

Edgewood



Explorer

June 2009

Volume 16 Number 2

DONORS FOR THE EDUCATION CENTER

by **Bill Korbholz**

In our first fundraising mailing campaign ever, the Friends of Edgewood sent over 280 letters to Friends and relatives requesting a special donation to help us close the funding gap for our Education Center. In the letter we reminded folks that the Parks Foundation has already raised 90% of the \$2M required, thanks to a generous \$200K end-of-year contribution from Bill and Jean Lane.

Well, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the returns. About one-third of those receiving letters responded, donating a total of over \$23K! This outpouring of support is a tremendous affirmation of the devotion that we share



A rendering of one area of the Education Center

for Edgewood. Our Executive Committee received periodic updates from our treasurer, Peter Alley during the last 3 months, and we couldn't believe how the total kept growing! We are extremely grateful to all who contributed. The names of all donors to this campaign are listed below.

Ed Center Update

We crossed a major barrier in May with the issuance of a building permit. We now expect construction bids to go out at the end of July, due back in August. If the winning bid is within budget, then the construction contract should be signed in September or October. We are still hopeful that the building will be available by Spring 2010.

Special Recognition

Every donation brings us closer to our goal and really does make a difference, and we are immensely appreciative of everyone's generosity. But there are special stories behind two donors that I think are worth highlighting.

Many of you know **Drew Shell**, one of the leaders of the Weed Warriors. Drew is as dedicated as they come, not only for his work in the field at Edgewood, but also for his insight and vision into innovative and sustainable approaches to habitat management. Drew, it turns out, is also a pretty darned good fundraiser himself. He issued a challenge grant to the Weed Warriors to match up to \$3,000 of their contributions. He also made arrangements for his employer, Microsoft, to match his own contribution. Well guess, what: they did it! The Weed Warriors contributed \$3,000, Drew matched it, and Microsoft will kick in another \$3,000, for a total of \$9,000! Very impressive. Thanks, Drew!

The other individual that I want to mention is **Thanh Mougeot**. Thanh is a docent who also happens to be an accomplished cook, and enjoys giving cooking classes. She decided to offer a Vietnamese cooking class and asked attendees to donate to the Ed Center in lieu of paying class fees. The class took place on May 30, and as a result, the Ed Center fund is \$360 larger. Thank you, Thanh.

THE DONORS

\$1000 - \$5000	Dorsch, Carolyn
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MacAvoy, Alisa & Neil	\$100 - \$499
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Alley/Strange, Peter/Carolyn	Crabbe, Nancy & David
Bernhard, Sandra	DeMello, Karen
Bott, Julia	Filler, Les & Kay
Brennan, Patricia Ann	(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THE EXPLORER

New Docents.....	2
Edgewood's Flowers.....	3
Edgewood in the News.....	3
Letter to the Editor.....	4
Healing Plants—The Graceful Mariposa Lily.....	5
Please Show Us Edgewood.....	6
Adopt-A-Highway & Adopt-A-Weedway.....	7
Membership Dues.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8

(Continued from page 1)

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*Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on
the grass on a summer day listening to the
murmur of water, or watching the clouds float
across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.*

~ John Lubbock

*I loaf and invite my soul,
I lean and loaf at my ease
observing a spear of summer grass.*
~ Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

NEW DOCENTS

by Mary Wilson

Another Docent Training season has come and gone. I really appreciate and thank our instructors John Allen, Toni Corelli, Paul Heiple and Ken Himes for their informative talks and walks, and Alf Fengler, Bill Korbholz and Carolyn Strange, who gave a panel talk about good ways to lead wildflower walks. I also want to thank those who volunteered to give the graduates their one-on-one walks: John Allen, Norma Jean Bodey, Kate Connors, Toni Corelli, Barb Emry, Alf Fengler, Pat Oren and Nancy Smith. John and Nancy each took 2 graduates for their one-on-one walks, while Alf took 3!

We graduated 14 new docents this year. Our largest class in 4 years!

Please watch for and welcome Miesje Aldrich, Sandra Bernhard, John Bradley, Isabel Byrnes, Katherine Dollard, Ty Freiberg, Natalie Howe, Steven Kriske, David Milburn, Leah Moffatt, Deanna Schiel, Howie Smith, Tommi Smith and Judy Wong. Several are already active "Weed Warriors," who joined the docent program to learn more about the native plants they were carefully NOT pulling up. Two more are docents at either Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District or Coyote Ridge.

In addition, Jane Kos took the class under our "professional courtesy" policy, which lets us offer the training to Weed Warriors and members of the Trail Patrol who are interested in learning more about Edgewood vegetation, but who do not plan on becoming docents. Of course we always hope they'll decide to lead Wildflower Walks, but, even if they don't, Edgewood still greatly benefits from their learning more about the Preserve, and we definitely benefit from getting to know them.

A big Thank You to our graduates for their hard work, and a big Welcome to our new docents! 🌻

Etymology of the word "Docent"

"In American English (but not in British English, where the word is not used), the word **docent** has two meanings: firstly, a professor or university lecturer; and secondly, the corps of volunteer guides who staff museums and other educational institutions. Docent is derived from the present participle (*docens, docentis*) of the Latin word *docere*, meaning 'to teach.'"

~www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Docent

.....
"The decent docent doesn't doze;
He teaches standing on his toes.
His student dassn't doze and does,
And that's what teaching is and was."

~David McCord (1897-1997) American poet



EDGEWOOD'S FLOWERS

As we all know, the beauty of Edgewood's flowers is extraordinary. But equally extraordinary are the photographers of Friend of Edgewood, who capture that beauty for all time. If you haven't been to the website lately, do yourself a favor, and go there. It's almost as good as going to the Preserve itself. Here and on the last page are samples of some pretty fine work by Nature and her photographers. Enjoy. ~ ed.



Photo © Toni Cordli

↑
Fringed Checkerbloom
(Sidalcea diploscypha)

**Narrow-Leaved/Small-Flowered/
Pale Flax**
(Linum bienne)



Photo © Alf Fengler



EDGEWOOD IN THE NEWS

by **Anne Koletzke**

Frances Morse sent an e-mail to Edgewood's docents telling them about the fantastic article in the April 15th edition of one of our local newspapers, the *Almanac*. With her kind permission, I'm sharing her e-mail with the wider audience of the *Explorer*. —ed,

"Our Wildflower Walks are the front page story of this week's *Almanac* (April 15th edition), available in boxes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, and Woodside.

"Online you can find it at: <http://almanacnews.com/toc.php?i=175>. Click on PDF Version: Section 1. We are the first page, then scroll to page 12 for the main 2-page photo/article

"The photographer/author came on our hike on April 5th. There are a couple of good pictures of John, and probably the worst picture of me I have ever seen!

"A few of the author's details are a little 'incorrect' - especially the comments about the soap plant, Native Americans, and poison IVY! (I promise we didn't tell her that!)"



And then, as editor of the *Explorer*, I received the following e-mail from Brad Day about Edgewood's mention in his free weekly e-mail newsletter, *Weekend Sherpa*:

"Hi there! *Weekend Sherpa* featured Friends of Edgewood in this week's issue. You are in the first story. You can view this story on our website at." <http://www.weekendsherpa.com/story/edgewood-park-wildflowers-wine-taste-la-honda-winery/520> Cheers!

"*Weekend Sherpa* is a free weekly e-mail newsletter giving you the scoop on a variety of outdoor pursuits exclusive to Northern California. Every Thursday, *Weekend Sherpa* will be your guide."

If you'd like to sign up, go to www.weekendsherpa.com ☺

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to let you know how much we meadowmice have been enjoying your column in the *Explorer*. My family and I, and all our numerous friends and relatives, have been hoping you would write about us, but, alas, you have not.

"Perhaps," we thought, "we are so small and shy, she doesn't know we exist!" "Perhaps," we thought

some more, "we should write her and tell her." And then, because at 3 years I am the oldest by far, they chose me to do the writing.

Before I go any further, I must ask you to forgive this narrow stationery, but, as I am sure you will appreciate, traversing a wide piece of paper is very difficult and most tiring, not to mention messy, for a very small creature writing with the tip of his ink-dipped tail.

Now, to begin. After taking a survey of all the meadow mice in Edgewood, it has become clear there are some items of great concern they would like me to address in this letter. The first is our name. Although many of your kind insist on referring to us as the California vole, you should know that we much prefer our equally valid and definitely more poetic name of California meadow mouse, which, if nothing else, keeps us from being confused with the dreaded mole. Let me be very clear: we though we may be, we are not now, nor have we ever been, a mole! The mole is a carnivorous creature,

who eats worms, grubs, and insects, just the thought of which makes me shudder. Besides that, the mole, being a member the Order Soricomorpha, isn't even a rodent!

And speaking of our Order, Rodentia, we take great exception to the rude manner in which that brush rabbit spoke about rodents in your December column. We would like Ms. Brush Rabbit to know

that not all rodents are the same; that some rodents, like us, are not omnivorous garbage eaters, but are primarily herbivores, just like her. We would also like her to know that we meadow mice build tunnels through the grass, just like her (although unlike her, we also build extensive underground tunnels and burrows). As for our yellow front teeth, about which she had nothing good to say, they are not only vital to our survival, they are the very source of our Order's name, for the word Rodentia is derived from the Latin verb, rodere, which means "to gnaw." And immodest though it may be for me to say so, I am willing to wager there is no one anywhere, even among the brush rabbits, who would deny that when it comes to gnawing, rodents rule!

And finally, although referring to ourselves as meadow mouse keeps us from being identified with the mole, it does tend to cause us to be identified with the house mouse, which is equally off the mark. Well, not quite

equally, as the house mouse is without question a rodent. I guess you could say we are cousins. Here's how it looks on paper.

MEADOW MOUSE
Order: Rodentia
Suborder: Mymomorpha
Family: Cricetidae
Subfamily: Arvicolinae
Genus: Microtus
Species: Microtus californicus

HOUSE MOUSE
Order: Rodentia
Suborder: Mymomorpha
Family: Muridae
Subfamily: Murinae
Genus: Mus
Species: Mus musculus

difference between Microtus and Mus (although he got the part about us eating bacon wrong), and since I, not to mention my tail, am exhausted from all this writing, I'll just include a copy of Aesop's fable for now, and then write you another letter soon, as there's so much more to tell you about us.

Sincerely yours,
m.m.



Photo © 2008 Kim Cabrera



Aesop clearly understood this

from Mammals of Lake Tahoe,
by Robert C. Orr

The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse by Aesop

NOW you must know that a Town Mouse once upon a time went on a visit to his cousin in the country. He was rough and ready, this cousin, but he loved his town friend and made him heartily welcome. Beans and bacon, cheese and bread, were all he had to offer, but he offered them freely. The Town Mouse rather turned up his long nose at this country fare, and said: "I cannot understand, Cousin, how you can put up with such poor food as this, but of course you cannot expect anything better in the country; come you with me and I will show you how to live. When you have been in town a week you will wonder how you could ever have stood a country life." No sooner said than done: the two mice set off for the town and arrived at the Town Mouse's residence late at night. "You will want some refreshment after our long journey," said the polite Town Mouse, and took his friend into the grand dining-room. There they found the remains of a fine feast, and soon the two mice were eating up jellies and cakes and all that was nice. Suddenly they heard growling and barking. "What is that?" said the Country Mouse. "It is only the dogs of the house," answered the other. "Only!" said the Country Mouse. "I do not like that music at my dinner." Just at that moment the door flew open, in came two huge mastiffs, and the two mice had to scamper down and run off. "Good-bye, Cousin," said the Country Mouse, "What! going so soon?" said the other. "Yes," he replied; "Better beans and bacon in peace than cakes and ale in fear." 🐭

Aesop. (Sixth century B.C.) *Fables*. The Harvard Classics. 1909-14.

http://landscaping.about.com/od/petcontrol/mole_vole_difference.html

Myers, P. 2000. "Rodentia" (On-line) at <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Rodentia>.

Peronne, L. 2002. "Microtus californicus" (On-line) at http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Microtus_californicus. <http://www.myetymology.com/english/rodent.html>

THE HEALING PLANTS OF EDGEWOOD

The Graceful Mariposa Lily

by Mary Anne Leary

In the last issue of the *Edgewood Explorer* we talked about *Calochortus albus*, the fairy lantern. We also mentioned *Calochortus tolmiei*, the Cat's Ear, which blooms in the nearby vicinity. This time we will talk about the third section of the *Calochortus* genus, the Mariposa Lily. Edgewood Preserve is graced with two Mariposa Lilies. First to bloom is the *Calochortus luteus*, the yellow Mariposa Lily, with red-brown center and center patch (often referred to as the nectary guide) with orange-red haired nectary glands. The nectary gland is crescent shaped, and the flower blooms in the grasslands from April to June. Second to bloom is *Calochortus argillosus*, a white Mariposa Lily that was previously confused with *C. venustus* at Edgewood Preserve. It has now been ascertained that the species at Edgewood is *C. argillosus*, or the Clay Mariposa Lily, which has a beautiful white flower often accented with a white/pink center and center patch with maroon and yellow markings. The nectary gland is hairy with orange-red hairs and the gland is crescent shaped. The flowers bloom from May to June in the grasslands.

Mariposa is the Spanish word for butterfly, which references the fluttering movement of the flower's petals. The flowers are a treat to the eye, not only from the point of view of the beauty within the open flower, but also from the outer-side view, where one can see the iridescent color backlit through the petals, and often times the nectary pattern as well.

As indicated in my previous article, Toni Corelli mentions in her book, *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*, that the bulbs of the Mariposa Lily were boiled,



Calochortus luteus, Yellow Mariposa Lily
© Kathy Korbholz

roasted or steamed in pits by the Native Americans, who also sometimes pounded the fried bulbs into flour and then ate them as a mush. Others also benefited from the bulbs of this plant, so much so that the Segó Lily, *Calochortus gunnisonii*, is the state flower of Utah. Between the years of 1840 and 1851, food was quite scarce in Utah due to a plague of crickets that devoured the crops. The Segó Lily came to the rescue of the Mormon settlers as a food source, because the underground bulb provided much of the nutrition they needed. This fact, along with the beauty of the flower, influenced its selection as Utah's state flower in 1911.

California also considered the Mariposa Lily for its state flower. In 1890, members of the California State Floral Society chose from among three flowers: the California Poppy, the Mariposa Lily (species not identified) and the Matilija (giant) Poppy. In her article, *California's Esteemed Golden Poppy*, Naomi Mathews writes "...the California Poppy won the esteemed title of 'Official California State Flower' by an overwhelming landslide." (Sorry Mariposa Lily!)

In looking at the healing qualities that the Mariposa Lily offers, we see that the flower essence teaches us about nurturance, and can assist in healing wounds that pertain to our relationship with our mother or other maternal caregivers. Often if there is a disturbance in the bonding with our mothers, there can be issues of separation and alienation. The Mariposa Lily flower essence has been successfully used with children who are put up for adoption and have never received a consistent loving connection with a mother figure.



Such a person can grow up to harbor great pain and a sense of abandonment from not feeling loved, from being separated from his or her birth mother and not receiving the special nurturance that only a mother-type figure can give. If such a wound is left unresolved, the individual can struggle with not knowing how to nurture him/herself and how to be receptive to human love. Mariposa Lily is also a wonderful remedy for stray animals, as the animals tend to be quite receptive to the essence, partly due to the lack of interference from an over-active (human) mind!

Calochortus argillosus, Clay Mariposa Lily © Kathy Korbholz

The effects of serious birth traumas, abusive treatment or the divorce of a child's parents during the childhood years can also be positively impacted by taking the Mariposa Lily essence. When a person does not feel loved or lovable, this essence can evoke a deeply nourishing response, which helps to provide the emotional matrix that was needed, yet neglected, during the person's formative years. The Mariposa Lily flower essence also helps to soften the armor that we can create in order to not feel our emotional pain. The essence can be quite useful for treating addictive behavior as well. This is also a perfect remedy for a pregnant woman who wants to create a loving nurturing bond with her unborn child. Other flower essences can be given in conjunction with the Mariposa Lily to address the fears, angers and grief that may accompany the feelings of isolation and loneliness the person can be experiencing. The next time you see a beautiful Mariposa Lily growing out of the dry clay soil, think of the lovely nurturing qualities that it extends to us for our healing! ☺

Gerritsen, Mary E. & Ron Parsons *Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & Their Relatives*.

Albrodt, Dirk. "Healing Alienation from the Mother with Mariposa Lily," www.floweressencemagazine.com/may04/mariposalily.html
Kaminski, Patricia & Richard Katz, *Flower Essence Repertory*

PLEASE SHOW US EDGEWOOD

by Herb Fischgund Carol Hankermeyer & Kate Finnegan

Our docents and Youth Outreach docents lead a variety of special-request walks in addition to the public flower walks they do every weekend between mid-March and early June. They get requests year around from schools, scout and brownie groups, home-school groups, and adult groups as well.

Request Hikes for Youth Outreach

Carol Hankermeyer, who heads the Youth Outreach program, handles all requests involving school groups or any groups involving children. Here's Carol's report:

Spring brought out a number of scout troops to explore Edgewood this year as well as a repeat visit from a high school:

Roy Cloud Brownie troop, 3rd grade
 Woodside Elementary school, 4th grade
 Lincoln Elementary School, 3rd grade
 Los Altos Brownies, 3rd grade
 Cupertino Brownies, 3rd grade
 San Carlos Brownies, 3rd grade
 Summit Charter High School, environmental science class

The small turnout for this year and the low participation of elementary schools in 2009 Youth Outreach may reflect the current economic crisis and obsession with teaching to the standards and to the California state tests, which leaves little time or resources for teachers to plan field trips, even though they are free at Edgewood.

If you would be interested in requesting a Youth Outreach hike, please e-mail Carol at outreach@friendsofedgewood.org.

Request Hikes for Adult Groups

Kate Finnegan, who handles all the requests for walks that come in from adult groups, reports that this year included two weekend requests from two large groups, one a church group and the other the Bay Choral Group. Orin Cross was the docent for both these groups.

There was one weekday request, which came from the Sunnyvale Moms' Club, and which, not surprisingly, meant there were some *very* young ones attending this walk, as you can see in photograph on the left. Amity Binkert, who is also a docent for the Youth Outreach program, led this hike and brought along her own kids.

If you would be interested in requesting a docent-led hike please e-mail Kate at docent-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org.



Photo above © Julie Wong Treichler



Photo above © Bill Sharratt



Photo © Paolo Battaglini

A narrow Fellow in the Grass
Occasionally rides—
You may have met Him—
did you not
His notice sudden is—

The Grass divides as with a Comb—
A spotted shaft is seen—
And then it closes at your feet
And opens further on—

He likes a Boggy Acre
A Floor too cool for Corn—
Yet when a Boy, and Barefoot—
I more than once at Noon

Have passed, I thought, a Whip lash
Unbraiding in the Sun
When stooping to secure it
It wrinkled, and was gone—
Several of Nature's People
I know, and they know me—
I feel for them a transport
Of cordiality—

But never met this Fellow
Attended, or alone
Without a tighter breathing
And Zero at the Bone—

~ Emily Dickinson



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

by Ken Seydel

The flora and fauna of Edgewood do not recognize the fence parallel to the 280 freeway as a boundary. Neither do we. The Friends of Edgewood have adopted a substantial section of land, and clean it of litter monthly. In the last three months we have collected 17 bags of litter! This represents 39 volunteer hours by 14 different individuals. Those participating: Pam Berryessa, Carolyn Dorsch, Andrew & Melissa Griffiths, Dave Hershey, Karen Johnson, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Bonnie McKinnon, Susan Russell, Ken Seydel, Jan Smith, Lisa Tough, and Michael Yantos. Andrew Griffiths and Dave Hershey were there all three months.

This is a most worthwhile way to spend a Saturday or Sunday morning! If you would like to join our group of intrepid volunteers please contact Ken Seydel. You'll be safety-trained and issued your very own hardhat and trash picker-upper.



ADOPT-A-WEEDWAY

Want to be an Edgewood Weed Warrior? Go here to learn more: <http://edgewood.thinkersrus.net/> ☼

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

Day Telephone Eve Telephone

Email

\$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:

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



Photo © Kathy Korbholz

California Rose
Rosa californica



UPCOMING EVENTS

- DOCENT-LED WILDFLOWER WALKS.** Last walk 6/6, and then all done until next year.
- BIRD WALKS.** All done for the spring. Hikes resume in September. For more information, contact Marilyn at birdwalks@friendsofedgewood.org
- ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY.** The next sessions will take place on 6/6, 7/5, and 8/8. To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel.

*Summer afternoon—
Summer afternoon...
The two most beautiful words
In the English language.
~ Henry James*

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 Anne Koletzke 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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The Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve exists to protect and celebrate Edgewood as a unique treasure by promoting exemplary stewardship, and by reaching out with informative public programs
www.friendsofedgewood.org