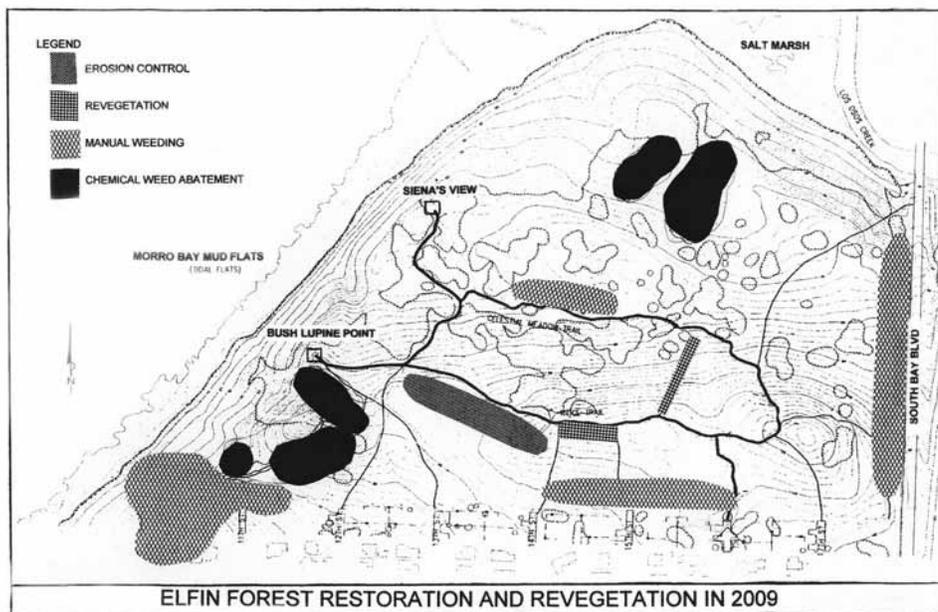




O A K L E A V E S

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS / MORRO BAY CHAPTER of SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
 P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ❖ (805) 528-0392 ❖ APRIL / MAY 2010

State of the Forest-Conservation 2009



By Pete Sarafian, Chapter Vice-Chair & Conservation Chairperson

The past year brought both triumph and tragedy. The conservation effort made inroads in removing plants that don't belong in the Elfin Forest. The SWAP conservation program rolled back most alien species to the edges of the Forest. Signs of progress include the almost complete removal of Malta starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*), Narrow-leaf iceplant (*Conicosia pugioniformis*), and Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) from interior regions of the park. A decade ago there were thousands of plants of each weed in the interior. Also, African bridal fern (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) no longer are dominating the pygmy oak groves near the interior.

It took from about 400 to over 1,000 man-hours each year to remove these scourges from the Forest. Most of the progress is

State of the Forest continued on page 3

Pete Sarafian prepared the above map (adapted for Oakleaves by Ron Rasmussen and digitally enhanced by Bob Meyer) of SWAP's restoration and revegetation projects during 2009. Each map symbol in the legend refers to one of the four main activities in the Forest: erosion control, revegetation, manual weeding and chemical weed abatement.

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Retirement Can Be Hazardous to Your Health!

By Ron Rasmussen, Acting Treasurer

Many people look forward to retirement as a time when they can travel, start a second career, or just kick back and enjoy the soft life. But once they no longer have the daily challenge of work they often find that retirement can be very boring. Some may even feel that they are no longer important and their future has become a down hill slide. The good news is that SWAP offers a solution to these potential problems.

SWAP volunteers have many responsibilities. As you may know, SWAP has a formal agreement with San Luis Obispo County Parks department to take care of the Elfin Forest. This

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SWAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The Board of Directors
of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of
Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP)
consists of the following members:*

Ron Rasmussen, Chair / Treasurer
Pete Sarafian, Vice Chair
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary
Pat Akey, Member at Large
Debbie Levi, Member at Large
Pat Murray, Member at Large
Donna Weidner, Member at Large

The SWAP Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. at the Community Center of Sea Oaks Mobile Home Park, 1675 Los Osos Valley Road. The next meetings are **Monday, April 12 and Monday, May 10.**

All Board meetings are open to the public. To confirm the date, time and location (which are subject to change), call 528-0392.



CONTACT SWAP

If you have questions about SWAP activities or want to volunteer, please call 528-0392 and leave a message. A recorded message will give information about our 3rd Saturday Walks, Work Saturdays, and other events. If you have questions, concerns or comments about any problems in the Elfin Forest, call or write:

Bob Yetter

SLO County Parks Supervising Ranger
1087 Santa Rosa Street, SLO, CA 93408
(805) 781-4417

Owners of dogs off-leash can be cited. If you witness dogs off-leash, vandalism or obvious crimes, call the County Sheriff at 781-4550 or Bob Yeller at 781-4417.

Volunteer Opportunities continued from page 1

agreement involves more than just pulling weeds. Among our other activities are maintenance of the boardwalk, erosion control, providing Trail Guides and Mutt Mitts, picking up trash, and trimming plants along the boardwalk and sand trails.

The production of our bimonthly newsletter *OAKLEAVES* requires contributions from many volunteers. Membership dues pay the cost of printing, but volunteers provide the content and design. Similarly, our very popular calendar contains contributions from local artists and photographers, and sponsors help with the cost of printing. Volunteers select the pictures and design the calendar.

The Elfin Forest is a rare example of California coastal chaparral. Unless our community understands what it really represents and why it is vital to save it, SWAP's other efforts become less important. To fulfill this obligation, SWAP provides monthly "Third Saturday Walks" presenting expert guidance on the features of the Elfin Forest. An Education Committee provides Docent-led field trips for children from elementary through middle school level. Faculty from Cal Poly and Cuesta College also guide students through the Forest. These are all volunteer programs.

- NOW, here's SWAP's FREE OFFER: We can help solve your retirement worries about boredom or anxiety about what the future may present. Choose what most fits your needs from the following list and join SWAP volunteers. Call SWAP at 528-0392 with your selection.
- Do you have skills in business management? JOIN SWAP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- Are you a teacher? BECOME AN ELFIN FOREST DOCENT OR HELP ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.
- Do you like the out-of-doors? HELP KEEP THE FOREST CLEAN, HELP IN TRAIL TRIMMING, BECOME A WEED WARRIOR. JOIN SWAP'S CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.
- Do you like to write? JOIN THE OAKLEAVES OR CALENDAR COMMITTEES.
- Do you have basic computer skills? JOIN THE SWAP WEBSITE COMMITTEE AND HELP MAINTAIN SWAP'S WEBSITE.
- Do you have some knowledge of tax codes and bookkeeping? SEE BELOW!
- Do you like interacting with others? JOIN SWAP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- Do you have experience in fund raising or grant writing? JOIN SWAP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

If you are not sure whether you would like to become a SWAP volunteer, come and sit in on one of our monthly Board Meetings. Of course there is no obligation and you may like what you see and hear. You can also call SWAP at 528-0392 and a volunteer will return your call with more complete information.

Help Wanted – SWAP Treasurer

Since 2008, Board Chairman Ron Rasmussen has filled in as Acting Treasurer of SWAP.

During that time, he has streamlined the monthly Treasurer's Report to one page, and has written a job description for the Treasurer. Because all of our Board members already wear several committee "hats," it is impossible just to elect a current member to be Treasurer.

Our accounts are in good shape, ready for a willing person to take over. It would be easier if our next Treasurer is a resident of Los Osos or Morro Bay in order to be closer to the Post Office, where envelopes with membership donations and bills need to be picked up. However, we can make it work for someone who lives farther away. The Treasurer would be a member of the Board of Directors and would attend our monthly meetings, on the second Monday of the month.

If you enjoy working with numbers and would be willing to try your hand at this important job that won't take much of your time, please leave a message on our SWAP phone, 528-0392 or e-mail ron@elfin-forest.org. As Ron mentioned in his column above, helping SWAP to help the Elfin Forest is good for the community and good for one's mental health.



Parking News

Due to many heavy rainstorms in January and February, the 16th Street Elfin Forest parking lot became quite rutted. This made it difficult for our member Susan Chandler, who uses a wheelchair, to reach the ramp leading up to the boardwalk. She e-mailed SWAP, and we forwarded her message and photo to Bob Yetter, who has taken over retired Supervising Ranger Chuck Lowe's duties. Within a week, Bob had County Park staff on the job, filling in the ruts and smoothing the parking area. Thanks to Bob for the quick action, and to Susan for alerting us about the problem.

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

Marshall McLuhan, 1964

2011 Elfin Forest Calendar Committee Requests Your Assistance!

By Debbie Levi, Calendar Chair

It is difficult to imagine that the time is already here to plan for our 2011 Elfin Forest calendar! The SWAP Calendar Committee is meeting this annual fundraiser with great enthusiasm.

The 2011 calendar will feature artwork donated by many talented SLO County artists. If you are interested in submitting, please contact us at the e-mail address listed below so we can send you the proper guidelines. The deadline for submission is May 8, 2010.

In addition, we need your financial help and offer our readers the opportunity to become a sponsor. For each \$50, sponsors receive a complimentary calendar as well as having their name printed on the inside front cover. The deadline for contributing is June 1, 2010,

Please remember that the calendar helps fund all efforts in the Elfin Forest from revegetation and conservation to education and continued upkeep. It is a gift of nature we can all enjoy.

Our contact information is: SWAP Calendar, P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA. 93412 or calendar@elfin-forest.org.

State of the Forest continued from page 1

due to volunteer labor. A smaller fraction is from CCC assistance. Without both, the Forest would not be in such good shape.

The tragedy was due to a sole, moronic malcontent trashing about an acre of federally listed and threatened Morro Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*). The vandal used sticks, steel fence posts and his own weight to smash through groves of mature manzanitas. These threatened plants were severely damaged during the Memorial Day weekend. The vandal was chased off, but not before causing much damage. Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to turn in the vandal. Hopefully, SWAP can plant some more of these plants that exist nowhere else on earth. It will take decades to repair the damage done to these slow-growing shrubs.

SWAP Newsletter is Online

Did you misplace your copy of Oakleaves? Do you want a friend to see an article in a recent issue? Your problem is solved with a few keystrokes on your computer. Type in <http://www.elfin-forest.org> and you will reach our web site. Then click on the line that says, "Read the current copy of Oakleaves and more." You will find a line that says, "To read the (current month) issue of Oakleaves, click here." If you want to read a past issue, there is a column of links by date, extending back to December/January, 2004-05. Some of our members now prefer to read Oakleaves on line rather than receive it by mail. If you would like to be among our "on line only" readers, let us know at oakleaves@elfin-forest.org.

Education Committee Corner

By Pat Akey

The Education Committee has been meeting to fine-tune the docent manuals, which are looking good, with lots of helpful information. We also have planned a series of docent training walks by specialists in a variety of topics. Education Committee members and new docents alike will benefit from these walks. The first training was a plant walk on March 20, given by Barbara Renshaw. If you would like to become a school walk docent, you can contact me at pata@elfin-forest.org, or leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, 528-0392.

The Essence of Tracking

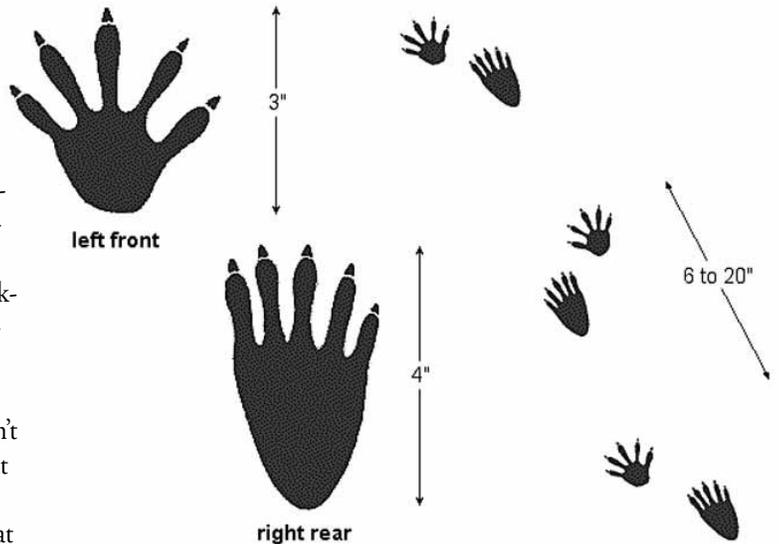
By Evan Albright, SLO Wanderers

Every mark on the ground is a track created by one thing or another. Rain makes pock marks in the sand, wind can blow branches and debris across the soil, running water will erode hill-sides, and animals move across the landscape. You can track anything in nature if you look, study and observe closely.

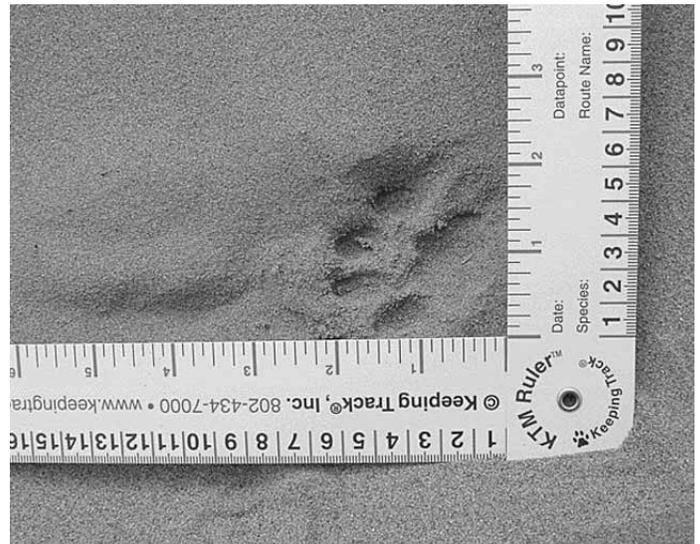
In fact, I once tracked South African veldt grass! While tracking in the dunes one weekend, I noticed a beautiful almost complete circle in the sand. I sat down wondering, "what in nature makes perfect circles?" Then the wind picked up and I noticed the ubiquitous veldt grass in the middle of the circle, which wasn't in my awareness until that moment. It swung first left then right as the wind shifted and I noticed the circle was now more pronounced. "Wow", I thought, "I just tracked grass" as I laughed at my lack of awareness.

When you find a track, look for clues that will aid in the identification such as how many toes, claws, and which indicator patterns are present in the track. For example, a coyote track will leave an "X" pattern, and cats have a "C" shape in the space between the toes and the heel pad. Raccoons have the same shape but in their heel pad. Pay attention to the details.

While hiking, look for animal signs that include more than just the footprints. Chews, scat, runs and trails, beds, burrows, hairs and feathers are just a few of the clues wildlife leaves behind. Take a good tracking field guide with you, or better yet, a journal in which you can draw what you find. Have fun learning to read the stories wildlife has left for you to discover.



This diagram shows the walking pattern of raccoon, placing the right hind foot behind the left front foot, and vice versa. Diagram obtained from www.denniskalma.com.



Bobcat track, showing size of the track. Photo by Evan Albright.

Earth Day, Everyday

By Debbie Levi

"Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."

-- J. Sterling Morton



Earth Day is formally celebrated on April 22nd. In 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) established this holiday to focus public attention on environmental issues. For years he deplored the problem of environmental concerns being "simply a non-issue in the politics of the country." Eventually, they made their way into public and political circles. Today, citizens around the world combine efforts to protect our global environment and the emphasis on "green living" is expanding. Everyone at SWAP shares the vision of keeping a clean and healthy world.

We invite you to honor this special occasion by visiting the Elfin Forest during the next several weeks. Also look online at www.earthdayalliance.com to learn about several San Luis Obispo County events. Please take advantage of our 3rd Saturday walks (see page 9) and learn more about our local natural wonder.



OAKLEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.

Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler;
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Contributors to this issue: Pat Akey, Evan Albright, W.P. Armstrong (CSUSM),
Dave Bowlus, www.denniskalma.com, Betsy Kinter, Debbie Levi, Bob Meyer,
Ron Rasmussen, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters,
and Jean Wheeler.

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oakleaves@elfin-forest.org.

Common Phacelia

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

The plant featured in *Oakleaves* this time is a species from one of the largest genera in California. The genus is *Phacelia* and it contains over 90 species, many of which have several varieties. Dr. Hoover, in his San Luis Obispo County flora, recognized 18 species growing in the county.

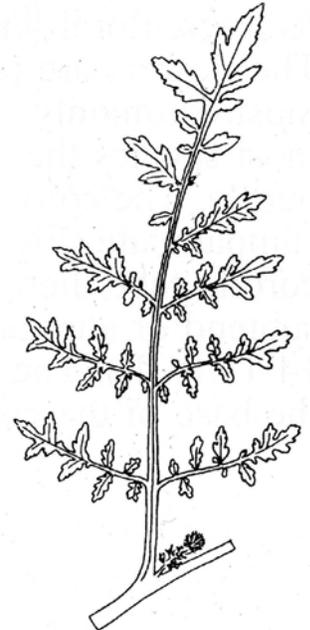
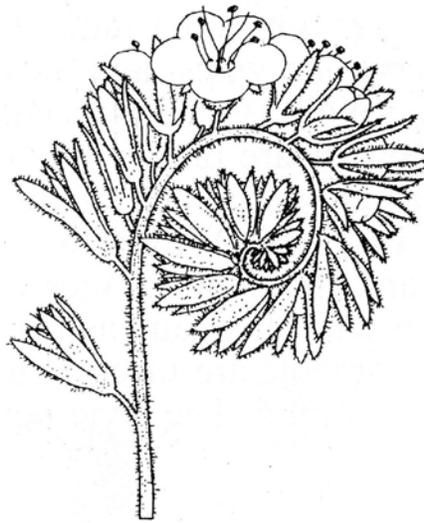
The generic name *Phacelia* is derived from the Greek word, Phakelos, which means a cluster. The cluster referred to is the flower cluster or inflorescence. This particular one is the most easily recognized of all due to its resemblance to the coiled tail of a scorpion. Botanists call it a scorpioid cyme. Cyme is a technical term referring to how the flowers initiate relative to a growing inflorescence tip. In a cyme, the inflorescence tip, or apical meristem, transforms itself into the first flower, which is then followed by flowers produced from trailing growing regions or meristem. Unfortunately, in a scorpioid cyme, this development pattern is totally obscured without careful developmental study.

Phacelias have also been called scorpion weed. Most California phacelia species have no common names listed. The one Bonnie drew for Dr. David Keil and my 4th ed. taxonomy text is not the most showy, but it is certainly one of the more common and variable species in our area -- *Phacelia distans*. In wildflower books it is given the common names of common or fern phacelia and wild heliotrope. Heliotrope refers to a group of garden plant species in the genus, *Heliotropum*, which share the same general inflorescence type.

Common phacelia leaves vary from deeply pinnately lobed to twice compound, thus resembling typical fern leaves. Flower color varies from dirty white through pale purple to blue. The species is found in almost every open habitat in the county. It can even be found occasionally in oak woods, but is definitely rare there. In the Elfin Forest, look for it in the meadow areas where shrubs are widely scattered and herbs dominate.

Some of you might be wondering why I haven't mentioned the plant family to which phacelia belongs. This is because it has been changed relatively recently. As some of you may know, comparison of DNA sequences has become more and more efficient in recent years. This has led to a new set of characters with which to assess relationships. Unfortunately, DNA sequencing is still not a field procedure, so often relationships recognized by this method are not obvious to field types.

Up until recently, phacelias have been placed in the water leaf family or Hydrophyllaceae. This family was easily recognized by its conspicuous scorpioid cyme, symmetrical flowers, capsule fruits and usually compound leaves. Unfortunately the scorpioid cyme and symmetrical flowers were shared with the borage or forget-me-not family (Boraginaceae). Again, in classical taxonomy books the Borages were placed close to the mint family (Labiatae or Lamiales). Borages and mints produce only four seeds in their ovaries. The ovary then matures by shrinking around each seed like shrink-



wrapped vegetables in the produce section of the supermarket.

In the past, botanists assumed that flower characteristics were more important in assessing relationships than were inflorescence characteristics. As you might be guessing, the new DNA work indicates that the inflorescence is the more important and the waterleaf family is more closely related to the borage family. Not only that, DNA evidence indicates that the waterleaf genera should be totally integrated into the borage family. So, in spite of what you read in any flower book older than 5 years, phacelia is in the borage family.

SWAP First Saturday Work Parties

SWAP First Saturday Work Parties are held at 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Please dress for wind, fog, or sun. Layers work well. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are good. Sturdy shoes are a must. Meet at the north end of 15th Street at the Elfin Forest entrance. Take care not to park in front of driveways or mailboxes. Call 528-0392. If you arrive late, a map will show you where we are.

Let's All Pull Together

With the rains coming late into spring,
I'm ever so sure they will bring,
Lots of weeds to make you dance and sing.
So march forward and let the bells ring.
Please come to the north end of old 15th Street,
Off of Santa Ysabel in Los Osos is where we meet.
At the entrance to the Elfin Forest is where you'll park.
Don't block mail boxes or driveways; the neighbors will bark.

*Yours in the cause of conservation,
Pete Sarafian*

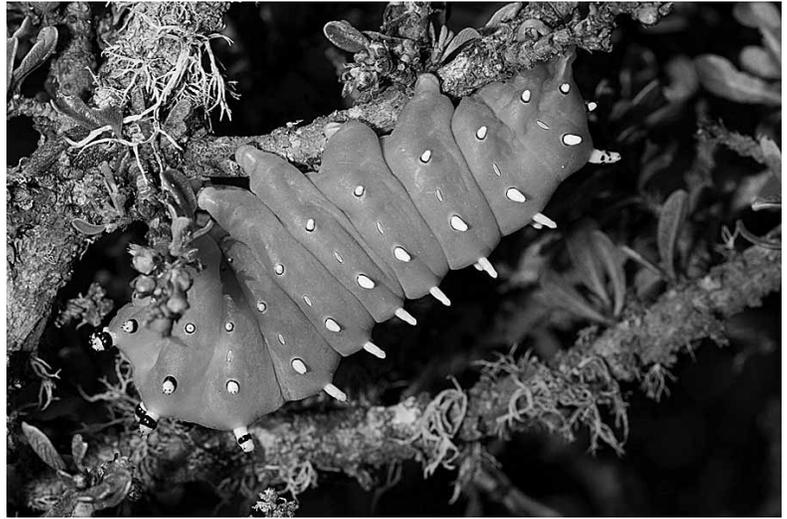
Elfin Forest Sightings

By Yolanda Waddell

In November, a group of Education Committee docents went for a natural history orientation walk in the Elfin Forest, and came upon a light green caterpillar munching its way along a branch of a *Ceanothus* bush. It was almost four inches long with 2 rows of white projections or tubercles on its side and bright yellow tubercles along its back. The tubercles on its head had shiny black bands around them. Truly spectacular! Dave Bowlus took the adjacent photograph, and Dennis Sheridan identified it as the larva of *Ceanothus* Silk Moth, *Hyalophora euryalus*, a member of the wild silk moth family Saturniidae. It is called this because it creates a flask-shaped, silken cocoon (photo by W.P. Armstrong, CSUSM) that hangs from its host shrub, but it doesn't spin the silk that is used for textiles. The caterpillar feeds on *Ceanothus* and *Manzanita* bushes in the Elfin Forest.

Female moths glue their eggs singly or in clumps on leaves of the host plant; in this case it was a Buckbrush (*Ceanothus*) bush. The eggs hatch in 9-14 days and the caterpillars eat host plant leaves until fully grown, like the caterpillar in the adjacent photo. Once the caterpillar has spun its cocoon, it becomes a pupa. It remains in the cocoon through the winter, and then emerges in late winter or early spring as a beautiful moth with brownish-red wings that have characteristic dark eye spots, and large feathery antennae. There is only one generation per year.

When the adult moth emerges from its cocoon, it has a wing span of over five inches. Its primary purpose is to find a member of the opposite sex; females emit a chemical scent that is attractive to the males. Adult moths don't feed, and they die soon after mating and laying eggs. The photo of this impressive moth was taken by Bill Bouton. Dave Bowlus later returned to the *Ceanothus* bush where we found the caterpillar, but couldn't find it again. If any of our readers happen to see a *Ceanothus* Silk Moth flying near the 13th Street trail in the Elfin Forest, please notify us at 528-0392.



Please Report Elfin Forest 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? Please report any interesting sightings to your Oakleaves editors at: oakleaves@elfin-forest.org for inclusion in future issues under "Elfin Forest Sightings." You can also leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, 528-0392.

Weed Warriors

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chairperson
photos by Yolanda Waddell

Weed Warriors Gnash Veldt Grass

The Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors took a chance in January. They removed some new and old (large) bunches of veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) from the southern border of the Elfin Forest. They pushed the well-established infestation back to the edge of the Forest boundary. The southern boundary is nearly veldt free for the first time in more than a decade.

As hinted at above, working during the winter months is risky. The federally listed and endangered Morro shoulderband snail is active and out of its hiding places when there is moisture in the sandy soil. True to form, some of the dozen snails found during monitoring no longer were aestivating inside their shell and self-produced cement layer. All snails had to be moved to safe, non-work areas nearby.

The reason for SWAP's success with veldt grass is our crew of volunteers. Thank you all for the hard work. The beginning of 2010 group included Jay Bonestell, Pat Brown, Steve Cake, Lannie (biker) Erickson, Prisila and Rich Johnson, Bob Meyer, Alon Perlman, Ron Rasmussen, Dar Reynolds, Pete Sarafian, Dean Thompson and Yolanda Waddell. Thanks to this hearty turnout, the year of conservation is beginning very well.



Above: In January a large Weed Warrior group attacked veldt grass growing near the 16th Street entrance to the Elfin Forest. Some of the warriors, from front to back were Pat Brown, Dean Thompson, Dar Reynolds, and Prisila and Rich Johnson.

February Work Party Washes Out

Thanks to the El Nino rains this year, it was too wet to work on the first weekend of February. The weeds got a month's respite. But they better not rest; we'll be baaaaaack (thanks governor).



At left: New Weed Warrior Charlie Lanini filled his weed bag with veldt grass and other invasive plants during the March work party.

Warriors Embark on Embankment

On March 6th the Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors wandered down to South Bay Boulevard to confront the spring crop of invasives on the highway embankment. Included in our crew were Steve Cake, Lannie Erickson, Rich and Prisila Johnson, Charlie Lanini, Bob Meyer, Ron Rasmussen, Pete Sarafian, Charlie Sitton, Holly Sletteland, and Yolanda Waddell. They pulled and dug and cleared Wild mustard (*Brassica nigra*), Oxalis (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) and Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*). The hillside is sprouting new natives each year, and each year the native population is increasing. Without the help of SWAP volunteers none of this would be possible. Thank you volunteers! Check out the hillside the next time you drive by.



Below: Holly Sletteland, past Lands Chair of Morro Coast Audubon, joined Pete Sarafian (right) and the SWAP Weed Warriors during the March work party, pulling veldt grass and other invasives from the slope above South Bay Boulevard.

Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Story and Photos By Jean Wheeler

The Elfin Forest is richly green and wildly blooming in many colors after a far better rainy season than our herbs and shrubs have enjoyed in many years—early and often since mid-October. Warm weather between and even during many storms has brought most flowering species into bloom early and abundantly. With the excellent supply of water in the soil, the floral explosion should keep going at least through the two months of this *Oakleaves* issue and well into the early part of the drying summer months.

The wildly prolific blooming of buckbrush ceanothus this year is beginning to wind down and the Morro manzanitas are covered with the red “little apples” of their Spanish name. But their white flowers are already being replaced by early white sprays of chamise, and California sagebrush should begin to bloom by early April. Tall yellow stalks of suffrutescent wallflower pictured have been much more abundant this year, and should continue into May. Deerweed shrubs are also showing their yellow blooms, which should continue into August. Sticky monkey flowers (the leaves are sticky, not the flowers) are conspicuously orange and should also continue on into August. Silver dune bush lupines are starting to bloom as I write in early March, and should be glorious around Bush Lupine Point well into June or even July.

With so many flowers in bloom, this is the best time of the year to see butterflies and moths. Of 19 species listed in our Pocket Guide (sold on p. 11), all but two fly in April or May. Pat Brown has already seen caterpillars of the variable checkerspot butterfly (pictured upper right) on sticky monkey-flower plants, their only host. She will lead our annual butterfly walk this year on April 17 (see p. 9). Silver Dune Lupines covered with blue flowers should attract Moro Blue Butterflies, whose larvae dine only on that species.

Most of our year-round resident birds will be actively nesting or raising young in these months. Among arrivals in April or May from winter homes farther south are Warbling Vireos, Hooded Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Yellow, Townsend’s, and Wilson’s Warblers. Rufous and Allen’s Hummingbirds and Western Tanagers should be among birds passing through on their way back north after wintering in Central or South America.

Treat yourself and friends to a springtime walk among the butterflies, birds, and flowers of our own protected but wild garden.



We'd Like Mail!

We encourage our readers to submit photos, letters to the editor, or interesting and timely information by e-mailing to oakleaves@elfin-forest.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

The editors.

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third Saturday Walks

April 17, 9:30 a.m. – Butterfly Walk

Join butterfly enthusiast Pat Brown on a tour of the Elfin Forest from a butterfly's point of view. Pat has taken many photos of butterflies in all stages of development from eggs to mature butterflies, and will share them along with fascinating butterfly facts. She'll point out some of the plants that are host to butterflies, and will lead you to hangouts of Variable Checkerspot, Moro Blue, Swallowtail, Hairstreak and other butterflies that make the Elfin Forest their home. She will also share information about butterfly books, web sites and butterfly-related materials. She recommends that you bring a hand lens and a pair of close-focusing (5-10 ft.) binoculars.

May 15, 9:30 a.m. – Wildflower Walk

May flowers in the Elfin Forest, encouraged by our early Spring rains, should be abundant this year. Dirk Walters will take us on a delightful tour of almost every blooming species that can be seen from the boardwalk. There will be bright yellows of Fiddle-necks, Rush-roses, Deerweed, Golden yarrow and of course California poppies. White Popcorn flowers, Pearly everlasting and Yarrow plants are in abundance too, as well as pink Cobwebby thistles and blue Wild Hyacinths. The Silver dune lupines at Bush Lupine Point should be covered with pale blue blossoms, and alive with honeybees and Moro blue butterflies. Treat yourself to a springtime experience of Nature's own garden.

June 19, 9:30 a.m. –

Weather and the Elfin Forest

John Lindsey, the PG&E Weather Man based at Diablo Canyon, will give a fascinating walk and talk about the effects of weather on the plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. John, an authority on coastal weather, will help us to understand why the topography of San Luis Obispo County plays an important role in where rain falls, and how much. This will be an excellent mini course in meteorology, and will give us an edge in discussing that universal topic – the weather.

Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at times stated above. Park at the north end of 15th Street (16th Street for wheelchairs) off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Walks begin on the boardwalk at the end of the 15th Street path. Wear comfortable shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. Please leave pets at home. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information call (805) 528-0392.



Above: Animal track specialist Evan Albright taught January walk participants to look for clues such as how many toes, whether claws showed, and what the track patterns look like.

Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

Below: Dennis Sheridan (left) and 36 mushroom enthusiasts found many interesting species of fungi in the Don Klopfer Grove during Dennis's Fungus Foray in February. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.



Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, SWAP Database Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS:

Otis W. Carter
Marilyn Fentress
Nova C. Poff

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Joan Anderson	Gene and Mimi Kalland*
Florence Appel*	Aya Kimura
Marilyn Bertrand and Robert Dodge	Roberta Knapp*
Bob Blakeley	Larry and Jennifer Levine
Susan and Ed Chandler*	Annette Lindeman
Ruth and Les Christiansen	JoAnne Milburn*
Janice Clucas*	Roy Moss
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SPECIAL DONATIONS:

Yolanda and Jay Waddell – in memory of
Eileen Kengel, Bill Jackson, Don Parham,
Phyllis Snyder and Pat Wieman.

**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.*

Remembering Our Members

By Yolanda Waddell

As we look around our beautiful Central Coast, we see many signs of human impact – roads, buildings, power lines, cultivated fields and pastures – but we also see hundreds of acres of trees, chaparral and coastal dune scrub that haven't been disturbed, and will remain as monuments to the foresight and dedication of many individuals in past times. It is time to remember three people who worked hard, each in his or her own way, to preserve the natural beauty of our area.

Eileen Kengel (July 1913 – December 2009)

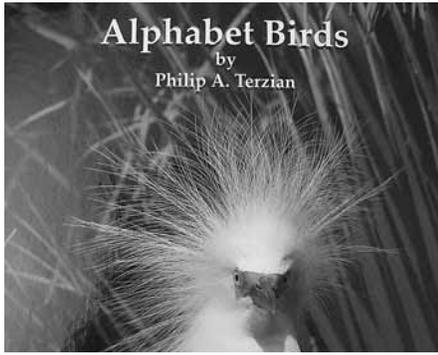
Eileen and her husband Edward moved from Hermosa Beach to Baywood Park in 1964. When Emily Polk founded SWAP in 1971, Eileen took notice and helped to form the Estero Chapter of SWAP. The chapter's goals were to prevent the Baptista Ranch, bordered by South Bay Boulevard and Turri Road, from being developed, and to save the Otto Property, across South Bay Boulevard and south of the Baptista Ranch. Eileen was in the thick of the action. They successfully saved the ranch and turned it over to State Parks. Thinking they had also saved the Otto Property (now the Elfin Forest), the Estero chapter disbanded in 1980. Eileen continued her interest in preserving natural areas, and when the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP was formed in 1985, she became a member. She was a member of our chapter for many years, continuing to live in her house in Baywood till the end of her days.

Don Parham (February 1917 – December, 2009)

Don and his wife, Jo, moved to Los Osos in 1972. They had a strong connection to the beauty of nature and actively supported many conservation projects. As a past president of Morro Coast Audubon Society and the Central Coast Natural History Association, Don helped the original members of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP in getting off the ground during the 1980s. He later was one of the founders of Friends of the Estuary and The Bay Foundation. The latter organization is now the funding partner of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, which provides our chapter with grants to accomplish our revegetation and conservation projects. Don was a visionary, with absolutely brilliant ideas about ways to preserve land for future generations. Our chapter will always be grateful to him.

Phyllis Snyder (June, 1923 – February, 2010)

Phyllis loved the outdoors. She photographed it, painted it, hiked in it, and talked about it to others. During SWAP's big push to buy the southern half of the Elfin Forest between 1989 and 1994, Phyllis made note cards for sale from her photos and paintings, led nature walks in the Forest, and helped with our information booths. After the Elfin Forest was safely part of County Parks, Phyllis led the formation of the Cañada de Los Osos Historical Association, to promote the history of Los Osos. At her request, our chapter participated in the first Los Osos History Day, organized by Phyllis. According to her family, she remained active to the end, working in her garden on the day she died.



Alphabet Birds: Book for Kids

The newest treasure SWAP is selling is this wonderful book by Philip A. Terzian with gorgeous pictures of birds, one for each letter of the alphabet. The facing page features a clever little poem for each bird in large-sized text and child-appropriate wording.



SWAP Shoppers' Order Form

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

All Prices Include Sales Tax

1. MURAL SHIRTS

Mural design by artist Barbara Rosenthal on both front and back. Words on shirt: "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) @\$19.00 = \$___
- ___ Short Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$22.00 = \$___
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- ___ Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL) @ \$25.00 = \$___
- ___ Sweatshirt (XXL, XXXL) @ \$27.00 = \$___

2. PHOTOS OF THE ELFIN FOREST

Original photo note cards by Bob Meyer
 ___ @ \$3.00 or ___ set of 5 @ \$14.00 = \$___

Original photo postcards by Bob Meyer
 ___ @ \$1.00 = \$___

Indicate No. per View(s):

- ___ All 5; ___ Don Klopfer Trail; ___ Ocean View;
- ___ Wild Hyacinth; ___ Horned Lizard; ___ Dudleya

3. POCKET GUIDE

Useful 56-page guide to plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. Charts for bloom season, form, color, and habitat for 200 vascular plants plus lists of lichens and mushrooms known to occur. Habitat and peak months seen are charted for 187 birds. Also listed: 28 common mammals; 10 reptiles; 4 amphibians; 19 butterflies and moths (charted by size, months in flight, color, and host plants); 104 other arthropods and 7 gastropods.

___ @ \$2.00 = \$___

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signed prints by artist Barbara Rosenthal,
 image size 4 1/2 x 16 1/2 in; mounted on foamcore
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5. ALPHABET BIRD BOOK

With clever verses and superb photos, this book is sure to please young and old.
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Shipping costs within zip 934 __:
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SWAP is now selling a new book for children: Alphabet Birds. See page 11.

Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter
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Amaze a friend with the beauty of our small wilderness preserve, now in glorious bloom after our outstanding winter rains. Your friend will marvel at the flowers in bloom and the diverse bird, butterfly, and other animal life.

Pick up a trail guide where the 16th Street Entrance meets the boardwalk or where the Bush Lupine Point spur leaves the boardwalk loop. Encourage your friend to enjoy the information in the trail guide and on the beautifully-illustrated Interpretive Signs.

Report your friend's reactions and especially wonderful or unusual sightings to the editors for "Visitor Comments" or "Elfin Forest Sightings" in a future issue of *Oakleaves*.

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- Protector \$75
- Renewing Member
- Defender \$100
- Champion \$250
- Guardian \$500
- Seniors & Students \$15
- Life Member \$1000

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