



Edgewood Explorer

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

December 2013

Volume 20 Number 4

2013: The Year of Edgewood

by Bill Korbholz

In the fall of 2012, a small group of volunteers met to discuss how we could celebrate two significant milestones: the 20th anniversary of the founding of Friends of Edgewood and the designation of Edgewood as a Natural Preserve. We could not have anticipated what would prove to be a spectacular year of celebration, memories, and new experiences.

Friends of Edgewood offered a total of 45 special events, all free, throughout the year, which attracted about 650 participants, many of whom had not experienced Edgewood before. As 2013 draws to a close, I'd like to highlight the special events that we staged to celebrate these two milestones:

- Monthly Bay Area Nature Journal Club meetings at the Education Center hosted by highly regarded author, illustrator, and teacher John Muir Laws;
- 2 unique Defy Extinction butterfly adoption events;
- Nature and docent-enrichment walks led by famed Bay Area naturalist and teacher Dianne West-Bourke;
- 3 bird walks led by Sequoia Audubon Society bird experts;
- Bay checkerspot butterfly walk led by Dr. Stuart Weiss, Chief Scientist with Creekside Science for Earth Observation;
- 14 “checkerspotter” walks on which guests accompanied volunteers counting Bay checkerspot butterflies;
- Gala birthday party for kids and adults that included entertainment, kids’ projects, and special remarks by County Supervisor Don Horsley, State Senator Jerry Hill, and even a surprise phone call from President Barack Obama (you had to be there);
- Nature walk emphasizing habitat management efforts at Edgewood led by Drew Shell;
- 3 first-ever night walks focusing on nighttime critters and evening stars;
- 2 Inspirational Sunsets/Moonrises with tasty snacks and remarks by special honored guests;
- Fall equinox nature walk with local botanist Toni Corelli;
- Memories of Edgewood discussion featuring a dozen panelists, some of whom shaped or chronicled the future of Edgewood;

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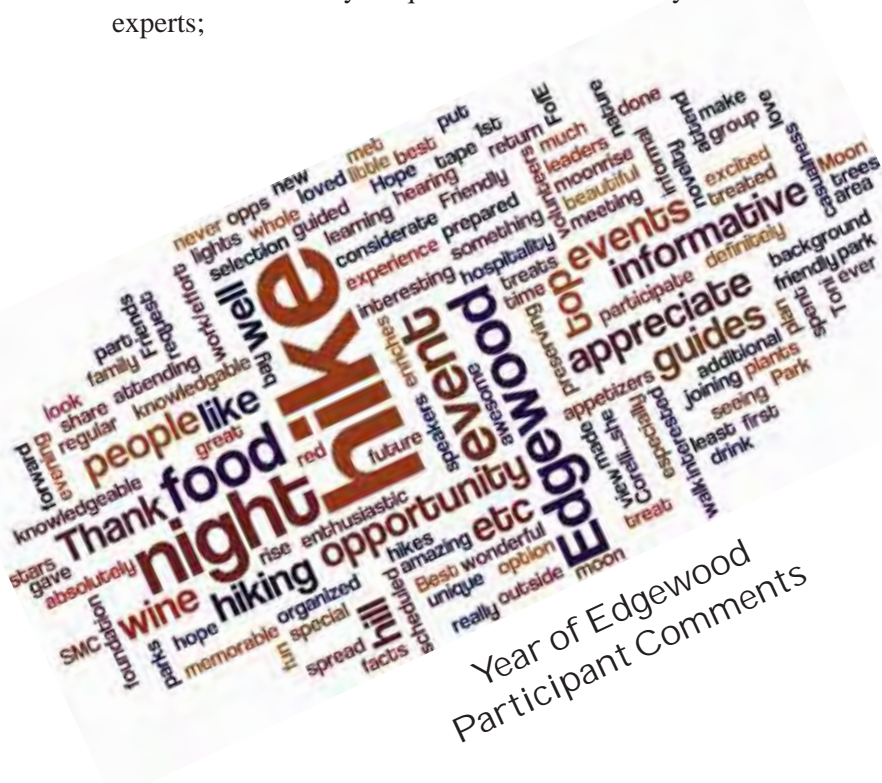
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Year of Edgewood Participant Comments



Friends Celebrate 20 years at Annual Meeting

by Bill Korbholz, FoE Board President

It was a beautiful day for a picnic in the park on October 6 when the Friends held its annual General Membership Meeting. Over 50 members and guests were treated to a pleasant afternoon chock-full of food, entertainment, and interesting information. The meeting wasn't bad either.

The festivities started with our traditional sandwich bar generously and deliciously supplied by our good friends at Arguello Catering.

This being our celebration of 20 years of operation, the world-famous Edgewood Players treated us to an encore performance of an original puppet skit entitled "It Could Have Been a Golf Course," co-written by Carol Hankermeyer and Frances Morse. The skit told of the recent history of Edgewood, including the defeat of the golf course proposal that led to Edgewood's designation as a Natural Preserve. We were entertained by Howie Smith (woodrat), Julia Bott (skunk), Frances Morse (gray squirrel), John Morse (bluebird), Laurie Alexander (butterfly), and Carol Hankermeyer (barn owl).

President Bill Korbholz then took us through a brief history of achievements by the Friends of Edgewood over these past 20 years. Individuals were invited to speak about various activities such as the Docent program,

Junior Explorers, Docent Training, Ed Center, Adopt-A-Highway, and the Newsletter. Bill then reviewed the special Year of Edgewood activities that will have attracted more than 600 guests by the end of the year.

Next up was Kathy Korbholz, who displayed the beautiful quilt hand-made by former Parks Ranger and Superintendent Lynne Fritz. The quilt is to be framed and hung inside the Ed Center. Because of the high cost of framing, Kathy spoke about our new quilt sponsorship program (see xxx).

It was then time for the highlight of the day, the naming of the Best Friend of Edgewood for 2013. This year's recipient is Mary Wilson, a long-time Director, docent, Ed Center host, docent training coordinator, past officer, and very active volunteer.

Bill then convened the official meeting to elect Directors. Bill Korbholz, John Morse, Mickey Salgo, Howie Smith, and Mary Wilson were all elected by unanimous consent to serve 3-year terms.

The afternoon ended with everyone singing Happy Birthday to the Friends of Edgewood and enjoying birthday cake. ❖



Photo: Kathy and Bill Korbholz display birthday cake honoring FoE's 20 years © 2013 Alf Fengler

(Year of Edgewood, continued from Page 1)

- 2 photography walks (sunrise, sunset/moonrise) led by professional photographer and teacher Nate Donovan.

Reactions from the participants of these events was overwhelmingly positive, as indicated by the word cloud on the previous page. After watching the moon rise from atop Inspiration Heights, one participant wrote "This was one of the most memorable experiences of my life!"

We owe a debt of gratitude to the San Mateo County Parks staff, especially Superintendent Gary Lockman, Parks Supervisor Scott Lombardi, and Ranger Stephen Kraemer for assisting in the staging of these events.

Because of the popularity of these special events, we are laying plans to repeat some of them in 2014. We encourage you to check friendsofedgewood.org periodically for announcements. ✓



Celebrating Friends and Creating New Memories of Edgewood

Photos contributed by Kathy Korbholz and Linda Leong; © 2013

Nature at Night and Summer Stargazing

by Debbi Brusco

Edgewood had its first-ever night hikes in July and August, as part of the Year of Edgewood special 20th anniversary events. MROSD docents Katherine Greene, Debbi Brusco, and Jack Owicki, veteran night hikers, led three of these special hikes. Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Paul Heiple, Todd Reimche, and San Mateo County Parks Ranger Stephen Kraemer escorted the groups.

Beginning our night hikes in daylight maximizes the experience and allows a gradual adjustment to the darkness. Excited to see what we would find, we puzzled over which route would yield the highest diversity of nocturnal creatures. The small invertebrates are the easiest to find, as they are the most plentiful and many can be seen on repeated hikes because they don't move far. But we had some larger treats in store.

Our six scouting trips in June, July and August revealed sightings that we didn't have on the public hikes (conditions change, and certain creatures are fleeting or skittish). Soap plant bloomed, with small flies visiting. An ironclad beetle, so named because of its very thick, hard exoskeleton, played dead. A large orange and brown ensatina, a salamander, slinked across the trail.

In darkness, an unusually large number (40) of black field crickets sprinkled the trail. The silhouette of a large owl in flight appeared, and we also heard the barking call of a western screech-owl. Owl prey in the form of a deer mouse tried to look invisible by not moving.



Photo: Deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)
© Debbi Brusco

A small, laser-bright green light stood out in poison oak leaves--a wingless larva-like female pink glowworm, shining to attract a mate! We were lucky to have been there at the right time and place to see her shining. Large-eyed males fly and only emit weak light under duress.

There were a few behavioral observations that were unique to our scouting trips, but the animals were also seen on the public hikes. Soft, high-pitched squeaks came from low to the ground, probably dusky-footed woodrat



pups that the nearby adult (*Microphotus angustus*) © Jack Owicki had temporarily hidden, and we heard drumming. Oddly, an immature male turret spider had wandered out of his home. Two California forest scorpions posed with claws wide and tails raised.



Photo: Male turret spider (*Antrodiaetus riversi*)
© Jack Owicki

(continued on Page 10)

LEAD WILDFLOWER WALKS AT EDGEWOOD!

Friends of Edgewood

Docent Training 2014

What do Wildflower Walk docents do? We lead free, 3-hour hikes on weekend mornings from mid-March through mid-June at Edgewood Park. We talk about wildflowers, plant communities & why Edgewood is special. Our docents love leading wildflower walks and meeting and educating the public.

What will you learn? The seven evening classes cover the history, topography, geology, plant communities and wildflowers of Edgewood as well as how to lead a hike. Each evening class is followed by a hike in Edgewood on the next Saturday morning. The same presenter covers the same topic on both days.

Is there a fee? Yes, \$30 for training materials, payable the first day of class.

What is the schedule? Evening classes meet from 7 to 9:15 p.m. in Redwood City. Dates & location to be announced. Saturday hikes meet at trailheads in Edgewood Park and run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Are there other time commitments? We will have a graduation potluck 1 or 2 weeks after the end of the training - date, time and location TBA. In addition, you will be paired with an experienced docent for a "one-on-one" training experience and will also observe at least one wildflower walk then help lead one or two Wildflower Walks during the spring.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Weekday (T or W)	Saturday	Topic	Presenter
Week of Jan. 13	Jan. 18	Introduction, History, Topography of Edgewood	John Allen Mary Wilson
Week of Jan. 27	Feb. 1	Geology of Edgewood	Paul Heiple
Week of Feb. 10	Feb. 15	Oak Woodlands	Ken Himes
Week of Feb. 24	Mar. 1	Chaparral	Ken Himes
Week of Mar. 10	Mar. 15	Leading walks	Ty Freiberg
Week of Mar. 24	Mar. 29	Floral Morphology	Mary Wilson
Week of Apr. 7	Apr. 12	Grasslands	Alf Fengler

TO REGISTER

please email Mary at docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org

More information or questions?

www.friendsofedgewood.org or docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org.

'Tis the Season For Giving!

Field guides, T-shirts, & more

For sale at the Ed Center - ask the Host

Wildflower guide \$1

A color brochure with color photos and descriptions of the preserve's common native wildflowers. A must-have for springtime visitors!

Edgewood plant list \$3

This comprehensive 27-page booklet by botanist Toni Corelli lists all of Edgewood's flowering plants – listed both by common name and by scientific name within family.

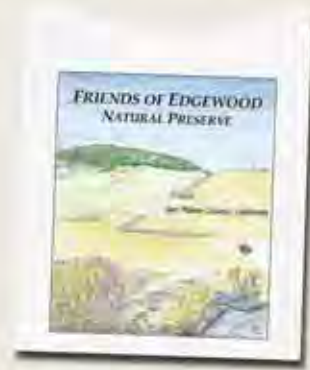


Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve \$12

The authoritative botanical field guide to the park. Written by botanist Toni Corelli, this 368-page reference includes descriptions and drawings of the vascular plants found at Edgewood. Keys, illustrations, and a list of nomenclature and taxonomic changes.

Friends of Edgewood T-shirt \$20

Featuring Judy Mason's original artwork of an Edgewood hillside in bloom. 100% cotton, white Hanes Beefy-T.



Checkerspot T-shirt \$20

Commemorating the reintroduction of the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly to Edgewood in 2007. 100% cotton, sage green Hanes Beefy-T.



Cash or check – made to "Friends of Edgewood".

Additional items may be available – ask the Center host.

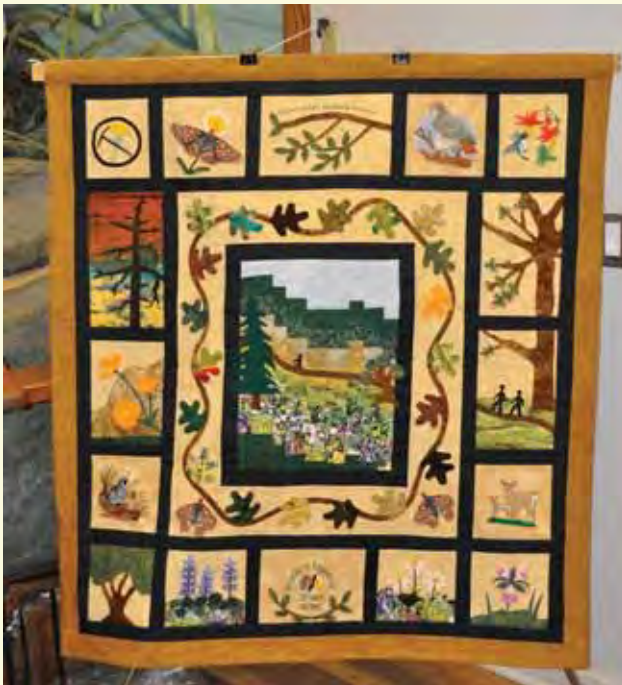
Adult Sizes: \$20
Child Sizes: \$15



Stumped for a present? As friends and relatives curtail consumption and downsize their belongings, it is hard to find the right present to commemorate a holiday, birthday, anniversary, or other significant milestone. Why not make a donation in someone's honor today?

Unique Holiday Gift Ideas

by Kathy Korbholz



© 2013 Kathy Korbholz

Looking for a holiday gift for someone who has everything? At the Friends' birthday party we were given a beautiful heritage quilt. The quilt, handmade by former park ranger Lynn Fritz, depicts many familiar scenes of Edgewood. We want to hang it in the Education Center in a protective case

and purchase recognition plaques. How about giving the unique gift of a quilt sponsorship? Sponsorships of \$100 can be made as a personal contribution (i.e., in your own name), "in honor of", or "in memory of". Sponsorships will be recognized on a plaque mounted near the quilt. Visit friendsofedgeswood.org/quilt now for sponsorship details - only a few heritage quilt sponsorships remain.

Or, how about a gift membership to the Friends of Edgewood? At the \$50 level, your recipient will also receive a box of six beautiful Edgewood watercolor greeting cards; at the \$75 level, add a one-year subscription to Bay Nature magazine. Also, two versions of Edgewood T-shirts are available for \$20. One shirt features "Edward The First," the first adult Bay Checkerspot seen on the wing after the reintroduction in 2007; the second shirt, "I am a Friend of Edgewood," shows the butterfly and boot prints walking lightly on Edgewood. Visit our shop at friendsofedgeswood.org to place your order.



Edgewood Weed Warriors turns 25! Recently Drew Shell gave a presentation for the local California Native Plant Society (CNPS) chapter on the 25 year history of the volunteer weeding program at Edgewood. If you want to learn more about how their program (and Edgewood itself) came to be, and what they've worked on and accomplished over the years, you can watch the presentation on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY3CRg6CE-0>

Mary Wilson: 2013 Best Friend of Edgewood County Park and Preserve

Friends of Edgewood is pleased to recognize and thank Mary Wilson for her remarkable record of volunteer service since 2005. Mary graduated from the 2005 docent class, and since then she has done just about everything, from staffing booths at special events to serving as President. Since 2006 she has been a member of the Board of Directors serving, in addition, as Secretary, Membership Coordinator, and on various ad hoc committees along the way. She is in her eighth year as Docent Training Coordinator. She has been an Education Center host since the Center opened, and last year she took over responsibility for leading the Bloomin' Walks, recruiting her husband

Dennis to join her. She has been a checkerspotter for several seasons, and this year she signed up to monitor bluebird boxes. With deep appreciation for her dedication and generosity, we honor Mary Wilson as this year's Best Friend of Edgewood.



Photo: Mary Wilson Receives Edgewood's "2013 Best Friend" Award. © 2013 Kathy Korbholz

Interpretive Walks



Third Saturdays, 10 AM at the Education Center

- * December 21, 2013 - *Hardly Strictly Blue Oaks* - Celebrate the winter solstice with Roger Humphrey and learn what makes oaks so un-special-ized.
- * January 18, 2014 - *What's Blooming This Early?* Find out from Alf Fengler!
- * February 15, 2014 - *Fungus and Early Blooms* - Make new discoveries with the Baums.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors! For updates: www.friendsofedgeswood.org/year-round-interpretive-walks

ForY/Our Health it's Free!

(source: San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation website)

Sign up and log your exercise and volunteer activities to raise money for the San Mateo County Parks Foundation; go to: www.plus3network.com/cause/234.

"I signed up last fall, and I only get around to logging my usual activities about once per month, but so far I've earned 10,141 Kudos which Plus3Network has turned into \$41.84 for charity - who can say 'no' to something that's this easy?!"

~ Linda Leong, Newsletter Editor

Frass Flinging Foils Foes

By Carolyn J. Strange



Photo of adult silver spotted skipper:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epargyreus_clarus

Within the large insect order that encompasses moths and butterflies, Lepidoptera, at least 17 families include larvae that tie, fold or roll leaves. These little nests must offer advantages that warrant the time and energy involved in construction. Such refuges might help caterpillars in many ways, such as favorably altering leaf chemistry, stabilizing the caterpillar's microenvironment, decreasing the chances of getting dislodged by winds and other disturbances, or thwarting predators. (Interestingly, just as cavity-making birds supply shelters for other creatures, the leafy homes that growing caterpillars discard can provide refuges for other insects.)

Of course there are always trade-offs. One disadvantage is that predators learn to find these self-made leafy wraps and extract the delectable filling. But it turns out that some caterpillars have evolved a remarkable way to throw predators off the trail — they forcefully fling their feces, or “frass.”

Researchers interested in learning more about leaf shelters chose to study the silver-spotted skipper, found in most of the United States except some desert areas. Collected caterpillars were housed in plastic shoeboxes, which began emitting percussive sounds. Upon observing the caterpillars ejecting fecal pellets, the scientists decided to investigate further.

Caterpillars propel their pellets from a hard plate that's powered by a surge in blood pressure. How far can their “scatapult” shoot? About 19 times their body length, on average, at speeds around 4 feet per second. Older, larger caterpillars launch their loads the farthest, and one achieved nearly 40 body-lengths, roughly the equivalent of a 76-yard field goal!

Impressive, certainly, but why do this? Is it hygienic housekeeping? Maybe accumulated pellet piles encourage fungal and microbial growth, increasing caterpillars' risk of infection. But in experiments, survival was not significantly different between frassy conditions and fastidious conditions with frequent frass removal.

Perhaps pellet piles would crowd caterpillars, causing them to build new homes more often, thereby costing time and energy, and increasing their vulnerability in the wild. Indeed, leaf shelters augmented with fake frass (similar-sized beads) did force caterpillars to rebuild more frequently, but that didn't alter their survival either, except in extreme cases such as having to build 32 shelters in a month, instead of the usual 9.

Next the scientists introduced a predatory wasp. Caterpillars were placed on leaves either with fake frass or the real deal. Within 5 minutes wasps killed 14 out of 17 caterpillars on frassy leaves but only 3 of 17 of those with fake frass nearby. The results support the idea that frass flinging foils foes, which makes sense because feces are full of fummy chemicals that predators can sniff out.

As with leaf rolling, many different Lepidopteran families contain frass-flinging larvae, and the behavior likely has evolved independently many times. The researchers point out that ecology and evolutionary biology studies often focus on feeding strategies, and they suggest that the study of waste disposal strategies, or “evolutionary faecology,” could become a promising new field.

Reference: <http://news.sciencemag.org/2003/03/frass-flies>

(Nature at Night, continued from Page 4)

We had 20 guests at the first public “Nature at Night” hike on July 13, and 10 guests at the second on July 19. Both included young people.

At dusk, a bat fluttered in the sky. After dark, many participants were able to see turret spiders perched just inside their homes, sensing vibrations from potential prey. Grub-like nocturnal tiger beetle larvae also waited for prey at their pencil-sized burrow openings. Adults are fast, voracious predators. A remarkably long river of large carpenter ants had us stepping carefully.

A mother wolf spider carried babies on her back, and a millipede perched on a tree trunk. A long-horned beetle was a hit with one of the kids. With one of our ultraviolet flashlights, someone spotted a scorpion, which fluoresced brightly. Local scorpions are not generally dangerous to humans.

We listened for movement and animal calls. Barn owls shrieked, crickets chirped and trilled, and katydids lisped and ticked in the woods.

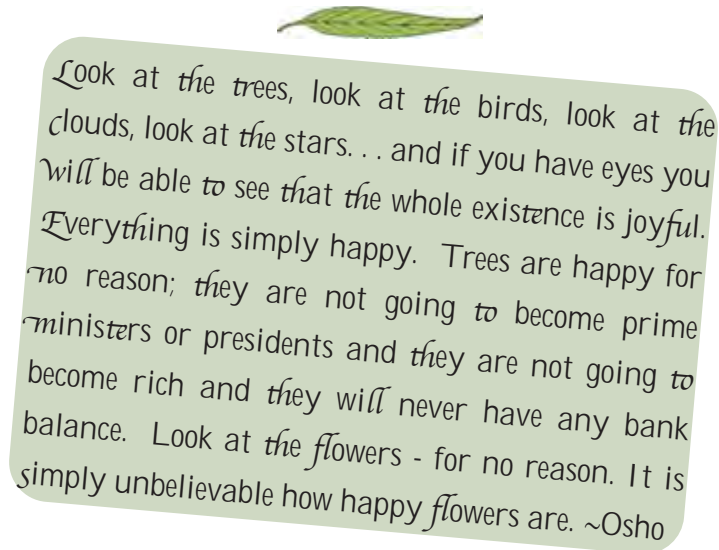
A few lucky participants were able to see one of several woodrats that we detected. One woodrat dragged a branch, but dropped it to go up a tree. Later, everyone saw a nest and latrine.

Our third public hike, “Summer Stargazing”, took place on August 13 during the Perseids meteor shower. 13 guests joined us. We stopped along our way to the hilltop stargazing spot to look for Haidinger’s Brush, an optical effect resulting from the way some see polarized light, and to view the twilight wedge, earth’s shadow.

When we reached the heights, some settled in by spreading a blanket on which to lie and look up. We shared desserts, including someone’s birthday cake. When it was dark enough, we viewed Saturn and various Messier Objects through the scope, and pointed out constellations. A couple of meteors streaked across the sky.

A night hike takes more planning and scouting than a day hike, and logistics are different. This is especially true in a place where we have never done night hikes before. The extra effort was worth it to us, as we saw a few things that we hadn’t seen before, and many of the participants did as well.

If you would like to hear some of the sounds that we heard at night, please use this link and search for the tag “edgewoodcp”: <http://soundcloud.com/dbrusco/>



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 - Sep '13	3598	1225	4823

Junior Explorers Outlook 2013

By Carol Hankermeyer

Junior Explorers is celebrating its 16th year as a nature discovery program for children of all ages, not far behind the founding of Friends of Edgewood! Because of our docents' flexibility and capabilities, we have been able to offer field trips for students from preschool through high school. No other local environmental outdoor education program can make that claim; Junior Explorers provides a unique service to the community. But schools' requests for field trips have fallen sharply this year, and we have lost a number of our valuable volunteers. Currently we have a need for more Junior Explorer docents if the program is to continue to function effectively.



© 2013 Julie Do - Da Vinci Homeschoolers field trip

Docents can choose their preferred time, age group, and type of field trip; they are never assigned. We offer informal training in interpretive strategies for kids and opportunities to accompany experienced docents on actual field trips with school groups, which we limit to 8 students per docent.

We hope you will be inspired to share your expertise with the next generation of Edgewood stewards. Teaching kids is our greatest tool for creating awareness and continued commitment to save Edgewood. Here's an example of what I mean: "Dear Ms. Peggy, I want to thank you for taking the time to show us around Edgewood Park. I learned about plants and animals that **I've never seen or heard about before....** Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn about nature, plants, and animals. We really appreciated your help." ~ Jacky Garcia, Woodside HS ♥

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 06/2014, membership runs through June 2014.

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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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) - Winter 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: 12/7, 1/5, 2/1
 To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel at adoptahighway-coordinator@friendsofedgeswood.org

Docent Training 
 begins week of Jan. 13

Interpretive Walks
 3rd Sat, 10 AM
 12/21, 1/18, 2/15
 Admission is FREE!

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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.