



# 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 ❖ OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2007



Wendy Brown plans to spend more time in her garden when she retires.  
Photo by Yolanda Waddell.

*Behind the Scenes / Second of a Series*

## Wendy Brown, SWAP Database Coordinator

*By Yolanda Waddell*

A very important person on our chapter's Membership Committee is Wendy Brown, our Database Coordinator. Thanks to her skill with a variety of computer programs, we have an up-to-date and accurate record of everyone who sends money to SWAP for new memberships, renewals, or donations.

*Wendy Brown continued on page 2*

### You are invited to the SWAP ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Los Osos / Morro Bay Chapter  
Saturday, October 20, 2007

Noon to 2:00 p.m. El Morro Church of the Nazarene  
1480 Santa Ysabel at South Bay Blvd. in Los Osos  
(1/2 block east of South Bay Blvd.)

Open to SWAP members AND the community

Hear guest speaker **Dr. Ken Levine** of the SLO Botanical Garden. Ken will show slides and talk about wildflowers along the coast of Chile, from La Serena in the north to Valdivia in the south. He will also bring us the latest news from the SLO Botanical Garden.

We will also:

Celebrate our volunteers

Elect Board Members (SWAP members only)

Hear reports from our Treasurer & Conservation Chair

Have lunch together after the meeting  
(hosted by SWAP)

Please RSVP if you plan to stay for lunch, 528-0392

***We look forward to seeing you!***

### ❖ *Inside This Issue* ❖

- 3 ..... *Calendar Unveiled!*
- 4 ..... *Northern Pintail Duck by Jean Wheeler*
- 5 ..... *Creeping Snowberry by Dirk Walters*
- 6 ..... *Elfin Forest Sightings*
- 6 ..... *Conservation Updates*
- 7 ..... *Weed Warrior News*
- 8 ..... *Coming Up In The Elfin Forest*
- 9 ..... *Walks In The Elfin Forest*
- 10 ..... *New and Renewing Members*
- 11 ..... *SWAP Shoppers Order Form*



## 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

The SWAP Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. at the Community Center of Sea Oaks Mobile Home Park, 1675 Los Osos Valley Road.

The next meetings are  
**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), call 528-0392.



## CONTACT SWAP

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 or Chuck Lowe at 781-4417.

## Wendy Brown *continued from page 1*

Every two weeks Wendy receives member information slips from Treasurer Pat Akey, with a worksheet detailing how much was sent and when. Wendy updates the database, generates a set of labels, and sends them to our Membership Correspondent, Sharon Meyer, with the membership information slips. Sharon then sends out thank you letters to each member or donor.

Every two months, Wendy "tells" her Excel program to list new and renewing members, and anyone who has sent a donation. She divides the list into "New" and "Renewing," and e-mails it to the Oakleaves editors for publication in the newsletter. Then she produces a set of mailing labels to be attached to the newsletter and delivers those to Achievement House's Mailing and More store, where the latest issue of Oakleaves is folded, labeled, sorted and mailed.

Several times a year, Wendy generates a list using membership renewal dates that are coming up, or have passed. She transfers the list to a program that produces mailing labels showing when the membership year is complete, and mails the labels to Terry Gates, who in turn mails out renewal reminders along with a remit envelope.

Wendy joined SWAP in 1993 while we were raising funds to purchase the Elfin Forest. After the Forest was saved, she continued as a member because she loves the Elfin Forest and believes in supporting local groups such as SWAP. A Certified Public Accountant, she offered her help to keep our records straight during a period of change in 1998-99, and in 1999 became our Database Coordinator.

Now Wendy is retiring from her accounting business, and is also planning to retire from her Database Coordinator volunteer job with SWAP. She is a Master Gardener and wants to spend more time in her own garden. Also, she is Vice President of the Board of Directors of the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation, and that is requiring more of her time. The Foundation provides grant funds to many non-profit organizations, and has given funds to SWAP in the past.

Wendy says that the Database Coordinator spends about 1-1/2 hours or less every two weeks on entering member information, and another half hour generating labels for thank you letters. Producing mailing labels for the newsletter and labels for the renewal reminders requires an additional half hour for each task. Periodically, she sends the entire membership list to SWAP Board members. She has enjoyed being a volunteer for SWAP, saying, "Databases can be very creative." She has made several innovations during the past eight years, including sending the renewal reminders.

Because she doesn't want to leave our chapter in the lurch, Wendy will wait till we have found a person to replace her. Of course, she and we hope that someone who is skilled with database entry and has a few hours each month, will volunteer soon. Wendy will be happy to give an orientation to that person. The SWAP Board of Directors is grateful to Wendy for her past eight years of service to the chapter, and we wish her a very enjoyable retirement.

**Wendy is ... also planning to retire from her Database Coordinator volunteer job with SWAP. Wendy will wait till we have found a person to replace her ... and we hope that someone who is skilled with database entry and has a few hours each month will volunteer.**

# Calendar Unveiled!

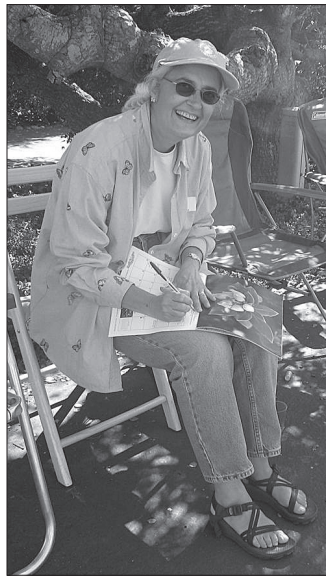
By Debbie Levi; photos by Yolanda Waddell

On Saturday, September 8, the Calendar Committee of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of SWAP hosted an afternoon preview reception for our 2008 Elfin Forest calendar. Flyers for the event that were designed by Katy Budge and Les Christiansen, plus a press release to local media, brought about 50 people to the calendar party. The event was held in the driveway of long-time SWAP member Lee Markwort, whose home is adjacent to the Elfin Forest. Fourteen of the 20 calendar photographers were present to autograph pages with their photos. The calendar sold briskly.

Community support was strong. The Los Osos Chamber of Commerce inserted our flyers in their August newsletter, and the local Sun Bulletin and Bay News published photos of the calendar along with our news item. Past SWAP Special Events Coordinator Elsie Deitz gave suggestions and recipes for the appetizers and refreshments, and Trader Joe's supplied groceries selected by committee member Pat Murray. Staples Copy Center on Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo printed the majority of our advertising flyers at a discounted rate. Boy Scout Nathan Santos of Los Osos Troop 214 helped with parking. SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen helped the Calendar Committee with setup and cleanup, Treasurer Pat Akey held forth at the punch table, and member Dave Akey poured wine.

The Calendar Committee consists of Debbie Levi (Chair), Pat Murray, Yolanda Waddell and Jean Wheeler. Together they contacted the excellent group of photographers and sponsors (see "SWAP Presents the 2008 Calendar" in the August/September issue), planned the placement of the photos, researched dates for holidays and special events as well as phases of the moon, and wrote the text.

Calendars are available for purchase (\$15.00) at the Los Osos Chamber of Commerce and at the Monday afternoon Farmer's Market (2 to 4:30 p.m.) at 3rd Street and Santa Maria in Los Osos. Also, they can be ordered from The Oakleaves Shoppers Guide, or by calling 528-1861 or 528-1911. Calendars will be offered at the SWAP Annual Meeting on Saturday October 20, as well as at our booth at Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 28. Proceeds from the calendar will support Elfin Forest conservation and education.



(Top) Enjoying the sunny Los Osos afternoon and the calendar preview party were (L-R rear) Ron Rasmussen, Bob Meyer, Pat Akey, and Alon Perlman.

Chatting in the foreground were Susan Martinez and Judy Owens.

(Middle left) Photographer Pat Brown was pleased to sign her photo on the December page of the 2008 calendar.

(Middle right) Party organizer Pat Murray greets Eugene Rheingans.

(Above) Gathered around the calendar sales table were (L-R) committee chair Debbie Levi, Jay Waddell and the Joe Laurenzi, the new librarian for the Los Osos Public Library.

(At left) Debbie Levi (left) was happy to receive our shipment of calendars from Anita Rouse and Jill Robison of Hart Impressions Printing.

# Northern Pintail Duck

By Jean Wheeler, Ph. D.

Among the most elegant ducks in the flotillas of migratory water birds covering our estuary from fall into spring, the northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) gets both its scientific and common name from its long and pointed black tail. Medium to large in size among the dabbling ducks, males can reach nearly 30 inches in length. Light in weight for their size, only one to three pounds, they are very graceful in flight with narrow wings spanning as much as three feet.

Their elegance comes from that long black tail, a slender profile for a duck of their size, a long graceful neck, and a long bill. The breeding males have gray sides with an oval dark patch bordering the wings, a brown head, and a white belly and chest with the white spiraling up the neck behind the head as a narrow stripe. The back and tail are blackish, and below the tail there is a black rump with a large white patch. The long and slender bill is gray/blue/black on both sexes.

The females are, as usual, smaller and plainer, mostly mottled darker brown above and lighter gray-brown below, the better for camouflage when nesting. Their pointed tail, though not as long as those of the males, does help to distinguish them from other female ducks, as does their long and slender bill.

Northern pintails are common and widespread across the northern hemisphere--breeding in Europe and Asia as

well as Alaska, Canada and the Midwest. Pair formation begins in late fall on wintering waters such as Morro Bay. Males swim close behind the females, whistling and calling to them. Pairing is usually complete before the birds

return to their breeding sites. Nesting occurs on wet grasslands, prairies, or tundra some distance from open water. The hen scoops out a shallow bowl, lines it with vegetation and down, and typically lays about six to nine eggs. She incubates them for about three weeks and does most if not all of the feeding of the young, which fledge in about a month.

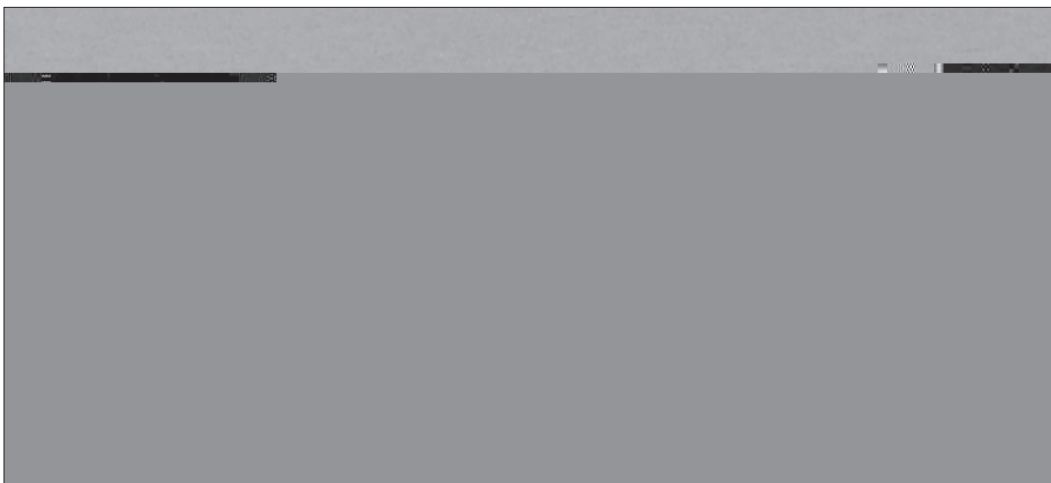
Northern pintails are dabbling rather than diving ducks. They feed by upending and reaching down in the water with their long necks and bills, mainly seeking seeds and other vegetation and some insects, tiny shrimp and snails. They also eat much grain from farm fields located near inland lakes and coastal marshes.

Northern pintails are among the first ducks to migrate south in fall and north in spring. They can begin arriving on Morro Bay as early as August and usually head north again by March. Over half of the North American population migrates through California, large numbers wintering in the Central Valley as well as on coastal bays. Others continue south to Mexico, Central America, and even northern Columbia.



*(Above) Male Pintail in breeding plumage.  
Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.*

*(At left) A female Northern Pintail Duck followed by two males on Morro Bay.  
Photo by Jean Wheeler.*



# Creeping Snowberry

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

The illustration for this issue of *Oak Leaves* is a composite of something new and something old, and it is obviously done in two very different styles. The fruiting branch was done by Bonnie long ago using drawing pens which give lines of varying widths. (We have both forgotten the original purpose for this drawing.) The drawing of the flowering leafy branch is a new drawing done for this article using a rapidograph which gives uniform width lines. The drawings are of creeping snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*).

This shrubby species is fairly common but often overlooked because it is mistaken for its more flamboyant relative, common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*). Separating these two highly variable species is very difficult. They differ only in degree: common snowberry is said to be taller and straighter, with larger, narrower leaves; creeping snowberry is said to be shorter with weaker stems that often spread horizontally creating a loose mat. Creeping snowberry, therefore, more closely resembles a tall groundcover than a true shrub. Its leaves are also supposed to be smaller and more rounded (oval). However, both species produce individuals that fall into the range of the other.

The characteristics that most of the ID manuals use to differentiate the two species are number of flowers per cluster (inflorescence), presence of nectar glands below the petal lobes, and whether the floral tube bulges at the base. Creeping snowberry produces few flowers per inflorescence, nectar glands below its petals, and no bulge; common snowberry usually produces many flowers per cluster and a single large gland enclosed in the bulging tube. Creeping snowberry has a greater tendency to produce leaves covered by fine trichomes (hair).

After reexamining the plants in the Elfin Forest, comparing them with the specimens in the Herbarium at Cal Poly, and running them through many different ID books, I have come to the conclusion that snowberry found in the Elfin Forest is the creeping snowberry and not the one listed in *The Pocket Guide*. Creeping snowberry can be seen along the boardwalk under one of the oak groves near "Rose's Grove." Creeping snowberry, according to the books, is more common in brushy areas whereas common snowberry generally inhabits shaded canyons.

The white berries are smaller in creeping snowberry than in common snowberry, but they are still probably poisonous.



A saying coined for poison oak is equally valid here, "Berries white--poisonous sight." Further evidence of their poisonous nature is the tendency for the fruits to remain on the plant long after they are produced. That is, wild animals seem to be avoiding them.

The authors, Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien, in their *California Native Plants for the Garden* recommend this species as a ground cover capable of withstanding the shade and chemistry under live oaks. Even in the wild, the ground under live oaks is usually devoid of anything but poison oak. Creeping snowberry can and does thrive there. I suspect after it gets established, it could even prevent the establishment of poison oak.

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## Please Report Elfin Forest Sightings

Have you observed any unusual birds in the Elfin Forest? Mammals? Reptiles? Amphibians? Insects? Interesting activities or footprints of wildlife in our Elfin forest? Unusual plants? Please report any interesting wildlife activity or plants that you see to Jean Wheeler at [jeanwheeler@charter.net](mailto:jeanwheeler@charter.net) for inclusion in future *Oakleaves* issues under "Elfin Forest Sightings." You can also leave a message on SWAP's answering machine, 528-0392.

## Elfin Forest Sightings

We've reported a number of times on sightings of the Elfin Forest's resident coyotes, but – wolves? Yes! On Saturday morning, July 21, wolves, or to be more precise, hybrid wolves, could be seen strolling along the boardwalk. All were on leash, and were part of an event titled "Walk With the Wolves," coordinated by Kristi Krutzinger. Kristi and her husband Mark adopted a wolf/malamute hybrid named Tundra in 1997, and not long after founded W.H.A.R. (Wolf Hybrid Adoption and Rescue) Wolf Rescue on their ranch in Paso Robles.

To help people in San Luis Obispo County become more comfortable with these seemingly fearsome animals, Kristi began a series of nature walks in various parts of the county. That is why about 30 people could be seen walking along the boardwalk on July 21st with their large wolf hybrids patiently following on leashes. The animals seemed to be enjoying the walk, and their humans were busy trading information about caring for their spectacular canine charges.



*Kristi Krutzinger (center) and her wolfmalamute hybrid Tundra were joined by other wolf mixes and their humans for a walk in the Elfin Forest.  
Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*

*For more information about wolf hybrids and the rescue project, check out [www.wharwolves.org](http://www.wharwolves.org).*

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## Spring Seeding Sees Sprouting

*By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair*

Bob Meyer, Ron Rasmussen and Pete Sarafian played Johnny Appleseed this spring on the South Bay Boulevard highway embankment. These SWAP Board members sowed native plant seeds along the uphill side of the new bio-logs on the embankment. Quite a few seedlings can be seen sprouting just above the logs. Most appear to be beach evening primrose (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*). Who knows? Perhaps by the end of next winter with enough rain we will see even more sprouts coming up. With ever more veldt grass being removed, a host of native plants are volunteering along this hillside, even oak trees.

## Frost Crushes Cape Ivy

*By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair*

In a marked contrast to global warming, last winter's freezing weather assisted SWAP's weeding efforts. Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), a particularly nasty vine, was knocked back along a wide swath in the Elfin Forest. The hanging vines in particular froze and died back over the course of the early spring months this year. It is particularly difficult to reach the vines and remove Cape ivy in the dense thickets near the edge of the Bay. The frost damage is a welcome relief to our weeding efforts. Cape ivy infests most of the stream valleys along the Central Coast and is one of the worst invasives in this area. Thankfully, it will take some time for it to recover fully.

# Weed Warriors Turn to Fencing

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

No, this was not the kind where you wield a sword (epee) and thrust and parry. The Wonderful Weekend Weed Warriors continued to improve conditions in the Elfin Forest by installing more symbolic fencing. During the July work party the Warriors fenced the east side of the 13th Street sand trail from the street end to nearly as far as the boardwalk. They strung nearly 500 feet of a single run of coated wire cable. This constitutes the single longest continuous stretch completed in the Forest so far. Anchor rods left over from the 2002 Coastal Resources Grant revegetation work were set into the ground about every 11 feet. Coated wire cable was inserted through the eyelets of the rods and used as a symbolic barrier to guide visitors along the proper route. Hopefully, symbolic fence will dissuade people from creating new trails while providing a low visual impact for photographers, artists and lovers of nature. Many thanks go to the hard work put in by volunteers that included Jay Bonestell, Steve Cake, Barrie Coate, Lannie Erickson, Jack Fanselow, Rich and Prisila Johnson, Ron Rasmussen, Dar Reynolds, Pete Sarafian and Norma Wightman. It was a job well done.



Weed Warrior Lannie Erickson (left) and Conservation Chair Pete Sarafian (center) pulled the symbolic fence cable tight while Ron Rasmussen fastened it to an anchor rod.  
Photo by Jean Wheeler

## Summer Vacation Saps Volunteers

By Pete Sarafian, Conservation Chair

The August work party was almost non-existent. Only three (and a half) volunteers showed up to complete symbolic fencing of the 13th Street sand trail. It must have been summer vacation time, and everyone had other plans. Actually, the small crew managed to complete the entire job with time to spare. Lannie Erickson, Ron Rasmussen and Pete Sarafian set about placing symbolic fencing along the west side of the trail. The east side had been completed during the July work party. Half way through the effort, newsletter editor and photographer extraordinaire Jean Wheeler showed up and pitched right in. The single run of coated wire cable and anchor rod fence posts were installed and tightened well before noon. This was quite an accomplishment for such a small crew. Great job and many thanks to all! (Maybe with the smaller crew we weren't tripping all over each other this time.)

### Let's All Pull Together

We've plenty for you to do  
With the SWAP volunteers (what a crew).  
We can stabilize soil  
Or do other toil,  
Something always arises anew.  
And if anyone would like to suggest  
A project that they would like best,  
I am perfectly willing  
To do your brand of killing,  
As long as the specie's a pest.  
*Yours in integrated pest management,  
Pete Sarafian*

### 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.

*When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.*  
~Author Unknown

# Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Story and Photos By Jean Wheeler

While October and November are minimal in colorful flowers, returning rains should be greening up the Elfin Forest in preparation for wonderful floral displays in winter and spring. A few of the species which normally do continue to show some blossoms in these months are California Sagebrush (white), dune Buckwheat (white flowers aged to pink or rust), California Asters (pinkish petals and yellow central disks), Coyote Brush (white male and yellow female flowers), and Seaside Golden Yarrow.



Fall bird migrants passing through and winter residents settling in more than make up for any visual slowdown of the flowering sort. The nearly empty expanses of water in the estuary seen in summer from Bush Lupine Point or Siena's View are now covered with thousands of swimming and feeding waterbirds.

All five grebe species listed in our Pocket Guide (sold on page 11) are at peak from September or October until March or April. All four listed species of geese begin arriving in October, if not before. Our famous Brant Geese typically fly in from Alaska in late October, and as many as two to three thousand of this species are feeding in the eel-grass beds by the end of November. All ten species of dabbling ducks and at least seven of nine species of diving ducks have reached peak populations by October or November. Western gulls are year-round residents, but five other species join them here only in

fall through spring. The American Avocet also returns to peak population numbers in October.

On land, the Elfin Forest itself plays host to brush or woodland birds migrating through or wintering. Fox, Lincoln's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows join our year-round White-crowned Sparrows from October to March or April. Ruby-crowned Kinglets also settle in for the winter. In the same months, our summer Swainson's Thrushes have gone, but are replaced for the winter by American Robins and Hermit Thrushes. Yellow-rumped Warblers also peak in these months. Say's Phoebe joins its year-round relative, the Black Phoebe, for a winter visit. A dawn or dusk walker in the Elfin Forest may be lucky enough to see or more likely hear a wintering short-eared owl. Birds one may be lucky enough to see passing through in small flocks include Cedar Waxwings, Western Tanagers, and Pine Siskins.



(Above) California Aster  
(*Lessingia filaginifolia*)  
Photo by Jean Wheeler.

(At left) Part of a large flock of Brant  
in Morro Bay. They can be identified  
by the white ring around their necks.  
Photo by Jean Wheeler.



# WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

## Third Saturday Walks

### *October 13, 8:30 a.m. – Pre-Big Sit! Walk (Second Saturday – Note earlier time)*

This Second Saturday walk, beginning at 8:30 a.m., will be a pre-Big Sit! walk. The actual Big Sit! is an international event hosted by the Birdwatchers Digest ([www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)) and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. It will take place on Sunday, October 14. Birder Jim Royer, who coordinates the Elfin Forest Big Sit! at Bush Lupine Point, will lead the Saturday walk. Join Jim in finding and identifying 40 to 60 species of birds throughout the Elfin Forest. This walk is for those who just enjoy looking at birds as well as for more experienced birders. You'll come away knowing more about birds, their calls, their habits and habitats.

### *October 20, 9:30 a.m. – Reptile Walk*

Join herpetologist and Cuesta College biology instructor Ron Ruppert as he tours the Elfin Forest in search of the Coast Horned Lizard and the Forest's resident reptiles and amphibians. Since it is often difficult to find the real thing, Ron will bring some reptile skins and perhaps a live critter or two so walk participants can see what some of those small and retiring Forest inhabitants look like. Learn how these elfin creatures survive and protect themselves from predators and, yes – boys!

### *November 17, 9:30 a.m. Sketch Walk*

Join artist and naturalist Barbara Renshaw for a stroll along the Elfin Forest boardwalk to take in the views of the Morro Bay estuary, sandspit and volcanic Morros. You'll stop in the Rose Bowker Oak Grove to marvel at the ancient gnarled Coast live oak trees, and Barbara will tell you a bit about the native plants that you see along the way. As you go, you can sketch the bay, birds on the saltmarsh, oaks, or some of the Forest's varied plant life. No drawing experience is necessary. Bring a pad of drawing paper, colored pencils or pastels, and some drinking water. Consider bringing a camera too. You'll be pleased to discover that, with Barbara's help, there is an artist hidden inside of you.

### *December 15, 9:30 a.m. Solstice Walk*

Winter solstice is a week from today, on December 22. Will the sun really stand still, as the word "solstice" means? Dr. Jean Wheeler has taught thousands of geography students about the relative wanderings of the sun, moon, and earth and what they mean to us in terms of our climates, tides, and the vegetation and animal life around us. She'll show us how large our seasonal differences in sun angle are. She'll explain how locations of some Elfin Forest plant species reflect in part their need for or ability to tolerate abundant solar energy. Yet other species survive only where protected from the heat of high summer sun angles.



*(Above) Geologist Jeff Grover used charts to help walk participants understand the complexities of coastal rock formations.*

*Photo by Jean Wheeler.*

*(Below) July walk leader Al Normandin displayed a fruit from a nearby Hollyleaf cherry tree for walk participants.*

*Photo by Yolanda Waddell.*



*Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Park at the north end of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos and walk up the path at the end of the street to the boardwalk. The walk will begin at that point. Wear comfortable shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Please park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes. Please leave pets at home. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information call (805) 528-0392.*

# Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

Compiled by Wendy Brown<sup>‡</sup>, SWAP Database Coordinator

## NEW MEMBERS:

Patty Arnold	William & Nancy Flanders*
Barbara Asbell, Anastasi Construction*	Bruce Gibson*
Maryanne DeGeode	Betty McElhill*
	Kathryn Reid*

## RENEWING MEMBERS:

Thomas H. Alden*	Susan & Pascal Grimaud*
Cynthia Boatenhamer	Carla Grindle*
Doug & Lee Buckmaster*	Gene & Mimi Kalland*
Andrew Chermak*	Charles & Laura Kass*
Scott Danielson*	Howard & Marlo Miller*
Katie & Jerry Davis*	William H. Newman*
Kathleen M. Delzell*	Al Normandin*
Margaret Diehl	Ronald E. Rasmussen*
Ernest & Barbara Eddy*	Nancy E. Ruhl*
Lurlie Edgecomb*	Tomoko Sugano*
Joanna Frawley*	Mary C. Topp*
Gary Gianico*	Roy & Junie Wolf
Sterling & Virginia Gottlieb*	

## DONATIONS:

Anonymous\*  
William Henry\*

*\*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.*

*‡Since Wendy Brown is retiring from her post (see page 1), SWAP will be looking for a new database coordinator. Wendy is happy to provide orientation and training for her successor, so if you're interested in helping us maintain our membership records, please let us know by leaving a message at 528-0392.*

# SWAP Receives a Gift

By Ron Rasmussen, SWAP Chair

Bea Richmond lived at the end of 14th street next to the Elfin Forest. She was an active member and supporter of the Estero Chapter of SWAP that was the precursor of the present chapter. When she passed away her heirs, the Boudreaus, knew of her love for the Forest and donated a small vacant lot in Cambria to our chapter. This was in April 1991. Because of the small size of the lot and limited availability of new water hookups in Cambria, the lot seemed to have little actual value.

Over the years SWAP made some unsuccessful efforts to sell the lot. In the past few months we were fortunate to have found a realtor, Jack Posemsky of Cambria, who specializes in selling this class of property. Mr. Posemsky contacted the neighbors who owned land adjacent to the lot and one agreed to purchase the lot, which could then be added to their property. As a memorial to Bea Richmond and her family the proceeds from the sale will be used by SWAP to ensure the future restoration and maintenance of the Elfin Forest.

This gift is the first example of a gift of property to our branch and it shows how a material gift can help ensure SWAP's future. The donors of the gift received significant tax advantages and SWAP received substantial support toward its long-term goals.

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*A gift of nature is an imperishable gift,  
never broken, torn, lost, worn;  
the gift that given once is given forever;  
that exuberantly gives itself in return not alone  
to the giver or receiver  
but to all creatures of earth for all time.*

*Emily Polk,  
Founder, Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP)*



## 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, Debbie Levi, Ron Rasmussen, Barbara Rosenthal, Pete Sarafian,  
Yolanda Waddell, Dirk and Bonnie Walters, Jean Wheeler

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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.

# Selling Out Fast!

Call 528-1911 or 528-1861 to order your SWAP 2008 Elfin Forest Calendar, before they're all gone. 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 in the coming holiday season.

Cover photo for 2008 Calendar: Oak Grove with Ferns © Bill Bouton



## SWAP Shoppers' Order Form

All Prices Include Sales Tax

### 1. MURAL SHIRTS

Mural design by artist Barbara Rosenthal on both front and back. Words on shirt: "El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area" above mural and "Small Wilderness Area Preservation" and "Los Osos, California" below mural.

Circle Sizes:

\_\_\_ Short Slv. T-Shirt (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 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. PHOTOS OF THE ELFIN FOREST

Original photo note cards by Bob Meyer

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

Original photo postcards by Bob Meyer

\_\_\_ @ \$1.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate No. per View(s):

\_\_\_ All 5; \_\_\_ Don Klopfer Trail; \_\_\_ Ocean View;

\_\_\_ Wild Hyacinth; \_\_\_ Horned Lizard; \_\_\_ Dudleya

### 3. POCKET GUIDE

Useful 56-page guide to plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. Charts for bloom season, form, color, and habitat for 200 vascular plants plus lists of 56 lichens and 36 mushrooms known to occur. Habitat and peak months seen are charted for 187 birds. Also listed: 28 common mammals; 10 reptiles; 4 amphibians; 19 butterflies and moths (charted by size, months in flight, color, and host plants); 104 other arthropods and 7 gastropods.

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

### 4. ELFIN FOREST MURAL PRINTS

\_\_\_ signed prints by artist Barbara Rosenthal, image size 4 1/2 x 16 1/2 in; mounted on foamcore @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. 2008 ELFIN FOREST CALENDAR

Enjoy all year round these wonderful pictures of the Elfin Forest by outstanding photographers!

\_\_\_ @\$15.00= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping cost if outside Los Osos/Morro Bay

Pocket Guides & Note Cards: \$1.00 = \_\_\_

Calendars & all other items: \$2.50 = \_\_\_

**TOTAL OF ORDER \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

(Please print when filling order, and indicate how many of each)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (w/area code) : \_\_\_\_\_

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.

(See phone numbers in box above for calendar pre-orders.)

SWAP Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Saturday, Oct. 20 with speaker Dr. Ken Levine of the SLO Botanical Garden!

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 www.elm-forest.org



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## Volunteers Needed for Oktoberfest

Los Osos will be celebrating its annual Oktoberfest this year on Sunday, October 28 on Second Street in downtown Baywood Park, from 9 am to 4 pm. SWAP will participate in the celebration by setting up a booth among others featuring many kinds of arts and crafts, as well as ethnic foods.



Would you enjoy a couple of hours talking to people? Our booth is set up to be self-explanatory, and we'll provide you with a question and answer sheet for the most commonly asked questions. We need volunteers to talk with visitors, give out literature, and sell T-shirts, photo note cards and postcards, mural prints, pocket guides and our new gorgeous 2008 calendar. 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. Join us, you'll have fun!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$12                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Defender \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$25                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Champion \$250  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protector \$50                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian \$500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1000              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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.