



OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST

P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ♦ (805) 528-0392 ♦ FEBRUARY / MARCH 2022



Night photo of two foxes, taken by one of Skip Rotstein's video cameras.
Still photo from the video by Jeff Reifel.

Mammals of El Moro Elfin Forest in a Year of Drought

By Skip Rotstein, FEMEF Chair

Rain is pouring off my roof as I write my final article of the year as FEMEF's Chair. In breaking the current drought, the rain means the plants and animals of the Elfin Forest should thrive in the new year. Consequently, my year-end report will be about the mammals in El Moro Elfin Forest, animals that daytime visitors seldom see.

Mammals of the Forest *continued on page 2*

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Welcome to Three New Board Members

By Yolanda Waddell

FEMEF Board members unanimously voted to add two new Directors and one Student Board Member to the Board of Directors in December. They are Robert (Bob) Dees, John Perrine, and Allison Fash, the Student Board Member. All three were nominated by Board member Steve Hendricks, and introduced themselves at the November Zoom Board meeting. They joined an orientation walk in the Elfin Forest prior to the December meeting. Bob Dees and John Perrine will serve a two-year term, and Allison Fash will serve for one year. They sent us the following information about their very interesting and active lives. They will most certainly enrich the Board with their ideas and knowledge.

Robert Dees

Bob Dees grew up in Monrovia, California, discovering an early love of nature while in the Boy Scouts and on camping trips in California and other states. He attended San Jose State University, where he majored in English and completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree before pursuing graduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

After teaching part-time at UCLA and several community colleges in the area, Bob was hired in 1987 as an English instructor at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. There he taught courses in literature and composition, was for several years chair of the English department, became Dean of the Literature and Languages Division in 1984, served as Vice President of Instruction from 1998 to 2005, and became



New Board Members *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

Robert Dees

Allison Fash, Student Board Member

John Perrine

Jeff Reifel

The FEMEF Board of Directors meets monthly.

**New day and meeting times as of February 7:
2nd Monday of the month from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

The next meetings are

***Monday, February 7
and Monday, March 7.***

FEMEF Board meetings are virtual and 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.

Mammals of the Forest *cont. from page 1*



Four coyotes in the Elfin Forest. Photo by Skip Rotstein.

I have been observing the mammals of El Moro Elfin Forest for some time now with a series of cameras placed in my yard, on a game trail leading out of the forest. Like visitors walking the boardwalk, I occasionally see deer and coyotes during daytime. But at night, even during the drought, the cameras record mice, rabbits, skunks, opossums and raccoons, deer browsing, and foxes and coyotes hunting.

The 2021 drought resulted in noticeably less grass, native and invasive, and little fresh growth on shrubs. While the number and variety of mammals remained similar to 2020, I noticed something missing. The cameras recorded fewer does with fawns and no new coyote pups, fox kits, or young skunks. Having fewer young is a natural response to a drought-limited food supply. Raccoons, in contrast, paraded often past my cameras with young in tow. I understood this anomaly because I had watched the raccoons head from the Elfin Forest into the adjacent residential area to supplement their diet.

It is still too early to tell if the drought has ended. But if it has, I'll be looking for a mammal population boom this Spring.

Here's a tally of Elfin Forest mammals I observed in 2021: 4 coyotes, 2 grey foxes, 1 red Fox, 2 does with 4 fawns, 3 yearling bucks and 2 mature bucks, 3 opossums, 3 skunks, and 9 raccoons.

You can learn more about these animals by watching "Raccoons in the Elfin Forest" and "Foxes in the El Moro Elfin Forest" **on our website: www.elfin-forest.org** (don't miss the hyphen or you'll get a different website than ours). Click on **Forest Library**, then go to the bottom of that column to click on **Elfin Forest Wildlife Presentations by Skip Rotstein on You Tube** to find these two and other videos from my cameras on our game trail out of the Elfin Forest.

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.

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.

New Board Members *cont. from page 1*

President of the college in 2005. He retired from Orange Coast College in 2009.

In 2012, Bob and his wife Vân sold their home in Laguna Niguel and moved to Cambria. Vân is now a volunteer docent at Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery, where Bob also volunteers at Piedras Blancas Light Station and helps as a trail steward in maintaining the Boucher Trail.

Bob and his wife are both avid bird watchers, a hobby that has taken them to mountains, forests, and beaches throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, the Galapagos Islands, Africa, and Antarctica. Bob also collects seashells and studies the mollusks that make them. He enjoys writing and has published several college English textbooks, and journal articles on education, mollusks, and monarch butterflies.

Bob considers it an honor to be part of the Board of Directors of the Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest. He looks forward to working with other Board members to improve and preserve the Elfin Forest for the enrichment of current and future generations.



Allison Fash – Student Board Member

I'd like to introduce myself as the first student board member for Friends of El Morro Elfin Forest. With hopes of obtaining a bachelor's in environmental science, I am currently finishing my last semester at Cuesta College and plan to transfer to a 4-year university. I have always been passionate about the outdoors and my favorite hobbies include swimming in the ocean, camping, hiking, and participating in field research courses. Because of that, I feel a strong responsibility to protect the environment and am constantly looking for new ways to coexist with our earth. Until recently, I lived alone out on the Castoro Cellars biodynamic vineyard. As I essentially lived off the grid, I discovered the more sustainable I was, the more enjoyable and stress free my days were. I hope to encourage that mindset and lifestyle amongst my friends and family.

My future goals consist of traveling to less developed countries and creating useful programs and establishments. They will focus on nursing the local environment back to health, while benefiting the economics of the community. Besides being a serene and necessary area of Los Osos, the Elfin Forest encapsulates my vision, and I am ecstatic to learn about the hard work and processes that made the reserve what it is today.

John D. Perrine

John D. Perrine is a professor of wildlife ecology and conservation in the Biological Sciences Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo ("Cal Poly"). His primary research interests include field ecology, conservation and management of mammals, especially carnivores and imperiled species. Recent projects have focused on field ecology and conservation of the Sierra Nevada red fox, Channel Island fox, pika; distribution of feral pigs in the Morro Bay watershed; and landscape connectivity for bears, mountain lions, deer and other wildlife along Highway 101 near San Luis Obispo.

He especially enjoys collaborating with state and federal natural resource management agencies such as California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CalTrans, and the National Park Service on projects with immediate conservation implications. He is a member of several multi-agency working groups and scientific advisory boards, such as the Oiled Wildlife Working Group out of UC Davis.

At Cal Poly, John teaches wildlife management, conservation biology, and mammalogy, and he manages the Cal Poly mammal and bird collections. He mentors undergraduates and Masters degree students in research techniques and career options in wildlife ecology and conservation, and is faculty advisor for the Cal Poly Wildlife Club. He is also a long-time member of The Wildlife Society at the national, regional, and local levels.

John currently lives in the Laguna Hills region of San Luis Obispo with his wife Cynthia, three kids (ages 16-9), and a dynamic supporting cast of dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits, snakes, and other critters. The Elfin Forest is one of their family's favorite outdoor spots and he is excited to contribute to its management and conservation.



Turkey-tailed Mushroom

Text by Jean D. Wheeler, Ph. D.

Worldwide in distribution, Turkey-tailed Mushrooms (*Trametes versicolor*) are among the easiest mushrooms to find and tentatively identify. A “bracket” fungus, the cap or fruiting body of this species grows without any “stalk” from the mycelium. The mycelium, a mass of threadlike hyphae which constitutes the “body” of the fungus, lives within dead or dying hardwood branches and stumps, where it breaks down the deadwood and feeds on resulting nutrients.

The fruiting body, a thin, fan-shaped cap of the mushroom, 1-4 inches wide, has concentric bands of diverse colors: white, beige, reddish brown, orange, dark brown, even purple or black. Different colors may be velvety, silky, or even hairy in texture. The white to beige bottom side of the cap lacks the gills many mushrooms have to release spores. Instead, it is covered with many tiny pores, openings to release spores developed within minute tubes. Each spore must land on moist wood, germinate, and combine with another spore to produce a new mycelium, which converts wood to food, then grows a new fruiting body, a newer mushroom cap. We typically see lots of caps growing in clusters along dead branches.

Too tough textured for good eating, these mushrooms can be dried and used for teas or in soups. Reportedly used for centuries in China for respiratory diseases, they are said to have immune benefits, and are under tests for cancer treatment in Japan. Conclusive peer-reviewed research is not yet available, and such drugs are not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



Above:

Thick clusters of Turkey-tailed Mushrooms line a dead branch. The brighter splash of orange near the bottom of the photo is a mushroom called Witch's Butter.

Photo by Joey Rektor.



At left:

Closeup of many-colored stripes of Turkey-tailed Mushrooms.

Photo by Dennis Sheridan.

Warning: Mushrooms can be Deadly to Dogs as well as People

Dozens of mushroom species grow in the Elfin Forest, and several of them contain toxic chemicals that can cause severe sickness and death in humans and other animals. Dogs have died of eating such mushrooms, reportedly even in our own Elfin Forest.

KEEPING YOUR DOG ON A LEASH while walking here IS THE LAW in the Elfin Forest to protect other people and our native animals but CAN ALSO SAVE YOUR DOG'S LIFE!!!

California Sagebrush

Text by Dirk Walters, Ph.D.

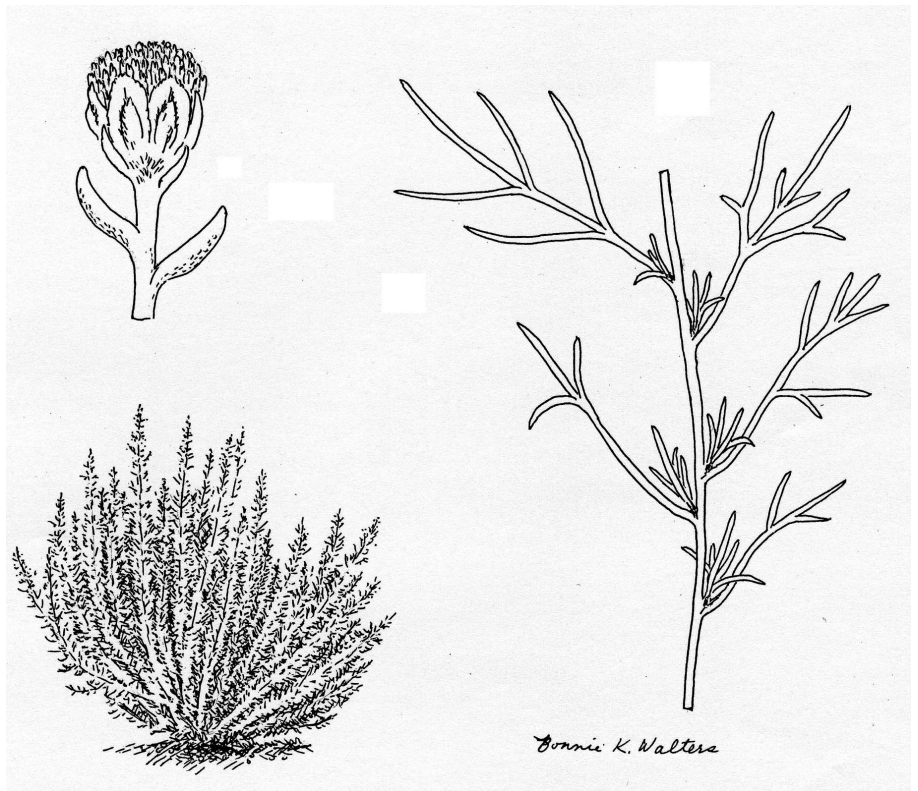
Drawings by Bonnie Walters.

The plant article for this issue of Oak Leaves is an updated version of the one found in the December/January 2004 issue. It is one of the Elfin Forest's more common shrubs. Although it can be seen from just about every location along the boardwalk, it's often overlooked. This is because it usually grows as an isolated individual with unremarkable leaves and flowers, even in full bloom. The plant is California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*).

The leaves are dull gray in color. As can be seen in Bonnie's drawing, the leaves appear to be simple or branched needles. They appear this way because their narrow blade edges are rolled under. The leaves are so flexible that they can be bent double without breaking. During late winter through early summer, the stems are completely clothed in leaves. Buds produced with the first leaves grow into short spurs that also become covered with leaves. The result is a mound of gray, shaggy or fuzzy vertical shoots. However, after the rain stops and the soil begins to dry out, most of the leaves die and fall off its twigs. This leaves a straggly mass of sticks with a scattering of gray and white (dead) leaf clusters. Plants, like California sagebrush, that lose most or all of their leaves during the summer and fall dry season are said to be summer deciduous.

The origin of the genus name, *Artemisia*, is probably from *Artemis* in Greek Mythology. This was either the name of the Greek Goddess of the Hunt, whom the Romans renamed Diana, or the Herbalist wife of Mausolus, king of Caria or Anatolia, an ancient region of Asia Minor. As an aside, our modern term, mausoleum is derived from the name given Mausoleus' tomb. Which is right, goddess or wife? I don't know. The **Jepson Manual** gives both derivations.

The leaves and stems of California sagebrush are very odiferous. The name, sagebrush, basically means a shrub that smells. The name sage is used for several smelly plants many of which are not members of the sage or mint family (Lamiaceae). For example, our California sagebrush is in the sunflower family, Asteraceae. It has also been called California wormwood. This name is given because several species in the genus, especially old-world species, have significant amounts of a chemical 'santonin' which is an effective remedy for intestinal roundworms. Many native people around the world wove various species of *Artemisia* branches into the walls and roofs of their granaries to repel grain feeding worms and insects. A quick perusal of the web indicates that species of sage bush contain several poisonous compounds that are not lethal when taken judiciously alone but become dangerous, even lethal, when combined with other drugs. It is also used in preparations for relief of itching from poison oak and insect bites. In fact, Bonnie and I were given a bottle of *Artemisia* in rubbing alcohol by an



elderly CNPS couple when we arrived in California back in 1969. It was given to us because they had heard that both of us were susceptible to poison oak and they wanted to demonstrate the value of our native plants.

Because California sagebrush spends half the year mostly devoid of leaves, it is not used much in landscaping. Having said that, the species is extremely variable throughout its primarily coastal range. It ranges from just north of San Francisco Bay into Baja, Mexico. It extends eastward to the Sierra Nevada and the edge of the Sonoran Desert. Some of the immediate coastal forms grow as a mound or ground cover. These are gaining some popularity. However, the more-leggy forms found in our Elfin Forest are decidedly not.



OAK LEAVES

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Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler.

Layout is by Katy Budge.

Editing assistance by Pat Grimes and Bob Dees. Contributors to this issue: Nadra Dallas, Bob Dees, Cheryl Dove, Allison Fash, Kelly Hayes, Vicky Johnsen, Betsy Kinter, John Perrine, Joey Rektor, Jeff Reifel, Skip Rotstein, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk Walters, Jean Wheeler.

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Photos From the Forest

By Yolanda Waddell

Vicky Johnsen (Roving Ambassador and co-chair of our Conservation Committee) provided three photos: a very ugly fungus called Dead Man's Foot; an Oyster Mushroom with black droppings left by insects dining on it; and a rainbow over the estuary from December 24, 2021. The fourth photo is from a new FEMEF volunteer, Kelly Hayes (photographer, graphic designer, web designer and writer).



Above: Rainbow arching over estuary and the Elfin Forest. By Vicky Johnsen



At left: Elfin Forest after a rain. By Kelly Hayes

*Below left: Dead Man's Foot or Dyeball Fungus, *Pisolithus arrhizus*. By Vicky Johnsen*

*Below right: Oyster Mushroom partially eaten, *Pleurotus ostreatus*. By Vicky Johnsen*



Education Committee Docents Lead School Walks

By Cheryl Dove, Education Committee Co-Chair

Education Committee docents completed four walks in November and December of 2021, with one 4th grade class and three 2nd grade classes from Baywood School.

Second graders focused on ways that the ancient Chumash Indians used the Elfin Forest. The fourth grade walk included discussions of the plants in the Elfin Forest ecosystem. Docents Jeff Reifel, Barb Renshaw, Vicky Johnsen and I led the walks.

At one point in our walk for a second grade class, when we were looking at acorns, a student pointed out a spot off the boardwalk where she thought an acorn should be planted to grow an oak tree. I think she presented a vision of future Elfin Forest preservation! We hope to build our group of docents in the coming year.



*A School Walk for Baywood 4th Graders, in Rose's Grove, with docents Jeff Reifel and Barbara Renshaw standing at right.
Photo by Nadra Dallas.*

Elfin Forest Work Report

Text by Jeff Reifel

While we're still avoiding the Covid risk of any sizeable work parties, Vicky Johnsen and Dean Thompson did some trimming along the boardwalk. Jeff Reifel made some minor repairs to the boardwalk.

Jeff Reifel discovered a new campsite north of the 14th St. sand trail, consisting of a bag of clothing, a bag of trash, a sleeping bag and a tent. There were remnants of a small campfire and some containers with planting mix that were probably marijuana. This was reported to Lasca Gaylord, supervising Park Ranger, who had Park staff remove the last of the tent and bedding.

Jeff and Skip Rotstein blocked off some of the unauthorized paths with brush.

Thinking of Switching to Online Oakleaves?

If you receive a print copy of Oakleaves, we encourage you to visit our online version at www.elfin-forest.org. You will see photos in full color, and the text is easier to read on your computer. If you decide to be an online reader, you will receive an email when each new issue is posted on our website. Your decision would save paper, ink, and FEMEF dollars for other uses. Just email us at oakleaf@elfin-forest.org with the subject: Switch me to online.



Cheryl Dove, facing 2nd Graders of Baywood School, describes way the Chumash people used the plants of the Elfin Forest.

Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Story and Photos by Jean Wheeler

For me, these months in winter are the most beautiful in our year, although the Elfin Forest is always lovely. Growing up in Illinois, I often waded to school in winter through waist-deep snow in leggings pulled on over the skirts then required of girls, even in winter. As I write in mid-January, in much of our nation their first green buds are months away, and I'm still overwhelmed by this peak season of flowering beauty here.

We've finally had some rainy spells, and our little wilderness area is looking a whole lot better for it. The shrubs have become a consistently vibrant green. In February and March, much of the boardwalk will still be bordered by white to pale lilac flowers on buckbrush ceanothus shrubs, also called California lilac. Along the lower northern boardwalk, bell-shaped blossoms of Morro manzanita have been blooming abundantly early this year, with many already replaced by the "little apple" fruits of their Spanish name.

California peonies raised their unusually (by California standards) large and lush leaves early this winter, rising a foot or two directly from soil along the 11th street sand trail and near Siena's View. They are protected from hot sun by taller shrubs. In early February, they may be adorned by a few drooping red flower balls an inch or so in diameter.

One of my photos here shows wild cucumber vines growing on California sagebrush, the shrub featured in Dirk Walters' article on page 5. These vines are growing vigorously in response to the rains, with big bright green leaves and white flowers with a yellow center. Please do NOT pull these native vines—they are not exotic pests like rather similar looking cape ivy. Wild cucumbers die back quickly, and sunlight will soon be restored to the branches of the sagebrush and other native host plant species. Suffrutescent wallflowers, shown in my other photograph, provide tall stalks of yellow blossoms in February and March. Other yellow to orange flowers in these months are California poppies, deerweed, and sticky monkey-flowers. White flowers include horkelia, the blossoms of black sage, and pearly everlastings.

Even in the driest years, February walks in our oak groves revealed a few special and short-lived mushrooms. With early rains like the ones this year, we can expect an amazing variety of these spore-bearing reproductive parts of fungus organisms whose bodies are spread throughout the soil or deadwood with only the much smaller fruiting structures seen above ground. (My article on the mushroom that resembles turkey tails is on page 4).

While admiring the lovely flowers, also watch the shrubs around the boardwalk for flitting finches, sparrows, warblers, wrens, phoebes, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and other little brown and little grey birds. The larger thrashers, towhees, scrub jays, quail, blackbirds, and doves can be seen and/or heard regularly. Also try to catch a glimpse of lizards, rabbits, squirrels, or maybe even a wild coyote. Coyotes are important in helping to stabilize rodent and rabbit populations.



Suffrutescent Wallflower.



*Wild Cucumber growing on California Sagebrush.
(Read more about California Sagebrush on page 5.)*

Most of the species of ducks, geese, and wading birds usually seen wintering on the estuary, such as American Wigeons, Buffleheads, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, and Teal have been seen this fall and winter. However, the waters are nowhere near as crowded with them as they used to be each winter. Periodicals by birding organizations such as Audubon and Cornell Ornithology Lab are suggesting many birds are not migrating as far south in the last few years in response to global warming, which has raised temperatures in arctic and subarctic climates much more than in middle and lower latitudes. Nevertheless, it can be well worth visiting Bush Lupine Point or Siena's View with a good pair of binoculars.

Treat yourself to a walk on our own little wildside and marvel at the wonders vying for our enjoyment in these winter months!

Adventures in Reseeding

By Jeff Reifel, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

The slope to the south west of Bush Lupine point is one of the steepest in the Elfin Forest. Years ago, horses, hikers and motor-bikers ascended and the sand descended. Once these activities ceased, plants came back to a remarkable degree. Over the last two decades, revegetation and erosion control efforts assisted the return of vegetation. Unfortunately, some of the attempts at stabilizing this slope left unsightly remnants scattered through the area. Straw wattles and 4x4 boards clutter parts of the slope.

Not only does mechanical control of erosion fail over time, but the process of installing wattles and boards causes erosion and possible destruction of soil and existing seed banks. Native plants do a better job of stabilizing sand, especially if they can be planted without much human disturbance of the sand.

We can reseed this area without harmful incursion, if we approach it right. Native plant seeds are, for the most part, small and easily dispersed by the wind. Seeds would likely sit on the surface of the ground and be blown into areas of existing vegetation. Insects and birds might consume seeds that are exposed on the bare sand. Existing vegetation might prevent germination by shading the seedlings and competing for available water.

I read of a process for pelletizing seeds, and that doing so can address some of the obstacles to reseeding slopes such as ours. One creates a seed pellet by adding the right coating to make seeds heavier, larger, less edible, and more water retentive. Heavy seeds stay put and can't be pushed around by the wind or eaten by insects and birds. Kaolin clay makes our pellet heavy. Diatomaceous earth deters insects and adds bulk. Gelatin sticks everything together and adds nitrogen to the mix. Psyllium husk fiber absorbs and retains water and is also quite adhesive. Water, with a little plant food that adds the right nutrients to the soil, makes it all come together.

Vicky Johnsen, Barb Renshaw and I collected seeds through the growing season of 2020. In October, I gathered the necessary ingredients and made pellets. Then, choosing a time when the sand was moist from a recent storm with more rain forecast, Vicky, Barb, and I tossed the pellets onto the slope from twenty feet away. No tramping around in the restoration area was required. We dispersed many thousands of seeds: black sage, dune aster, mock heather, buckwheat, wallflower, croton, and horkelia. The seeds are poised to spring into action. Time will tell if the experiment worked. But even if it doesn't work, we did no harm.

*Nature does not hurry,
but everything is accomplished.*

~ Lao Tzu ~



Barbara Renshaw scatters seed pellets for revegetation below Bush Lupine Pt. Photo by Vicky Johnsen.



A tray containing seeds gathered from our native plants and coated to make them heavier, larger, less edible, and more water retentive.

Photo by Jeff Reifel.

Thank You to Our Generous Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, FEMEF Database Coordinator

NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Carole Maurer & John Dilworth Jr.
Joey Rektor

NEW MEMBERS:

Robert & Van Dees*
Don Henderson & Alice Cahill-Henderson*
Myron and Susan Hood*
Abby Rektor
Sarah Rektor
Kara Spilker
Judith & Jack Stapelmann*

DONATIONS:

Bev Gingg – in honor of Vicky Johnson and FEMEF volunteers
Barbara & Rosey Rosenthal

**Thanks to those listed below 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.*

Anne Avril & Dan Haifley*
Bob & Linda Bailey*
Rosemary Baxter
Sandra Beebe
Kay Blaney*
David Bowlus & Beverly Boyd*
Carola Bundy*
Steve & Sue Burns*
Roger E. Carmody*
Ruth & Les Christiansen*
Kathleen M. Copeland*
R.S. & L.H. Cowan
David Cox & Carolyn Niblick*
Diane Dalenberg*
Dr. Ellen Davies*
Katie & Jerry Davis*
Margaret Diehl*
Molly & Ted Fainstat*
Francesca Fairbrother
Gary Giannico*

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Bruce & Cherie Gibson*
Debra Hansen*
Arylane Hill*
Kirsten Holmquist*
Herbert & Debra Holt*
Steven Jobst & Jill Anderson*
James Johnson*
Jypsy Joe Johnson*
Gene Kalland*
Charles & Cecile Leavell
Martha MacGillivray
George & Vicki Marchenko*
Bob & Mary McCorkle*
Bob & Sharon Meyer*
Melissa Mooney*
Marie Moore & Elaine Mason*
Larry Morrison & Kathy Cahill*
Jerry W. Mullins*
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Brian Nofziger & Allison Nofziger*
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Jeff Reifel*
Bill & Callie Sandoval*
Bob & Barbara Schwenoha*
Dr. Jan W. Simek*
Charles & Bernadette Soter*
David & Helianthe Stevig*
Shaunna Sullivan & Ron Ruppert*
Staci & Dean Thompson
Chris & Jim Van Beveren*
Roger & Janice Verity*
Michael Ward
Carol Weisl*
Norma Wightman*
Jonathan & Susan Wittwer
Rex & Janice Wolf*
Dave & Julie Wolter*

But For Our Members...

By Yolanda Waddell, Acting Membership Chair

The long list of new and renewing members and donors, plus two new Life Members listed on this page, speaks clearly that FEMEF has your strong membership support.

Many of you have supported SWAP/FEMEF for years – even decades. Others have become members more recently. Members who are able to, donate more than the yearly membership fees of \$25, or \$15 for students and seniors. Because of your generosity, we don't have to spend time and energy on fundraising events. And because of your generosity, we were able to spend \$20,000 for a Biological Assessment of the Elfin Forest in 2018.

Our hard-working Treasurer, Dave Bowlus, goes to our P.O. Box twice a week for FEMEF mail, enters your donations into his records, and mails the donation slips to our equally hard-working Database Coordinator, Betsy Kinter. Betsy adds the information to our membership records, sends a thank you letter to each member or donor, and produces the New and Renewing list for this page. Both Dave and Betsy remarked that this month's list is the longest in memory.

Some FEMEF's members are able to give time and energy as active volunteers. The majority of our members show support for the Elfin Forest by donating the money we need to operate. Together we are a community, supporting a 90-acre small wilderness that represents what all of the land along the coast of Central California used to be like. Thank you for being part of that community.



Elfin Forest Caps

One size fits all for these caps. They have adjustable straps in the back and are made of 100% cotton. Two handsome colors are available, forest green or maroon. Each cap has emblazoned in gold across its front the image of one of our coast live oaks, elfin-short but with a wide sprawling canopy, and the words "Elfin Forest Natural Area."



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.

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.

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City/State/Zip: _____

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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.




FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST
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(805) 528-0392 www.elfin-forest.org

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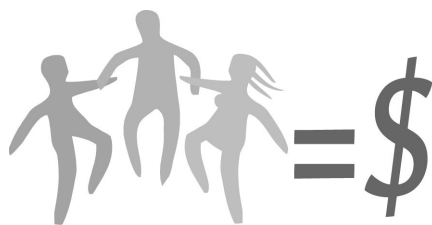
Night-time wildlife videos are now on our website ~ pages 1-2

Please check renewal date on your label.

 printed on recycled paper

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Every membership helps us to be more convincing to foundations and government agencies when we ask them for funds. They all want to know "How many members do you have?"



Please look at your mailing label for the date when your membership expires. If it's time to renew, use the form in the box to the right of this one to support SWAP for another year. Notice you can check to receive only the online version of Oakleaves (with photos in full color!) which will switch more dollars from mailing costs to conservation efforts.

Timely renewal of your membership helps us to save on postage and the time needed to send a renewal reminder by mail. Thank you for supporting SWAP and the Elfin Forest!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |
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| <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.***

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