



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 ❖ DECEMBER 2000 / JANUARY 2001

From the Chair

We Need Your Input

By Jim Weldon
SWAP Board of Directors

SWAP members, *we need your input.* At last year's Annual Meeting, only ten members and another five interested people attended. We are a group of over 400 members, yet sometimes it feels as if the five of us on the SWAP Board are doing this all alone. We need to know what you think about the proposed boardwalk extensions, the revegetation proposal, interpretive signs and other projects affecting the Elfin Forest. Information about these projects is too bulky to send to each one of you, but it will be discussed at SWAP's Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m.

It is also time for Board of Directors elections. We need your input for this also. If the SWAP Board has done a good job, you can vote us back in. If you feel we haven't, then you can replace us. Either way, we need to hear from

SWAP
Annual
Meeting
Saturday,
December 9,

SWAP Annual Meeting

Conserving The Elfin Forest — What's Next?

SWAP's Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter invites you, our members, to our **Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m. in Los Osos.** The meeting will be held at the **Nazarene Church** on the corner of South Bay Boulevard and Santa Ysabel.

The focus of the meeting will be an explanation of the Draft Boardwalk Revegetation Plan and a draft plan for boardwalk extensions to the street ends. Both of the plans are being prepared by the Morro Group which has been hired by County Parks to prepare the plans and carry out the projects. Speakers will be Jan DiLeo, County Parks Planner; Bill Henry, Morro Group Vice President; and biologist Gaylene Tupen of the Morro Group.

Their presentation will be preceded by a brief business meeting to elect members of the chapter Board of Directors. All five of the Board members are up for re-election this year, due to some resignations during the past year.

Join us for the Annual Meeting — learn about the

Historic Ranch is Saved

Surprise Donation Closes Funding Gap

By Kat McConnell, Chair of North Coast SWAP

The American Land Conservancy and North Coast Small Wilderness Area Preservation have announced that the \$11 million purchase price for the historic Fiscalini Ranch (also known as East West Ranch) has been met and the sales



Historic Ranch Saved continued on page 2

Elfin Forest Update

Work on Interpretive Signs Nearing Completion

By Jan DiLeo, County Parks Planner

Six interpretive displays will be coming to the Elfin Forest in the near future. The signs are proposed to be located at Siena's View and Bush-Lupine Point as well as along portions of the Boardwalk loop. The displays will discuss local wildlife and other natural features of the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay Estuary.

Designing of the signs is being managed by Pandora Nash-Karner of Pandora and Company. Mary Schiller has written the

Signs continued on page 3

Erosion at Bush Lupine Point Stabilized



By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

For the past several years, careless pedestrians (presumably children) have been running up and sliding down the bluff at Bush Lupine Point. The hillside just to the left of the Bush Lupine overlook had become an ugly, denuded, eroded scar. Tons of sand and silt have been washing into Morro Bay yearly as a result. The November 4th conservation work party managed to complete the first step in stabilizing and restoring this area to native conditions.

SWAP may not have been able to complete the project on its own without the generosity of California State Parks and the youthful vigor and hard work of local AmeriCorps volunteers. State Parks Research Ecologist Vince Cicero lent his guidance and provided many of the fencing materials from his stock of salvaged supplies. In the morning, SWAP members Karl Appel, Jay Bonestell, Ron Rasmussen, Pat and Pete Sarafian, and Yolanda Waddell as well as new volunteer Connie McBride, started the project off with AmeriCorps help. They set fence posts, cut willow branches, fabricated wattles for slowing erosion, set the wattles and willow branches against the bare hillside, and began the installation of plastic mesh fencing.

AmeriCorps volunteer Environmental Stewards (ACES) Elizabeth Eggers, Eric Hunter, Lora Klemann, and Hillary Peterson continued working late into the afternoon to complete the final and most difficult tasks. The ACES collected and planted acorns, laid down and staked a layer of jute matting against the hillside to help stabilize the soil from further movement and completed fence installation. Without their help, this phase of the project never could have been completed in just one long day of work. Thank you to all those who volunteered for this ambitious effort. Thanks also to Bob McDougle for lending his pickup truck to haul all the materials. With the jute and wattles in place on the hillside, SWAP may be able to start revegetation in the near



Among those helping to stem erosion at Bush Lupine Point were (l to r): Hillary Peterson, Lora Klemann, Eric Hunter,

Historic Ranch Saved

continued from page 1

transaction is scheduled to take place in the next two weeks.

Although fundraising efforts had garnered enough dollars to close the deal last month, they were the wrong kind of dollars.

The California Coastal Conservancy grant of \$7 million for the ranch required a \$4 million match of local contributions. The \$3 million raised from the Cambria Community Services District, SLO County Parks, and individual donations fell short of this goal. North Coast Small Wilderness Area Preservation had also written successful grants for more than \$1 million, but these state monies did not qualify as part of the local match.

To the rescue came bank chairman Carroll Pruett and Mid State Bank. The bank owns a 21-acre parcel of land in the middle of Cambria adjoining the ranch property. The land is home to Mid State's temporary Cambria branch and there have long been plans to develop the rest of the meadow with a shopping center. Mid State has shelved those plans and donated the remainder of the property as a local match for the Coastal Conservancy grant.

Since the bank parcel is worth far more than \$1 million, this completes the funding package for the ranch and allows the state grant dollars to be applied. Mid State will build a permanent bank building on the site of the temporary bank, but no other development will occur. This generous gift is important to North Coast SWAP's efforts in other ways. The strategic location of the property will allow much better access to the ranch and protects both sides of Santa Rosa Creek where it passes under Highway 1.

A dedication ceremony with Senator O'Connell cutting the symbolic ribbon took place on November 17th. North Coast SWAP wishes to thank Friends of the RanchLand, the American Land Conservancy, the Coastal Conservancy, Mid State Bank, the CCSD, SLO County Parks, Senator Jack O'Connell, Supervisor Shirley Bianchi, and the hundreds of individuals who donated to make this purchase possible.

North Coast SWAP will be working with the CCSD and the Coastal Conservancy to develop a conservation easement and resources management plan to balance public access and resource protection on the ranch. Until the management plan is in place, access to the property will be limited to the well-traveled ocean bluff trail.



O A K L E A V E S

is published six times per year beginning in February.
Editor is Yolanda Waddell; layout is by Katy Budge.

Contributors to this issue:

Wendy Brown, Jan DiLeo, Madeline Martin, Kat McConnell, Jim Royer, Pat Sarafian, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk & Bonnie Walters, and Jim Weldon; editing assistance by Pat Grimes

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Stories of the Boardwalk Benches

The Lovers' Bench

By Madeline Ann Martin

The poet Virgil once wrote, “Nunc scio quit sit amor” – “Now I know what love is”. These words came to me when I began researching this article on the Elfin Forest bench dedicated by Dr. John Parker to his enamorata, Cheyanne. Dubbed the Lovers' Bench it sits on one of the highest points of the trail and was chosen by John because it has one of the nicest views of the bay, from Black Hill to Morro Rock. The vista is absolutely spectacular as anyone who has stood on the boardwalk can attest.

The Elfin Forest is the serene guardian of Morro Bay's dense stands of intertidal grasses, marshes and riparian woodland. Maritime chaparral spreads meadow-like, protecting this special habitat for vireos, hawks, towhees as well as integral smaller insecta.

“These are places where Cheyanne and I have had lots of fun,” says John. The archeologist not only understands the uniqueness of this habitat, he actively pursues its conservation. He decided to purchase one of the benches as an expression of his love for Cheyanne as well as a nod to their mutual love of the outdoors. “I also chose the location because it is a place where I always stop to talk about the bay when I lead my annual archaeology walks through the forest for SWAP.”

John had been told of the construction of the benches while he was preparing the archeology study for the Boardwalk. “Although Cheyanne and I had been seeing each other for six years,” John reminisced, “the Elfin Forest project was the first excavation she worked on with me. She has always loved hunting for rocks, feathers, tracking animals, and making Indian art projects, so the transition to screening cultural soil and hunting for cultural artifacts was a natural for her.” This shared experience cemented their respect for the Elfin Forest and strengthened their love for each other. “The forest holds a special place in our hearts



John Parker and Cheyanne Kanter enjoy the Lovers' Bench, purchased by Parker as a gift for Cheyanne.

and we love walking the trails.”

Elfin Forest regulars have expressed their delight with the Lovers' Bench. “It has had an effect on hikers,” remarked John. “Couples of all ages have been sighted hugging and snuggling on this bench.” And why not? The bench and its environs are wonderfully romantic with its panoramic view of the estuary and bird sanctuary. Sharing this beautiful site with someone special is the ultimate expression of love.

Just ask Cheyanne. It was a quiet Central Coast afternoon when John suggested that he and Cheyanne take a walk along the Elfin trail. Cheyanne could not think of a better way to spend her birthday. When they got closer to the newly installed bench Cheyanne's eyes widened in joyful surprise. “Needless to say,” smiled John, “I got lots of hugs that day.” They are together now and enjoying a “fairy-tale life.”

John and Cheyanne are happy that they have been able to express their passion for the outdoors and to share their love for each other with all those who wander hand in hand through this

Signs *continued from page 1*

text, and local artist Liz Moore was selected to provide the art work. For the most part, the displays will have a Chumash theme followed by information regarding a particular resource.

The majority of the interpretive displays are funded by the County Parks Division and funds from SWAP; however, two signs have received private financing. A Black Brant display has been funded by Margaret Mehring in memory of her brother, wildlife biologist Bob Jones. In addition, the National Estuary Program is providing funds for one of the displays discussing sedimentation within the Morro Bay Estuary.

In addition to the interpretive displays, the Elfin Forest Sign Committee is working on new entry signs. The proposed entry signs would be located at each street entry (i.e., 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th Streets). If you are interested in helping to sponsor signs at the Elfin Forest or have questions or



Discussing possibilities for interpretive sign materials were (L to R) Cynthia Milhem and Pandora Nash-Karner of Pandora and Co., SWAP Chair Jim Weldon, and County Parks Planner Jan DiLeo.

2000 Elfin Forest Big Sit

After 4:00 we added our last six species for a total of 122 species. At sunset we



Big Sit Coordinator Jim Royer (left) and his expert crew of Audubon birders spotted a record 122 species of birds from Bush Lupine Point on October 22nd.

By Jim Royer

While we birded from one spot in the Elfin Forest, approximately 50 other groups of people were also sitting on this same day (October 22nd) in other parts of the country, and even in some other countries – to identify and tally species of birds. We were competing for bragging rights to say that we have the spot where more birds can be seen than any other in the country. We had done well in the past at Bush Lupine Point (North American champion for the last three years), but other sits were out there trying to beat our total.

From 5:00 a.m. till after 7:00 p.m. we gathered in a seventeen foot circle at Bush Lupine Point at the west end of the Elfin Forest boardwalk with binoculars, high powered scopes, and the ambition to defend our title. Not many birds were visible at 5:00 a.m., but we could hear birds as the moon, Andromeda, and the “Milky Way” shone from above. It was cold, but by sunrise we had counted 52 species. The unusually clear sky and the offshore breeze boded well for this year’s Big Sit.

Each of the birders had scheduled a shift, or shifts, to look for birds, but Bush Lupine Point is a beautiful overlook of the bay and it was difficult to leave at the end of a shift. Counters stayed much longer than their shifts and as many as seven or eight birders were scanning the bay and the Elfin Forest at one time looking for new species. We examined our checklist carefully as we counted - looking for those birds we had seen in prior years, but which had eluded us so far this year. Watchful eyes spotted a small dark falcon (merlin) shooting across the bay below us. Looking through our scopes we were able to distinguish a Pomarine Jaeger from a more common Parasitic Jaeger, at a distance, by its build and style of flight. Species by species we added to the total. By 9:30 a.m. we already had 100 species!

After 100 species, new species were much harder to find. Between noon and 4:00 we added no new species, but we were still entertained by Peregrine Falcons scaring up clouds of shorebirds, warblers flying in from across the bay (migrating south), and monarch butterflies flying east along the edge of the bay.

After 4:00 we added our last six species for a total of 122 species. At sunset we toasted our new record (last year we spotted 112 species) and a thoroughly enjoyable day of birding at the Elfin Forest. We will not know for sure if our new record will stand until we hear about the other Big Sit results, but the beautiful day of birding in the Elfin Forest will not be forgotten.

Editor’s note: SWAP has received over \$200 as a result of the Big Sit fund raising effort. Thanks to Jim Royer and the dedicated Audubon birders. The money will be added to our account for special projects in the Elfin Forest.

Alien Invasion, Part 9: English Ivy

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

This is the ninth 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 assist SWAP and San Luis Obispo County Parks on the first Saturday of each month to control these pests. Community involvement could make a big difference in restoring and maintaining the health of the park for the long term.

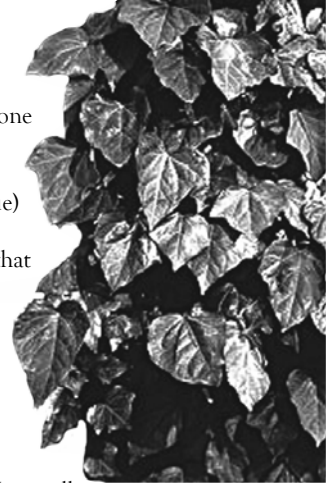
Most everyone is familiar with English ivy (*Hedera helix*) growing as a landscape border or ground cover. It is one of the ivies that blanket the hallowed halls of education (hence the name Ivy League) and other public and private buildings. However, the reader may not be aware that like so many other horticultural imports, English ivy can become a wildland pest weed. It has invaded many parts of the United States and can be a nuisance.

Hedera helix belongs to the plant family Araliaceae (ginseng, etc.) and is a native of Europe and the British Isles. It is well adapted to many soil types and can grow in both sun and shade. It is fairly drought resistant once it is well established. This makes it able to out-compete native plants in the Elfin Forest. There is a large colony in the Southwest corner of the park in a wooded area. It is believed that the leaves produce chemicals that act as pesticide for insects and snails. If so, it may be toxic to the endangered Morro Shoulderband Dune Snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*).

English ivy produces round black berries, smaller than cherries. Each berry contains a seed that can sprout and produce a vine that produces alternate, lobed leaves. Usually there are three to five lobes in small, immature leaves. As the vine matures, the adult leaves become oval instead of lobed. When the plant flowers, it produces greenish-white blossoms. The ivy can spread both by seed and by runners. It can climb, using small roots to cling to vertical surfaces, making it very tenacious and hard to remove. The vine can envelop and strangle host trees. In a mild climate such as on the central coast, the ivy can grow all year long and out-compete the native plants.

The vine can be uprooted with difficulty, but the soil surface has to be disturbed. Digging may be more effective in removing enough of the root system to retard re-growth. Simply pulling up the vine usually allows re-growth to occur and only slows the spread. Since large vines cannot be pulled out of trees easily, it may be necessary to girdle the vine or cut a section away, to allow the upper section to dry out and die. The surfaces of the cut should be treated with an herbicide.

Given the difficulty in exterminating English ivy vines, chemicals may be more effective than mechanical methods. Be aware that herbicides may not be used in the Elfin Forest except by licensed or certified professionals, and should never be used in the park by the general public. However, for home use, glyphosate (Roundup or Brush-Be-Gone) can be used. A water-soluble chemical such as glyphosate cannot penetrate the wax layer on the leaves. Therefore, ensure that the commercial product contains a surfactant to allow the active ingredient to soak into the plant. Glyphosate is more effective if used at high concentration (25%). Another herbicide that is effective on English ivy is 2,4-D (at 2% concentration).



WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third Saturday Walks

December 16 - 9:30 a.m.

"The Estuary and the Forest" will be the focus of walk leader Mike Multari, Director of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. He'll help walk participants view the Elfin Forest and Morro Bay Estuary as a complete wetlands system, and will talk about where SWAP and the Elfin Forest fit into the MBNEP's management plan. Just for fun, he'll bring a spotting scope for a look at birds in the estuary.

January 20 - 9:30 a.m.

Let's find out what's underfoot in the Elfin Forest. Cal Poly soil scientist Tom Ruehr will get down to basics with the "Soils of the Elfin Forest and Environs." He'll discuss the soil/plant relationships that characterize the diverse ecosystems of the Elfin Forest.

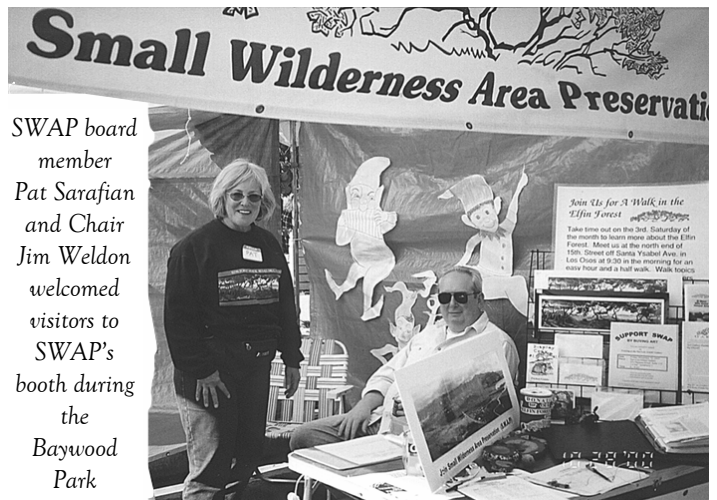
February 17 - 9:30 a.m.

Here's hoping that we'll have plenty of rain in February so Dennis Sheridan can lead us on SWAP's annual Fungus Foray in the Elfin Forest instead of a lichen walk, as happened last January. Remember? No rain at all last January, so we decided to try February this time. Dennis knows where all of the fascinating fungi are, and will help us to discover Black elfin saddles, Earthstars, Golden caps and dozens of others. Dress for the possibility of getting dirty - mushrooms grow low to the ground. Bring a magnifying lens.

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



Walk leader Marlin Harms conducted a bird walk on October 15th. Here he points out identifying marks of birds in the Bay to interested walk participants. Photo by Leslie Hanna.



SWAP board member Pat Sarafian and Chair Jim Weldon welcomed visitors to SWAP's booth during the Baywood Park

Oktoberfest Booth a Big Hit

The Oktoberfest celebration in Baywood Park brought out the first SWAP booth that has been put together in the last few years. The October event was held on Sunday, October 29 this year, and was nearly marred by early morning rain showers. The rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the runners who showed up for the 9 a.m. foot race, or the many visitors who came out with the sunshine later. Several conservation organization booths were at the festival, and SWAP was well represented.

The booth was assembled and opened by Pete and Pat Sarafian and Yolanda Waddell along with new member Brenda Ostrander. SWAP Board President Jim Weldon also helped to staff and dismantle the booth later. The SWAP booth presented the new SWAP/Elfin Forest brochures that just were printed, pocket guides of plants and animals, displays of oaks and endangered dune snails, along with a variety of prints and artwork that were for sale along with T-shirts and sweatshirts. The booth also contained a pair of displays on weeds in the Elfin Forest and the efforts of SWAP's weed warriors and others during work parties. Several of the Oktoberfest attendees stopped by and signed up for various volunteer tasks.

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.

december 11

SWAP BOARD MEETINGS

The SWAP Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Board meetings will be held at the Coast National Bank, 1193 Los Osos Valley Road on Monday, December 11, and Monday, January 8.

All Board meetings are open to the public.

To confirm the date, time and location (which are subject to change), phone 546-1199.

january 8

Nineteenth in a Series

Ceanothus (Buck Brush)

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

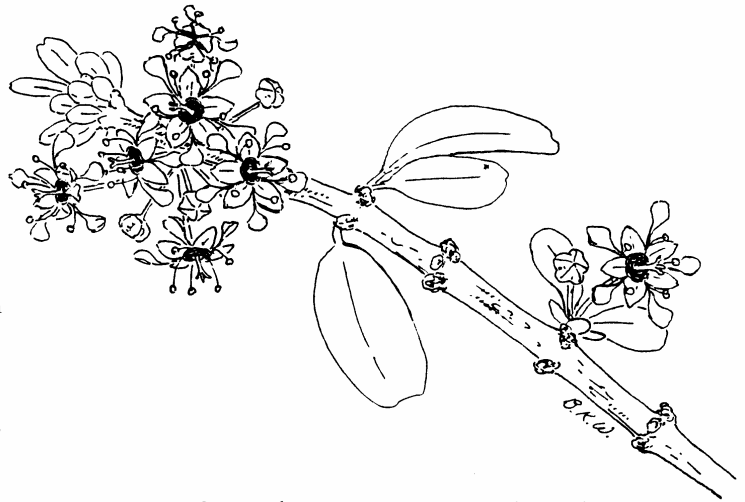
The plant for this issue is one that Dr. Robert F. Hoover in his *The Vascular Plants of SLO County, CA* calls “our commonest Ceanothus”. It is *Ceanothus cuneatus*, most commonly called buck brush. The genus, Ceanothus, includes plants called California lilac, a name that has also been applied to this species. Buck brush is one of our earliest bloomers, and as I write these words in early November, Elfin Forest plants are covered with buds. I am predicting a spectacular bloom by the time you read this article. Since buck brush is found all along the boardwalk, I am expecting a stunning display this winter.

The genus Ceanothus is one of two genera in the family, Rhamnaceae, found in the Elfin Forest. The other genus, Rhamnus, has been discussed in an earlier article. There are 55 species of Ceanothus native to temperate North America with around forty species found in coastal California. The genus can be readily divided into two groups based on leaf arrangement. Most of the species have alternate leaves with soft, deciduous stipules. These are the ones generally called California lilacs. A smaller number of species have opposite leaves with hard stipules that sometimes leave a pair of corky ridges between the two leaf bases. It is these opposite leafed Ceanothus to which the name buck brush is applied.

Our buck brush is extremely variable. Near the immediate coast it is often a low growing rounded mound. Further inland, where it is a component of chaparral, it becomes a small tree. Near the coast, flower color tends to lean toward bluish shades, whereas inland it is more often pure white. But flower color has been observed to vary from branch to branch on the same plant. In fact, just about every feature of the plant varies. As a result of this, many species and varieties of buck brush have been recognized over the years. Most of these have been given names that have now fallen into disuse. In other words, individual plants that were previously known as *C. fascicularis* (the most common variety in the Elfin Forest), *C. rigidus*, and *C. ramulosus* are now reduced to varieties of *C. cuneatus* or are not recognized as being distinct enough to recognize as a separate species. What these last two sentences mean is that the only opposite leaved Ceanothus growing within the Elfin Forest is *Ceanothus cuneatus*.

All species of Ceanothus can and probably have been used in landscaping and buck brush is no exception. Since it is extremely variable, one needs only to keep looking in order to find the particular combination of flower color, height and configuration desired. Also, *C. cuneatus*, will hybridize relatively easily with any other species of opposite leaved Ceanothus. This leads to still more opportunity for variation. The major problem with any form of Ceanothus as a landscape plant is their susceptibility to root rot caused by species of water mold. Therefore, these plants should never be planted where they get summer water.

I have seen reference to various species of Ceanothus used by various Native American people for everything from stimulants to soap substitutes. Most of my references do not try to distinguish among the various Ceanothus species and thus treat them all as



Ceanothus cuneatus, or Buck Brush, blooms December through March in the Elfin Forest.

having whatever use is being discussed. A couple of references note that quality of usefulness varies by species. However, in most cases, the descriptions tend to suggest to me one of the many alternate leaved species. Therefore, one might experiment with buck brush, but I suspect other species would be better. Because of this, I hope to discuss some of these folk uses in the context of other California lilac species in future articles. For now, enjoy the impressive buck brush display in the Elfin Forest this winter.

SWAP Members Attend Weed Symposium

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council (Cal-EPPC) held its annual symposium in Concord, CA this year on October 6-8.

Conservation Chair Pete Sarafian, and his wife Pat attended for SWAP. The Council consists of a statewide organization of academic, government and private organizations and individuals. The primary focus is on controlling invasive weeds that have entered California from other parts of the world.

There were many interesting papers and presentations given on the effects of fire and other variables in weed control. There were breakout sessions on weeds such as cape ivy and veldt grass (which are found in the Elfin Forest) as well as sessions on education and volunteerism.

A field trip on the last day led to an East-Bay county park of some 6,000 acres that had a huge yellow star-thistle infestation. The county was trying various tests to determine how effective fire, grazing, and certain herbicides were in controlling the weed. Results were impressive. Fire had to be used for at least three years in a row to have a large effect. The chemical that was most effective seemed to be Transline, a rather expensive weapon in the war on weeds.

AmeriCorps Visits Elfin Forest

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chairperson

Newly recruited AmeriCorps volunteers from the local San Luis Obispo office visited the Elfin Forest in October. About eight members from the AmeriCorps Environmental Stewards Program (they are called ACES) took a tour on October 3rd led by SWAP Conservation Chair, Pete Sarafian.

The ACES toured most of the areas in the park and heard about the uniqueness and value of the park to the people of Los Osos and San Luis Obispo County. The AmeriCorps crew were familiarized with the various habitats and native animals and plants in the Forest. The talk also included discussions of the current SWAP efforts to restore the ecosystem to a more natural state and the challenges facing the park from human pressure.

Several of the volunteers expressed an interest in helping with conservation efforts in the park as well. Some of the ACES may become involved with SWAP under contract in the future. Currently, SWAP is negotiating with AmeriCorps to employ some of the ACES in various efforts such as community outreach, conservation teaching in schools and seed collection, preparation, sprouting young plants, and re-vegetation of the Elfin Forest.

Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, Membership Committee

New Members:

Margaret Diehl
Heather & Jim Johnson*
Diane Lockhart
Bob & Sharon Meyer
Richard & Leslie Wenzel

Renewing Members:

David & Rosemary Bentley	Annette Lindeman*
Pat Brown*	Annette Owens
John & Betty Burnham*	Randal & Shirley Palmer*
Frank Bush	Robert & Rayena Pavlik*
Ann Calhoun	Chet & Ellen Perryess*
Kathleen Copeland*	Nicholas & Dorothy Pier*
Bernard & Frances Deitchman*	Ingrid Reti
Tim & Kathy Dugan*	Harold Schuchardt
Nancy Ferraro	Bunty Taylor
Winton & Adele Frey	Gewynn & George Taylor*
Chet & Lee Grimes*	Alyce Thorp & Bob Mayberry*
Beverly Hardy*	Tina Van Coops & Mikel Gregory*
Sally & Randy Knight*	Margaret L. Weiss
Mary Engle Lauser	

Donations

Peggy Childers

★★ Life Members ★★

SWAP welcomes Allen and Susan Minker to our group of Life Members.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our conservation projects in the Elfin Forest.

**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.*

SWAP Presents Talk to Newcomers

Early in November, Pete Sarafian gave a slide talk for the San Luis Obispo Newcomers Club. Pete, assisted by his wife Pat, spoke at a luncheon held at the Inn at Morro Bay, for a large gathering of people who are new to the central coast. Most have moved to this area within the last two years.

Pete presented a slide show of the Elfin Forest and also described the role that SWAP has in protecting and enhancing the park. A surprising number of the new residents, about half, had already visited the Elfin Forest. Many related how happy they were to have such a beautiful nature park nearby. The talk related how the park came into existence, how SWAP played such a central role, how many wondrous sights there are in the park, and the kinds of activities that SWAP conducts each year. Pat Sarafian handed out the new SWAP/Elfin Forest brochures and copies of the Oakleaves newsletter to the Newcomers. One of the SWAP displays was on invasive weeds to help the new residents learn to recognize them and join in on efforts to stamp out the invaders.

The Dinosaurs Are Here!

They're Big! They Roar! And they're coming to Morro Bay! Don't miss the biggest thing to happen in 66 million years as the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay State Park presents "The Dinosaurs Are Coming!" from November 12, 2000 - January 7, 2001.

Admission to "The Dinosaurs Are Coming!" is the same as regular Museum admission - \$2 for ages 17 and up, free for those 16 and under.

This special educational exhibit features life-like animatronic dinosaurs of dino-mite proportions that will propel you back to the Cretaceous period 66 million years ago when these huge creatures roamed the earth. The exhibit also contains a unique collection of rare local fossils on loan from Rex Saint-Onge and Sherman & Bea Griselle.

In addition to the animated models, "The Dinosaurs Are Coming!" boasts a wide-range of related activities for the entire family, including a children's "dino-dig" excavation station, dinosaur-related puppet shows and story hours, Sunday Kids' Cinema, appearances by Too SLO Turtles and Monty's Travelling Reptile Show, and a four-part Speaker's Series for adults. Events change weekly, so call the recorded "Dino-line" at 546-4412 for continuously updated information, or check out the Museum's website at www.mbspmuseum.org.

SWAP Annual Meeting
 Saturday, Dec. 9 at 3

Address Service Requested
 Per Name or Current

Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter
SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION
 A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
 P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412 - 6442
 (805) 546-1199 (voicemail)



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93402
 Permit No. 112

Holiday Gift Ideas



It certainly doesn't seem possible – but – the holidays are here. How about helping our Elfin Forest by Shopping at SWAP?

Give a gift of “BOARDWALK” style T-Shirts (sizes Sm thru XXXLge) with the design shown below, available @ \$15.00. We also have some original Mural T-shirts left: Lge and XLge in short sleeve and Sm size in long sleeve, selling for \$10.00. Also Mural Sweatshirts, only XXLge available, for \$15.00.

To place your order, call our voice-mail (805) 546-1199 or Pat Sarafian (805) 528-3194 and we'll fill your order immediately.

Proceeds are used for special projects in the Elfin Forest.



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

