

Edgewood



Explorer

May 1995

Volume 2 Number 2

NO MORE SHORTCUTS--TRAIL PATROL IS HERE

Thanks to the conscientious and diligent work of Nancy Mangini, the Edgewood Park Volunteer Trail Patrol is a reality!

Nancy took responsibility for organizing the patrol, fashioning a training program as an offshoot of the training for the San Mateo County Volunteer Horse Patrol. Fourteen volunteers attended the four training sessions, where they learned about park rules, how to interact with park visitors, how to deal with emergencies, and the mechanics of patrolling. Soon they will be given CPR training as well.

The program is run under the auspices of Ron Weaver, Edgewood Park's supervising ranger, with lots of help from ranger Lynn Fritz. The goal of the trail patrol is to inform and assist park visitors in appropriate ways to experience Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. Patrollers always travel in pairs

and carry radios for communicating with Park Rangers or emergency response teams.

Patrollers pay particular attention to encouraging visitors to:

- stay on trails,
- keep dogs out of the park,
- restrict bicycle riding to the paved Day Camp parking lot,
- remove nothing (except trash), and
- smoke only in the picnic areas at the Day Camp.

The charter members of the Volunteer Trail Patrol are Susan Sommers, Jan and Stewart Simpson, Carolyn Curtis, Nancy Mangini, Bill Korbholz, Elly and Bob Hess, Guy Cohen, Elfrid Gioumousis, Frank Figoni, Billy James, Susan Thrasher, and Margaret Marshall.

These volunteers will patrol on weekends, wearing their khaki shirts, green pants, and, optionally, green windbreakers. If you come upon a patroller, be sure to thank him or her for taking the time to keep Edgewood the beautiful and natural preserve that it is for all to enjoy.

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EDGEWOOD'S FROG POND

By Susan Sommers

The Frog Pond, one of the most popular places on the Serpentine Loop, is a dynamic area. It is a vernal pool with wetland plants, damsel flies, Pacific Treefrogs, meadowlarks, rabbits, and foxes. Deer often refresh themselves with its cool water.

The pool exists year after year due to the influence of combined geologic features: rock, soil, slope, and seismic activity. The serpentine rock formation, not far below the pool, is associated with fault zones and tectonic activity. Soils from the surrounding hills, including the greenstone from the central ridge, are noted for their low drainage quality. A small fault courses eastward from the San Andreas Fault system through Edgewood between the southern hill and the central ridge.

As the water drains from the uphill regions of Edgewood, it flows via this fault and greatly slows as the slope flattens. Here water collects since drainage is reduced to the low percolation rates of the soils and the presence of the serpentine rock formation not far beneath them.

The basin of the pool may have been increased by the development of the old "Service Road" (now part of the Serpentine Loop Trail) since portions of the road were elevated above the floor of the riparian corridor through which the road cut.

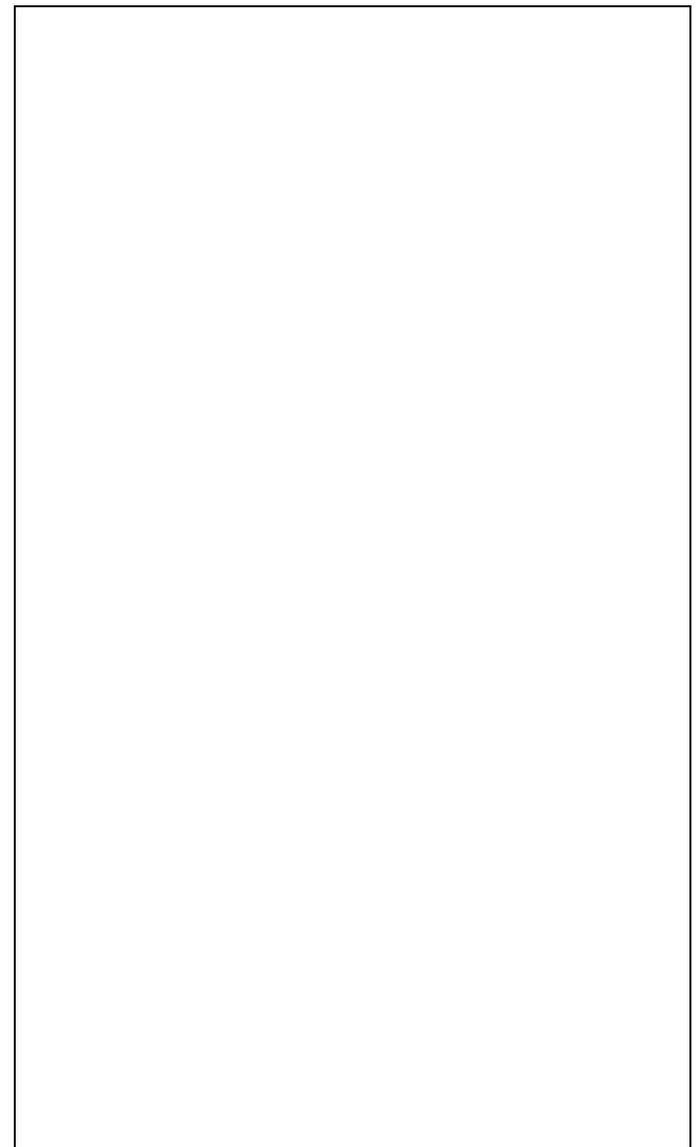
During the 1980's the County Parks Department installed a culvert to improve the road by the pool. The culvert has affected the pool; its basin has decreased in breadth and depth. By providing drainage under the road, the culvert has reduced the severity of erosion and lowered the drainage level so that less water collects for shorter periods of time before flowing on into the Crystal Springs Reservoir.

Be that as it may, road or no road, culvert or no culvert, Edgewood's Pacific Treefrogs will move from their shrubs and upper grasslands to the vernal pool in the serpentine meadows to sing their chorus in the pageant of spring.

ADALBERT VON CHAMISSO: POET AND BOTANIST

By Carolyn Curtis

In 1817, the Romanzov discovery expedition, sent out from imperial Russia, put in at San Francisco Bay. On board were a 36-year-old botanist, novelist, and poet, Adalbert von Chamisso, and his friend, the ship's young doctor, Johann Friedrich Gustav von Eschscholtz. Their names have passed into the botany of California.



Though Chamisso and Eschscholtz spoke German with each other, it was Chamisso's second language. When he was 8, his aristocratic family left France, driven out by the Revolution, to settle in Berlin,

which in those days afforded some political and religious freedom. Chamisso not only mastered German, but as a young man became one of the major lyric poets of the day. Some of his poems are known in their musical settings, such as the touching song cycle “Frauenliebe und -Leben” (“A Woman’s Love and Life”), memorably set by Schumann. Chamisso is also known for the novella “Peter Schlemihl’s Remarkable Story,” the tale of a man who sells his shadow to the devil for a bottomless purse, but ends up wandering the world searching for peace of mind; he finds it in nature, and not in endless wealth.

Eschscholtz was born in present-day Latvia, then part of the German-speaking territories. The tricky spelling of our state flower (*Eschscholzia californica*) results from the vagaries of transliteration. The family name was originally Escholtz, but relatives who spent time in Russia transliterated it into Russian as Eshcholts, which is pronounced with separate “sh” and “ch” sounds, all written with one letter in Russian. When the name was later transliterated back into German, it became Eschscholtz, the “sh-ch” returning to “sch” but getting doubled in the process.

When Chamisso wrote the official description of the California poppy, he spelled *Eschscholzia* three different ways (orthography not being an exact science in those days). The type specimen, that is, the poppy that Chamisso pressed that day, is still preserved in St. Petersburg.

Chamisso’s name also presents some ambiguity: his given name is spelled Adelbert or Adalbert, and he was christened Louis-Charles-Adelaide Chamisso de Boncourt. Chamisso wrote a haunting poem (“Das Schloss Boncourt”) about the family castle in the Champagne region, remembering the courtyard, the well, the chapel with its ancestral graves, knowing that it has all vanished and that someone now plows the ground where it stood. The poet blesses the ground and the plowman, takes his lyre, and roams the far reaches of the earth, singing from land to land.

Despite this loss and exile from the land of his birth, Chamisso was always on the side of the common people, using his lyric gifts to create poems advocating social reform.

When Chamisso joined the Romanzov discovery expedition as a botanist, he was an established man of letters; he had published the story of Peter Schlemihl the year before. However, he had also studied medicine and natural science. After the expedition, Chamisso remained active in science, pursuing investigations into zoology, as well as later becoming curator of the royal botanical collections in Berlin. Another interest, also typical for the Romantic period, was philology: Chamisso became known for his studies of Australasian languages.

Chamisso did his best to immortalize his friend Eschscholtz in plant nomenclature, and Eschscholtz returned the favor ten years later. On another voyage of discovery in California, he noted a showy shrub growing near the coast and named it *Lupinus chamissonis*. Though this lupine is not one of Edgewood’s four species of lupine, two plants in the genus *Camissonia* grow here: *graciliflora* (the slender-flowered primrose) and *ovata* (sun cups). The common name chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) is also derived from this remarkable visitor’s name.

UPDATE ON EDGEWOOD’S MASTER PLAN

The “Group of 7” comprising the committee to propose a draft revision to Edgewood’s 13-year old Master Plan (you know, the one that designates Edgewood as a site for a golf course) is making good progress. The group was commissioned last November to act as a volunteer consulting agency to Patrick Sanchez, Director of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department.

Since the group has begun meeting, it has refined its roles and responsibilities. The committee’s goal is to deliver its draft to Director Sanchez by mid-year. Upon acceptance, the Parks and Recreation Department will follow through on public and agency review, revision, and ultimately adoption and production of the new master plan.

The committee consists of Bob Emert from Parks and Recreation and six Friends of Edgewood: Carolyn Curtis, Bob Hartzell, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Susan Sommers, and Nita Spangler.

WEEDS, WEEDS EVERYWHERE

By Elly Hess

On Earth Day weekend, April 22 and 23, the “Bay Area Action” provided Edgewood with people to come and help pull some of the invasive weeds that are taking over areas in the park. On Saturday, 30 people pulled Star Thistle from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, 15 people pulled Bellardia and Star Thistle.

On May 4, 24 7th-graders from Bill Cotter’s Saint Charles School in San Carlos came to the park and pulled an invasive clover that is taking over the habitat of Owl’s Clover and Tidy Tips, threatening the nectar supply for the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly.

Every Friday for about 6 years, a cadre of faithful volunteers has been weeding for 2 to 3 hours. These dedicated people are bending over backwards (and mostly frontwards) to help preserve Edgewood’s native habitat. Our thanks go to Bob Young, Alice Musante, John Allen, Jane Kos, Betsy Wallace, Ann Knoph, and Bonnie Gionnone. [And especially Elly Hess! -ed.]

BIRDS OF EDGEWOOD

The Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc. has produced the following list of birds found at Edgewood, classified by their habitats.

	Aerial	Grassland	Riparian	Oak Woodland	Chaparral
Vultures, Hawks, Falcons					
Turkey Vulture	■				
Black-Shouldered Kite	■	■	■		
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	■			■	

	Aerial	Grassland	Riparian	Oak Woodland	Chaparral
Cooper’s Hawk	■			■	
Red-Tailed Hawk	■	■		■	
Red-Shouldered Hawk	■			■	
Northern Harrier	■	■			
Kestrel	■	■			
Gallinaceous Birds					
California Quail		■	■	■	■
Pigeons and Doves					
Band-Tailed Pigeon	■			■	
Mourning Dove		■		■	
Rock Dove	■			■	
Owls					
Great Horned Owl				■	
Hummingbirds					
Anna’s Hummingbird			■	■	■
Allen’s Hummingbird			■	■	■
Woodpeckers					
Common Flicker			■	■	
Hairy Woodpecker				■	
Downy Woodpecker				■	
Nuttall’s Woodpecker				■	
Flycatchers					
Ash-Throated Flycatcher				■	
Black Phoebe			■		■
Western Wood Peewee				■	
Swallows					
Violet-Green Swallow	■			■	
Rough-Winged Swallow	■				
Barn Swallow	■				
Jays and Crows					
Scrub Jay				■	■
Stellar’s Jay				■	
Common Raven	■				
Common Crow	■				
Chickadees					
Chestnut-Backed Chickadee			■	■	
Plain Titmice			■	■	
Bushtit			■	■	
Nuthatches, Creepers					

	Aerial	Grassland	Riparian	Oak Woodland	Chaparral
Brown Creeper				■	
Wrentits, Wrens					
Wrentit			■	■	■
Bewick's Wren				■	■
Mockingbirds, Thrashers					
Mockingbird		■		■	
California Thrasher				■	■
Thrushes					
American Robin				■	
Varied Thrush				■	
Hermit Thrush				■	
Swainson's Thrush			■		
Western Bluebird		■		■	
Gnat Catchers, Kinglets					
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher				■	■
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet				■	
Gold-Crowned Kinglet				■	
Waxwings, Starlings, Vireos					
Starling				■	
Hutton's Vireo				■	
Wood Warblers					
Orange-Crowned Warbler			■	■	■
Yellow-Rumped Warbler			■	■	
Townsend's Warbler				■	
Wilson's Warbler				■	
Meadowlark, Blackbird, Orioles					
Western meadowlark		■			
Brewer's Blackbird		■		■	
Northern Oriole			■		
Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows					
Black-Headed Grosbeak			■		
Purple Finch				■	
House Sparrow		■		■	■
Pine Siskin	■	■		■	
American Goldfinch			■		■
Lesser Goldfinch				■	■
Rufous-Sided Towhee			■	■	■
Brown Towhee			■		■

	Aerial	Grassland	Riparian	Oak Woodland	Chaparral
Dark-Eyed Junco				■	■
White-Crowned Sparrow		■		■	■
Golden-Crowned Sparrow			■	■	■
Fox Sparrow			■		■
Lark Sparrow		■			
Song Sparrow			■		
Chipping Sparrow				■	
Savannah Sparrow		■			
Gulls					
Western	■				
Herring	■				
Shore Birds					
Killdeer		■			

LIFE CYCLE OF AN ISLAND NYMPH: BAY CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY

By Susan Sommers

Living a sun-loving life in the islands of serpentine grasslands in Edgewood and Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, *Ephedryas editha bayensis*. Its family, Nymphalidae, named after the goddess of waters, meadows, and forests, is known as the “brush-footed” butterfly family and is the largest, most varied true butterfly family among the few fossil butterflies identified. “Brush-footed” refers to the family characteristic feature on both sexes of the forelegs being reduced to mere stumps enclosed by the long hairy body scales. These butterflies live their entire lives in the serpentine grasslands on a select few plants.

A fertilized female lays her eggs at the base of the California Plantain (*Plantain erecta*) in clusters. Upon emerging, the larvae, fuzzless caterpillars, begin eating the plantain and spin a communal web to protect themselves from predators. When

alarmed, they all raise their tail end in unison as a defense response.

Insects must shed their skin in order to grow, and these stages are called instars for butterfly larvae. Quickly the young larvae eat themselves out of house and home, thus by the time they have reached their first or second instar they move away in search of food.

In order to survive the hot, dry Mediterranean summer that occurs in these habits, the larvae must reach their mid-third instar before the plantain dries. Some larvae will use the Purple Owl's Clover (*Orthocarpus densiflorus*) for food as the plantain disappears.

During the summer, the larvae "rest" as they enter into a diapause period; they do not eat in this state. With the advent of the autumn rains, the plantain sprouts, and the larvae again become active diners on the tender sprouts.

Bay Checkerspot larvae spend the winter in pupae, a non-hairy cocoon. With the warmth of spring, they emerge as adult butterflies, drinking the nectar from the Hog Fennel (*Lomatium*), Tidy Tips, Goldfields, and Linanthus. The males are out first and scout the habitat site for the females who emerge later but with some of their eggs already ripe.

With each mating, a chemical reaction creates a plug in the female preventing additional mating until those eggs are laid. Selecting a California Plantain, a fertilized female lays her eggs at the base. And, having done so, she flies on, leaving a new generation to continue the cycle of life in the serpentine grassland islands.

THOSE SPECTACULAR WILDFLOWERS

By Jan Simpson

The California Native Plant Society Docents have had an exceptionally busy spring. Because of the diversity, beauty and amazing number of wildflowers at Edgewood Park and Preserve, record numbers of people from the Bay Area have taken advantage of the weekend wildflower walks. Ideally between ten

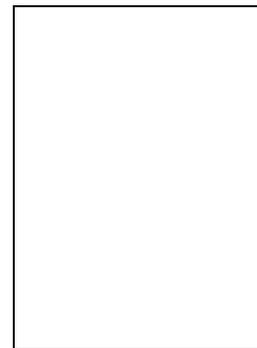
and twelve people comprise a docent-led walk. Reservations are not necessary, except for groups of ten or more. The wildflower walks will continue through June 11. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Docent training sessions for next season will begin in September. There are five classes and field trips, ending in early March, 1996. The Friends of Edgewood and CNPS cosponsor the classes held in homes and at the park. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn and share your knowledge with others. If you are interested, please call me, Jan Simpson.

Meanwhile, remember that the show of wildflowers is not over. It is time to enjoy the mariposa lilies, both yellow and white. Come see the soap root plant bloom at dusk and the serpentine grassland covered with magenta colored *Clarkia*, also known as Farewell-to-Spring.

NEEDLEGRASS PLANTING PROGRESS

Congratulations to the Prairie Patrons. Almost all of the 1100 Purple Needlegrass (*Nasella pulchra*) plants they planted last February are thriving.



On February 18, a work party planted this native California bunchgrass on the erosion track on the eastern end of the central ridge. These plants were grown from seeds gathered at Edgewood Natural Preserve with Park Department permission during the previous spring.

The seeds had to be prepared for cultivation by the removal of the long awns on the seeds. Chris Romano prepared some 1,200 seeds and by fall they were ready to be planted. The Horticultural students at College of San Mateo under the direction of their teacher, Matt Leddy, sprouted the seeds in flats. Participants from the Fall '94 Nursery Management Class at CSM who helped with the planting were Dan Basilove and Chris Frietag.

Later, the plants were moved to a lathe house to "harden up" by getting acclimatized to temperature variations. The following February the plants were quite grown; lush green leaves approximately 6 inches long. The "Friends" work party took a few plants (plugs) for planting together. The plugs were planted approximately 6-8 inches apart in plots. Fifty plots were made in a staggered formation along the erosion track.

Warm weeks followed that day, and the thirsty young plants were watered by hand. Chris Romano and her sister did much to ensure the survival of the newly planted Needlegrass. Then came the rains of a solid three weeks. Concerns about inadequate water shifted to concerns about siltation and wash-outs. Happily, the new plantings not only held their own, they also held the hill and slowed the erosion.

Today they are lush green with approximately 4-inch leaves. Apparently the animals, such as rabbits, are keeping the leaves to a length that will not exceed the support capacity of the root system. While the other grasses are flowering, these plants are busy growing the root system they'll require to endure the hot dry California summer. In a few weeks the seeds will have ripened enough for another harvest and thus the Revegetation Project will enter another phase.

CALLING ALL AMATEUR METEOROLOGISTS

Calling all amateur meteorologists! If you live within 1/2 mile of Edgewood Park, and have any rainfall records for the area, we would like to hear from you. Please call ranger Ron Weaver.

..... ✂ clip here ✂

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

New or continuing members of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve are asked to pay membership dues annually to offset the expenses associated with preserving Edgewood. If you would like to join the Friends, continue your membership, or simply make a contribution, please clip and complete this section. Mail it to the return address on the back of this panel with your check payable to **Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve**. With your membership or contribution, you will receive four more issues of the Edgewood Explorer.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

- \$15 Basic membership
- \$25 Family Membership
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership
- \$50 Supporting Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, and the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*)
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, and a 16x20 poster-photo)
- In addition to my dues, I am enclosing a gift of _____.
- Please send _____ copies of the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, at \$12 each.
- Please send _____ copies of *The Flora of Edgewood Park* at \$3 each.

Particular interests:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Exotics control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail patrol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail/fence maintenance |



UPCOMING EVENTS

☐ **Saturdays and Sundays continuing through June 11.** *Wildflower Walks.* See the enclosed flyer for specifics, or call Jan Simpson or John Allen.

☐ **Saturday, June 3.** *National Trails Day.* The Park staff is looking for volunteers to assist in project work for this year's National Trails Day. Volunteers can expect to work from approximately 9 am until 1 pm on trail repair, barrier installation, or sign repair. For more information or to sign up, call Ron Weaver.

☐ **Saturday, July 8, 2 pm.** *Special Summer Bloom Wildflower Walk.* CNPS will lead a special hike starting at the Old Stage Day Camp. The hike will focus on summer blooms: yampah, bird's beak, and soap plant.

The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve a place for all to enjoy the natural beauty and habitat. The newsletter is produced by Bill Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends.

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
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