

Edgewood



Explorer

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EDGEWOOD REOPENS 7 DAYS/WEEK

By Bill Korbholz

In the last issue of the *Explorer* we reported that Edgewood and 3 other County parks were forced to close 3 days per week due to funding shortfalls. Now we are pleased to report that funding has been restored and all parks are now open 7 days a week again.

In their September meeting, the Supervisors unanimously approved Supervisor Jerry Hill's motion to add almost \$200,000 to the Parks budget to keep parks open through next June.

This temporary closure underscored the larger problem of finding a more permanent solution to county parks funding. Most other county or regional park systems have a dedicated tax revenue source, freeing them of the vagaries of

(Continued on page 5)

DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULED

By Julie Foster

Would YOU like to lead wildflower walks at Edgewood Natural Preserve? Docent training begins in February and includes training hikes led by our resident plant experts Toni Corelli and Ken Himes. Becoming a wildflower walk docent is a great way to learn about the diverse plant communities at Edgewood and to share your enthusiasm for Edgewood's treasured wildflowers.

There are 6 evening classes from 7 to 9 pm on Feb 2 and 16, Mar 2 and 16, and April 6 and 20, plus 6 hikes on each Saturday following the evening classes.

For more information or to sign up call 1-866-GO EDGEWOOD or send email to docent-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org. ♻️

FRIENDS "STEP UP AND DIG DEEP"

By Peter Ingram



Peter presents pledge check to Julia Bott at Friends General Meeting

At its September 9 meeting, the Executive Committee took a bold step into the future by voting to pledge \$10,000 to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation for the Edgewood Interpretive Center construction fund.

As we heard in July from Julia Bott, Foundation Executive Director, the approach to raising \$1.5 million will rely on leveraging early contributions from individuals and businesses in the community and especially "challenge pledges" from organizations like the Friends.

Now that the Friends have "stepped up" on the creation of the Center, there is another challenge

(Continued on page 6)

INSIDE THE EXPLORER

Fruit—The Fall Harvest.....	2
General Meeting.....	2
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	4
New Outreach Plans.....	6
Farewell Mary Burns	7
2nd Edition, Edgewood Flora	7
Upcoming Events	8
Adopt-A-Highway Update.....	8

FRUIT—THE FALL HARVEST

By Toni Corelli and Ken Himes

Late summer and fall are the best times to notice the fruits on the flowering plants at Edgewood. The fruit is the fertilized, seed-containing structure of a flowering plant. It is actually the “ripened ovary,” part of the flower’s female reproductive structure. Fruits are grouped into 2 kinds, simple and compound.

In the examples of fruits given below, we include those commonly found at the market, as well as those from woody plants found at Edgewood, shown in *bold-italic font*.

Simple Fruits

Simple fruits result from one flower with a simple or compound ovary with only one pistil. There are 2 types, fleshy and dry.

Fleshy Fruits

In fleshy fruits, all or most of the ovary wall (pericarp) is soft and fleshy at maturity. There are several types of fleshy fruits.

berry - true berries have a fleshy or leathery outer wall and a fleshy pulp; e.g. avocado, grapes, huckleberries, cranberries, blueberries, tomatoes, kiwi, banana, coffee, passion fruit, persimmon, pomegranate, pepper, ***blue witch, hillside and canyon gooseberries, chaparral currant, hairy honeysuckle, English ivy, Pacific madrone, oak mistletoe, western poison oak, coast silk tassel, common and creeping snowberries.***

drupe - pitted or stone fruits usually composed of two layers: an outer fleshy layer (exocarp) and an inner stony layer or pit (endocarp). Usually the outer fleshy part is eaten, but in the almond and pistachio the seed enclosed in the pit is the edible part. Examples include plum, apricot, cherry, coconut, peach, ***California bay, brown and American dogwoods, blue elderberry, holly-leaved cherry, western leatherwood, Kings Mountain and hairy manzanitas, olive, oso berry, California and hoary coffeeberries, spiny redberry, wax myrtle.***

(Continued on page 3)

60 ATTEND GENERAL MEETING

By Kathy Korbholz

Despite threatening weather, the Friends of Edgewood had a very successful and enjoyable annual meeting October 17. It was attended by more than 60 members and Friends who took shelter from the occasional sprinkles under canopies. The delicious food was supplied by our friend Danny Sullivan of Arguello Catering.



We heard reports from Carolyn Strange and Carol Hankermeyer on the docent and schools outreach activities, which have been discussed in this or previous newsletters.

Ken Himes reported that for the third year in a row, the Weed Warriors will have contributed more than 2,000 hours in the fight against invasive exotics. In his review of the 2004 weeding efforts, Ken noted that more than 30 acres have been treated. Many areas no longer need mowing; the invasives can be controlled by careful surveillance and hand weeding.

The main business of the meeting was to elect 3 new board members to join Carolyn Dorsch, John Allen, and me, the three continuing members. Bill Korbholz, Carolyn Strange, and Peter Ingram were elected by unanimous vote for two-year terms beginning in 2005. Then in November the electing committee met and elected the following officers for 2005:

- President – Kathy Korbholz
- Vice-President – John Allen
- Treasurer – Peter Ingram
- Secretary – Carolyn Dorsch

(Continued on page 5)

(FRUITS, Continued from page 2)

hesperidium - actually a berry except with a tough, aromatic rind; e.g. citrus fruits (orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit, kumquat). Each section of a citrus fruit is a carpel.

pepo - formed from an inferior ovary as in the gourd family and have a hard or leathery rind on the outside and a fleshy inner layer; e.g. watermelon, cantaloupe, squash, pumpkin and cucumber.

Dry Fruits

In dry fruits, the ovary wall (pericarp) becomes dry and often hard at maturity. Dry fruits can be grouped into 2 types, dehiscent and indehiscent.

Dehiscent Dry Fruits

These fruits open to release the seeds by means of valves or sutures.

capsule - the most common fruit type, capsules are dry dehiscent structures that split from the tip or side, or by holes, pores, or sutures. Capsules are produced by plants from many families including Evening Primrose, Figwort, Pink, Phlox, Poppy, and Primrose. At Edgewood we have *California buckeye, buck brush ceanothus, chaparral mallow, blue gum, sticky monkeyflower, rock-rose, peak rush-rose, arroyo willow, yerba santa*.

follicle - a dry dehiscent fruit that splits on one side only. It may contain one or many seeds; e.g. columbine, larkspur, milkweed, peony, *Pacific ninebark*.

legume - a dry dehiscent pod that splits on two sides; e.g. alfalfa, licorice, pea, peanut, redbud, beans, wisteria and other *Pea* family members.

siliqua - a dry dehiscent fruit, long and thin, that splits down two sides, and has a papery membrane between the two halves; e.g. many members of the Mustard family.

silicle - a dry dehiscent fruit that is less than twice as long as broad; e.g. many members of the Mustard family.

Indehiscent Dry Fruits

These fruits do not open, but break down through natural causes to expose their seeds.

achene - a dry indehiscent fruit that has a hard outer seed coat with one seed enclosed; e.g. all *Sunflower* family members, *chamise, California buckwheat, sycamore*.

carvopsis - similar to an achene but the outer coat is often indistinguishable from the seed; e.g. *Grass* family.

nut - a hard, dry, indehiscent fruit, usually with a single seed; e.g. *oaks, Northern California black walnut*.

nutlet - a small nut; one of the lobes or sections of the mature ovary in some plants of the Borage and Mint families; e.g. *pitcher sage*.

samara - a dry indehiscent fruit that has part of the fruit wall extended to form a wing.

Compound Fruits

Compound fruits can be aggregate, multiple, or accessory fruits.

Aggregate Fruits

These fruits develop from a single flower with numerous simple pistils that form a cluster of several ripened ovaries. Often the fruit is attached to the receptacle or floral tube (hypanthium) of the flower.

achenes - aggregation of achenes that develop from a single flower with multiple pistils, each ovary developing into a single achene; e.g. *pipestems*.

drupelet - a small drupe found in aggregations produced by a single flower; e.g. bramble fruits (raspberry and *Himalayan and California blackberries*) and loganberry.

hip - a fleshy fruit containing achenes, as in all *Rosa* species of the Rose family.

Multiple Fruits

These fruits consist of many tightly clustered ripened ovaries formed from a cluster of flowers. Examples are fig, mulberry, pineapple, and breadfruit.

Accessory Fruits

These are fruits produced by one or more ripened ovaries in combination with tissues from some

(Continued on page 6)

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

By Lee Franks

The Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) is the Mercedes-Benz of birds—it has all the extras: wing bars, attractive crown, breast streaks, yellow throat, colored rump, etc. The name warbler refers to “singing with trills.” Until recently, the Yellow-rumped Warbler was considered to be two separate but closely related species: Myrtle Warbler (which have white throats) of eastern habitats, and Audubon’s Warbler (which have yellow throats) of the west. Ironically, although the western race bore the name of one of the greatest ornithologists, it was one of the few birds that John James Audubon failed to meet. Although it no longer officially holds the Audubon title, many western birders continue to refer to this spry bird by its former name, affirming its western roots.

Appearance

Yellow-rumped Warblers are relatively large warblers (5.5"), distinguished by conspicuous yellow patches on the rump, throat, crown, and sides of breast. The upperparts are gray, and the underparts are white. The breast and flanks are solid black, and the tail shows white spots in flight. Their bill is very thin.

Behavior

Yellow-rumps display a wider range of foraging strategies for hunting insects than most other warblers. They may be seen sallying from treetops after flying insects (mosquitoes, gnats, flying ants), or searching for scale insects on tree trunks. They also like to glean berries from shrubs like poison oak during the winter months when insects are scarce. This winter diet of berries enables Yellow-rumps to winter as far north as Seattle.

The Yellow-rumps we see in the Park during the winter months begin departing from their breeding grounds in British Columbia in early September, arriving here in late September or early October. Look for flights within or between trees.



Photo by C. S. Robbins

They leave the Park in late March or early April. Yellow-rumps are nocturnal migrants that can travel about 300 km per day. They orient themselves at dusk, using polarized light. Their migratory movements are associated with declines in food abundance and the passage of major cold fronts.

Sounds

Only the male sings, and they have at least 2 song types which are heard in the early morning hours during the breeding season. In general, their songs often lack distinctive patterns, and can best be described as erratic and flat shivering trills with a thin, bell-like quality, usually rising at the end. Some individuals sing songs with stronger patterns, sometimes closely resembling those of other warblers.

Since the Yellow-rumps do not breed in the Park, we hear only their calls, which are sharp, emphatic, and nonmusical. The calls are rendered as either a **psit** or **chek**, while foraging.

Breeding

Pairs form shortly after females arrive on the breeding grounds, usually in early- to mid-May, when food sources become available. Nests are built in mixed forest habitats in pine or fir trees. They place their nests well out on the central stem of a horizontal branch, as high as 15 m.

The female is usually the sole nest builder. The male occasionally brings material and may sing near and follow the building female. Nests may

(Continued on page 5)

(YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, Continued from page 4)

be loosely or compactly built cup-shaped constructions of twigs, pine needles, and grasses interwoven with rootlets, animal hair, and lichens. The cups are lined with finer hair and feathers. Feathers are woven into the nest with vanes curving up into the nest, thereby covering eggs from above to protect them from sun and insulate them from the cold.

Typically the hen will lay 4 to 5 eggs, the first egg usually laid within a day after nest completion. One egg is then laid per day until the clutch is complete. Incubation lasts 12 to 13 days from laying of the last egg. The male often sings in the vicinity of the nest during incubation. Brooding is done by the female, and both parents bring food for the young, consisting of soft insects for the first few days, and then shifting to an adult diet thereafter.

The young depart the nest 10 to 14 days after hatching, at which time they are able to fly weakly for short distances, usually in the direction of a singing parent. The young split-up at this time, but remain within hearing range of the parents. Once able to fly well, they follow parents who will continue to feed them for a couple more weeks until they reach the independent stage. Both adults and the fully independent young join flocks in late summer on their breeding grounds to our north. The flocks we see in the Park during the winter months could very well include this mix of adults and young which formed in the summer and then migrated together to Edgewood, where the oak woodlands provide plenty of food and essential shelter from foul weather and predators.

Reference

The Birds of North America, No 376, 1998,
P.D.Hunt and David J.Flaspholer. ☼

(PARKS REOPENED, Continued from page 1)
yearly budgets. The Parks for the Future steering committee, which consists of representatives from the county and various city governments, and non-profits, is looking at options for tax-based dedicated revenue that would be available to both county and city parks. ☼

(GENERAL MEETING, Continued from page 2)

You may have noticed the same names in leadership roles year after year. That is not by exclusion or choice. The Executive Committee would love to expand its membership and add your name.

The leadership team is a great group of fun, enthusiastic folks who have a passion for Edgewood. We meet only six times a year and there are many ways to get involved which don't take a huge commitment. Consider this an invitation to join us; simply call me at (650) 367-8820 or one of the other officers to find out how to join the fun.

A highlight of the annual meeting is always the presentation of the Best Friend award. This year it went to Bill Korbholz for his work on the Edgewood Geographic Information System (EGIS).



While the award was focused on this past year's EGIS efforts, Bill was chosen for his many contributions to Edgewood. He was a charter member of the Friends and has published virtually all the *Explorer* newsletters. During his eleven-year history with the group, he has served as President, Secretary, (on two separate occasions) Membership Coordinator, Weed Management Area Liaison, and Webmaster. For several of these roles, Bill stepped in when others were unable to fulfill their commitment.

Bill has continually worked behind the scenes and never asked for recognition. Whatever role needed filling, Bill volunteered. Bill is the cement which holds FoE together and fills in all the cracks. The group is fortunate to have so dedicated a volunteer among its members. ☼

(PLEDGE, Continued from page 1)

facing us—and one of equal importance to construction: long-term funding of the operation and staffing of the Center once it is open. Providing operations support in terms of funding and volunteer staffing is critical considering the County's budget crisis.

The Executive Committee identified a goal of donating \$1,000 per year beginning in late 2005, with the details of how we can accomplish this goal to be considered in the first half of 2005. If you have suggestions, please let us know! ☼

(FRUITS, Continued from page 3)

other floral part or tissue in which the “true fruit” is embedded in the stem or calyx (sepals).

Examples are apple, and pear, and strawberry.

pome - a fleshy fruit with a thin skin that is formed from the floral cup (hypanthium). They have a fleshy edible tissue on the outside; e.g. apple, pear, quince, firethorn, *cotoneaster*, *pyracantha*, *English hawthorn*, *toyon*.

pseudocarp - false fruit; it does not actually contain the seeds, but the seeds (achenes) are on the outside of the fleshy tissue. The fleshy tissue is the receptacle of the flower; e.g. strawberry.

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NEW OUTREACH PLANS

By Carol Hankermeyer

The fall season of Schools Outreach field trips included homeschoolers from Half Moon Bay and girl scouts from San Carlos. Teacher requests are typically light this time of year since the main attraction of Edgewood is usually spring wildflowers.

This year I tried a new angle to recruit docents by inviting them to join a group of seasoned docents on a hike of the Sylvan Loop prior to the FoE general meeting and picnic on October 17.

We all shared our tricks and techniques, brainstorming ideas for engaging kids with nature at different locations along the Sylvan Loop Trail. Afterwards the new people could socialize with other FoE members at the picnic—and get a free lunch!

We're very fortunate to have Trudy Bidstrup, Susie Hons, and Frances Morse bring their talent and enthusiasm to the program, and the increased number of children's field trip leaders will make it possible to consider renewing active outreach to local schools.

When Toni Corelli proposed the idea of creating a kids' docent training guide, several of us expressed immediate interest in forming a committee to plan and produce the manual. Frances Morse graciously hosted our first planning meeting with Toni Corelli, Herb Fischgrund, and me.

We are very enthusiastic about this endeavor, which we believe will provide a tool for attracting even more docents to the program. The completed manual will give them a resource for leading children's walks at Edgewood.

I am thrilled to have such a great group of Friends to work with on a project I have previously only dreamed of.

To learn how you can participate in the Outreach Program, please contact me at outreach01@friendsofEdgewood.org. ☼

FAREWELL MARY BURNS

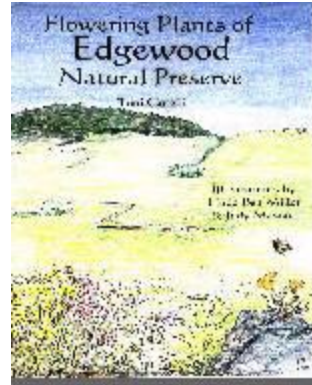
Mary Burns, the 6-year Director of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division, resigned in October to pursue a position as Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks.

Mary was honored at the Parks Commission meeting in November, at which her many contributions and her outstanding leadership and vision were recognized by Supervisors Rich Gordon and Mike Nevin, the Parks Commissioners, and many others, including Friends of Edgewood President Kathy Korbholz.

Kathy noted that Mary's passion for environmental education had been a key factor in prioritizing the Edgewood Interpretive Center project. Kathy presented Mary with a framed poster-size photo of Edgewood and an autographed copy of Toni's Flora.

We will miss Mary and we wish her the best. ☘

2ND EDITION OF EDGEWOOD FLORA NOW AVAILABLE



Toni Corelli's 2nd edition of the **Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve** is now available. This 368-page field guide includes descriptions and drawings of 481 vascular plant species found at Edgewood.

The 2nd edition has improved keys and illustrations. It is a must-have reference for all plant lovers. It sells for \$25 and can be purchased using the membership dues form below or from the Friends of Edgewood website, <http://www.friendsofedgewood.org/flora.htm>.

Current owners of the 1st edition can contact Toni directly. ☘

MEMBERSHIP DUES

New or renewing members may clip and complete this section to pay **tax-deductible** annual membership dues. Please send your check payable to **Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve** to the return address on the back of this panel. Renewing members can determine their membership expiration date by checking the six-digit code to the right of their name on their mailing label. For example, if the code is 06/2006, membership runs through June 2006. Questions, call (866) GO-EDGEWOOD or contact membership-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

- \$15 Basic Membership (includes newsletter)
- \$25 Family Membership (newsletter)
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership (newsletter)
- \$50 Supporting Membership (newsletter, *Edgewood Checklist of Plants*, boxed set of Edgewood photo greeting cards, and 1-year subscription to BAY NATURE magazine)
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (above premiums plus Toni Corelli's Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve)
- \$250 Patron Membership (above premiums plus 16x20 photo-poster)
- I am enclosing a gift of _____.
- Please send ___ copies of the *Edgewood Checklist of Plants* (\$2), ___ copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* (\$2), ___ copies of the Apr-Jun 2004 BAY NATURE magazine (\$5), ___ copies of Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve (\$25). Includes tax, S&H. All items subject to availability.
- Please do not send any premiums.

I would like to participate in the following:

- Docent program
- GIS/GPS mapping
- Newsletter/web
- Public relations
- Weed management
- Schools outreach
- Habitat restoration
- Adopt-A-Highway



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☐ *Wed. Feb. 2, 7 pm, **DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS***. Learn about Edgewood's natural resources so that you can lead docent walks. See the article on page 1 of this newsletter. For more information or to sign up call 1-866-GO EDGEWOOD or send email to docent-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org
- ☐ *Monthly, **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY***. The next sessions are scheduled for 12/4, 1/9/05, 2/5/05, and 3/6/05. Contact Ken Seydel for more information.
- ☐ *Monthly, **BIRD WALKS***. Meet Audubon Society docent Lee Franks at 8 am at the Day Camp kiosk on 12/19, 1/30/05, and 2/27/05. ♻️

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE

By Ken Seydel and Bill Korbholz

Five intrepid freeway cleaners helped clean up the Edgewood environs in October: Carolyn Dorsch, Alan Hackabay, Billy James, Margaret Marshall, and Ken Seydel. We netted a total of 20 bags of litter, including a hubcap, money (\$2.10), and a snake skull.

In November, our Sunday group included Carolyn Dorsch, Katherine Greene, Kathy Korbholz, and Susan Russell. They collected 11 bags of trash, including a car seat pad which, when unfolded, revealed 2 baby lizards snoozing.

Our next outings are Sat. Dec. 4, Sun. Jan. 9, Sat. Feb. 5, and Sun. Mar. 6. ♻️

The Edgewood Explorer is published quarterly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Edgewood for the human, plant, and animal generations to come. The newsletter is produced by Bill Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our web site at www.friendsofedgewood.org, mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax toll-free at (866) GO-EDGEWOOD (866-463-3439), or email info01@friendsofedgewood.org.

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