year and month of the issue that you want to read. Just e-mail us at oakleaf@elfin-forest.org with the subject: Switch me to online.



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This wonderful book by Philip A. Terzian has 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.



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All Prices Include Sales Tax

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Bush Lupine Point: Then and Now – see page 1

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