



# Edgewood Explorer

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

March 2014

Volume 21 Number 1

## Treasurer's Report for 2013

by John Morse

For the calendar year 2013, about 86% of the income for Friends of Edgewood came from membership dues and donations from both members and non-members. Another 8% came from suggested donations at our special events commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both Edgewood Park and the Friends of Edgewood. The rest of our income came from merchandise sales and fees we charge for docent training.



So, what did we do with this money? The largest chunk of money, 45%, was spent on habitat stewardship – the many programs we conduct to preserve and restore the natural

habitat of Edgewood Park. In 2013, this effort focused primarily on efforts to restore the Bay checkerspot butterfly and efforts to eradicate non-native species (weeds) from the park. About 8% of our income was spent to operate and maintain the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. The remaining funds were used to pay for such things as publicity, running our spring Wildflower Walks, publishing and mailing the Edgewood Explorer newsletter, and general operating costs.

I am always amazed and delighted to see the generosity of our members and friends. It is your ongoing support that allows us to do the great work we do.

For more information, contact me at [treasurer@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:treasurer@friendsofedgewood.org) at any time.

## Wildflower Walks Season: March 15 - June 8, 2014

by Thanh Mougeot, FoE Docent Coordinator



Friends of Edgewood's enthusiastic docents are springing into action once again to lead the spring wildflower season at Edgewood Natural Preserve.

Our weekly Bloomin' Hikers have been doing a great job spotting plants and other things all year long. Although the rain is slow at coming our way, there are "treasures" that our expert docents can still show you, and there are plenty of hidden gems in the park to be discovered.

Saturday and Sunday walks begin at the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center (a.k.a., Day Camp Entrance), plus we offer additional walks on four weekends in April leaving from the Clarkia Trailhead on Canada Road. All walks begin at 10:00 AM and end around 1:00 PM.

*(continued on page 7)*

## IN THIS EXPLORER...

Treasurer's Report for 2013.....	1
Wildflower Walks Season 2014.....	1
Survival of the Fleetest.....	2
Edgewood Events .....	(insert)
Meet Edgewood's Newest Ranger.....	5-6
EC Statistics.....	6
What's Blooming This Month/ Membership Form.....	7
EC Hours, 2014 Board, Events.....	8

## Survival of the Fleetest

by Carolyn J. Strange



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Petrochelidon\\_pyrrhonota\\_-\\_Cayucos,\\_California,\\_USA-8.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Petrochelidon_pyrrhonota_-_Cayucos,_California,_USA-8.jpg)

Some species go to great lengths to avoid becoming road kill, even if it means shorter wings. Or perhaps especially if it means shorter wings, which allow the quicker, tighter turns and take-offs that prevent vehicular bird-slaughter. (Think more fighter jet, less airliner.) A long-studied cliff swallow population shape-shifted in this way over “only” a few decades—a mere blink of evolutionary time. Maybe that’s surprising, but an estimated 80 million birds a year are killed on U.S. roads, a potentially powerful force of natural selection. Few studies run over decades, so no one knows what other adaptations may be underway unnoticed. In fact, this cliff swallow finding was accidental.

More than thirty years ago, a pair of graduate students (now, married professors) began a study of cliff swallows in southwestern Nebraska to explore the costs and benefits of intensely social living. Migratory birds that winter in South America, cliff swallows gather during summer to breed throughout North America, forming large colonies having thousands of birds. They build their coconut-sized nests from mud, a beakful at a time, so colonies always form near water. Historically, they built their nests on cliffs or bluffs, as protection from predators.

But shortly after the study began, the birds shifted their nesting sites from lakeside bluffs to the new overpasses

and bridges of a highway-building boom, choosing smooth, stable concrete with better overhanging shelter, instead of exposed, crumbly sandstone. Humans had built improved cliffs, and the birds approved! Indeed, modern road-building has increased cliff swallow numbers and range in some areas. These new digs are less likely to get washed away in storms, saving time and energy the subsequent spring, but there’s a trade-off risk: getting smacked by cars and trucks.

Every summer for three decades, the ecologist/ornithologist team drove the same roads, conducting detailed surveys: counting nests and eggs; banding birds; observing behavior. They also picked up dead birds—more than 2,000 over the years—just additional specimens to measure and preserve. They hadn’t planned to study road-kill numbers, but a few years ago they realized that they were picking up fewer dead birds than in the past. So they looked back at the numbers and the specimens.

The carcass count decreased steadily from 20 birds per season in 1984 and 1985, to less than five birds per season over the last five years! Meanwhile, the colony population doubled, and traffic remained steady or increased (and cars got even bigger). The researchers also ruled out an increase in carcass scavengers. Furthermore, the dead birds weren’t representative of the population—their wings were longer. In fact, the average wingspan of the entire population had become shorter over three decades. In a wingspan of only about four inches, even a fraction of an inch can change maneuverability a lot.

No one can prove that road-kill driven natural selection alone caused the twin trends of shorter wings and fewer road-kills, but the evidence is highly suggestive. (Natural selection *has* been observed over the span of human lifetimes, and not just in biocide-resistant crop pests. For more on evolutionary biology research by another married team, in the Galápagos Islands, check out the winner of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction, *The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time*, by Jonathan Weiner.)

The finding underscores the value of long-term studies, and a scientist not involved with the study emphasized that the most important lesson from this research is the paramount importance of collecting data even when you’re not sure what it means or how it could lead to findings in the future. ✍

Reference: <http://www.cell.com/current-biology/retrieve/pii/S0960982213001942>

# WILDFLOWERS!

Come to Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve for a free docent-led wildflower walk.

Every Saturday and Sunday from March 15 to June 8, 2014.

Walks begin at 10 a.m. and end around 1 p.m.



Edgewood's serpentine grasslands are renowned throughout California for their lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity. You might see dozens of species of flowers on a single walk! Our walks vary according to what's in bloom—covering about 3 miles, at a moderate pace, with frequent stops.



Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a snack if you wish. Restrooms and water are available only at the main entrance. No reservations are needed unless you have a group of 10 or more. For group reservations, please email [docent-coordinator@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:docent-coordinator@friendsofedgeswood.org).



Walks start from the **Bill and Jean Lane Education Center** every weekend throughout the season.

In addition, on the four Saturdays in April (4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26) walks will also start from the **Clarkia Trailhead** for easier access to the grasslands.



Check out all of our exciting events on the back or at [friendsofedgeswood.org/events](http://friendsofedgeswood.org/events).

## Exclusive Events at Edgewood in 2014

See [friendsofedgewood.org/events](http://friendsofedgewood.org/events) for details.

**These events require pre-registration due to space limitations.**

**Register at: [friendsofedgewood.org/events](http://friendsofedgewood.org/events). Cost: \$10/person.**

- **Defy Extinction.** *Saturday, February 22.* Adopt your very own Bay checkerspot butterfly caterpillar and place it in the protected butterfly habitat. Learn about the program to restore the butterfly to its home at Edgewood. Suitable for youngsters.
- **Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Walk.** *Saturday, March 29.* Join biologist Stuart Weiss on a special tour of the butterfly habitat to learn about and observe these threatened insects.
- **Night Explorer.** *Saturday, June 7 and August 23.* Bring your flashlight for a special night walk.
- **Stargazer.** *Saturday, July 26.* Observe the stars from the highest point at Edgewood.
- **Inspiration.** *Sunday, August 10.* Watch the sun set and the full moon rise from Inspiration Heights.
- **Nature Walk with Diane West-Bourke.** *Saturday, October 4.* Join highly respected naturalist Diane West-Bourke for a fascinating nature tour of Edgewood.

### Exclusive Events

Only attendees of these events can enter Edgewood at night.

## Recurring Events at Edgewood in 2014

See [friendsofedgewood.org/events](http://friendsofedgewood.org/events) for details.



**Saturdays & Sundays, March 15 – June 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### Spring Wildflower Walks

**Meet at: Bill and Jean Lane Education Center or Clarkia Trailhead (April Saturdays only). Cost: Free.**

Join a trained docent to explore Edgewood's lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity.



**Second Sunday of each month, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

### Second Sunday Bird Walks

**Meet at: Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. Cost: Free.**

Join Sequoia Audubon members for a morning bird walk. Look and listen for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse, Red-shouldered hawk and others.



**Third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### Third Saturday Nature Walks

**Meet at: Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. Cost: Free.**

Led by Edgewood docents, these family-oriented walks feature seasonal topics. They operate year-round, except during the spring when they are supplanted by springtime wildflower walks.



**Wednesdays during Daylight Saving Time, 5:30 p.m.**

### Habitat Restoration

**Fridays year-round, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.**

**Meet at: location depending on seasonal conditions. Cost: Free.**

Weed Warriors work to restore and preserve biodiversity, natural habitats, and those beautiful wildflower displays we all enjoy. You must be with a California Native Plant Society leader in order to pick any plants at Edgewood.

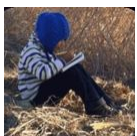


**By request year-round**

### Junior Explorer Walks

**Meet at: location varies. Cost: Free.**

Specially trained docents are available to lead school kids and scout groups on discovery walks correlated with California science content standards.



**Second Tuesday of each month, 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

### Nature Journal Workshops

**Meet at: Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. Cost: Free.**

Join famed naturalist, author, and artist John Muir Laws as you learn how to create drawings of your nature experiences in your own nature journal.



**First Saturday or Sunday of each month, 8:30 a.m.**

### Adopt-A-Highway

**Meet at: I-280 Edgewood Road Park-and-Ride. Cost: Free.**

Edgewood's Road Warriors groom the north side of I-280 adjacent to Edgewood Park once a month. Participants must be safety-trained.

## Meet Edgewood's Newest Ranger

edited by Linda Leong



<https://sanmateocountynews.wordpress.com/> (2013)

In late 2013, a new face appeared in town, that of Ranger Stephen Erich Kraemer. Stephen, born in Redwood City, CA, now lives with his wife and two young children in El Granada, CA. I recently contacted Stephen and am pleased to provide the brief introduction below.

*What is your title/role with respect to Edgewood Natural Preserve? What qualities/skills qualify you for this role?* I am the Ranger IV for District II which consists of Huddart, Wunderlich, Flood, and Edgewood Parks as well as South County Trails. As a Ranger IV, my role is to provide safe and enjoyable parks while enhancing the public's quality of life. I strive to achieve these goals by providing direction and support to staff on projects such as trail improvements and fuel reduction throughout our parks while continuing to maintain high standards for daily tasks like cleaning restrooms.

*How long have you been doing this type of work?* I've been doing this type of work since I was a teenager, starting off by setting chokers<sup>1</sup> for a small contract logging company. I also have worked for Cal Fire and in management at Safeway for almost ten years prior to joining San Mateo County

<sup>1</sup> A **choker setter** or **choke setter** is a logger who attaches cables to logs for retrieval by skidders or skyliners. (from Wikipedia)

*How did you become a ranger? What does a ranger do?*

I attended Hillsdale High School and then went on to attend and graduate from Canada College with an Associate degree, San Francisco State with a Bachelor of Science degree, and back to the College of San Mateo where I received an Associate degree in Fire Technology and my Emergency Medical Technician License. I've also obtained my Wildfire Certification, Hazmat Certification, and Fire Fighter I Certification while in the Cal Fire Academy and the College of San Mateo Fire Academy.

I started my career with San Mateo County as a volunteer at Memorial Park after graduating high school. I was even offered a seasonal position from a ranger at Memorial Park. At the time, I turned down the offer because I had a full-time position elsewhere which was year-round and paid for my education.

After graduating college, I backpacked through Europe by myself and came back to the US to search for a job. I applied and tested for several agencies, including California Fish and Game, San Francisco Fire and Police Departments, Open Space Regional Parks, and the County of San Mateo Parks. The San Mateo County Parks offered me a full-time position first, and I accepted.

Rangers for San Mateo County are expected to be diversified in their training and

*(continued on Page 6)*

*(Newest Ranger, continued from Page 5)*

background. They must have basic knowledge of maintenance skills, be versatile, and have the ability to interact positively with the public while enforcing park rules and regulations.

**Do you work a consistent 40-hour work week? Do you have an office? How many people are you responsible for?** I try to work five days a week, forty hours per week, but more commonly I work from 45 to 50 hours per week, and I work six days a week when needed. My current office is at Huddart Park, but I will be moving it to Edgewood by March 2014. Depending on the time of year, I manage from 12 to 30 full-time and seasonal staff.

**What is your vision/what are your goals for Edgewood?**

My vision for Edgewood is to continue to improve the basic condition of the park while keeping its unique identity. Over the next year, park staff will continue to replace faded or damaged signs, help with removing selected non-native trees such as Eucalyptus and Acacia, increase patrols and contacts, and become more efficient and aggressive in combating non-native vegetation.

**What are some upcoming challenges that you foresee at Edgewood?**

Upcoming projects will require close collaboration with all volunteer groups and creative ideas to utilize staff and funding resources. Above all, hard work and consistent monitoring will be needed.

**What ideas can you suggest to get more people to volunteer more often?**

I think it is extremely important to have volunteers in the parks to help maintain a connection with the community and also make people feel they have a vested interest in the parks. I believe park staff needs to be proactive in recruiting volunteers and making the volunteers feel welcome and useful. I have always volunteered either at local agencies like fire departments, churches, or programs for youth. Currently, I volunteer at my local church, participate with the STEP program (Supported Training & Experience Program) for emancipated foster youth through San Mateo County, and mentor high school students from Sequoia High School's Youths at Risk Program.

Evidence of Stephen's "go-getter" attitude can already be seen throughout Edgewood Park, beginning with colorful new signage at the Edgewood and Old Stage Coach Rd. entrance. Welcome, Stephen!



© 2013 Thanh Mougeot

## Education Center Visitors

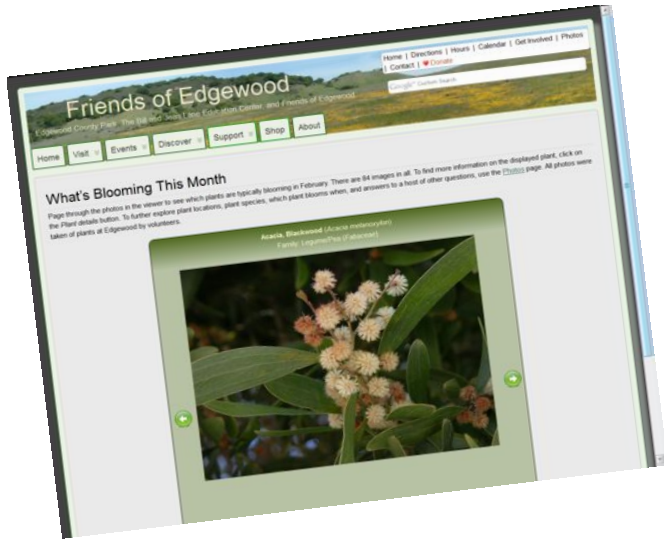


Time Period	Adults	Children	TOTAL
Apr '11 - Mar '12 <b>(Inaugural Year)</b>	7474	2363	9837
Apr '12 - Mar '13	6884	2478	9362
Apr '13 - Dec '13	4950	1747	6697

(Wildflower Walks, continued from Page 1)

The enclosed flyer is also available at our website; download it as a PDF file to share with friends.

For more information please check our website or contact us at [docent-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:docent-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org). We also accept requests for special group hikes for 10 or more people. ☺



### What's Blooming This Month

Check out this new feature on the FoE website!

As many readers are aware, the Friends of Edgewood went "digital" in 2013. What many of you may not know, however, is that Friend Pam Gage, FoE's webmaster, works diligently "behind the scenes" to continually expand website features and improve readability and use of the site.

One of Pam's recent additions to the site is the "Discover/What's Blooming This Month" tab (see illustration to the left). Pam was clever enough to utilize the existing Friends of Edgewood photos database to quickly create a portal to the subset of photos that are tagged as having a flowering time in the current month. The new feature is extremely easy to use and pleasing to the eye, perfect for a casual user! ✓

## 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](mailto: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

- \$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



- Mailed Newsletter Only     No Newsletter, Please

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve  
 PO Box 3422  
 Redwood City, CA 94064-3422

NONPROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 179  
 REDWOOD CITY, CA  
 94064

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



*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.friendsofedgewood.org](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org)*

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE


**Bill and Jean Lane  
 Education Center (EC) -  
 Spring 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.

**2014  
 Board of  
 Directors**

Laurie Alexander  
 Bill Korbholz  
 Kathy Korbholz  
 Linda Leong  
 John Morse  
 Thanh Mougeot  
 Mickey Salgo  
 Howie Smith  
 Jack Stovel  
 Mary Wilson



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Adopt-a-Highway**  
 Next Sessions: 3/2, 4/5, 5/4

To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel at [adoptahighway-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:adoptahighway-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org)

**Wildflower Walks**  
 Sat/Sun @ 10 AM  
 3/15 through 6/8  
 Admission is FREE!

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.friendsofedgewood.org](http://www.friendsofedgewood.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@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgewood.org).