



OAK LEAVES

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST

P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ❖ (805) 528-0392 ❖ JUNE / JULY 2020

Why Are Fences in the Elfin Forest and Why Do We Plan to Remove Them?

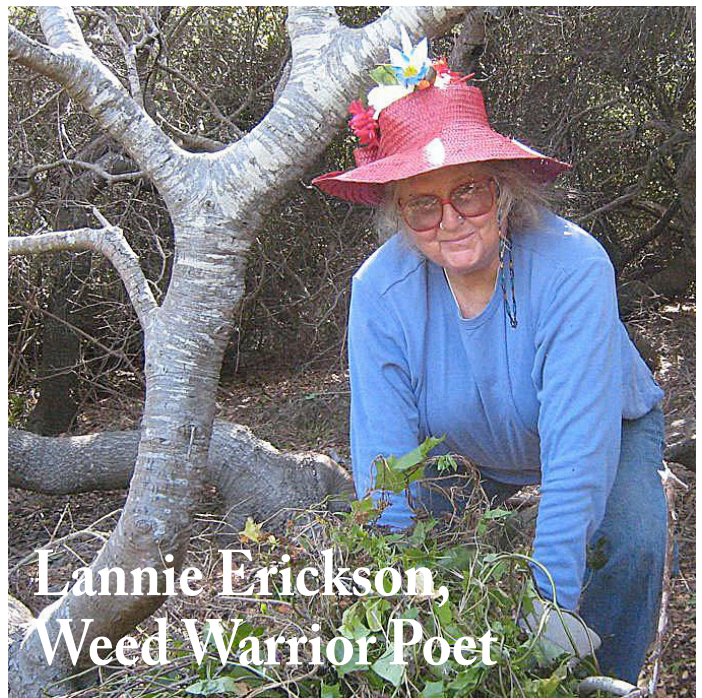
By Skip Rotstein, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

The Elfin Forest we walk through today looks more like the forest of three hundred years ago than the weedy, tire-tracked, eroded forest of only twenty years ago. Aerial photos taken before 2000, prior to restoration, show an amazing web of wide sand paths through the scrub from South Bay Boulevard to the east, right down to the estuary on the west. A walk along the route of the present upper boardwalk then would have shown wide sandy spaces caused by pedestrians and even by vehicle erosion. More paths freely penetrated the upper oak groves.

The original Forest restoration plan recognized the need to limit access and give the forest a chance to heal. Green fences were erected to block entrances to upper oak groves, to block entrances to paths from the upper and lower ring path (which became the boardwalk), to block access to eroded paths to the estuary at Bush Lupine Point and Sienna's View, and to establish closed plant restoration areas between 14th and 16th Streets.

Twenty years of limited access, invasive plant removal, revegetating closed areas, and erosion control have resulted in explosive

Fences in the Forest *continued on page 2*



Lannie Erickson,
Weed Warrior Poet

During a past work party, Weed Warrior Lannie Erickson pulled a large pile of Cape ivy out of shrubs and oak trees at the western end of the Elfin Forest. Later the ivy was killed with chemical spray.

By Yolanda Waddell

If you spot a woman with flowers in her hair, pedaling her bicycle around Los Osos, that will be Lannie Erickson. Though she was born, grew up and went to college in Minnesota, she is now a thorough-going Californian.

Midway through college in Mankato, Minnesota, Lannie decided she'd lived through enough Minnesota winters and transferred to San Francisco State University as an art major. She also continued her interest in writing and took creative writing classes. She found a job to support herself with AT&T as an engineering data clerk ("paper pusher") and then as an operator.

On graduating, Lannie continued working in San Francisco as an AT&T Central Office telephone technician. She was the person who dealt with phone problems that could be solved within the office by adjusting connections. Lannie next moved to Oakland and then moved southward to Salinas, still working for AT&T.

Weed Warrior Poet *continued on page 2*

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of the

Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF)

consists of the following members:

Jan DiLeo, Chair

Skip Rotstein, Vice Chair

Dave Bowlus, Treasurer

Yolanda Waddell, Secretary

Beverly Boyd, Acting Recording Secretary

The FEMEF Board of Directors meets monthly at 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Meeting via ZOOM

until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The next meetings are

***Tuesday, June 9
and Tuesday, July 14.***

All Board meetings are open to the public.

To confirm the date, time and location

(which are subject to change),

call (805) 528-0392.



CONTACT FEMEF

If you have questions about FEMEF activities or want to volunteer, please call

(805) 528-0392 and leave a message.

A recorded message will give 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: Lasca Gaylord

SLO County Parks Supervising Ranger

1144 Monterey Street, SLO, CA 93408

(805) 781-1196

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 Lasca Gaylord at 781-1196.

Weed Warrior Poet *cont. from page 1*

Later she continued her southward trend moving to Greenfield, a city surrounded by large farms. She joined a creative writing group in nearby King City sharing what she wrote with the group.

In 1996, Lannie moved to San Luis Obispo. She bought a house in Los Osos where she enjoyed hiking and riding her horse in Montaña de Oro and visiting the Elfin Forest. She retired from AT&T in 2004, and began studying Chinese brush painting as well as doing some writing. In 2010, Lannie became an Elfin Forest Weed Warrior pulling veldt grass and other invasive plants and doing trail trimming. Then in 2017, she was asked to continue a tradition of writing doggerel-type poems (Lannie calls them “poems with a purpose”), encouraging Weed Warriors to join the coming First Saturday Work Party. Here are two stanzas of one of her poems for a June work party:

Sing a Tune to June

Fey gypsy May packed her circus away,

Her tents of green have now had their day.

Hear the rustle of grass. Let her fair sister pass.

In Celestial Meadow June now holds her sway.

Now get work! It's no time to shirk!

Get yourselves out to old 15th Street!

We'll work ourselves silly, no time to get chilly.

If we're good, Ron's cookies will be a great treat.

Lannie continued her interest in Chinese brush painting. She traveled four times to Hangzhou, China to study at a famous brush painting school (“Because the air fares were cheap and the people are friendly”). Now, early in May when this is being written, Lannie observes the COVID-19 Shelter at Home regulations by doing some hiking and bicycling but mostly staying at home, doing Chinese brush painting and learning Chinese. Recently she added learning about spiders to her activities. She says that she isn't lonely but misses getting together with other people. Lannie awaits her next adventure saying, “It's funny where life leads you.”

Fences in the Forest *cont. from page 1*

native plant growth that has covered bare areas, stabilized eroded hillsides and filled in unwanted paths. The most recent aerial photo shows no boardwalk-to-boardwalk cross paths remain and no paths to the estuary. A walk on the ground during the 2018 Survey found green fences bordering the 11th Street entrance path and in many places along the boardwalk so overgrown they could hardly be seen.

An even greater change in twenty years has been human behavior. Starting in 2005, black cable, “symbolic fencing” was strung along all the recognized access paths and both sides of the boardwalk. Visitors enjoying the Elfin Forest recognize the purpose of the cable and with few exceptions remain on the boardwalk and cable-defined paths.

Removal of overgrown and deteriorating green fencing is the next step in forest restoration. A restored forest has unnecessary evidence of human intrusion removed, for esthetic reasons and more importantly to allow free movement of wildlife. Access to old paths to the estuary will remain fenced until they too are grown over. Aside from the entrance paths and boardwalk, the only evidence of man's intrusion will be the scattered shells left by the Native Americans.

Weed Warrior Reports

By Vicky Johnsen, Conservation Co-Chair

March 6

Five volunteers (plus Snail Monitor, Travis Belt) showed up for the Friday work party in March. Too bad for the other regulars as everyone agreed Craig's Gluten-Free Chocolate-Ginger Cookies were the best!

Despite a small work force, all visible Slender Leaf Ice Plant was dug up and the mature plants with flowers disposed of. Prisila Johnson did the brunt of the boardwalk repair task as Rich helped with tackling the ice plant. Dave Bowlus took rake and shovel in hand to repair downtrodden erosion berms on many access trails. Our new volunteer, McKenna Sorenson, earned her "Weed Warrior" button by helping with trimming at the foot of the Bush Lupine Lookout Platform and digging out the invasive ice plant.

It's my hope that having to work on the first Friday of the month, as opposed to Saturday, doesn't continue to affect attendance.

April

First Friday work parties for April and May were canceled because of the COVID-19 Shelter at Home order. However, much work was done throughout the month by warriors working in small numbers maintaining social distancing on a total of at least seven different days of the month.

The dedicated warriors, working singly or in twos and threes were Dave Bowlus, Vicky Johnsen, Prisila and Rich Johnson, Pete Sarafian, and brand new Weed Warrior Alice Welchert, who joined the ranks on April 28 (see separate article on page 9).

Many large bags of weeds were removed by these warriors, focusing on different days upon veldt grass, slender-leaved iceplant, cheat grass, and ripgut brome. Trouble spots on the boardwalk were surveyed by Vicky Johnsen, and 31 rails and boards were repaired by our regular "Boardwalk Warriors" Rich and Prisila Johnson. Dave Bowlus smoothed out deep tire tracks Vicky Johnsen had reported near the 15th street entrance and Vicky removed a sleeping bag found near South Bay Blvd to a street end next to the County Parks trash can.

Join First Friday Work Parties

We invite you to join us on any first Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the north end of 15th Street in Los Osos to enjoy satisfying physical activity in fresh air amid lovely surroundings. Please dress for wind, fog, or sun. Layers work well. Long pants and long shirt sleeves are good. Sturdy shoes are a must. Take care not to park in front of driveways or mailboxes.

For more information including possible cancellation re: Covid-19, call 805-528-0392.



During the March First Friday work party (the last work day before Shelter at Home regulations put them on hold), new Weed Warrior McKenna Sorenson took pleasure in removing the invasive Slender-leaved iceplant. Photo by Rich Johnson.



On April 27th, Rich Johnson wore a mask while repairing toe rails along the boardwalk. Photo by Prisila Johnson.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Text by Jean D. Wheeler, Ph.D.; photos by Petra Clayton

Among my favorite birds when I vacationed in northern Wisconsin as a teenager were the cute little Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*) darting everywhere with their chirpy little “dee, dee, dee” commentaries. I was thrilled to see and hear their close relatives, Chestnut-backed Chickadees (*P. rufescens barlowi*) in the Elfin Forest after I retired here in 2000.

Although I have taken a photo of one in our Elfin Forest, it is from a distance and the bird had its back turned away so the chestnut color doesn't show. Petra kindly sent me several she has taken in the county but not in the Elfin Forest, and I chose these two for this article. One shows the vivid brown on its back as the bird alertly watches her. The other, a freeze frame from her video, shows a diligent housekeeping parent removing a fecal sac from the nursery room.

This small bird, only about 4-4.5 inches long with a 7.5-inch wingspan and a fairly long narrow tail, has the classic chickadee face. The dark cap and bib are separated by a triangle of white widening from the tiny bill back to the shoulders. The subspecies in the Pacific Northwest (*P. r. rufescens*) has the rich chestnut color all over its back and flanks. A subspecies known from Marin County (*P. r. neglectus*) has paler flanks not easily distinguished from the white breast common to all three subspecies. Our subspecies (*P. r. barlowi*), living on our central coast from the Bay Area to Los Angeles, has a smaller area of the rich brown on the back and grayish flanks that are virtually undistinguishable from the white belly.

These three most colorful of all the social, active, and noisy chickadees live along the west coast of the United States south as far as Los Angeles, with an inland population in the Rocky Mountains from eastern Washington to western Montana and southern Canada. They are usually year-round residents, although some may migrate short distances up mountains in search of food in late summer. They fly and forage with other small birds such as kingbirds and nuthatches. They look so cute clinging, often upside down, feeding on caterpillars, moths, leafhoppers, beetles, small wasps, and the like. They will also eat seeds, from conifers when available, and berries.

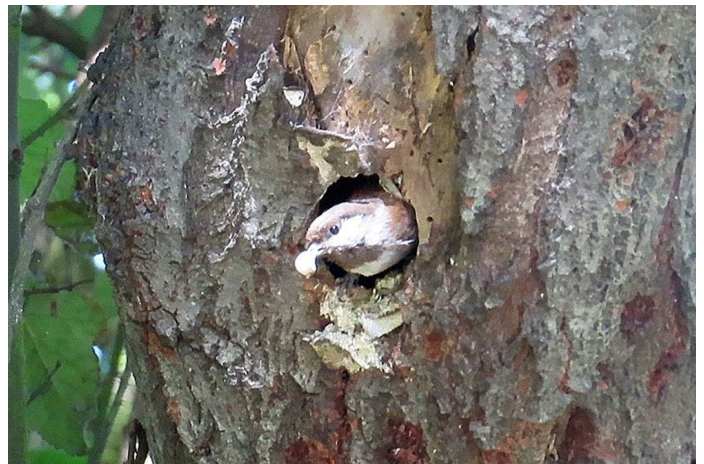
Nesting behavior and parental roles are said to be not well known for this species. They nest in holes from 2-20 feet above ground, including old woodpecker holes and even nest boxes. They may enlarge or reshape the holes with vigorous pecking, as Petra witnessed when taking one of her videos.

The hole is floored with plant materials with an equally thick layer of fur (typically from rabbits, coyote, deer, and cats) on top of the bark and leaves. The adults are known to cover the eggs, about half a dozen of them, with a half-inch thick layer of fur when they leave the nest. It is assumed that the female does the incubation and both parents care for the young, but details of their development and age at first flight are incompletely known.

Although some websites list the Chestnut-backed Chickadee species as being “of least concern,” Cornell Lab's website states that the North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates a population



Our website shows the rich brown color stripe across this bird's shoulders. Go to elfin-forest.org and then click the 2nd green button down for our current issue in full color.



Housekeeping parent bird removing from their nest fecal waste sacs produced by the babies.

loss of more than 50% between 1966 and 2015. Audubon website maps project response to global warming showing habitat losses for this species including our southern end of their range but greater areas of expansion in coastal Canada and Alaska. I would be glad if they found survival farther north, but would be very sad if we lose these cheerful little fellows from our list of year-round residents.

Please Report 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? Taken a good photo?

Please report any interesting sightings to your Oak-leaves editors at: oakleaf@elfin-forest.org or leave a message on FEMEF's answering machine, (805) 528-0392.

Coastal California Buckwheat

Text by Dirk Walters, Ph.D.; drawings by Bonnie Walters.

Editor's Note: Revised by Dr. Walters from his Oct/Nov 2003 Oakleaves article. See photo on page 7.

Bonnie's drawings for this article are a composite. The flowering branches and leaf clusters are drawn from life while the two drawings of the single inflorescence and the diagrammatic flower are from Dr. David Keil's and my plant taxonomy textbook.

Two species of shrubby California buckwheat, the genus *Eriogonum*, are represented in these drawings. To the left is one that made the spectacular show in August 2003 in the Elfin Forest and probably several other times as well. It is Coastal California buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*). It can be found to a greater or lesser degree all along the Elfin Forest boardwalk. It is more common in the drier shrubby areas and less common where oak trees dominate. Coastal CA buckwheat is restricted to coastal bluffs and dunes along the central and south coastal regions from Monterey to San Diego Counties. I once found a single plant on Bishop Peak, above San Luis Obispo, but I have not been able to find it there since.

The drawing to the right is a representation of the much more widespread species known simply as California or wild buckwheat or as I prefer to call it common or interior CA buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). In spite of its name, common CA buckwheat is not found in the Elfin Forest, but it can be found in shrublands and open woods throughout the rest of California and extending beyond into surrounding states. In the dry inner coast range of San Luis Obispo County common CA buckwheat can be practically the only shrub species present.

In identification keys, these two species usually 'key-out' close to each other. This means that they look very similar. The most reliable difference between the two is the shape of the leaves. Common CA buckwheat has narrow leaves that are widest near the middle while Coastal CA buckwheat has leaves that are widest at the base. In both species, during summer, the leaves roll up and can resemble short needles if not examined carefully. The inflorescence that seems such an obvious difference in the drawings is not as reliable. Smaller individuals of Common CA buckwheat will have the small, stalk-less inflorescence clusters characteristic of *E. parvifolium*. At least in our area the rolled down margins of leaves and the leaf clusters at the nodes prove to be unreliable characters. I mention this because I have seen both of these used to distinguish these species in identification books.

The genus, *Eriogonum*, is one of the largest genera in California with well over 100 species recognized in the Jepson Manual. The most characteristic trait of the genus is its basic or unit inflorescence. The unit inflorescence is a cluster of stalked flowers surrounded by a group of fused bracts (involucre) with soft, rounded tips. In our two shrubby species, the involucre is not narrowed into a stalk, but resembles a hollow cylinder attached directly to its branch. It sort of reminds me of a miniature tin can with a bouquet of tiny flowers coming out of the top. The 10 to 20 individual



flowers are tiny and when newly opened are white to very pale pink. As they age and become pollinated they turn reddish, ultimately drying to a brick red as fruits mature. The sepals continue to be attached to the tiny triangular single-seeded fruit (achene) even after it matures. Like all but a couple of genera in its family, Polygonaceae, the parts of the flower are in multiples of three. Flowers consist of 6 sepals, no petals, 9 stamens and a single pistil with 3 styles and stigma.

I looked these plants up in many different references trying to find a human connection. Most didn't mention either species at all and those that did tended to just talk about how common they are. I suspect they would make great landscape plants since they require little or no care and bloom in late summer and early fall when few other plants bloom. Their fruits would be great for attracting birds to one's back yard. I expected to find that a plant with the common name, buckwheat, would have played a prominent role in Native American life. It may have, but my limited references didn't indicate it. One reference mentioned fruit edibility and a second suggested possible medicinal uses of leaves and stems, both stated only in passing however. Maybe we should just enjoy it where it grows.



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: Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin; Petra Clayton; Rebecca Clewett; Cheryl Dove; Vicky Johnsen; Rich Johnson; Prisila Johnson; Betsy Kinter; Jeff Reifel; Skip Rotstein; Yolanda Waddell; Dirk and Bonnie Walters; Jean Wheeler.

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Enjoy the Elfin Forest From Home

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and press 2nd green button down for current issue.



Woolly Star
photo by Rich Johnson



Bush Lupines
photo by Vicky Johnsen



California Live Oaks
photo by Bonnie-Clarfield-Bylin



California Honeysuckle
photo by Petra Clayton



Spotted Towhee

photo by Petra Clayton



California Scrub Jay

photo by Petra Clayton



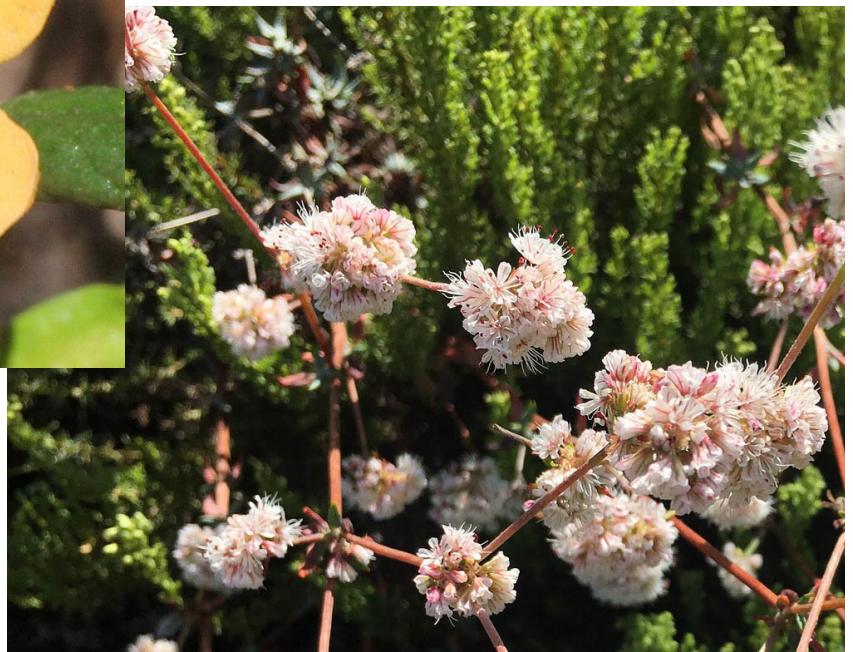
Long-horned Beetle in
Sticky Money-flower

photo by Jeff Reifel

Interested in learning more about the plants and animals of the Elfin Forest? Check out our 56-page Pocket Guide on page 11. Just \$3 plus shipping, it contains lists for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, arthropods including moths and butterflies, gastropods, vascular plants, lichens, and mushrooms.

Coastal California Buckwheat

photo by Rich Johnson



Coming Up in the Elfin Forest

Story by Jean Wheeler

With the difficulties in our human health this spring, at least we can be grateful that our Elfin Forest is richly green with two good spring rainy seasons in a row after all those drought years. We can expect an abundance of wildflowers as well as many resident and visiting wild birds and other native animals through the two months of this *Oakleaves* issue.

Dune buckwheat will bloom for such a long season: white flowers now, changing to pink by late summer, then to rust, and finally still a rich brown as autumn approaches. Enjoy Dirk Walters' article on Dune Buckwheat on page 5. White to pale lavender blossoms occur in pompoms on sturdy stems of black sage, which will be black pompoms by Halloween. Spikes of white flowers characterize chamise. Wedgeleaf horkelia also has white to yellow flowers.

Deerweed, mock heather, and peak rush-rose show yellow blooms. Sticky monkey flowers (the leaves are sticky, not the flowers) are conspicuously orange and should bloom on into August. Fiddleneck and golden yarrow also have yellow flowers. California poppies bloom yellow to orange most of the year.

Blue flowers are featured on spikes of silver dune lupines near Bush Lupine Point. Woolly star is a low-growing bush with herbaceous shoots and bright blue flowers above a woody root crown. It is best seen along a sandy area across from the Fairbanks Monument. Purple nightshade is also in bloom during these months.

California Wild Rose, Cobwebby thistles, and California hedge nettles have pink flowers. Cardinal catchflies (red flowers in the undergrowth appearing to have been cut by pinking shears) should continue to bloom all summer.

Butterflies, often called "flying flowers" continue to abound in June and July. Bush lupines attract Moro Blue butterflies to lay eggs on their leaves while Acmon Blues are attracted to deerweed to host their caterpillars. Dune buckwheat attracts Gray Hairstreaks. Variable Checkerspot lay eggs beneath sticky monkey-flower leaves. Gabb's Checkerspot is attracted to California poppies for nectar. The California Oak Moth lays its eggs on our pygmy live oaks. And, of course, Honeybees and Bumblebees are gathering nectar from all those flowers.

While admiring butterflies and flowers from the boardwalk and sand trails, your eyes will no doubt also be attracted by the flight of avian residents. Especially likely to be seen and heard are the bright blue California Scrub Jays, loudly proclaiming their last name. Orange and black Spotted Towhees make a loud buzz. The large California Quail sports a silly bobbing head plume and sounds to me like it is calling "quer-CAH-go". Then there are busily chattering flocks of tiny fuzzy gray birds, dominated by Bushtits and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Talkative little brown birds include several species of sparrows and wrens.



California Oak Moth on an oak leaf. Taken by Jean Wheeler.



*Black Sage, on the hill overlooking South Bay Blvd.
Photo taken by Yolanda Waddell.*

Among non-avian residents active as summer begins are Western Fence Lizards (doing their amusing pushups!), Brush Rabbits, Ground Squirrels, and Coyotes.

Hopefully most of us will soon be able to get out and again enjoy walking the boardwalks of our small wilderness area while continuing physical distancing to help keep the coronavirus at bay!

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Saturday Walks

Attention –

Check our website: www.elfin-forest.org when a walk date draws near. The walk will have to be canceled if Shelter at Home Regulations are still in effect.

June 20, 9:30 a.m. – Insect Walk (subject to cancellation)

Although we generally see just a few kinds of insects and spiders while walking through the Elfin Forest, there are dozens, perhaps hundreds of different species of arthropods living in the Forest. Entomologist Dr. Norman Smith will search every nook and cranny along the boardwalk for the Good, Bad, and Ugly of these creatures. The importance and ecology of our local insects will be discussed during the walk. If you'd like to see the insects close up, bring a hand lens or close-focusing binoculars.

July 18, 9:30 a.m. – Tuning in to Nature Writers (subject to cancellation)

Do you enjoy being read to? Here's an opportunity to stroll around the Elfin Forest boardwalk and hear the thoughts and words of famous natural history writers. Historian Robert Pavlik will share selections from the works of Robinson Jeffers, Wallace Stegner, Rachel Carson, Gary Snyder, and other writers and poets from this and past centuries. Bob will provide you with a delightful menu of descriptions and impressions to enjoy in the Elfin Forest environment. He'll also bring a handout of his readings for those who want to read further.

Walks in the Elfin Forest begin at times stated above at the north end (1100 block) of 15th Street off Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves and pants to avoid poison oak and mosquitoes. Park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes, and leave pets at home. The easy paced walks last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For more information or if you use a wheelchair call (805) 528-0392



In early March, school walk leader Cheryl Dove guided a group of Baywood School first graders in learning about Big-eared Woodrats and finding woodrat nests near the boardwalk. Photo by Nina Kobliska.

Guided Walks for Baywood School First Grade Classes

By Cheryl Dove, Education Committee Co-Chair

Docents Chris Van Beveren and Cheryl Dove led three walks focusing on ways that the Big-eared Woodrat makes its home and survives in the Elfin Forest. The walks included three first grade classes from Baywood Elementary School and took place February 19th, March 4th, and March 11th, 2020.

Students became adept at spotting woodrat nests after observing and comparing piles of brush to an authentic nest. The Big-eared Woodrat nest appeared at first to be just a pile of sticks, but it had some particular characteristics that the students noticed. It was very dense and dark at its base. The nests often had a definite cone shape and the sticks appeared to be almost woven into one another to make sturdy walls. Nests were usually near oak trees, berry bushes, or other flowering plants, providing a convenient food source for the woodrat family.

Students also observed a variety of birds and an occasional rabbit, but NO woodrats, because, as many of them knew, woodrats are nocturnal. Students were able to view and discuss some physical features of woodrats from pictures. They asked thoughtful questions and wrote notes of appreciation following the walks. One student thanked us for "showing me the beauty of nature."

Alice Welchert

Sahara Mustard Warrior

Text by Jean Wheeler

I was delighted to receive an email from Alice Welchert after my article about the threat of Sahara Mustard in our previous issue.

Alice stated "I am pulling out Sahara mustard, by the roots, along Santa Ysabel, north side, between 10th and 11th Streets. Today was my first ... I will continue. Also, I have started patrolling the streets leading to the Elfin Forest and will begin with those closest, of course." Alice is experienced in fighting this species, having pulled and also killed them with vinegar at her home in past years, and they have not returned.

In emails on succeeding days, Alice reported clearing large areas of these weeds, including several small plants she found by a house right next to the Elfin Forest. In replying to a lady who inquired about what she was doing, Alice said she explained about Sahara Mustard and how "I love the EF and this is the greatest threat to its existence -- beyond veldt grass, ice plant, et al."

On April 28, Alice also became officially a "New Weed Warrior" inside the Elfin Forest, working with present and past Conservation Chairs Vicky Johnsen and Pete Sarafian.

Thank You to Our Generous Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, FEMEF Database Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kass
Allison Nofziger

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Patty Arnold	Shirley Mednick*
Pat Brown*	Beth & Sheldon Miller*
Stephen & Karin Cake*	Bill Newman*
Scott Danielson*	Louise Noel*
Margaret Diehl	Brian Nofziger*
Jan Di Leo*	Tim & Melissa Rochte*
Valerie & Leland Endres*	Skip & Leslie Rotstein*
L.R. Erickson*	Pebble & Terry Smith
Siegrid Fenn	– James Berry Vineyard*
Victoria & Craig Johnsen*	Lou Tornatzky*
Gail Johnson	Bert & Elaine Townsend*
Jane Johnson*	Jacquoline Williams*
Heidi Kausch*	Keith & Beth Wimer*
Christine A. Lancellotti*	Junia Wolf*
Carolyn Lane	June Wright*

DONATIONS:

Rebecca & Richard Clewett in honor of
Mel Hodge's (life member) 90th birthday

**Thanks to those listed above who donated more than the \$25 (regular) or \$15 (senior or student) membership dues. The additional donations will be used for special projects in the Elfin Forest. If you recently sent a donation to FEMEF and don't see your name in this issue's New and Renewing list, be assured that your gift will be acknowledged in the next bimonthly issue. Gifts are processed by two different volunteers before reaching our editors, and newsletter copy deadline is one month before the date of the issue.*

Thinking of Switching to Online Oakleaves?

If you use your computer a lot, we encourage you to take a look at the online Oakleaves at www.elfin-forest.org. Being able to see the 20 or so photos in full color makes it a very attractive alternative to the black-and-white printed copy. If you miss an issue for some reason, it is there, waiting for you. Simply click on "Forest Library," then "Oakleaves Index" and finally the year and month of the issue that you want to read. Just e-mail us at oakleaf@elfin-forest.org with the subject: Switch me to online.

Life Member's Family Celebrates with Donation

In March, the following note (printed with permission) came from Rebecca Clewett in honor of her father's 90th birthday. She, her brother and two sisters put together a generous donation to honor their Dad, Melville Hodge, who is a SWAP/FEMEF Life member. They live in Cupertino, California.

March 18

"My family had a wonderful 90th birthday celebration for my dad. One of the highlights was a box full of drawings and cards from his 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. So much has happened in the world since then! My county is under a "shelter in place" order, so we can only go out for exercise and to purchase necessary items, such as food and medications. While difficult, it will be well worth it if these measures reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reserve critical medical resources for the most ill. One of my daughters is a nurse and I worry about her safety. I hope you and your family members are well and stay that way!

Enclosed is our donation in the amount of \$1500. Please divide the funds as you see fit between snail monitoring and the CCC work project to eradicate the invasive ivy.

Sincerely, Rebecca Clewett"



Cobwebby thistle is another summer-blooming plant in the Elfin Forest.

Photo by Vicky Johnsen



Coffee Mugs with Mural are Great for Yourself or as Gifts!

Our 15-ounce beverage mug has Barbara Rosenthal's gorgeous Elfin-Forest mural wrapped all around the cup. Microwave and dishwasher safe, it's great for coffee, hot chocolate, or just about any other beverage you choose. Hand washing is suggested.



FEMEF Shoppers' Order Form

See Photos of All Items at www.elfin-forest.org

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 (S, M, L, XL) @\$20.00 = \$___

___ Short Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @\$23.00 = \$___

___ Long Slv. T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL) @\$25.00 = \$___

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Useful 56-page guide to plants and animals of the Elfin Forest. Lists for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, arthropods including moths and butterflies, gastropods, vascular plants, lichens, and mushrooms. Some with charts for seasonality, color and more.

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