

Edgewood

EXPLORER

FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD • SPRING 2023

TERTELS Team Observes and Maps Rare Plant Populations

by James Higbie

Edgewood's extraordinary diversity of plants is well known, but much detailed knowledge about the preserve's populations of special plants has resided only in the heads of a small number of devoted friends and volunteers. Producing digital maps of Edgewood's plants would allow us to combine scattered plant data into a centralized resource, monitor populations' expansion or decline in a changing climate, make it easy to show Parks Department staff where to tread lightly, and support conservation efforts for targeted plants.

Inspired by this vision to produce digital maps of Edgewood's plants, a small group of Friends of Edgewood volunteers banded together in mid-2022 to form TERTELS (The Edgewood Rare/Threatened/Endangered and Locally Significant) plant team.

Despite its recent formation, the team has already engaged in several notable efforts. In May 2022, we saved a number of geophytes (plants with underground storage organs, such as bulbs) that were slated for destruction in the course of widening the Sylvan trail. We subsequently planted the rescued plants in Edgewood Farms.

We identified a list of 88 plants deemed "locally significant" by virtue of their local rarity and/or interpretive value, which supplement the 12 species in the preserve officially designated by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare, threatened, or endangered.

We have engaged in four multi-hour interviews with Paul Heiple and Ken Himes, recording in digital form a portion of their extraordinary encyclopedic knowledge of Edgewood plants—an invaluable springboard for subsequent mapping efforts.

Shortly after the Solstice fire, the team produced maps of the large *Dirca* colony near the southern boundary of the preserve. This map of intact, burned, and bulldozed regions should be valuable as we watch the colony respond and (we hope!) recover from these shocks.



Dirca occidentalis, a rare plant endemic (limited) to California, occurs in Edgewood Natural Preserve.

Photo by James Higbie

As spring 2023 progresses, team members will be rolling up our sleeves (except when passing through thickets of poison oak) to create plant population maps based on field observations. Because of the sensitive nature and off-trail locations of many of these plants, the maps will be for internal rather than public use.

With a little luck and hard work, the aggregated knowledge contained in these maps should lead to better-informed conservation, helping keep Edgewood beautiful, blooming, and diverse for years to come.

Friends wishing to learn more about TERTELS are welcome to contact tertels-coord@friendsofedgewood.org.



Spring Wildflower Hikes
and Kid-Friendly Hikes
March, April, May
Details on page 3



President's Message

by Peter Ingram

This year, Friends of Edgewood (FoE) is celebrating 30 years of dedication to Edgewood Park and Natural

Preserve. We want to celebrate in a way that captures the spirit of the Friends of Edgewood and our determination to protect Edgewood's extraordinary biodiversity, and foster lasting connections with Edgewood and the larger natural world.

We are so proud of our 30-year legacy as an all-volunteer organization. We are looking toward the vision of Edgewood being a resilient place of extraordinary biodiversity that is appreciated and **protected** forever.

Since our founding in 1993, Friends of Edgewood has made habitat restoration a priority, along with **protecting** and **preserving** the only natural preserve in the County's park system:

- In April 1996, the California Secretary of State granted approval for FoE's Articles of Incorporation. Included in the articles is this statement: "The specific purpose of this corporation is to work towards **preserving** Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve in San Mateo County, California, and **protecting** its natural features, particularly rare, endangered, and/or threatened plant and animal species"
- In spring 1997, the FoE board adopted the first set of bylaws. The current edition of our bylaws says:
"The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be:
(a) **Protecting** and celebrating Edgewood as a unique treasure by promoting exemplary stewardship, and by reaching out with informative public programs;

- (b) **Restoring** and **preserving** Edgewood's ecosystem as an exceptional habitat for native plants and animals"
- In 2018 (our 25th anniversary), Project 467 was launched as the over-arching habitat management program, which includes the Green Grass initiative focused on **restoring** Edgewood's non-native grasslands to their former floral beauty and species diversity.

Are you noticing a 30-year theme?

As part of this milestone year, the board has been talking about climate change, resilience, citizen science, and habitat restoration. Underpinning our anniversary – and honoring the dedication and hard work of the past 30 years – are these strategic priorities:

- Improve our partnership with San Mateo County Parks. Edgewood now welcomes 150,000 visitors each year. As the Parks Department director has said, "Now more than ever, we need each other to be successful." We say, "Yes! And we can do even better together."
- Build organizational resilience. With over 300 members and 150 volunteers, FoE must ensure that we can deliver another 30 years – or 60, or 90!
- Learn. FoE has been a learning organization from the beginning. As we encounter the effects of climate change on the preserve and see other groups working to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion, we have much more to discover and apply to our work.
- Network. Engaging more members of our community to learn about and enjoy Edgewood is vital for all of our priorities to be realized.
- Celebrate. 30 years! We want to grow support for Edgewood in 2023. If you have not yet become a member, we hope you will consider joining Friends of Edgewood. A donation in any amount says, "Yes, I want to help protect Edgewood, too!" Stay tuned for more information about upcoming anniversary events throughout the year.



Welcome new board members: Junko Bryant, Rebecca Reynolds, Matthew Tobin, Michele Conway, Caroline Bowker

Edgewood's Two "May Flowers"

by Bruce Homer-Smith

Growing up on the East Coast, I was thrilled when I found Solomon's seal with its generous parallel-veined, alternating leaves, and delicate flowers. Edgewood has two Solomon species of its own, technically "false" because they belong to a different genus but with similar leaves and delicate, though different, flowers.

Our Solomon's seals are in the genus *Maianthemum*. *Mai* is Greek for May and *anthemum* is Greek for flower. Their common names are fat false Solomon's seal and slim false Solomon's seal. Sure enough, the fat one's leaves are about three inches wide, while the slim one's leaves are more like two inches wide. They're both fairly common along the hilly, shaded slopes of the lower Sylvan trail. I'll review the differences here and then perhaps you can find both kinds on your hikes.



Fat false Solomon's seal (*M. racemosum*)

Photo © Wilde Legard [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)

The flowers of fat false Solomon's seal offer a delicate sweet musky scent. They grow in a tight cluster at the end of the stem in a double-branched system called a panicle.

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**FRIENDS OF
EDGEWOOD
SPRING
WILDFLOWER
& KID-FRIENDLY
HIKES
FRI, SAT, & SUN
MAR-APR-MAY**



FREE DOCENT HIKES START MARCH 3RD
AT EDGEWOOD PARK & NATURAL PRESERVE
MORE INFO AND SIGN UP AT
FRIENDSOFEDGEWOOD.EVENTBRITE.COM



“May Flowers” from page 3



Fat false Solomon's seal (*M. racemosum*)
Photo © Keir Morse [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)

Fat false Solomon's seal flowers feature six fat stamens and a style that make a spiky, semi-spherical shape that reminds me of popcorn. There are typically dozens of flowers in a cluster.

Later in the year, the flowers turn to beautiful green and red berries, closely bunched in their panicle.



Fat false Solomon's seal (*M. racemosum*)
Photo © Bruce Homer-Smith [CC BY-NC 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)

Slim false Solomon's seal, on the other hand, with its narrower leaves, has a more delicate flower arrangement – this time a single-branched raceme. Flower stalks are longer than the width of the flowers, presenting a widely distributed constellation of star-like blooms, leading to its species name of *stellatum*. Flowers are fewer and more delicate than the popcorn-like flowers of fat false Solomon's seal.

Here's a bug's-eye view of the *stellatum* flowers, showing the tiny parts. These flowers have been pollinated and are already starting to grow fruits at their base. They'll soon drop their flower parts and turn into berries.

Mottled green and red berries turn a deep red as they mature.

Many animals benefit from our “May flowers.” Bees pollinate the plant when they come to collect pollen and nectar. Flies and beetles come to eat pollen and end up spreading it around as well. Birds and other animals eat the berries, distributing the seeds.

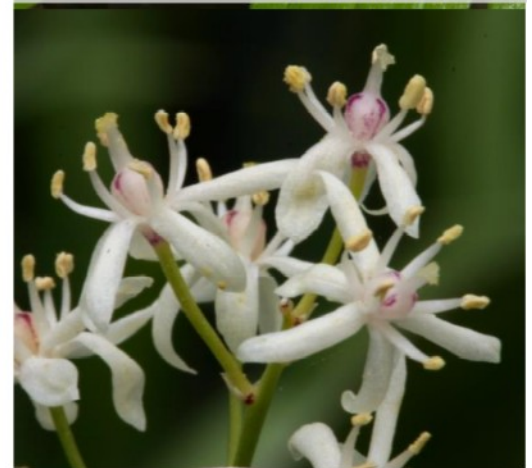
Deer enjoy the leaves. And we humans delight in the elegant beauty of our two versions of Solomon's seal.

You can read more about Edgewood's Solomon's seals in the Friends of Edgewood Field Guide: friendsofthewood.org/field-guide (Plants/Wildflowers/Fat False Solomon's seal or Slim False Solomon's seal.)

In addition, see two PlantID.net photo essays at <https://PlantID.net/?TaxonRpt=Maianthemum+racemosum> and <https://PlantID.net/?TaxonRpt=Maianthemum+stellatum>. ❖



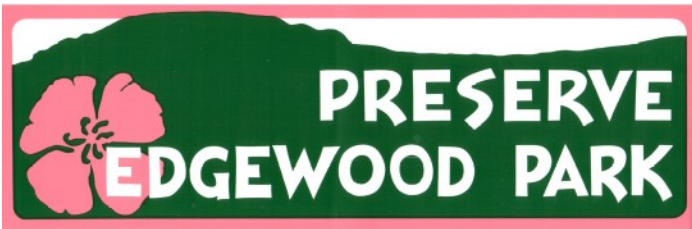
Slim false Solomon's seal (*M. stellatum*)
Photo © Wilde Legard [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)



Slim false Solomon's seal (*M. stellatum*)
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Slim false Solomon's seal (*M. stellatum*)
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by Kathy Korbholz

In July of 1993, after a 17-year fight to save Edgewood from becoming a golf course, the county Board of Supervisors voted to make it a Natural Preserve in perpetuity. The Save Edgewood Park coalition celebrated mission accomplished! Core members of that effective coalition continued their devotion to Edgewood and formed the Friends of Edgewood.

Since its first meeting 30 years ago, Friends of Edgewood (FoE) has remained a powerful voice and contributed many volunteer hours to preserving Edgewood for future human, plant, and animal generations. In 2023, we are still an all-volunteer organization, providing well over 13,000 hours of service per year. A past board member said it is the “best little volunteer group on the peninsula.”

How do volunteers care for the Preserve?

Probably the most direct care is the weeding program. Begun in 1989, our weeding program continues to this day with over 55 active volunteers. Despite some lingering Covid concerns, in 2022, our Weed Warriors volunteered over 2200 hours.

The largest public-facing program is our popular spring wildflower hikes. In pre-Covid years, about 1000 visitors were guided through Edgewood’s distinct habitats. On a typical hike, 50-100 plants are identified and their interesting stories shared.

Before Covid, volunteers contributed more than 900 hours as hosts in the Education Center, helping nearly 10,000 annual visitors more fully appreciate the preserve. Our visitation numbers are climbing again after reopening the center in the spring of 2022.

The grid lists 40 different activities all coordinated and

staffed by our many volunteers. There are behind-the-scenes infrastructure activities and many field opportunities – something for everyone.

Why do volunteers work so hard?

- ☘ In some cases, the friends are trying to defy extinction. Populations of several species — Bay checkerspot butterfly, San Mateo thornmint, and the white-rayed pentacheata — are teetering on the brink. Rather than allowing them to go extinct, we are trying to make habitat available for them to thrive.
- ☘ Volunteers can appreciate the difference their efforts make. After our work to reclaim serpentine grasslands, the spring wildflowers are our stunning reward!
- ☘ Docents and hosts love to share Edgewood with visitors, especially younger visitors who may be the next generation of stewards.
- ☘ Our volunteers are passionate about Edgewood and want to support the park they love.

As you enjoy Edgewood’s beautiful landscapes, flora, and wildlife during the next 30 years, thank our volunteers and remember it could have been a golf course. Whew!

Read about the Save Edgewood Park coalition’s political fight in the March, June, and September 2018 issues of Edgewood Explorer. (friendsofedgeswood.org/newsletters Scroll to Newsletter Archive.)

Friends of Edgewood Activities				
<i>(Infrastructure activities are listed in italics)</i>				
<i>Admin, Advocacy, Governance</i>	BCB Phenology	Bloomin’ Board	Blue Bird Monitoring	Camera Trapping
Checker-spotting	Docent Training	Edgewood Farms	Education Center	<i>Field Guides</i>
Green Grass	<i>Information Technology & DonorPerfect</i>	Junior Explorers	<i>Mailbox Services</i>	<i>Marketing</i>
<i>Membership</i>	Native Garden	Newsletter	<i>Nomenclature</i>	<i>Online Sales</i>
Pentachaeta	Project 467	Road Warriors	Showcase Sites	<i>PG&E</i>
<i>Plant ID.net</i>	Social Trails	SOD Blitz	TERTELS	Thornmint
<i>Time Management</i>	Trail Ambassadors	Trail Tales	Volunteer Enrichment	Volunteer Recognition
<i>Website Management</i>	<i>Weed Management Area Liaison</i>	Weed Warriors	Wildflower Docents	Wildflower Surveys

Treasurer's Report for 2022

by Angela Mallett

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization with the mission to protect Edgewood's extraordinary biodiversity, and foster lasting connections with Edgewood and the larger natural world. Our volunteers participate in 27 programs which we group into three broad categories: land and wildlife stewardship, nature education, and interpretive programs. Additionally, there are 13 ongoing activities related to governance and organizational infrastructure.

Land and Wildlife Stewardship

We work to protect and restore the animal and plant habitat of Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve, engaging volunteers and professional habitat restoration ecologists. Activities include habitat restoration, seed amplification, showcase sites, social trails repair, weeding of non-native plants, bluebird box monitoring, camera trapping, adopt-a-highway volunteers, plant mapping volunteers, and county weed management area liaison.

Nature Education

We provide volunteers to staff the Education Center at Edgewood, and to update and maintain the office and exhibits. We provide a quarterly newsletter for all members. Additional activities include a native garden, wildflower surveys, a display of plants in flower, and an online field guide of plants and animals found in Edgewood.

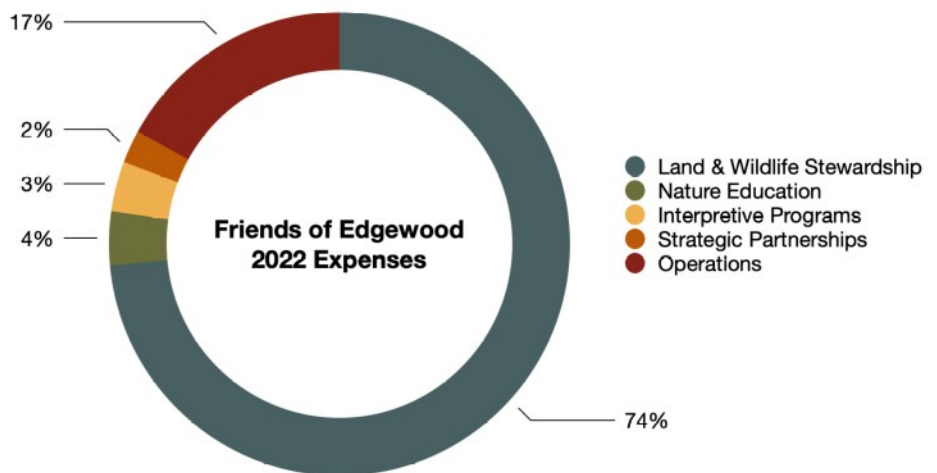
Interpretive Programs

We conduct free, docent-led hikes for the public in Edgewood, training new docents each year. Additional activities include volunteer enrichment, trail ambassadors, and trail signage.

Our largest expenditure in 2022 was land and wildlife stewardship (Project 467), including the Green Grass initiative, Edgewood Farms for seed propagation, and San Mateo thornmint restoration. We purchased new safety vests for volunteers, which were distributed at the in-person general meeting in October. Based on the previous success of Edgewood Farms, we more than doubled its size in 2022 in partnership with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, San Mateo County Parks, and a generous gift from one of our members. Many hardworking volunteers provided skills and labor to complete the project.

2022 was a great year for revenue, allowing us to spend more on land and wildlife stewardship without running a deficit. Membership dues and other gifts amounted to 84% of (non-investment) revenue. We also received some generous grants, primarily for habitat restoration, as well as for Edgewood Farms, and for Explorer newsletter expenses. Our Adopt-A-Highway group qualified for a stipend from California Department of Transportation.

In 2022, the majority of our expense budget, 74%, was used for land and wildlife stewardship. Our nature education programs, including running the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center and printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter, accounted for 4%. Another 3% went to our interpretive programs, which included free docent-led hikes. We also granted 2% to our nonprofit partners, who are key to our strategic goals. The remaining expenses were related to incoming donations, insurance, other general operating expenses, and a new supply of our popular Friends of Edgewood jackets.



As a mature, all-volunteer nonprofit, the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve endeavors to use our financial resources wisely, to spend our yearly funding within our means, and to invest for the longer term to support the continuation and growth of our programs. Our 2022 Annual Report can be found on our website at friendsofedgeswood.org/annual-report.

Thank you to our volunteers, members, donors, and friends for your generous support. We appreciate your contributions of money and time to ensure that Edgewood is a resilient place of extraordinary biodiversity that will be appreciated and protected forever.

Severe storms caused Edgewood to be closed Dec. 31.



Many thanks to County Parks personnel for timely cleanup and repairs that allowed reopening in January.



Heavy rains replenished Edgewood's vernal pool.



Photos by Barrie Moore and Laurie Alexander

Become a Friend of Edgewood!

JOIN or RENEW your membership ONLINE or by MAIL:

ONLINE: foew.org/donate

BY MAIL: Send this completed form with your donation amount circled to Friends of Edgewood, 3 Old Stage Coach Rd., Redwood City, CA 94062-3801.

\$25 \$50 \$100* \$150* 250* \$500* \$_____

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

EXPLORER newsletter preference: email mail

*Check if you wish to receive eligible thank you gifts:

6 Edgewood greeting cards for donations of \$100+

Plus 1 year of *Bay Nature* magazine for donations of \$150+

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ home cell

Type of credit card: MasterCard Visa Discover

Name on card _____

Card number _____

CVC _____ Expires _____

Thank you for supporting the Friends of Edgewood.

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?

Go to foew.org/donate, and follow directions to become a sustaining member, or email us at mem@friendsofedgeswood.org, and we will help you get set up.



Est. 1993

Friends of Edgewood

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
3 Old Stage Coach Road
Redwood City, CA 94062-3801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Open Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., and
Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

To learn more about Friends of Edgewood, visit our website at foew.org, call us at 650-367-7576, or email us at info@friendsofedgeswood.org.

 www.instagram.com/friendsofedgeswood/

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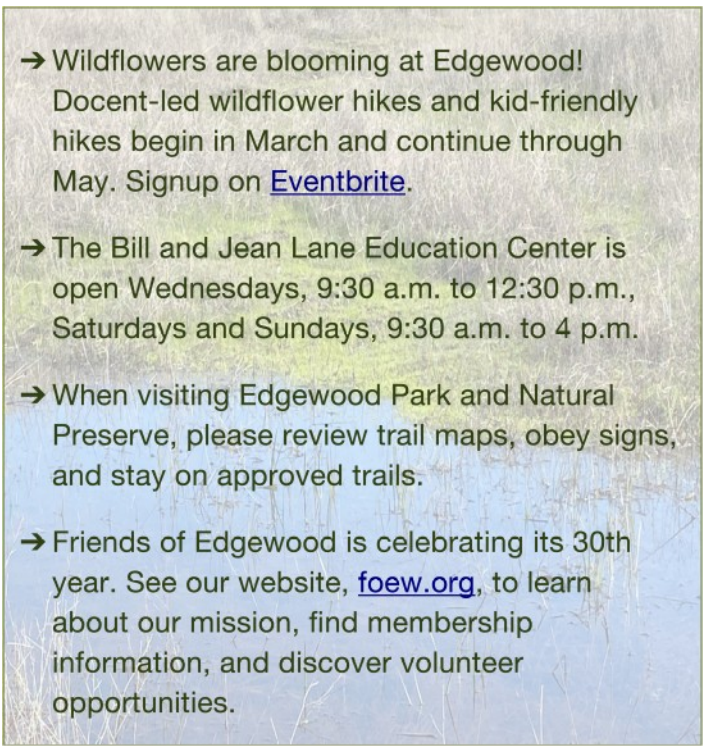


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- Wildflowers are blooming at Edgewood! Docent-led wildflower hikes and kid-friendly hikes begin in March and continue through May. Signup on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).
- The Bill and Jean Lane Education Center is open Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- When visiting Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, please review trail maps, obey signs, and stay on approved trails.
- Friends of Edgewood is celebrating its 30th year. See our website, foew.org, to learn about our mission, find membership information, and discover volunteer opportunities.

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. Friends of Edgewood Board of Directors: Laurie Alexander, Sandy Bernhard, Caroline Bowker, Junko Bryant, Michele W. Conway, Nancy Enzminger, Peter Ingram (president), Bill Korbholz, Kathy Korbholz, Linda Leong, Angela Mallett, Perry McCarty, Barrie Moore, Rebecca Reynolds, Matthew Tobin. The newsletter is edited by Michele W. Conway and supported by many friends.