



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) 546-1199 ❖ FEBRUARY / MARCH 2000

Jeff and Ann Fairbanks: Responsible Citizens

By Larry Maurer

A place we call the Elfin Forest is perched on the edge of the Morro Bay Estuary. In 1991, the *Telegram-Tribune* published a 28-page special supplement looking at the issues surrounding the health of the estuary. Publication was timed so that it doubled as a primer and a program for a "State of the Bay" conference – a meeting that was a step toward making Morro Bay part of the National Estuary Program.

Few people outside the newspaper realized the special supplement was a long-time project, started in the late 1980s. It was a start-stop thing for the newspaper staff. The person who always punched that start button, however, was Jeff Fairbanks, the paper's editor. Among the unique elements of the supplement was that it contained no advertising. That kind of gesture in the publishing business is highly unusual, but it was the editor's decision to avoid commercial distractions in a piece that he viewed as a community service and the right thing to do.

Jeff wrote an introduction to the publication. Under a headline that declared "Morro Bay: It's worth saving," he compared the view of the first European explorer who saw the bay and Morro Rock with today's scene. "The rock is no longer an island. The creeks no longer run clear. The views are no

In tandem, (Jeff and Ann) also worked diligently to preserve the natural wonders of the county where they chose to build their home and raise their family. Their writings spoke passionately and eloquently of places like the Carrizo Plain and the Guadalupe Dunes. Perhaps strongest, however, was



Boardwalk Dedication in March

By Yolanda Waddell

The County Parks Department and SWAP are ready to dedicate the Elfin Forest Boardwalk. We have chosen Saturday, March 4, at 3:00 p.m. A monument to honor Jeff and Ann Fairbanks' contribution in preserving the Elfin Forest will be unveiled, as well as another one recognizing those involved in saving the Elfin Forest and seeing to the building of the boardwalk. Former Supervisor Bud Laurent, who helped move the Boardwalk project forward on many occasions, obtained funding for construction of the monuments and some revegetation

One year ago this month - on February 3rd - a CCC construction crew and their crew leader, James Taylor, met in the Elfin Forest for a briefing with archaeologist John Parker, botanist Stephen Dreher and snail specialist Ed Reeves to prepare them for a very specialized construction job - building a boardwalk on sand dunes without disturbing an endangered snail, the plant community, or Chumash sites.

The CCC crew was faced with several difficulties seldom experienced by construction crews. They had to carry in all materials, including heavy concrete footings, as vehicles would damage the plants the boardwalk is intended to protect. They had to follow the winding, established trails, which required many more curves than originally planned. They could only trim back, but not remove any plants at the edges of the boardwalk.

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Fairbanks *continued from page 1*

longer pristine. We have pushed nature's fast forward button and put the bay's long-term survival in doubt. The danger signs have been there, but they were seen only by a handful of fishermen, scientists and environmentalists."

In August 1978, Jeff Fairbanks reported to work at the Johnson Avenue office of the Telegram-Tribune. Less than three months later Ann Fairbanks joined the staff. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving in 1995, the San Luis Obispo newspaper – and in a real sense the entire county – suffered a great loss. The auto accident that killed Jeff, Ann and their daughter Siena, ripped a hole in the community. Proof of that was the crowd, the words heard and the tears shed as more than 1,000 people crowded into a memorial service at the Old Mission Church in San Luis Obispo on Friday, December 1.

Jeff, then the editor of the paper, and Ann, a compassionate and skilled reporter, earned wide respect throughout the county in the 17 years they worked at the newspaper.

In tandem, they also worked diligently to preserve the natural wonders of the county where they chose to build their home and raise their family. Their writings spoke passionately and eloquently of places like the Carrizo Plain and the Guadalupe Dunes. Perhaps strongest, however, was the Fairbanks family's bond with the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay Estuary. I recall in the 1980s a majestic Morro Bay sunset photo that ran on Page 1 the day after Jeff snapped the photo on his way home from work.

Their family home was located near the edge of the bay. From the picture windows, vistas of both the bay and Elfin Forest appeared. Jeff and Ann knew in their hearts and minds the importance of these wild areas, why the pockets of wilderness and water should be preserved for small critters and people alike.

After their deaths, then SWAP President Rosemary Bowker reflected on their efforts. "They really went to bat for a lot of community issues. The Telegram-Tribune made the Elfin Forest news and kept it in the public eye. That was really important."

In a column published in August, 1991, Editor Jeff Fairbanks pinpointed issues he saw as key in the future of the county. He opened with comments about growth and concluded by talking about the environment.

"The beauty of this county is one of the major reasons for living here. We are all responsible for it," he wrote. Those words were true then and now.

With the dedication of the Fairbanks plaque in the Elfin Forest March 4, we have the opportunity to say "Thank you" to people who took their responsibility to the environment and community seriously.



From left: Courtney, Ann, Siena, Galen and Jeff Fairbanks on a family vacation in Hawaii.

“The beauty of this county is one of the major reasons for living here. We are all

Dedication *continued from page 1*

Vandalism during the first few required them to duplicate some of their work. Regardless, they pressed on, producing a masterfully built boardwalk.

Prior to construction, the County Parks Department, Supervisor Bud Laurent, and SWAP worked to clear all of the paperwork and funding hurdles. After drawings were completed by architect Paul Wolff and designer Mark Dariz, approval had to be obtained from the Coastal Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Grant of \$167, 861 was obtained from the California Resources Agency; SWAP worked to raise a 20% match of \$33,000. CCC Projects Coordinator Bruce Bonifas prepared material and labor estimates, and scheduled the crews which were to construct the boardwalk.

SWAP volunteers have been involved in almost every aspect of the process, from serving on the "Signs, Benches and Monuments" committee to helping install toe rail boards along part of the boardwalk. Three SWAP Chairs: Rosemary Bowker, Gordon Hensley, and Bob McDougale have been involved with the boardwalk. Two County Parks Planners: Jan DiLeo and before her Sandra Zaida have worked on it. Supervisor Shirley Bianchi has assisted us. Even State Senator Jack O'Connell's office became involved in helping to procure a legislative time extension for the project.

The SWAP Board invites you to attend the dedication. As noted in the banner, it will begin at 3:00 in the afternoon. Plan to come early as parking will not be available on 16th Street or other local streets. Van service will bring those attending to the site. All members will be sent an invitation to the dedication; notices will also be sent to newspapers and radio stations. Hope to see you there.

January 2000

Elfin Forest Update

By Jan DiLeo, County Parks Planner

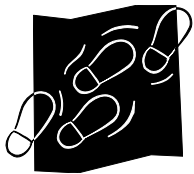
The County and the Elfin Forest Sign Committee are working to complete the interpretive displays, signs, monuments, and benches. It is anticipated the signs, monuments, and benches will be installed in March or April 2000. The project will have five interpretive displays. Three displays will discuss Elfin Forest animals and plants, a fourth display will discuss sedimentation, and a fifth display the Chumash.

Two monuments are planned within the forest. One will be located near the 16th Street entrance. This monument will serve as a thank you to those organizations that helped make the purchase of the Elfin Forest and the development of the boardwalk possible. The second monument, known as the Fairbanks monument, will be located near Bush Lupine Point. Jeff Fairbanks, Editor of the Telegram-Tribune and his reporter wife Ann Fairbanks helped raise awareness for the preservation of the Elfin Forest, and gave editorial support to SWAP's fundraising efforts. In 1995, Jeff and Ann Fairbanks and their 8-year-old daughter Siena lost their lives in a tragic auto accident. (See related article on page 1)

The County and SWAP are looking at more clearly designating the trails connecting the street ends (at 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th) with the boardwalk. These trails could be boardwalk connections, decomposed granite, or other materials. Currently new "ad hoc" trails are being created in the forest. New signs in the forest will require that people stay on the designated

Vegetation Damage Accelerates

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair



Completion of the new boardwalk has had an unwanted side effect. Dogs being walked off leash, followed by people, have intruded deeper into the Elfin Forest and in greater numbers than before. Vegetation damage has increased at a startling rate. In just a few months, many areas have been or are being denuded. Particularly along the lower stretch of the boardwalk loop, there are many new trails being blazed. The damage to the old and dry brush is enormous. There are very slow growth rates of brush in this water- and nutrient-deficient dune habitat. It will take decades to repair the damage already done. Many of the oak groves that previously had deep, soft virgin accumulations of leaf litter are having it compacted by intruders. Several oak groves along the boardwalk are showing evidence of through trails and canopy breakage. The intrusion into the groves starts as small trails, too small for humans. With time, the trails become blazed through the grove, and soil compaction becomes evident. Finally, humans intrude and the process becomes even more accelerated. It is anticipated that the long-term health of the oaks is in jeopardy.

Vegetation Damage continued on page 7



CCC crew members join Paul Wolff, boardwalk architect, their crew leader JT, and Madeline Medeiros, JT's fiancée at SWAP's "Thank you" barbecue.

Thank You Barbecue for CCC

Saturday, December 11, was sunny but cool for a picnic at the South Bay Community Park in Los Osos. But no one seemed to mind as SWAP feted the remaining four members of the CCC crew who worked on the boardwalk. SWAP volunteers who were involved in the boardwalk were also invited. Chef Jim Weldon (SWAP Vice Chair) barbecued up tasty hamburgers and hot dogs. Smart shopper Bob McDougle (SWAP Chair) bought the food, and because he asked, Vons and Ralphs generously donated some of it.

We had hoped that both CCC crews which worked on the boardwalk and their two crew leaders could attend. However, all but four crew members had gone on to jobs in other parts of California. Those who made it were Raymes Castillo, who will go into fire training at the CCC/CDF Fire Center in Julian, in February; Thomas Contreras, who will be going into construction in back country; Jared Elizando who will remain at the SLO Center and continue as a student at Cuesta College; and John Hepper who will enter fire training in March.

Their crew leader James Taylor (known as JT) also came, and brought his fiancée, Madeline Medeiros. Having been acquainted with each other many years ago, JT and Madeline met by chance on the boardwalk when Madeline came for a walk in the Elfin Forest. She teaches English as a Second Language at Cuesta College; they were married in January.



CCC crew members with Bob McDougle (second from left), SWAP Chair

From the Chair ...

By Bob McDougale

This past year has been very productive. The Boardwalk construction has been completed. The design work by Paul Wolff and Mark Dariz, construction by teams from the CCC led by "J.T." Taylor, and coordination by Bruce Bonifas of the CCC have been outstanding. It has been a pleasure to provide some construction assistance by SWAP volunteers, and to work with County Parks Planner Jan DiLeo as well as other members of the County Parks staff. Jan coordinated all the various local and state organizations efficiently without losing her pleasant manner.

I would like to mention the loyal SWAP members who volunteered their time and expertise to this past year's activities but there isn't enough space here. It has been a great pleasure to see so many dedicated folks from near and distant places in the county coming out for the various work parties. Several people from the CCC, County Parks and the boardwalk designers also appeared as part of the volunteer groups.

Your Board of Directors began this year searching for other parcels of land that were crying for preservation. After a careful look at the tasks ahead of us and the limited personnel available, it was decided that we had more than we could handle just caring for the Elfin Forest. We will be concentrating this next year on the completion of the Boardwalk tasks, weed control, revegetation and preparation of the Elfin Forest Recovery Plan.

There is much to do yet, to complete the Boardwalk; there are interpretive and directional signs, benches and monuments to be constructed and installed (see Boardwalk Update on page 3). The weeds ("exotic plants") are getting ahead of us and methods of control must be found. Collecting seeds, growing plants, planting and watering will require many hours of volunteer time.

Several tasks have been set aside because of a lack of dedicated people to plan and carry them out: docent training, grant writing, community outreach, trail guide writing, etc. The tasks are many but the hands are few. We will need to pursue grant funds in order to complete the necessary tasks if we are to carry out our responsibilities to the Elfin Forest. You, our members, are SWAP's best resource. Consider what talents and time you can offer and leave a message in our Voicemail at 546-1199 or drop a line to SWAP Chair at P.O. Box 67442, Los Osos

"You, our members, are SWAP's best resource. Consider what talents and

Alien Invasion, Part 4: Italian Thistle

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

This is the fourth in a series of articles on alien plant species that are invading the Elfin Forest. Unchecked, the aliens will take over and destroy the plants that have been part of the Elfin Forest for centuries. It is hoped that these aliens will become more recognizable to members of SWAP and the Los Osos community. Community members are encouraged to volunteer to assist SWAP and San Luis County Parks Department in controlling these pests. Community involvement could make a big difference in restoring and maintaining the health of the park for the long term.

Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) is a member of the thistle tribe of the composite family Asteraceae (sunflowers). The weed is an annual thistle that sprouts and flowers in the spring and dries out in the summer. The remains of the plants can be seen in the fall and winter as colonies of erect, brown stalks and dried flowers. This thistle starts from a ground-hugging, basal floret of deeply lobed, pointed, spiny leaves. The undersides of the leaves are thinly woolly. The emergent stalks are somewhat woolly and lined with prominent, broad spines.

The stalks and branches eventually end in a single, cylindrical flower head or clusters of two to five flower heads. Its fairly small flowers and low numbers of pink-purple terminal flower heads can distinguish Italian thistle from other thistles. The narrow phyllaries at the base of each flower head have numerous, forward-pointing hairs. The plants reach a height of about one to three feet in the Elfin Forest. Elsewhere, in a more fertile habitat, the weeds can be as tall as six feet.

Italian thistle is native to the Mediterranean region of southern Europe. It is now widespread in temperate parts of the world. There are serious infestations in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, Iran and non-Mediterranean parts of Europe. This pest plant is thought to have entered the U.S. in the 1930's. In the U.S. it is found only in a few places in Texas and Arkansas, but it has been spreading out of control in California. Here, it is most abundant in coastal areas.

Colonies of Italian thistle have established themselves in the Elfin Forest and large areas of the Los Osos Oaks Preserve, under the oak canopy. The weed displaces native ground cover plants and establishes areas of only its own species. There currently are colonies of this pest in the Elfin Forest's southwest and southeast corners and several hundred yards west of the northeast corner.

This thistle reproduces only by seed. It spreads preferentially to bare or disturbed soils. The wind can spread the seeds, or the seeds can stick to surfaces and spread by contact. Seeds can remain viable for up to eight years in the soil. Thus it takes at least eight years to completely eradicate the thistle from a single site. Monitoring each year for eight years is essential.

Italian thistle may be removed by digging it out of the soil, but at least four to five inches of root should be removed. Otherwise, the weed can quickly re-sprout, flower and produce seeds. Thus mowing or slashing are not always effective. Plants that are cut close to flowering time can flower and seed on the cut

Italian Thistle continued on page 6

february 21	SWAP BOARD MEETINGS	march 13
	The SWAP Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Board meetings will be held at the NEP Office, 3rd and El Moro Streets in Baywood Park on Monday, February 21 (special date), and Monday, March 13. All Board meetings are open to the public. To confirm the date, time and location (which are subject to change), phone 528-4540.	

THIRD SATURDAY WALKS

February 19 - 9:30 a.m.

Take a journey through time with Jeff Grover, Cuesta College geology instructor. Jeff will focus on the geologic history of the Morro Bay area from formation of the ancient morros, or Seven Sisters, to the recent development of the dunes which underlie the Elfin Forest. As he leads walk participants along the Boardwalk, he will also give a glimpse of what the Elfin Forest and Morro Bay will be like in the geologic future.

March 18 - 9:30 a.m.

Take a literary stroll through the Elfin Forest with historian Robert Pavlik. As you stroll along the boardwalk with him, Bob will introduce you to a variety of literary viewpoints and perceptions of the Central Coast's natural history.

April 15 - 9:30 a.m.

Wildflowers are at their peak in the Elfin Forest during April. Join Dirk Walters, Cal Poly botanist, for a delightful exploration through the forest's coastal dune scrub, chaparral and oak and manzanita woodland areas to find and identify the blooms of its native plants.

Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos.

*Wear comfortable shoes,
long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak.*

Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes.

We ask that you not bring dogs or other pets.

The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, Membership Committee

New Members:

*Willma Gore, David & Michelle Headrick, Joseph Johnson **

Renewing Members:

Anna & Will Alexander, R. H. & June Boyer*,
Doug & Lee Buckmaster*, Willa M. Butts*, Andrew Chermak*,
Peggy Childers*, Elsie & Jerome Deitz*, Pauline DeWitt,
Marlin & Connie Harms, Don & Isobel Hoffman*,
Clement H. Jeffrey, Arthur J. Knodel, Mary M. Leizear,
Robert & Ceil McDougale*, Howard & Marlo Miller*,
Denise Fourie & Mike Multari*, R. Patterson, Erma W. Peter,
Richard & Cecelia Riggins*, Edward & Gloria Walter,
Norma Wightman **

**Thanks to those listed above who donated more than the \$12 membership dues. The additional donations will be used for special projects in the Elfin Forest.*



During December's 3rd Saturday walk, leader Pete Sarafian (wearing hat with band) points out erosion which is causing sand to cover the boardwalk.

December Work Party Yanks and Scoops

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

The SWAP volunteers were at it again on December 4th, pulling together. They attacked Smilax in the oak grove just west of Bush Lupine Point. About three cubic yards of pest plant greenery were uprooted, pulled down out of the tree canopy and rolled up in giant balls. The crew also mopped up slender-leaf iceplant in the 12th-13th street area.

Stalwart volunteers included Tony Collins, Pat and Larry Grimes, Bob McDougale, Pete Sarafian and Richard Webb. Also assisting in the valiant effort were high school students from SLO, Charles Alamo, Diana Gibson and Dylan Horst.

Let's All Pull Together



The SWAP Weed Pulling Team meets the first Saturday of each month to wage war on the invasive plants in the Elfin Forest. We welcome all who wish to join us - we meet at 9:00 a.m. at the north end of 15th Street and work until noon. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. Bring work gloves and a shovel or trowel, and wear long sleeves and long pants to protect yourself from poison oak.

The next three work Saturdays are February 5, March 4, and April 1 (no fooling). Pete Sarafian, SWAP Conservation Committee Chair, will be on hand to lead you to the work project site. For more information, leave a message in our voicemail, 546-1199, and Pete will return your call.

Fourteenth in a Series

Seaside Golden Yarrow

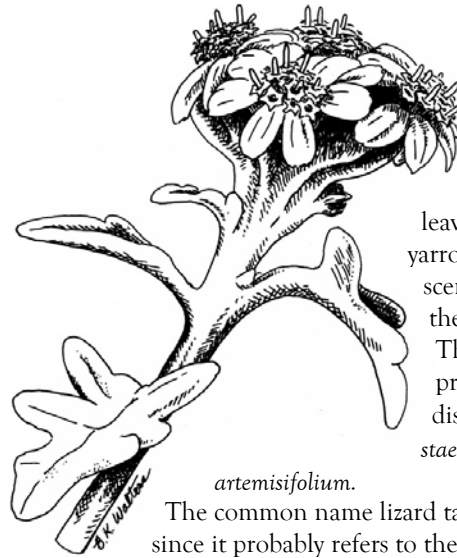
By Dirk Walters, Ph.D.; drawing by Bonnie Walters

The plant featured this time is *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*. The most widely used common name in our area is seaside golden yarrow. In several local flora books, I have seen it referred to as the seaside wooly sunflower (or daisy) and lizard tail. It is not common in the Elfin Forest. In fact, I was not able to observe it from the boardwalk at all. I would expect that I could have found it by searching drier sites just above the high tide line along the upper edge of salt marsh. The species is most easily viewed from the Bench Trail at Spooner's Cove, Montana de Oro State Park. The species is found almost exclusively within sight and sound of the ocean.

Of all the coastal shrubs, this is the one I find to be the most distinctive and attractive. The tiny yellow flowers are in heads and are of two kinds. The center of the head is filled with flowers bearing five petals joined into a tube. These flowers are tightly packed together so as to appear to form a solid disk. Thus, they are called either tube flowers, based on the shape of their corollas or disk flowers, based on their position in the head. The second type of flower is always found in the same head with the disk flowers, and when present, are restricted to the outer edge of the head. They have only three joined petals and these are flattened into a tongue shaped extension called a ligule. The ligules extend outward from the head like the rays of a sun drawn by a kindergarten child. Because of this, they are called ray flowers.

In order to see the sepals, you would have to dissect the head and examine each individual tiny flower. The sepals are minute scales approximately 1 mm. Long. They are not green, but rather a dry white color. Since this group of plants (the sunflowers or composites) never has green sepals, botanists have given the sepals in this family its own special name, pappus.

The leaves are quite wooly, especially when young. It is this characteristic that is referred to in the genus name. *Erio* means wooly and *phyllum* means leaf. In the adult leaves, the wool is



artemisifolium.

The common name lizard tail is an interesting one since it probably refers to the leaves as well. How can a name that seems to describe a linear, smooth edged (entire), fleshy shape be used for our plants? It obviously can't. But, there is another variety. It is actually the one from which the species was first described. It would now be given the variety name *E. staechadifolium* var. *staechadifolium*. This variety, as might be predicted, has longish, smooth edged, fleshy leaves. It is the form that is commonly found at the area where the species was first collected and described, Monterey, California, northward.

Seaside golden yarrow is in the nursery trade. It would make a wonderful flowering shrub with its profusely produced, moderately large, clusters of yellow heads that contrast with its fleshy gray-green foliage. Unlike a lot of native species, however, it would require supplemental watering and some shade if one would try to grow it away from the coast.

Editor's note: According to the Elfin Forest Pocket Guide, there are three species of Eriophyllum in the Elfin Forest: confertiflorum (called Golden-yarrow); multicaule (called Wooly Sunflower); and stachaedifolium (Seaside Golden Yarrow). Multicaule blooms starting in April; confertiflorum blooms in May and June; and stachaedifolium blooms in July and August. The first two grow north of 13th Street, and stachaedifolium has been found near Panorama Bluff

Italian Thistle continued from page 4

portion. If the flower heads are destroyed, slashing is more effective than mowing. In large areas, cultivation and reseeding with perennial grasses or grazing by sheep, goats or horses can be effective.

Biological control shows promise for use in California on this pest plant. Three insects have been found to feed on Italian thistle in other countries. One has been imported for use on both milk thistle and Italian thistle. Additionally, some fungal rusts have been found to attack Italian thistle.

Herbicides used on Italian thistle have been found to provide only temporary control. Thus they are only effective when used in conjunction with other methods. Picloram (Tordon) has been used, but has a long persistence in soil, up to 18 months. It is nonselective and will kill other species. 2,4-D has been used also. However it lasts for one to four weeks, and although safe for use



The Italian Thistle is a persistent weed found in several places in the Elfin Forest.

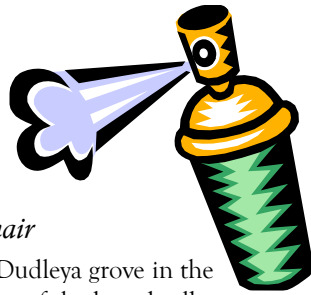
Vegetation Damage

continued from page 3

In an effort to stem the tide, SLO County Parks Department is placing warning signs at street entrances to the park and in other strategic locations. The signs give reasons why dogs must be leashed and people should remain on the boardwalk or the major, established sand trails. The SWAP Conservation Committee has obtained citation forms from the SLO County Sheriff's Department. If the damage continues, people will be warned or cited for breaking county ordinances. They could be subject to fines or other penalties.

SWAP members and others are encouraged to keep their dogs on leash and avoid incursions into the brush or oak groves except during SWAP-led nature walks. If you see others breaking the rules in the park, please cordially remind them why staying on the boardwalk or major trails is important. Those not cooperating or intentionally breaking the rules may be reported to the sheriff's dispatcher at 781-4550. If you want more information on what you can do to help, please call SWAP at 546-1199.

Vandals Spray Graffiti in Oak Grove



By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

Vandals attacked the venerable Dudleya grove in the Elfin Forest adjacent to the lower loop of the boardwalk. Some time in December, presumably during the early part of the school vacation break, graffiti was sprayed onto the trunks of the oak trees. The trees in this grove are among the largest in diameter and oldest in the park. They probably were present prior to the founding of the US republic. Dark paint was sprayed as various symbols, including the initials "JW". Sheriff's deputies responded and examined the damage. An increase in the number of patrols in the area was requested.

Anyone who has information regarding the incident is asked to notify SWAP at 546-1199.

Measure A-00

DREAM: A Voter's Advisory Measure

By Sam Blakeslee and the DREAM Committee for A-00

DREAM – Diablo Resources Advisory Measure, Measure A-00 on the March 7 ballot – is an advisory measure (to the County Board of Supervisors) that seeks to protect and preserve 14 miles of stunning San Luis Obispo County coastline stretching from Port San Luis to Montaña de Oro State Park. The land is currently owned by PG&E and serves as a buffer for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. With the exception of the plant, the 12,000 acres are undeveloped, and home to a thriving ecology of native plants and animals.

The power plant itself has a designed "life span," estimated to conclude in the year 2025. At that time, the plant will cease operating, and the Diablo Canyon Lands will no longer be needed as a buffer zone for the plant. There will then be enormous pressure to develop 12,000 acres of highly desirable property – an impetus that will be hard to stop.

This is where the passage of Measure A-00 comes in. Even though it is only an advisory measure, DREAM would be a valuable tool in preserving the Diablo Canyon Lands. A majority yes vote would send a clear message to state regulators, legislators, and private conservation agencies. As conservation agencies prioritize land preservation projects; as legislators plan to allocate park bond money; and as regulatory agencies work with PG&E, they will all know about the Diablo Canyon Lands and the public's desire to see them preserved.

It is important to note that, since it is an advisory measure, the passage of DREAM would not trigger a tax hike or create new ordinances. In addition, it does not seek to acquire the property through eminent domain. PG&E has been and is an important part of this community, and has also proven a good steward to its land over the years. The importance of PG&E's property rights is explicitly outlined in Measure A-00.

For more information or to offer support for DREAM, write to Dream Committee for A-00, 1163 Pismo, San Luis Obispo CA 93401; log on to www.Dreamvote.com, or call Sam Blakeslee at 544-4409. The website offers additional information about Measure A-00; information about the Diablo Canyon Lands, and a list of community leaders, organizations, and groups who have lent their endorsement to this measure.

Editor's note: The SWAP Board has voted to endorse DREAM, Measure A-00.

Where To Call, Where To Write

If you have questions about SWAP activities or want to volunteer, please call our phone message service at 546-1199.



A recorded message will have information about the Third Saturday Walks and other current events.



If you have questions, concerns or comments about anything that's happening in the Elfin Forest, call or write: Pete Jenny, SLO County Parks Facilities Manager, 1087 Santa Rosa Street, SLO, CA 93408, (805) 781-5930.



OAK LEAVES

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Contributors to this issue:

Wendy Brown, Katie Davis, Jan DiLeo, Larry Mauter, Bob McDougle, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell and Dirk & Bonnie Walters.

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(805) 546-1199



Swap Membership: A Good Deal!

A membership to SWAP is the best bargain around. Memberships start at \$12.00 annually, and have not increased for years. Not only do your dues help maintain and protect the Elfin Forest, you will receive our bimonthly publication, *OakLeaves*, delivered to your home six times a year. You can rest assured that your membership dues will be used to preserve the Elfin Forest, a local natural environment unequalled in character and quality. Please join or renew your SWAP membership today!



– Katie Davis,
Membership Committee Chair

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

New Member Renewing Member

Member \$12 Defender \$100

Steward \$25 Champion \$250

Protector \$50 Guardian \$500

Life Member \$1000

I want to help, please call me!

Have you renewed your membership on time?

Check the label on this newsletter
for your renewal due date.

EVERY membership counts!!

Make checks payable to SWAP,
Mail to Small Wilderness Area Preservation,
P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412 - 6442



Boardwalk Site Map

This map showing the Elfin Forest Boardwalk was drawn by Mark Dariz of Design Solutions and Paul Wolf, Architect, who designed the Boardwalk. The heavy lines with cross marks indicate the Boardwalk; circles indicate turnouts; and the squares are viewing platforms.

