

# Edgewood



# Explorer

March 2000

Volume 7 Number 1

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Peter Ingram



Each new year the Board of Directors meets to install newly elected Board members, elect a Director Emeritus, elect officers and designate an Executive Committee. In this important annual process, it is the president's role to formulate our goals and

committee structure for the year ahead, and to gain consensus that the course is appropriately set. The 2000 roster of Executive Committee members and their areas of responsibility can be found on page 5. Contact them if you wish to get involved.

The primary challenges that will receive focused attention in 2000 are:

### Weed Management Program

Edgewood is under siege by Yellow star-thistle. In the summer of 1999 we marshaled our resources and energy to confront this threat and in doing so we learned anew that this organization, along with California Native Plant society (CNPS) and the County staff, can make a real difference right where it matters the most: in the grasslands of the Preserve. We also learned that to achieve long-term success, we must mount and sustain a significant, sophisticated and well-planned program that relies on careful experimentation, monitoring and analysis of results over time. To that end, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting on January 10th of County Parks staff, Gail Raabe, the County agricultural commissioner, Don Mayall and Ken

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## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>, AT EDGEWOOD

By Bill Korbholz

The Friends of Edgewood are sponsoring an Earth Day event at Edgewood that promises to be educational and rewarding for all participants.

On Saturday, April 22, we will install a small number (5 or less) of interpretive signs at Edgewood where weeding or revegetation activities have taken place or are planned. Our preliminary plans are to allow visitors to choose between a hands-on program of sign installation, weeding training, and weed removal, and an interpretive program of hiking through Edgewood to observe and discuss the effects of weeds on the native habitats.

The event will be funded in part by a grant from the California State Parks Foundation as part of that foundation's Earth Day 2000 Restoration and Cleanup presented by Enron on Saturday, April 22. This is the first grant that our organiza-

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## A CLOSER LOOK AT HENDERSON'S SHOOTING STAR (MOSQUITO BILLS)

By Bob Young

*This is the tenth of a series of articles describing the flowers pictured in our wildflower brochure published jointly by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve. — ed.*



Henderson's Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*) is shown in the brochure "Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood". Shooting stars, somewhat like a small cyclamen, are in the Primrose family. On Edgewood they bloom from February to April on serpentine grassland and in open areas in the woodlands. The major portion of the petals is colored pink, or lavender, or almost magenta. At the base of the petals there is a black-purple band and, above that, a yellow band edged with white. Pale green leaves in basal rosettes dry up in summer heat. Their perennial roots, however, remain succulent and wait for fall rains to begin their next cycle of growth.

The scientific name *Dodecatheon* comes from two Greek words: dodeka, meaning twelve, and theos, god. Presumably, the reference is to twelve mythological gods who favored this genus. Most of these gods had their home on Mount Olympus: Zeus, Hera, Apollo, Ares,

Hermes, Hephaestus, Demeter, Artemis, Athena, Aphrodite, and Hestia. Poseidon, the twelfth god, lived in the sea. The specific epithet *hendersonii* refers to the Northwest American botanist Louis F. Henderson (1843 - 1942). See the separate article on Henderson in this issue of the *Edgewood Explorer*.

The distinctive shape of the shooting star comes from the swept back petals and the forward-pointed, pollen-bearing stamens. When blooming, the flowers nod toward the ground; then, as they dry and the petals drop, the dried seed capsules turn to point straight up. Other descriptive common names are Mosquito Bills, Prairie Pointers, Roosters' Heads, and Sailor Caps. Mosquito Bills is an appropriate name because *Dodecatheon hendersonii* has very sharply pointed anthers (part of the stamens mentioned earlier).

Two other species of shooting stars are found on Edgewood: lowland shooting star (*Dodecatheon clevelandii patulum*) and Padres' shooting star (*D.c. sanctarum*). In *D. clevelandii* the anthers are broader and rounder than those of *D. hendersonii*.

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## RANGER RIC'S ROUNDUP

By Ricardo Trejo

If you are reading this article, it must mean that you and our computer equipment survived the Y2K. I would have never dreamed that the Rangers would have been involved by this millennium chaos, but we were.

In an effort to be prepared, the San Mateo County, Office of Emergency Services developed a Y2K Contingency Plan. Parks and Recreation Division was listed as a back-up mutual aid team for the Sheriff, local Police Departments and Emergency Medical Services. Our primary duties were to safeguard our parks. Many rangers were on duty New Year's Eve until 2 am. Edgewood Park and Preserve rangers were on duty and ready to face the unexpected. A comment that I heard regarding Y2K was, "We know *what* an earthquake can do, what we

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## THE HENDERSON BEHIND DODECATHEON HENDERSONII

By Bob Young

*In 1838 the present Dodecatheon hendersonii had been named Dodecatheon integrifolium var. latifolium. In 1886, botanist A. Gray honored L. F. Henderson by renaming the plant. The following information was taken from the book Men, Mules and Mountains, by Robert L. Wood, 1976.*

Louis F. Henderson was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, on September 17, 1853. He and his family moved to the Ozark Mountains and later migrated to New Orleans and Mississippi. During the Civil War they lost all of their property, and in 1866 his father was killed in a riot against abolitionists. His mother then returned with the family to New England. He and his brother both attended Cornell University, where Louis became a member of the school's rowing team.

After graduating from the University, he moved to California. There he taught languages for a year. He then joined his brother in Oregon and taught botany, history, and modern languages at Albany Collegiate Institute.

He was on the faculty of Portland High School from 1877 until 1889. During this period, in 1883, he married Katherine Robinson. They had two daughters. In 1889 he contracted typhoid fever. Because of his illness, he resigned and went to Olympia, Washington to join his brother in the real estate business.

Henderson was commissioned to prepare an exhibit of the native woods for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. After the fair, he accepted a position at the University of Idaho as head of the botany department. When he was about 57 years old he retired to Hood River, Oregon, where he helped develop the apple industry. He became curator of the herbarium at the University of Oregon in 1924, and for many years was engaged in botanical research. The herbarium became nationally outstanding.

An inveterate hiker, Henderson began collecting

botanical specimens during weekend trips when he lived in Portland. He spent his summer vacations in the high mountains. For almost sixty years he explored the Pacific Northwest "on foot, on horseback, by wagon, by boat, by auto, and by train." His search for rare plants led him throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and northern California, and he discovered several species new to science. About a dozen plants bear his name in one form or another. He was a member of the Academy of Sciences and published a number of monographs. In 1926 the University of Oregon awarded him the honorary degree of Master of Arts in Public Service, as a "distinguished pioneer botanist and one of the leading authorities upon the flora of Oregon." He retired to emeritus status in 1939.

An athletic man, Henderson, on his seventieth birthday, swam across the Columbia River at Hood River, Oregon. He continued to climb on the high peaks until he was well past eighty. He was also a scholar, a student of Shakespeare, gave readings, and acted in plays. When he died in 1942, he left behind "a large circle of friends" in Idaho and Oregon, where he was "loved for his kindness," and for his efforts to create a greater interest in the native flora.

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don't know is *when*. With Y2K we know *when* but not *what*." The situation at Edgewood was very quiet and slow, as was the norm in many areas. I guess we can all be grateful that the Y2K turned out as quiet as it did.

Some of the events that Edgewood rangers are looking forward for this year are:

- 1 Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 2 Involvement with the weed eradication, re-vegetation, and monitoring programs.
- 3 The pleasure of being assigned to Edgewood Park and Preserve and to perform the best we can in the overall operation of the park.

Wishing that all of you had a great Holiday Season and that this New Year brings you prosperity. Until next time!`

Himes from CNPS and Bill Korbholz, Susan Sommers and myself from the Friends. Bill, Ken and Kathy Korbholz had put together a superb presentation which highlighted the history of exotics removal, the results of the 1999 effort and the elements of an approach for the years ahead. The most exciting part for me was the proposal to form a 3-way partnership between the County, CNPS and the Friends to design and execute a weed management plan for Edgewood. I think everyone left that room energized by the presentation and excited by the possibilities.

**Education**

The Docent Program is undergoing a significant transformation this year. A new docent manual has been developed, a stronger training curriculum implemented and annual “kick-off” sessions have been conducted for all the docents. Dianne Hunt and Katherine Greene and their ad hoc task force (John Allen, Carol Belew, Kathy and Bill Korbholz and myself) have invested many hours assessing docent and participant feedback from last year’s program and incorporating the learning into the 2000 program.

Last year’s community outreach effort has evolved into the Schools Outreach Program. I anticipate that there will be a stronger linkage to the Docent Program this



year as a result of the significant increase in request walks for groups, many from local schools and youth groups. Carol Hankermeyer will need our help in bringing people resources to this effort as we build on the successful relationships she has developed with educators in the area.

The Trail Patrol is at an interesting juncture: Many of the blatant user problems encountered in the past years have subsided, while the ‘stealth outlaws’ continue to slip into the preserve with

their dogs or bikes at the edges of the weekdays. This year, we will continue to make adjustments that will enhance our ability to be proactive educators while encouraging the County to increase their enforcement activities. Frank Ficoni has stepped forward to fill the coordinator role for the Friends.

With the appointment of Bill Korbholz to the board of Directors of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, the Edgewood Visitor's Center is a step closer to eventual reality. Bill can leverage his in-depth knowledge of Edgewood to bring special focus to the Visitor’s Center campaign.

**Communication**

Whether it is our ever-increasing presence on the Internet, our outstanding newsletter, or the way we structure better ways to communicate with the County and other organizations, communication is a vital part of what we do. I have accepted Ranger Trejo’s invitation to establish monthly field meetings to improve the level of dialogue on issues specific to stewardship of the Preserve. We will also be meeting quarterly with Director Mary Burns and her staff to discuss “big picture” issues such as staffing levels and funding.

**Recruitment of Volunteers**

The structure of the 2000 Executive Committee reflects our best effort to align our precious people resources such that all of our varied activities will continue to grow, flourish and stay focused, while we engage in a long-term weed management effort. I ask that every member seek some way to take advantage of the many opportunities for volunteerism, which will in turn assist the County in bringing much-needed resources to Edgewood.

2000 promises to be another active year for the Friends, as we strive to preserve and protect Edgewood for the future. Let’s go to work!`

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Board Members (2-year Terms Expire 12/2001)**
  - John Allen
  - Kathy Korbholz
  - Lennie Roberts
- **Board Members (2-year Terms Expire 12/2000)**
  - Carol Belew
  - Toni Corelli
  - Peter Ingram
- **Director Emeritus for 2000**
  - Bill Korbholz

### 2000 OFFICERS

- Peter Ingram, President
- Kathy Korbholz, Vice President
- Carol Belew, Secretary
- John Allen, Treasurer

### 2000 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Peter Ingram, President / Chair
- Kathy Korbholz, Vice President / Publications Coordinator
- Carol Belew, Recording Secretary
- John Allen, Treasurer
- Bill Korbholz, Director Emeritus / Information Technology / Weed Management Program Coordinator
- Toni Corelli, Plants Consultant & Ombudsperson to County Staff
- Bob Young, Membership Coordinator
- Dianne Hunt, Docent Program Coordinator
- Katherine Greene, Docent Program / Publicity Support
- Carol Hankermeyer, Schools Outreach Coordinator
- Frank Figoni, Volunteer Trail Patrol Coordinator
- Ken Himes, Weed Management Program Field Marshal / CNPS Permit
- Susan Sommers, Revegetation Support to Weed Management Program
- Carolyn Curtis, Member at Large

### Special Assignments / Roles Outside of Executive Committee

- Director Lennie Roberts - Advisor, Strategy & Planning
- Director Emeritus Bill Korbholz - Member, Board of Directors, San Mateo County Parks Foundation
- Ken Seydel, Adopt-A-Highway Liaison to CalTrans

## DOCENTS GEARING UP FOR 2000

By Dianne Hunt

Our walk schedule is almost complete for this season and will be distributed to the public soon. Watch for AAA's Via Magazine calendar section for our walks listed in their March/April issue.

Our Docent-led walks will be every Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning March 5<sup>th</sup> and ending June 25<sup>th</sup>. All March and June walks will begin at the Day Camp Entrance. All April and May walks will start at the Park & Ride.



If your group is interested in a Docent-led walk during the week, please call me for reservations. Also, watch for our "Hospitality Table" in the Day Camp parking area for plant lists, Edgewood maps and the sale of Friends of Edgewood Tee Shirts, 3X hand lenses and full color Wildflower Brochures, or just stop by the table to say hello to our friendly volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for the Hospitality Table, please call me at (650) 261-1935 for a training class date.

Our Docent training has been going very well and graduation for our trainees is April 12th. Thanks to Ken Himes, Nita Spangler and Kathy Korbholz for great training presentations and walks in January and February. Our next training by Toni Corelli will be in March and will feature the Grassland Plant Community. The Preserve is already blooming with Shooting Stars and Indian Warriors.

See you all on the trails!!! ^

**BOB YOUNG PROCLAMATION**

*At the first Executive Committee meeting of the New Year, Bob Young received the following proclamation in honor of his valued service as Treasurer of Friends of Edgewood from 1993 to 2000:*



**In Honor of Robert Young  
Treasurer of the Friends of Edgewood  
Natural Preserve  
1993 to 2000**

**WHEREAS**, Bob has served the longest continuous period as an officer of the Friends, rendering his considerable financial skills and abilities in the role of Treasurer, Board member, Executive Committee member and veteran weeder, and

**WHEREAS**, the Edgewood Coalition that preceded the formation of the Friends received his active participation and energy, and

**WHEREAS**, Bob made the very first entry in the check ledger in the name of the Friends, and

**WHEREAS**, the successful effort to gain tax-exempt status for the Friends from the State and the IRS was largely a result of Bob’s exceptional record-keeping and accounting practices over many years, and

**WHEREAS**, in the office of the controller vernacular, Bob’s revenue “inflows” ALWAYS exceeded ‘outflows” (or at least that’s what he reported!), and

**WHEREAS**, it is with a great deal of pride and affection that the Friends of Edgewood Executive Committee acknowledges the outstanding contributions Bob has made to the people of San Mateo County and to that unique place called Edgewood Natural Preserve and positive impact he has had on the image and credibility of the Friends of Edgewood organization.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETER INGRAM, PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD NATURAL PRESERVE, ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**, do hereby express our deepest appreciation to **ROBERT YOUNG** for his many outstanding years as Treasurer and join with all Friends of Edgewood members in saluting him, in thanking him and in valuing him as a person, as a friend, as a colleague and as a true role model in volunteerism.

*Date: January 20, 2000*

**TRAIL PATROL BEGINS APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**By Peter Ingram**



The County of San Mateo Parks & Recreation Division, with support from the Friends of Edgewood, hosted a training and information session on February 29th, to kick off the 2000 Trail Patrol season. The purpose

of this session was to receive “refresher” training and updated information from Ranger Ricardo Trejo on the basic procedures and protocols for effective trail patrolling in Edgewood.

Additionally, Parks & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator Nick Ramirez outlined the County’s basic expectations of volunteers, how the Volunteer Program will provide support, and how the Trail Patrol fits into the broader range of volunteer opportunities in San Mateo County. The Friends of Edgewood’s new Trail Patrol Coordinator, Frank Figoni, explained the scheduling process and how he will be involved in coordinating between volunteers and rangers.

If you missed the kick-off session but would like to get involved in this enjoyable volunteer activity, you can call Frank Figoni or the County’s Volunteer Coordinator.

tion has been awarded since we received our California non-profit status at the end of 1997.

As Peter Ingram points out in his President's Report, weed management at Edgewood is one of our greatest challenges. So it makes sense for our Earth Day project to support our weed management efforts.

The interpretive signs will be shaped like small lecterns on 3-foot posts, with a platform that can accommodate an 11x17 sheet of paper (or 2 8½x11 sheets side-by-side). The paper will be locked under a protective sheet of plastic, and can be changed from time to time as we wish to modify the message. The signs will be produced and sold to us by Stu Simpson.

We will be distributing flyers in the next few weeks to attract lots of people to this educational and environmentally important event. We are encouraging our members to come and bring their friends to introduce them to Edgewood and

to the people who are striving to preserve it.

Mark April 22<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar now and watch for our flyer in a few weeks. `

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1999**

**By Bob Young**

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve remained financially sound in 1999, with income a little over \$1000 more than expenses. Major sources of income were from membership dues, donations, and the sale of wildflower brochures.

Our most significant expenses were for production and mailing of newsletters, the running of docent-led wildflower walks, the establishment of our Web site, and the annual meeting expenses/barbecue in October.

Thank you for your continuing support. For more information, please contact me. `



**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

New or renewing members may clip and complete this section to pay **tax-deductible** annual membership dues. Please send your check payable to **Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve** to the return address on the back of this panel. Renewing members can determine their membership expiration date by checking the four-digit code to the right of their name on their mailing label. For example, if the code is 0006, membership runs through June 2000.

Questions, call Bob Young (650) 592-3673. `

\_\_\_\_\_  
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
  - Newsletter
  - Revegetation
  - Weed management
  - Trail patrol
  - Community outreach



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

o *Saturdays and Sundays March 5<sup>th</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup>.* **WILDFLOWER WALKS.** Docent-led walks begin at 10:00 a.m. and end by 1:00 p.m. March and June walks start from the Day Camp entrance. April and May walks begin at the Park & Ride, (Hwy 280 and Edgewood).

o *Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 3<sup>rd</sup>,* **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAYS.** Call Ken Seydel for more information.

o *Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>,* **SOUTH BAY RESTORATION WORKSHOP,** Cañada College and Edgewood Park, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Second annual workshop on restoration in the Santa Cruz Mountain Bioregion. Featured

speakers are Jodi Isaacs (Resources Coordinator at MROSD), Stuart Weiss (Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology), Thomas Reid (Thomas Reid Associates), and Cynthia Gilbert (lecturer, SFSU). Admission is \$10. Contact Don Mayall for a registration form.

o *Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>,* **EARTH DAY AT EDGEWOOD.** Festivities will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See article on page 1 and watch for flyers.

o *Saturday and Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>,* **WILFLOWER SHOW AND SALE.** Sponsored by Santa Clara Valley Chapter of California Native Plant Society. Foothill college 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free; parking requires eight quarters.

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.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org), mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax, or email [info@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgeswood.org).

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**Wildflower Walks  
 Begin in March!**