



# O A K L E A V E S

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOS OSOS / MORRO BAY CHAPTER of SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ❖ (805) 528-0392 ❖ DECEMBER 2006 / JANUARY 2007



*Debbie Levi, SWAP Historian, has added another "hat" as Chair of the Calendar Committee. She is holding the 2007 Elfin Forest Calendar. Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

## 2007 Elfin Forest Calendar a Hit

*By Debbie Levi, Calendar Committee Chair*

The 2007 Elfin Forest calendar – our first effort at publishing a calendar -- is selling like hot cakes! Funds raised from the calendar will benefit the maintenance of the Elfin Forest. Printing of the calendar was made possible by the very generous financial donations of business members in our community: Shahin Aminilari and Phyllis Cameron at Prudential Hunter Realty; Peter Starlings and Susan Gorkosky at Johnson-Starlings & Associates Real Estate; Steve Auslender Real Estate Group; Bob Davis Real Estate; Jerry Gregory at Century 21 Associates West; Shar Gregory of The Mortgage House, Inc.; Dan Reddell at Bayshore Realty & Rentals; Gary & Judi Tewell, owners of Los Osos Rexall; Los Osos Fitness; Todd Davidson at SAGE Ecological Landscapes; and Rebecca Rasmussen, a private sponsor.

In addition to the sponsors, we extend heartfelt thanks to our talented photographers: Bill Bouton, Dick Boyd, Pat Brown, Shari and Alan Fraser of Sonrisa Photography, Marlin Harms, Jim Johnson, R.W. (Bob) Meyer, Annie Mueller, Patricia Murray, Pete Sarafian, Dennis Sheridan, Mike Stiles, Linda Tanner, Jay Waddell, Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler.

The beautiful layout of the calendar was designed by Katy Budge, who also does the layout for our *Oakleaves* newsletter. Anita Rouse of Hart Impressions Printing was responsible for the excellent quality of the calendar. It is our hope that this calendar will remind everyone of the year-round gifts of Nature available to us all in the Elfin Forest.

Send in your donation (\$15 per calendar) today!! Simply fill out the Shopper's Order Form (Item No. 6 on page 7) or call the SWAP message phone at 1-805-528-0392 to leave a contact number. The calendar is also available at the Los Osos Chamber of Commerce.

## "The Gift That Keep\$ On Giving"

*By Ron Rasmussen, SWAP Chair*

It's been a good year for the Elfin Forest. The veldt grass has been beaten back to the periphery of the forest, and the native plants have thrived. Although mostly not visible from the boardwalk, erosion control measures have been installed in several areas to prevent loss of the sandy soil into the bay. In areas where native plants have returned sufficiently, some of the green mesh fencing has been removed and replaced with "symbolic wire fencing" to indicate the trail boundaries. Replanting with native species has been about 60-70% successful, which is considered an excellent result. The work of the many volunteers and paid contractors has produced a beautiful and healthy example of California coastal chaparral.

But it's not free, even though there is no admission fee for visiting the Elfin Forest. Our volunteers are not paid, but nevertheless they cost money. It is necessary to have liability insurance in case of an accident (fortunately, we have had none). Also, we need supplies, including tools, fencing, erosion control items, and native plants.

A major category includes the publications about SWAP and the Elfin Forest. The bimonthly newsletter costs several hundred dollars for each issue, and the mailing list is now well over 400, including members and nonmember libraries and governmental agencies. Also there are brochures provided to local Chambers of Commerce, libraries, parks and the Natural History Museum. Trail Guides are provided at stations on the Forest boardwalk. Our 56-page Pocket Guide to plants and animals of the Elfin Forest sells for \$2.00 and is available at bookstores, the Los Osos Chamber of Commerce, and on 3rd Saturday walks in the Elfin Forest.

While memberships and special gifts are a major source of income, it is sometimes necessary to ask for additional funds from granting agencies, such as the Morro Bay National Estuary Program or the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation. In this case being able to show strong support from our membership greatly increases the chances of obtaining grant funds. Examples of such grants are the "Mutt-Mitt" program, our erosion control and native plant restoration, and the publication of the Elfin Forest Pocket Guide.

The financial status of SWAP is good. Our Treasurer's annual report shows that we are solvent, with no immediate danger of closing up shop. As in the past, we will about break even for the year. To continue our work into the future we will need our loyal members to renew their commitment. Remember that your \$12 membership is a gift, just as much as is the time given by a "Weed Warrior" pulling veldt grass. Both insure the survival of the Elfin Forest, and in a sense, are a gift to every visitor to the Forest, and also a gift to the plants and animals that live there.

# Mary Coffeen and John Perkins: In Memoriam

September and October saw the passing of two beloved and dedicated Central Coast conservationists. Mary Coffeen was mainly a lover of plants, but was fascinated with all the other aspects of nature. John Perkins was a birder, but took care of the plants in Morro Coast Audubon's Sweet Springs Nature Preserve during his last years. Following are remembrances of them. Thanks to Rosalie Valvo of Morro Coast Audubon for providing the information about John Perkins.

## The Many Facets of Mary Coffeen

By Yolanda Waddell

Born in 1918, Mary Coffeen spent her early years in Oklahoma and Michigan. At the age of 12, she and her mother moved to California. Mary attended Hollywood High, a school in Newport, another in Pasadena, then Pomona College, and finished her education at Ball State University in Indiana. She taught science and art one year, and for three years was a graphic designer at a firm in Chicago. Returning to California, she married in 1949, and worked as a potter. She divorced when her daughter Marcia was 12, and spent the next 12 years in Claremont, 7 of them as Director of Youth Education at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Eventually, she moved to Morro Bay and lived on the Central Coast for the next 20 years.

Linda and David Chipping of the California Native Plant Society told me that Mary wrote a diary about nine walks she led for CNPS at Cerro Alto after the Highway 41 Fire in 1994. The diary was later published in the local CNPS newsletter, *Obispoensis*. Mary and her dog Little Blue walked up the charred hillsides twice a month for five months between October, 1994 and February, 1995, recording the regeneration of plants. Her last entry was Easter Sunday in April, 1995, when she



reported that Cerro Alto was "gorgeous with green swaths and swales of lavenders, blues and fire poppy reds, plus lots of whites too." Linda Chipping said that her strongest memory of Mary was that she always wanted to be outdoors, and never hesitated to take a walk.

Steve Schubert of Morro Coast Audubon Society, with whom Mary taught natural history classes combined with field trips for Cuesta College Community Programs, said that he was always impressed with Mary's tremendous energy, enthusiasm and stamina. Marcia, Mary's daughter, said that Mary had definite artistic talent, but didn't want to do things that would keep her inside. She did make the time to write a book, *Central Coast Wildflowers*. First published in 1993, when Mary was 75, it was reprinted in 1996, and can still be found in bookstores on the Central Coast and at Amazon.com.

Mary led wildly popular wildflower walks in the Elfin Forest for SWAP. As many as 40 people would show up, and it was hard for Mary to be heard all the way at the end of the line, so I rented a portable public address system that we carried along and used at every stop.

In 2000, Mary moved north to Auburn, California, to live closer to Marcia and Marcia's husband, Steve. Her long-time friend Eileen Bowen recalls that it was a difficult decision to make, because Mary had been so active and had so many friends here.

Marcia notified SWAP that Mary passed away on October 4th of this year, after suffering a stroke two weeks before. A memorial service will be held for Mary next Spring at Shell Creek Road in eastern San Luis Obispo County, when the wildflowers are in bloom. Mary wrote in her book about the living "Persian carpet" that she saw in April of 1988, when all of the wildflowers were in bloom in the field at once. She said, "It came to me that probably I'd died and gone to Heaven. It was so beautiful! But the flowers were alive, growing, being visited by pollinators and making seed to lie waiting on the ground for optimum conditions to come again."

At the very end of her book, Mary wrote the following short "Epilogue," words for us to heed and remember her by: "I indeed see many hopeful signs that we are becoming aware of our dependence on this fragile planet for our own survival and that the rights of other living organisms must be recognized as equal to our own. Stewardship and enlightened exploitation must be the watch-words of the 21st century." Donations in memory of Mary can be made to the conservation organization of one's choice.

## John Perkins, Keeper of Sweet Springs Preserve

Morro Coast Audubon Society lost a longtime stalwart supporter September 22, 2006, when John Perkins died. He had been ill for months, but we were all shocked when he passed. Anyone following his letters to the editor would never have suspected. John was born in Colorado in the 1930s and raised in Los Angeles. He was with the military for 39 years, including seven years in Germany. In 1989, he and his wife Pat, who died in 1999, bought a house in Los Osos near the newly acquired Sweet Springs Nature Preserve. He wandered over during an early Sweet Springs workday, and he never left.

John was President of MCAS for three years during the 1990s. He negotiated with the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP to donate a lot to MCAS that was adjacent to the Morro Bay estuary and close to Sweet Springs. He served as Lands Committee Chair beginning in 1995, working with horticulturist John Nowak, the California Conservation Corps, and other agencies to remove exotic plants and put in natives. In 2002, he oversaw the installation of a boardwalk and viewing platform by the CCC at Sweet Springs.

It is requested that donations in John's memory be made to the Nancy Vaughan Scholarship Fund, c/o Morro Coast Audubon Society, P O Box 1507, Morro Bay, CA 93443. The memorial fund is used for awarding scholarships to students in ecological or environmental studies at Cuesta College.

### 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.

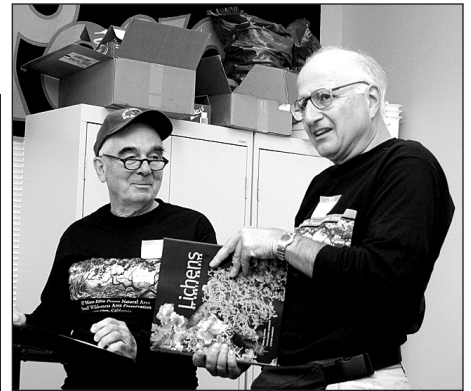
The next meetings are

*Monday, December 11, 2006 & Monday, January 8, 2007*

All Board meetings are open to the public.

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

# SWAP Annual Meeting Features Wildlife and Awards



(Above) SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen presented Pete Sarafian with a special award, Conservation Volunteer of the Decade and a book, *Lichens of North America*, much to Pete's surprise.

(Above) Debbie Levi was delighted with the framed Elfin Forest print by Ybi, which accompanies the SWAP Volunteer of the Year Award.

(Far left) Tyto the Barn Owl with Pacific Wildlife Care Vice President Jeri Roberts.

(Below right) Treasurer Pat Akey was pleased to give a positive annual financial report.

(Below) SWAP Conservation Volunteer of the Year Ron Rasmussen received a pair of leather work gloves in appreciation for his many hours of Weed Warrior work.

SWAP's Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter held its Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation on Saturday, October 14 at the El Morro Church of the Nazarene in Los Osos. Those who attended were treated to a fascinating and informative presentation by Kathy Duncan and Jeri Roberts of Pacific Wildlife Care, who brought three of their educational animals: Tyto, a barn owl, Xena, an American kestrel, and Polly, an opossum. Pacific Wildlife Care rescues and rehabilitates injured or abandoned animals, and then returns them to the wild, when possible. More information about the organization can be found at their web site, [www.pacificwildlifecare.org](http://www.pacificwildlifecare.org). Should you see an injured wild animal or bird in the Elfin Forest or anywhere else, it's best not to touch the animal, but to phone the Pacific Wildlife Care hotline, 543-WILD.

The meeting also featured annual reports by SWAP's Treasurer, Pat Akey, and Conservation Chair, Pete Sarafian. See page 4 for Pete's report, "State of the Forest, 2006." Debbie Levi received the Volunteer of the

Year Award for her excellent work in organizing and binding all of the news clippings about the chapter from 1985 to the present, and for her leadership in developing and producing the first Elfin Forest Calendar. Ron Rasmussen was given a nice pair of leather work gloves as Conservation Volunteer of the Year; and Pete Sarafian was presented with the book, *Lichens of North America* as Conservation Volunteer of the Decade. All Weed Warriors who worked at least twice during the year were given work gloves, and other volunteers were presented with oak grove photo bookmarks donated by Bob Meyer.

SWAP Board members Pat Murray, Ron Rasmussen and Pete Sarafian were re-elected to the Board, and Debbie Levi was added as a board member. Thanks to Pat Murray for organizing and setting up the meeting and the lunch that followed. Certificates to buy food and drinks were kindly donated by Ralphs and Vons. Thanks also to Bob Meyer for taking the photos on this page, and to the Nazarene Church for the meeting room.



(Left) Pacific Wildlife Care Education Director Kathy Duncan and Xena, the Kestrel.

(Right) After the Annual Meeting, new SWAP member Susan Chandler and Weed Warrior Marty Levi enjoyed good food and good conversation.



# State of the Forest, 2006

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

SWAP continues to make inroads in the war on weeds. The central portion of the Elfin Forest continues to be nearly weed free. Few invasive plant infestations occur inside the boardwalk loop. The big problem weeds, veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) and narrow-leaved iceplant (*Conicosia pugioniformis*), are now found in few areas other than the extreme edges of the park, and infestations that are found are getting smaller. For the first time, SWAP was able to remove Italian thistles (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) from the oaks in the northern extreme of the park before they went to seed. There is less veldt grass on the hillside above South Bay Boulevard thanks to SWAP persistence. There is a steady elimination of veldt grass from the southern border of the Forest. The grass infestation has been pushed outward, closer to the adjacent houses. For the first time, a large infestation of Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and English ivy (*Hedera helix*) in the extreme western end of the park has been attacked and is in retreat. Much of the progress is due to the continued support of the California Conservation Corps, funded in large part by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. Without their support, we volunteers would be challenged to hold our ground.

On the revegetation front, we have just removed fencing from two sides of a triangular shaped plot that was revegetated in the early part of this decade. Restoration of that half-acre site looks complete. SWAP also wrapped up a revegetation effort that was begun three years ago. County Parks had planted between two and three acres with native plants. These plants are now doing fairly well on their own with a survival rate of nearly two-thirds. We also will continue a small revegetation program each year with SWAP funds.

With some outside help we are making real progress. Thank you to all of those who fund our efforts and volunteer your hours to help. The Elfin Forest looks better and better.

## Warriors Stabilize a Hillside, Fence a Trail, and Vanquish Veldt Grass

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

The Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors were out in large numbers in September. Half of the volunteers finished stabilizing a hillside at the extreme western end of the Elfin Forest down by the fresh water marsh at the foot of the bluffs. A dense infestation of Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) was removed from the hill earlier this year. The warriors installed jute matting to help stabilize the steepest portions of the hillside while the native plants have a chance to return. The other half of the warriors worked on removing veldt grass from the area just west of the 11th Street entrance. This area never had a concerted effort on veldt grass until this year. Joining the volunteers were Jerry Ambrose, Dave Bowlus, Steve Cake, Janet Hillson, Pat Murray, Alon Perlman, Ron Rasmussen, Darlene Reynolds, Susan and Tom Richards, and Pete Sarafian. Thanks folks; you did a great job!

In October the Warriors installed a run of symbolic fencing along the sand trail from the 14th Street entrance of the Elfin Forest to the boardwalk loop. Hopefully, the symbolic fence will dissuade people from walking through the dune scrub and chaparral between street entrances. There now are long runs of symbolic fencing on 17th, 14th and 12th Street trails. The 16th Street trail is part of the boardwalk, and there already are short runs of such fencing along the 11th Street trail. SWAP probably will install symbolic fencing along the 13th and 15th Street trails in the future. October's volunteers included Jerry Ambrose, Rosemary Baxter, Jay Bonestell, Lannie Erickson, Bob and Sharon Meyer, Ron Rasmussen, Pete Sarafian and Yolanda Waddell. Nice job SWAP volunteers.

The small November work party got down and very dirty. SWAP volunteers grubbed in the grass, the Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*), that is. Old patches of veldt grass that were ten years old or more were dug out by hand and carefully examined for endangered Morro Shoulderband snails (*Helminthoglypta walkeri-ana*). The grass was near the 16th Street entrance of the Elfin Forest, to the east of the boardwalk. This area had not been worked since the park was preserved and placed in the hands of San Luis Obispo County. A large number of snails were found and relocated to safe areas under native plants. Joining in the dirty deed were Steve Cake, Marty Levi, Bryson McKelvey, and Pete Sarafian. The park is constantly improving, thanks to our volunteers.



Top to bottom: (all photos by Yolanda Waddell)

John Nowak and his young assistant (and adopted son), Tim demonstrated how the Chumash ground acorns during John's native plant walk.

Working hard to drive a symbolic fence stanchion into the soil were Jerry Ambrose (left) and Lannie Erickson.

Looking like they were doing a dance were hard-working stanchion drivers (L-R) Sharon Meyer, Rosemary Baxter and Ron Rasmussen.

## SWAP First Saturday Work Parties

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

# WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

## Third Saturday Walks

### December 16, 9:30 a.m. – Sketch Walk

Join artist Barbara Renshaw for a stroll along the Elfin Forest boardwalk to take in views of the Morro Bay estuary and sandspit from Bush Lupine Point and Siena's View overlooks. You'll stop in the Rose Bowker oak grove to marvel at ancient gnarled Coast live oak trees. As you go, you can sketch the bay, birds on the salt marsh, oaks, or some of the Forest's varied plant life. No drawing experience is necessary. Bring a pad of drawing paper (no larger than 9-1/2 by 12-1/2 inches), colored pencils or pastels, and some drinking water. Consider bringing a camera too. You'll be surprised how quickly you discover the artist in you!

### January 20, 9:30 a.m. – Animal Tracks Walk

Who lives in the Elfin Forest? What are the mammals, reptiles and birds that leave footprints in the sand? Except for the occasional brush rabbit and lizard, we seldom see Elfin Forest animals because they hunt or graze at night. Evan Albright, an animal track expert, will explain how to identify an animal by the shape and size of its track, and to know where the animal was heading and how fast it was going. This walk will open up a complex world of the Elfin Forest's inhabitants, one that we would never suspect while walking along the boardwalk during the day.

### February 17, 9:30 – Fungus Foray

If there is plenty of rain in February, entomologist and fungophile Dennis Sheridan will be able to lead us to many beautiful, and some ugly, species of fungi sprouting from the Elfin Forest floor. He'll help us to find Earthstars, Wood blewits, Yellow staining agaricus, the poisonous Amanitas, Shaggy parasol mushrooms, and dozens of others. Bring a magnifying lens and, if you have a mystery mushroom in your yard, bring a sample for Dennis to identify. Note: this is not a mushroom collecting walk, as all plant material in the Elfin Forest is protected by law. If there hasn't been enough rain to bring out the mushrooms, Dennis will give us an equally fascinating walk about the lichens that grow abundantly in the Elfin Forest.

*Walks in the Elfin Forest meet at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Proceed up the path to the boardwalk, where the walk will begin. 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. For more information call (805) 528-0392.*

### 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 any problems in the Elfin Forest, call or write:

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

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



*Los Osos Big Sit! coordinator Jim Royer (center in white shirt) inspired two young birders, helping them look through a spotting scope. Photo by Jean Wheeler.*

## Elfin Forest Big Sit! Results

Our Los Osos birders tallied 112 species on Sunday, October 8, which ranks us second this year for all the Big Sit! circles, not only in the United States but internationally. Despite great weather and tides, there were no real surprises, unlike other years when unusual sightings raised totals for our birders. First place this year went to a group at Cape May, Maryland with 121 species. Maryland had two circles among the top ten, their circle at Elk Neck State Park ranking sixth. Other states with a circle in the top ten were New Jersey, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia. The ninth and tenth ranked circles were in Brisbane, Australia, and Kent County, in the United Kingdom. Other international circles reporting results were Canada, the Netherlands, Panama, Sweden, and Vietnam.

The worldwide total number of species reported was 722, with 386 of those reported from the U.S. and Canada. So our birders from their 17-foot circle at Bush Lupine Point saw or heard nearly one-third of all species recorded from North America from Big Sit! circles this year. Well done, birders! Leader Jim Royer sends thanks to all who helped count and brought food.



## Don't Miss the Bird Festival

Registration is open through December 31, 2006, for the 11th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, to be held January 12-15, 2007. Space is limited for the festival and for many of its optional events, so make your reservations as soon as possible. For more detailed information, log onto the Festival website.

For festival program brochures, call the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce at 805-772-4467 or 1-800-231-0592, or download a brochure from the Festival web site at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org). Online registration is also available.

The festival will once again be offering the very popular Zoo-To-You programs on Saturday, January 13 featuring live raptors. These family outreach presentations are generously sponsored by The Bay News and The Beach Radio, and cost only \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. All the shows were standing-room only last year, so be sure to get there early! More information will be available on the festival website.

Also, don't forget about the weekend vendor show at the Morro Bay Community Center which is open to festival attendees and the public at no charge.

Fifty-second in a Series

# California Honeysuckle

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

The illustration for this issue of Oak Leaves is a composite of something new and something old. The flowering branch is a gray scale photo. The drawings of the young fruiting and flowering branches were drawn by Bonnie many years ago for Dr. David Keil and my plant taxonomy textbook. The plant is called California, pink, or chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula* var. *vacillans*). The large, bright red clusters of fruits are particularly noticeable on north-facing slopes in our coastal canyons during the fall. The species ranges almost throughout California, west of the Sierra Nevada Crest and north into Oregon and south into Baja. In the Elfin Forest, I know of a single occurrence and this is probably a single plant. It is next to the boardwalk, near to the origin of the spur to Sienna Point. It is probably a recent addition to the flora.

The name, honeysuckle, refers to the copious amounts of nectar produced by members of this genus. A plant that rewards its pollinator with nectar gets off relatively cheaply. Nectar is primarily sugar water, whereas pollen, the other tangible reward, is not only the reduced initially free-living male plant and thus expensive to make, it is also the source of the male gametes or sperm. The long horizontal corolla tube and spreading vertical limbs indicate that these flowers are pollinated by animals which must hover in front of them to get the nectar. Two pollinator types have this ability – hummingbirds and hawk moths. Both of these pollinators get their proteins from other sources and are using the flowers as we would an ice cream store – a place to get a sugar fix. The flowers are light purple to pink and are fully open during the day. Since birds have nearly the same vision we have and are active during the day, my guess is that hummingbirds would be the principal pollinator. I believe that sometime ago, I read that country children pulled off the petal tubes and sucked out the nectar. In several of my references, the bright red berries are said to have been eaten by Native Peoples. However, my references on edible wild plants for modern people do not mention them. I think I remember trying to eat a few berries of a different honeysuckle species in my youth and found them tasteless, fit only for emergency food.



The genus, *Lonicera*, belongs to the plant family known as the Caprifoliaceae. This family was classically defined by its woody habit and opposite leaves with no or rudimentary stipules. If the genera classically included in this family were placed next to each other in a garden, I suspect many would wonder what they all had in common. They would not be alone! Dr. R.F. Hoover in his *Vascular Flora of San Luis Obispo County* placed all of them into another family that was considered closely related at the time – the Rubiaceae (Coffee or Gardenia Family). Current work with DNA sequencing indicates that this family, as classically defined, should be split. The viburnums and elderberries would be removed to a heretofore herbaceous family (*Adoxaceae*). *Lonicera* remains uncomfortably within the Caprifoliaceae. The genera from two herbaceous families – the Valerianaceae and Dipsacaceae are being moved into this new Caprifoliaceae. This is because the family name, Caprifoliaceae, is the oldest available for this new assemblage of genera.



Promoting SWAP and the Elfin Forest at the Oktoberfest booth were (L-R) Ron Rasmussen, Rosemary Baxter, Pat Murray, Donna Banks and Nancy Severson. Photo by Sonrisa Photography.

## Oktoberfest Booth Visited by Many

It looked as if all of Los Osos went to the Baywood Oktoberfest this year. Second Street, closed off for two blocks between El Morro and Santa Ysabel, was packed with celebrating throngs who bought food and drink, patronized art and craft booths, and watched dancers and musicians perform. SWAP's booth had constant visitors who tried their hand at locating where their home might be on a 1937 aerial photo of Los Osos, paged through Historian Debbie Levi's three albums of SWAP news clippings, or bought a T-shirt or Elfin Forest calendar.

Booth Coordinator Pat Murray appreciated the enthusiastic participation of booth workers Pat Akey, Donna Banks, Rosemary Baxter, Susan Chandler, Scott Danielson, Rosaly and Carly Danielson, Debbie Levi, Ron Rasmussen, Nancy Severson, Charlie Sitton, and Yolanda Waddell. They worked in shifts of three or four, with Pat Murray, Bob and Sharon Meyer, and Ron Rasmussen doing setup and take-down. A revised model of the SWAP mural T-shirt (different color of green band and some sharpening of the mural image) sold briskly, as did the 2007 Elfin Forest calendar. Most important, numerous visitors to the booth learned more about the Elfin Forest and SWAP.

# Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown, SWAP Database Coordinator

## NEW MEMBERS:

Susan & Ed Chandler\*  
Mary Virginia Garelick  
Marsha Houston\*  
Jennine White\*

## RENEWING MEMBERS:

Irene Annoni*	Lois & Frank Martinez*
Rosemary Baxter*	Diana A. Minnix
David & Rosemary Bentley	Morro Group, Inc.*
Bob Blakeley*	Jim & Barbara Murray*
Carolyn Boomer*	Nicholas & Dorothy Pier*
Jean P. Boyd	Ingrid Reti*
Pat Brown*	Pete Sarafian*
Kathleen Copeland*	Gewynn & George Taylor*
Herbert & Debra Holt*	Lisa Wallender*
Heather & Jim Johnson*	

*\*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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Ron Rasmussen, Chair  
Pete Sarafian, Vice Chair  
Pat Akey, Treasurer  
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary  
Debbie Levi, Member at Large  
Bob Meyer, Member at Large  
Pat Murray, Member at Large



## OAKLEAVES

is published six times per year beginning in February.  
Co-editors are Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler;  
layout is by Katy Budge. Editing assistance by Pat Grimes.

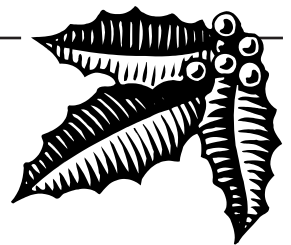
Contributors to this issue: Wendy Brown, Katy Budge, Debbie Levi, Bob Meyer,  
Ron Rasmussen, Jim Royer, Pete Sarafian, Sonrisa Photography, Rosalie Valvo,  
Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jean Wheeler.

Printed at Hay Printing, Morro Bay on recycled paper.  
Labeled and mailed at Achievement House.

Deadline for copy to *Oakleaves* is the first Wednesday before the month of issue.  
If possible, all copy should be submitted by e-mail to:  
ywaddell@kcbx.net AND jeanwheeler@charter.net.



# SWAP Shoppers' Order Form



1. MURAL SHIRTS (Older Design) - circle 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, XXXLg) @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (med., Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$17.00 = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Sweatshirt (med., Lg, XLg., XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$25.00 = \_\_\_

2. MURAL SHIRTS (New Design) - circle sizes

\_\_\_ Short Slv. T-Shirt (Sm, Med, Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Long Slv. T-Shirt (Sm, Med, Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$17.00 = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Sweatshirt (Sm, Med, Lg, XLg, XXLg, XXXLg) @ \$25.00 = \_\_\_

3. PHOTOS OF THE ELFIN FOREST

Original photo note cards by Bob Meyer @ \$3.00 = \_\_\_  
Original photo postcards by Bob Meyer @ \$1.00 = \_\_\_

4. MURAL PRINTS

\_\_\_ signed prints by artist Barbara Rosenthal,  
image size 4"x16"; mounted on foamcore @ \$20.00 = \_\_\_

5. NEW POCKET GUIDE

Useful 56-page guide to plants & animals of the Elfin Forest @ \$2.00 = \_\_\_

6. 2007 ELFIN FOREST CALENDAR

Scenes of the Elfin Forest to enjoy all year round! @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_

SUBTOTAL (Prices include tax) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping cost if outside Los Osos/Morro Bay

Pocket Guides & Note Cards \$1.00 = \_\_\_  
all other items \$2.50 = \_\_\_

TOTAL OF ORDER \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (with Area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to:

SWAP, P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412 - 6642.

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

## New Item!

SWAP 2007 Elfin Forest Calendar is now available in a limited quantity of 250 copies. The calendar is filled with scenes of the Elfin Forest as well as full-page and smaller photos of birds, wildflowers, butterflies, and other inhabitants of the Elfin Forest. Your \$15 donation (partially tax-deductible) will help with SWAP projects. Get one for yourself and give some as gifts.

*Best wishes for the holidays to all from SWAP!*

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) 528-0392



*Address Service Requested  
 Per Name or Current Resident*

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

## Shop With S.W.A.P!

S.W.A.P.'s beautiful 2007 calendar and mural design shirts make excellent gifts for the holidays. The shirts come in most sizes as short-sleeved or long-sleeved T-shirts or warm, comfy sweat-shirts. Mural prints 5-1/2 inches by 17 inches signed by the artist Barbara Rosenthal also make excellent gifts to beautify a wall at home or at the office. Good stocking stuffers are the Elfin Forest Pocket Guides and lovely notecards and postcards from Bob Meyer's talented photography. For the person who has everything, a gift membership to S.W.A.P. or a donation in the name of your relative or friend would also be much appreciated. Use the order form on page 7 to either call in or mail your order, and your gifts will promptly be either mailed, or hand delivered locally.

### SWAP Elves & Critters

#### to Dance in Los Osos Holiday Parade

Do you love a parade? Then join SWAP members as we march in the Los Osos Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m. We'll have elves dancing and tossing candy, Weed Warriors marching to a snappy beat, and a variety of costumed animals and birds of the Elfin Forest prancing along to add to the fun. Let us know if you'd like to be part of this delightful event. Call 528-0392 and leave your name and phone number.



## 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!

Memberships include a subscription to SWAP's bimonthly newsletter, *Oakleaves*. All donations to SWAP are tax-deductible.

**EVERY membership counts!**

Make checks payable to: SWAP.

Mail to: Small Wilderness Area Preservation,  
 P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442.