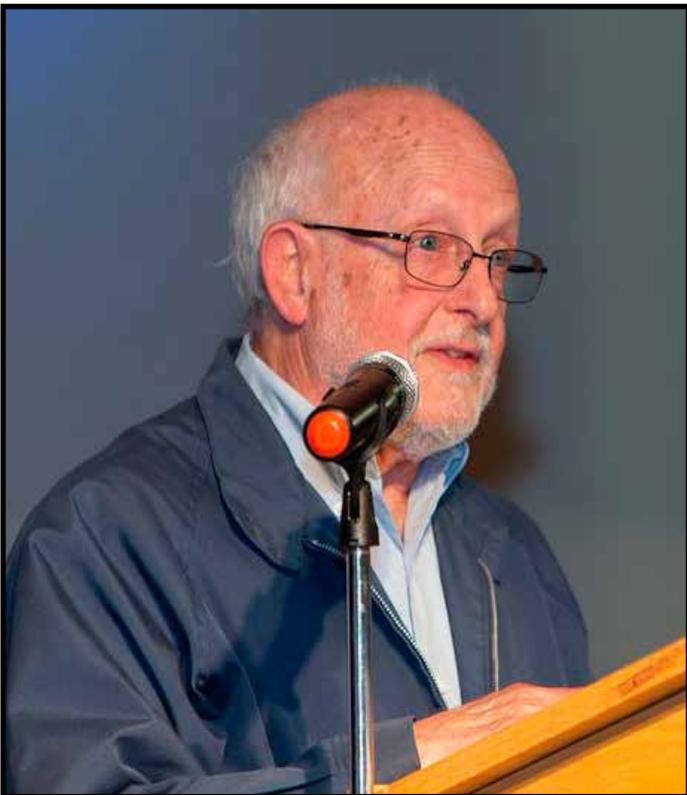


OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST
P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ❖ (805) 528-0392 ❖ SPRING 2026

Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Dinner



By Liana Harlan

The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Dinner took place on Saturday, January 31. This event celebrates honored community members and includes awards for Citizens of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Business of the Year, and Non-Profit of the Year.

Since Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest won the Non-Profit of the Year award for 2024, Roger Carmody, Treasurer, attended this year's awards ceremony to present the 2025 Non-Profit of the Year award to the Kiwanis Club of Bay Osos. ❖

State of the Forest: Spring

By Rebecca Rasmussen, Board Chair

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”
—Lady Bird Johnson

Even on a mid-January morning when the chill of winter is still in the air, the signs of spring insist on coming through. The first brave blooms of the sticky monkey flower and the fuchsia flowering gooseberry peek out from the palate of green that had been with us all winter. The humming of bees can be heard around ceanothus blossoms, while silhouettes of tiny birds flut-

State of the Forest *continued on page 2*



Sticky monkey flower and fuchsia-flowered gooseberry growing intertwined. Photo by Rebecca Rasmussen.

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of the

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The FEMEF Board of Directors meets monthly. Meeting days and times can vary and will be posted on the home page at www.elfin-forest.org.

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 Kali Beard
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 (805) 781-4550

or Kali Beard at (805) 781-1196.

If you see or smell smoke, call 911.



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State of the Forest *continued from page 1*

ter in and out of the branches.

Spring reminds us of the possibility of hope: That no matter what happens, one thing we can count on is change. After the cold and dark, what follows is light, warmth, and color. Endless odes have been written regarding the beauty and hope of spring, and I am sure that what I am noticing countless others have observed before. However, I must point out that it's nice to be reminded. It is nice to slow down, breathe the fresh air, and appreciate the beauty of spring—the bright colors, new shapes, and sweet smells.



Stachys bullata (California Hedge Nettle) grows beneath the oaks in Rose's Grove. Photo by Rebecca Rasmussen

When we feel burdened by the news of the world that surrounds us, we can look to take comfort in nature's reminder. Out of the cold, dreary winter comes the joy and celebration of spring. So may it be for us. Life is a cycle. This too shall pass. ❖



A mushroom transforms itself over the space of five days. Photos by Rebecca Rasmussen

Photo from the Forest: A stunning rainy sunset by Zarah Wyly



Beetle Research Updates

By Liana Harlan

Arthur V. Evans, D.Sc., F.R.E.S., the beetle researcher who came to the Elfin Forest last June, has created a list of species that he found during his visit. The list has been posted to the FEMEF website.

Evans commented on the list as follows:

“I suspect that the species on this list that is of greatest interest is *Polyphylla morroensis*, described by my friend Delbert La Rue back in 2016. I was not surprised to find this species at the site, given that there are a number of scattered records for it in the Baywood Park/Los Osos area in La Rue’s original description, subsequent museum records, and specimens

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 sighting to your *Oakleaves* editors at: oakleaf@elfin-forest.org or leave a message on FEMEF’s answering machine: (805) 528-0392.

documented more recently on iNaturalist. The presence of this species in El Moro Elfin Forest, a site protected from development, will surely help bolster efforts to conserve the beetle and its remaining habitat.”

Evans is already planning another visit to the forest in 2027. We’ll keep everyone updated on anything else he finds. ❖



Arthur Evans.
Photo by Ed Mastro.

What to Do If You See a Mountain Lion



*Footage from a trail camera shows a mountain lion about a block from the El Moro Elfin Forest Nature Preserve.
Reprinted from Estero Bay News. Photo by Gene 'Skip' Rotstein.*

City Biologist for San Luis Obispo Freddy Otte reported recently that “In recent weeks, several community members have reported seeing a mountain lion in neighborhoods near Laguna Lake and Irish Hills Open Space.”

While there haven't been any recent reports of any lions in the El Moro Elfin Forest, we wanted to provide a few tips on what to do in case you see one.

- **Remain calm.** If you happen to encounter a mountain lion, remain calm, maintain eye contact, and back away slowly while making yourself as big and loud as possible.
- **Avoid walking during dawn and dusk.** If you do head out during these hours, stay on the established trails and try to walk in groups. Be sure to keep a close watch on small children and pets.
- **Report sightings to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife** (<https://wildlife.ca.gov>). Be sure to note the date and location.

By staying mindful of our surroundings and taking collective precautions, we can peacefully coexist with these majestic cats in their natural habitat.

The City of San Luis Obispo SLO has provided additional details at:

- **What to Do When You See a Mountain Lion** (<https://www.slocity.org/services/how-do-i/view/city-news-center/community-safety-news/-item-11569>). ❖



OAKLEAVES

is a quarterly FEMEF publication.

Editing by Liana Harlan; editing assistance by Bob Dees; finish editing by Faylla Chapman; photo editing by Cheyenne Winn
Layout by Rebecca Rasmussen
Printing by Hay Printing

Contributors to this issue: Pat Brown, Suzette Girouard, Liana Harlan, Vicky Johnsen, Betsy Kinter, Ed Mastro, John Nowak, Rebecca Rasmussen, Gene 'Skip' Rotstein, Dean Sullivan, Bonnie Walters, Dirk Walters, Jean Wheeler, Zarah Wylie.

Deadline for copy to Oakleaves is the first of the month before issue. If possible, all copy should be submitted by e-mail to oakleaf@elfin-forest.org.

See Something, Say Something

Please report any illegal campers or other unlawful activity that you see in the Forest to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office-Coast Station located on 2099 10th Street in Los Osos. Their phone number is (805) 528-6083. A large fire in the Elfin Forest could spread to houses adjacent to the Forest. Lighting fires is arson, punishable with a jail sentence.

In the event of a fire found in the forest, call 911 for immediate assistance. The town of Los Osos receives emergency services through CalFire at Station 15-South Bay. They are located at 2315 Bayview Heights Drive in Los Osos. Their phone number is (805) 528-1053.

Stinging Nettle

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

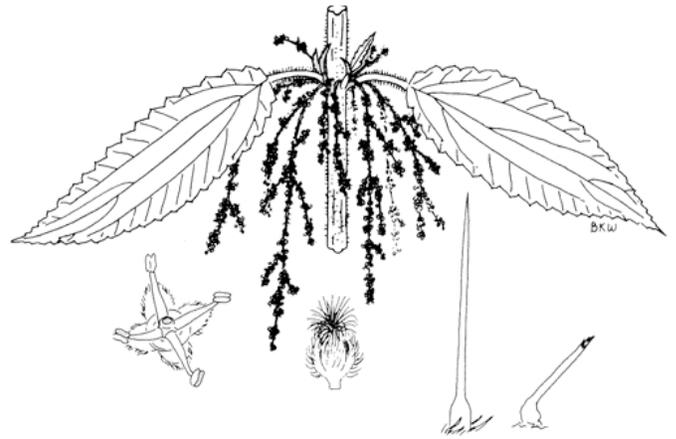
This month's plant is one most of us try to avoid because of the trichomes (hairs) that cover its stem and leaves. The hairs have a bulbous base filled with a fluid that when deposited on unprotected skin causes a burning or stinging sensation. It turns out that the irritating fluid is most effective if deposited in a cut. To ensure this cut, the sharp point of the hair breaks off leaving a jagged tip which when dragged along the skin results in a tiny cut. While the cut is being made, lateral or downward pressure on the hair's base puts pressure on the fluid-filled bulbous base of the hair. This causes the fluid in the hair to be forced up and out the hollow hair shaft to be deposited in the fine cut caused by the broken tip. Thus the stinging hairs are each tiny hypodermic needles! If you haven't guessed the plant by now, it is the true stinging nettle, *Urtica dioica* ssp. *holoserica*.

Our common stinging nettle is now considered a subspecies of a very wide ranging species that is found throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. The new *Jepson Manual* indicates that our subspecies is native. However, the Eurasian subspecies, *U. d.* ssp. *dioica*, is extremely widespread as it has been widely introduced in North America. Apparently, there is at least one unconfirmed report of the Eurasian subspecies in California.

So what does one do if one runs into a patch of stinging nettle? My professor in college told us to "wash the itchy area well and then douse it with rubbing alcohol, which will cause the itch to disappear in one-half hour." He would then add, "If you do nothing, the itch will go away in 30 minutes." I'll let each reader decide whether to treat stinging nettle irritation or not. Dr. Rhonda Riggins added one additional stinging nettle story. On field trips, when she would find stinging nettle, she would say that she was so strong that the nettle didn't bother her. To prove it, she would grab a nettle plant and pull it out. Her students were impressed. However, she had a trick: She was careful to limit her exposure to the palm of her hand, where she had thick calluses, as do most of us. The delicate hairs couldn't penetrate the calluses, so they didn't cause any harm.

Stinging nettles are partial to moist soils and are found most often near streams. They can also be found near springs or in hollows in coastal sand dunes that are low enough to approach the water table. There are no stinging nettles in the boardwalk area of the Elfin Forest, but don't go breaking through vegetation immediately upslope from the salt marsh. Remember there is a band of fresh water overlying denser salt water which flows out from under the dune here.

The genus name *Urtica* is derived from Latin and means "to burn." I have to admit that I prefer to say the genus name reminds us that to come in contact with this plant results in (h)urtica! Also of note is that stinging nettle pain begins immediately on contact. This is in contrast to poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), which usually takes 30 minutes or more to stimulate your auto-immune system before itching commences. The species epithet, *dioica*, is short for *dioecious*. *Dioecious* is a fancy



botanical term for stamens and pistils borne on separate plants, i.e., the plant bears either staminate (male) or pistillate (female) flowers but not both.

According to the *Jepson Manual*, our Western subspecies of stinging nettle is the hoary (stinging) nettle. The common name *nettle* is used for a lot of plants, not just ones that possess stinging hairs. It's used for any plant that possesses hairs that look like they might sting. Our most common example of this is the totally unrelated mint, hedge nettle, *Stachys bullata*. Hedge nettles are common along streams, too.

Having spent all these words telling why people should avoid this plant, I need to point out the Eurasian subspecies of this plant has been widely used as a spinach substitute and rennet. Boiling denatures the irritating fluid and softens the hairs. Boiling the roots can produce a yellow dye. Stems produce a strong fiber which has been favorably compared to another stem fiber, linen. ❖



Pixie cup or popcorn lichen (*Cladonia firma*). Photo by Pat Brown.

Join Us! First Saturday Work Parties

We invite you to join us on any first Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the north end of 15th Street in Los Osos to enjoy satisfying physical activity in fresh air amid lovely surroundings. Please dress for wind, fog, or sun and in layers of clothing, including long pants, long shirt sleeves, work gloves, and sturdy shoes with closed toes. Take care not to park in front of driveways or mailboxes. For more information, call (805) 528-0392.

Conservation Report

By Vicky Johnsen, Conservation Co-Chair

November

On Saturday, November 1, seven volunteers worked hard to dig up the tenacious tuber roots of the invasive *Asparagus asparagoides* (bridal creeper).

Zarah Wyly had suggested we tackle that weed after she noticed the bright green vines covering bushes on the way to Bush Lupine Overlook. After two hours, we made a partial win in the “battle” against this pest, but the “war” is far from over.

Jeff Reifel addressed the washed-out water bar problems on some of the sandy trails and dug out the sand that was starting to lift up the boardwalk access from 11th, 12th & 13th Street sand trails.

Dean Thompson and James Solum trimmed vegetation along the Habitat Trail, while Zarah Wyly and her mother created a more substantial fence of vegetation to block access into an oak grove that has a history of illegal trespassing.

December

The December Work Day had a record number of volunteers—23, all told. Many thanks go to Angela Logan for enlisting students from AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at the Paso Robles High School. Both invasive bridal creeper and cape ivy were removed from various areas in the Elfin Forest.

The Santa Maria California Conservation Corps (CCC) contacted FEMEF and offered multiple days of



Weed warriors: Zarah Wyly and Jessica Vucasovich.
Photo by Pat Brown

free volunteer help. The CCC sent 12 volunteers who worked from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on December 22 and 23, with Zarah Wyly and me supervising. Invasive cape ivy and bridal creeper were targeted.

The Santa Maria CCC volunteers showed up again to work on December 29 and 30. Pat Brown and Angela Logan helped me supervise (and work) on the 29th; Pat Brown and Natalie Zaragoza assisted on the 30th. We are very grateful for this free gift of much-appreciated assistance.

January

Due to the forecasted rain, which brings out the threatened Morro shoulderband snail (which needs protection from accidental trampling), January’s Work Day was cancelled. ❖



Weed warrior crew learning to trim oaks with certified arborist Zarah Wyly. Photo by Vicky Johnsen.



Volunteer Angela Logan holds up invasive bridal creeper.
Photo by Vicky Johnsen.

Gardening with California Natives: Ceanothus

By John Nowak and Suzette Girouard

The plant genus *Ceanothus* is found within the very large family Rhamnaceae, of which about 40 species are found in California. *Ceanothus cuneatus*, with blooms rising above dense green foliage like clouds of fragrant smoke, is our native plant in focus for this issue. In San Luis Obispo County, especially within the coastal zones, *Ceanothus cuneatus* can be the dominant representative of its genus. It is commonly known as buckbrush, mountain lilac, or just ceanothus. We'll use the latter term when discussing it here.

In the Elfin Forest, ceanothus is found within the maritime chaparral association and grows alongside *Adenostoma fasciculatum* (chamise), *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush), *Diplacus aurantiacus* (sticky monkey flower), and *Frangula (Rhamnus) californica* (California coffeeberry). A ceanothus plant is highly attractant to both native and European bees. The lush growth of its flowers also attracts insects such as aphids, which feed upon the tender flowers by ingesting the sap. In turn, the aphids attract small birds like the oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), which dines upon the plump, juice-filled insects. The aphids also encourage Argentine ants, which herd them like cattle to collect their secretions of honeydew as a food source.

With sturdy trunks and branches reaching heights of 5-7 feet, ceanothus provides protection for Elfin Forest favorites such as California quail (*Callipepla californica*) and the California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*). Mammals including rabbits, raccoons, and deer also find cover among its hanging branches. On western facing slopes, it can become the dominant plant type and cover whole hillsides. It would have been hard to miss the splendor of ceanothus while walking to the Rose Bowker Grove during our recent winter.

The Chumash people used this abundant plant as a soap, as all parts of it are rich in saponins, compounds that make a soapy foam. When crushed and mixed with a little water, the leaves of a ceanothus produce a fine lather that is good at removing dirt. Early European settlers in our area no doubt



Ceanothus. Photo by Pat Brown.

also noted this cleansing property. We have experimented ourselves and found *Ceanothus cuneatus* to clean as well or better than modern soap. However, we would not recommend washing one's hair with it, as the small flowers would be hard to rinse out.

Once established, a ceanothus requires little care. A full-sun location protected from harsh, drying winds will encourage success. It is a large shrub, so care must be taken to allow plenty of room for its arching branches to achieve their full glory. When established, in one to three years, it can survive with winter rains. Keep in mind that *Ceanothus* species prefer well-drained soils. When irrigating with a drip system, it is important to select plants with similar water needs and to place ceanothus on the upper hillside portion of the drip system to lessen the possibility of overwatering, which can cause root rot. Pests are not usually a problem, except for aphids, which beneficial insects and birds will usually keep at bay. If necessary, a stiff stream of water from a hose nozzle can wash off any unwanted insects. When planted near a window or porch, ceanothus will provide its viewers with endless enjoyment.

Ceanothus species have nitrogen-fixing nodules on their roots, so fertilizers containing large amounts of nitrogen are not necessary and may be detrimental. Maintenance consists of light pruning to encourage arching branches with a dense canopy. Heavy pruning, especially on older specimens, is not recommended, as thick branches are not likely to re-sprout. The species is mostly propagated by semi-softwood cuttings.

Ceanothus can be started from fresh mature seed pods, but the seeds will require treatments to mimic what occurs during a fire to scarify them to stimulate germination. *Ceanothus cuneatus* can be hard to locate at your local nursery; however, one can usually purchase it at native plant sales. There are also many other species of the *Ceanothus* genus, including several attractive cultivars that are more common at garden centers throughout the central coast. ❖



Ceanothus close-up. Photo by Pat Brown.

Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Story and Photos by Jean Wheeler

Most plants that flowered in amazing abundance in our winter are now fading, but fear not! Other species are just opening in many bright colors, and they attract equally gorgeous and interesting birds and butterflies.

Bright and very long red flowers lined up on long branches with small green leaves and sharp (yes, that is a warning!) thorns are called fuchsia-flowered gooseberries. They provide vital nectar for the long bills of hummingbirds in support of their early nesting as winter merges into spring.

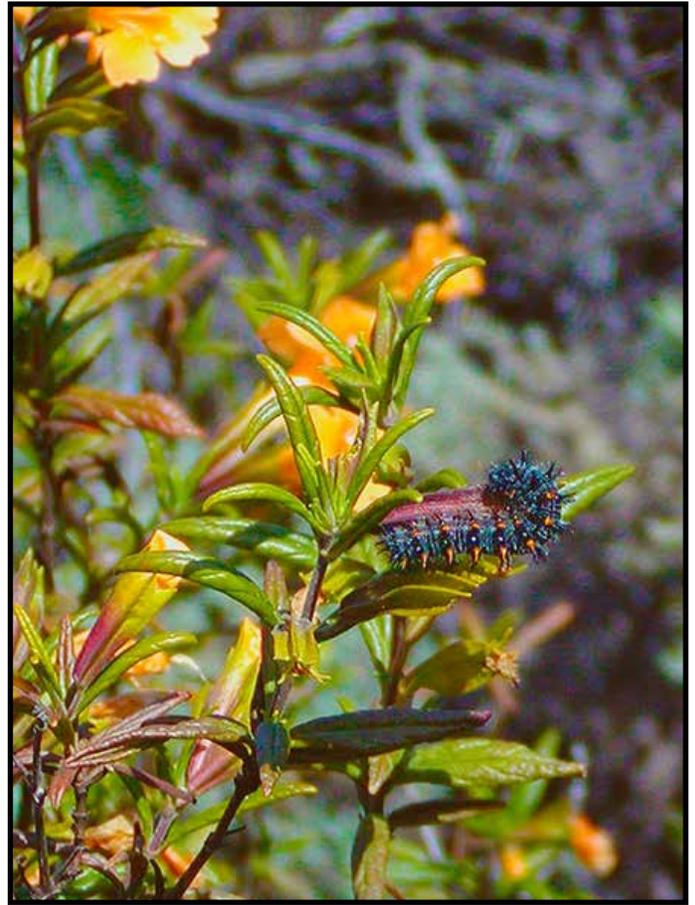
California poppies are in bloom nearly all year. Many other flowers are also pale yellow to bright orange, including deerweed, fiddleneck, suffrutescent wallflowers, and golden yarrow. Pictured are orange sticky monkey flowers, waist-high with bright orange flowers. Don't miss the dark caterpillar with bright dots stretched along a narrow leaf at center right of the photo. That is a variable checkerspot butterfly larva. Female butterflies of this species lay their eggs on these plants. When the eggs hatch, the larvae eat the leaves, then descend to transform to chrysalises nearby.

Butterflies often mimic colors of the plants they feed upon. The variable checkerspot parents of that caterpillar are checkered orange and black. Other colorful butterflies include green bramble hairstreaks, silvery blues, and yellow and black anise swallowtails. Morro blue butterflies hover around the blue lupines near Bush Lupine Point in late spring and early summer.

Besides the butterflies, there are a great many species of birds fluttering about our varied shrubs. Watch for flocks with finches, sparrows, warblers, wrens, phoebes, chickadees, bushtits (pictured), nuthatches, and many other little brown and grey birds. Larger thrashers, towhees, scrub jays, quail, blackbirds, and doves can be seen or heard regularly.

Also try to catch a glimpse of lizards, rabbits, squirrels, or maybe even a deer or a wild coyote. Coyotes are important in helping to stabilize our rodent and rabbit populations.

Treat yourself to a walk on our own little wild side and marvel at the wonders vying for your attention and enjoyment in our very active springtime! ❖



Sticky monkey flower shrub with butterfly larva.



A bushtit in the springtime.

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.

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."

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Docent-Led Third Saturday Walks



*The Nine Sisters walk led by Faylla Chapman in January.
Photo by Cheyenne Winn.*

Reservations required; masks are optional. To reserve a spot on the walk, email us at walks@elfin-forest.org and indicate the number in your party in the subject line of your email.

March 21, 9:30 a.m.

Animal Tracks

An animal track expert will lead an informative walk about who is “tracking up” the Elfin Forest. Visitors will learn how to tell the front feet from the back feet of a raccoon and how coyote and dog tracks differ. Attend this walk and develop an awareness of the comings and goings of the Forest’s mammal, bird, and reptile inhabitants—and enjoy some things you wouldn’t otherwise readily see while walking along the boardwalk.

April 18, 9:30 a.m.

Conservation of Butterflies with Native Plants

Butterfly populations are declining in the United States and other parts of the world. Pat Brown will describe some of the causes and discuss things that can be done locally especially with native plants to help stabilize butterfly populations.

May 16, 9:30 a.m.

Native Bees

Native bees come in all sizes and colors and dozens of species are present in the Central Coast of California. Biologist Cindy Roessler will walk us through the Elfin Forest looking for native bees, the flowers they visit, and will describe their natural history. In 2025, a team conducted bumble bee surveys in the Elfin Forest, and she will discuss their initial findings.

Check our website under “Visiting” and then “Walks in the Forest.” Walks 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.



Michael Mulroy spoke about lichen for the Saturday walk that took place in December. Photo by Pat Brown.



John Roser, naturalist, led the January 17 walk and educated the group on Black Brant Geese and their impressive migration and biology.

Photo by Jeff Reifel.

Share Your Observations with iNaturalist

Did you know you can use the iNaturalist app to share your observations in the forest? Anyone can upload photos and identify species they have seen in the forest. You can also search and view what others have reported in the area.

At its core, iNaturalist is about people helping each other identify and learn about the organisms they observe. The iNaturalist app works on all devices.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/places/el-moro-elfin-forest>

Thank You to Our Generous Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, FEMEF Database Coordinator

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

David Cox & Carolyn Niblick Rebecca Rasmussen

NEW MEMBERS:

Nikki Adams* Vivian Thompson*
Tamara Kaizuka*

DONATIONS:

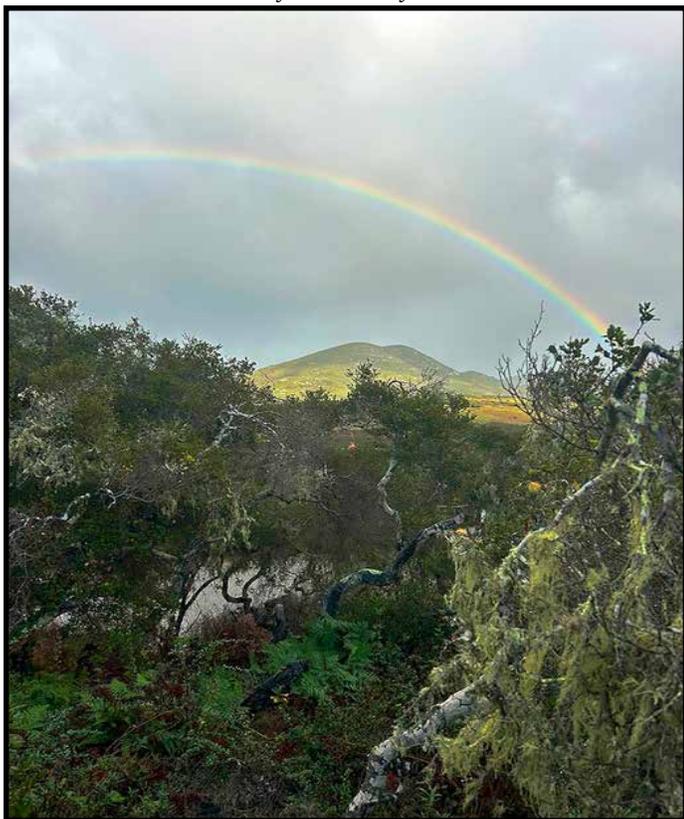
Virginia Beske Andrea Davis
Ruth & Les Christiansen Christopher Thoma

Correction to the Winter 2025 issue:

New members: Alex Fairfield & David Cheney

**Thanks to those listed on this page 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 quarterly 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.



Rainbow above green mansions.

Photo by Zarah Wyly.

RENEWING MEMBERS:

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Thank you to our Members and Donors

Your generous donations and membership renewals support future projects to maintain the Elfin Forest and boardwalk, refurbish and replace informational signs and aging benches, make other improvements, and fund projects to serve our mission: "to preserve and maintain the El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area; to inform and educate about the natural history of the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay Estuary; and to promote and support scientific research in the Forest."



FEMEF Hosts Booth at the Morro Bay Bird Festival

By Liana Harlan

The annual Morro Bay Bird Festival took place January 15-19 in Morro Bay. We hosted a booth where we provided information to visitors about the Elfin Forest and had merchandise for sale. In addition, the talented George Pilling created an electronic board that lights up when you match an animal with its correct tracks. ❖

Pictured at left are Lan King and Roger Carmody testing their animal tracking skills using the electronic board made by George Pilling.

Photo by Rebecca Rasmussen



FEMEF Shoppers' Order Form

See photos of all items at www.elfin-forest.org/store/default.htm

All Prices Include Sales Tax

1. MURAL SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

Large mural design by artist Barbara Rosenthal on both front and back. Forest green fabric with the words "Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest" above mural and "Los Osos, California" below mural. (Zip Hoodie has mural on the back only.)

Indicate the desired size(s) (S,M,L,XL,XXL)

___ Short Slv. T-Shirt size ___ @\$25.00 = \$___

___ Long Slv. T-Shirt size ___ @\$30.00 = \$___

___ Pullover Hoodie size ___ @\$40.00 = \$___

___ Zip Hoodie size ___ @\$45.00 = \$___

2. 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 = \$___

3. ALPHABET BIRD BOOK

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

___ @ \$20.00 = \$___

4. MURAL MUG

A 15-ounce beverage mug with wraparound mural design.
Microwave-safe; hand-wash suggested.

___ @ \$20 = \$___

5. ELFIN FOREST CAPS

One-size-fits-all cap with adjustable strap in back, 100% cotton. Three colors: forest green, maroon, and navy blue. Specify color when ordering.

___ @ \$20 = \$___ 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 are a flat fee of \$15 per order.

Please call (805) 528-0392 to arrange for delivery.

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.



FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST
 A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
 P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442
 (805) 528-0392 www.elfin-forest.org

Non-Profit Org.
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 Permit No. 112

Address Service Requested

Join a third Saturday walk this spring! - Page 9

Please check renewal date on your label.
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Spring Happenings

By Liana Harlan

EarthFest - Saturday, April 18

The SLO Climate Coalition is hosting SLO EarthFest on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Santa Rosa Park. Tickets are free. There will be live music, wellness events, a beer garden, EV showcase, sustainable maker's market and more. This event is designed to inspire and empower our community to take bold climate action through education, connection, and celebration.

California Native Plant Month - April

The San Luis Obispo chapter of the California Native Plant Society is hosting California Native Plant Month in April with various events to celebrate California's incredible biodiversity. With more than 6,500 types of native plants, California is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

I want to help, please call me!

FEMEF has permission to email me.

Memberships include an online subscription to FEMEF's quarterly newsletter *Oakleaves*.

- Check here to receive the online version by email.
- Check here to receive the print version by U.S. mail.
- Check here if you do not wish to receive *Oakleaves*.

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.