

## **BIRDS WE LIVE BY** - Story and photos by Dr. Jeffrey Froke, Pebble Beach Resident

Wild birds haunted the woods and rode the stormy winds over this, our home patch, for all of the 20-30 million years that the coastal landscape of California has been in place. Here, birds preceded the arrival of our species (or earlier relatives) which happened somewhere between 13,000 to 130,000 years ago. Fast-forward to around 1919 — the official kick-off of Sam Morse's brilliant vision for Pebble Beach — and the local community of birds is to become inextricably hitched to our own: unbeknownst to them, birds depend on our capacity and commitment to protect a mutually livable environment. The natural open spaces owned by Pebble Beach Company and Del Monte Forest Conservancy, the private golf clubs, our very own estate grounds and backyard gardens provide bird habitat.

Coincidentally, in 1919, John Burroughs wrote in *Nature Near Home*, *"After long experience I am convinced that the best place to study nature is at one's own home ... no matter where that may be. One has it all about him then. The seasons bring to his door the great revolving cycle of wild life, floral and faunal, and he need miss no part of the show."*

Taking Burroughs' advice to focus on our own *neighborly wildlife*, this profile of two hometown residents is a preview of many more birds to be covered in a Conservancy-sponsored lecture by yours truly on November 17th, titled *The Birds We Live By, A Guide to Identifying With the Birdlife of Pebble Beach*.

The renowned 18th Century bird artist John Gould described Anna's Hummingbird as "glitteringly



*Anna's Hummingbird*

resplendent" ...not a bad job reference for the only hummingbird species to live year-round in Pebble Beach. Johnny-on-the-spot, Anna's are among the first birds to nest here, typically getting underway before the New Year. However, in years when Nature would serve up a longer and colder winter, Anna's doze into a deep sleep to conserve energy and escape an overnight freeze: the hummers toss the alarm clock and pull on an extra blanket, physiologically speaking.

The largest of California hummers, size is its advantage in winter because the birds are better able to take down large spiders and insects for protein. The birds attend our winter feeding stations to sip natural, homemade, and store-bought nectars that give birds that "special boost" needed to chase down the bigger bugs and fend off humming-interlopers.

*(Continued on page 3)*





Pictures are worth  
a thousand  
words



Thank you  
**Pebble Beach Community  
Services District**

Thank you  
**Pebble Beach  
Company**



Thank you  
**Pebble Beach  
Fire Department**

Thank you  
**Del Monte  
Forest Conservancy**



For your  
extensive  
fire safety efforts



*Photos by Don Eastman*



Another year-rounder, the Black Phoebe is familiar to golfers, dog walkers, and folks who stay at home to enjoy their front yards. Phoebes live where open air, scattered perches, and if just a dripping faucet combine for happy hunting: add a golf cart bridge, quaint wooden pier, or eave over a horse corral and the phoebe's life is replete with nesting and dining habitat. Where equines gather, two or three strands from a horse's tail is enough to line the inner-cup of a pair's mud-dabbed nest.



The Black Phoebe

The phoebes' sartorial is a spiffy tuxedo, oddly buttoned at the top and open to the waist: it suits them and we can recognize it from a distance, at least when they settle down long enough to pick-out their next meal on the wing, whether from a cupola, trailside bench, or a pile of driftwood. Black Phoebes are solitary in winter with, as Hoffman (1927) put it, "each bird keeping its own game preserve." In our fair clime with winters often late to start, phoebes raise more than one brood. Suffice to say, Black Phoebes are always on the go! 🐦

*Interested in learning more? Please join us for a DMFC-sponsored lecture, The Birds We Live By, A Guide to Identifying With the Birdlife of Pebble Beach, led by Dr. Jeffrey Froke. The lecture will take place on Sunday, November 17th from 1pm to 3pm at the Pebble Beach Community Service District Community Room. Invitations will be sent to DMFPO members.*



**COMING SOON!**

The abutments for the over crossing affectionately known as "Bart's Bridge" being installed after the winter saturated ground dried enough to be workable. Photo by Bart Bruno

After many years, a bridge is being installed to connect the dead ends of the Green Trail over Sawmill Gulch Creek near the Monterey Peninsula Country Club maintenance yard. The original bridge washed out long ago and vegetation took over, making the trail impassable. Spearheaded by DMFPO Director Bart Bruno, and with Monterey Peninsula Country Club as lead agency on the project, the over crossing will soon be completed, making the Green Trail once again circumnavigable to the delight of hikers and equestrians.

## Del Monte Forest Property Owners

a non-profit  
California Corporation

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### NEWSLETTER

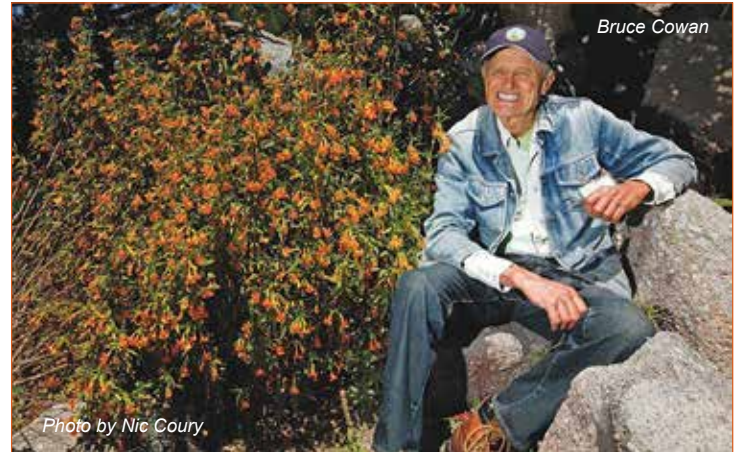
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## HONORING WEED WARRIOR BRUCE COWAN

After hearing Bruce Cowan, Weed Warrior, lament that at eighty he has injuries that make it hard for him to continue pulling weeds, fellow Del Monte Forest residents and Point Lobos Docents were called upon to show their appreciation by helping Bruce eradicate invasive broom. While getting lost in the weeds might not be your idea of fun, last month on a foggy Saturday morning eleven of us convened to help remove weeds from the Del Monte Triangle Park and treat Bruce to lunch at Poppy Hills afterwards. We had a great day!

Bruce Cowan has been working since the 1970s battling invasive plants here in Pebble Beach and throughout the peninsula. His contribution to Del Monte forest is invaluable. He and his wife, Judy, walk the trails regularly, pulling non native French broom, pampas grass and other marauders. When problems require more strength than he has, he reports the issue directly to Pebble Beach Company. He has volunteered as a naturalist with the Del Monte Forest Open Space Advisory Committee since its inception in 1979. There is a plaque in his honor on Fire Road 6, just south of Fire Road 7. Because of him, much of our forest is in its native state.

Starting his career as a horticulturist at Asilomar State Park in 1968, he removed ice plant from the dunes. Bruce began propagating native plants to install in lieu of the ice plant, laying the groundwork for the tapestry we see there today. He moved on to provide plant surveys (required for building permits) in sensitive coastal habitats. In 1990 a freeze killed the ice plant on the dunes at the Naval Postgraduate



School. Bruce, having already prepared the plant survey, was ready to begin the restoration and revegetation with native species, grown from seeds he collected. But he observes the work didn't end with the fun part - planting. "Native plant restoration involves 10 percent planting and 90 percent weed control." For over ten years he continued to remove ice plant to allow the natives to thrive.

As Bruce says, "weeds never retire." He did indeed try to retire, if you can call it retirement. Since then he has been a relentless volunteer, working in many venues to promote native plants and keep our wildlands free of invasives. The Museum of Natural History garden, Rip Van Winkle Park, Pebble Beach, and Point Lobos are beneficiaries. He has enlisted his wife in pulling weeds. Bruce received the volunteer of the year award in Pacific Grove in 2015, but Judy surely deserves the Wife of the Decade Award! She is out there with him, diligently attending to removal of the invasives and, according to Bruce, she is now the one who remembers the names of all the plants.

One of the great things about spending the day with Bruce and Judy was hearing the stories.

*(Continued next page)*

Bruce removed almost all the Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) from Pebble Beach and along Highway 68. This is a remarkable feat, given the steep slopes along the highway and the ferocity of the cars. We are glad he is still alive! He knows exactly when panic grass arrived in the area. He is strongly supportive of the Los Padres Forest invasive plant removal plans, recently publicized.

Bruce shared his mantra with us: "Eliminate the seed sources. Be more persistent than the weeds. Every weed that goes to seed is

a hundred more next year!" Thanks to Bruce and Judy for giving us a place to begin as we continue his good work. And thank you to residents and docents Mary Conway, Ralph Lauer, Pat Lovejoy, Bob Ogle, Ann Pendleton, Claudia Vierendeis, Susan Wright, Joan Hoover, and Reiko Michisaki. You guys rock!

Please let me know if you are interested in joining us on any future events! As you know, weeds are like rust. They never sleep!

- Katherine Spitz, DMFPO board member

## DMFPO Semiannual Meeting

Learn how to recognize a scam, contact appropriate authorities, and protect your family.

Guest speaker Donna Galletti, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office will provide information to make you scam savvy.



Find out:

- Who makes the perfect victim
- Types of telemarketing scam calls
- What is Spoofing
- The use of threats & fear as triggers
- How they get you to send funds
- How robocalls work
- The top ten current scams
- Tips to prevent victimization



**November 10, 2019**

**Sunday**

**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**The Inn**

**at Spanish Bay**

**Main Ballroom**

2019

DMFPO Members  
are Invited

Enjoy Refreshments  
and Hors d'oeuvres





## DEL MONTE FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS

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The 6th Annual Pebble Beach Zombie Race and Emergency Preparedness Fair is **Saturday, October 26th from 9:00am - noon** in picturesque Pebble Beach on the fire defense roads. There are two running courses: the challenging 5K (3.1 miles) Zombie Crawl and 2K Survivor Stroll (a flat mile perfect for strollers and youngsters). Visit the Emergency

Preparedness booths after the race. See event details at [zombierun.svetiming.com](http://zombierun.svetiming.com)

### DMFPO Hosts Two Flu Shot Clinics

#### Open to the Public



**Pebble Beach Community Services District**  
**Forest Lake and Lopez Roads, Pebble Beach**  
**Thursday, October 3, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m. to Noon**

**A clinic will be available during the Zombie Race at the Pebble Beach Company Corporation Yard**  
**Saturday, October 26, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m. to Noon (see event info above fold)**

*Flu vaccine available to ages 3 and above*

- \$35: Quadrivalent Flu Shot
- High Dose (over age 65) - covered by Medicare

*Other vaccines available:*

- Tdap (tetanus/whooping cough)
- Pneumonia (over age 65) – covered by Medicare  
Pneumovax® 23v or Prevnar 13®

*Medicare Part B billing available - flu & pneumonia*

**\*\*\*must present card at time of clinic\*\*\***



Central Coast  
Visiting Nurses Association Community Services



## Free Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Event!

**Saturday, October 19, 9 am - 2pm**  
**PBCSD office parking lot**  
**3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach**  
**(intersection of Forest Lake and Lopez Roads)**