



## ANNABELLE ZAHL AND HALO: TWO SPECIAL EDGEWOOD VISITORS

By Kathy and Bill Korbholz



Edgewood Natural Preserve means different things to different visitors. For 5-year old Halo, who lives within walking distance of Edgewood, it means a chance to smell the wildflowers, listen to the critters, and visit with her many friends. Her friends love to scratch her ears and pet her sides.

Halo loves nothing more than to get up in the morning, get her face and ears washed and her teeth brushed, slip into her harness, and go to work at Edgewood. For Halo, working means guiding Annabelle Zahl wherever she wants to go. Since Annabelle acquired Halo, a yellow

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## ADOPT A (WINDY) HIGHWAY

By Ken Seydel

It takes a good measure of skill with a trash picker to capture a gum wrapper in a 30 mph gale! However, on April 3<sup>rd</sup> eight hardy souls braved a cold wind to clean the portion of Highway 280 adjacent to Edgewood. In 3 hours they collected 19 bags of trash, a car passenger seat, a bumper, Chinese currency, and other interesting and not so interesting items. Thanks to Bob Archibald, Vicki Rodger, Billy James, Frank Figoni, Dianne Hunt, and Bill and Kathy Korbholz for joining me!

Our group of volunteers does their thing on the first Saturday of even-numbered months. The next cleanups will be on June 5 and August 7. If you have an interest in helping, call me at (650) 369-2222 . We will see that you are safety-trained and equipped with your very own picker, hard hat, goggles, gloves, and bright orange vest.

At its April meeting the Friends Executive Committee voted to adopt the section of land between Edgewood and the highway. Look for our official sign on north-bound Highway 280, south of the park, in the near future. `

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## A CLOSER LOOK AT FREMONT'S STAR LILY

By Bob Young

*This is the seventh of a series of articles describing the flowers pictured in our wildflower brochure. — ed.*



*Zygadenus fremontii* (Fremont's Star Lily) is shown in the brochure "Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood," published jointly by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve.

The scientific name of the genus *Zygadenus* comes from two Greek words: ZYG, meaning yoke, and ADEN, meaning a gland. This refers to a pair of glands at the base of each flower petal and sepal in some species of *Zygadenus*. Being in the lily family, there are three petals and three sepals, the sepals looking almost exactly like the petals.

Our plant is classified as a perennial herb, leafing out each spring from a bulb-like rootstock. It grows from one to three feet high. Its flowers are clusters of white stars, sometimes with a yellowish or greenish cast. It appears on hillsides, especially among bushes and is found at less than 3,000 feet elevation along the Coast Ranges from southern Oregon to northern Baja California. In the summer, the leaves turn brown

and wither to the ground.

In 1857 our plant was given the scientific name *Anticlea fremontii*, then, *Zygadenus douglasii*. In 1871 it was given its present name of *Zygadenus fremontii*. The specific epithet *fremontii* honors John Charles Fremont (1813-1890). Fremont explored much of the area between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. He married Jessie Benton, daughter of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Fremont served in the army, the navy, and for a few months, as a United States Senator from California. In 1856 he was the Republican Party candidate for President of the United States. He lost the election to James Buchanan.

Some of the common names of the plant are Fremont's Zygadene, Fremont's Camas, Star Lily, Star Zygadene, and the one we use, Fremont's Star Lily.

Because of alkaloids in this plant, deer and gophers avoid eating it. All plants in this genus should be considered highly toxic to livestock and humans. `



### EDGEWOOD IN THE NEWS

By Dianne Hunt

Here are some of the press articles on Edgewood this season:

- The San Francisco Chronicle, the San Jose Mercury and the Oakland Tribune had Edgewood listed as "Places to see Wildflowers."
- A small notice was in the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association Newsletter, thanks to Clay Baker, editor.
- The Independent on 4/28/99 and 5/17/99 had articles on Edgewood Preserve, both written by Tom Davids, the "Weekly Walker."
- Sunset Magazine had a small notice about our docent-led walks in the May 1999 issue.
- The San Jose Mercury News' "West" section had a notice in their April 4, 1999 issue. `

## FOUR NEW TRAIL PATROL MEMBERS

By Nancy Mangini

Four new members have joined the Edgewood Volunteer Trail Patrol this year, bringing the number of active members in the group to twenty-eight.

In March of this year, Eleanor Hiles, Dimitrios Stathos, Sharon Hom and Tracy White completed a four-hour training course given by Edgewood Ranger Ricardo Trejo and San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coordinator Nick Ramirez on public contact procedures, park rules, uniform requirements, and radio use. These new members then participated in a training hike with a patrol veteran, after which they were admitted as official Trail Patrol volunteers.

With twenty-eight active members, the Volunteer Trail Patrol has been able to provide a visible, uniformed presence in Edgewood on every weekend since the first of April. To date, patrol members report that visitors are generally friendly and interested in learning more about the beauty and special natural resources to be found at Edgewood. And while some visitors need to be reminded of the appropriate ways in which Edgewood should be experienced, most contacts are educational in nature and provide valuable information about park use patterns for Edgewood's management staff.

For more information about participating in the Edgewood Volunteer Trail Patrol, please contact Nancy Mangini.

## VANDALISM REVERSED

Thanks to Billy James, John King, and Dianne Hunt for returning the Edgewood Preserve sign to its rightful place near the 280 overpass. Someone had pulled it out of the ground and tossed it over the fence early in the year. Thanks also to our Rangers who secured it back in the ground. Please call the Park Rangers office at (650) 368-6283 to report any evidence of vandalism.

## RANGER RIC'S ROUNDUP

By Ricardo Trejo

### Plant Programs

Mr. Don Mayall, President of the California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter has renewed the permit to continue the weed abatement program at Edgewood Park and Preserve. The eradication program (which is hard tiresome labor) has been in effect for many years, however the new permit calls for a monitoring program. Ms. Georgia Stigall and Mr. Ken Himes are coordinating the eradication program and collecting/recording the data for this monitoring program.

Ms. Susan Sommers, Friends of Edgewood Re-vegetation Coordinator, has also renewed her permit to continue the re-vegetation program with a monitoring format amendment. The monitoring programs addition will be time consuming and a challenge. Persons interested in assisting with the new monitoring programs can contact the coordinator to the program of your choice. I assure you they can use all the help!!!



### Trail Day, April 24<sup>th</sup>

On Trail Day we had representatives from the San Mateo Horse Association, Woodside Horse Association, and the Volunteer Horse Patrol that

*(Continued on page 4)*

**EDGEWOOD EXOTIC REMOVAL EFFORTS CONTINUE**

**By Ken Himes**

We are continuing our Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon sessions through the summer months. All weeding sessions start at 5:30 p.m. and continue until about ½ hour before darkness sets in. You need only bring work gloves. There will be plenty of time to become familiar with the wonderful flora of Edgewood.

In case you arrive late, look for a map posted at the trail head or kiosk, indicating the location for the scheduled work.

For more information about either the Friday morning or Tuesday/Wednesday afternoon sessions, call me. `

Date	Meeting Place	Weeding Area
July 6, 7	Day Camp	Edgewood Trail, eastern portion, uphill to junction with the Franciscan Trail.
July 13, 14	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Serpentine Loop Trail, in a southeasterly direction from the west kiosk toward the Frog Pond.
July 20 - Aug. 3	<b>No weeding on these dates unless an alternate leader volunteers.</b>	
Aug. 4	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.
Aug. 10, 11	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.
Aug. 17, 18	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Yampah meadow along Edgewood Trail at west kiosk (Bristly ox-tongue).
Aug. 24, 25	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.

Date	Meeting Place	Weeding Area
Aug. 31, Sept. 1	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.
Sept. 7, 8	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.
Sept. 14, 15	Junction of Serpentine Loop Trail and Ridgeview Loop connector	<i>Carex</i> (sedge) meadow, 75 feet northeast of west kiosk.
Sept. 21, 22	Junction of Serpentine Loop Trail and Ridgeview Loop connector	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.
Sept. 28, 29	Junction of Serpentine Loop Trail and Ridgeview Loop connector	Same as previous week. See map at kiosk.
Oct. 5, 6	West kiosk near 280	Yampah meadow.

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helped in building a culvert rock head wall on one of the culverts by the Clarkia Trail. A second party of drop-in groups helped in building a culvert rock head wall and installed a culvert and ditch leading to the culvert on the Franciscan Trail.

This being my first Trail Day event since my return to Edgewood, and Ric Munds' first, the day was very enjoyable working with the volunteers, not to mention the projects accomplished. For next year's Trail Day, keep in mind that it is normally scheduled during Earth Week in the month of April.

Trail Day has come and gone, however, there is always trail maintenance that can be done all year around. If you wish to help in a trail project, fell free to contact one of the Ranger Ric's. `

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Labrador in 1996, they have been regular visitors to Edgewood. Annabelle did not start walking in Edgewood until 1990. At first she was concerned about walking alone, and besides “Ladies in my day and age didn’t go hiking.”

Annabelle was formerly a Wells Fargo trust department employee who worked and lived in San Francisco. With her husband, she enjoyed clubbing, dining, dancing, and travelling. She moved to the Emerald Hills area in 1968 and now lives alone with Halo (her two sons, in their 60’s, live in Fresno and Concord). To promote Halo’s good health, Annabelle and Halo live by a precise schedule prompted by talking clocks throughout the house.

In 1990 Annabelle had an operation for her cataracts, but unfortunately her vision has declined since then, and she is now legally blind. She still remembers the vivid colors of the Owl’s clover and poppies. However, being visually impaired has not slowed her down one bit. In fact, she walked so fast while training with her first guidedog that she tripped over its heels and broke her shoulder. Now she and Halo (a much livelier dog) are so perfectly paired that some people remark to Annabelle that it looks as though a fully-sighted person is training Halo.

They have walked just about every trail at Edgewood at one time or another, but now stick to the service roads. Annabelle doesn’t think it’s fair to the horses to take Halo on the narrower trails. Guidedogs are trained not to get too close to other animals. While walking, they have encountered deer, rabbits, and even a snake, and Halo has always paused to alert Annabelle to their presence. Annabelle was an early friend of Edgewood, opposing the movement to build a golf course in order to protect the Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat.

Annabelle and Halo are perfect companions for each other. Besides being fans of Edgewood they love all kinds of music (except rap). It’s a special treat for both of them to go to the symphony, and they hope to attend the opera next season. Halo often leans against Annabelle when they listen to

music.

They also enjoy listening to the stock market reports, since Halo has an active account at Charles Schwab (all proceeds are directed to Halo’s alma mater).

Edgewood means everything to Annabelle. “It wouldn’t be worth getting out of bed if I couldn’t go to Edgewood. My life would be stagnant without it.” And Halo agrees. Occasionally when Annabelle tries to walk past the Sunset entrance to Edgewood, Halo, despite her best guidedog training, objects and makes sure Edgewood is part of their itinerary.

If you see Annabelle and Halo walking at Edgewood, be sure to say hello. `

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### **WHY DOGS (EXCEPT GUIDEDOGS LIKE HALO) AREN'T ALLOWED IN EDGEWOOD**

- 1 Dogs aren’t permitted in any San Mateo County parks; Edgewood was off limits to them even before it became a preserve.
- 2 Even when they’re on leashes, dogs disrupt native wildlife habitats and behavior patterns (for instance, “marking” territory). Other mammals, such as deer, avoid dogs’ scents by going elsewhere, like trying to cross the highway.
- 3 Edgewood is the home for naturally occurring predators, such as bobcat and coyote; the dog is their competitor.
- 4 Edgewood’s preserve status requires extra stewardship on everyone’s part to ensure rare habitats and endangered species are protected and allowed to flourish.

Dogs are welcome in Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve, just across Edgewood Road. There are three miles of trails and leashed dogs are allowed on all of them. As a special treat, there is a 16-acre section in the center of the preserve where dogs can roam off leash. For a map of the trails at Pulgas Ridge, please call. `

## YELLOW STARHISTLE AT EDGEWOOD

By Bill Korbholz

### About Yellow Starthistle

Yellow starthistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*, is a prickly, noxious weed which has now become the most common plant in California.

It originated in the Old World and probably arrived in California in the mid-1800s, most likely during the gold rush, as a contaminant in alfalfa seed. It is a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae) and belongs to the thistle tribe (Cynareae).



Since its introduction, yellow starthistle has spread steadily and aggressively. In 1985 it was estimated to inhabit about 8 million acres statewide; now it has infested some 22 million acres, or about 22% of the state.

Thus in less than 15 years it has nearly tripled its penetration.

Yellow starthistle is a serious threat to the biological diversity of California grasslands. Because it is deep rooting (the taproot can reach well over 3 feet in length) and grows in the summer, it is occupying a niche not previously filled by exotic species.

Yellow starthistle is an extremely prolific annual. Individual plants typically produce thousands of seeds, 95% of which generally germinate. Germination usually occurs the following year, but some seeds can last more than 10 years before sprouting.

### The Threat to Edgewood

Yellow starthistle is the most aggressive non-native invasive plant at Edgewood, and it represents a serious threat to native habitats. It has overtaken entire meadows and has even begun to establish itself in serpentine grasslands which provide the home to the Bay checkerspot butterfly.

At this time of year, last year's gray-brown skeletons with "Q-Tip" flower heads can be seen standing in many of Edgewood's grasslands, while this year's crop, with its blue-green stems, is just beginning to bolt, or shoot up its stalk, and flower. Soon the sharp, stout half-inch long spines will emerge.

While volunteers and County staff are able to control other exotics fairly well through hand pulling, yellow starthistle represents a challenge of a completely different order. If left unchecked, it will without doubt spread unabated across all the grasslands of Edgewood.

### What Can Be Done?

Various methods have been discussed in the literature to control yellow starthistle, including cultivation and mowing, insect feeding (biological control), livestock grazing, plant competition (e.g. revegetation), prescribed burning, herbicides, and manual removal. At Edgewood, a program combining mowing, manual removal, and selective revegetation may be the most promising method of control.

The Friends of Edgewood and CNPS are working with Parks and Recreation staff to develop a battle plan to address this serious threat.

Volunteers are desperately needed to assist with manual removal. To get involved and help save Edgewood from becoming a giant yellow starthistle meadow, call Ken Himes.

With a dedicated effort it is conceivable that over time yellow starthistle could become invisible at Edgewood to all but the trained observer. `

### CATCH THE ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY FEVER

Name withheld (you'll see why)

As I was driving north on 280 along our "Adopt-A-Highway" area in early May, I spotted a pick-up truck with hundreds of pieces of Styrofoam "popcorn" streaming out of it! I followed him off the Edgewood exit, where he turned left towards Cañada Road. I started honking and he finally pulled over (with my gesturing).

He was aware he was littering, so I gave him a piece of my mind about that area of 280 being the area I clean for Adopt-a-Highway and how several of us would need hours to pick up his mess one piece at a time, and if he had any conscience at all he would call Adopt-a-Highway and volunteer to clean up his act. I was steaming!!! I would have reported him, but he had no license plates, nothing on the windshield, and no company name on the door. `

### SPECIAL RESERVATION HIKES

By Dianne Hunt

We've had "kids" hikes for kindergartners and first graders from Roy Cloud School in Redwood City and second graders from a German-American School in Menlo Park. We also had a group of adult snow skiers called "Inskiers," an Asian Choir called the Ching Ching Chorus, "Young Seniors" from the JCC, employees of Applied Decision Analysis/Division of Price Waterhouse, 20 "fast walking adults", and several groups of friends who wanted to enjoy the wildflowers together.

Thanks to all the Docents who helped phone for volunteer leaders and who led these special hikes, and especially to Sam and Delpha Berry for going beyond the call of duty when the Ching Ching Chorus had a reservation group hike of "5 to 30" that turned into over 100. Thanks to the Berrys for handling a tough situation so well! `



### MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

New or continuing members of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve are asked to pay **tax-deductible** 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**. In return, you will receive four more issues of the Edgewood Explorer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone Work Telephone

- \$15 Basic Membership (includes newsletter)
- \$25 Family Membership (newsletter)
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership (newsletter)
- \$50 Supporting Membership (newsletter, *Edgewood Checklist of Plants*, and Edgewood photo greeting cards (boxed set))
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (newsletter, *Checklist*, greeting cards, and 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*)
- \$250 Patron Membership (newsletter, *Edgewood Checklist of Plants*, greeting cards, video, and 16x20 photo-poster)
- I am enclosing a gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park* at \$15 each.
- Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the *Edgewood Checklist of Plants* at \$3 each.

- Particular interests:
- Public relations
  - Docent
  - Exotics control
  - Newsletter
  - Trail patrol
  - Revegetation
  - Community outreach



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- o *Weekends through June 27, **EDGEWOOD WILDFLOWER WALKS.*** All walks start at 10 a.m. and last about 3 hours. The June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> walks start at the Park & Ride. The remaining walks start at the Day Camp.
- o *Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through October 6, Friday mornings year-round, **WEEDING AT EDGEWOOD.*** See enclosed article by Ken Himes.
- o *Saturday June 5, August 7, October 2, December 4, **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAYS.*** Call Ken Seydel for more information.

o *Sunday August 1, **TOUR DE PENINSULA.*** Sponsored by the S.F. Chronicle with proceeds benefiting the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, this 33-mile bicycle ride passes by Edgewood along Cañada Road. Call Julia Bott at (650) 321-5812 for more information.

o *Friday August 13 through Sunday August 22, **SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR.*** Look for your Friends in the Parks and Recreation booth, and contact us if you would like to volunteer in the booth. Check your local newspaper for more information.

o *Sunday October 17, 3 to 6 PM, **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND POT LUCK.*** Meet at the Day Camp picnic area.

The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit 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 and Kathy Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our web site at [www.friendsofedgeood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeood.org), mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax, or email [info@friendsofedgeood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgeood.org).

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