



Edgewood Explorer

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

March 2018

Volume 25 Number 1

President's Message

By Bill Korbholz

Anybody remember 2017? Whew, for Friends of Edgewood, it was a blur. We were as busy as bees on buckwheat, and we made a number of important accomplishments, advancing our strategic priorities of preserving and protecting Edgewood's natural resources and furthering stewardship through educational and interpretive programs. Below are some highlights.

Restoring, Preserving, and Protecting Edgewood's Natural Resources

In January 2017, we began a camera trapping program run by Mickey Salgo, with guidance from Kenny Hickman, under a permit issued by County Parks. 15 volunteers set up remote, motion-activated cameras to provide wildlife photos and data for resource management planning, public education, and outreach. So far, we've captured photos of a number of animals including cougars, deer, coyotes, gray foxes, bobcats, woodrats, great horned owls, and scrub jays. We intend to set up an online album of these photos in the near future.



We also partnered with Grassroots Ecology (Grassroots) (<http://www.grassrootsecology.org/>) to conduct 10 weeding workdays at Edgewood during 2017 and continuing into the first half of 2018. The photo that follows depicts volunteers organized by Grassroots and overseen by Paul Heiple who removed bagfuls of yellow star-thistle, tocalote, purple false brome, and other invaders. *(continued on Page 2)*

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Paul Heiple with Volunteers © 2017 Stacey Dixon

Thanks to the efforts of Creekside Science (<https://creeksidescience.com/>), we now have four separate colonies of the endangered San Mateo thornmint at Edgewood. The original colony still shows signs of stress, but the other three colonies are thriving, giving us confidence that this fragile plant, which occurs naturally only at Edgewood, has a future.



San Mateo thornmint.
© 2017 Christal Niederer

We contracted with Creekside Science to produce an assessment of Edgewood's grasslands and a long-term strategy for increasing their biodiversity and reducing non-native plant infestations. This activity focuses much greater attention on restoring our grasslands, the one habitat at Edgewood that has proven the most difficult. We anticipate beginning to execute this strategy in 2019.

The Weed Warriors, a joint program with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, continue to do their great work. In 2017 they conducted about 85 weeding sessions, for a total of over 2,250 volunteer hours.

After a number of very productive meetings in 2017, PG&E heard our concerns and committed that they will not replace the two gas pipelines that run through the heart of the preserve, eliminating the fears of significant habitat destruction from the construction.

Creekside Science translocated 2,400 Bay checkerspot caterpillars from Coyote Ridge to Edgewood in 2017, and we continue to monitor the checkerspots' progress.

Our bluebird monitoring program, led by Frances Morse, cared for the 24 bluebird boxes in the park, cleaning them and monitoring them for nests and eggs.

Educational and Interpretive Programs

Our Junior Explorers (JE) program was bolstered by an influx of 12 new docents who joined us from the docent program at Filoli. With our corps of 30 docents, we will now be better able to meet the demand for kids' walks.

Our native garden, under the stewardship of Howie Smith, continues to flourish. Howie keeps busy germinating new plants from Edgewood seed stock, transplanting, weeding, and installing signage. This garden is becoming a showcase for many of Edgewood's native plants, some of which cannot be seen from trails.

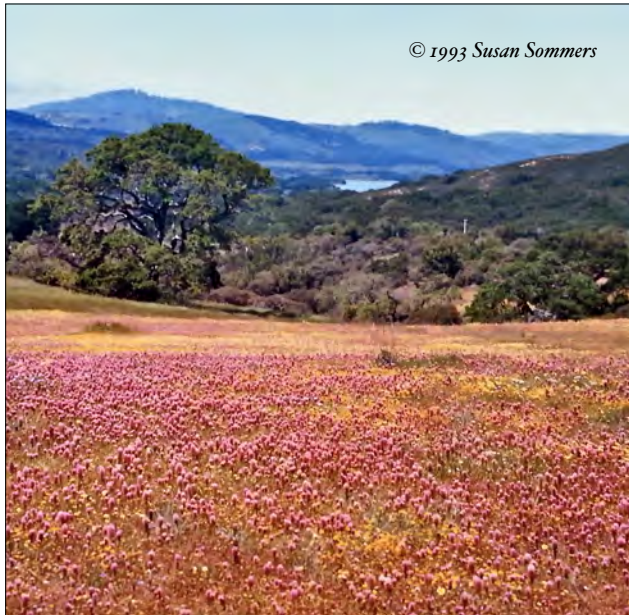
Just over 9,000 visitors dropped into the Bill & Jean Lane Education Center (EC) last year. They were greeted by volunteer hosts who logged 1,148 hours. Laurie Alexander manages the EC and is responsible for recruiting and training hosts. She gets help from Deanna Schiel, who maintains our popular "What's Bloomin'" magnet board, and much of the information that drives that magnet board comes from Mary Wilson's weekly "Bloomin' Walks."

Sandy Bernhard, our docent training coordinator, expanded our docent enrichment program significantly in 2017. This continuing education program helps to keep our docents engaged and well informed. Sandy also graduated 12 new docents. Almost 1,000 visitors were led through the preserve by 46 different docents during our springtime wildflower season. Todd Reimche and Thanh Mougeot coordinated the wildflower walk program.

Our website, a critical component of our public education mission, is cared for by Pam Gage, who was selected in 2017 as the Best Friend of Edgewood. (continued on Page 7)

Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve: How It Happened

by Carolyn Curtis, founding president, Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve; volunteer coordinator and spokesperson, Save Edgewood Park Coalition



In summer of 1993, after 13 years of the bitterest and most protracted controversy in San Mateo County history, the serpentine meadowlands of Edgewood Park were saved from development into a golf course and officially declared a natural preserve. How this happened is a colorful and motley story of political opportunism, institutional courage on the part of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and thousands of hours of hard work by scientists and ordinary people, born of their unflinching faith that a place so beautiful and biologically valuable simply could not be abandoned to destruction.

Part 1 of 3 Parts

In 1979, the County of San Mateo (County) acquired the Edgewood property from the State of California. A quarter of the money (about \$500,000) came from the County Charter for Parks Fund, a quarter from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), and the rest from a U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant. In the Joint Powers Agreement (Agreement) for Edgewood between MROSD and the County, MROSD essentially abdicated any decision-making rights over Edgewood. This Agreement, which plays a role much later in the story, allowed just about everything: a golf course, tennis courts, swimming pools, waste treatment plants, etc.

The County Supervisors moved smartly along with plans for an 18-hole public golf course, pressured by an organized group of golfers, including several politically

prominent locals. The Santa Clara Valley chapter of CNPS, state CNPS, the Committee for Green Foothills, and local Sierra Club and Audubon Society chapters vigorously protested the plans, researching and proposing an alternate site across the road on watershed lands owned by San Francisco (the “southern watershed site”) that had no special habitats. This group also put out a background piece on Edgewood Park.

By December, 1982, despite increasing opposition, the Board of Supervisors approved a master plan for Edgewood and certified an Environmental Impact Report. CNPS and two individuals sued, settling out of court in late 1983 on condition that sensitive habitats would be given legally adequate protection; an outside consultant would prepare an analysis of the proposed golf course’s economics; and alternatives would be considered.

The CNPS lawsuit not only saved Edgewood serpentine from certain doom in the early 1980s; later activists could use it to remind Supervisors how serious we were—and how precarious the County’s position was, as it continued to ignore the out-of-court settlement conditions.

Early in 1987, when the pro-golf group started a petition to get the golf course built, the Santa Clara Valley CNPS chapter set up a task force. It was joined by Lennie Roberts, legislative analyst for the Committee for Green Foothills (CFG). Probably San Mateo County’s leading environmental activist, with unmatched political savvy (sometimes called “the sixth member of the Board of Supervisors,” sometimes called other names by developers), Lennie had been active in the early 1980s to block the course.

This task force lobbied the County Supervisors (reception varied from noncommittal to rude), circulated its own petition (4000 signatures), lobbied San Francisco Supervisors, updated the background information, started a letter-writing campaign, and more. Sue Smith of the Yerba Buena CNPS chapter suggested pushing to make Edgewood a Natural Area Preserve, which seemed a distant goal at the time.

Three events ended this round. In September, 1987, despite lobbying by a San Mateo County Parks employee, the US Fish and Wildlife Service declared the Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha* ssp. *bayensis*) a threatened species, Edgewood being one of its (then) three remaining habitats. Thus Edgewood had some federal protection. But what: The entire park? All the serpentine? Everywhere the butterfly had been sighted through the years? Some of these but not others? Furthermore, could the County get a permit anyway for “incidental take,” that is, kill, to build the golf course?

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(Edgewood - How It Happened...continued from Page 3)

In January, 1988, the Edgewood harvestman, *Calicina minor*, was proposed for federal listing. But what mattered most was that 1988 was an election year. One Supervisor who supported the golf course ran for Congress. That person's chief opponent in the primary brought up Edgewood at every public forum ("beautiful place... eleven rare and endangered species...the Board of Supervisors voted to turn it into a golf course"). The audience would gasp in disbelief. Eventually, the Supervisor running for Congress "discovered" an alternate site for the golf course: the southern watershed site. Negotiations began with San Francisco's mayor. The Supervisor won the primary in a tight finish, but lost the general election, remaining on the Board of Supervisors.

Though Edgewood seemed saved from destruction, at the expense of the southern watershed site, some people thought the battle was not over. Susan Sommers, the first person to document Edgewood's botany, felt Edgewood would not be safe until it was so tied up with overlapping jurisdictions that no one entity could do anything to Edgewood by itself. Also, Edgewood's biological uniqueness had not been officially acknowledged; Sue Smith's idea of having Edgewood declared a Natural Area Preserve was still a goal in search of a plan of execution. ❁

Editor's Note: The story of Edgewood - How It Happened will be continued in upcoming editions of Edgewood Explorer...stay tuned!

*Look deep into nature, and then you
will understand everything better.*

~Albert Einstein



A woodrat in Edgewood Park scampers off with something in its mouth. © 2017 Jake Lowenstern and Frances Morse

Would You Believe You Can Find Lizard Scat?

by Kathy Korbholz

Would you believe you can find lizard scat? No, that is not a snipe hunt joke. If you are on the trail with an expert tracker like Garth Harwood, you can learn where to look and how to recognize it. Garth pointed out that lizard scat has a white urea pellet that is excreted with the darker bits of insect remains. Urea is the same white substance seen in bird droppings, underscoring their common ancient evolutionary ancestry.

After a weeknight lecture to provide fundamental knowledge, Garth took the volunteer enrichment class on a Saturday walkabout just outside Edgewood Preserve. He purposely stayed outside the Preserve boundaries so the group could be allowed off-trail and gather around animal signs previously spotted. So everyone would know where to look and to be careful not to step on the sign, Garth would often use a stick to draw a circle around the point of interest.



He taught docents to spot many telltale signs of animal movement. For instance, bits of hair on the jagged ends of wire fencing are signs of an animal crawling under the fence. Often, grass and brush are pushed away from the opening by the animal sliding under the wire. Worn grass or a clear space in an otherwise vegetation-covered plot of land are signs of more frequent and continued animal use.

Animal tracking was just one of the recent enrichment classes offered to Edgewood volunteers. Last fall, Bill Korbholz gave a talk on "How Plants 'Do It'." The talk featured descriptions of the myriad ways pollination can take place. Recall that plants can have both male and female parts on one flower of one plant, on different flowers of the same plant, or on separate plants. One

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Wildflower Walks!

Free guided tours at Edgewood Park

Take a moderate three-mile walk to explore the stunning spring wildflowers with docents from Friends of Edgewood. All ages welcome!



2018 schedule

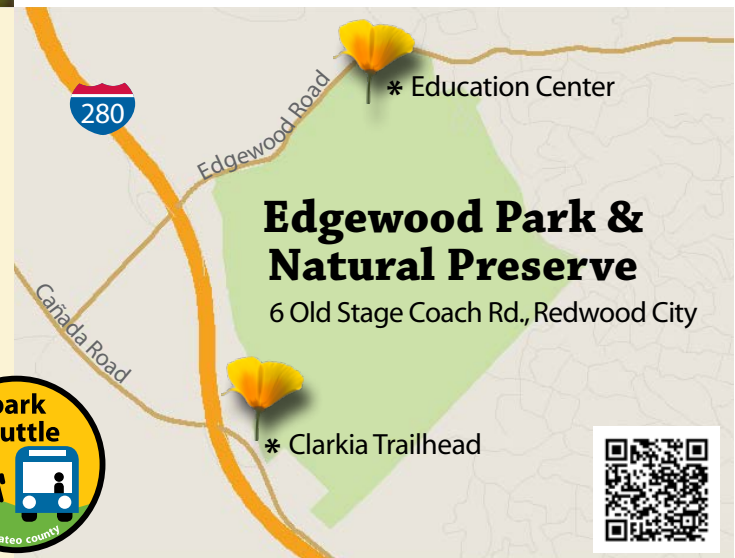
Saturdays & Sundays
March 10 – June 3, 10am-1pm

Meet at the Bill and Jean Lane
Education Center near the
park entrance off Edgewood Road

Saturdays in April, 10am-1pm

Meet at the Clarkia Trailhead
parking area on Cañada Road

- * Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a snack if you wish.
- * Restrooms and water available only at the Education Center.
- * Arrive early for parking.
- * For groups of 10 or more, make a reservation with Events@FriendsOfEdgewood.org.
- * Take the free park shuttle!
SMCoParks.org/parkshuttle



(Lizard Scat...continued from Page 4)

sneaky weed, Tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), self-fertilizes to ensure the next generation of this invasive plant.

To illustrate the various pollination possibilities, Bill had volunteers use pink and blue socks as hand puppets to pantomime the different possible combinations to achieve pollination. The volunteers wore signs indicating what kind of flower and type of pollination they were representing. These signs bore intriguing words for etymologists such as: chasmogamy and polygamodioecious -- look them up!



Pollination Possibilities © 2017 Kathy Korbholz

© 2017 Kathy Korbholz

Jake Lowenstern, a recent docent grad and professional geologist with the USGS, gave a clear and engaging lecture on interpreting the geologic history of Edgewood and the San Francisco Peninsula last October. He was able to take a complex subject, usually at the edge of understanding, and make it accessible. He covered geologic time, subduction zones, rock and mineral types, and recent faulting along the San Andreas Fault system. Jake illustrated his talk with photos, diagrams, and videos. See Jake’s article in the June 2017 Edgewood Explorer.



“Be an Ohlone” with Robert Strode © 2017 Laurie Alexander

A few lucky wildflower walk docents were able to attend an enrichment event planned especially for Junior Explorer (JE) docents. Robert Strode invited all of the volunteers to

"Be an Ohlone" at an interactive workshop held at the San Mateo County History Museum. Robert, who has a master's degree in history from Stanford and over 25 years of collective experience working with adults and children at Coyote Point Museum (now CuriOdyssey), Filoli, and the San Mateo County Historical Association, guided an exploration of the tools and natural resources used by the Ohlone people, whose culture in the San Francisco Bay area reaches back 5,000 years. In the photo at the right, JE docents Rebecca Reynolds and Kate Connors make string “the Ohlone way.”



© 2017 Kathy Korbholz

Another enrichment class, by the “Beetle Lady,” Stephanie Dole, was offered in January 2018. Stephanie followed the same pattern of an evening talk followed by a Saturday field trip. By far, the highlight of her lecture was the extensive live insect collection she brought with her. Some specimens were passed amongst the audience in cages, in tubes, or hand-to-hand. On the field trip, again outside the Preserve, Stephanie turned over fallen limbs and found many beetles, baby salamanders, and even a few scorpions. Stephanie is so comfortable with all insects that even some squeamish students were willing to handle critters in the classroom or in the wild.



© 2018 Kathy Korbholz



© 2018 Kathy Korbholz

(Lizard Scat...continued from Page 5)



Kathy Goforth and others snap pics of the Beetle Lady's critters.
© 2018 Laurie Alexander

The Friends of Edgewood is indebted to Norma Jean Brody for underwriting speaker fees for some of these professional presenters. The purposes of these enrichment activities are: to expand volunteers' knowledge which in turn can be shared with visitors, to offer a chance to build camaraderie among the volunteer community, and to have fun. Want to learn more and join the fun? Become an Edgewood volunteer in order to be invited to future enrichment activities. ♥



Just for Grins

1. What do you call an affliction that includes a sprained green thumb?
2. What book would you recommend to the parent of a rowdy fungi?

Answers 1. Planter's fasciitis 2. Taming of the 'Shroom

Smart Phone Magnifier

by Todd Reimche

Did you know...there's a little-known feature included in iOS 10 called Magnifier. It essentially turns your iPhone's camera into a magnifying glass of sorts with a custom user interface (UI) specifically to make reading easier.

It's great for use in the field as a tool to view flowers. It can be used as a substitute and/or complement to a hand lens.

1. Enable Magnifier in Settings

- Open the Settings app
- Tap 'General', then the 'Accessibility' tab
- Tap 'Magnifier' and tap the toggle to enable it
 - Optionally tap the toggle for Auto-Brightness to enable automatic brightness and contrast adjustments based on ambient light while using Magnifier

2. Triple-Click HOME Button to Activate Magnifier

Once enabled, you can now open the Magnifier from anywhere with a quick triple-click of the home button, including from the lock screen.

3. Snap a Freeze Frame, Zoom-In, Lock Focus and Turn On the Flash

The Magnifier UI is a customized camera UI that lets you snap a freeze frame with the circular button in the middle.

You can easily zoom-in using the onscreen slider, and you can optionally turn on the flash if you need extra light by tapping the small lightning bolt icon in the bottom left corner.

Tapping on the display or the padlock icon in the bottom left corner will lock the focus. ⚡

Editor's Note: Check out Android instructions here: <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/magnifying-glass-phones/4024864.html>

Treasurer's Report for 2017

by John Morse

For the calendar year 2017, we were again supported primarily by those who love Edgewood Park. Roughly 90% of our operating income came from membership dues and donations from both members and non-members. The rest came from interest on our endowment, merchandise sales, and fees we charge for docent training materials.

We use the money we raise to carry out a variety of programs in support of the Park. Of our Expense Budget, approximately 50% went toward habitat stewardship – primarily our efforts to eradicate non-native plant species (weeds) from the park. This is an

increase of 13% over last year. About 10% of our expenses went toward docent walks, including publicity and the cost of providing training for our wildflower walk docents. Another 10% was spent to support the ongoing operation of the Education Center. The remainder of the expenses was used to pay for such things as publishing and mailing the Edgewood Explorer newsletter and general operating costs.

The most gratifying part of my job as Treasurer for the last 5 years has been to see first-hand the support we receive from you, our members and friends. It is only through your generous giving that we can do what we do.



Longtime Volunteer Duo Honored By Parks Department

by Bill Korbholz



Dave Hershey and Diana Quon help keep I-280 clean.
© 2018 Kathy Korbholz

I'm pleased to report that Dave Hershey and Diana Quon received special recognition at the San Mateo County Parks Department year-end volunteer recognition event in December 2017.

Dave and Diana have been active FoE volunteers for over 10 years. In addition to being longtime Weed Warriors at Edgewood, they have volunteered as docents for our wildflower walks. They are currently running the Adopt-A-Highway program for FoE,

(President's Message...continued from Page 2)

Looking ahead to 2018

I hope that you can see how productive (and busy) our dedicated volunteers are. Looking ahead, 2018 promises to be a milestone year for us. We are celebrating our 25th anniversary—our founding coincided with the designation of Edgewood as a natural preserve in 1993. In addition to all of the activities described above, we are very busy planning special events and celebrations. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks and months. ✓

through which we keep the segment of I-280 that runs alongside Edgewood Park looking clean and attractive. Dave has impressed us with his success in recruiting additional Road Warriors, not an easy task.

Both Dave and Diana are always more than willing to help with whatever needs to be done. Their cheerful attitude and friendly demeanor make them models of what volunteering is all about. ❖

Yes, I'd like to become a Friend of Edgewood!

Here's my membership donation to support preservation, education, and restoration:

Join or renew online at FriendsOfEdgewood.org

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Advocate *
- \$100 Steward *
- Other: \$ _____

* Donors of \$50 or more receive a set of six Edgewood greeting cards; donors of \$100 or more also receive a one-year subscription to *Bay Nature Magazine*.

I'd like to get the newsletter by email mail.

- Please keep my thank-you gifts.
- Please keep my donation anonymous.

Make checks payable to **Friends of Edgewood**, and mail to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

For volunteer opportunities, visit
www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/Get-Involved



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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.FriendsOfEdgewood.org

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

Bill and Jean Lane Education Center - 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.

2018 Board of Directors

Laurie Alexander
 Sandy Bernhard
 Kathy Goforth
 Bill Korbholz
 Kathy Korbholz
 Linda Leong
 Angela Mallett
 John Morse
 Todd Reimche
 Howie Smith



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adopt-A-Highway

Next Sessions: 3/4, 4/7, 5/6, 6/2

To volunteer or get more information, contact

Dave Hershey at adoptahighway-coordinator@FriendsOfEdgewood.org

Docent-Led Wildflower Walks

Sat/Sun beginning 3/10/18 - 10 AM @ BJLEC
 (Saturdays in April, walks also start from Clarkia Trailhead)

Second Sunday Bird Walks

(heavy rain cancels)

3/11 & 6/10 - 8 AM @ BJLEC

4/8 & 5/13 (Mother's Day) - 8 AM @ Clarkia Trailhead

For more event info, see

www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/events

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, 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.