



Some of us were around in 1987 when a small fire at the base of Huckleberry Hill, quickly got out of control and swept up the hill. More than 30 homes were destroyed. Residents were evacuated, and for a while there was even concern that the fire would jump Highway 68 and force evacuation of Community Hospital.

As we enter fire season 30 years later, it is important to remember that "Only you can prevent forest fires." Analysis determined that the 1987 fire was begun by careless children that were never identified. But it was far from the first fire in our forest. A much earlier fire was started by a vagabond – an Amateur Immigrant, if you will. His name was Robert Louis Stevenson and in his 1889 narrative on "The Old Pacific Capital" he recounted his 1879 visit to Monterey:

I have an interest of my own in these forest fires ... I wished to be certain whether it was the moss, that quaint funereal ornament of Californian forests, which blazed up so rapidly when the flame first touched the tree. I suppose I must have been under the influence of Satan, for instead of plucking off a piece for my experiment what should I do but walk up to a great pine-tree in a portion of the wood which had escaped so much as scorching, strike a match, and apply the flame gingerly to one of the tassels. The tree went off simply like a rocket; in three seconds it was a roaring pillar of fire... I have run repeatedly, but never as I ran that day.

FEMA's report on the 1987 fire, errantly reported a 1904 fire that lasted several days, burning nearly 2,000 acres of Del Monte Forest. They likely picked that up from a reference in a 1959 Herald article. That devastating fire was actually in October 1901 and reports of the day put the losses at over 4,000 acres extending over the lands of Del Monte Forest onto Jacks land and into the Doud tract of Monterey. The fire began on October 10, and was blamed on careless cigarette smoking by local boys. A point was made that firefighters saved the Cypress Grove. The fire was deemed under control on October 14 with only minor damage to the home of artist Charles Rollo Peters. All other homes in Pacific Grove and Monterey were spared. Flames broke out again on October 21, likely from roots not fully dowsed; they were quickly extinguished.

This of course was before there were many residents in Del Monte Forest; only the Chinese fisherman leasing land on Stillwater Cove, and a few squatters around Point Joe. But fires did not stop when the residents came.

A September 14, 1916 headline screamed "Fire Sweeps Toward Palace of Millionaire" in reference to a fire that burned several acres in the forest and was headed toward the \$80,000 log mansion being built by A. Kingsley Macomber on the heights of the site now known as Macomber Estates. The Macomber mansion survived that blaze but was lost to a fire fifty-three years later. A 1924 fire began when a wood-cutter left his camp stove unattended for too long.

Before the 1987 fire, the fire most remembered was the fire of June 1959 that destroyed 62 acres of the forest. It swept up the hill and did jump the highway onto the hill above Monterey, "but nearly 300 firefighters strangled the blaze before it could sweep over the ridge into the residential areas."

Our Stillwater Cove is a precious if smallish gem of a bird sanctuary that is bookended by Pescadero Point to the North and Arrowhead Point to the South. One would be hard-pressed to declare whether the cultural or natural history of the spot is more fascinating: In reality, the two points-of-view are, as often is the truth, inseparably entwined. Today, the birds that are the subject of this story likely would not be found out and about the cove were it not for the modest pier that assuredly points the way to, and in turn is protected from the rolling sea by the Pescadero Rocks not far offshore. Then again, the pier, built and rebuilt several times since 1919, would be only a memory if not for the determination of Mrs. Mimi Jenkins: hence we formally know this special bird infrastructure to be the Matthew and Mimi Jenkins Pier.

Imagine for a moment that the lines of Pebble Beach's nature and culture were more blurry still, and editors of the venerable but extinct publication, "Game and Gossip" got a hold of this story:

"... With due fanfare, we announce the arrival of the Pigeon Guillemots to Pebble Beach where, for the first time ever, or at least in decades, they have set up house (with rumors of a nursery) underneath the charming Matthew and Mimi Jenkins Pier at Stillwater Cove. The Guillemots, who are cousins of the universally popular and always colorful Tufted Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets, regularly winter in northern coastal waters from the Salish Sea to the Bering Strait. No southern climes for these hardy souls!

Look-out from the pier for these extraordinary divers (recorded to 150 ft), who spend their days courting about the pilings — where above their nests are hidden — and diving around the sunken shoals and outcroppings of the Pescadero Rocks. Really, "diving" is an understatement as these birds seem to "fly" underwater, very much like their polar opposites, the penguins. The mariners, who are a

Stillwater Runs Wild

Story and photos by Jeff Froke



Breeding adult Barn Swallow



bit smaller than crows, are all about feeding their young with local favorites including, e.g., species of octopus, sculpin, flatfish, sea-snails, eels, and rock crabs.

We wish success and happy returns to Stillwater Cove to these pioneer nesters who already are established on cliff-faces at Point Lobos and the wharfs of Cannery Row; and

we hope they find Stillwater Cove both amicable and, as was reported by the Monterey Cypress newspaper in 1916, to be among the "finest fishing clubs in the world."

Now, let us turn to welcome back the returning Barn Swallows to the cove and pier. Always admired for their melodious in-flight chittering and their masterful aerobatics at the very surface of Stillwater Cove, the Swallows return to summer here from having wintered underneath the tropical sun of South America. No commercial flights for these long-distance travelers - its all done by their own grit and determination. Good show, Las Golondrinas!

Whereas, Barn Swallows of old would have nested in cliffs throughout North America, they now build almost exclusively on human-made structures — under broad eaves, bridges and culverts, and to our delight amidst the pilings and underpinnings of coastal piers. Sailors embarking from Stillwater Cove to ply the Channel Islands off the southern California coast may there, and only there, observe Barn Swallows where old-fashioned cliff-nesting remains en vogue.



Breeding plumaged Pigeon Guillemot

Whether on the islands or hunkered-in under our own home pier, adult pairs of Barn Swallows may be helped at the nest by their progeny of last year — indeed, all hands are needed to fledge one or two clutches of up to seven hungry chicks each from their snug feather-lined mud adobes, just hidden from view.

Del Monte Forest Property Owners New Hiking & Equestrian Trails Committee

Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. - Anonymous

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. - John Muir

The Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO) Board of Directors believes it is important to preserve and protect the more than forty miles of pristine, beautiful trails that interconnect our community. The trails with the preserved open spaces are crown jewels, allowing hikers and equestrians to choose easy or challenging avenues to explore.

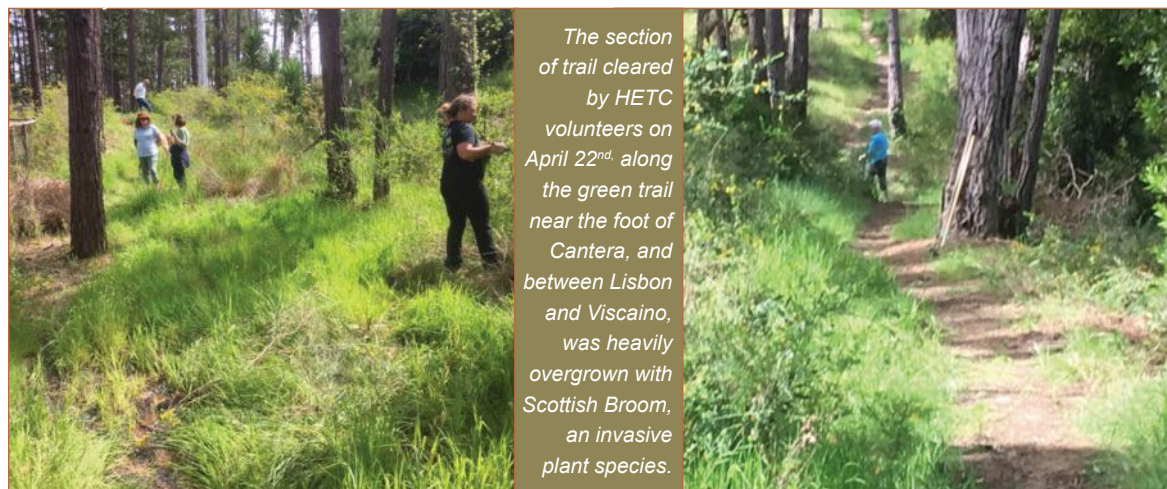
Following the recent discontinuance of the Pebble Beach Riding and Trails Association, the DMFPO Board formed the Hiking and Equestrian Trails Committee (HETC). The HETC is an all-volunteer committee with a mission of working cooperatively with key parties to coordinate efforts to preserve, protect, and promote use of the trail system.

Cooperating agencies include the Pebble Beach Company, Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD), Del Monte Forest Conservancy, Open Space Advisory Committee and others.

The HETC had its inaugural meeting in April 2017 with over forty enthusiasts (aka “Trail Nutz”) in attendance, brimming with ideas on how to preserve and protect the trail network. Since that meeting, the HETC has organized an Earth Day spring clean up, completed a status survey for many of the popular trails and coordinated with the Pebble Beach Company to focus maintenance efforts on key areas. Upcoming HETC events include organized hikes led by local experts, semi-annual enthusiasts’ appreciation potluck picnic, clean up days along with other activities to promote the use and enjoyment of the trails network while spending time with friends.

The HETC meets on the second Wednesday of the first month of each calendar quarter. The next

two HETC meetings in 2017 will be on July 12 and October 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the PBCSD building, 3101 Forest Lake Road in Pebble Beach. Join the HETC; get involved in helping maintain and preserve our world-class trail system. New members are warmly welcomed!



The section of trail cleared by HETC volunteers on April 22nd, along the green trail near the foot of Cantera, and between Lisbon and Viscaino, was heavily overgrown with Scottish Broom, an invasive plant species.

Stillwater Runs Wild (Continued from previous page)

Barn Swallows signify the interwoven lives of people and birds: For although the killing and plucking of egrets (for the millinery) is often cited for inspiring the American wildlife conservation movement, it was the trade’s brutal impact on Barn Swallows that motivated naturalist George Bird Grinnell’s 1866 editorial in *Forest and Stream* decrying the waste of bird life for fashion. That essay led to the founding of the first Audubon Society. (Grinnell’s own inspirational grade school teacher was Lucy Audubon, widow of John James Audubon).

Fast forward to the 20th Century: Whether he ever watched Barn Swallows rising and dipping before the sunset from the famed “Mimi’s Bar and Grill” which sat on the bluff above Stillwater Cove, our little sea harbor was a favorite haunt of Laidlaw Williams, the inimitable leader of Pebble Beach bird outings who in 1948 founded the Monterey Audubon Society — the same year that Matthew Jenkins and comrades founded the Stillwater Yacht Club and rebuilt the special pier that later would bear his name.

— Jeff Froke (jbf@birdrockpress.com)



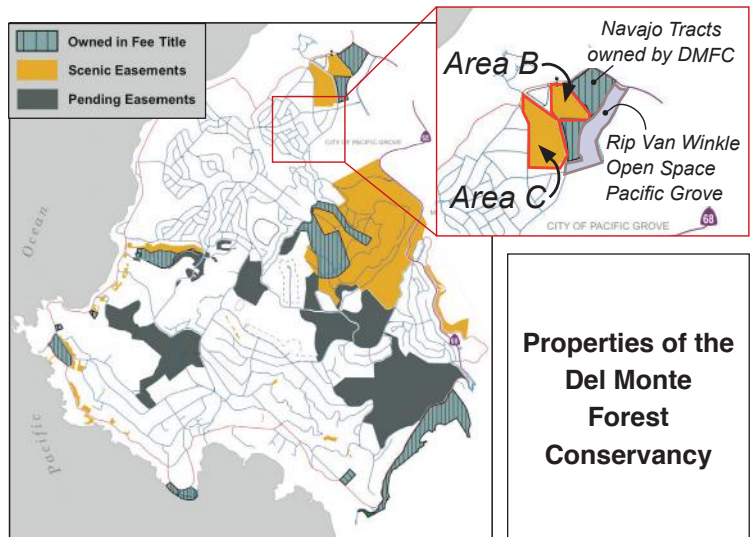
Areas B and C Now Open Space In Perpetuity - by Don Eastman

In March, 2017, two parcels of land known as Area B (19.46 acres) and Area C (29.03 acres) were transferred by scenic conservation easement from the Pebble Beach Company (PBC) to the Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC). The easements legally designate the properties as open space in perpetuity. These transfers are the first of several that will occur as PBC builds out the areas approved for construction. Prior to this transfer, the Conservancy had oversight of an approximate 700 acres of which 260 acres are owned by the Conservancy in fee title with the remaining 440 acres controlled by easements.

The PBC remains owner of properties transferred to the DMFC and will continue to maintain easement land under the terms of the Site Specific Resource Management Plan prepared for the area. When all the easement transactions are completed, PBC will have transferred 645.5 acres to the Conservancy for a total 1,345.5 acres of land in the forest permanently set aside as open space.

The Conservancy, (along with Pebble Beach Company, Del Monte Forest Property Owners, and the Pebble Beach Community Services District) performs a vital service for the forest and the community at large. Charitable contributions enable the Conservancy to fulfill its mission and conserve Del Monte Forest for current and future generations.

www.delmonteforestconservancy.org



Pebble Beach Company 2017 Roads & Drainage System Maintenance Program

The winter storms took a toll on our roads! Following the storms, Pebble Beach Company (PBC) performed extensive pothole repair work throughout the Forest. Below are the key 2017 repaving projects completed, planned, or underway now.

- Lake Court
- Ondulado (Stevenson to Alva)
- Sunridge (Costanilla to Chamisal)
- Cantera Court (Ronda to End)
- Del Ciervo (Macomber to 17 Mile Drive)
- Deer Path (Ronda to Spruance)
- Ronda (Sunridge to Sunridge)
- Stevenson (Ondulado to Cypress)
- Mora Way (Sunridge to End)
- Cypress Point Lookout (From 17 Mile Drive and Parking Lot)

Roads to be slurry sealed: Crespi

These projects were carried over from 2016 and many additional 2017 projects not listed have been completed.

Remaining drainage improvements for 2017*:

- Congress - Bird Rock toward Lopez
 - Hacienda at Parkway
 - Misc. berm replacements and drain repairs
- * For 2017, PBC has committed to spend almost \$2 million on road maintenance projects and drainage improvements.
- * Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) continues to provide additional funding to repave/repair roads that are damaged as a result of utility upgrades. This year, PBCSD completed the paving of 17 MD from Peter Hay Hill to Crespi (\$450K).
- * The PBC contact for road condition/maintenance is Shawn Casey, Vice President, Resource Management, 625-8435. Shawn has been with PBC for 38 years and is the person most knowledgeable about the Forest road system. Please feel free to contact with questions.

The Herald reported, "An additional 350 soldiers were standing by at the Presidio ready to move into assist." Had the wind shifted only slightly, Del Monte Forest Subdivision No. 2 would have lost homes, but in 1959 no homes were lost to the conflagration, also blamed on a careless smoker.

Ironically, for centuries, the health of the Monterey pine forest relied on fires. The hard cones of the Monterey pine fall to the ground and lay dormant for decades. The heat from a fire will open the cones and release the seeds creating a seemingly miraculous reforestation effort. We saw that happen on Huckleberry Hill in our generation. The once dense forest was stripped to a near-barren hillside. While the view of the wasteland was sad, for a few years we could look out on an unblocked, panoramic view of

the Monterey Peninsula coastline. Mother Nature took care of the reforestation projects after each of the fires in Del Monte Forest, so well after 1987, that several years later CalFire required a thinning of the forest there to lessen the risk of another fire.

Rebuilding the homes, however, required human effort, and some losses can't be replaced. In 2016, we saw fires destroy homes and hillsides of our neighbors in Big Sur, as we enter another fire season, let's not forget it can happen here; it only takes a spark. Please do your part to lessen fire risks

around your home, and support the work of our public servants and the local volunteers of groups like the Del Monte Forest Conservancy and the Open Space Advisory Committee that assist Pebble Beach Company in managing the forest we call home. ☺



(Photo courtesy of PBC Archives)

"A Table Affair" Salutes Service Dogs

After 13 successful years at the Conference Center at The Lodge, "A Table Affair" this year was held at the Main Ballroom, The Inn at Spanish Bay. The new venue was exciting as the space was increased and there was an opportunity for more tables. Approximately 600 visitors enjoyed the afternoon. The ingenuity and imagination displayed by table designers was the best ever.

The theme of the event was "A Salute to Service Dogs." Canine Companions for Independence, Monterey Bay Search Dogs, National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and Operation Freedom Paws were the beneficiaries of the \$12,000 donated at the event. Over twelve certified service dogs and young dogs in training attended, and they stole the show. It was a pleasure to honor these animals who exemplify courage, loyalty and goodwill.



(Photo courtesy of Rick Verbanec)



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A recycling center at Pebble
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District with drop-off sites
for all your old electronics,
unused pharmaceuticals, and
household hazardous waste.**

Remember, you can still submit your 2017 Membership Dues via the DMFPO website at <http://dmfpo.org>

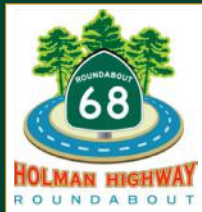
Two Upcoming DMFPO Sunday Afternoon Seminars



On Sunday, July 16th from 2:00-3:00 p.m., the Del Monte Forest Property Owners will host a presentation by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County at the Pebble Beach Community Services District Community Room to assist motorists in negotiating the new Holman Highway 68 Roundabout.

Major portions of the project are complete. Cones and signs are currently in place at entrances to the Roundabout, but will be removed allowing for full functionality in July.

Come learn what to expect and how best to navigate the intersection for smooth traffic flow. Help make congestion and frustrating delays a thing of the past.



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**Pebble Beach Community Services
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3101 Forest Lake Drive, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Reserve Your Place via email: office@dmfpo.org

**Sunday, September 24th
1:00 to 3:00 pm**

*Participants will receive a certificate of completion that may be accepted by their auto insurance and result in a discounted premium.



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