

Edgewood



Explorer

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DOCENT TRAINING COMING UP

By Mary Wilson

Docent Training will start in January. Please be on the lookout for friends or neighbors who might be interested in becoming a Friends of Edgewood docent. Our training provides Wednesday evening presentations by very knowledgeable speakers, Saturday hikes through Edgewood led by these speakers, and a binder full of facts about the Natural Preserve. Training fees are \$25, which covers the cost of the training materials.



This is a great opportunity to learn more about Edgewood. Leading hikes is amazingly rewarding because of the interest and gratitude of our public.

Training covers an Introduction to and

Botanist Toni Corelli History of Edgewood, Plants of the Oak Woodland, Local Geology, Plants of the Chaparral, How to recognize Flowers, Serpentine Grassland Wildflowers, and How to Lead a Wildflower Walk.

The Saturday morning hikes are led by the Wednesday presenter and cover his/her topic except for the Saturday after the Flower Key talk. On that day, participants will take a one-on-one walk with an experienced docent.

Wednesday evening sessions run from 7 to 9:15 pm on Jan. 23, Feb. 6, Feb. 20, Mar. 5, Mar. 19, Apr. 2, and Apr. 16. The Saturday morning sessions go from 9 am to 1 pm on the Saturdays following the Wednesday presentations.

To reserve your spot, email docent-trainer@friendsofedgeswood.org. ☼

2007—WHAT A YEAR FOR EDGEWOOD!

By Peter Ingram

When the plan for reintroducing the Bay checkerspot butterfly to Edgewood was conceived several years ago, no one could have imagined the power of the experience that would unfold on April 5, 2007. The event had all the elements of a great news story: Nature, images, good outcome.

But from the eye of the person who has been touched by so many who have given to Edgewood, it was about them and the place they love. It was about sharing their story and watching them be in awe and in celebration. The level of planning and coordination to make the event work was spectacular, and it had to be done to respect the site, give everyone their due, and make it easy for the press. Everyone involved was great to work with and very professional.

And a remarkable thing happened: The press got the story right and it went well beyond just the butterfly's return. It talked about the people involved, the science, the dedication, the small picture and the big picture. The many

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EDGEWOOD'S ADOPTED SITE

By Ken Seydel

In the 1980's when San Mateo County acquired Edgewood, I used to enjoy running Edgewood's trails for physical training. I appreciated Edgewood's special nature and felt that it needed to be protected.

In 1989 the State of California implemented the Adopt-A-Highway program. This presented the opportunity to care for the many acres of land between the park and the freeway, so I signed up for 1 mile adjacent to Edgewood on both sides of the freeway (2 miles total). My adoption in March 1990 was one of the first in the area.

Initially I was expected to clean at least 4 times a year. Two years later the program had become so popular that the State redistributed the adoptions, and mine was restricted to the Edgewood side only, and reduced from 2 miles to 1.4 miles.

By 1997 the traffic flow (and trash) on the freeway had increased to the point that CalTrans requested that it be cleaned 6 times a year. In 1999, with ever-increasing amounts of litter, I approached the Friends of Edgewood for help, the result being that the Friends are now the official adopters of this site.

We now have 13 active volunteers divided into two teams. Each team spends 1 weekend morning every other month keeping the freeway clean so that Edgewood looks inviting to passers-by.

Thanks to the other 12 Freeway Warriors: Brian Cole, Carolyn Dorsch, Dave Hershey, Billy James, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Jane Kos, Margaret Marshall, Susan Russell, Jan Smith, Lisa Tough, and Michael Yantos.

This has been a very worthwhile program for our organization. Our volunteers have logged over 1000 person-hours since 1999, and have collected over 800 large bags of trash. The rewards of volunteering are self-evident, but it's

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GENERAL MEETING

Around 60 Friends attended this year's annual general membership meeting and picnic, including a couple dozen first-timers. We enjoyed each other's company and were treated to another tasty lunch generously provided by Arguello Catering in Redwood City.

After lunch, president Peter Ingram called the meeting to order to elect 3 Board members for the 2008-2009 term. Our new Board members are Peter Alley, Herb Fischgrund, and Mary Wilson, who join our continuing Board members Susan Crocker, Peter Ingram, and Bill Korbholz, and our Director Emeritus Carolyn Strange.



Peter Alley, Mary Wilson, Herb Fischgrund

Then Peter presented our annual Best Friend award to Stuart Weiss for his leadership in restoring the Bay checkerspot butterfly to Edgewood. ♻️



Peter Ingram presenting Best Friend award to Stuart Weiss

SPECIAL THANKS

We have 2 very special thank-you's to express.

Laverne Rabinowitz



Laverne is one of the founding members of the Friends of Edgewood. She was on our Board even before there was a Board, helping to jump-start the organization. She served several terms in the 90's as Secretary, and has

assisted in labeling, folding, stuffing, stamping, mailing, and contributing to our newsletters since the very first issue in 1994.

After 14 years of dedicated service to the Friends, she is turning her focus to other areas. We can't thank her enough for her service to our organization, and especially for her unrecognized behind-the-scenes support over these many years. We know she'll continue to enjoy Edgewood, and we hope she'll continue to support the Friends.

Arguello Catering

With locations in South San Francisco and Redwood City, Arguello has been generously donating meals and refreshments to the Friends of Edgewood since they first provided those delicious ice cream treats for our Powers Of Ten event in 2003.

Arguello, <http://arguellocatering.com/>, is owned and operated by Danny Sullivan, an avid fan of Edgewood. Danny appreciates Edgewood not only as a natural preserve but as a beautiful location for jogging, which he has done for many years.

He expresses his support for our organization by providing the refreshments for our annual meeting, for which we are very grateful. 🌸

WHAT'S PUZZLING YOU?

By Carolyn Strange

Do you wonder as you wander, pondering mysteries about Edgewood and its denizens? Well start jotting down your questions and sending them in! Let's try out our very own Edgewood Q&A column. But it won't work without you and what you're wondering.

Anything that could be called "Edgewoodiana," or closely related, is fair game: flora, fauna, how come..., how about..., what ever happened to..., has anybody seen..., why... -- and anything else you'd like to know related to Edgewood. I'll find answers, starting with the exemplary experts among the Friends, and branching out if necessary. Then I'll write it up for a future issue of the Explorer.

All you have to do is send your inquiries to edgewoodiana@friendsofedgewood.org. Send them as you think of them, as often as you like, as many as you have. All questions will be considered for pursuit. We can't promise all of them will get published, and they may be combined or rearranged. We'll just see how many we get, and how much time and space we have for answers.

Curiosity can be contagious--spread it around! Your Edgewood question channel is now open. Don't hold back! 🌸

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newspaper, magazine, and TV stories were of exceptional quality and it seemed like a different person was quoted or featured in each piece. Edgewood shined across the Bay area.

There won't be an epilogue for awhile, and to even the astute observer, there's not much going on out in the grasslands right now, just tiny plantains and inconspicuous caterpillars.

Weather will play a yet-to-be determined role in the next generation of Edgewood checkerspots. Next steps include on-going caterpillar counts,

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which is one measure of success of the project. Watch the Explorer in 2008 for updates.

The return of the butterfly provided a high-visibility milestone for the Preserve, but behind the scenes there was much hard work going on, such as the continued efforts of our intrepid Weed Warriors. Additionally, Edgewood received a state grant of \$50,000, to be used over the next 2 years, with the goal of restoring the quality of 10 to 20 acres of grassland at Edgewood by significantly reducing infestations of non-native plants and promoting healthy native ecosystems.

In 2007, the project team tackled the following projects: Harding grass control, yellow starthistle mowing, medusahead control research, and annual falsebrome control research.

The Friends continue to collaborate with County staff on a variety of Edgewood challenges. One that came to the fore this year was that more signs are needed to remind visitors not to pick flowers or remove natural materials from Edgewood. The rangers added some additional signs at key trailheads. Planning for further interpretive signs will be coordinated with the design of the Interpretive Center.

2007 was a pivotal year for the future of the Friends of Edgewood as an organization, in that the Executive Committee determined that we must create a long-term strategic plan and actively expand our capacity.

We began as a small group dedicated to saving the park, moved on to run a very successful docent program to share the park with the public during the flower season, initiated a trail patrol to aid protecting the habitat, and deployed weeders to fight invasive plants.

As we approach our 15th anniversary, we've been asking ourselves and each other, "Where do we go from here?" To answer that question, we have embarked on a strategic planning process.

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INTERPRETIVE CENTER PROGRESS

By Julia Bott

Progress continues towards realizing our collective vision of an interpretive center that will inspire a stewardship in those who visit Edgewood Natural Preserve. This past fall efforts to secure the building permit progressed and the detail specific design process for the exhibits began.

Additional funds for the center have been raised leaving us with approximately \$400,000 remaining to be raised for full funding. Yes that seems like a lot of money still to be raised, but it is the smallest gap that we have faced.

While it's always pleasurable to get a check—big or small—for the center and getting a fire marshal sign-off elicits an arm-pumping "yes" (or maybe the right word is "finally"), working on the exhibit design has been the most rewarding and fun. Seeing the life of the center come together is inspiring.

It is also frustrating in that there are so many stories to share and just limited space in the center. The effort underscores the important role the companion educational and restoration programs at the preserve will play in making the building a vibrant interpretive center. Personal interaction with docents, volunteers and rangers will remain an important part of the experience for those visiting Edgewood.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge the following people who have been active in reviewing and critiquing the drafts of the exhibit designs: Carol Hankermeyer, Alf Fengler, John Allen, Kathy and Bill Korbholz, Mary Wilson, Toni Corelli, Frances Morse, Stu Weiss, Herb Fischgrund, Kate Finnigan, Ken Himes, Susan Sommers, Dave Moore, John Trewin, Priscilla Alvarez, Paul Heiple, and Trish Taylor.

And special thanks to Jenny Rigby (The Acorn Group) and Mark Adams (General Graphics Exhibits), our consultants who have designed and modeled these beautiful exhibits. ☺

EDGEWOOD WEEDING REACHES ADULTHOOD

By Paul Heiple

The weeding program at Edgewood is now officially eighteen years old, having begun in 1989. That is long enough for someone to grow into an adult. A period of time like that should show great results, and it should show a coming of age, a change in the program so dramatic that all can sense the change. So here is story of a program coming of age.

The first weed tackled back in 1989 was teasel. Many other species were in the park and many had no control at all. The brooms were probably the second group of weeds to be attacked, and I know trees like olives and shrubs like cotoneaster were also attempted.

I arrived on the scene in 1994 from Pennsylvania and first got involved about 1996. By that time the teasel was greatly reduced and most of the adult broom had been cut. However efforts to dig out olive and cotoneaster were found to be fruitless, the plants being too numerous and widespread to remove by that method.

Yellowstar thistle (YST) had topped the last divide on the south side of the Central Ridge and was about to spread into the last grasslands that were not serpentine. A line was drawn in the sand; YST would be pushed back to the ridge and kept out of the last habitat that lay below.

We focused our efforts seasonally on broom in the winter, Italian thistle in the spring, YST in the summer and bristly ox-tongue in the fall. Each season was a race to get to all the sites and remove the weeds before the seeds were dropped. Many areas did not receive any treatment at all. We used the Bradley method, which called for removing weeds in a front and not diluting the effort over too large an area.

The first change to this routine was the first mowing of YST in the late 1990's. A booklet on the biology and control of YST detailed the method. The Parks Department agreed to try

mowing a plot next to areas we were treating. About the same time, the biocontrol insects that eat YST flower heads began to arrive in Edgewood. The mowing was successful and for the first time, the weeding program saw YST pushed back out of areas it had infested. The new routine was like the old one, but at least for one weed we were gaining territory the weed had occupied.

The latest changes have happened rapidly, as the constant pressure on broom and bristly ox-tongue began to wear the weeds down. It took less time to clear them each year. Money to mow larger areas of YST became available and money also was obtained through the Weed Management Area of San Mateo County to begin going after the weedy annual grasses.

This year those trends left us with almost all the area in the center of the park treated for YST at least once with follow-up to remove the re-sprouts. The Wednesday night group got off to such an early start on bristly ox-tongue that the Friday group had only enough for one session to clear out the few that were missed.

Since there was little bristly ox-tongue to pull, the Friday group moved to broom. That weed also proved to be at low levels and after two sessions so far this fall, most of those areas have been cleared. That was accomplished even though a new stand of adult broom plants was found (and removed in two hours). So the Friday group has now moved to Italian thistle, many months ahead of normal.

These developments have led to the removal of many other species of weeds, and the weeders intend to take on more in the future. The challenge is to learn all these new weeds and how to eradicate them.

The goal is an Edgewood with few weeds, a place where natives have room to grow. Recent trends show us reaching some very impressive milestones in the near future; my greatest hope is that I can soon report that YST is rare throughout the park. The weeding program will have grown up. ♻️

YOUTH OUTREACH FALL ACTIVITIES

By Carol Hankermeyer

The Outreach field trip season got off to a running start on September 9 when 12 second graders from Las Lomas School converged on Edgewood for a birthday hike. Kate Connors led the group on the Sylvan Loop with me as sweep/support. The kids were well equipped with explorer's packs containing binoculars, magnifiers, and compasses, which they knew how to use remarkably well!



Kate Connors with Lomas School kids

The group was rewarded with wildlife sightings of a doe and fawn, noisy scrapping Stellar and scrub jays, fence lizards, and lots of insects and spiders. The children discovered dusky-footed woodrat nests, squirrel nests, funnel web spider holes, gopher holes, and other signs of wildlife. The prize awaiting the explorers at the end of the Sylvan Trail was a birthday cake in the shade of the bay trees above the creek.

On a more advanced level, Summit Prep Charter High School seniors from an environmental science class visited Edgewood on October 19. Their purpose was to make firsthand observations of natural communities, food chains, plant/animal relationships and invasive vs. native species, all ecological concepts that they had been studying in class.

Paul Heiple, John Allen, and I led the 20 students up the Clarkia Trail, introducing them to the different species found in the grassland, woodland, and chaparral and explaining the origin of serpentine and its profound influence

on the flora. We congregated at the butterfly release site, where Paul recounted the research and work that Stuart Weiss had done to reintroduce the Bay checkerspot butterfly to Edgewood. These bright, academic, college-bound 12th graders seemed genuinely impressed with our tour.

From my viewpoint, the unique quality of Edgewood Outreach is that we have docents with such diverse talents and experience to meet a broad range of ages and student capabilities. We are very lucky to have them. The Youth Outreach Program is well worth financial support and the investment of volunteer time. Many of you have talents and special qualities that would be wonderful contributions to the program. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us at outreach@friendsofedgeswood.org.

What I see now is a need for Friends of Edgewood to promote more community awareness and interest in Youth Outreach. I believe it may help determine the future of Edgewood. ♻️

LEND A HAND

The Friends of Edgewood is quite proud of its membership of over 200 families. In addition, many other non-members volunteer at Edgewood, in the weeding program, as general or outreach docents, on trail patrol, with Adopt-A-Highway, and in other ways.

Not enough can be said for our terrific volunteers, who have made Edgewood and Friends of Edgewood what they are today.

Yet, there always seem to be more opportunities for folks to get involved and lend a hand:

- Newsletter editor
- Newsletter postal coordinator
- Docent training assistant

If you'd like to help with any of these, please contact us at info@friendsofedgeswood.org or 1-866-GO-EDGEWOOD (1-866-463-3439). ♻️

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We solicited members' ideas at our annual meeting, which led to a substantial list of good suggestions. Then the Executive Committee held a planning retreat with the assistance of Regina Neu, a consultant who specializes in guiding non-profit groups through this process.

Our goal is to craft a strategy that will address our very real capacity problems and identify opportunities to sustain and expand our efforts for the benefit of Edgewood. We seem to always have more great ideas than we have volunteer power to implement, and we are concerned that the same handful of very busy people shoulder most of the burden for the organization and its work.

Many thanks to all who have contributed their time, talents and passion this past year. In the future, we will look back on "the year of the butterfly" as a remarkable turning point in the intriguing history of this special place. ☘

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Edgewood T-Shirt

2 styles featuring "Edward The First," (the first Bay checkerspot butterfly seen at Edgewood in 2007) on moss green shirt, and Judy Mason's sketch of Edgewood on off-white shirt. \$24 ea. inc. tax, S&H.

Commemorative Poster

Order your custom poster at Jungle Print commemorating the 2007 reintroduction of the Bay checkerspot butterfly. Cost varies according to size and paper style.

Flora of Edgewood

Toni Corelli's complete illustrated flora, 2nd edition. \$25 inc. tax, S&H.

Gift Membership

See premium levels below.

Please refer to www.friendsofedgewood.org for ordering details. ☘

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.

- \$10 Student/Retired** (includes quarterly newsletter)
- \$25 Friend** (newsletter)
- \$50 Advocate** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards)
- \$75 Supporter** (newsletter plus choose one):
 - Set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards and 1-year subscription to BAY NATURE magazine
 - Toni Corelli's Flowering Plants of Edgewood
- \$100 Steward** or **\$250 Guardian** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards, plus choose one):
 - 1-year subscription to BAY NATURE magazine
 - Toni Corelli's Flowering Plants of Edgewood
- Please do not send any premiums.**
- I am enclosing a gift of _____.**

Please send ___ copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* (\$2.50), ___ copies of the *Edgewood Vascular Plant List* (\$3.00), ___ copies of the Apr-Jun 2004 BAY NATURE magazine (\$6.00), ___ copies of Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve (\$25.00). Includes tax, S&H. All items subject to availability.

I would like to participate in the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent program | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS/GPS mapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/web | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Highway |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone _____ Eve Telephone _____

Email _____



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❑ *December, END-OF-YEAR HOLIDAYS.* Why not share Edgewood with a loved one? See gift ideas on the previous page.
- ❑ *Monthly, BIRD WALKS.* Marilyn Travis leads monthly bird walks starting at 8 am at the Day Camp kiosk. Upcoming walks are on 12/16, 1/27/08, and 2/24/08. For more information contact Marilyn at birdwalks@friendsofedgewood.org.
- ❑ *Monthly, ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY.* The next sessions are scheduled for 1/6/08, 2/2/08, and 3/2/08. Contact Ken Seydel to volunteer or for more information. ♻️

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Susan Russell, Kathy Korbholz

worth pointing out that we get to keep items of value that we find, including over \$300 so far.

All of our volunteers are safety trained and equipped with picker, vest, gloves and hard hat.

We would love to have you join our crew!! If interested contact me. ♻️

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 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 info@friendsofedgewood.org.

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