



INTERPRETIVE CENTER CAMPAIGN BEGINS WITH MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

By Bill Korbholz

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, an organization formed in 1998 to raise money for the County Parks, recently launched its campaign to fund a new interpretive center for Edgewood County Park. The goal is to design a center that fits the character of the park, educates visitors about the sensitive resources and how to preserve them, and meets the needs of park volunteers and staff.

The first phase of this campaign is a community-based planning process to identify the needs and constraints for the interpretive center. A consultant-led effort soliciting input through community and focused meetings will result in options, with descriptions and budgets, for facilities and programs. This information would be the basis for additional community and environmental review during phase two. One stakeholder meeting has already been held to brainstorm the scope of work for this planning process.

I'm really excited about the prospect of an interpretive center at Edgewood, because I know that an interpretive center would provide the mechanism to better inform visitors about Edgewood's unique and fragile nature, and having better informed visitors means better stewardship.

The Friends of Edgewood is demonstrating its support for this project by pledging to match up to \$2,500 in donations made by FoE members to the Parks Foundation by the end of this year. That means that your donation will effectively be doubled!

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7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS APPRECIATION BBQ

By Kathy Korbholz

The Friends of Edgewood celebrated their 7th year of existence by hosting a member's appreciation BBQ as part of the annual general meeting on October 22nd. Approximately 75 Friends and guests mingled with each other and viewed the displays that described our weeding, docenting and other volunteer efforts before the formal meeting began. There was even a sample false peacock fly under a microscope.



Julia Bott, Elly and Bob Hess

Among the special guests were Parks Director Mary Burns, Parks Foundation Executive Director Julia Bott, CNPS Santa Clara Valley

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A CLOSER LOOK AT ITHURIEL'S SPEAR

By Bob Young

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



Photo by Sonja Wilcomer

Ithuriel's Spear, (scientific name *Triteleia laxa*, pronounced try-tuh-LAY-uh LAX-uh), 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 was given in 1835.

Ithuriel's Spear is in the Lily Family of plants. The flower stem grows from a bulb (actually, a corm) found in clay soils in open forest, woodland, or grassland. During the summer, the above-ground portion of the plant dries. Its energy for next year's growth is stored in the bulb.

On Edgewood, the plant blooms from April to June in serpentine grassland. The flower color is blue, blue-purple, or, rarely, white. Elsewhere, it can be found from sea level to 4,500 feet, from southwestern Oregon to the Transverse Ranges of southwestern California, as well as in the Sierra Nevada.

The Scientific name, *Triteleia laxa*, comes from the Greek Tria, meaning three; from the Greek Teleo, meaning an end, or complete; and from the Latin laxa, meaning loose, slack, or relaxed. The "three-complete" reference is to the flower parts which are perfectly arranged in three's. The "loose" reference is to the flowers which grow in a relaxed umbel, rather than in a tight cluster.

The common name Ithuriel's Spear, comes from a story in Milton's *Paradise Lost* written in 1667. In that story, the angel Gabriel asks the angels Ithuriel and Zephon, to search through the Garden of Eden for "...some infernal spirit... who escaped the bars of Hell on errand bad..." They search and find Satan disguised "...like a toad, close at the ear of Eve." He is trying to influence her with "...discontented thoughts..." Ithuriel touches the toad with his spear and Satan returns to his own likeness in a great flash, since "...no falsehood can endure the touch of..." Ithuriel's spear.

In Edith S. Clement's book *Flowers of Coast and Sierra*, she states that the plant is "Fancifully likened to the spear borne by the Angel Ithuriel, because of its straight slimness of stem..."

Other names for the plant are Blue Milla, Wally Basket, Grass Nut, Triplet Lily, and Common *Triteleia*.

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The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS and the Emerald Lake Homeowners Association have also made matching gift pledges toward this project.

Your support, by sending a contribution today and by attending the public meetings once we've funded the process, is key to the success of this effort.

Donations can be sent (using the attached enveloped) to San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. For more information, please call or email the Parks Foundation's Executive Director, Julia Bott, at (650) 321-5812 or julia@supportparks.org.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

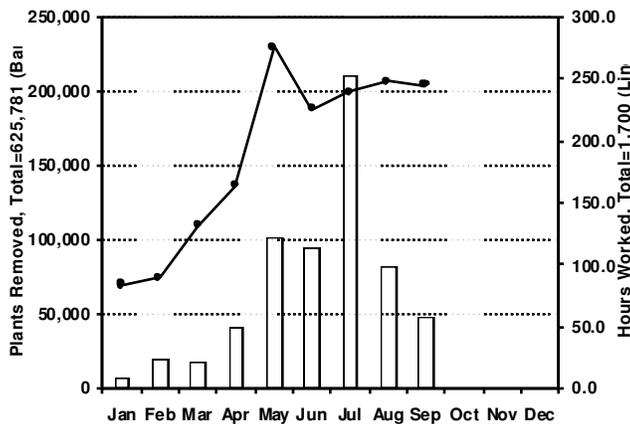
By Peter Ingram

This is Peter's report as distributed at the General Meeting on October 22nd. — ed.

If the old adage, "time flies when you're having fun" can be used to measure the warp speed of 2000, then I would say that the Friends had a lot of fun while accomplishing a significant amount of work in this, our 7th year. In January the current board, officers, and executive committee members were affirmed in their positions and took on the following priorities:

Weed Management

Edgewood is under siege by the 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 can make a real difference right where it matters the most: In the grasslands of the Preserve. In January, 2000 a 3-way partnership between San Mateo County, California Native Plant Society and the Friends was formed to design and execute a weed management plan for Edgewood. On Earth Day 2000 the Friends hosted a major public awareness event (which was grant funded) that formally kicked off the program. More than 100 people turned out. Our goal of 2,000 weeding hours in the year 2000 is now within reach. To date we have invested 1,700 volunteer hours and removed an estimated 625,000 plants. By the end of the year we hope to have bettered 1999 numbers by 100,000!

Education

The Wildflower Docent Program continues to draw people from all walks of life into Edgewood. A new docent manual has been developed, a stronger training curriculum implemented, and annual refresher / update sessions are being held for all docents preceding the walks season. Many hours have been invested 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, with a stronger linkage to the Docent Program. This shift in focus is a result of the significant increase in requests for pre-scheduled group walks, many from local schools and youth organizations.

The Volunteer Trail Patrol continues to provide a valuable presence in the Preserve, helping to educate users and mitigate problems encountered in the past years, such as the "stealth outlaws" that continue to slip into the preserve with their dogs or bikes, and/or wander off the designated trails. The County has increased enforcement activities to support the volunteers.

The proposed Edgewood Visitor Center is a step closer to reality. Recently, the Executive Committee passed a resolution expressing our commitment to support the effort to create the center and to work collaboratively with the County and other groups throughout the many steps ahead. In addition, our own Bill Korbholz is now a member of the San Mateo County Parks & Recreation Foundation Board of Directors and will in essence be the fund-raising campaign chair for Edgewood - within the context of the Foundation's charge to raise funds for the entire County parks system. The launching of the first phase of fund-raising coincides with today's gathering. Your generous contributions made by the end of this year will be matched dollar for dollar by the Friends, up to \$2,500.

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THE DUSKY-FOOTED WOOD RAT

By Elly and Bob Hess

Wood rat lodges have been observed in Edgewood Preserve for many years, especially in the fall when the trailside vegetation is easier to see through. The wood rat in the Preserve is the Dusky-Footed Wood Rat, *Neotoma fuscipes*. In October and November of this year we made a count of lodges visible from all the trails. The total count was 325 lodges. It is quite possible that some of these lodges have been abandoned by the wood rat and are now being used by mice, lizards, skunks and other small animals.

The Dusky-Footed Wood Rat can usually be found in oak woodlands or in chaparral. Its body length is around 9 inches; its fur-covered tail is around 8 inches. This rat is also called a packrat. It is chiefly nocturnal; we have seen them in the daytime only 3 times in 40 years.

In open habitats, they construct large conical lodges of sticks and leaves. Some lodges may measure as much as 8 feet in height and 8 feet in diameter. You may see bones, cans, glass and shiny metal, etc. in the lodges.

The lodge is multi-generation and multi-storied and has several chambers or compartments. The various chambers may be used as nursery, living room, food storage room, and toilet. Except for the toilet, all chambers are kept clean. They are all connected with one another and with the outside, and some rats dig tunnels underground as much as 2 feet beneath the lodge. The Wood Rats are expert climbers so they like to build their lodges around the tree trunks when possible for a hasty retreat up the tree. Being trapped in their own home is very remote.

Wood rats live primarily alone except during mating periods. The young are born around the middle of March and the litter usually consists of three or four. After birth and for a period of fifteen days the completely helpless young remain attached to their mother's nipples. The young remain in this position even when the

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Source: Palo Alto Open Space. Illustrations by Virginia Kolence

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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. Members of the Executive Committee now meet monthly with Edgewood Rangers and County parks management, to ensure a high level of activity coordination and cooperative problem-solving. In the spring we mobilized to support state ballot Propositions 12 and 13 - which were both passed by the electorate. As a result, millions of dollars in grant opportunities for parks and open space will be available for a wide range of purposes. During the County Board of Supervisors budget hearings in June, we supported the Parks & Recreation staff and Commission in advocating for increased funding and staff resources for the Preserve. The outcome was very positive for Edgewood: An additional ranger position will be added and Edgewood rangers are no longer pulled away from Edgewood to staff Bicycle Sunday on Cañada Road.

Recruitment of Volunteers

With the majority of the work being done by your 14-member Executive Committee in concert with groups of volunteers mentioned above, we are stretched thin and exceeding our carrying capacity. I am concerned that we will not be able to sustain mission-critical work, or miss one-time opportunities (such as new grants), or exhaust our best and brightest. We must increase the number of participants in our core activity areas! Please give serious consideration to joining the Executive Committee to help us make 2001 the best Friends year yet! There is no more gratifying work we can do in our short time on planet earth than the stewardship of our natural resources.

Thank you for your support and dedication,`



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Chapter President Don Mayall, former Parks Superintendent Lynne Fritz, former Parks Commissioner Nita Spangler, Fish and Wildlife Committee chair Jerry Hearn, rangers Ricardo Trejo and Ric Munds, and park aides Thomas Faith, Matt Amorose, and Oren Givari. Even Annabel Zahl and her guide-dog Halo joined in the festivities.

Expert chef Frank Figoni grilled the burgers and hot dogs, while Stew Simpson helped serve. The grilled food was complemented by delicious side dishes prepared by the executive committee and was topped off by a sheet cake. John Allen was the power shopper and Carol Belew organized the accompaniments.



President Peter Ingram gave a brief recap of the year's efforts and urged more members to get involved in the Executive Committee. Peter presented this year's best friend award to Lynne Fritz for her long-standing support for Edgewood and the Friends organization.

Peter conducted our annual election for 3 new Board members to serve 2-year terms, and Carol Belew, Toni Corelli, and Peter Ingram were elected.



Don May all receives award from Mary Burns

The Parks staff presented Don Mayall (for CNPS) and John Allen with recognition awards for their ongoing

service to the Preserve. Ricardo Trejo also unveiled a permanent plaque with former appreciation award winners. For now it will be housed in the ranger office; in the future we hope it will be displayed in the interpretive center. It

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NEW DOCENT TRAINING HAS BEGUN

By Dianne Hunt

I'd like to welcome our eight new Docent Trainees for the 2001 Wildflower Walk Season:

- Phyllis Anderson
- Tom Cochrane
- Barbara Erny
- Les Filler
- Kay Filler
- Julie Foster
- Malini Kaushik
- Victoria Nilson

Thanks to Susan Sommers, John Allen and Roger Myers for great training presentations and walks in October and November. Our next training by Ken Himes will be in January.

Edgewood T-Shirts with our Bay Checkerspot Butterfly on a California Poppy make wonderful Christmas Presents. They are available in all sizes for \$20.00. Let me know if you'd like to purchase one.

Have a wonderful holiday season!`

FRIENDS NOMINATED FOR AWARD

By Bill Korbholz

The Friends of Edgewood was nominated this year to receive the San Mateo

County Sustainability Award 2000. This award is given annually to individuals, groups, businesses, projects and organizations whose actions enhance the region's long-term social well-being and economic vitality, and support a healthy ecosystem. The award is presented by Sustainable San Mateo County, a non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term health and vitality of our region.

Although the Friends were not selected, we were honored to have been among other highly regarded individuals and organizations such as Peninsula Open Space Trust and Audrey Rust (one of 5 winners), San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, and Susan Sommers.`

RANGER RIC'S ROUNDUP

By Ric Munds

We have had a wonderful fall this year at Edgewood Park. We have continued to improve the trail system, revegetation of erosion sites, eradication of non-natives, and San Mateo County recognized an individual and group.

We are preparing the trails for the upcoming winter months by clearing ditches, re-enforcing trail edges, and securing the switchbacks to hold winter traffic. Overall, the trails will be in good shape for year-round use.

The volunteer effort continues to be a strong asset of the Park especially in the areas of eradication and revegetation. We started to plant bunch grasses on the erosion site that we grew from seed from Edgewood at San Mateo College. We also had volunteers from Nordstrom's, a Boy Scout Group, and schools.

This year at the FOE meeting, CNPS was recognized as a long time contributor and supporter to Edgewood Park. John Allen was recognized as outstanding volunteer for his efforts and support in many areas of the park. John has been volunteering at Edgewood since 1990, which in itself speaks for John's dedication to the park. Way to set the example for the rest of us.

We are looking forward to serving through the holidays. Happy Holidays to all.`

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mother leaves the nest.

Their favorite foods include acorns, leaves of various types, grains, nuts, roots, and when obtainable, meat.

Rodents do like meat. Enemies of the wood rat are coyotes, foxes, bobcats, owls, hawks and snakes.`



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE

By Ken Seydel

The next time you drive north on Highway 280, between the Cañada Road on-ramp and Edgewood Road, notice the rather large expanse of land between the highway and the fenced boundary of the park. This is part of the acreage cared for by our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. In the spring the wildflowers here rival those any where else in the park. Although this is officially Cal-Trans land, we consider it an extension of the park. Certainly the flora and fauna do not recognize any boundaries.

Saturday, September 16th was California Cleanup Day. So our highway cleanup crew deviated from their first Saturday of the even numbered months in order to participate. It was another perfect day in paradise - a little overcast in the morning, but warming up nicely by our finish time of 11:30.

We welcomed two new Freeway Warriors to our crew: Sandra Cooperman and Don Hohi. They, along with “old timers” Bob Archibald, Kate Conners, Billy James, Dianne Hunt, Bill & Kathy Korbholz, and Ken Seydel managed to gather 23 bags of litter.

It was a profitable outing for four of the crew. They found a total of \$44. One person also found a blank check (unfortunately it was unsigned)! Summer seems to be a better time for finding money. Perhaps people leave their windows down so that it can blow out for us. We found a KIA hubcap, and several blown-out tires (not identifiable as Firestone).

Our group of intrepid volunteers does its thing on the first Saturday of the even months. We can always use more adventuresome people. If you have an interest please contact Ken Seydel. We will see that you are safety trained and equipped with your very own Picker, hard hat, goggles, gloves, and bright orange vest.



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 06/2000, membership runs through June 2000.

Questions, call Bob Young.

- \$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.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

I would like to participate in the following:

- Docent program
- Trail patrol
- Publications
- Weed management
- School outreach
- Habitat restoration



UPCOMING EVENTS

o *Saturday February 3rd*, **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAY**. Meet at the Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. Call Ken Seydel for more information or to arrange for safety training.

o *Monday, January 1st*, **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**. Why not resolve to get involved in one of the volunteer opportunities sponsored by the Friends of Edgewood and give something back to this wonderful preserve?

o *March—June*, **DOCENT-LED WILDFLOWER WALKS**. Docents will be leading these popular walks on Saturday and Sunday mornings this spring.

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has plenty of space for future recipients, so get involved.

The afternoon was capped by presentations about the potential future interpretive center. Julia Bott spoke about the need for our input in the planning phases as well as our donations (with matching funds, up to \$2,500 from the Friends of Edgewood). Bill Korbholz added a touch of humor as he revealed four whimsical renditions of architectural concepts of interpretive centers. You had to be there! ^



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, mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax, or email info@friendsofedgeswood.org.

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