



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 ❖ OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2001

Volunteers Needed For Oktoberfest



Pat Sarafian and Jean Wheeler chat with interested visitors at SWAP's booth during the June Family Fest in Los Osos.

SWAP will have a booth at the Baywood Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 28th. We need volunteers to talk with visitors, give out literature, and sell T-shirts. If you can work a two-hour shift between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on that day, please call SWAP's message phone at 528-0392. Give your name, shift preference, and phone number. Someone will respond to your call within 24 hours.

Join us – you'll have fun!

Where To Call, Where To Write

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

A recorded message will have information about our 3rd Saturday Walks, Work Saturdays, and other 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.



You're Invited to SWAP's Annual Meeting

Please join us at SWAP's Annual Meeting, to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 13th, at the Nazarene Church located at South Bay Boulevard and Santa Ysabel in Los Osos.

Jan DiLeo, County Parks Planner and Pandora Nash Karner, graphic designer, will give a presentation on the interpretive signs which are soon to be installed in the Elfin Forest. Copies of the colorful interpretive signs will be on display. Jan DiLeo will also give an update on County Parks' plan to build connector walks between the boardwalk and 13th, 14th and 15th Streets.

Other events at the Annual Meeting will include a discussion about the problem of disappearing trail and habitat signs; a very short business meeting to elect board members (only members may vote); and selection of the winning raffle ticket for the \$2500 Nancy Kolliner pen, ink and oil drawing of an oak grove.

Coffee and refreshments will be served. Bring a friend or neighbor who isn't a member - introduce them to SWAP at this enjoyable and informative event.

Jim Weldon

Chair, SWAP Board of Directors

Elfin Forest Bench Stories

The Jack Felt Bench

by Madeline A. Martin

In 1973 two families were brought together by circumstance. For the next 13 years the strangers would become more than just neighbors; they would become the best of friends. This friendship would foster a lifetime of memories that would eventually blossom into a gift of enduring beauty. Susan and John Armstrong recalled the subtle beginning of this friendship with Jack Felt. "Jack and his family were more than just the people next door," reminisced Susan. "My children even called him Grandpa. That's how close we were."

Susan learned that Jack and his wife moved from Chicago to Baywood after seeing a national ad extolling the beauty of the central coast. She related how they were astonished at the natural

The Jack Felt Bench *continued on page 2*

Boardwalk Trail Guide Nearing Completion

By Jean Wheeler

An interpretive trail guide for the Elfin Forest Boardwalk is nearly ready to go to press. A volunteer committee consisting of Pat Brown, Mary Mitchell, Pat Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, and Jean Wheeler has met frequently this summer to develop the trail guide.

The trail guide will focus on the plant communities traversed by the boardwalk and key plant species clearly visible all year along the route. Text relates the plants to interactions with animals, ecological issues, and problems involving human impact. Numbers will be painted at selected points along the edge of the boardwalk and coordinated with numbered paragraphs in the guide. Numbered sites were tentatively selected and text was written and revised repeatedly. Volunteers verified scientific names and information about the plants and animals dependent upon them.

Pat Brown contributed greatly to the scientific information needed, including which plants are particularly crucial to which species of butterflies. Pat Sarafian and Yolanda Waddell explained the historical background of the Elfin Forest and ongoing efforts to recover from past erosion and to control invasive species. Mary Mitchell kept the committee focused on selecting information most likely to interest and benefit users of the boardwalk and suggested interactive wording to involve readers in observing and thinking about the plant communities through which they are walking. Jean Wheeler made many modifications of to SWAP's map of the Elfin Forest to suit the special needs of the new trail guide. Committee members also solicited input from other SWAP members.

A draft version of the proposed guide has now been sent to county officials and others for commentary, and the document should soon be finalized. Once printed, the trail guide is to be made available at the Sixteenth Street

The Jack Felt Bench *continued from page 1*



Hilary, Susan and Luke Armstrong sitting for a moment on the bench that they dedicated to longtime friend Jack Felt.

Photo by John Armstrong.

diversity of the area. Their only criticism was with Baywood's dampness. The Felts found themselves more inclined toward the less humid weather in San Luis Obispo and decided to make their home on Lincoln Street instead. It wasn't long before everyone in the neighborhood knew Jack for his sincerity and compassion. "Jack was very kind to us," remembered Susan. "He showed us and many others such tremendous generosity."

The Armstrongs had moved to Los Osos just before Jack's death in 1986. "Jack was family," said Susan, "and we wanted to do a lasting memorial in his honor." They heard of the effort to preserve the Elfin Forest and decided to make a contribution in Jack's name. It took a while for the boardwalk to become a reality and by the time the first bench was being constructed, the Armstrong family had moved to Templeton. "The SWAP board was most considerate to track us down," reflected Susan. "They offered us the opportunity to dedicate a bench and we thought that would be the ultimate testament to Jack's life."

And it was through their dedication of a bench to this man of many kindnesses that Jack Felt's

The bench has a commanding view of the estuary in all its magnificent splendor. "We were thrilled to attend the boardwalk opening ceremony, be able to sit on Jack's bench and enjoy the incredible view," beamed Susan. The bench is a timeless remembrance of friendship and caring. "The whole setting is so serene, so peaceful. Jack's nephew traveled all the way from Virginia last summer and he was most pleased with our tribute," recollected Susan. How do you measure a genuine fondness for someone? How do you express the joy and pride and love that marks a special friendship? For Susan and John Armstrong it was through the memories shared by their family of an exceptional neighbor. And it was through their dedication of a bench to this man of many



O A K L E A V E S

is published six times per year beginning in February.

Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell & Jean Wheeler; layout is by Katy Budge.

Contributors to this issue:

Susan Armstrong, Curt Beebe, Wendy Brown, Pete Sarafian, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jim Weldon, and Jean Wheeler.

Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.

Printed at Hay Printing, Morro Bay on recycled paper.

Labeled and mailed at Achievement House.

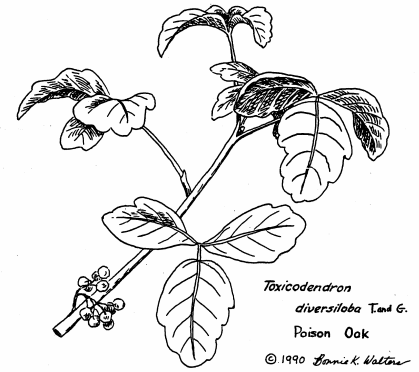
Deadline for copy to Oak Leaves is the 1st Wednesday before the month of issue.

Toxicodendron Diversilobum "Elfinum"

Poison-Oak in the Elfin Forest

(Part three of three parts)

by Curt Beebe, Morro Bay Museum of Natural History Docent; drawing by Bonnie Walters



WINTER IDENTIFICATION

IN THE ELFIN FOREST

Around here, when we walk in the woods and chaparral, we try to recognize all the *T. diversilobum* near us, and avoid touching it. The plant is hard to recognize from November through January on the Central Coast, when the leaves have been shed. The appearance of the plant varies with the site, time of year and the weather. The groves of dwarf oaks in the Elfin Forest are certainly a unique site.

To my surprise, there have been small leaves-of-three and clusters of blossom buds in the canopy throughout the year. The leaflets averaged half an inch, up to an inch in length. Their color was pale green in December and January, with a purplish red tint in February. There also were little stems in the sage and litter. Their leaflets appeared around February 1, and were a darker purplish red, except for one three-leaf cluster. It was located below the canopy next to an opening, and the leaflets were two inches long and bright spring green. The weather in December was ten degrees colder than normal for about ten days. There was also a hot spell, with record highs in the 80's twice. In January there were frosts in Morro Bay for about 5 nights. None of this affected the plants.

COMPARISON WITH

OTHER PLANT COMMUNITIES

Within the Elfin Forest things vary tremendously, depending on the specific plant community. Poison oak doesn't grow at all in the dune scrub south of the groves. On the slope leading down to the Bay at the west end of the Elfin Forest, thickets of poison oak 7 feet deep occur in weak, direct sunlight. Single, curved, upright, five foot stems grow out of shorter brush in dappled sunlight. Isolated, short, slender, vertical stems occur where there is medium, continuous shade. No growth occurs in deep shade.

Elsewhere near the Bay, poison oak doesn't grow on Chorro Creek Flats, but is the dominant plant on the north side of Cerro Cabrillo. It grows as low, rounded thickets of pure poison oak at Montaña de Oro, at the start of the Bluff and Badger Trails. Most sites are more affected by cold. The little leaves are killed, and are unavailable to help identify the plant until the weather warms again. Later, in February and early March, cold makes the foliage redder. Some sites get wet and boggy. That also makes the leaves red.

SUMMARY

It is more difficult to spot poison oak in pygmy oak groves than any other situation. Very allergic people should stay on the boardwalk. Approach groves with caution. Watch for branches coming toward you through California sagebrush. When you get close, look for leaves-of-three and blossom clusters, visible on top

of the canopy. They will probably be there. Look

under the canopy from a distance. It is bad for oak trees to walk underneath them, and the poison oak stems are big enough to see. Also, you may get poison oak on your shoes. The bark of poison oak is smooth and light brown. The diameter of the stems is very constant.

Poison oak is feared by humans, but in nature it has numerous uses. Its berries provide food for middle-sized birds, rabbits, and deer; the plant itself provides shelter for smaller birds; the roots extend up to twenty-five feet horizontally, helping to stabilize the soil. And its leaves-of-three serve as flags to keep human intruders away from the fragile dune habitat wherever it grows.

Board Members up for Election

Two members of the SWAP Board of Directors will be on the ballot for re-election at SWAP's Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13th (see page 1 for details). They are Robert McDougle, chapter Treasurer; and Yolanda Waddell, chapter Secretary. Their terms expire on December 31, 2001. Terms of the other three members of the Board expire on December 31, 2002. Members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting to participate in the election; only members may vote. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

SWAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP)

consists of the following members:

Jim Weldon, Chair

Pete Sarafian, Vice Chair

Bob McDougle, Treasurer

Yolanda Waddell, Secretary

Pat Sarafian, Member at Large

October 8

SWAP BOARD MEETINGS

The SWAP Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Coast National Bank, 1193 Los Osos Valley Road on Monday, October 8, and Monday, November 12.

All Board meetings are open to the public.

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

November 12

SWAP Honors Volunteers of the Year

By Yolanda Waddell

The Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP is an all-volunteer organization. Every one of the more than 60 individuals who gives his or her time and energy to support SWAP and the Elfin Forest is valued. On Saturday, September 8, the SWAP Board hosted a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to honor present and past volunteers at the Garden Café in Los Osos, and gave awards to three Volunteers of the Year.

The SWAP Conservation Committee named **Ron Rasmussen** of Morro Bay this year's Weed Warrior of the Year. Ron has been a regular attendee and has come early, stayed late, and done a fine job helping rid the Elfin Forest of noxious weeds. Ron will receive not only one of the new Weed Warrior buttons but an Elfin Forest T-shirt as well.

The SWAP Board selected **Pete and Pat Sarafian** as Volunteers of the Year for their dedication to the welfare of the Elfin Forest. They have worn many hats in supporting SWAP. **Pete Sarafian** has been Conservation Chair and a board member for three years; he is currently Vice Chair of the Board. Pete spends part of every day in the Elfin Forest, removing "evil weeds" and checking to make sure no damage has been done (sadly, sometimes it has). He has produced a map showing locations of weeds in the Elfin



Pat and Pete Sarafian, honored by SWAP
as Volunteers of the Year.

Forest, which is a valuable aid in preparing revegetation and restoration plans. He attends weed control conferences, and meetings with county, state and federal agencies that relate to the welfare of the Elfin Forest. He leads our Weed Warriors in their monthly attack on veldt grass, slender-leaved iceplant, a variety of thistles, and other Elfin Forest invaders. And those who read the Oakleaves have learned much from Pete's series of articles on alien species in the Elfin Forest.

Pat Sarafian is Chair of the Property and Records Committee, and as such has taken on the organization of SWAP's storage unit and records as well as coordinating the production of our new mural T-shirts and updating our brochure. She distributes SWAP brochures, newsletters and pocket guides to chambers of commerce, libraries and bookstores, and always "just happens" to have a supply of each handy in case someone asks for one. Not only that, Pat is so enthusiastic about SWAP and the Elfin Forest, that people she talks to almost immediately become members, and sometimes become volunteers. Pat is a Weed Warrior second only to Pete; she'll go out to the Elfin Forest and pull a bag or two of weeds for recreation. She has also been active on the Interpretive Sign Committee, the Volunteer Committee, the Outreach Committee and most recently, a committee which is working to produce an Elfin Forest Trail Guide.

The SWAP Board surprised Pete and Pat with a framed etching of the Elfin Forest produced by local artist Ybi. They and Ron Rasmussen are examples of the dedication that makes SWAP a successful conservation organization.

Weed Warrior Reports

by Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

WEED WARRIORS VACATIONING IN AUGUST?

In a less than august showing, the Weekend Weed Warriors amounted to only 1-1/2 volunteers. Ron Rasmussen (all morning) and Jay Bonestell (half time) helped Pete Sarafian pull veldt grass in the badly infested area between 15th and 16th Streets. Some progress was made, but the turnout was well below usual. Maybe everyone was on vacation(?).

STALWARTS SCATTER SEEDS IN SEPTEMBER

The September work party saw the Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors turn out to scatter native plant seeds as well as yank out nasty weeds. The Warriors raked up deerweed seeds in the disturbed areas near Bush Lupine Point and scattered them all over this area. Last year, the same tactic by Americorps Environmental Stewards resulted in native plants helping to fill in this meadow, replacing the previous veldt grass infestation. Hopefully, next year will show even more native plant cover. Volunteers included Jay Bonestell, Pat Brown, Ann Calhoun, Pat and Pete Sarafian, Norma Wightman and Linda Young. Thanks to all from SWAP.

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Third (and Second!) Saturday Walks

October 13 - 8:30 a.m. (Second Saturday!)

This year, our annual pre-Big Sit! bird walk will be the 2nd Saturday of October because the Big Sit! will take place on Sunday, October 14th at Bush Lupine Point in the Elfin Forest. This is an opportunity to join Jim Royer in scouting out the bird population throughout the Elfin Forest. However, the walk is for those who just enjoy looking at birds, as well as those who know how to identify them. Jim will help us to spot birds of the chaparral and oak woodlands as well as shorebirds and ducks on the Bay. He knows most of the birds by their calls, and will tune us in to the burring of the Spotted Towhee, the ping pong call of the Wrentit and the clear song of the Bewick's Wren. Last year we listed 60 species of birds while on Jim's walk. You'll come away from this experience knowing more about birds, their habits and habitats. Notice the earlier starting time.

October 20 - 9:30 a.m.

Join geologist Dick Brown on a walk and talk about how the sand dunes that make up Los Osos and the Elfin Forest were formed, and how groundwater moves under them. Dick Brown was an engineering geologist for the State of California in groundwater for 12 years, and taught at Fresno City College for 23 years. He will give us a better understanding of "how things work" under the surface of the Elfin Forest, and will regale us with some really great geology stories.

November 17 - 9:30 a.m.

Al Normandin will lead us on an enjoyable fall season discovery tour of the Elfin Forest. During November, many of the plants are "resting," waiting for winter rains, but there is much to observe. Al, a Natural History Association docent, is very familiar with the plants, birds and animals of the Elfin Forest. He'll help us to tune in to the sounds, sights and fragrances of the varied habitats in this small wilderness. Bring a hand lens and binoculars.

December 15 - 9:30 a.m.

Brent Roberts, who been involved in the Maritime Museum Association in Morro Bay and well as restoration of the Port San Luis Lighthouse, will tell us the maritime history of the Central Coast as we stroll along the Elfin Forest Boardwalk. Come along and hear about every kind of sea-going vessel that has been used through this area's human history, from Chumash plank boats and explorer's ships of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries to the merchant vessels and fishing boats of the 19th and 20th centuries. It's a story you won't want to miss!

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



Botanist Dirk Walters and participants in his August marsh walk enjoyed seeing the Goldenbush in bloom.

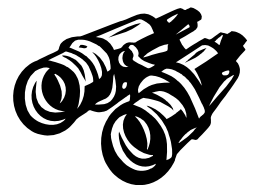
Let's All Pull Together!

SWAP First Saturday work parties are held at 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteers should meet at the north end of 15th Street. Dress for sun and wind and bring work gloves if you can. Some work gloves, tools and drinking water are provided. Call 528-0392.



It's Time Again for the Big Sit!

The Big Sit! day-long birding event which is held at Bush Lupine Point in the Elfin Forest each year, will take place on Sunday, October 14. Participants will be counting bird species from before dawn until sunset. This event, coordinated by long-time birder Jim Royer, has become a fund raiser for SWAP. Each birder has the opportunity to take pledges of a given amount of money for each species identified (like a walk-a-thon). You can take part by pledging a donation, or being a counter yourself (the more the merrier). Last year, the Elfin Forest Big Sit! came in first world-wide for the fourth year in a row, and earned \$200 in pledges plus and additional \$500 in prize money, all of which was donated to SWAP. Traditionally there is a party at sunset to celebrate the successful count. Call Jim Royer at 528-8933 for more details and to take



Twenty-Second in a Series

Salt Marsh Dodder

By Dirk Walters, Ph.D.: Drawings by Bonnie Walters

Bonnie had to draw two plants for this article. The first is a normal green plant with succulent opposite leaves while the second consists of yellowish-brown stringy stuff producing whitish funnel-shaped flowers. The green plant is *Jaumea carnosa*. Since the second plant is not green, it can't contain chlorophyll, and so it can't make its own food. It must get it from the *Jaumea*. The second plant is parasitic and belongs to a genus commonly known as dodder or witch's hair. The genus is *Cuscuta*, and it contains between 100 and 150 species worldwide. There are some nine species in California. Dr. Robert Hoover in his *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County* recognizes three species for the County.

The species drawn by Bonnie from the salt marsh near the Elfin Forest area is *Cuscuta salina* or the salt marsh dodder. Salt marsh dodder, like other dodder species usually grows in concentrated tangles of yellow to brownish threads. The host plants are usually doomed. *C. salina* is found on plants growing in coastal or interior salt marshes and flats throughout California and continuing North as far as British Columbia and East into Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. *C. salina* has a number of subspecies. According to Dr. Robert Hoover, our coastal plants belong to the typical subspecies. Dr. Hoover reports that he found our plants nearly always growing on *Jaumea*, but I have seen it on a wide diversity of salt marsh plants including pickle weed (*Salicornia*), *Frankenia*, salt grass (*Distichlis*) as well as *Jaumea*. In fact, the same individual appears to be able to utilize more than one host species at the same time and is therefore called a generalized parasite.

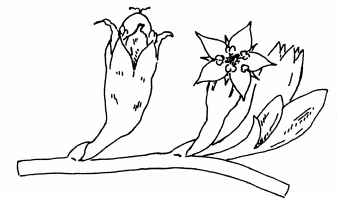
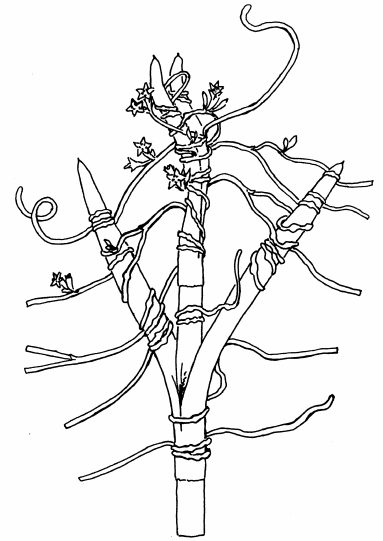
I would like to make a note on dodder's classification. Note that the flowers Bonnie made for the drawing resemble miniature morning glory or bindweed flowers. This is why dodder has been put into either the morning glory family (*Convolvulaceae*) or into its own dodder family (*Cuscutaceae*). Most recent placements place it into its own family.

One interesting aspect of parasitic plants is that they often possess very small seeds that contain tiny food reserves. A prime example is the several species of parasitic orchids that produce

millions of seeds per capsule. Each seed consists of only a few cells which totally lack recognizable embryos or even food reserves. Orchid seeds are similar in size to fungal spores and they are dispersed in the same way. Most parasitic plant seeds germinate on their host plant. Consequently, their main problem seems to be getting to the host where they can immediately begin to extract the nutrients required for the seedling to mature.

However, dodder seeds are much larger than other parasitic plant seeds and are in the size range of ordinary green plant seeds. In other words, dodder seemed to be totally unsuited for its parasitic growth habit. Then researchers noted that dodder does not germinate on its host plant, but on the ground like ordinary green plants. It produces a root and a twining stem like its close relative the morning glory. When this twining stem contacts a suitable host, it sends out knobby growths that penetrate the host plants cells (haustoria) and only then does it begin to extract the nutrients it will need to complete its life cycle. After establishing contact with the host, dodder's roots die and it breaks all contact with the ground. This explains the larger than predicted seeds.

Dodder actually starts life as a free-living plant and as such must establish itself in the ground like any non-parasitic plant. Therefore it must have the developed embryo and especially the food reserves needed to keep the embryo alive until it can make



Jaumea Carnosa, a succulent salt marsh plant, is shown with tendrils of the parasitic salt marsh dodder (*Cuscuta salina*) twining around it. *Cuscuta* has small white funnel-shaped flowers which produce seeds. Drawings by Bonnie Walters.

In Memoriam - Roland Muschenetz

Those of us in SWAP who knew Roland Muschenetz were saddened to learn of his death on Tuesday, July 11. He was 64. Born in the Czech Republic, Roland was raised in Germany, where he met his wife Karen. They traveled as photojournalists before settling in Los Osos in 1973. A real estate professional and a former president of the Central Coast Board of Realtors, Roland contributed to the welfare of Los Osos in many ways, including helping to found both Los Osos Oktoberfest and Baywood Farmers Market. In recognition of his many contributions, he was named Los Osos Citizen of the Year. In the early 1990's, when S.W.A.P. was struggling to raise the \$1.6 million needed to buy the Elfin Forest, Roland and his wife Karen contributed their professional photographic skills to S.W.A.P. in producing a diorama-type photo of the Elfin Forest. Always used at S.W.A.P. information booths, it brings frequent admiring comments and requests for copies. Roland and Karen also led photography walks in the Elfin Forest for S.W.A.P. and produced a photo of the Elfin Forest Mural that was put on a postcard. Roland's presence will be sorely missed by SWAP, the community of Los Osos, and many on the Central Coast who knew him.

Thank You to our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, SWAP Database Coordinator

New Members:

Mary Mitchell*; Mark Skinner*; Spotlight Printing & Copies; Linda Young

Renewing Members:

Thomas H. Alden & Marjorie Sinel*
 Arthur & Lillian Armstrong*
 Morro Coast Audubon Society*
 Ruby V. Avelar
 Kent Morrison & Estelle Basor*
 Curt & Sandra Beebe
 Gordon Black
 Carolyn Boomer*
 William Bouton*
 Jean P. Boyd
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 Dr. Jan William Simek*
 Lesa Smith*
 D. R. Thompson
 Alphonso & Mary Topp
 Bert & Elaine
 Townsend*
 Dirk Walters*
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wondra

*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.



Do Your Holiday Shopping With SWAP!

(Please *print* when filling order – and indicate **HOW MANY**)

N
a
m
e

1. MURAL SHIRTS (indicate sizes)

Words on shirt: "El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area,
 Small Wilderness Area Preservation, Los Osos, California"

___ Short Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg) @ \$15.00 = _____
 ___ Long Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg) @ \$17.00 = _____
 ___ Sweatshirt (med., Lg, Xlg, XXLg) @ \$25.00 = _____

2. BOARDWALK SHIRTS (Only Short Sleeve T-Shirts)

___ Small, Med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg @ \$15.00 = _____

3. MURAL PRINTS

signed 5 1/2" X 17" prints by artist, Barbara Rosenthal
 ___ Black matted Mural @ \$20.00 = _____
 ___ White matted Mural @ \$20.00 = _____

4. POCKET GUIDES

A very useful 24-page guide listing plants and animals of the Elfin Forest

_____ @ \$1.00 = _____

5. RAFFLE TICKETS

Win a \$2500 pen, ink and oil drawing by Nancy Kolliner. Tickets are \$5 each or
 6 for \$25

_____ tickets @5.00 = _____

SALE ITEMS (while inventory lasts)

Original MURAL Shirt

(says: "Elfin Forest Mural, Rexall Drug, Los Osos")

___ Short Sleeve T-Shirt (only Lg & XLg left) @ \$10.00 = _____
 ___ Long Sleeve T-Shirt (only small size left) @ \$10.00 = _____
 ___ Sweatshirt (only XXLg left) @ \$15.00 = _____

TOTAL OF ORDER _____



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Last Chance!

Raffle of Kolliner Drawing on October 13

Between now and our Annual Meeting on October 13th, we will be selling tickets to win a framed 33" wide by 25" high Nancy Kolliner pen, ink and oil drawing titled "Pygmy Oaks." The drawing is valued at \$2500 to \$3000.

The tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. The drawing can be seen at Coast National Bank, 1193 Los Osos Valley Road in Los Osos. Just send your payment for tickets to SWAP Raffle (see form on page 7). We will mail your raffle tickets to you.

Take a chance – the winner could be you! You can leave a message on our answering machine, 528-0392, if you have any questions or comments.

Trail Signs Taken

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

County Parks Staff spent about ten hours installing a number of trail marker signs in the Elfin Forest on Thursday, July 12, with the hope that the markers would cause visitors to the Elfin to stay on the designated sand trails and allow "ad hoc" trails to grow in. However, on the following Sunday or Monday someone removed 17 of the 25 signs.

This appears to be a deliberate act of defiance, not random vandalism. Most signs were systematically walked down on all the designated trails, but markers that weren't clearly visible from the houses at the street ends were removed. Only one sign along the lower boardwalk leading to Wood Rat Hall was left in place along with the signs near the street ends that were visible from the houses.

If any *Oakleaves* readers observed any odd behavior on July 15th or 16th, or saw someone carrying the signs, please leave a message on the SWAP answering machine, 528-0392. Thank you.