

Edgewood Explorer



PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

September 2013

Volume 20 Number 3

2013 Wildflower Walk Wrap-Up

by Thanh Mougeot, Docent Coordinator



This season, 37 diligent docents volunteered over 500 hours to lead about 520 hikers.

We had both large and small groups on any given weekend. Our docents were well equipped to lead the walks with their individual styles and expertise, and we wrapped up with a well-attended potluck to socialize and celebrate a successful season.

Although the Wildflower Walk season is now over, the Bloomin' Hikes on Tuesdays and Fridays and the Interpretive Walks on the third Saturday of the month are ongoing. Most docents who have participated are enriched by these walks.

Thank you to our active Docents and also to the Hosts and Greeters for such excellent teamwork.

General Meeting and Picnic – Save the Date!

The Friends of Edgewood annual general meeting and picnic is set for Sunday, **October 6, 11:30 AM**. We'll have updates for you on Year of Edgewood and more. Come and see who will receive the coveted Best Friend award for 2013. And who can resist that great sandwich bar generously supplied by Arguello Catering? Mark your calendar, and watch your mail in the coming weeks for the official notice.

Memories of Edgewood - Oct. 19th

On October 19, from 1 to 3 pm, join Mitch Postel, President of the San Mateo Historical Association, as he interviews a panel of distinguished individuals who either lived at Edgewood or have detailed memories of Edgewood before it became a County Park.

You'll hear intriguing first-hand accounts of what life was like in the wilds of Edgewood. Rarely seen photos will also be shown.

This is one of the Year of Edgewood events celebrating the 20th anniversary of the designation of Edgewood as a Natural Preserve and the founding of Friends of Edgewood. Space is limited for this free event, and guests are asked to pre-register at <http://edgewoodmemories.eventbrite.com/>.

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Sniffo-Location - The Nose Knows

by Carolyn J. Strange



The eastern mole *Scalopus aquaticus* (Kenneth Catania, Wikipedia Commons)

Having two ears helps animals locate the source of a sound. Two forward-facing eyes give an animal depth perception. What about two nostrils (or antennae)—do animals smell in stereo too? Holey moley—smelling in stereo sure helps to find food underground!

With both sight and sound, two separate organs gather perceptions. The brain then uses disparities between the reports from the paired organs to infer information about the location of the object perceived. Could a similar process work for a chemical sense like smell? Might slightly different odor cues make a difference, even with paired channels right next to each other?

It's known that certain African desert ants learn their olfactory scenery to navigate great distances back to their nests after foraging for food. Indeed, they need both antennae to find home. Sharks (not found at Edgewood) also use stereo sensing to follow an odor plume. Interestingly, they differentiate by time lag, not concentration gradient, to follow the scent. They turn in the direction of the nostril that gets the whiff first (within a half second), even if that first whiff is weaker. Sharks combine their characteristic side-to-side swimming with their

time-lag sniffing to cruise upstream to the source of the scent.

Highly suggestive, but not quite conclusive, experiments have indicated that mammals, too, smell in stereo. For example, rats, with just one sniff, determined the location of a smell (simply to the left or the right) within milliseconds. Even though their nostrils are only 3 millimeters apart, they couldn't locate the scent if one nostril was blocked. But the complicated experimental design prevented natural behavior and involved pre-training the rats.

An experiment published earlier this year has apparently made the case for mammals. The common eastern mole is virtually blind, has a poor sense of touch relative to other moles, and doesn't hear very well either, but is nevertheless good at finding prey (insects and earthworms). It probably relies on its sense of smell, a Vanderbilt University researcher reasoned. He created a simple radial test chamber, having the mole entrance at the center of a semicircle with an arc of 15 food wells around the periphery. During trials, a bit of earthworm was placed randomly in one of the wells. Generally, when a mole first entered the chamber, it moved its nose back and forth as it sniffed, then, almost every time, headed in a direct path to the food, finding it in less than 5 seconds.

In subsequent trials, one nostril was blocked with a small plastic plug. When their left nostrils were blocked the moles consistently strayed to the right of their target, and when the right nostrils were blocked they consistently drifted left. Although they still found the food, it took them much longer.

A two-nostril experiment was the clincher. A tiny tube was placed in each nostril, but the two tubes crossed, so each nostril sniffed air from the animal's opposite side. With their signals switched this way, the confused animals searched back and forth but frequently could not find the food at all. (continued on Page 3)

(Sniffo-Location - continued from Page 2)

The experimental subject is not found at Edgewood, but it's unlikely to be the only mole—or mammal—with stereo olfaction. Considering the difficulty of digging for dinner, and the energy costs of missing by even half an inch, accurate sniffo-location helps bring home the bacon more effectively and efficiently. 🐿

Reference: <http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2013/02/moles-smell-in-stereo/> (Scroll down for video!)



Host Jan Casazza and her daughter sent us this blog site which contains an excerpt and a description of "The Hill" at Edgewood, the place where SF 49ers Roger Craig, Jerry Rice, and other players liked to run: <http://tinyurl.com/lc2u3em>

Education Center Visitors



Time Period	Adults	Children	TOTAL
Apr '11 - Mar '12 (Inaugural Year)	7474	2363	9837
Apr '12 - Mar '13	6884	2478	9362
Apr '13 - Jun '13	2339	715	3054

Trail Maintenance

Visitors to Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve may notice that some trail work occurred this spring and summer. The trails we use in Edgewood today were established under the direction of Harry Dean in the early 1980s, and parts of them now need rehabilitation. The main improvements planned are to correct trails that have failed due to erosion or wear-and-tear and selectively widen trails that have become narrow due to plant incursion or bank sloughing. Except for a few short segments where drainage is a problem, the Sylvan and Edgewood Trails will not be affected. San Mateo County Parks (Parks) also intends to place or improve some barriers in order to keep people from going off-trail.

A couple of trail segments suffered from particularly severe erosion and poor drainage: the short segment leading up to the top of Inspiration Heights and a section of the Franciscan Trail. These segments have been re-

graded to promote gradual water runoff and were covered with clean, weed-free, crushed rock. The trails have been smoothed over with finer rock to provide a comfortable walking surface. Some visitors have remarked that these sections look paved, almost like a sidewalk. It's true that they do look paved right now, but Parks assures us that, over time, the rock color will weather to a more natural look. Just as a new haircut looks stark, after a couple of seasons (hopefully with adequate winter rain), the trails will regain their natural beauty.





40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Founders' Day Festival



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

Please join the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors
with remarks from

*Congresswoman Anna Eshoo**

State Senator Jim Beall • State Senator Jerry Hill

Assemblymember Rich Gordon • San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley

AT OUR HISTORIC FOUNDERS' DAY FESTIVAL

11:00 am – 3:00 pm ★ Program begins at noon

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

**Invited*

Magical Evening

by Kathy Korbholz

On July 21st, after a one-month



rain delay, excited guests gathered at the Clarkia entrance to experience Edgewood after dark. As part of the Year of Edgewood celebration and thanks to the fantastic cooperation of the San Mateo County Parks, registered visitors were able to enjoy an Inspirational Sunset, one of four unique nighttime opportunities offered in Edgewood this year. Bill Korbholz led the happy group up the Clarkia Trail to Inspiration Heights where the guests were serenaded by a call and response from our local pack of coyote minstrels and were surprised to find a bountiful table set with fresh fruit, nuts, cheese and wine.



While guests enjoyed the delicacies, Walter Moore, Executive Director of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), reminded us how lucky we are in the Bay Area that our predecessors had the forethought to set aside land as open space. Since its founding in 1977, POST has been in the business of acquiring land to preserve it from development. Now, POST has begun to focus on the caretaking and environmental stewardship that the acquired land requires.

Walter praised organizations like the Friends of Edgewood (Friends) for our 20-year commitment to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. He went on to say that we all rely upon a healthy

environment for clean air and water, food, goods, and services. Environmental beauty inspires us, lifts our spirits, and makes us feel good.

The Friends' focus on restoration, preservation, and protection of Edgewood's natural resources helps assure it will be here for the human, animal and plant generations to come. By offering educational and interpretive natural history programs for people of all ages, the Friends hope to inspire the stewards of the future.

Walter closed by reminding us that everyone can be an environmental steward. We need to be respectful of nature, enjoy it, and appreciate it. We should get involved in some way and support organizations like POST and Friends of Edgewood.

After a quick lesson by Bill in solar and lunar mechanics, the guests were treated to a magical evening – a full moon rise followed an hour later by a glorious sunset. After dark, as the group retreated to their cars, pools of light from flashlights could be seen dancing down the trail as the inspired guests wound their way back to Canada Road.

Enjoy the magic yourself. There are still a few tickets available for a second Inspirational Sunset event, the last Edgewood-after-dark opportunity this year. You must register in advance by visiting <https://edgewoodinspirationsunseto9-20.eventbrite.com/>.



Bluebird Monitoring Returns to Edgewood

by Frances Morse

After many faithful years, Lee Franks and Marilyn Travis retired this year from monitoring the bluebird nest boxes at Edgewood. Frances Morse and Mary Wilson from Friends of Edgewood and Chris O'Connell



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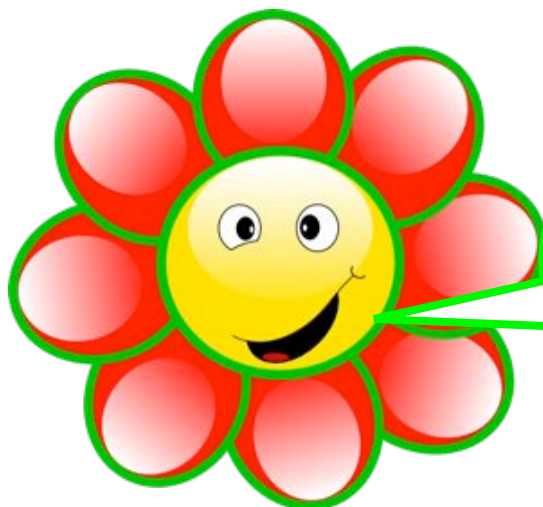
from Sequoia Audubon Society (SAS) informally took on the monitoring of the boxes during this transition 2013 season (March – July). Based on the results of their efforts, the Friends of Edgewood Board of Directors (Board) recently voted to apply to San Mateo County Parks for a permit to officially continue this nest box monitoring and reporting. Frances and Mary will take responsibility for the boxes and will work with SAS who will recruit additional monitors and help with maintenance of the boxes. Data will be reported to the California

Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) (<http://www.cbrp.org>) and will be included in SAS's San Mateo County bird database.

There are 23 nest boxes in the area of Edgewood Park – 19 inside the park and 4 just outside the boundaries. This season, 5 boxes had no activity, but 5 other boxes had 2 broods. Among 24 nests counted during the season, 19 were built by Western Bluebirds, 2 were built by Violet-green Swallows, and there was 1 nest each from pairs of Tree Swallows, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Oak Titmice. Of a total of 88 bluebird eggs counted, 77 (80.6%) hatched, and 55 (62.5%) nestlings fledged. Among the other birds, we found 20 eggs, and 17 (85%) of these hatched and fledged.

We have no way of knowing how many of the fledglings have survived, but we are encouraged and excited that FoE is helping to restore Western Bluebirds to California and that 72 baby birds had a chance to increase our hiking pleasure in this beautiful park.

Plans are still being developed for setting up our monitoring program. If you are interested in being involved, please contact info@friendsofedgeswood.org with "Bluebird Monitoring" in the subject line.



"I remember seeing Jerry Rice running the trails [at Edgewood]. One time, as I was leading a group of wildflower visitors, I looked up on the Ridgeview Trail from the haul road and saw him. I remarked, oh, there's Jerry Rice up there! One of the people in my group, a gentleman who had been writing down the names of the flowers as we discussed them, asked, in quite a foreign accent, "now, what kind of rice was that up there?" ~ Bob Young

Remembering Jan Simpson

by Bill Korbholz

Last June we lost a dear friend and a dear Friend of Edgewood, Jan Simpson. I first met Jan in 1994 when she hosted our docent training sessions at her house just down the street from Edgewood. She impressed me as a sweet, caring person who served us great cookies.

Over the ensuing years, I had the pleasure of getting to know Jan better. During the 1990xs she served as the Friends of Edgewood docent coordinator/trainer for 3 years and was our Vice President for 2 years. During those years, and since, I came to realize what a dedicated naturalist she was. She absolutely adored Edgewood. It was her passion. She contributed countless hours in support of the Edgewood interpretive and habitat management programs.

Jan and her husband Stew became charter members of the Volunteer Trail Patrol in 1995. Later, Jan and her good friend Margaret Marshall formed the Bellardia Brigade, determinedly removing the weedy Bellardia from trailsides.

Jan submitted articles often for the Edgewood Explorer, inviting folks to join the docent program or reporting on docent seasons. In May, 1996, she wrote "It is not too late to enjoy and learn about Edgewood's beautiful flowers and rare diversity" citing the farewell-to-spring as an example. For those of you unfamiliar with it, the farewell-to-spring is an annual with a lovely bright magenta flower that lights up the grassland which has normally turned brown by the time it blooms. It was one of Jan's favorites. Like all living things, it has ended its season now. But when I see farewell-to-spring again next year, I will think of Jan: such a beautiful, bright flower, lighting up the lives of all around her. Farewell, Jan.

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 the mailing label. For example, if the code is 06/2013, membership runs through June 2013.

Questions? Lv msg at (1-866) Go-Edgewood (1-866.463.3439) or contact membership-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Day Phone: () - _____

Eve. Phone: () - _____

Email: _____

- Please list me as a donor. Please list me as "anonymous".
- I prefer to be listed as _____.
- Digital Newsletter Only Digital Plus Mailed Newsletter Mailed Newsletter Only No Newsletter, Please

- \$10 Student/Retired (includes quarterly newsletter)
- \$25 Friend (newsletter)
- \$50 Advocate (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards)
- \$75 Supporter (newsletter plus choose one)
 - Set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards and 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine
 - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*
- \$100 Steward or \$250 Guardian (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards, plus choose one):
 - 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine
 - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*

- Please keep the premiums and maximize the value of my dues.
- I am enclosing a gift of _____.

Please send (subject to availability):
 ____copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* @ \$1.50; ____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* @ \$12.00. All prices include tax, shipping & handling.

- I would like to participate in the following:
- Docent program
 - Education Center host
 - Newsletter/web
 - Public relations
 - Junior explorer program
 - Habitat management
 - Organizational support
 - Adopt-A-Highway



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**Calling
 all Friends to the**
 ANNUAL MEETING
 Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013; 11:30 AM
Details will be mailed soon!
 Food - Fun - Festivities
 FREE!!!

Mission Statement of The Friends of Edgewood — To protect and celebrate Edgewood as a unique treasure by promoting exemplary stewardship, and by reaching out with informative public programs. www.friendsofedgeswood.org

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

**Bill and Jean Lane
 Education Center (EC) -
 Autumn Hours and By
 Appointment***

Wed	9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Sat	9:30 am to 4 pm
Sun	9:30 am to 4 pm

*Subject to volunteer staffing.

**2013
 Board of
 Directors**
 Laurie Alexander
 Bill Korbholz
 Kathy Korbholz
 Linda Leong
 John Morse
 Thanh Mougeot
 Cynthia Schreurs
 Jack Stovel
 Mary Wilson



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adopt-a-Highway
 Next Sessions: 10/5, 11/3, 12/7
 To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel at adoptahighway-coordinator@friendsofedgeswood.org

Weed Warriors
 National Public Lands Day: 9/28

Interpretive Walks
 3rd Sat, 10 AM
 Admission is FREE!

Annual Meeting
 Oct. 6, 2013
 FREE - All Friends Welcome!



The Edgewood Explorer is published quarterly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring Edgewood and to educating the public about its treasures. The newsletter is edited by Linda Leong and is supported by contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our website at www.friendsofedgeswood.org, mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, leave a message or fax us toll-free at (1-866) GO-EDGEWOOD (1-866-463-3439), or email us at info@friendsofedgeswood.org.