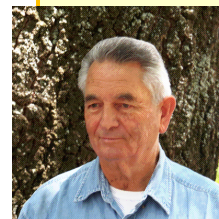




Friends of Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve

Spring 2020



From The Chair - Henry Coletto

To our many friends and supporters:
I want you to know that the Friends of Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve wants to thank each and every one of you for the many good times we have enjoyed together under the big bay trees at the annual barbeque.

Like many events and programs this spring, the barbeque will be cancelled this year, as we all “shelter in place.” We will plan to have the event in 2021, when hopefully life will be closer to “normal.” In the meantime, a few volunteers will continue to maintain this beautiful area. A couple of us are staying busy tending plants in the native plant nursery, watering some that have been planted in restoration areas, planting little oaks, and keeping the water systems and wildlife drinkers in working order. Roads on the Reserve are in pretty good shape this year, but we are doing some grass mowing and other road maintenance too.

Early in the spring, students from San Jose State University were able to get out to do some field work with instructor Stephanie Trehwhitt. Their projects included using field cameras to monitor wildlife use of restored vs. unrestored creek habitats, wildlife drinkers, and nesting boxes; and surveys of pond organisms. Now in “lockdown” the students are analyzing data, doing their write-ups and preparing poster presentations.

Meanwhile, while we’re all sitting at home we can feel better knowing that the flora and fauna at CDLO are doing just fine without us. The does are having their fawns this time of year, the birds are nesting, and the wildflowers are in bloom. Hopefully, you all can find some open space close to home to get out and enjoy a bit of nature this spring, while still staying safe.

Any donations toward the Reserve during 2020 would be greatly appreciated to go toward maintenance activities, and to get us ready for “business as usual” when the medical professionals say we can get out and about again. Donations can be sent to Henry Coletto, P.O. Box 1991, Gilroy CA 95021; with checks made to Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve.

Thank you again for your friendship and support. We look forward to seeing you all again next year. Meanwhile, have patience, use common sense, and stay healthy.

Henry

Visit the website at: Friends of Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve: cdlo.org

Hair Loss Syndrome in Deer

David A. Jessup, Certified Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Veterinarian

Hair loss syndrome (HLS) of black-tailed deer is caused by a heavy infestation of Eurasian lice first reported in Western Washington in 1995, subsequently in both white-tailed and black tailed deer in Oregon, and it is now seen in California. The normal hosts of these lice are European and Asian deer and antelope, which are not seriously affected by them. In contrast, when black-tailed deer become infested, they tend to develop a hypersensitivity (severe allergic) reaction, which causes skin irritation and excessive grooming by the deer. Eventually, this excessive grooming leads to loss of the guard hairs, leaving yellow or white patches along the sides. This species of lice, in the genus *Damalinia (Cervicola) sp.*, has also been found on elk, but does not result in the severe hair loss seen in deer.

Infestations are heaviest during late winter and early spring when nutritious food is scarce and does need to support the growing fetus. Heavy rain, snow and cold weather also sap deer’s fat reserves and they die of malnutrition and hypothermia. HLS has been seen in a few deer at Cañada de los Osos, but none of these deer have been captured or shot to prove that the cause is *Cervicola* louse infestation, although that is the most likely.



CDLO deer with Hair Loss Syndrome

The Elderberry Borer Beetle

Bob Clement

Amongst the beautiful flora found at the Reserve are some handsome and unique insects, such as this long-horned beetle known as the Elderberry Borer. Elderberry roots and stems are the food of choice for the grubs and the trees can suffer considerable damage. A closely relative, the Valley Elderberry Borer is an endangered insect. Our local representative must not be too numerous either, because Elderberries at the Reserve have been increasing rapidly the past few years.



Elderberry Borer

(Desmocerus californicus californicus)

SJSU Biology 198 Class:

Field Research.

Each semester a new class of students comes to the Reserve to learn how to do field research on the animals and plants, with instructor Stephanie Trehwitt



Some Reserve Wildlife

California Quail



Swallows



Shooting Stars

