



# OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST

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

## We Invite You to Join the FEMEF 2021 Annual Celebration

*By Yolanda Waddell*

Because of the dangerous Covid surge, Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF/SWAP) will again hold its Annual Meeting and Celebration via Zoom. We will meet with FEMEF members who wish to attend on Saturday, November 13, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

An annual meeting with attendance by members is required by the State and our Bylaws. Its purpose is to recapitulate the year's activities, discuss plans for the future, and to elect Directors. FEMEF chooses to make it a celebration of our volunteers and members as well.

Two to three weeks before the meeting, the Board of Directors will email a notice to members or send postcards to those for whom we have no email address. Members who receive postcards will be asked to email FEMEF at [femef@elfin-forest.org](mailto:femef@elfin-forest.org) if they wish to join the meeting. Members who state that they wish to attend the meeting will receive information on how to use Zoom as well as how to participate in online voting to elect Board members.

This year, our speaker will be **Conservation Committee Co-Chair Vicky Johnsen**. Vicky is a FEMEF Elfin Forest Ambassador and superb Education Committee docent.

She has absorbed much knowledge of local plant life from artist and naturalist, Barbara Renshaw. During her presentation,

**Annual Celebration** *continued on page 2*

## Meet Lasca Gaylord, Our Pecho District Supervising Ranger

*By Yolanda Waddell;*

*Photo by Jay Waddell*

Lasca Gaylord is a personification of the San Luis Obispo County Parks motto, "Think Outside." She grew up in the mountains of El Dorado County, southwest of Lake Tahoe and north of Placerville, in the town of Somerset. She hiked, camped and backpacked with her family in many of the area's parks, giving her a love and appreciation of the outdoors.

For her senior project in landscape architecture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Lasca chose to work with the Georgetown

Divide Resource Conservation District in El Dorado County. She helped plan improvements in the Placerville Gold Bug Mine Park, including new areas for hiking, picnicking and group day use. Included were restoring the creek, badly degraded with gold mining residue, and removing non-native plants such as scotch broom from throughout the park. Among her duties was meeting with community members and homeowners near the park, to hear what they wanted for the park. She learned to balance needs of the people with the needs of the land. It was her first experience in interacting with the public, and it made her think that working in parks would be enjoyable.



**Lasca Gaylord** *continued on page 3*

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## 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

Jeff Reifel

The FEMEF Board of Directors meets monthly  
on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

The next meetings are  
**Tuesday, October 12**  
**and Tuesday, November 9.**

All Board meetings are open to the public.  
To attend a 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.

# Annual Celebration *cont. from page 1*

**A Walk Through the Seasons with the Elfin Forest Plants and Flowers**, Vicky will talk about one or two wildflowers and plants that bloom during each month of the year. Her talk is illustrated with a splendid array of photos, showing that the Elfin Forest is like a year-long and delightful wild garden. She will take questions from participating members after her presentation.

Following Vicky Johnsen's talk, there will be brief reports by three board members.

**FEMEF Chair Skip Rotstein** will report accomplishments during 2020 and projects for 2021. He will also celebrate our FEMEF Volunteers with a brief slide program showing the wonderful things they do.

**Treasurer Dave Bowlus** will give a short review of the Annual Treasurer's Report that appears below, and take any questions.

**Conservation Co-Chair Jeff Reifel** will report how weeding, erosion control and boardwalk maintenance has been accomplished in spite of the COVID-19 limitations.

The FEMEF Board of Directors encourages you, our members, to join our Zoom gathering. We want to tell you, the supporters of FEMEF and the Elfin Forest, what we have done on your behalf.



*Vicky Johnsen, shown pointing at the June-blooming Woolly star, *Eriastrum densifolium*, will tell about this plant and many others during her presentation at the November Annual Celebration. Photo by Christine Gillen.*

## Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year July 2020-June 2021

*By Dave Bowlus, Ph.D., FEMEF Treasurer*

Many in-person activities were curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic this year, but a small number of volunteers, working in accordance with San Luis Obispo County health guidelines, continued our missions to preserve and maintain the El Moro Elfin Forest and to educate the public about this priceless 90-acre nature preserve. In addition to expenditures to support those activities, we hired professional consultants to help prepare our proposal for a project on Butterfly Hill (see story on page one in April-May Oakleaves). The total balance of FEMEF funds at the end of the fiscal year amounted to \$60,669, an increase of more than \$1000 from the beginning of the year. We thank our generous members for their ongoing support.

### Revenues for 7-1-2020 through 6-30-2021

Memberships and donations:	\$18,871
Merchandise sales:	\$862
Bank Interest:	\$22
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$19,755</b>

### Expenses

Education related:	
Publications	\$4960
(including Oakleaves, brochures, boardwalk signage)	
Conservation equipment and supplies:	\$1177
Butterfly Hill Project proposal consultants:	\$5338
Merchandise for sale:	\$200
Office and operating expenses:	\$6728
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,403</b>

# Lasca Gaylord *cont. from page 1*

After graduation from Cal Poly, Lasca applied for a job as a Park Ranger Aide with San Luis Obispo County Parks. She confessed that her mother had found the job posting and urged her to give it a try, though Lasca was doubtful about departing from the profession she had prepared for. Looking back at that decision, she said, “You should always listen to your mom.” Now Lasca is the first female County Supervising Park Ranger.

Lasca’s first assignment was in the County Parks Mesa District. There are four park districts in the County: Mesa District includes parks in the south end of the county; Huasna District includes Lopez Lake and Biddle Park; Salinas District is in north county and includes the Santa Margarita Lake Recreation Area; and the Pecho District includes parks in San Luis Obispo, El Chorro Regional Park, 19 beach access ways and all the coastal parks from Los Osos north to Cambria, including the Elfin Forest. In all, there are 15,000 acres of County parkland.

In the Mesa District, Lasca was posted at the Coastal Dunes RV Park and Campground on Highway 1 in Oceano. After three years there, she was transferred to the Pecho District as a Park Ranger 2. Following that, she moved as a Park Ranger 3 to the Salinas District. Then she was promoted to Supervising Park Ranger of the Pecho District in January, 2020. In March of that year, Coronavirus began spreading across California and the rest of the U.S., and “everything went haywire.” Park staff roles and positions changed to meet an array of new tasks.

Lasca oversees the Pecho staff of 8 full-time Park Rangers, 5 seasonal Park Aides, and many volunteers including 5 camp hosts at the El Chorro Regional Park campground. She also serves and oversees volunteers from FEMEF, the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, SLO4Pups, the Cayucos Dog Park, and numerous Adopt-A-Park volunteers throughout the Pecho District. Her staff of Park Rangers and Park Aides maintains El Chorro campground, 7 community parks, 19 beach access ways, Cayucos Beach and Pier, Dog Beach in Morro Bay, 7 playgrounds, 2 pools, and 2 dog parks.

Regional parks, such as El Chorro Regional Park, are set up to be self-supporting by the revenue they generate. Community parks are tax based, receiving money from the County General Fund. During the pandemic, El Chorro was closed for several months to house COVID-positive individuals who were experiencing home-

lessness and there was a significant revenue shortfall. County Parks had to use its park reserve funds to keep the regional parks afloat. Therefore, they are currently obliged to dedicate most funds to

projects that will increase revenue. County Parks has a \$13.5 million annual park budget, and if a district’s residents or volunteers propose a project, County Parks must get the approval of big-ticket items from the Parks Commission and then ask for funds from the Board of Supervisors.

“I don’t think that parks have ever been so valuable to people,” said Lasca when asked how COVID has changed what parks staff does. “It is the one thing that people have been seeking out in record numbers.” Regular maintenance is still being done, but the role of County Parks staff as county employees changed to being disaster service workers. An example would be setting up safe parking for the homeless, collecting trash and picking up litter, and servicing the restrooms.

In a normal world, outside of COVID, Lasca likes to draw and paint. She spends a lot of time outdoors hiking, kayaking, and scuba diving when she has the opportunity. She misses scuba diving very much as she hasn’t had time for that since she and her family spent three weeks in Madagascar and the Seychelles Islands just before she began her new position.

Reflecting on her life as a Park Ranger, Lasca said, “For me, what is very important is that we do have the ability to provide diverse recreational opportunities. Just sitting out here (in the Elfin Forest) with you, we’ve seen people out walking their dog, pushing their kids, looking at the information kiosks -- different opportunities for a diverse group of people. It is important for

us (County Parks staff) to understand that is not just a certain type of user but all users such as those we see in the Elfin Forest. That really is our job and we are all going to be, as Park Rangers, equally as helpful and accommodating to people just using the restrooms, people who are camping overnight, or people who are experiencing homelessness and need some shelter. I think that if we can all work together as a community, that is how it will be done.”

Thanks to Lasca for making time to help us to know more about County Parks and the job of a Park Ranger. We who love the Elfin Forest know that it is in good hands.

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# Great Egret

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

The elegant, tall white Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) gets its English name from the French word *aigrettes*, referring to beautiful long plumes growing from its back in mating season. In the late 1800's, this species was hunted nearly to extinction so the plumes, other parts of birds and even entire birds of small species, could adorn hats of ladies. Early conservationists, including local Audubon societies founded to save endangered birds, successfully outlawed the vicious practices and established bird conservation laws. Populations of the Great Egret recovered rapidly, and the species has become the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Four subspecies of the Great Egret are worldwide in tropical to temperate climates of the Americas, southern Europe, Africa, southern Asia, and Australia and other Pacific islands. In the last few decades, the species has been expanding northward, observed successfully breeding for the first time in 2012 in England with at least 8 nests successfully fledging young there by 2017. A pair in Finland reared 4 young for the first time in that nation in 2018. In the United States, they breed as far north as wetlands of Washington state, although there have been losses of some breeding areas in our southern states to land development.

All egrets are in the heron family of birds, but the Great Egret is also in the heron genus, unlike the rest of the egret species, which are in the genus *Egretta*. Although similar in height, flight, and hunting style, our Great Egret is more slender and lighter than the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), weighing only about half as much and, of course, has all white feathers instead of blue-gray. Except for its height, the Great Egret looks more like the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). They can be confused if the observer forgets that the Snowy Egret is shorter and has a black bill and yellow legs while our Great Egret has a yellow beak and black legs.

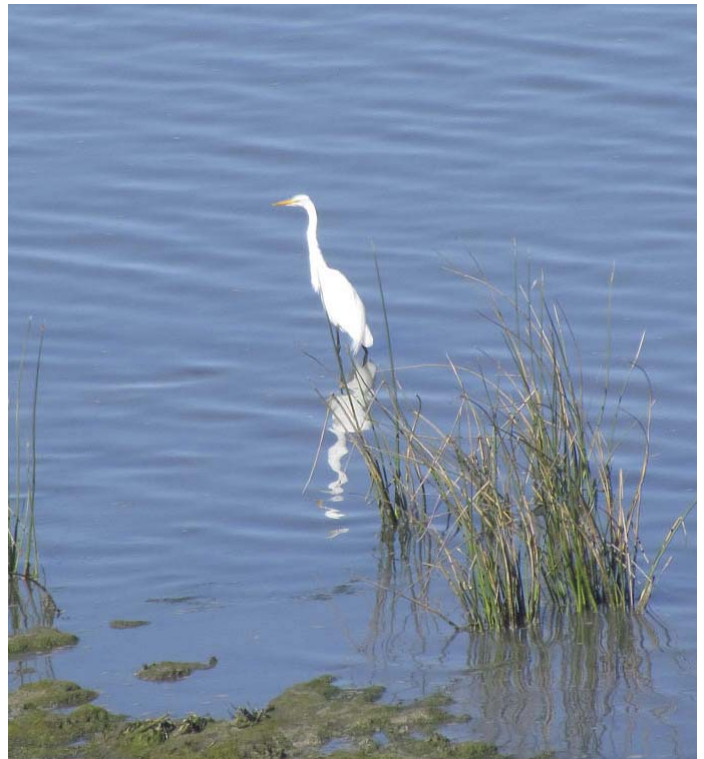
As shown in my two photos, the Great Egret hunts usually by standing totally alone and still, waiting for prey to approach unaware, or it walks slowly through shallow water or occasionally on grassy shores. With its long neck and large beak, it strikes very suddenly to capture unsuspecting small fish, crayfish, crustaceans, frogs, small snakes, lizards, dragonflies, and grasshoppers.

Although usually solitary in hunting, Great Egrets nest in colonies, usually high in trees in large shoreline rookeries. In the Heron Rookery on Main Street in Morro Bay, north of the Natural History Museum and across from the Golf Course, they nest with other egrets, herons, and cormorants. Males choose nest sites, win a female with courtship displays in breeding plumage including the graceful back plumes and temporarily neon green skin between their eyes and beaks. The pair build a large nest of sticks and softer plants, and the female lays about 4-6 eggs. If food is inadequate, larger siblings kill smaller siblings, but families of 4 young are often raised successfully.

In our nation, much of the remaining habitat of the Great Egret is within wildlife refuges. Protection and restoration of our wetlands is critical for the long-term survival of this stately, classically beautiful species.



*One stab--lizard is in beak, at Montaña de Oro.*



*Waiting below Siena's View for seafood to swim close.*

# By Bonnie Walters: A Selected Few Beautiful and Precise Plant Drawings

*Ed. Note: The drawings on this page are selected from over 100 plant species articles written by Dr. Dirk Walters and illustrated by widely recognized scientific artist Bonnie Walters between 1998 and 2021. See our remembrance of Bonnie on page 10.*



*Clockwise from top right:  
Wild Cucumber (*Marah fabaceus*).*

*Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosa*).*

*Cobwebby Thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*).*

*Woolly Star  
(*Eriastrum densifolium*, ssp. *densifolium*).*

*Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*).*

*Center:  
Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).*



# South Bay Boulevard Bridge to be Rebuilt

By Skip Rotstein, FEMEF Chair

## *A Roadway Above*

A new South Bay Boulevard Bridge will replace the present bridge in the next three years. The current bridge, built in 1966, is supported by a single concrete pier located on the edge of Los Osos Creek and resting on creek sediments. A major earthquake could cause the sediments to liquify, the pier to crack, and the bridge to collapse. The new bridge will be earthquake resistant. It will be supported by two piers sunk deep below the creek sediments and located back from the high tide level of the creek banks.

The Los Osos Bear will be removed before construction begins. The new bridge will be constructed immediately to the east of the present bridge and the Bear will have a new home on the Bay side of the new bridge. The new bridge will require realignment of South Bay Boulevard and the Turri Road intersection to provide for longer bridge approaches.

The new bridge will still have a two-lane roadbed. But it will be wider to include separated bike and pedestrian paths. Finally, the old bridge will be torn down. The old approaches will be dug up and planted with native plants. This will mitigate environmentally sensitive State Park land being used for the new bridge approaches. The old bridge will not be repurposed as a pedestrian or bike bridge for the same reason it is not usable as an auto bridge: earthquake safety.



*Many animals, like this leaping deer, go under the South Bay Boulevard bridge and then into the Elfin Forest.  
Photo by Jeff Reifel from video by Skip Rotstein.*

## *An Animal Migration Route Below*

Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest have filed a Comment with the County that animal migration routes will be impeded during construction and mitigation has not been provided in the County Plan. Deer, coyotes, raccoons and even wild pigs have been photographed under the South Bay Boulevard Bridge, migrating to and from the El Moro Elfin Forest. Bridge construction is acknowledged in the County Plan to block the migration route, driving animals up toward the busy South Bay Boulevard. It is hoped this problem will be addressed before construction begins.



*16th Street Parking area backstop, heavily damaged when a truck crashed into it. The damage was promptly repaired by County Park Rangers. Photo by Jay Waddell.*

## Truck Hits 16th Street Backstop

On July 28, a message was left on the FEMEF answering machine by a distraught Morro Bay State Park camper. He had driven over to the 16th Street Elfin Forest entrance, looking forward to a pleasant walk in the Forest. However, in pulling into a parking place, he stepped on his gas pedal instead of the brake. His truck rolled over a concrete curb and crashed into the wooden backstop, shown in the photo. Fortunately, the driver and his passenger weren't injured; undoubtedly the truck suffered damage. The camper said he was willing to pay for repair of the backstop.

FEMEF Board Chair Skip Rotstein phoned the camper to thank him for being responsible and reporting the accident. Skip and Jeff Reifel inspected the damaged backstop the next day and reported it to our County Parks Supervising Ranger, Lasca Gaylord. Skip also returned the camper's truck license plate that had come off in the crash. Two weeks later, Skip sent an email to Lasca to thank her for the good work by County Parks Rangers in replacing the damaged boards. The camper wasn't charged.

# Elfin Forest Work Report – July and August

Jeff Reifel continued to replace rusted screws in the boardwalk. In addition he reported, “I also fixed the main Welcome sign at 16th Street. I had noticed, when I went to remove the remnants of a stapled-on flyer, that only one of the posts continued into the ground, and that the other was on the brink of failure. I was able to remove the rotten wood from the footings and drive some new 4x4s into the sockets. I screwed the old posts to the new supports.”

Vicky Johnsen reported that she spent 3 days collecting seeds for our Fall seeding project. Bev Gingg of the Land Conservancy came to help her on one of those days. Barb Renshaw and Jeff Reifel also collected seeds.

Each weekend, Vicky Johnsen becomes the Elfin Forest Roving Ambassador - greeting visitors, answering their questions, picking up any trash, and giving gentle reminders to keep dogs on leash, stay on the boardwalk, and treat the ancient oak trees with respect by not climbing them.

*Editor's note: when Supervising Ranger Lasca Gaylord visited the Elfin Forest in August, she was very pleased that when visitors saw her uniform, they would ask questions about the plants and birds, and tell her how much they enjoy walking in the Forest. Lasca was impressed to see that there is almost no trash in the Forest. She attributes that to a community that loves and cares for the Elfin Forest.*



Jeff Reifel removed these rotting posts from the 16th Street Welcome sign, and braced with new 4x4's that he fastened at the back of the sign's frame, shown in the next photo.  
Photos by Jeff Reifel.

## Elfin Forest Beat

By Barbara Renshaw

I spotted three women stopped at the bulletin board. They stayed there long enough that I was certain they had read some of the text. Feeling like a spy, I watched them stop at a QR code on the boardwalk. Then, passing them, I decided to sit on the next bench so I could interview them.

I introduced myself as a docent: “I’m lurking here on this bench because I want to ask you some questions. I’m Barb and this is Jeff. I noticed that you stopped at the bulletin board and then at a QR code. Were they helpful?”

“Yes. We are visiting from Alaska, Fresno, and Oakland. We used to work together in San Francisco, and we meet for a yearly vacation and reunion. This boardwalk is great. It’s in such good condition. Yesterday we walked on one at Moonstone Beach that was falling apart.”

I glanced at Jeff and saw him smile. “Jeff works on this one. Maybe nobody works on the one at Moonstone.”

“Well, someone ought to fix it. We thought we might fall right through the rotten boards. A visitor might sue.” I recognized that this was a joke and still a positive comment on the boardwalk at the Elfin Forest.



# Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

*Text and Photos by Jean Wheeler*

The yellow flowers of mock heather (pictured) are among the few flower species dependably in bloom as these two months begin. Others include California asters (white to pinkish or lavender petals surrounding central yellow disks), seaside golden yarrow, coyote brush (white flowers quickly smothered by fluffy white plumes to carry away resulting seeds), and dune buckwheat bush (white flowers of summer have aged to dark pink or rust).

Honoring Halloween are formerly white but now dead blossoms of black sage, looking like black pompoms on their stems. While these months are unusually minimal (for us) in colorful floral displays, we can hope for autumn rains to trigger early contributors to a wonderful winter floral extravaganza to follow.

While floral displays are less showy now than during the rest of the year, birders are especially attracted to Bush Lupine Point and Siena's View in the Fall. They are eager to view bird species arriving from the north. Several species of ducks may arrive on the estuary as early as August and September.

By October we can usually enjoy watching many dabbling ducks floating on the surface of Morro Bay, dipping their heads way down to seek food with their tails pointing up in the air. Those to look for include Mallards, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, many American and perhaps a few wandering Eurasian Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, and Teal (Blue-winged, Cinnamon, and Green-winged).

In contrast, diving ducks plunge completely below the surface, disappearing in search of their food. Among those to look for as they pop back up to the surface are Scaup (Lesser and Greater), Ring-Necked Ducks, Canvasback, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Ducks.

Horned, Eared, Pied-billed, Western, and Clark's Grebes also arrive from September to November, remaining until March or April. Shorebirds such as Sandpipers, Dowitchers, and the American Avocet reach peak populations in winter with birds arriving from shorelines farther north that won't support them in winter.

On our dunes, the Elfin Forest has our usual resident birds, such as California Scrub Jays, California Quail, Spotted Towhees, and Bushtits (pictured), and also plays host to brush or woodland birds migrating through or wintering. Fox, Lincoln's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows join our year-round White-crowned Sparrows from October to March or April. Ruby-crowned Kinglets also settle in for the winter. In the same months, our summer Swainson's Thrushes have gone south, but are replaced for the winter by incoming American Robins and Hermit Thrushes. Yellow-rumped Warblers also peak in these months. Say's Phoebe joins its year-round relative, the Black Phoebe, for a winter visit.

Birds one may be lucky enough to see passing through in small flocks on their way to the tropics include Cedar Waxwings, Western Tanagers, and Pine Siskins.

There is still so much to see in our wonderful small wilderness area even in these driest months as our plants and animals demonstrate how well they are adjusted to nature's adversities!



*Bushtit*



*Mock Heather*

## WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

### October Nature Walk - Birding

On Saturday, October 9, expert birder **Jim Royer** will lead a birding field trip in the Elfin Forest beginning at 7:30 A.M. Participants must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Reservations are required. - call Jim at 805-748-7895. If there are more than six participants, Jim will do a second birding walk at 10:00 A.M.

*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*

**Keep an eye on our website home page,  
[www.elfin-forest.org](http://www.elfin-forest.org) or check our message phone each  
month at 805-528-0392 for any update about walks.**



## OAKLEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.

Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler;

Layout is by Katy Budge.

Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.

Contributors to this issue: Dave Bowlus, Scott Davis, Lasca Gaylord, Vicky Johnsen, Betsy Kinter, Jeff Reifel, Barb Renshaw, Skip Rotstein, Jim Royer, Cynthia Russek, Yolanda Waddell, Jean Wheeler, Steven Wright.

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If possible, all copy should be submitted by e-mail to: [oakleaf@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaf@elfin-forest.org).

### 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](mailto:oakleaf@elfin-forest.org) or leave a message on FEMEF's answering machine, (805) 528-0392.

### 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.

## Photos From the Forest

Cynthia Russek and Scott Davis toured the Elfin Forest early in September, and shared some of their photos with *Oakleaves*.



*Cynthia's Coffeeberry photo shows the berries turning from green to red. In October, they will be very dark, almost black – which gives the Coffeeberry plant its common name.*



*Scott Davis was intrigued with this view of a Coast live oak branch that lost its outer bark layer, showing the phloem layer, the pipeline through which food is passed to all parts of the tree.*



*Cynthia and Scott came upon a grove of ancient Coast live oaks, their trunks and branches twisting and turning across the sand. The age of these trees could be 200 to 400 years.*

# Thank You to Our Generous Members

*Compiled by Betsy Kinter, FEMEF Database Coordinator*

## **NEW MEMBER:**

Larry Bender\*  
Jan & Jim Moore\*

## **RENEWING MEMBERS:**

Richard & Brenda Allmann*	William Jankos*
Carol Amerio	Sally & Randy Knight*
Andrea Bersie*	Beth & Sheldon Miller*
Charlie & Leslie Cohn*	Bill & Lana Richmond*
Bernard & Fran Deitchman*	Cindy Roessler*
Bev Gingg*	Edward & Marilyn Vilas*

## **DONATIONS:**

Bev Gingg – in honor of FEMEF volunteers

*\*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.*

## 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](http://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](mailto:oakleaf@elfin-forest.org) with the subject: Switch me to online.

# Bonnie Walters – A Remembrance

*By Yolanda Waddell*

*Editor's note: See page 5 of this issue for a full page of illustrations by Bonnie Walters.*

We are very sad to say that Bonnie Walters, whose drawings appeared in almost every issue of Oakleaves since 1998, passed away from cancer in August. Her exquisite and detailed plant drawings illustrated each article by her husband, Dirk Walters. Together, the couple informed the reader about each plant in a clear and entertaining way.

Born in Wabash, Indiana, Bonnie began drawing at an early age, studying art and biology before deciding to focus on zoology in college. Bonnie and Dirk both went to graduate school at the University of Indiana. Bonnie was studying for a Master's in zoology, and Dirk was working on his Ph.D. in plant taxonomy. They met in an ecology class that both were required to take, and were married in 1967. After Dirk received his Ph.D. in 1969, they moved to San Luis Obispo that same year, where Dirk began as a botany professor at Cal Poly. Bonnie completed her Master's degree in 1974.

Bonnie used her zoology background to start her long-time business of raising mice, rats, guinea pigs and hamsters for pet stores. However, she used her art skills to illustrate Dirk's plant articles and a textbook co-authored by Dirk and Cal Poly botanist David Keil, *Vascular Plant Taxonomy*, as well as textbooks by other authors. Bonnie also joined Dirk in the first few of his annual wildflower walks in the Elfin Forest that began in 1998.

The gift that an artist gives to her community continues long after the artist has passed on. Bonnie's beautiful, precise drawings will live on in textbooks to instruct botany students and in our *Oakleaves* issues that can be found on the FEMEF website. With appreciation for Bonnie's work that brought wildflowers to life, we of the Friends of the Elfin Forest extend our sympathy to Dirk and to her family and caregivers.

## Memorial Service for June Wright

Steven Wright, son of June Wright, for whom our Remembrance appeared on page 10 in June/July *Oakleaves* this year, sent us the following information for those who knew her or knew of her.

"June Wright was an active member for many years in the El Moro Elfin Forest organization. She passed after a brief illness in March, 2021. There will be a memorial service for June on Saturday, October 9 at 11:00 am at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church at 2220 Snowy Egret Lane, Los Osos, 93402 (It's just off Los Osos Valley Road). Masks are strongly requested. <https://www.stbenslosos.org/> " Steven suggested that donations in June's memory be given to Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF).



## Order Mural Shirts - for yourself or as holiday gifts!

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



# FEMEF 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

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.

Circle Sizes:

\_\_\_ Short Slv. T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$20.00 = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Short Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$23.00 = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$25.00 = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$27.00 = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$35.00 = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sweatshirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$37.00 = \$\_\_\_

## 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.

\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 = \$\_\_\_

## 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.

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

## 6. ELFIN FOREST CAPS

One size fits all caps with adjustable straps in back, 100% cotton. Two colors, forest green and maroon. Specify color when ordering.

\_\_\_ @ \$15 = \$\_\_\_ Color(s)\_\_\_

## SUBTOTAL OF ORDER

\$\_\_\_

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

**SHIPPING COSTS:** Within and near Los Osos, free delivery may be possible. Shipping costs otherwise depend on zip code and package weight.

*Please call 805-528-0392 to arrange for delivery or shipping.*

## TOTAL OF ORDER WITH

APPLICABLE SHIPPING COSTS \$\_\_\_

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

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

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




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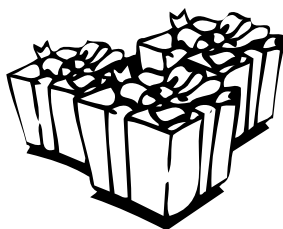
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Join Us (Virtually) for our Annual Celebration! ~ see page 1

***Please check renewal date on your label.***

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## Holiday Shopping With SWAP!



Mural prints 4-½ inches tall by 16 ½ inches wide mounted on foamcore and signed by artist Barbara Rosenthal will look great on the wall of your relative or friend. T-shirts and warm, cozy sweatshirts, black with the same mural printed across both the front and back, are available in many sizes. The Alphabet Bird Book would be a great gift to your child or grandchild, a young niece or nephew, or any young friend.

Gifts that will be welcomed every morning are our coffee mugs featuring the mural print. Also popular are our baseball-style caps with adjustable sizing straps and decorated above the bill with our live oak logo. A good stocking stuffer is our Pocket Guide.

Use the order form on page 11 to either call in or mail your order, and you'll receive your gifts promptly while helping us protect our beautiful Elfin Forest.

## 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 |

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!

Make checks payable to: FEMEF

Mail to: Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest,  
P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442.