



O A K L E A V E S

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST

P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ♦ (805) 528-0392 ♦ JUNE / JULY 2021

Land and Water Conservation Fund Helped SWAP/FEMEF Get Started in 1971

By Yolanda Waddell

Editor's note: In 2020, SWAP changed its "doing business as" name to Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF).

In August, 2020, then-President Trump signed an excellent piece of bipartisan legislation called the Great American Outdoors Act. It will use revenues from offshore oil and gas leases to provide maintenance in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and American Indian schools. And importantly, this law requires that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created in 1964 in an equally bipartisan manner, will have full and dedicated \$900 million yearly funding.

LWCF monies were intended for use by federal, state and local agencies to acquire and preserve land for recreation and conservation. By investing a portion of offshore energy revenues, LWCF has supported 41,000 state and local park projects, millions of domestic jobs, and protects millions of acres of land. However, over the years Congress dipped into the LWCF, diverting millions of dollars to support other federal programs. Now the fund, that since 1964 has helped with the creation or improvement of over one thousand parks in California alone, is permanent and can't be used for other purposes. All at zero cost to taxpayers.

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Urban Coyotes of the Elfin Forest

By Skip Rotstein, FEMEF Chair

Wikipedia defines urban coyotes as, "coyotes that reside in North American metropolitan areas." They thrive in urban and suburban settings because plenty of food is available and predators are few. Their territories vary in range from 4 to 15 square miles.

The game trail through my front yard comes directly from the nearby Elfin Forest. It does not end at my yard but continues through the streets of Los Osos. I have seen an occasional deer, coyote and raccoon in my yard and also in my street over the years. I wanted to see who visits our front yard at night, and bought a video camera with night vision. To my amazement, I entered into the night world of the Urban Coyote.

Remember, the coyotes in my yard do come directly from the Elfin Forest. But people walking on the Boardwalk see them in the Elfin Forest and human neighbors of the Forest hear them barking and howling, not in the street, but in the Elfin Forest. How can they be Urban Coyotes?

Here is what the camera revealed. Each Spring night, a pack of four and later five coyotes, came into my yard from the Elfin Forest, usually around midnight. They walked into the street beyond, returned to my yard several hours later and continued back to the Elfin Forest. A pack of coyotes is usually a family group. These coyotes varied in size and may have been adults with juveniles from last year's litter. The adults were teaching the juveniles how to be Urban Coyotes.

Sometimes at dawn and sometimes at dusk, a lone coyote also passed through my yard. A lean adult who trotted with a slow but

Urban Coyotes *continued on page 3*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of the

Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF)

consists of the following members:

Skip Rotstein, Chair

Steve Hendricks, Vice Chair

Dave Bowlus, Treasurer

Yolanda Waddell, Secretary

Beverly Boyd, Acting Recording Secretary

Albert Calizo

Jeff Reifel

(See more about FEMEF Directors on page 10.)

The FEMEF Board of Directors meets monthly at 2:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Meeting via ZOOM

until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

(Date and time are subject to change.)

The next meetings are

**Tuesday, June 8
and Tuesday, July 13.**

All Board meetings are open to the public.
To attend a Zoom FEMEF Board meeting,
leave a message at 805-528-0392.



CONTACT FEMEF

If you have questions about FEMEF activities
or want to volunteer, please call
(805) 528-0392 and leave a message.

A recorded message will give information
about our coming activities and other events.

If you have questions, concerns or comments
about any problems in the Elfin Forest,
call or write: Lasca Gaylord
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 Lasca Gaylord at 781-1196.

Fund Helps 1971 Start *cont. from page 1*



The California State Parks entrance sign to Los Osos Oaks beckons one to enter and enjoy this very special remnant of California's past.

Photo by Cynthia Russek.

Los Osos State Natural Reserve was one of the California parks created with money from the LWCF. The valley in which the Reserve lies was originally home to Chumash and Salinan Indians and a population of ferocious California Grizzly Bears. The Spanish Portola Expedition that traveled through California in 1769, named it Cañada de Los Osos because of the Grizzly Bears. Conquest of the Indians, extermination of the bears and settlement by Europeans left few groves of Coast live oaks in Los Osos Valley, but some still exist. Emily and Ben Polk happened on one of them after moving to Los Osos.

One day a neighbor suggested that Emily and her husband Ben, a Cal Poly architecture instructor, explore an oak grove near their

home. The beauty and magnificence of the grove led Emily to think that there should be a way to preserve the oak grove and many other "small wildernesses" at the edges of populated areas. In 1970, Emily visited her friend, Margaret Owings, who then lived in Big Sur. The idea of creating an organization dedicated to saving wilderness areas was born in discussions with Margaret, renowned photographer Ansel Adams, Sierra Club President Edgar Wayburn, and others. Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) was formally incorporated in February, 1971.

On returning to Los Osos from signing SWAP's incorporation papers, Emily discovered a "for sale" sign on the very grove that had inspired her. She spoke very persuasively to the lawyer who was handling sale of the property. He told her that if she could raise the asking price and find a management agency while he was away on a 2-week vacation, he would sell the 90-acre oak woodland to her so she could preserve it. Emily asked Margaret Owings for help, and was introduced to the wife of the owner of Dart Industries. A large donation was arranged.

Then Emily raced to Sacramento and spoke to State Parks Director William Penn Mott, Jr. He agreed to accept the land and help to find matching monies. State Parks staff found state funds from the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund in the amount needed to buy the Los Osos Oaks property. Mission accomplished – in two weeks!

Because of federal money made available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Emily Polk's dream to save the Los Osos Oaks was realized. Thanks to those funds, SWAP was given a financial boost that led to its first successful effort to preserve a "small wilderness." Word of Emily's imaginative idea spread throughout the state. New chapters of SWAP were founded to save small wildernesses in Verdugo Hills near Glendale, the Wilderness Gardens in San Diego, Santa Barbara's Wilcox Gardens, and in fifteen other locations throughout the state. In 1994, the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP finalized a 9-year effort to buy land next to the Morro Bay Estuary, and with the help of County Parks, created the El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area. The effects of the LWCF monies that funded SWAP's first success, continue to this day.

Carbon Ball Mushrooms and the Advance of Science

By Yolanda Waddell; photo by Joey Rector; research by Al Normandin

In March, FEMEF Conservation Co-Chair Vicky Johnsen was asked to lead a “Fungus Walk” in the ancient Elfin Forest oak grove, next to the bay. That grove is the best place to do mushroom looking during the rainy months. Vicky led a group of five on a mushroom discovery tour, and reported that those curious individuals found something to be identified every couple of yards.

One extremely interesting find was a cluster of Carbon ball fungi growing on a dead oak branch. Carbon balls, also called King Alfred’s Cakes, look like their name. They are shaped like a cookie and have a hard, bumpy grayish-black surface. They are endophytes, living within the cells of oak trees for most of their lives without causing harm to the tree. When a tree dies from old age or Sudden Oak Death, the fungi fruit quickly and produce spores to send to a new host tree.

Using the Elfin Forest Pocket Guide, Vicky told the group that the fungus’s scientific name is *Daldinia grandis*. One of the group, Cuesta College environmental science major Maya Holifield, looked for more information on Carbon balls when she returned home and then notified Vicky that the fungus has a new scientific name, *Annulohypoxylon thouarsianum*. Vicky sent me an email with this interesting bit of news, and it occurred to me that, perhaps because of the recent emphasis on DNA research, other fungi in the Pocket Guide’s “Common Mushrooms” list might have new scientific names.

I contacted Al Normandin, who has led mushroom walks in the Elfin Forest. Al checked our fungus list against the mykoweb.com (Fungi of California) Species Index. He also checked genus and species names in *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast* by Noah Siegel and Christian Schwarz (pub 2016), the book that Maya Holifield is using.

From 2005, when SWAP published our 52-page *Plants and Animals of the Elfin Forest* pocket guide, to 2016 and later, DNA sequencing has brought about huge amounts of information on the structures and relationships of fungi. Al found that 18 of the 30 mushrooms on our list have different genus or species names – or both. In short, our handy little booklet of plant, animal, insect, fungus, and lichen lists that fits nicely in one’s pocket, is outdated. It is still useful as a general guide for those who just want to know what’s out there in the Elfin Forest, but for correct scientific information, our website is the place to go, www.elfin-forest.org.



Urban Coyotes *continued from page 1*



steady pace, this coyote appeared to be an older male and not a member of a pack. Altogether, at least six coyotes regularly came out of the Elfin Forest. So why do Elfin Forest coyotes choose to be Urban Coyotes?

Survival! Six coyotes might have difficulty finding enough to eat in the 90-acre Elfin Forest. The residential and commercial areas of Los Osos are their territory out of necessity. So, be prepared to share your neighborhood with Urban Coyotes (and raccoons, too):

- Keep all pets indoors at night.*
- Keep pet food and kitty litter indoors, especially at night.*
- Keep trash containers securely closed.*
- Discard fallen fruit and vegetables,*
- and prevent bird feeders from spilling on the ground.*

Editor’s note: The author is attending a series of video workshops, “Coyotes in the Urban Environment,” produced by the California Fish and Game Commission. Previous Oakleaves articles about coyotes include, “Coyote” by Jean Wheeler, page 4, Oct/Nov 2009; and “Living With Coyotes” by Jean Wheeler, page 4, Aug/Sept 2013. These can be found on our website, www.elfin-forest.org under Forest Library, Oakleaves page index.

Ladybird (aka Ladybug) Beetle

Text by Jean D. Wheeler, Ph. D. Photo by Pat Brown

Known as “ladybugs” in the United States, entomologists prefer the labels “ladybird beetles” or just plain “lady beetles” common in the rest of the world, as these insects are not among those classified as “true bugs.” The common name comes from Europe, owing to the reddish color of many of these species and the typical depiction of the Virgin Mary in a red cloak in early paintings. But many species are all black, or gray, or brown, or may have stripes instead of spots.

There are about 5000-6000 species of ladybird beetles identified thus far, a great many looking very, very similar. In about all of the online sources I consulted are warnings that the species are therefore very commonly mis-identified. So I’m not about to try to identify the species of the one Pat got in her photo illustrating this article. Let it suffice that Pat’s species is one of a number of ladybird beetle species with “seven-spotted adults” having red coloration on top of its hemispheric-shaped little body, with three large black spots on each wing cover and one black spot just behind the head over both wings.

Those thousands of ladybird beetle species collectively constitute the insect Family Coccinellidae, a very widespread family of small beetles, each less than three quarters of an inch in size. Ladybird beetles go through the typical four stages of insect life as an egg, a larva, a pupa, and an adult. A female may lay from a couple of dozen to over a thousand eggs in small clusters in protected sites on stems or leaves near such prey as aphids or scale organisms.

Larvae are described as dark in color with three pairs of legs, growing from less than 1 mm to about 1 cm in length. While larvae, they through four instar stages in about 3-4 weeks and travel as much as 40 feet in search of prey. They then attach to a leaf by their tail to pupate for about 3-12 days. Adults may live for a few months to over a year, with most species having one or two generations per year.

Ladybird beetles have enormous appetites, and happily for us many of their species prefer to dine on aphids or scale organisms. A Cornell University website states that a seven-spotted ladybird beetle eats 200-300 aphids in the larval stage and adults may consume several hundred aphids per day. And they can fly to search for more after eliminating one aphid colony. The heavy impact of ladybird beetles upon aphids and scale insects infecting crops and garden plants has led to commercial distribution of foreign ladybird beetle species in our nation, to the detriment of native species, especially a native nine-spotted ladybird beetle, a problem of concern to the Center for Biological Diversity.

Natural predators of ladybird beetles are mostly birds, but frogs, wasps, spiders, and dragonflies are also listed. The bright red or yellow color of many species of this family may serve to protect them by advertising that they secrete chemicals that make them taste terrible.



Ladybird beetles can and do winter over. They typically do this by gathering together in large numbers at the base of trees or among rocks, often with an exposure toward the midday sun. I treasure my memory of encountering such a huge ball of overwintering ladybird beetles once, decades ago.

Having much experience as a hike leader for the Sierra Club, I had volunteered to lead my stepson Joey’s cub scout pack on a hike in the San Gabriel Mts. near Mt. San Antonio (aka Mt. Baldy). We actually saw a huge ball (about a foot in diameter) of those small red beetles with black dots crawling all over one another at the base of a tree with southern exposure. What a thrill for all of us! It’s the only time I’ve ever seen this phenomenon, and it remains a very high mark in my decades of leading hikes. On mentioning in an email to Joey, now in his 50’s, that I was writing about that ball of “ladybugs” for *Oakleaves*, my son immediately responded, “One of my most favorite memories ever!”



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Rein Orchid

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

(Ed. Note: Revised by Dr. Walters from his Oakleaves article, October/November, 2009)

I'm going to discuss the problems of identifying plants from photos because Bonnie's drawings and my article are derived from photographs and not actual plants. Half of the photographs were provided by the good people of SWAP, and were taken in the Elfin Forest, while the rest are from slides taken by me back in 1977-78 in the dunes at Montaña de Oro. Because I'm not sure whether all of the pictures are of the same species, I'm going to be somewhat general in the identification of the featured plant. Having said that, I can say that our subject is definitely what is commonly known as a rein orchid or rein orchis.

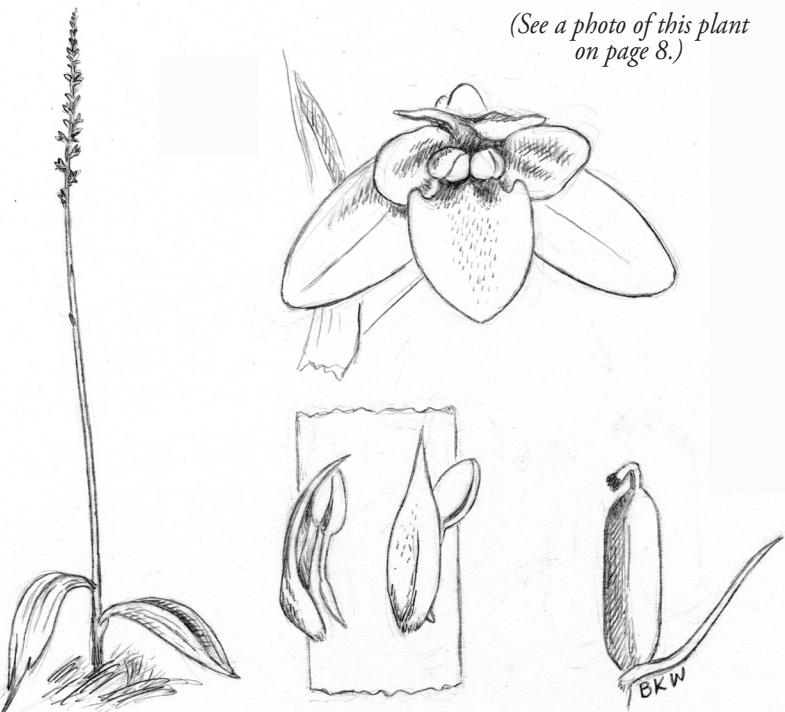
This common name has been applied to a number of species of tall, slender orchids possessing relatively small flowers borne in an elongate cluster, defined as a raceme or a spike. The only difference between these two types of flower clusters (inflorescences) is whether or not the individual flowers bear a stalk or pedicel. Flowers in a spike lack one, while those of a raceme exhibit one. In orchids, these two types of inflorescence are almost impossible to distinguish in photos because the orchid ovary is borne below the flower (inferior) and is usually long and thin and therefore would resemble a flower stalk. However, Bonnie has drawn a fruit directly attached to the inflorescence axis. This means the species Bonnie drew has no stalk or pedicel.

Further, none of the photos includes a scale, so it is impossible to know exactly the sizes of the various parts. This is significant because the most important distinguishing characteristic between two of the more likely species is the length the spur. Is it 0.5 to 6mm or is it 6 to 12mm? A spur in this group of orchids is a backward projection of the lowermost petal which forms a tube that sticks out behind and beneath the flower or just below the ovary. Spurs usually have a nectar-producing gland (nectary) at their tip.

Back in 2009 when this discussion was first written, there was also a problem with inconsistency in the treatment of this group of orchids. Older works placed our plants in the genus *Habenaria*. Dr. Hoover's *The Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County, California* (1970), recognized only one species of rein orchid as *Habenaria unalascensis*. Mary Coffeen (*Central Coast Wildflowers*, 1993) placed her only likely orchid species in *Habenaria* as well. In the current Jepson Manual, both species are in the genus *Piperia*. In *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, California* (ca. 2010), a very similar plant but with a conspicuously long spur (in a photo) is placed in the species *Piperia elongata*. The differences among these species in both the Hoover and Jepson identification keys are the length of the spur which isn't discernable in our photos or Bonnie's drawing. The species list for the Elfin Forest (2015) gives *P. michaelii* as the species name of our rein orchid. It's unlikely to be *P. michaelii* as that species should have a very long (6-8 mm) readily visible spur and prefers moist woods.

Most of these species occupy identical dry shrubby or woodland habitats, so there is no help there. At the end of the description

(See a photo of this plant on page 8.)



of the genus, *Piperia*, in the Jepson Manual, it states that the several green flowered species are difficult to separate and of doubtful validity. Unfortunately, our 'species' have the green flowers. The Jepson Manual is always being constantly updated and there is an update for Hoover's book in the works. We can be hopeful that when these become available, all our identification problems will be solved!

The orchid family (Orchidaceae) is probably the second largest family of flowering plants in the world. There are only 11 genera and at most 31 species in California, and Dr. Hoover recognized only 3 genera and 7 species in SLO County. How can these numbers be reconciled? Almost all orchid species are found in the tropics where they tend to occupy very restrictive habitats such as rain forest tree branches (epiphytes) and where they are each associated with a specific fungal species. Many of them have very exacting, low probability pollination systems as well.

One study I heard about at a botanical meeting is of particular interest. The researcher searched a small forest tract in Ecuador where he counted 100 plants in flower of a particular orchid species. He then determined how many of these plants produced fruit. Of the 100 plants, only 10 were actually visited by its pollinator. Of the 10 visited, only one actually matured a fruit. This is a plant success rate of only 1%! However, the orchid had an ace up its petals: each orchid fruit contains one hundred thousand to one million seeds and the pollen is bundled in packets (called pollinia) each containing even a greater number of pollen grains. Consequently, that single fruit potentially produced over one hundred thousand seeds. Many orchids play this high-stakes game of chance and, unfortunately, many are losing. Of all the families of flowering plants, orchids have the largest percentage of species listed as rare and/or endangered. So even if I don't know of any sexy, specialized features of our local rein orchid, it is so localized in its distribution that it is still a real treat to find it. And I say this even though its flowers are small in size and mostly green in color.

Images From the Forest

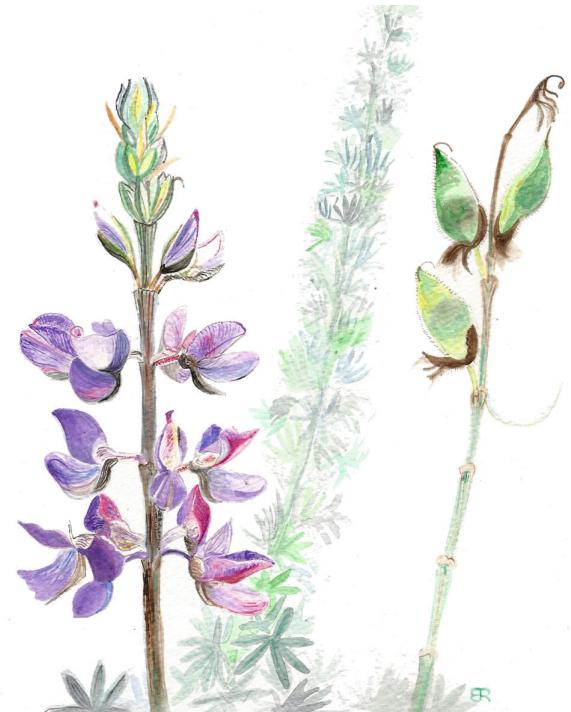


Chantal Blanchard shared two of her favorite Elfin Forest views with us: from the Forest's highest point, one can look across dune scrub, oaks, and Manzanita shrubs to see the estuary, sandspit and ocean in the distance; Coast live oaks draped with lace lichen arch over the boardwalk, with bright red poison oak leaves on either side as one enters the leafy tunnel.

Silver dune lupine, *Lupinus chamissonis*, shown in this watercolor by Barb Renshaw, blooms in June and July, and can be seen at Bush Lupine Point and Butterfly hill.

Barb Renshaw sent us a watercolor of Poison oak, *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, as it appears in June with its white berries and leaves turning red. Poison oak grows in shady areas, especially along the lower boardwalk.

Dune almond, *Prunus fasciculatae* var. *punctata*, produces small white blossoms in early spring, and by June will be producing its almond-like fruit. It can be seen growing along the 15th Street and 13th Street trails. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.



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 FEMEF's answering machine, (805) 528-0392.

Weed Warrior Report

By Jeff Reifel, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

In April and May, Weed Warriors were still operating at reduced capacity due to COVID-19. There is light at the end of this tunnel. Check our website, <http://elfin-forest.org>, for upcoming work parties. Get the vaccine and bring a mask.

Pulling veldt grass, cheatgrass and narrow leaved iceplant have kept Vicky, Pete and Jeff on their toes. On May 8, members of Cal Poly's Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity and Cuesta College student Maya Holifred joined Conservation Co-Chair Vicky Johnsen and Pete Sarafian in the back-breaking task of pulling away invading ice plant from Elfin Forest trees and shrubs growing near South Bay Boulevard, just south of the bridge. Alpha Phi Omega members who participated were Maximillian Chi, Joshua Chow, Chloe Fung, Julianne Hom, Nathan Lin, and Kyle Van. Thanks to all.

The Boardwalk now features fewer loose boards and more new screws. Jeff and Skip replaced the unsightly gate at Bush Lupine Point with one that is easier to operate and to look at (pictured below, photo by Jeff Reifel).



Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest Mission:
Preserve and maintain El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area; inform and educate about the natural history of the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay Estuary; promote and support scientific research in the Forest.



At a work party in early May, snail monitor Pete Sarafian explained how to identify the endangered Morro Shoulderband Snail to volunteers from Cal Poly and Cuesta College.

Photo by Vicky Johnsen.



Two Weed Warriors work to pull heavy, invading iceplant from Elfin Forest trees and shrubs growing near South Bay Boulevard.

Photo by Vicky Johnsen.

Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Story and Photos by Jean Wheeler

With the tremendous success of our vaccination program, many of us are now able to venture from our home shelters and again enjoy the beauty of our Elfin Forest. It is welcoming us with spring green, lovely wildflowers, resident and visiting wild birds, and other native animals.

Dune buckwheat is blooming with flowers that are white now. They will change to pink, then to rust by late summer, and finally still contribute an attractive brown as autumn approaches. White to pale lavender blossoms in pompoms on sturdy stems of black sage (pictured) will be black pompoms by Halloween. Spikes of white flowers characterize chamise near the inland end of the boardwalk. Wedgeleaf horsetail also has white to yellow flowers. Deerweed and Peak rush-rose show yellow blooms. Among low growth off the boardwalk, near South Bay Boulevard, we occasionally see stalks of greenish-white rein orchids (pictured) blooming in June (see Dirk Walter's article about this plant, with Bonnie Walter's drawings, on page 5).

Sticky monkey flowers are conspicuously orange (and not sticky—but the green leaves are) should bloom on into August. Fiddleneck and golden yarrow also have yellow flowers. California poppies bloom yellow to orange most of the year.

Blue flowers may be featured on spikes of silver dune lupines near Bush Lupine Point. Wooly star is a low-growing plant with herbaceous shoots and bright blue flowers above a woody root crown. It is best seen along a sandy area across from the Fairbanks Monument. Purple nightshade is also in bloom during these months.

California wild rose, cobwebby thistles, and California hedge nettles have pink flowers. Cardinal catchflies (red flowers in the undergrowth appearing to have been cut by pinking shears) should continue to bloom all summer.

Of course, honeybees and bumblebees are gathering nectar and pollen from all those flowers while butterflies, often called “flying flowers,” continue to abound in June and July. Bush lupines close to the estuary attract Morro blue butterflies to lay eggs on their leaves. Acmon blues are attracted to deerweed to host their caterpillars. Dune buckwheat attracts gray hairstreaks. Variable checkerspots lay eggs on the undersides of sticky monkey-flower leaves. Gabb's checkerspot is attracted to California poppies for nectar. The California oak moth (pictured) lays its eggs on our pygmy live oaks.

While admiring butterflies and flowers from the boardwalk and sand trails, your eyes will no doubt also be attracted by the flight of avian residents. Especially likely to be seen and heard are the bright blue California Scrub Jays, loudly proclaiming their last name. Orange and black Spotted Towhees make a loud buzz. The large California Quail sports a bobbing head plume and sounds to me like it is calling “quer-CAH-go”. Then there are busily chattering flocks of tiny fuzzy gray birds, dominated by Bushtits and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Talkative little brown birds include several species of sparrows and wrens.

Among non-avian residents active as summer begins are western fence lizards (doing their amusing pushups!), brush rabbits, ground squirrels, coyotes (see Skip Rotstein's article and photos of our coyotes on pages 1 & 3), and occasionally even black-tailed deer.



*The creation of a thousand forests
is in one acorn.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~*

Making a Difference Through the Years

The entrance to Los Osos Oaks State Natural Reserve guides the eye to gnarled and fallen oak trees, some of them centuries old. Saved from being bulldozed and turned into a mobile home park in 1971 by Emily Polk and others who founded SWAP, this 90-acre small wilderness will continue to exist into future centuries.

Photo by Cynthia Russek.



Elfin Forest Beat

By Barbara Renshaw

I have no idea why April Fools Day set the attendance record in the forest. Had Thursday during spring break sent all these people to the forest? Or, was this a complete coincidence? That morning between 10:00 and 11:30 am I counted 51 visitors. They arrived in pairs and in groups with children. A few had dogs with them, but I did not recognize any of the regular dog walkers. I happened to spend time sitting on my folding stool sketching as the parade passed me. Most of the people simply ignored me and walked on. Good, I thought, I'm not in the way!

During March and April, Jeff and I helped people look for female oak flowers and answered other questions about the oaks. We assured people that the wild cucumbers were not damaging the other plants. A few visitors walked the wrong way around the loop, but otherwise all was well in the forest.



WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

*Keep an eye on our website home page,
www.elfin-forest.org or check outgoing messages each
month at 805-528-0392 for any update about walks.*

“The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I
come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Thank You to Our Generous Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, FEMEF Database Coordinator

NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Barbara Renshaw

NEW MEMBERS:

Craig Baltimore
Andrea Dunlop & Max Miceli*
Francine Harrell
Lila M. Johnson*

RENEWING MEMBERS:

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Nancy Stephens*
Alyce Thorp &
Bob Mayberry*
the Ungar family*
Lisa Wallender*

DONATIONS:

Philip Terzian, Bellingham Publishing
(donation of Alphabet Birds books)

Barbara Rosenthal
(donation of Elfin Forest mural prints)

In memory of Karin Cake:

Stephen Cake

In memory of Dorothy G. Holden:

Dianne Bouger
George M. Brown III
Kathy & Dennis Gisler and family

Remembering a Member – June Wright

By Yolanda Waddell

Some people love the Elfin Forest so much that they have supported SWAP, and now FEMEF, for a good part of their lifetime. Such was the case with June Wright, who passed away in March at age 89. She became a member in 1994, and for the following 26 years sent in a renewal donation every year.

A San Francisco native, June did secretarial work after completing her education. Her obituary reported that she was a secretary at Lawrence Livermore Radiation Laboratory with a Q clearance. She exhibited a good sense of humor by keeping the coffee in the Top Secret file cabinet. On moving to Los Osos after her husband's death, June became a medical office business manager.

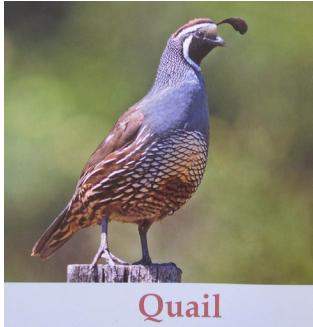
June's other career was volunteering as a committee member and board member for a variety of organizations and churches. One of those organizations was SWAP, now FEMEF. June was active on our membership committee for many years. We knew her to be patient and cheerful, with a good measure of common sense in accomplishing work for the committee. We will miss her and send our condolences to her family.

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.

*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 FEMEF 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.



Great Gift Alphabet Bird Book: 26 facing picture/poem pages

Q is for Quail

All of my feathers
Lie in their place
Except for the one
That hangs in my face



FEMEF Shoppers' Order Form

See Photos of All Items at www.elfin-forest.org

All Prices Include Sales Tax

1. MURAL SHIRTS

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

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 Long Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @ \$27.00 = \$_____
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2. POCKET GUIDE

Useful 56-page guide to plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. Lists for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, arthropods including moths and butterflies, gastropods, vascular plants, lichens, and mushrooms. Some with charts for seasonality, color and more.

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3. ELFIN FOREST MURAL PRINTS

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

@ \$35.00 = \$_____

4. ALPHABET BIRD BOOK

With 26 clever verses and superb photos on facing pages, this book is sure to please young and old.

@ \$20.00 = \$_____

5 . MURAL MUG

15- ounce beverage mug with wrap-around mural design. Microwave safe, hand wash suggested.

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6. ELFIN FOREST CAPS

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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. Your friend will marvel at the beautiful flowers and the diverse bird, butterfly, and other animal life.

Pack a few sandwiches and share them while stopping at Bush Lupine Point and then Siena's View to look over the Morro Bay estuary with its busy bird life. Next visit Rose's Grove and enjoy the shady presence of gnarled, ancient Coast live oaks. Finally follow the boardwalk up to the Highest Point, 125 feet above sea level, where you can look over the dune scrub and oak forest to view the estuary, sandspit, Morro Rock, and the ocean beyond.

We'd love to hear about your friend's reactions and especially wonderful or unusual sightings they report in emails to the editors at oakleaf@elfin-forest.org for publication in a future issue of *Oakleaves*.

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Donation only \$ _____

I want to help, please call me!

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

Check here to receive the online version only.

All donations to FEMEF are tax-deductible.

EVERY membership counts!

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