

# 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!



### 2019 schedule

**Saturdays & Sundays**

**March 16 – June 2 • 10am**

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

**Saturdays in April • 10am**

Meet at the Clarkia Trailhead parking area on Cañada Road

- \* Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a snack if you wish.
- \* The walk takes about three hours.
- \* 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](mailto:Events@FriendsOfEdgewood.org).





# Edgewood Explorer

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

March 2019

Volume 26 Number 1

## President's Message

by Peter Ingram

Dear Friends,

As I write this at our editor's deadline, the rains gleefully continue despite mounting human crabbiness in the face of another day housebound. I suspect that, like me, many of the active volunteers and members of the Friends would prefer to be visiting Edgewood today, adding their efforts to preservation, education, and restoration of that special place. Alas, we can take some solace in projecting forward a month or three to what may very well be an exceptional wildflower season. So, I will channel some inner sunshine in the meantime, working with many others on the exciting projects and initiatives underway for the stewardship of Edgewood.

When our good friend Bill Korbholz convened his last board meeting in January, he carried on the tradition of "passing the gavel" with tongue-in-cheek humor and, for the third time in my years as a member, I succeeded a Korbholz (that was Kathy, back in 2000) with the good fortune to serve as Board President. For me, this succession is an auspicious event in that the Friends has grown in community stature and has exponentially advanced its tools, talents, and aspirations for the Edgewood Preserve of tomorrow. I am excited to be able to rejoin the hard-working team and add what I can to the energy and vision of this amazing membership organization. And I am reminded every day how vitally important each of you are to our successes – whether you are a member, supporter, or follower: Thank you! ✓

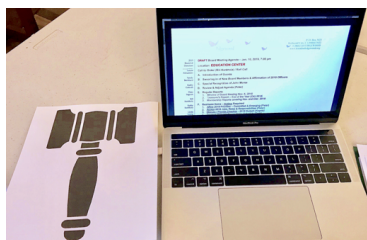


Image of a gavel. © 2019 Peter Ingram

## John Morse Retires as Treasurer

by Kathy Korbholz



Honoring John Morse. © 2019 Peter Ingram

John Morse actually retired as treasurer in 2017 but remained on the Friends of Edgewood (FoE) board for an additional year to help orient our new treasurer, Angela Mallett. John and his wife, Frances, joined FoE shortly after they moved here from the East Coast. John is also a docent, leading wildflower walks with Frances. Together, they are frequent participants in many FoE activities, such as Defy Extinction, our 20th Birthday Celebration, and numerous volunteer enrichments. Frances leads the Bluebird Box Monitoring Team.

*(continued on Page 2)*

### IN THIS EXPLORER...

- Wildflower Walks Flyer.....(insert)
- President's Message..... 1
- John Morse Retires as Treasurer..... 1
- We're on Instagram!..... 2
- Tidying Up - Database Reboot..... 2
- Welcome to the Moss World..... 3
- Treasurer's Report for 2018..... 4
- Project 467 (update)..... 5
- County Parks Staffing Changes..... 6
- Help Us Make More Friends..... 7
- Membership Form..... 7
- EC Hours, 2019 Board, Events..... 8

*(John Morse...continued from Page 1)*

John joined the Friends of Edgewood board in 2012 and became the organization's treasurer the following year. As treasurer, he conscientiously managed all of the organization's finances, and he made valuable recommendations about how we should invest and manage our treasury. At the same time, John took responsibility for the technical management of our membership database. Both of these responsibilities required much time, effort, and expertise. Most recently, John used his significant computer skills to lead the effort to evaluate alternative membership software systems. Ultimately, he helped choose a more user-friendly, replacement system. Because of his deep knowledge of both the old and new systems, he remained an integral part of the migration team.

For all his hard work as FoE's Treasurer, John was nominated to be the 2018 recipient of the San Mateo County Parks Department Volunteer Of The Year Award from the Edgewood Park unit. He is pictured receiving his award in the Education Center.

Thank you, John, for all that you have done for the Friends of Edgewood, and we hope to still see you and Frances on the trails often. ♥

**We are now on Instagram!**



Follow us @friendsofedgeswood



And don't forget to Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FOEdgewood/>

Sharing Friends of Edgewood posts helps us get the word out about upcoming events, what's blooming, and other great things going on at Edgewood Park. And it helps us find more friends! 😊

## Tidying Up - Database Reboot

*by Barrie Moore*

The Friends of Edgewood is tidying up its membership database. In fact, we are adopting a new system that will make it much easier for us to keep track of our members' and volunteers' communication preferences and to keep our



membership records up-to-date. Our old system required someone with advanced programming skills to keep it current, which has been an increasing burden for our volunteers. The new system is much easier to use and automates a lot of tasks that used to be done by hand. It will make it easier for you to renew your membership and update us regarding any changes to your mailing or email address. We will be reaching out to everyone over the next few months to confirm contact information and communication preferences. We thank you all, in advance, for taking the time to help us keep our database clean and accurate! ←



Edgewood docent Judy Wong recommends the YouTube video, [Doug Tallamy: Restoring Nature's Relationships](#), a wonderful talk with great slides of caterpillars and butterflies presented at CNPS' 2018 conference in Los Angeles, CA. Says Judy, "You'll not bemoan caterpillar damage in your garden...they will be new friends!"

## Welcome to the Moss World

by Rebecca Reynolds



Moss on a branch.  
© 2019 Kathy Korbholz

The winter rains wake up our landscape. For months, the plants have been drying out, losing their leaves, turning brown, dying back, or drawing on their underground resources to maintain life. Then it rains, and immediately we see touches of new green. Little spears of grass, the cotyledons of new ground cover, bulging buds, and, all around the woodlands, a coat of fresh green moss.

But what is moss? Maybe it is better to start with what it is not. It is not a fungus or any sort of decomposer. It is not a lichen, which is a completely different life form, though lichens and mosses share many of the same habitats on tree trunks, rocks, and soil. It is not a vascular plant, like a tree or a sunflower which has roots and a stem to transport nutrients and sugars. But it is a plant, a different sort of plant, from an ancient lineage of its own. It has leaves but no roots or vascular stem. It is in the family of bryophytes, along with hornworts and liverworts, all non-vascular plants.

Moss plants are both similar to and different from other plants. They have tiny leaves, usually not more than 4 millimeters long (one millimeter is about the size of a mechanical pencil lead) and only one cell thick. The leaves contain chlorophyll and photosynthesize sugar when the

leaf is open. Mosses do not have flowers, but they do grow a sporophyte with a spore capsule that may look like a small flower bud. What appear to be roots on some plants are simple rhizomes that hold the plant in place. Since roots are not doing this job, the mosses get their nutrients directly through their cell walls when water with dissolved nutrients from air, soil, or dust on bark washes over them. They are totally dependent on a wet day for functioning and growth. When ambient moisture drops below about 85%, the plant closes down its systems until the next water event. They can look quite drab and closed in the summer, but they become fluffy and vibrant in the rain.

The next time you are out walking, take a moment to look closely at moss. It may be in tiny specks on cement, or you might see large cushions or mats. Bring a magnifying lens if you have one. Usually there is more than one kind of moss growing at any one location. Look for a difference in color, size, leaf structure (starbursts, feathers, tendrils), or the shape of the sporophyte if there is one.

For those who like to put a name to what they see, there are three mosses often found on Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) (see additional photos on p. 4). The large feathers that stick out horizontally when the moss is wet, and curl down in a distinctive claw when the moss is dry, are *Dendroalsia abietina*. The low-to-the-bark, yellow-green mat (when wet) or spidery arms (when dry) is a *Homalothecium* (probably *H. nuttallii* or *H. pinnatifidum*). Sorry, but except in Britain, no one seems to have common names for mosses, though some people call this one the Yellow Hugger. *Nogopterium gracile* is the name for the thick shag carpet that usually covers large areas from high up the trunk to down to the soil line. I hope you will have fun sorting out these mosses and seeing how many more different ones you can find. ☂

### Third Saturday Nature Walk “What About All That Moss,” January 2019



Docent Rebecca Reynolds talks about moss as Bill Korbholz looks on. © 2019 Kathy Korbholz



*Dendroalsia abietina* © 2019 Rebecca Reynolds



*Homalothecium* spp. clings to oak bark. © 2019 Kathy Korbholz



An enthusiastic group joined Rebecca Reynolds for her third Saturday Nature Walk, 1/19/19, to learn “all about moss.” © 2019 Kathy Korbholz



*Nogopterium gracile* on a Coast Live Oak. © 2019 Rebecca Reynolds

### Treasurer’s Report for 2018

by Angela Mallett



2018 was an exceptional year for revenue for our organization, as we received very generous donations in support of Project 467, amounting to 64% of our incoming revenue. Membership dues, donations supporting our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event, grants, and other gifts amounted to 35%, and the remaining revenue was from merchandise sales and fees we charge for docent training materials.

In 2018, approximately 43% of our Expense Budget went towards habitat stewardship - to eradicate non-native species (weeds) from the park and to support efforts to

restore the Bay checkerspot butterfly. Another 29% of the budget was attributed to our special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event and Annual Membership Meeting, which recognized and celebrated the generous support of our membership and volunteers and launched Project 467. We spent 6% of our expenses toward docent walks, and 5% supported the ongoing operation of the Education Center. The remainder of the expenses were used to pay for such things as publishing and mailing the newsletter, fees related to incoming donations, and general operating expenses.

As Treasurer for 2018, I have seen first-hand, the support we receive from our members, volunteers, and friends. It is only through your generous support, both in donated money and time, that we can accomplish all that we do.

## PROJECT 467 - PROTECTING EVERY ACRE

by Peter Ingram



Project 467 (P467) is a long-term, comprehensive habitat management project. Its purpose is to eliminate or suppress invasive plants and restore native ecosystems across Edgewood's 467 acres. The need for P467 is driven by the robust proliferation of non-native plants, which have markedly transformed the Edgewood landscape from its historic diversity.

There are four project components: The Weed Warriors; Bay checkerspot butterfly restoration; Thornmint and Pentachaeta preservation; and the Green Grass Project - a new initiative envisioned as a means to restore Edgewood's grasslands. By employing the best practices of grassland management, this initiative is intended to significantly increase native plant cover.

The Green Grass Project was launched in 2018 with a successful fundraising effort, the completion of many hours of field work by trained volunteers, and two reports by our scientist partners at Creekside Science:

- *Rapid Assessment Plot Surveys at Edgewood Natural Preserve 2018.* An inventory of the non-serpentine grasslands which documents the existing species composition of focus areas across the Preserve. Exploratory sampling and methods testing were performed to provide a baseline for measuring project results in future years.
- *Assessment of Grassland Management Techniques for Edgewood Natural Preserve - Grassland Management Options.* An assessment of potential treatment

techniques that could be appropriate for Edgewood. The report discusses a range of approaches with an emphasis on documented local results, including those from past experiments at Edgewood.

### CURRENT PLANNING & NEXT STEPS

In January 2019, a project work group was convened, and seven project components were identified. Teams were established to create detailed plans for each project component. The work group meets monthly and is currently focused on time-sensitive actions that will enable some field work in 2019 and provide a roadmap for the life of the project:

1. Scientific permit for seed collection (Friends/Creekside are applicants, and the County Parks Dept. is the permitting agency). Permits normally take 30 to 60 days to process.
2. Environmental review is required under state law for assessing potential impacts as a consequence of the project. The review and associated permitting for this type of project is expected to take six to nine months.
3. Finalization of a 2019 work plan, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined and memorialized by approvals of the Friends board and County Parks staff.
4. Photo documentation of field conditions and changes induced by project execution.
5. Communications to the various project stakeholders, supporters, and the visiting public.
6. Long-term funding strategy - grants, institutional donors, and additional fundraising. ♻️



Rainbow over Redwood City; photo taken from the Live Oak Trail.  
© 2019 Anonymous

## County Parks Staffing Changes - Recent Past, Present, and Future

by Peter Ingram

The San Mateo County Parks Department's stated mission is to provide the public with recreational opportunities in a safe and effective manner, and to protect and enhance the natural resources of the County. The Department operates 22 separate parks, encompassing over 16,000 acres, and 190 miles of county and local trails, including three regional trails.

Closer to home, we like to think that Edgewood is the "jewel in the crown" of this amazing portfolio of resources, and we place a high value on our partnership with the Parks Department, the Parks Commission, and the Board of Supervisors. As Edgewood is but one of the many responsibilities of the Parks staff, it is important to understand how they are organized, who does what work, and what changes in personnel mean to our ongoing relationships. Following are some key changes that will bring new talents to Edgewood and the SM County parks system:

- In September 2018, **Rogelio Castaneda** (Ro) became the Department's District II supervising ranger.
- In December 2018, we learned that the new Ranger III position assigned to Edgewood was filled by **Joel Eulalio Cervantes**.
- January 2019 brought more exciting changes in the Parks Administrative Office as reported by **Laurel Finnegan**, Park Ranger IV, Administration.
  - To enhance communications with Parks' Friends, patrons, and visitors, **Carla Schoof** will spend more time developing and implementing communication plans.
  - A Volunteer Coordinator position has been filled by **Stuart (Stu) Smith**. Stu recently served as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for Marin County Parks and Open Space. As part of his role, Stu will coordinate group volunteer projects, collect and report data from the Friends' and volunteer events, support Natural Resources Stewardship Corp, and co-lead events with Ranger staff.
  - To expand programs and services in 2019, **Katherine Wright**, Interpretive Ranger, will develop a new Interpretive Plan which will include input collected from all of you. Focus will be on engaging youth, especially in underserved areas.
- **Ramona Arechiga**, Natural Resource Manager, returns to work from maternity leave in March 2019.

We are fortunate to have these and many other fine people serving our community and helping us sustain Edgewood. If you have the chance to meet staff members, be sure to thank them for their contributions! 😊



Camera traps let us see relaxed animal behavior, like this brush rabbit's (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) morning grooming.

Image credit: Frances Morse and Jacob Lowenstern through FoE Camera Trap Program. © 2017

### Help Us Make More Friends

by *Barrie Moore*

Did you know that last year San Mateo County Parks estimated there were nearly 150,000 visitors to Edgewood? And, more than 5,500 adults and 2,000 children visited the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center, and over 400 children participated in our Junior Explorers program!



Your donations to the Friends of Edgewood helps us pay for important grasslands restoration efforts, hire environmental experts to advise on the preservation of Edgewood's endangered species, fund outreach to teachers to help them bring their students on a Junior Explorers hike, pay for materials in the Education Center, and train our dedicated Wildflower Walk docents.

This year, we will begin work on our Green Grass initiative which we announced last fall. We will need to double our funding for habitat restoration in order to make better progress against the growing threat of invasive weeds that are choking out our native grasses and wildflowers. We can't meet that goal without the increased support.

If each of you were able to help us find just one new member, we'd be well on our way to meeting our goal for 2019!

If you know someone who enjoys Edgewood Park but is not yet a member, please invite them to learn more about us at [www.FriendsofEdgewood.org](http://www.FriendsofEdgewood.org).

As most of you know, the Friends of Edgewood is a 100% volunteer-run organization, meaning that every dollar we raise goes to support the park, not pay salaries. We thank you for being loyal members and supporters; we couldn't do what we do without friends like you! 👍

---

## 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 [www.friendsofedgewood.org](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org).

- \$25     
  \$50\*     
  \$100\*  
 \$250     
  \$500     
  \$1,000+  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Make me a monthly Sustaining Member!**

The amount you choose will be charged to your credit card each month.

\*Donors of \$50 or more receive a set of 6 Edgewood greeting cards; donors of \$100 or more also receive a 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature Magazine* as our thank-you.

Please keep thank-you gifts and maximize the value of my donation.

**I'd like to get the newsletter by:**

- email    mail

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of credit card:    Visa    Mastercard

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

CVC                                  Expires



To learn about our volunteer opportunities go to <http://friendsofedgewood.org/get-involved>

**Friends of Edgewood is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.**



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 -  
 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.

**2019  
 Board of  
 Directors**

Laurie Alexander  
 Sandy Bernhard  
 Kathy Goforth  
 Peter Ingram  
 Bill Korbholz  
 Kathy Korbholz  
 Linda Leong  
 Angela Mallett  
 Barrie Moore  
 Todd Reimche  
 Howie Smith



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Adopt-A-Highway**

Next Sessions: 3/3, 4/6, 5/5, 6/1

To volunteer or get more information, contact

Dave Hershey at [adoptahighway-coordinator@FriendsOfEdgewood.org](mailto:adoptahighway-coordinator@FriendsOfEdgewood.org)

**Docent-Led Wildflower Walks**

Sat/Sun beginning 3/16/19 - 10 AM @ BJLEC  
 (Saturdays in April, walks also start from Clarkia Trailhead)  
 (heavy rain cancels)

**Sunday Bird Walk**

3/10/19, beginning at 8 AM @ BJLEC  
 (heavy rain cancels)

**For more event info, see**  
[www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/events](http://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](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).