



# OAK LEAVES

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 ❖ AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2014

## Rouvaishyana to Speak at SWAP Annual Celebration

By Ron Rasmussen, SWAP Chair

This year at our annual celebration we are fortunate to have Rouvaishyana, Manager of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, as our speaker. He has been Museum Manager since 2005, and is very familiar with the bioecology of the surrounding area, including the Elfin Forest.

Rouvaishyana studied Natural History and Marine Science at the College of the Redwoods. As part of his work with California State Parks he is on the Program Committee for the annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. When off duty from State Parks he has worked as a naturalist aboard local whale-watching boats, logging more than 250 days at sea observing Humpback, Gray, and other whale species, dolphins, porpoises and other marine mammals, and many species of seabirds not otherwise easily seen from land. He is also an avid kayaker and snorkeler in Morro Bay, and is familiar with the ecology of the Bay and near-shore ocean waters, both on and below the surface.

His extensive studies and experience especially qualify Rouvaishyana to speak about the relationship between the Bay and coastal habitats and the birds, wildlife, and marine organisms that live there. Please join us for this special event on Saturday, September 27 at Noon at the Morro Shores Mobile Home Park, 633 Ramona Avenue in Los Osos. The event is free and refreshments will be provided.

## SWAP Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 27 • Noon to 2:30 p.m.  
Morro Shores Mobile Home Park Community Room,  
633 Ramona Ave., Los Osos

Speaker: Rouvaishyana, Morro Bay Museum Manager  
“Local Bay and Ocean Habitats  
and the Wildlife that Lives There”



The SWAP Board of Directors invites SWAP members and the public to our Annual Celebration of the founding of Small Wilderness Area Preservation by Emily Polk.

We will also celebrate the 20th year of the acquisition of the El Moro Elfin Forest Natu-

ral Area. On July 6, 1994, after nine years of hard work by SWAP, the Elfin Forest officially became the property of the County of San Luis Obispo.

To acquaint us with the wonderful Morro Bay Estuary and its inhabitants, our speaker, Rouvaishyana (see article at left and photo above by Ron Rasmussen), will give a fascinating description of the bay and ocean marine life that is unseen by most people.

Prior to Rouvaishyana's talk SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen will conduct a brief business meeting that includes election by SWAP members of candidates for our Board of Directors. The candidates this year are Carrie Arnold, Jan DiLeo, Vicky Johnsen, Patricia Murray and Ron Rasmussen. Board members are elected for a two-year period.

A light lunch, including a birthday cake for the Elfin Forest, will be provided for all those attending. There is no charge for this event.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Ron Rasmussen, Chair

Jan DiLeo, Treasurer

Yolanda Waddell, Corresponding Secretary

Carrie Arnold, Recording Secretary

Pat Akey, Member at Large

Vicky Johnsen, Member at Large

Pat Murray, Member at Large

The SWAP Board of Directors meets monthly at 7 p.m. at the Community Room, Morro Shores Mobile Home Park, 633 Ramona Ave., Los Osos.

The next meetings are

**Thursday, August 14,  
and Thursday, September 11.**

All Board meetings are open to the public.

To confirm the date, time and location (which are subject to change), call (805) 528-0392.



## CONTACT SWAP

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

A recorded message will give information about our 2nd Wednesday & 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: Mark Wagner

SLO County Parks Supervising Ranger  
1087 Santa Rosa 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 Mark Wagner at 781-1196.

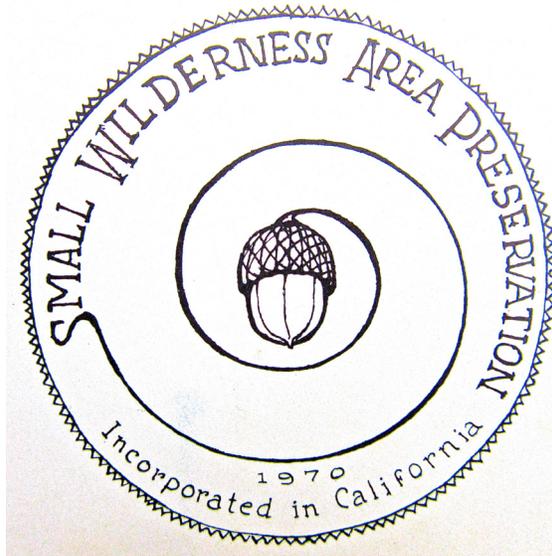


*Mike and Diane Burke with a sampling of their art work on the wall behind them.  
Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

## The Origin of SWAP's Oak Tree Logo

*By Yolanda Waddell*

Organizations, from small clubs to large corporations, want to provide an image of what they stand for in their logos. In 1970, when she founded SWAP, Emily Polk devised a logo showing an acorn in the center of a scrolling line that ends in the words Small Wilderness Area Preservation. That logo, shown in the adjacent drawing, was used for some years. When the Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter was founded in 1985, its board members decided to reduce the logo to the acorn with cap in the center of the old logo.



*Original SWAP logo created by Emily Polk in 1970.*

SWAP's need for a logo coincided with the arrival of two artists, Mike and Diane Burke, who moved from West Hollywood to Los Osos with their two children, Penny and Jason. For Mike and Diane it was the last of several moves, beginning in London where they grew up. They met at art school, married and Mike began his career as a designer and commercial artist at a London ad agency. The urge to work for a U.S. ad agency brought them to New York City, and

**Oak Tree Logo** *continued on page 3*

# SWAP Welcomes Vicky Johnsen to Board

By Yolanda Waddell

In 2012, Vicky Johnsen saw a request for Weed Warriors on the boardwalk bulletin board, and became a Weed Warrior. Awhile after that, she became a booth worker for Oktoberfest, and still later began training to become a SWAP docent. Last November Vicky began leading nature walks in the Elfin Forest every second Wednesday. No wonder she was given the SWAP Volunteer of the Year award!

All during 2013 and through May of this year, Vicky also attended most monthly SWAP Board meetings, but declined to join the Board. However, at the June Board meeting, she said rather softly that since she always attends the meetings, she may as well join the Board. It took about one minute for a board member to nominate her, another to second the motion, and the entire board unanimously to vote her in. SWAP will benefit greatly from Vicky's intelligence, interest and energy. Her name will be on the ballot at SWAP's Annual Celebration in September, and we are sure that she will be enthusiastically elected by the rest of SWAP's members at that time. Welcome aboard, Vicky!



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## Oak Tree Logo *continued from page 2*

finally to Los Angeles. They went camping every year for their vacations and especially liked Montaña de Oro and the central coast.

The Burkes arrived in Los Osos on Labor Day, 1986. Later that September, they saw a flyer about a SWAP meeting at the Los Osos Middle School. The meeting was about possible development of the Elfin Forest, formerly called the Otto Property. Mike and Diane's house is just a few doors from the Elfin Forest, which they loved, so they attended the meeting. Mike offered to help our fledgling chapter with his graphic design skills, and produced a flyer at SWAP's request. In 1987, Mike was asked if he would design a new logo for SWAP.

His design was simple and effective: a drawing of an oak tree with the words "Small Wilderness Area Preservation" under the tree. That logo, which Mike donated to SWAP, has been in use by our chapter for the past 27 years, appearing on our stationery, newsletter, banners and our early T-shirts.

Diane Burke, whose illustrations are found in many books, also provided help with SWAP's fundraising efforts. She participated in an artist's project in the Elfin Forest along with Barbara Rosenthal and Nancy Kolliner. Mike also donated a painting to a traveling Elfin Forest art exhibit. Our SWAP chapter, the Elfin Forest and the community have benefitted from the talents and generosity of Mike and Diane Burke. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them.



Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter  
SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION

*Logo created for Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter by Mike Burke in 1987.*

## Thinking of Switching to Online Oakleaves?

Tired of looking at that pile of newsletters and magazines waiting to be read? If you use your computer a lot, we encourage you to take a look at the online version at [www.elfin-forest.org](http://www.elfin-forest.org). Being able to see the 20 or so photos in full color makes it a very attractive alternative to the black-and-white printed copy. If you miss an issue for some reason, it is there, waiting for you. Simply click on "Forest Library," then "Oakleaves Index" and finally the year and month of the issue that you want to read. Try it – you may like it. Just e-mail us at [oakleaves@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaves@elfin-forest.org) with the subject: Switch me to online.



# Gopher Snake

*By Jean Wheeler; photo of young gopher snake by Linda Tanner*

One of the most commonly seen non-venomous snakes in California and very beneficial in controlling rodent populations is the gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*). It is one of five snakes listed in our Pocket Guide, Plants and Animals of the Elfin Forest Natural Area (available for \$2 on our Shoppers' Order Form, page 11).

Gopher snakes are fairly large, averaging about four or five feet long when full-grown, and have been recorded over eight feet in length. They are light gray or yellowish tan in color with large brown to black blotches streaked along the back and sides. The head is narrow and pointed, the eyes large and round with round pupils, and they lack the dark pit between the eye and nose typical of pit vipers like the rattlesnake.

Although not venomous, unfortunately they are often killed by mistake as they resemble the rattlesnakes which can inject poisonous venom sometimes lethal to humans. This resemblance is accentuated by their behavior when threatened. They flatten and widen their heads to look more like rattlesnake heads rather than the narrower head normal to them. They also rise and puff up their bodies, curl into the strike pose of a rattlesnake, lift and wiggle their rattleless tails, and hiss like rattlesnakes. Presumably this behavior developed to scare off potential predators.

Like all snakes, gopher snakes travel by scooting forward on large scales, each attached to a rib and overlapping one another in a way that enables them to scoot forward easily but backwards only very awkwardly. They can also swim and climb.

The gopher snake's diet consists mainly of small rodents, like the gopher for which it is named, but may also include frogs, birds, and bird eggs. They kill prey usually by constricting them within coils of the snake's body or between the body and the wall of the victim's burrow. They swallow their prey whole, taking up to a week to digest the meal. Their predation helps keep in check populations of the rapidly reproducing rodents they target. They are themselves preyed upon mostly by foxes, coyotes, red-tailed hawks, and possibly large king snakes.

Gopher snakes live solitary lives except for mating. Females secrete chemicals to attract males. If more than one male is attracted, they may engage in ritual combat, entwining their bodies. Breeding usually occurs in late summer. The females lay up to two dozen eggs in a sandy nest, each egg about two to four inches long. Typically there is one clutch per year, but occasionally a female will lay a second clutch. There is no further parental involvement.

The eggs hatch in about two or two and a half months. The hatchlings are a foot or more long, grow rapidly to as much as three feet long in their first year, and continue to grow slowly after that. They may live for about fifteen years in the wild, but captives have lived more than twice that long, and are said to be good pets if properly cared for.

The gopher snake species ranges from the Mississippi Valley westward to the Pacific coast and from southwestern Canada into central Mexico and Baja California, with a number of subspecies geographically. Conservation status is considered stable throughout its range, and it is listed by the United Nations as a Species of Least Concern.



## OAKLEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.

Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler;  
layout is by Katy Budge. Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.  
Contributors to this issue: Mike and Diane Burke, Elsie Deitz, Vicky Johnsen,  
Prisila Johnson, Betsy Kinter, Richard Murphy, Ron Rasmussen, Linda Tanner,  
Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters and Jean Wheeler.  
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# Creek Dogwood

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

For this issue of *Oakleaves* I'm going out on a limb, so to speak. Since the plant is a very small tree or moderate shrub, that limb will prove to be slender. The plant is NOT in the official Elfin Forest species list. I selected it because it might be hiding in a less accessible location. The plant is the red osier, creek dogwood or, as stated in the new Jepson California Flora, American dogwood (*Cornus sericea*).

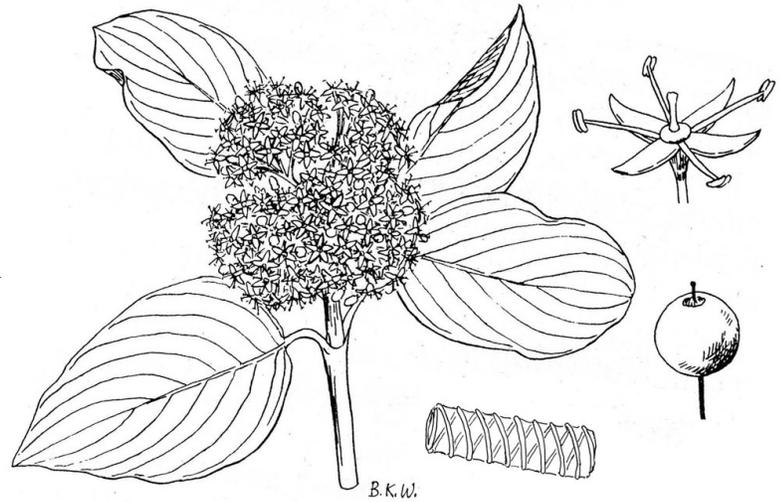
This dogwood is the ugly sister to the 'flowering' dogwoods. Its clusters of tiny flowers are not subtended by large white to pink bracts as seen in its beautiful sisters. The beautiful sisters include the Sierra dogwood (*C. nuttallii*) and the even more famous eastern dogwood (*C. florida*). Individual flowers of all dogwoods species are small. The showy difference is only the presence of large showy bracts surrounding the flower clusters.

If you don't have the large bracts to go on, how do you know it's a dogwood? Take another look at Bonnie's drawing. Note the unusual arrangement of the secondary veins (the ones branching from the central midrib on leaves). They don't go directly to the leaf margin but curve toward the tip where they all converge. This leaf vein pattern is relatively rare and all dogwoods have it. I know of only one other family (Melostomaceae) with a similar pattern and it is tropical, so we would encounter it only in cultivation.

There is also a trick that can be demonstrated with dogwood leaves taking advantage of those really long veins. If you gently tear a dogwood leaf in two near its middle, the two halves will still be connected by thin 'strings' arising from the veins. These strings come from cell walls of a special type of water conducting cells (vessels). A drawing of a single greatly enlarged vessel cell with spiral thickenings is shown. A stack of these cells placed end to end conducts water and dissolved minerals throughout the leaf. The thickenings prevent the vessel from collapsing when water is drawn through it. Water isn't generally pushed through a vessel but is sucked through; i.e. it is similar to a drinking straw rather than a fire hose. (Some readers probably remember paper straws of our childhood which soaked up and collapsed before we had finished our drink.) The strings are spiral wall thickenings found in the inter-connected stacks of vessels. Other leaves have secondary veins that are either too short or have different types of wall thickenings that don't stretch such as rings or a solid wall pierced with pores.

As 'creek dogwood' correctly suggests, it is usually found growing along creek banks or in other situations where it can get lots of permanent water near the surface. In the Elfin Forest I would search the willow thickets on the up-slope side of fresh or brackish marshes between the dune base and the salt marsh. As creek dogwood prefers clay soils to sand, I'd not expect there to be many of them and they definitely won't be visible from the boardwalk.

American dogwood is found from Pacific states to New England. It seems to dislike southeastern states. Red osier dogwood



refers to its thin, willow-like stems. Osier is a common name for willow, also woody plants preferring moist to wet soils. So, red osier dogwood simply tells us it is a dogwood resembling (or maybe growing with or flexible like) willows. Dogwood leaves and flowers are definitely not 'willow-like.'

When I entered "Cornus sericea" into Google, there were lots of hits. Almost all of them discussed the use of this dogwood in landscaping. The traits emphasized were the bright red twigs and white berries that are particularly prominent in the early fall.



Large green *Ceanothus* moth caterpillar found by Vicky Johnsen while weeding along South Bay Boulevard in June. Photo by Prisila Johnson.

## 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? Taken a good photo? Please report any interesting sightings to your Oakleaves editors at: [oakleaves@elfin-forest.org](mailto:oakleaves@elfin-forest.org) for inclusion in future issues under "Elfin Forest Sightings." You can also leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, (805) 528-0392.

# How Many Elfin Forests are There?

By Yolanda Waddell

In March of this year, a Cub Scout den mother phoned to ask if she could bring four Cub Scouts to our April 5th Saturday Work Party to help with weeding. Board member Pat Akey, who took the call, agreed to meet them at the north end of 15th Street, where our work parties begin.

On April 5th, Pat waited while the Weed Warriors assembled, were given their assignments and headed off into the Elfin Forest. No Cub Scouts arrived. Eventually Pat went home and called to find out what had gone wrong. It turned out that the den mother phoned the wrong Elfin Forest. The Cub Scouts live in San Diego, and had driven to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve near Escondido in northern San Diego County. Understandingly, they couldn't find 15th Street. The den mother had looked up "Elfin Forest" on the internet and phoned the wrong one.

The 784-acre Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve is owned by the San Diego County Water Authority and managed by Olivenhain Municipal Water District. They control the water that comes from the Escondido Creek watershed. The recreation area has a docent-staffed interpretive center built in 2009, and 11 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. Unlike our Elfin Forest it is mountainous, but like the El Moro Elfin Forest, there are oak woodland, coastal sage and chaparral plant communities. For more information, see [www.olivenhain.com/elfin-forest-recreational-reserve](http://www.olivenhain.com/elfin-forest-recreational-reserve). Additional information can be found on the web site of The Escondido Creek Conservancy, which is responsible for operation of the Interpretive Center: [www.escondido-creek.org](http://www.escondido-creek.org). If you happen to drive through San Diego County, it is well worth a visit to "another Elfin Forest."

To answer the question asked in the title of this article, there are two more Elfin Forests in California. In northern California, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park is home to an elfin forest with two species of Cypress trees. And on Cuesta Ridge in San Luis Obispo County, the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County manages the San Luis Obispo Elfin Forest of dwarf Cypresses. In all, California has four Elfin Forests, each with similarities, yet quite different from one another.



© Richard Murphy

*An Oak Grove in the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve in San Diego County. Photo by Richard Murphy.*



*An Oak Grove in the El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area here in Los Osos. Photo by Jean Wheeler.*

# Weed Warrior Report

*Text and photos by Yolanda Waddell*

## May — Watering and Weeding

Our plant watering team, Prisila and Rich Johnson, provided liquid nourishment to the 50-plus “new” plants at the ends of 11th and 16th Streets. In May, the plants were showing their appreciation with gorgeous purple blossoms on the Purple nightshades and golden flowers on the Sticky monkey-flowers.

At the north end of the Forest in the lower “Don Klopfer Grove,” a team consisting of Dave Bowlus, Jay Bonestell, Ed and Matt Ellingen, Lannie Erickson, Jack Fanselow, snail monitor Barrett Holland and Ron Rasmussen cleaned up the last of the visible Cheat grass, bromes and Italian thistle. Now the grove is clean as a whistle until the winter rainy season. Each year there are fewer invasive plants in that grove thanks to the industry of our Weed Warriors.



*In May, Mission High School sophomore Matt Ellingen (left) completed almost a year of Weed Warrior work for SWAP while earning community support hours at his school. Here he and his Dad Ed Ellingen are working to clean out Cheat grass in the Don Klopfer Grove.*

## June — Boardwalk Care and More Weeding

The June Weed Warrior crews worked in different parts of the Forest again. Ron Rasmussen, Rich Johnsen and Skip Rotstein replaced rusted screws with rust-proof stainless steel ones in numerous boards on the Siena’s View extension.

Snail monitor Barrett Holland and his crew consisting of Pat Brown, Vicky Johnsen and Prisila Johnson removed the last of the visible veldt grass as well as other invasive plants from the lower edge of the slope next to South Bay Boulevard. Now that area is weed-free until the next rainy season.

Thanks to Pete Sarafian for pulling and hauling a large amount of slender-leaved iceplant from some places that are very difficult to access below Bush Lupine Point. This year has been a good one for removing weeds, but we know that it will always take vigilance and elbow grease to keep them at bay.



*Happy that they have finally cleared out the last of the veldt grass and other invasives along South Bay Boulevard, Weed Warriors (L-R) Prisila Johnson, Barret Holland (snail monitor), Pat Brown and Vicky Johnsen celebrate the moment before hauling their bags of weeds back to the end of 15th Street.*

## Let’s all pull together

*By Yolanda Waddell*

Oh Warriors, Weed Warriors we need you on Saturday;  
You can help 9 to noon before attending a matinee.  
(well, how many words can you think of to rhyme with Saturday?)

There’s plenty to do says Ron, the lead Warrior.  
He has several jobs and needs some strong carriers.

So see you this Sat. in our forest so green.  
Bring hats, gloves and shovels –  
You know our cuisine:

Home-baked cookies!

## SWAP 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. Layers work well. Long pants and long shirt sleeves are good. Sturdy shoes are a must. Take care not to park in front of drive-ways or mailboxes. To request more information, call (805) 528-0392.

# Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

*Text & photos by Jean Wheeler*

The impact of California's three years of drought with the past year recorded as the driest ever can be seen in a noticeably greater number of dead and dying shrubs in the Elfin Forest than we usually see. Yet far more abundant numerically and visually dominant are the green shrubs still blanketing most of the fossilized sand dunes. They reveal the incredible resilience of our Mediterranean shrub vegetation. Most shrubs "greened up" promptly after the very late and meager rains and even came into flower. Flowers on many came much later and less abundantly than usual, but they continue to make a welcome display even well into this very dry and hotter than usual summer.

Most dune buckwheat shrubs have opened a number of white flowers that will age to pink and then rust. But the shrubs are not so completely covered in flowers as usual. I've noticed that with less competition, brilliant white spikes of blossoms at the ends of chamise branches are showing up even more vividly against the green backdrop than in most years. California Asters bloom mainly from August to December with ray flowers in white to pink or lavender around yellow central discs. Yellow-orange flowers on sticky monkey-flower bushes, deerweed, and California poppies are punctuating the Elfin Forest pallet with their vivid hues.

Colorful fruits add their beauty to the Elfin Forest in late summer and early autumn. California Coffeeberry is especially attractive along the boardwalk between Bush Lupine Point and Siena's View. Its berries appear yellow at first, darken to red and finally turn a richly glowing black. Berries in all three colors are often clustered together on these shrubs in late August and September. Another bright red berry grows on Hollyleaf Cherry shrubs in the same area.

Reptiles are most active in the warmest months, so be on the lookout for the slithering of elusive Garter, Gopher, and California King Snakes. But the easiest reptiles to spot are Western Fence Lizards doing their amusing pushups along the toe rails of the boardwalk. And look for tracks of animals in the sand next to the boardwalk, especially in early mornings, when raccoon tracks are very commonly seen.

There are still a lot of water birds visible on the estuary from Bush Lupine Point or Sienna's View in late summer. Among waders, willets remain very common. Also resident all year are Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, along with many Snowy and Great Egrets.

Some ducks remain through summer even though most members of their species have gone north to summer nesting areas. Year-around resident American Coots become even more noticeable as the duck population has plummeted. By late August, White Pelicans and Northern Pintail Ducks have usually returned from their northern breeding grounds to spend fall and winter here. Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal are likely to arrive for the winter or pass through southward in September.

Five species of swallows may be seen only in the summer, leaving again in late August or September. Most of our raptor spe-



*Blue-gray gnatcatcher*



*Mock Heather*

cies are here all year. Many chaparral and oak woodland birds are busy raising young—such as hummingbirds, flycatchers, wrens, warblers, sparrows, thrashers, finches, black phoebes, scrub jays, blackbirds, and quail.

A stroll around the Elfin Forest boardwalk rewards us with colorful scenes and activity even in the middle of California's long dry summer despite the worst drought year on record.

# WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

## Second Wednesday Walks

*August 13*

*– No 2nd Wednesday walk this month*

Vicky Johnsen will be away during August. There will not be a 2nd Wednesday walk this month.

*September 10, 10:00 a.m. – Fall Preview*

Join SWAP docent Vicky Johnsen on a tour of the Elfin Forest to see the Fall blooms and to spot “early-bird” winter arrivals down in the estuary. This walk should interest plant lovers and birders alike.

## Third Saturday Walks

*August 16, 9:30 a.m.*

*– What’s Underfoot? Soils!*

Have you heard the term “Baywood Fine Sand?” It’s the name of the predominant soil in Los Osos, as well as in the Elfin Forest. It’s what you walk on when the pavement ends because all of Los Osos was once a series of sand dunes. Soil scientist Lynn Moody will describe local soils and talk about how important they are in determining what plants will grow in them. We’ll learn how sandy soil both benefits and stresses plants. Lynn will also explain why the presence of sandy soils in Los Osos reflects climate change and seismic activity over the past couple million years.

*September 20, 9:30 a.m. – Sketch Walk*

Join artist and naturalist Barbara Renshaw for a stroll along the Elfin Forest boardwalk. Take in views of the Morro Bay estuary, oak groves, expanses of coastal sage scrub and chaparral, and the volcanic Morros beyond. You’ll stop in the Rose Bowker Oak Grove to enjoy ancient gnarled Coast live oak trees. Barbara will tell you about the native plants that you see along the way and will choose a few favorite places for sketching. No drawing experience is necessary. Bring a pad of drawing paper, colored pencils or pastels, and some drinking water. Bring a camera too. You’ll be pleased to discover the artist hidden inside of you.

*Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at times stated above at the north end (1100 block) of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Wear comfortable 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 call (805) 528-0392.*



*During his May wildflower walk, botanist Dirk Walters points out the characteristics of the plant he is holding for interested walk participants. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*



*Adrienne Harris (standing on bench), Executive Director of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, gave a fascinating walk and talk about the estuary and Morro Bay watershed in June. Also leading the walk was Assistant Director Lexi Bell, not shown. Photo by Ron Rasmussen*



*In May, SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen, 2nd from right, led a nature walk for members of the Early Ford V8 Club from Fresno. They loved the Elfin Forest and gave donations to SWAP. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

# Thank You to Our Generous Members

*Compiled by Betsy Kinter,  
SWAP Database Coordinator*

## RENEWING MEMBERS:

Jerry Ambrose*	Nada Fuller*
Kathryn Bay*	Thomas Hadjiyane
Sandra Beebe	Jan Harper
Kay Blaney*	Joyce Heller*
David Bowlus & Beverly Boyd*	Herbert & Debra Holt*
Roger E. Carmody*	Jerry Hull*
Ruth & Les Christiansen*	Sally & Randy Knight*
Marilyn Clark*	Jarry & Brenda Kraft
Lisa Coffman	Jennifer & Larry Levine*
Paul Crafts	Bob & Mary McCorkle*
Bernard & Fran Deitchman*	Sheila Montooth*
Elsie & Jerry Deitz*	Pat Murray*
Stephani Denker*	Billy R. Pewitt
Margaret Diehl*	Barbara & Robert Rosenthal*
Linda Faust*	Max & Helen Sicher*
Guy Fitzwater & Libbie Agran*	Holly Sletteland
Robert & Marilyn Freiler	George Taylor
	Danna Weidner & Tom Cash*
	Norma Wightman*

## DONATIONS:

Dr. Corwith C. White and  
the Hamill Family Foundation  
The Early Ford V8 Club  
Tom Lorish (PG&E Campaign  
for the Community)  
Jim McCoy  
Gene & Leslie Rotstein (EcoFair)

*\*Thanks to those listed above who donated more than the \$25  
(regular) or \$15 (senior or student) membership dues.  
The additional donations will be used for special projects  
in the Elfin Forest.*

*If you recently sent a donation to SWAP 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 pro-  
cessed by two different volunteers before reaching our editors, and  
newsletter copy deadline is one month before the date of the issue.*

# In Memoriam Jerry Deitz, 1925 - 2014

*By Yolanda Waddell*

Jerry Deitz first came to California's central coast in 1943 during World War II as a recruit in the 86th Infantry "Blackhawk" Division, based at Camp San Luis Obispo. At that time he thought he would like to settle here some day. However after the war, the native of New York City moved to another large city, Los Angeles, with his wife Elsie, in 1956. With his degree in electrical engineering, he went to work for the Librascope Corporation in Glendale, a defense electronics contractor. Over the years he rose to become the corporation's Senior Vice President of Engineering.

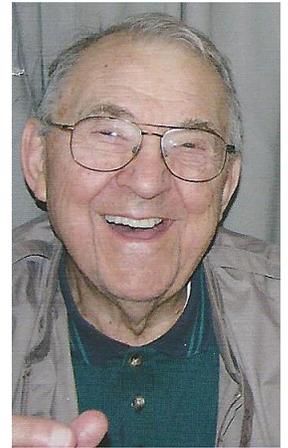
When Jerry retired from Librascope in 1988, he and Elsie moved from the San Fernando Valley to Los Osos. Elsie, a professional artist specializing in jewelry, soon became established in central coast art circles. Jerry became active in the San Luis Obispo chapter of SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives. SCORE, a volunteer organization, is dedicated to providing free counseling and mentoring for small business owners and managers, matching retired executives with businesses in their specialties.

Jerry and Elsie were always involved in community issues and soon learned about the effort to save a small piece of land at the northeast end of Los Osos, called the El Moro Elfin Forest. In January, 1992, Jerry agreed to join the SWAP Board as its Treasurer.

During the years from 1992 to 1994 there were many Elfin Forest fundraisers, ably led by Elsie. There were rummage sales, schoolchildren's projects, events in the Elfin Forest, and large and small donations coming in. Jerry kept track of all the dimes, dollars and thousands of dollars. Eventually SWAP almost miraculously reached the \$1.6 million asking price for the southern 38.7 acres of the Elfin Forest and in July, 1994, the Elfin Forest became San Luis Obispo County property.

Jerry continued as SWAP Treasurer until 1997, but he also volunteered as treasurer for other organizations and projects. He was known as the Village Treasurer of Los Osos. After 1997, Jerry began volunteering at the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum in San Luis Obispo. This museum honors veterans of all services and all wars with exhibits focused on local veterans. One of the exhibits is dedicated to Camp San Luis Obispo during the time Jerry served there and displays a photo of Jerry as a nineteen-year-old soldier in his army uniform. Jerry gave many hours to the Library of Congress Veterans Oral History Project, collecting and preserving first-hand accounts and stories of wartime service.

Jerry passed away at home on July 5th of this year, at age 88. We remember him as a kind, considerate, talented and giving person with a delightful sense of humor. Past County Supervisor Bud Laurent said, "We're among the fortunate to have known him, to have benefitted from his counsel and presence, and to know what an impact he had, in his quiet and effective way, on Los Osos." SWAP sends our condolences and love to Elsie, their daughter Carla and to their families.



*Jerry Deitz  
Photo courtesy of Elsie Deitz.*



## Beautiful Notecards & Postcards Available from SWAP

Five lovely photos taken by Bob Meyer are available either as color notecards with envelopes or as color postcards. For either postcards or notecards, you can order sets of all five views or as many as you want of any one (or more) of them using the form below.



# SWAP Shoppers' Order Form

See Photos of All Items at [www.elfin-forest.org](http://www.elfin-forest.org)

All Prices Include Sales Tax

### 1. MURAL SHIRTS

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 = \$\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$23.00 = \$\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Sweatshirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$27.00 = \$\_\_\_\_

### 2. ELFIN FOREST NOTE CARDS

Original print note cards

\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 or \_\_\_ set of 5 @ \$14.00 = \$\_\_\_\_

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. 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.

\_\_\_ @ \$2.00 = \$\_\_\_\_

### 4. ELFIN FOREST MURAL PRINTS

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

\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_

### 5. ALPHABET BIRD BOOK

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

\_\_\_ @ \$21.65 = \$\_\_\_\_

### 6. MURAL MUG

15- ounce beverage mug with wrap-around mural design, microwave and dishwasher safe.

\_\_\_ @ \$10 = \$\_\_\_\_

### Shipping costs within zip 934 \_\_:

Bird Book, \$2.77 (book rate) per book = \_\_\_\_

Pocket Guides & Note Cards \$1.50 = \_\_\_\_

Mural Prints on Foamcore \$5.00= \_\_\_\_

Shirts each: \$4.00 = \_\_\_\_

Mural Mug: \$6.00 \_\_\_\_ (If more than one mug, call for shipping cost.)

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



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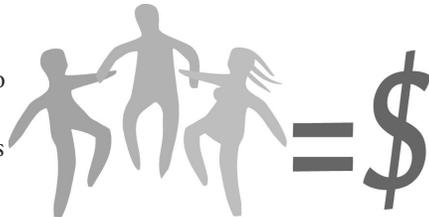
Join us at SWAP Annual Celebration Sat. Sept. 27! See page 1

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## Do You Still Belong to SWAP?

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 on the flip side of this page 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!) to 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!

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

**Check here to receive the online version only.**

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EVERY membership counts!

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