

# Edgewood

# EXPLORER

FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD • WINTER 2019

## Habitat Happenings

by Bill Korbholz



A lot is happening in the preserve these days, and lots more is being planned. Project 467 is the umbrella project that encompasses all habitat management activity at Edgewood.

Find a good overview of the project on

our website at [friendsofedgewood.org/project-467-protecting-every-acre-2](https://friendsofedgewood.org/project-467-protecting-every-acre-2). The four components of P467 are the Green Grass initiative, Bay checkerspot butterfly restoration, San Mateo thornmint and white-rayed pentachaeta preservation, and Weed Warriors.

### Green Grass

The Green Grass initiative is our most ambitious undertaking. It aims to restore Edgewood's non-native grasslands to their former floral beauty and species diversity by reducing or eliminating weeds and promoting greater cover of native plants.

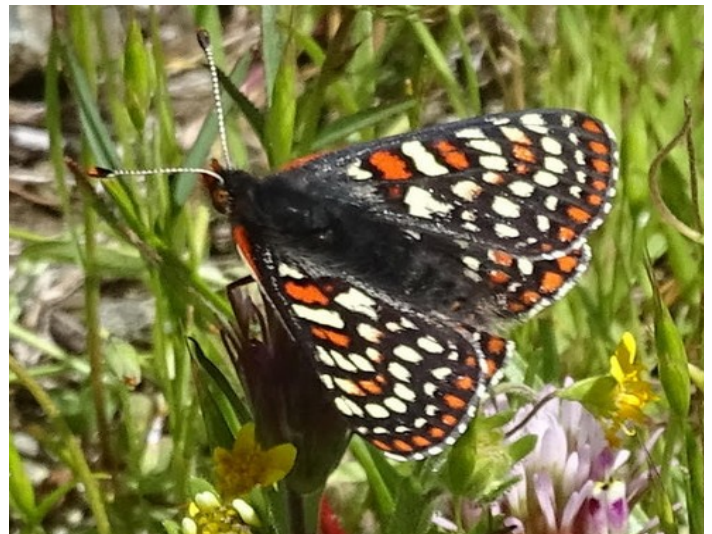
We are currently working with County Parks to get formal permission to try some new and exciting techniques for restoring the grasslands. In the meantime, Creekside Science has been doing assessments of selected areas to determine both native and non-native cover.

This past summer, under the able leadership of Perry McCarty, and with permission from the Parks Dept., volunteers collected seeds of a variety of species from the preserve: goldfields, yarrow, poppy, soap plant, elegant

brodiaea, elegant madia, milkweed, golden aster, clarkia, checkerbloom, summer lupine, and others.

Our initial intention was to send the seeds to a professional grower for seed increase. But it costs \$8,000 per taxon, and you need a minimum amount of good-quality seeds to make it viable. The only taxon for which we had collected enough seeds was yarrow. We sent them to Hedgerow Farms.

So what to do with the other seeds? Edgewood Farms! The Parks Dept. plans to build a fenced area of raised beds behind the Picnic Area restrooms as a nursery for seed amplification. This pilot project will result in about 560 sq. ft. of growing area and should be available for planting this year. We'll harvest the seeds produced annually and distribute them throughout the preserve.



Bay checkerspot butterfly. Photo © Kathy Korbholz

### Be Our Webmaster!

Help us monitor and maintain our most important public information resource, [FriendsofEdgewood.org](https://friendsofedgewood.org). We are looking for someone proficient in HTML/CSS, XML, and JavaScript who is experienced in WordPress site development and knows the ins and outs of GoDaddy or similar hosting environments. This is one of our most important volunteer tasks, and a hard one to fill, so please help us find our next Webmaster hero! Contact us at [mc@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:mc@friendsofedgewood.org) if you are interested or know someone who might be.



### Bay Checkerspot Butterfly (BCB) Restoration

The story of our favorite insect brings good news and bad news. After years of restoration effort, starting in 2007 when the first caterpillars were translocated to Edgewood from their abundant population in Coyote Ridge, the results are disappointing. Although the habitat conditions remain beneficial, the checkerspots (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*) are still not reproducing at replacement rates. Creekside Science suspended translocations in 2018 and intends to continue that suspension through 2020 in an effort to assess how the population responds without

*continued on p. 11*



## President's Message

by Peter Ingram

What a year 2019 has been in Edgewood. Let's recap, beginning with the rains of winter and spring, when another intrepid class of docent training graduates hit the muddy trails of the preserve and hiked right into a wildflower "super bloom" year like no other.

By the time the dust had settled, the Friends were grappling with a wonderful—and challenging—problem to solve: the number of wildflower walk visitors had reached a level that overwhelmed our long-standing practices and limited human resources. Since early summer the board has been engaged with volunteer docents in a problem-solving process to bring better balance to the program and improve the visitor experience of the walks, with changes to be launched in early 2020.

The rains brought other surprises: long-dormant yellow star-thistle returned to the grasslands with a vengeance. The Edgewood Weed Warriors sounded the alarm and over a three-week period a combination of volunteers, docents, board members and Parks rangers beat back the threat before a new seed crop could be deposited. "Be ever vigilant" continues to be the watchword.

The Green Grass initiative—a key component of the ongoing Project 467 habitat restoration effort—made some important headway this year. In anticipation of re-seeding natives in future treatment areas of the grasslands, we began a seed collection process under a science permit issued by the Parks Dept. As of early November, the seed collection volunteers led by Perry McCarty had harvested nearly 200,000 seeds from 20 different native species. This first tranche will feed into a multi-year "seed amplification" process to meet anticipated future demand and the goal of restoring Edgewood's compromised grasslands.

And what would 2019 be without the presence of PG&E and the threat of wildfires? Recently, PG&E completed a long-anticipated vegetation removal project within two natural gas pipeline easements that cross the preserve. The Friends, in partnership with the Parks Dept. and in close collaboration with PG&E biologists, worked very hard to ensure that the work would cause the least impact to the environment of the preserve. In addition, the County and CalFire carried out a fire fuel reduction project along the southern border of Edgewood, as part of a countywide program to reduce the risk of wildfires.

While we regret the intrusion of both of these projects, we must accept that a "new normal" is taking effect in our state, and Edgewood cannot be an island exempt from this reality. Know that we will indeed be ever vigilant as 2020 comes into view.

Thank you all for your interest in and support of preservation, education and restoration in Edgewood Natural Preserve! *Peter Ingram photo © Kathy Korbholz*

Edgewood EXPLORER



New members of the FoE Board: Lara Fox became a docent with Friends of Edgewood in 2017 and enjoys leading hikes. Perry McCarty, a longtime resident of Redwood City, has volunteered in many roles with Friends of Edgewood since 2016. *Photo © Barrie Moore*

## Board Welcomes New Members, Selects Officers for 2020

The 2020 Friends of Edgewood Board will include a full complement of 12, with one departure and two newly-elected members. As a result of elections at the October general meeting, we welcome Lara Fox and Perry McCarty to the board. Re-elected incumbents are Sandra Bernhard, Kathy Goforth and Bill Korbholz. Continuing board members in the midst of three-year terms include Laurie Alexander, Peter Ingram, Kathy Korbholz, Linda Leong, Angela Mallett, Barrie Moore, and Todd Reimche.

Howie Smith is departing the board after six years of steadfast service. We will miss Howie's keen sense of humor, his observations, and his can-do willingness to help others with the many projects and tasks that the board is constantly engaged in. Howie intends to continue his volunteer work in the Education Center garden and in Project 467 activities. Our sincere thank you to Howie for all he has done for Edgewood and the Friends.

With the board's affirmation, the 2020 officers are:  
Linda Leong, Secretary      Barrie Moore, Vice President  
Angela Mallett, Treasurer      Peter Ingram, President

## New Roles, New Look for EXPLORER

Thank you, Linda Leong, for serving as Editor of the Explorer newsletter since Sept. 2011. Linda continues to serve on the board and host at the Ed Center. We are glad you found Edgewood a "nearby hidden gem" in 2009! Michele W. Conway takes on the role of Editor with this issue of the Explorer. Michele has a masters degree in journalism and has worked in the publishing industry and as a freelance writer and editor for many years. Edgewood docent Jer Jager is a graphic designer by trade. He designed the new masthead. Over the next few issues, you will see more changes as the Explorer takes on a new look.

# What's That Berry?

by Bruce Homer-Smith

I love berry season! Berries create new shapes and colors, often as other parts of the plant are dying away. They catch my eye and invite me to look closer—which is almost always a good idea.

Let's start by putting berries in their place. Berries are a kind of fruit. Fruit always comes from a pollinated flower. Unless self-pollinated, that means each berry is genetically different from its neighbor and parent.

A variety of native trees and shrubs in habitats like Edgewood produce berries that contain important nutrients for wildlife. Berries form at different times of the year, and some berries persist into winter when other food sources become scarce. Local birds and wildlife have adapted to these seasonal variations. Many year-round birds switch to plant foods, including native berries, seeds, and nuts, as insect populations decline. Edgewood's berries also provide food for migrating birds.

Of Edgewood's 548 known plants, 36 produce a fruit we call berries. (I'm using "berry" in the everyday sense, since the botanical definition is not intuitive). How many Edgewood berries can you name? View the full list, with illustrations and ID tips, at [PlantID.net/?PlantList=Edgewood+Preserve&Search=Berry](http://PlantID.net/?PlantList=Edgewood+Preserve&Search=Berry) See more berries on p. 4. *Note:* Many berries that are food for wildlife are poisonous to people.

**About the Author:** Bruce Homer-Smith is the author of PlantID.net, a collaborative website that helps people identify wild plants in their area. Edgewood has recently adopted PlantID.net to illustrate and describe plants found at the preserve. You can find the full list of Edgewood plants at [Plantid.net/?PlantList=Edgewood+Preserve](http://Plantid.net/?PlantList=Edgewood+Preserve) Michele W. Conway contributed to this article.



## Fairy Bells (*Prosartes hookeri*)

Those beautiful fairy bell flowers hiding below the leaves turn into bright red berries in the fall. They are eaten by ground-feeding birds such as robins and towhees, as well as small mammals. *Photo by William Follette*



## California Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*)

A cluster of berries that is technically a fruit of the "blackberry-type," each tiny berry was separately pollinated and is thus a distinct genetic individual. Insects love these berries, which makes the berries a double treat for many birds and mammals. Squirrels, rabbits, deer, raccoons, gray fox, and coyotes also go for these juicy berries. *Photo by William Follette*



## Hillside Gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*)

All gooseberries have prickles on their stems, but this fruit adds spines to its defense. Nevertheless, robins, squirrels, mice, and raccoons eat these. *Photo © Neal Kramer*



## Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)

These small berries replace beautiful poison oak flowers. The berries start green and turn white. They are an important source of food for birds, including quail, bluebirds, jays, woodpeckers, wrentits, and titmice. *Photo by Kathy Korbholz*



## Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Found in wet places, this shrubby dogwood has tight clusters of white berries that are popular with birds. *Photo by Zoya Akulova-Barlow*

## Blue Elderberry (*S. nigra ssp. Caerulea*)

Notice the double umbel of hanging berries, covered in a pale wax. Many birds eat these berries, including western bluebird, house finch, eastern tanager, and black-headed grosbeak. *Photo © Keir Morse*



## Guided Hike Offers Rare Opportunity to Explore Edgewood at Night

Story and photos by Elaine Salinger

Saturday, Sept. 28, was a dry, moonless, and windy night when 15 of us started out on our night hike led by Paul Heiple. We brought our exploring-in-the-dark tools: UV flashlights and red flashlights (regular flashlights covered with red cellophane). More importantly, one of our amazing hikers brought my favorite cookies, Tate's Chocolate Chip!

I started the hike thinking that most nocturnal animals cannot see UV light so our flashlights would not disturb them. Wrong! Most of the nightlife ran and hid from our UV flashlights! As Paul explained, it is not the UV that startles, but the small amount of visible light output by the flashlight. UV light is totally invisible to us yet dangerous to our eyes. The visible light is added to the beam to warn us when it is on. You don't want a bunch of naturalists looking into the business end of a UV light wondering, "Is this on?"

I also started the hike believing that most nocturnal animals can't see red light, hence the reason we were asked to bring red flashlights. I learned that color vision is far more complicated. Some see red, some don't.

Hummingbirds are good at seeing red, and flowers pollinated by hummingbirds have evolved to be red. Red flowers are rare, and when you see them, you can bet on them being attractive to hummers. Insects cannot see red. As a result, flowers pollinated by insects are not red. Bees see UV light and blue and green, but they can also see reddish wavelengths, like yellow and orange.

If an animal evolved to be diurnal, and then became nocturnal, it might see UV light. For example, all birds were

diurnal, and the nocturnal birds can see UV light. Another fun fact: some types of spiders have red color vision if you shine the light directly into their eyes. Perhaps this is why the turret spiders disappeared after we shined our red flashlights at them for a few minutes.

Paul said to turn off the flashlights and listen. We heard two types of crickets chirping. Paul reminded us that you can use the frequency of cricket chirps to calculate the temperature. Find out how to do the calculation at [www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/cricket.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/cricket.html)

We discovered that most lichens fluoresce under a UV light, making them even more beautiful than during the day! We looked for scorpions along the Edgewood Trail, where they had been seen in the past. Three different species of scorpions can be seen in our area, but there were none found by our UV lights that night.

In the moonless clear sky, Paul pointed out the planets and stars, amazing us with his knowledge of the constellations.

Along the Serpentine Trail, we saw lots of turret spiders hiding in the openings of their burrows and lots of carpenter ants. The large, black ants are entirely nocturnal, and if you hike during the day, you would never see them. They are called carpenter ants because they live in wooded areas. Unlike termites, they don't actually eat wood; they just chew it up to carve out their homes. They leave little piles of sawdust near the openings of their homes.

We had a lovely hike, and I hope that this opportunity will be offered again, giving us a chance to see more nightlife at Edgewood.



**Berries**, from p. 3

### **Madrone** (*Arbutus menziesii*)

These prolific berries start orange and turn red. They make quite a show in November and December. Band-tailed pigeons flock together into large groups for winter, and rely heavily on madrone berries. Woodpeckers, house wrens, bluebirds, and raccoons also love these berries. *Photo by Doreen Smith*



### **Brittle Leaf Manzanita**

(*Arctostaphylos crustacea*)

These berries appear as early as March, after an early bloom. They are a flattened sphere, slightly hairy, and not

sticky. Coyotes, foxes, and many types of birds eat them. Deer avoid them. *Photo © Jeff Bisbee*

# Become an Edgewood Docent!



- Are you inspired by the beauty of Edgewood?
- Are you curious about the plants, animals, soils, and climate that make Edgewood uniquely diverse?
- Would you like to help others better understand, respect, and support not only Edgewood but our entire natural world?

**If your answers are “yes!” we welcome your interest in becoming an Edgewood Wildflower Docent**

**What we do:** Edgewood Docents lead interpretive nature walks throughout the year, but especially during the spring wildflower season. No previous training is required. Experienced docents are expected to lead at least three hikes each year.

**Training Schedule:** Docent training is offered each year, from January through April. Eight Wednesday evening classes are paired with Saturday morning hikes. See the 2020 schedule at [www.FriendsofEdgewood.org/become-a-docent](http://www.FriendsofEdgewood.org/become-a-docent).



**What's covered:** You'll learn about Edgewood's geology, plants, and wildlife, along with its history, preservation, and restoration. Along the way, you'll develop the interpretive skills to make a great walk experience.

**Cost:** A \$40 course fee is payable at the first class.

**Contact:** For more information or to register, contact Sandy Bernhard, Docent Training Coordinator, at [docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org)

**Registration closes January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Training begins January 8<sup>th</sup>.**



Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve is a San Mateo County Park. Wildflower Walks are organized by volunteers of Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization. Discover more at [FriendsofEdgewood.org](http://FriendsofEdgewood.org) or call 1-866-GO-EDGEWOOD.



# PG&E Wraps Up at Edgewood, Impacts Continue

by Bill Korbholz

## Community Pipeline Safety Initiative— Vegetation Removal

In November, PG&E completed removal of vegetation along the traces of their two gas pipelines as part of their region-wide pipeline safety initiative. Now PG&E plans to install split-rail fencing at the intersections of the cuts with the Sunset and Franciscan Trails to prevent visitors from mistaking the cuts for new trails.

## Electrical Transmission Lines Fuel Break

CalFire and PG&E are collaborating to create a shaded fuel break along the southeastern boundary of the park under the electrical transmission lines and around the towers and substations. They will do mechanical thinning within 100 feet from the substations and clear all vegetation within 30 feet of the lines. Planning for this work began in spring 2019 and the work will continue through the end of 2019.

## Electrical Tower Maintenance

Periodically, PG&E drives equipment into the Bay checker-spot butterfly area to monitor and maintain their towers.

## T-1101 Hydrotest Restoration

PG&E completed a pressure test of their Line 109 gas pipeline in October 2015. In order to conduct the test, they dug two 6'x6' "sniff holes" (locations B and C on the map below) and one much larger "bell" hole (location B).

PG&E submitted a 5-year restoration and monitoring plan in December 2015 calling for site monitoring and restoration efforts, and filing of an annual report. We have received the first three annual reports; the year 4 report is due in December 2019.

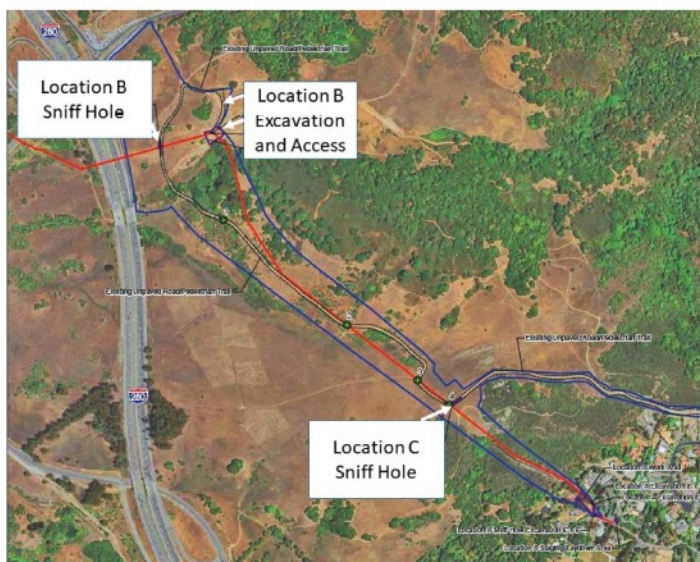
The restoration plan calls for year-over-year reductions in percent cover of weed species, ultimately achieving by year 5 no greater weed cover than in the reference sites. As of the

year 3 report, all three sites have failed to meet restoration requirements. We anxiously await the year 4 report. If, by the end of year 5, the restoration has failed to achieve its objectives, then US Fish and Wildlife Service will require further mitigation measures of PG&E.

## Gas Pipeline Visual Inspection Restoration

In September 2018, PG&E dug two 6'x6' holes near the Sunset Trail in order to visually inspect the Line 132 gas pipeline that runs underground there. They had previously performed inline inspections of the line, part of their regional inspections, and found evidence for concern.

The digs resulted in considerable habitat disturbance since equipment had to access the dig sites from the Sunset Trail, and from the staging of equipment and piling of dirt near the holes. In all, each of the dig sites disturbed around 4,000 sq. ft. As compensation, PG&E offered to fund the development of a 3-year restoration and monitoring plan, which Creekside Science completed in December 2018.



In September 2019, Creekside published their year 1 monitoring report. At Site 67, the southeasterly site which is within the high-quality Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat, increases were noted in tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), purple falsebrome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), and other non-native grasses. This is unsettling because of the high value of this habitat. There was also an increase in bare ground, as plants have not completely recolonized. At the other location, Site 68, there was also an increase in non-native cover, but this is less alarming because the native shrubs are expected to outcompete these weeds over time. Creekside has recommended asking the Weed Warriors to hand-pull tocalote and monitor weeds at Site 67, and to ask the Parks Dept. to string-cut the non-native grasses there next spring.

Learn more about the PG&E work at [friendsofedgewood.org/pg-e-safety-and-restoration-work](http://friendsofedgewood.org/pg-e-safety-and-restoration-work)

# Nest Box Monitors Report “Messy” Season, Good Tweets

by Frances Morse and Whitney Mortimer

The 2019 nest box monitoring season was a season of messy weather (both too cold and too hot) and messy data (bluebirds building nests on top of tree swallow nests and vice versa)! Along with our other nest box team members Carolyn Chaney, Perry McCarty, and Susan Steade, we checked our 27 boxes weekly from early March to early July and counted nests, eggs, hatchlings, and fledglings. Nest box monitoring is not an exact science, but here are our findings.



## 2019 Nest Box Summary (27 Boxes)

Bird	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledged/Eggs
WEBL	12	44	38 (86%)	29 (66%)
TRSW	7	42	35 (83%)	18 (43%)
ATFL	2	9	4 (44%)	4 (44%)
CBCH	1	3	1 (33%)	1 (33%)
Total	22	98	78 (80%)	52 (53%)



Newly hatched western bluebird. Photo © Perry McCarty

We had four species of cavity-nesting birds in our boxes: western bluebirds (WEBL), tree swallows (TRSW), ash-throated flycatchers (ATFL), and chestnut-backed chickadees (CBCH). The season started out well with an 80% hatch rate. But we had a week of unusually cold, rainy weather around May 24 when several nests had

hatchlings barely a week old, and 15 babies died. Similarly, a week of very hot weather in late June took its toll on a nest of baby tree swallows and a mother tree swallow that we found dead still sitting on her eggs. Thus, only 52 of our hatchlings fledged, giving us a 53% fledging rate.

Comparing 2019 results with other years, we can see that this year’s nests, eggs and hatch rate were indeed strong,

## Seven-Year Results: All Species

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Nests	22	17	22	17	24	19	21
Eggs	98	77	81	81	106	93	95
Hatchlings	78 (80%)	67 (87%)	67 (83%)	59 (72%)	80 (75%)	77 (83%)	77 (81%)
Fledglings	52 (53%)	66 (86%)	37 (46%)	53 (65%)	70 (66%)	61 (66%)	63 (66%)

## Seven-Year Results: Bluebirds

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Nests	12	9	11	9	17	15	17
Eggs	44	43	41	40	74	74	79
Hatchlings	38 (86%)	42 (98%)	28 (68%)	34 (85%)	59 (80%)	63 (85%)	64 (81%)
Fledglings	29 (66%)	41 (95%)	16 (39%)	28 (70%)	54 (73%)	52 (70%)	50 (63%)

Tree swallow nest. Photo © Whitney Mortimer. Newly hatched tree swallows, 1-2 days old. Photo © Perry McCarty

but this year’s fledging rate of 53% is the lowest since 2013, except for 2017 (a bad drought year).

Since bluebirds were the focus of Edgewood’s initial nest box monitoring efforts, we track them separately over time. This year’s 29 bluebird fledglings were on the low end of our seven-year range, and likewise, this year’s 66% fledging rate was low, especially compared to last year’s high of 95%.

Our results over the last seven years match national trends. Recent studies by Scientific American, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts show declines in our North American bird populations.

As we usually do, we reported our results to the California Bluebird Recovery Program ([www.cbrp.org](http://www.cbrp.org)) which has monitored the bluebird population statewide since 1996. Their report will be available this winter.

In spite of somewhat disappointing results, we did launch 52 new beautiful, twittering birds into Edgewood Park. With the help of the habitat restoration and weeding efforts of San Mateo County Parks and Friends of Edgewood, our nest box team is sending good tweets into our world. Enjoy!

Want to help with nest box monitoring? If you join us in this fun and rewarding citizen science endeavor (no experience needed), we’ll show you the lovely patch of Purple Mouse Ears we found near one of our off-trail boxes! Contact [get-involved@friends](mailto:get-involved@friends)

[ofedgewood.org](http://ofedgewood.org). Photo © Frances Morse



# 'Tis the Season of Giving!

## FIELD GUIDES, T-SHIRTS & MORE



### Stemless Glass \$5

12 oz stemless glass displays white Friends of Edgewood logo. Perfect for picnicking in the park. 4" high x 3.5" diameter. Purchase in Education Center only; shipping not available.

### Edgewood Postcard \$1

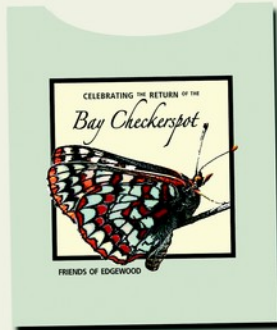
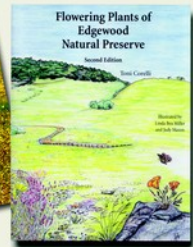
5"x7" postcard features one of four Edgewood scenes by Trevlyn Williams.

### Wildflower Guide \$1

Color brochure with photos and descriptions of 20 of the preserve's common native wildflowers. A must-have for springtime visitors.

### 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 keys, descriptions and drawings of 481 vascular plants found at Edgewood. 2004. Paperback.



### Checkerspot T-shirt \$20

Commemorating the reintroduction of the Bay checkerspot butterfly to Edgewood. 100% cotton. Available in Adult S, M, L, XL.

### I'm a Friend T-shirt \$15 or \$20

Our t-shirt design is perfect for all friends of Edgewood. Available in burnt orange and dusty blue. Adult sizes S M L XL XXL \$20. Youth sizes XS S M L XL \$15. 100% cotton.



### Friends Logo Baseball Cap \$10

Unisex cap adorned with the Friends of Edgewood logo. Available in black.



### Frisky Finds a Home \$15

An engaging story about a little gray squirrel born in a treetop nest in a woodland habitat. This story is a fun way to explore interrelationships between plants and animals, and the need for all living things to have an appropriate habitat. By Friend of Edgewood Carol Hankermeyer. Paperback.

### Thermal-lined Grocery Bag \$7

13"x15" thermal-lined grocery bag zips closed on top. Purchase in Education Center only; shipping not available.



Cash, check or credit card.  
Make checks out to: **Friends of Edgewood.**  
California sales tax included in prices.



# New Microscope Is Popular Attraction in Ed Center

by Laurie Alexander

Visitors and docents are enjoying seeing nature in a new way with a Leica EZ4 microscope in the Ed Center. Docent Training Coordinator Sandy Bernhard and her husband, Frank Peale, both Friends of Edgewood, donated it to the Friends of Edgewood.

The microscope proved robust and easy to use for even young visitors. On the first day the microscope was out, Sandy said, “The microscope continued to be a big hit with children throughout the afternoon. It was impressive to me how much time some kids spent with it.”

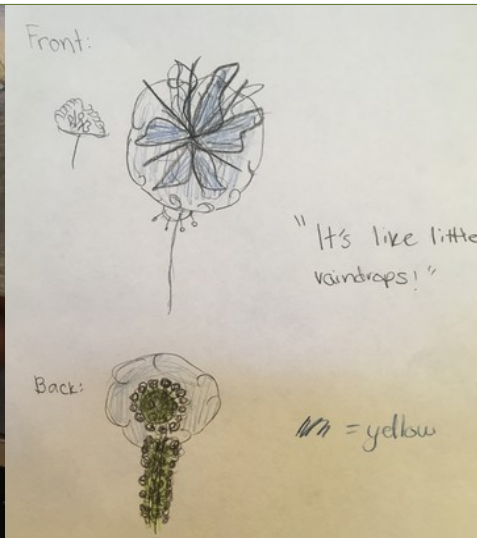
Now the microscope is available for visitors whenever the center is open.

We’ve added paper, colored pencils, and an array of objects to look at so visitors can improve their observational skills by sketching what they see. This helps fulfill the FoE (and the Ed Center’s) mission by helping visitors build the skills and wonder to become future stewards of Edgewood and natural places.

The microscope also will be useful in docent training and volunteer enrichment classes.



Upper right, *Madia elegans* viewed through microscope in the Ed Center. Below, child’s drawing of *Madia* close-up. Photos © Laurie Alexander



**Remembering** In 2019, we lost three important members of our Edgewood family. We will remember them and their many contributions to Edgewood. They are forever a permanent part of Edgewood’s Genus Loci—The Spirit of the Place.



**Nita Spangler** (1923–2019) left a significant legacy as a San Mateo County journalist, volunteer,

activist, historic preservationist, and conservationist. She championed Sweeney Ridge, Sanchez Adobe, Tripp Store, and other local historic sites. She chaired the County Scenic Roads Committee (1967–1976) and served on the County Parks and Recreation Commission (1983–1997). Nita campaigned to save Bair Island in Redwood City (1982) and to establish Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve (1980’s–1993). Photo © Kathy Korbholz



**Anne McLeod Koletzke** (1944–2019) was a former Friend and Edgewood Explorer editor. We remember Anne fondly when we

recall her Meadow Mouse series in 2008–2009, which added a witty dimension to the Explorer that was uniquely Anne. Anne was a docent and administrative assistant for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (1997–2008). After retiring, she volunteered at GEVA, a horse rescue farm in Glen Ellen. She and her husband, Peter, moved to Petaluma in 2015 so she could be closer to the horse farm. Photographer unknown



**John Allen** (1931–2019) John was awarded a Certificate of Lifetime Membership in Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve in gratitude

for his dedication and enduring commitment over 30 years. John’s leadership, care, and sharing of time and talents to protect, restore and educate about Edgewood exemplify FoE’s mission and inspire us all to protect and celebrate Edgewood as a unique treasure through exemplary stewardship and education. We will miss seeing John in his happy place—on the trails in Edgewood Preserve. Photo © Kathy Korbholz

# Annual Meeting Recap

by Bill Korbholz

“Seeds of Change” was the theme of our annual meeting and President Peter Ingram wove that theme throughout the program. More than 60 friends gathered at Edgewood on Oct. 6, a perfect day for a picnic. The festivities began around noon, as folks enjoyed the sandwich and salad fixings, again generously donated by Arguello Catering.

After lunch, Peter welcomed everyone, including special guests Nicholas Calderon (now Parks Director), Hannah Ormslow (Parks Natural Resources Manager), Park Rangers Rogelio Castaneda and Joel Brownlee-Cervantes, Parks Foundation Director Michele Beasley, and Stuart Weiss from Creekside Science.

This year’s meeting was dedicated to the memories of Nita Spangler, Anne Koletzke, and John Allen, who passed away this year. These outstanding individuals elegantly modeled stewardship and gave their passions and time to Edgewood and the greater environment. (See Remembering, p. 9)

To emphasize the meeting’s theme, we played a matching game produced by Sandy Bernhard and her husband Frank Peale, appropriately named What’s That Seed? They had collected 12 seeds and fruits of various plants from our area. Folks were asked to match each item to 12 named plant species. As a testament to the level of botanical expertise among the group, several people got all 12 right. Peter talked about the 26 (that’s right, 26) programs and projects that comprise FoE’s activities. None of these would be possible without the time and effort of our volunteer leaders and coordinators (listed here alphabetically):

Admin, Advocacy & Governance: Board of Directors

Bloomin’ Board: Deanna Schiel

Bloomin’ Hikes: Mary and Dennis Wilson

Bluebird Box Monitoring: Frances Morse



FoE Board President Peter Ingram (center) congratulates Diana Quon and Dave Hershey, FoE Best Friend(s) of the Year 2019. Photo © Kathy Korbholz

Checkerspotter (Creekside Science)

Camera Trapping: Mickey Salgo

Docent Training: Sandy Bernhard

Education Center Hosts: Laurie Alexander

Junior Explorers: Laurie Alexander

Marketing Coordinator: Barrie Moore

Membership & Fulfillment + PO Box Monitor: Bill Korbholz

Native Garden: Howie Smith

Newsletter Editor: Linda Leong and Michele W. Conway

Phenology Database: Anita Stewart

Project 467: Peter Ingram

Road Warriors (Adopt-a-Highway): Dave Hershey

Seed Collection: Perry McCarty

SOD Blitz: Bill Korbholz

Trail Patrol: Mickey Salgo

Volunteer Database Guru: Robert Mougeot

Volunteer Enrichment: Sandy Bernhard

Volunteer Recognition: Kathy Korbholz

Web Master: Pam Gage

Weed Warriors: Paul Heiple

Wildflower Docents Coordinators: Todd Reimche and Nancy Enzminger

Weed Management Area Liaison: Bill Korbholz

The Best Friend of Edgewood 2019 award was given to Dave Hershey and Diana Quon for their consistent and remarkably dependable service in many FoE volunteer activities and projects for nearly 12 years. They are Weed Warriors, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, and wildflower walk docents. Many thanks and congratulations to them.

To wrap things up, Peter called the General Meeting officially to order and conducted elections for Directors for the 2020–2022 term. We welcomed Lara Fox and Perry McCarty as new board members, and re-elected incumbents Sandy Bernhard, Kathy Goforth, and Bill Korbholz. (Related story, p. 2)

What’s That Seed? Photo © Kathy Korbholz

## Volunteer Opportunities

Contact [get-involved@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:get-involved@friendsofedgewood.org)

We need more **Education Center Hosts**. All you need is enthusiasm for nature and a friendly attitude. Come try it out! Join a host for a shift and see what they do. Shadow other hosts until you feel comfortable on your own. 3.5 hour shifts Saturdays, Sundays or Wednesday mornings once a month, once a week or whatever works for you.

We are looking for new **Nest Box Monitors**. Get up close and personal with baby birds. Read more on p. 7.

Join the **Volunteer Trail Patrol** at Edgewood, which provides assistance and information to park visitors and on-site reporting of trail conditions to park management.

Become an **Edgewood Camera Trapper**. We document wildlife activity in the park under a Scientific Research Permit issued by the County Parks Dept. to provide wildlife photos and data from Edgewood for resource management planning, public education and outreach.

### **Habitat Happenings, P467** from p. 1

additional inputs. Pausing on translocations may increase the likelihood of local adaptation, with the smaller habitat selecting for more sedentary butterflies.

### **Thornmint and Pentachaeta Preservation**

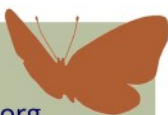
While BCB restoration is struggling, the work Creekside Science has done in preserving the San Mateo thornmint (*Acanthomintha duttonii*) is astounding. This small mint family member was growing naturally in only one location in the world in the early 2000's, and that was at Edgewood. The population was steadily declining and by 2008, less than 250 individual plants were found. In the world!

Creekside began collecting seeds, amplifying them, and reseeding the site, with some success. By 2011, nearly 3,500 plants were counted. Creekside surveyed Edgewood for additional suitable locations to establish thornmint colonies. They selected four sites and began seeding them in 2015. By June 2019, more than 25,000 thornmint plants had been counted at six sites.

We're hoping for similarly great results in restoring the white-rayed pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta bellidiflora*). This endangered plant occurs only on the "triangle" adjacent to Edgewood, and in tiny plots at Edgewood.

### **Weed Warriors**

The Weed Warriors are the foundation that underlies all habitat work we do at Edgewood. This amazing group of dedicated volunteers are steadfast and relentless in their mission to rid Edgewood of weeds. Their work continues weekly (twice weekly during the summer) throughout the year. How successful have they been? Challenges like yellow star-thistle remain, but I dare you to find a teasel or bristly ox-tongue plant anywhere in the park.



## Become a Friend of Edgewood!

JOIN or RENEW your membership ONLINE or by MAIL:

**ONLINE:** [friendsofedgewood.org/donate](http://friendsofedgewood.org/donate)

**BY MAIL:** Send this completed form with your donation amount circled to Friends of Edgewood, P.O. Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422.

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Please make me a Sustaining Member and charge my credit card \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month. (\$5 minimum)

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\*Donors of \$50 or more receive 6 Edgewood greeting cards. Donors of \$100 or more receive a year of *Bay Nature* magazine. Or choose  No thank-you gifts.

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Thank you for supporting the Friends of Edgewood.

We couldn't do what we do without friends like you!

Friends of Edgewood is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

## Switch to a Sustaining Membership

### Easier for you. Better for Edgewood.

Friends! A sustaining membership lets you make a monthly donation via your credit card and have a huge impact on programs like Project 467, Junior Explorers, and more. Can you spare just \$5 or more per month to support Friends of Edgewood and the park we love?

To switch to a sustaining membership, go to [friendsofedgewood.org/donate](http://friendsofedgewood.org/donate) and follow the directions to Become a Sustaining Member, or email us at [mem@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:mem@friendsofedgewood.org), and we will help you get set up.



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# Friends of Edgewood

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

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## Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

Winter Hours (Subject to volunteer staffing)

Saturdays 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

and by appointment



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## Upcoming Events

Jan. 8 New Docent class begins. See page 5 for information.

### Hikes

Meet at the Ed Center at 10 a.m.

Dec. 21 Winter Solstice—Let’s celebrate what’s blooming on the first day of Winter –Roger Humphrey

Jan. 1 New Year’s Day BONUS: Start the New Year Off on the Right Foot –Todd Reimche

Jan. 18 What About All That Moss? –Rebecca Reynolds

Feb. 15 Preview of Coming Attractions –Kathy Goforth

### Road Warriors (Adopt-a-Highway)

Dec. 7, Jan. 5, Feb. 1

8:30–11:00 a.m. (Meet at Park and Ride)

### Weed Warriors

Every Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Details at [friendsofedgewood.org/calendar](http://friendsofedgewood.org/calendar)

The Edgewood EXPLORER is published quarterly by Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring Edgewood and educating the public about its treasures. The newsletter is supported by contributions from many Friends. To learn more about Friends of Edgewood, visit our website at [friendsofedgewood.org](http://friendsofedgewood.org), call or fax us toll-free at (1-866) GO-EDGEWOOD, or email us at [info@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgewood.org).