O A K L E A V E S

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST
P.O. BOX 6442, LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA 93412-6442 ❖ (805) 528–0392 ❖ APRIL / MAY 2022

Why I Love Los Osos and the "Elephant" Forest

By Steve Hendricks, FEMEF Chair

"Elephant" Forest?

When my wife and I left Oregon in 2002 and returned to my childhood home of the Central Coast, we initially settled in Grover Beach. We lived there for six years and, while we were ecstatic about the sunny, warm weather, there was little sense of community and there was way too much hustle and bustle. We were beginning to look for other places to live when my brother suggested Los Osos. I scoffed at the idea, recalling a cold, foggy and windy place I occasionally visited in high school. My wife and I checked it out and immediately fell in love with the small, funky town with dirt streets and A LOT of open space. We moved here in 2008 and,

The "Elephant" Forest *continued on page 2*

❖ Inside This Issue ❖

Morro Shoulderband Snail. Photo by Bob Meyer.

The Story of a Snail's Name: *Helminthoglypta walkeriana*

By Bob Dees

Most people know that the common name of the Morro shoulderband snail comes from the definitive narrow, dark brown spiral band at the top of the animal's shell. But what is the origin of the snail's hefty scientific name, *Helminthoglypta walkeriana* (Hemphill, 1911). And what does that name mean, exactly? I did some rewarding research to answer these questions. What follows is what I found.

The Genus Name

The first part of the Morro shoulderband snail's scientific name denotes the genus to which it belongs: *Helminthoglypta*, from Greek *helminthos*, a worm or bug + *glyptos*, carved. The genus comprises more than 100 species and subspecies of what are commonly called snails, land-based cousins of their marine relatives, the clams, oysters, abalone, and other shelled creatures known as *mollusks*.

Helminthoglypta snails occur primarily in California, but they can also be found north to southern Oregon and south to Baja California. *Helminthoglypta walkeriana* ranges from Montana de Oro State Park to Morro Strand Beach in northern Morro Bay, and inland to Los Osos Creek in Los Osos. Because of its decreasing population in 1994, the Morro shoulderband snail was ranked by the federal government as "endangered." It was reclassified in 2021 as "threatened" due to an apparent increase in its numbers.

A Snail's Name *continued on page 3*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of the
Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF)
consists of the following members:

Steve Hendricks, Chair
Robert Dees, Vice Chair
Dave Bowlus, Treasurer
Yolanda Waddell, Secretary
Beverly Boyd, Acting Recording Secretary
Allison Fash, Student Board Member
John Perrine
Jeff Reifel

The FEMEF Board of Directors meets monthly.
2nd Monday of the month from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
The next meetings are
Monday, April 11
and Monday, May 9.

FEMEF Board meetings are virtual and are open to the public.
To attend a FEMEF Board meeting, leave a message at 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 coming activities 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.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Elfin-Forest-Preserve/139602329410370

https://www.instagram.com/el_moro_elfin_forest_/

The "Elephant" Forest *cont. from page 1*

as we pushed our 1-year-old daughter Zoe around in her stroller, we discovered many beautiful natural places right out our front door. We often walked to Sweet Springs, along the bayfront, and, of course, the Elfin Forest. The Elfin Forest was our favorite destination because of the wonderful scenery, native birds and plants, interpretive signs, and the ease of pushing a stroller on the boardwalk. My daughter loved the dwarf trees bent into strange shapes and when she asked where we were, she thought I said, "The Elephant Forest." Which to her, I am sure, was even more alluring. We still often refer to it by that name.

I began teaching environmental biology at Cuesta College about that time and discovered that a group named SWAP (former name of FEMEF) offered docent led hikes in the forest to discuss the preservation of open spaces and ecological restoration. The Elfin Forest was always a favorite field trip for my students each semester. When Dave Bowlus asked me to join the board 13 years later, I was very excited to become a part of a group working to preserve, restore and protect this wonderful ecological and cultural resource. I feel privileged to give back to a place that has brought my family so much joy and my students so much knowledge and appreciation of nature. Having been on the board as the vice-chair for about a year I have had the opportunity to learn how the organization is run and all the behind the scenes work it requires. I am honored to take over the role of chair from Skip Rotstein and hope I can continue the excellent work of those before me.

While I value the mission of FEMEF in preserving and maintaining the Elfin Forest ecosystem, I believe now, more than ever, that we must work even harder to inform and educate the public about nature. I think that "nature deficit disorder" is one of the primary causes of ecosystem destruction around the world. Many people no longer feel connected to nature, but rather think it is just something to be used and often abused for our personal gain. I would like to see FEMEF work to educate and connect kids and adults to nature. To allow people to learn that they are part of nature and that the health of our planet is directly tied to their own health! I look forward to working with the board and local community members in creating more opportunities for people to connect with nature. The Elfin Forest could not exist without the support from our local community. A big thanks to all of you who continue to support our mission!

FEMEF 2022 Board Officers Elected in February

At its February 14 Meeting, the FEMEF Board of Directors chose their officers for the coming year. Skip Rotstein announced his retirement as Board Chair and was replaced by Steve Hendricks in a unanimous vote. Bob Dees was elected as Vice Chair, also unanimously. Officers who were re-elected were Dave Bowlus as Treasurer and Yolanda Waddell as Secretary.

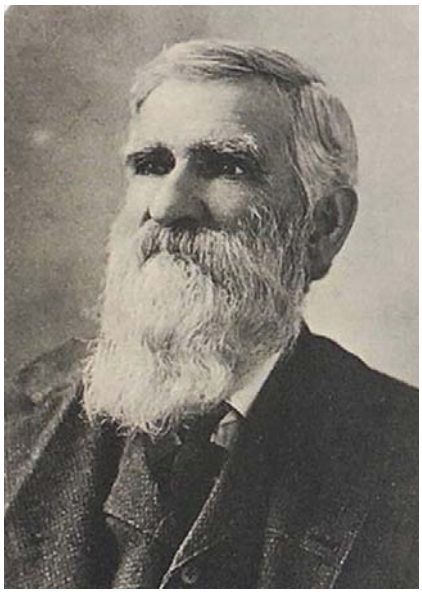
Beverly Boyd, the Recording Secretary, is presently serving in that job as a FEMEF volunteer and is not a Board member. She is not elected. Committee Chairs serve at the discretion of the Board and are not Board officers.

Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest Mission:

Preserve and maintain El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area; inform and educate about the natural history of the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay Estuary; promote and support scientific research in the Forest.

A Snail's Name *cont. from page 1*

The Snail's Namer



Henry Hemphill

The Morro shoulderband snail was first scientifically described and given the name *Helix walkeriana* in 1911 by Henry Hemphill (1830-1914), a well-known California conchologist (i.e., an informed amateur who collects and studies shells). When he named *Helix walkeriana*, Hemphill also described *Helix walkeriana var. morroensis*, based on a shell representing what he termed a "variety," or subspecies of *Helix walkeriana*. The scientific names of both snails later changed when they were reclassified and placed in the genus *Helminthoglypta* Ancey, 1887. Today Hemphill's two snails are recognized as separate species — *Helminthoglypta walkeriana* and *H. morroensis*, both of which inhabit the El Moro Elfin Forest and surrounding vicinity.

The Species Name

Helminthoglypta morroensis was named for the location in which Henry Hemphill first found that species. He named *H. walkeriana*, on the other hand, for Bryant Walker (1856-1936), a Detroit, Michigan, attorney who, like Hemphill, was a conchologist and respected authority on land snails.

Bryant Walker

Growing up in Detroit as a boy, Walker collected butterflies, birds' eggs, and shells, especially those produced by freshwater and terrestrial mollusks. After graduating in law from the University of Michigan in 1879, he joined his father's law firm, which he later headed until retiring in 1931. Although Walker was married in 1890 to Mary W. McGuire (1858-1892), her early death two years later left him childless. He never remarried.

Bryant Walker was a highly successful attorney as well as a widely esteemed civic leader and philanthropist. He was also an avid shell collector and leading expert on Michigan land snails. Overall, he published 155 scientific papers on the terrestrial, brackish, estuarine, and freshwater snails of Michigan and described 143 new species. At his death in 1936, Walker's extensive malacological library of 1,500 volumes and his shell collection of two million specimens were willed to the University of Michigan, where it resides today. Overall, Henry Hemphill could not have selected a more appropriate person to honor when he chose the epithet *walkeriana* for his new species of land snail.

Morro Shoulderband Snail Downlisted

By Yolanda Waddell

Exactly what does "downlisted" mean, and how does that affect FEMEF work in the Elfin Forest? Emails went flying among FEMEF board members in February, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published its announcement reclassifying the Morro Shoulderband Snail (*Helminthoglypta morroensis*) from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The USFWS ruling, which became active on March 7 of this year, stated, "… the species' status has improved such that it is not currently in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, but that it is still likely to become so in the foreseeable future."

They (USFWS) further stated, "We also finalize a rule issued under section 4(d) of the Act that provides for the conservation of the Morro shoulderband snail." How does Rule 4(d) affect us? Do we still need to hire a snail monitor when we weed and do other work where the snail is living? Conservation Co-Chair Vicky Johnsen wrote to Fish and Wildlife Biologist Debora Kirkland in the USFWS Ventura office, asking for clarification. Debora replied that the 4D rule doesn't change the requirements for biological (in our case snail) monitors.

The good news, then, is that the Shoulderband snail is not in danger of extinction. However, since the snail lives only in Morro Bay and Los Osos, it is still threatened by loss of habitat. FEMEF will continue to use a snail monitor for any activity in the Elfin Forest that might affect the snail.

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 *Oakleaves* editors at: oakleaf@elfin-forest.org or leave a message on FEMEF's answering machine, (805) 528-0392.

Oak Gall Wasp

Text by Jean D. Wheeler, Ph.D.

Our Coast Live Oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) often have many oak galls on their stems. Galls usually look like the one in my photo: between one and two inches in diameter, beige to brown in color, with several to many small holes in the hard and coarse textured surface. But when first developing, like the two in Vicky Johnsen's recent photo, they are smoother and softer, typically red, and are then often called oak apples. Oak apples and the hard and long-lasting galls they become are caused by the reproductive activities of very tiny wasps (often mis-called gallflies), shown in two photos by Pat Brown: the tiny wasp seen next to a ruler, and a much-magnified closer look in the other photo.

There are well over a thousand species of such wasps in Family Cynipidae, said to be around 800 species in North America. These gall wasps often reproduce in two generations with larvae hatching and pupating in the soil and females emerging to deposit eggs inside plant tissues. Plants respond by growing the gall, which provides protection and food for typically 20-30 larvae in a single gall in our Coast Live Oaks. The larvae bore the holes we see in my brown gall on their way out, become adults, and females usually return to the soil to lay their eggs to start the next of two generations.

Though parasitic, the galls seldom seriously harm the host oaks. Other wasp species sometimes bore into the gall and parasitize the gall-making species. Oak galls have been used as a source for ink and for tannins.

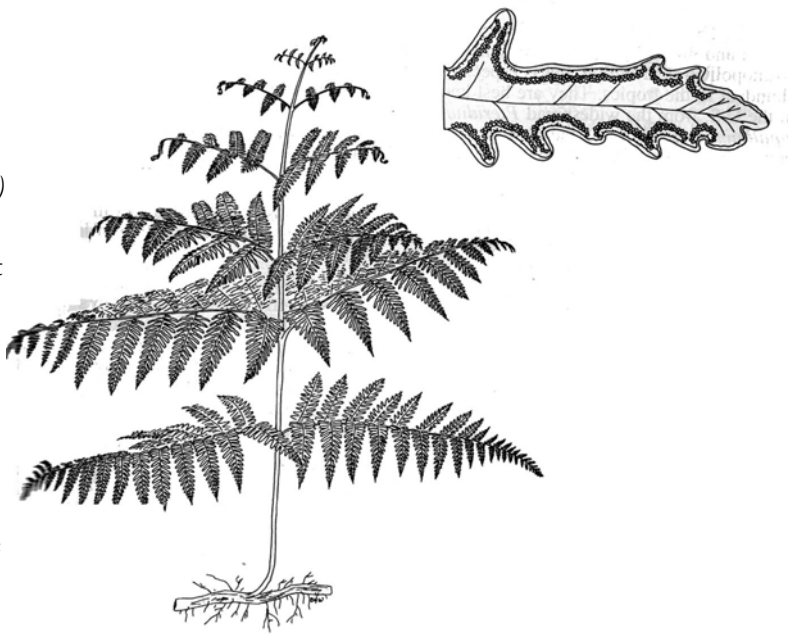
(Above) Gallwasp closebup. (Below) Gallfwasp with ruler. Photos by Pat Brown.

Coast Live Oak Apples. Photo by Vicky Johnsen.

Brown Gall. Photo by Jean Wheeler.

Bracken Fern

Text by Dirk Walters, Ph. D.; Drawings by Bonnie Walters; photo by Jean Wheeler
(Ed. Note: revised by Dr. Walters from his Oakleaves *article, April, 1999)*



The illustration accompanying this article was drawn by Bonnie Walters and first appeared in Dr. David Keil's and my plant taxonomy textbook. It is the fern commonly known as bracken fern, so it never produces flowers. The scientific name found in most current floras is *Pteridium aquilinum*, but in the past, it was known as *Pteris aquilina*. Bracken fern is the only common fern in the Elfin Forest. It is found primarily around and under oak trees and in clearings within the dune scrub. It is most common on the shadier, north-facing slope. Bracken is easy to recognize. First it is large, able to reach more than 3 feet tall. Its very divided leaf blade is triangular and is borne on a long fibrous green to tan stalk or petiole. Any large compound leaf can be called a frond.

The change in scientific name is probably due to a careful examination of the development of this species' reproductive structures. No fern produces seeds, only microscopic, single-celled resting structures called spores, produced in small, usually stalked structures called sporangia. In non-fern plants, sporangia are usually larger and either embedded in or attached directly to a surface. In most ferns, the sporangia are clustered into groups called sori (plural) or into a sorus (singular). These sori are always borne on the underside of the fern leaf, either in discreet patches near the center of the blade segment or in a continuous band along the entire margin of a segment. Bracken fern sori are of the second type (see the inset drawing). A flap of tissue called an indusium sometimes protects a developing sorus. In bracken, the indusium is primarily the down-turned leaf margin, although it also has a second indusium that arises from the leaf margin. It is this second indusium that prompted botanists to change the genus name from *Pteris* to *Pteridium* and to move it into the family Dennstaediaceae. When a plant changes from one genus to another, its specific name usually goes with it. The name *aquilina* changed to *aquilinum* because in Latin, an adjective agrees with its noun in number and gender.

Bracken fern has a nearly cosmopolitan distribution, the widest known distribution on Earth, found on every habitable continent and nearly all the larger oceanic islands. In most areas, the indigenous people have found uses for it. The most widespread use is a potherb with a use like asparagus. It would be gathered when it was still very young and tender, when the curled leaf tips, typical of young fern fronds, are still visible. A few cultures, including some of the tribes along the Pacific Coast of the United States, collected the starchy rhizomes to prepare a starch that was used in the making of a "terrible" bread. On the other hand, the Japanese use the rhizomes as a source of starch in popular confections; they call the starch "Wakaba." Some European peoples mixed the rhizomes with malt to make beer. In our area, it is being used as a substitute for hops and serves as a flavoring and probably a preservative. There are also records of several tribes of North American native people using the plant as treatment for tapeworms.

Cattle and horses that eat large quantities of this fern get very sick and, if not treated, die. The poisonous substance is probably Thiaminase. Thiaminase is an enzyme that breaks down Thiamin and this leads to acute Vitamin B deficiency. Thiaminase is not readily broken down by the body and can be passed on to calves (also possibly to humans) through a cow's milk. Recent studies have also suggested that a substance known as Skikimic Acid is carcinogenic and mutagenic. How can we reconcile this paragraph with the preceding one? Donald Kirk, in his *Wild Edible Plants of the Western United States*, indicates that only older fronds are poisonous, and then only in very large quantities. I suspect this is also true for cattle and horses. Bracken fern increases when moist pastures are heavily grazed. This is because cattle and horses do not eat it until there is nothing else left in the pasture to eat. By this time, the fronds are old and tough and contain a collection of nasty chemicals. A 1970 book titled *The Weeds of California* calls it a troublesome weed of pastures, meadows and recent clearings and says that it contaminates hundreds of acres of range land in the coastal ranges of California. From a human perspective, it is hard to label this plant good or bad. Maybe the problem lies in trying to judge another species in the first place.

Bug Photos from the Forest

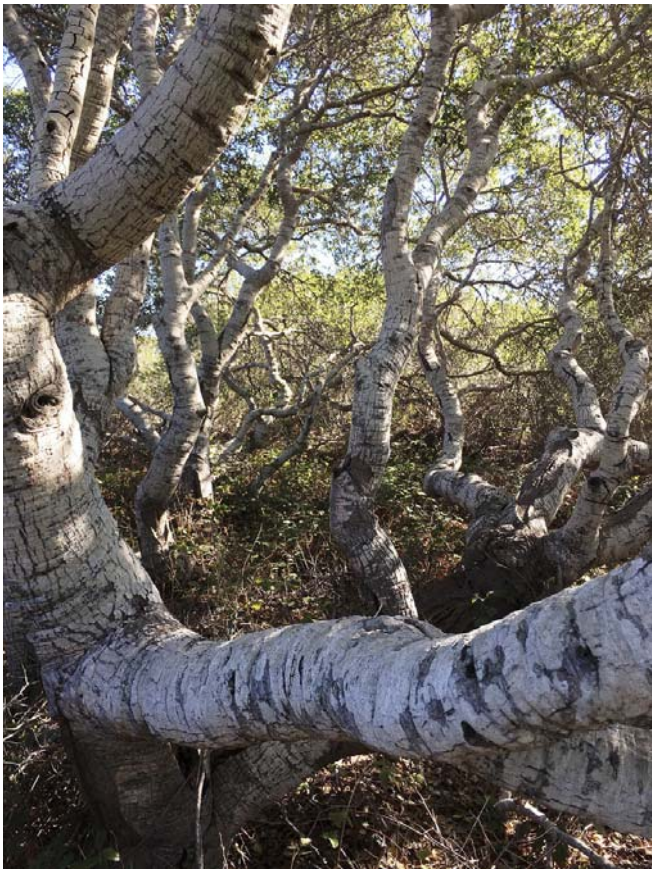
Jeff Reifel, our Webmaster and Conservation Co-Chair, likes bugs. He also likes to take photos of them at home in the Elfin Forest. Jeff shares his photos with his "Bug of the Month" feature in our boardwalk bulletin board and he sent us these superb images of those interesting six-legged residents of the Elfin Forest.

Spittlebugs on coyote brush. They are about 3 mm in length. They are the nymphal form of froghoppers.

Clostercoris amoena *on black sage flowers. They are an ant mimic.*

Sphaerophoria scripta *Hoverfly on coffee berry. They are bee mimics.*

Another View of the Forest



Sunlit Coast live oaks in the Elfin Forest. Photo by Kelly Hayes.

Lopidea nigridia *are feeding on the bush lupines at Bush lupine point. Photo shows nymphs and adults.*

Elfin Forest Work Report

By Jeff Reifel and Vicky Johnsen, Conservation Co-Chairs

Conservation Committee members Vicky Johnsen and Dean Thompson, with help from volunteer James Solum, did vegetation trimming at 11th Street and Santa Paula to cut back a massive ceanothus bush that was blocking a No Parking sign, and also in other areas of the Forest. Vicky noted that James did most of the trimming to clear the sign, calling him a hardworking and loyal volunteer.

Jeff replaced screws on the boardwalk and in signs. Before removing invasive species, Jeff is waiting for COVID to subside. Vicky and Jeff plan to have a training session for volunteers so as not to have to repeat training every time there is a work party.

Zoe Hendricks, daughter of Chair Steve Hendricks, created signs for Rose's Grove. Steve and Zoe are working with Jeff to create more permanent QR code signs to accompany the Elfin Forest Guide numbers on boardwalk toe rails. The current signs are laminated paper.

No Parking sign being gobbled up by a ceanothus shrub. Photo by Vicky Johnsen

The Elfin Forest Is on Instagram

By Yolanda Waddell

The Elfin Forest is a place where plants in full flower, birds perched at the top of tall shrubs, lizards sunning themselves on boardwalk toe rails, or just the gorgeous view over bay and ocean invite one to take a photo. Recently Allison Fash, student Board of Directors member and a student at Cuesta College, offered to set up an Instagram account (https://www.instagram.com/el_moro_elfin_forest_/) for the Elfin Forest. She also linked the Instagram account to our website, www.elfin-forest.com.

Instagram is a social media platform that emphasizes photo and video sharing. Visual content is published for the general public, and users of Instagram (those who have downloaded the application) can interact with the content, adding likes, comments, shares and saves.

Above and at the bottom of our website home page, you will see the colorful camera logo used by Instagram. Clicking on the logo will take you to the Instagram page designed for us by Allison, using her photos. There are six views for all to see.

Also there are two links, titled "Species" and "Wonders" that give some information about the Forest. However, one must have an Instagram account to access the information. Regardless, here is another way of enjoying the sights at the Elfin Forest.

Thank you to Allison for her photos and for setting up the page, and to webmaster Jeff Reifell for adding it to our website.

(We're also on Facebook -- https://www.facebook.com/pages/Elfin-Forest-Preserve/139602329410370)

Same sign after being rescued by Vicky Johnsen and James Solumn: Photo of Vicky by James Solum.

Coming up in the Elfin Forest

Story and photos by Jean Wheeler

April and May are extraordinarily colorful months in our small wilderness area. Probably the most widespread and obvious flowers are the 3-to-4 foot tall sticky monkey-flower shrubs (pictured) with lots of bright orange blossoms. Their name is slightly misleading, though--the leaves are sticky, not the flowers! Other yellow/orange flowers include California poppies, deerweed, fiddleneck, golden yarrow, and suffrutescent wallflowers. Pink tones are provided by cobwebby thistles and California hedge nettles. Red fuchsia-flowered gooseberries are nearing the end of their long blooming season but cardinal catchflies (red flowers in the undergrowth appearing to have been cut by pinking shears) should continue to bloom all summer.

Purple nightshade plants add that color, while Pomona milk vetch has creamy flowers on low plants. White to lavender flowers may still be seen on ceanothus (buck brush or California lilac) or are clustered like white pompoms on black sage. Other white flowers adorn California croton, chamise, and wedgeleaf horkelia. California blackberry and poison oak each have white flowers with green leaves in threes, but the blackberry plants have thorny stems while poison oak stems are smooth.

"Flying flowers" of this season, butterflies mimic floral colors on the plants. Under leaves of sticky monkey-flower shrubs, variable checkerspot butterflies lay their eggs, which soon hatch into bristly black caterpillars with orange dots. Gabb's checkerspot butterflies have much more of the orange and cream-colored rectangles and fewer of the black and white squares than do the variable checkerspots.

Other butterflies to look for include small green coastal bramble hairstreaks, silvery blues, large yellow and black anise swallowtails (pictured), black and cream pale swallowtails, brownish common buckeyes, and multi-colored painted ladies. Moro blue butterflies flutter around the large blue floral spikes of the silver dune lupine, host for their larvae. Both that lupine and its dependent butterfly have been severely reduced along our coast in recent decades by coastal housing development. The stands of this lupine supported along the edge of the estuary in our Elfin Forest are therefore important in assisting survival of both the lupine and butterfly species.

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. Look for bright blue California scrub-jays, plump California quail, orange and black spotted towhees, and chattering flocks of fuzzy gray bushtits, blue-gray gnatcatchers, and similarly talkative sparrows and wrens. Among other residents increasingly active as summer approaches are western fence lizards, brush rabbits, ground squirrels, and coyotes.

What a colorful and exciting time to visit the sand trails and boardwalk of our small wilderness area!

Anise Swallowtail Butterfly

Monkey Flower.

Monarch Numbers Soared in California, but the Butterfly Needs Help

By Yolanda Waddell

Author's Note: My information source for this article was a January 26 article by Mackenzie Shuman in The Tribune*, https://www.sanluisobispo.com, and the numbers can be verified at www.xerces.org.*

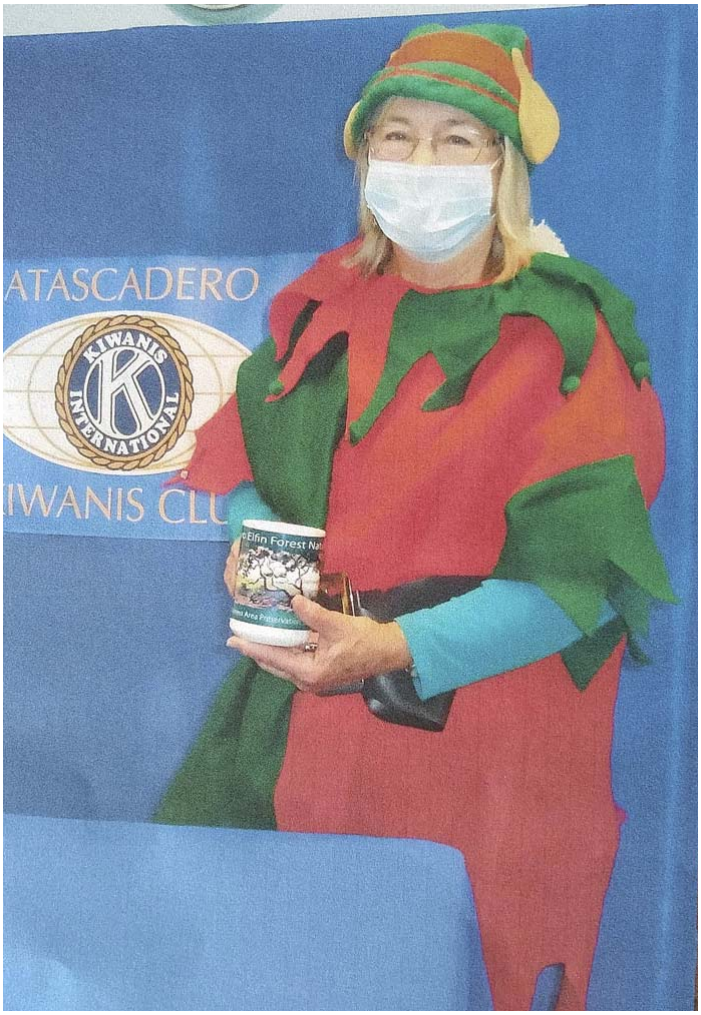
In December/January *Oakleaves* (page 9), I wrote about a dramatic increase in monarch butterfly numbers at the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove – almost 22,000, compared to 200 counted by Xerces Society volunteers in October, 2020.

In January, the Xerces Society released its final 2021 count: 247,237 monarchs statewide. It was a puzzling and dramatic increase. Fewer than 2,000 monarch butterflies were counted in California in 2020. A year ago, concerned scientists wondered whether the species was approaching extinction. However, historically, the monarch population seems to rise and fall dramatically every year. The cause isn't known, but human destruction of habitat and use of pesticides are always among the causes of a rise and fall in pollinator populations.

Emma Pelton, an endangered species biologist for the Xerces Society, noted that last year's bounce-back count for California isn't impressive compared to nearly 300,000 counted in 2016. Cheryl Schultz of Washington State University, who studies how humans cause the decline and extinction of the world's biological diversity, is also concerned that in the future, numbers could go so low that there is no recovery.

She said that much work is needed to restore habitat and make it as pesticide-free as possible. Recently, the national Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act established a $2 million-per-fiscal year grant program for carrying out pollinator-friendly practices on roadways and highway rights-of-way. Other bills to support the monarch are in the works in Congress.

Concerned gardeners (including the windowsill or front porch kind) and farmers can help the monarchs and all other pollinators, including those in the Elfin Forest, by planting native plants and by avoiding use of pesticides. Xerxes Director Scott Hoffman said that everyone has a role to play, both gardeners and advocates for monarch-friendly policies. To learn more, and to find out how to help, visit the Xerces website at www.xerces.org/western-monarch-call-to-action.



Elfin Forest Elf Visits Atascadero Kiwanis Club

In January, FEMEF docent Cheryl Dove was invited to speak about the Elfin Forest at an Atascadero Kiwanis Club meeting. Cheryl donned an Elfin Forest Elf costume and with technical help from her husband, Gary, presented Vicky Johnsen's PowerPoint Program, "Take a Walk through the Seasons in this Magical Forest" for the club members.

Cheryl reported, "The group was very interested, and when I had finished, one of their members, Mark Dariz, shared that he had helped design the boardwalk and had built many of the benches for S.W.A.P. I promoted some of the merchandise, too. My husband, Gary, modeled a long-sleeve T shirt with the mural on it and I held one of the mugs, as you see in the picture." Cheryl would be pleased to give her presentation to other organizations. She can be contacted at info@elfin-forest.org.

WALKS in the ELFIN FOREST

Keep an eye on our website home page, www.elfin-forest.org, or check outgoing messages each month at 805-528-0392 for any update about walks.

Thank You to Our Generous Members

Compiled by Betsy Kinter, FEMEF Database Coordinator

NEW MEMBER:

Steve Hendricks*

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Katy Budge*
Beth Currier*
Stephani Denker*
Jane Johnson*
Penny Koines*
Jennifer & Larry Levine*
Wendy McKeown*
Beverley & Bill Moylan*
Karen O'Grady*
Carolyn Schanberger
Zach & Corinne Tanner*
Katherine Tennant
Alice Welchert*

DONATIONS:

Come Clean Maintenance, San Francisco
Larry & Pat Grimes in memory of V.L. Holland
Robert Miller
Karen O'Grady remembering Maj. John O'Grattan

**Thanks to those listed below 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.*

O A K L E A V E S
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 and Bob Dees.
Contributors to this issue: Bob Dees, Cheryl Dove, Gary Dove, Allison Fash, Kelly Hayes, Steve Hendricks, Vicky Johnsen, Betsy Kinter, Jeff Reifel, James Solum, Yolanda Waddell, Dirk 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 of the month before issue.
If possible, all copy should be submitted by e-mail to: oakleaf@elfin-forest.org.

A Salute to FEMEF Life Members

By Yolanda Waddell

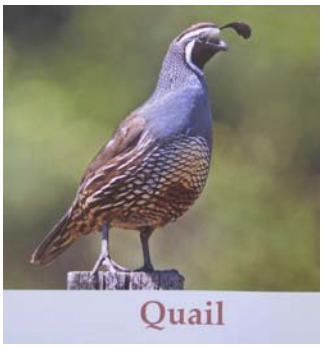
All of FEMEF's members are important parts of our conservation community, renewing their memberships each year and often adding a donation when they renew. Life members donate $1,000 and literally are members for the rest of their lives. They receive every issue of *Oakleaves*, either in print or online. However, once listed as a life member, that person doesn't receive any more thank you letters or acknowledgement in the newsletter – until recently. It was suggested two years ago that we publish a list each year so their support can be acknowledged. Here, then is a list of those very supportive members.

2022 FEMEF Life Members:

Diane Blakeslee, Blakeslee & Blakeslee
Jay & Ann Bonestell
David & Linda Chipping
Rebecca & Richard Clewett
Andrea Davis
John Dilworth Jr. & Carole Maurer
Carmen Fojo
Fran & Marsh Harkins
Melville Hodge
Joan Hughes
King David's Lodge #209 F. & A.M.
Laurence & Marci Laurent
Fred Mednick
Susan Minker
Frederick G. Novy III, M.D.
Shirley Otto Trust
John & Cheyanne Parker
Joey Rektor
Barbara Renshaw
Barbara & Robert Rosenthal
Pete Sarafian
Shirley Sparling
Ken Volk, Kenneth Volk VIneyards
Yolanda & Jay Waddell
Dirk Walters
Jean D. Wheeler
Crow & Wendy White
Mary Lou Wilhelm

Thinking of Switching to Online *Oakleaves*?

We encourage you to visit our online version of *Oakleaves* at www.elfin-forest.org. You'll see photos in full color, and the text is easier to read on your computer. As an online reader, you'll receive an email when each new issue is posted on our website. Just email us at oakleaf@elfin-forest.org with the subject: Switch me to online.



Great Gift!

Alphabet Bird Book: 26 facing picture/poem pages

Q is for Quail

All of my feathers
Lie in their place
Except for the one
That hangs in my face

FEMEF Shoppers' Order Form

See Photos of All Items at www.elfin-forest.org *All Prices Include Sales Tax*

1. MURAL SHIRTS

Large mural design by artist Barbara Rosenthal on both front and back. Black shirt with the words: "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 = $____
___Long Slv. T-Shirt (XXL, XXXL) @$27.00 = $____
___Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL) @$35.00 = $____
___Sweatshirt (XXL, XXXL) @$37.00 = $____

2. POCKET GUIDE

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

____ @ $3.00 = $_____

3. ELFIN FOREST MURAL PRINTS

Signed prints by artist Barbara Rosenthal,
image size 4 1/2 x 16 1/2 in. Mounted on foamcore

____@ $35.00 = $_____

4**. ALPHABET BIRD BOOK**

With 26 clever verses and superb photos on facing pages, this book is sure to please young and old.

_____@ $20.00 = $_____

5 . MURAL MUG

15- ounce beverage mug with wrap-around mural design. Microwave safe; hand wash suggested.

_____ @ $15 = $_____

6. ELFIN FOREST CAPS

One size fits all cap with adjustable straps in back, 100% cotton. Two colors, forest green and maroon. Specify color when ordering.

_____ @ $15 = $_____Color(s)_____

SUBTOTAL OF ORDER **$_____**

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

SHIPPING COSTS: Within and near Los Osos, free delivery may be possible. Shipping costs otherwise depend on zip code and package weight.

Please call 805-528-0392 to arrange for delivery or shipping.

TOTAL OF ORDER WITH APPLICABLE SHIPPING COSTS **$_____**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip:_____
Email _____
Phone (w/ area code): _____

Make checks payable and mail to:
FEMEF, P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442.
Call-in orders may also be made: (805) 528-0392.

FRIENDS OF EL MORO ELFIN FOREST
A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442
(805) 528-0392 www.elfin-forest.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
San Luis Obispo, CA 93402
Permit No. 112

Address Service Requested

We're on Instagram! (el_moro_elfin_forest_) See page 7

Please check renewal date on your label.
printed on recycled paper

Introduce a Friend to The Elfin Forest

Amaze a friend with the beauty of our small wilderness preserve, now in glorious bloom. Your friend will marvel at the beautiful flowers and the diverse bird, butterfly, and other animal life.

Tell your pal to pick up a trail guide where the 16th Street Entrance meets the boardwalk or where the Bush Lupine Point spur leaves the boardwalk loop. Encourage her or him to enjoy the information in the trail guide and on beautifully-illustrated Interpretive Signs.

We'd love to hear about your friend's reactions and especially wonderful or unusual sightings they report in emails to the editors at oakleaf@elfin-forest.org for publication in a future issue of *Oakleaves*.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Email _____

Phone _____

❑ New Member	❑ Renewing Member
❑ Member $25	❑ Defender $100
❑ Steward $50	❑ Champion $250
❑ Protector $75	❑ Guardian $500
❑ Seniors/Students $15	❑ Life Member $1000

Donation only $ _____

❑ I want to help, please call me!

Memberships include a subscription to FEMEF's bimonthly newsletter, *Oakleaves*.

❑ ***Check here to receive the online version only.***

All donations to FEMEF are tax-deductible.
EVERY membership counts!
Make checks payable to: FEMEF
Mail to: Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest,
P.O. Box 6442, Los Osos, CA 93412-6442.

04/22