

Edgewood



Explorer

June 2001

Volume 8 Number 2

SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES KICK INTO HIGH GEAR AT EDGEWOOD

By Bill Korbholz

As docent-led spring wildflower walks and school outreach projects wind down (June 17 is the last scheduled walk), our focus shifts to the “protect and preserve” aspects of our mission statement. Spring and summer are the most active months for weeding, and this year will see our greatest effort to date. Our weeding activities fall into 4 general categories:

1. Support for the SMCWMA IWMP
2. Regularly scheduled weeding activities
3. Support for the Vegetation Management Plan
4. Support for the NFWF Habitat Restoration Project

SMCWMA IWMP

The San Mateo County Weed Management Area (WMA) is a newly formed organization for managing weeds in our County. It is chaired by Gail Raabe, the County Agricultural Commissioner.

The WMA received a grant of \$15,074 from the State to implement an Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP). The IWMP must accomplish the following 3 objectives by June 30, 2002 (\$1,507 was reserved for grant administration):

1. Demonstrate a long-term, integrated approach to yellow star-thistle (YST) control over approximately 150 acres of threatened Serpentine grassland at Edgewood. Funding = \$6,000.
2. Produce brochures and a portable display to educate the public about San Mateo County’s weeds of greatest concern and impacts from non-native invasive plants. Funding = \$4,000.
3. Obtain a baseline inventory of existing data on locations of noxious and invasive weeds within the SMCWMA in order to begin a GIS (Geographic Information System) Project database. Funding = \$3,567.

(Continued on page 4)

FRIENDS DESIGNATE ELLY’S MEADOW IN HONOR OF ELLY HESS

Those who are frequent visitors to Edgewood, often have nicknames for certain areas of the preserve—the Yampah meadow, Hill One, Inspiration Heights, the Bush Mallow site. These



names are not official designations, but rather used to uniquely identify an area.

The Executive Committee of the Friends of Edgewood wanted to honor Elly Hess by naming an area in honor of her ten-year commitment to the weeding program. The Committee selected

(Continued on page 4)

INSIDE THE EXPLORER

A Closer Look at Narrow-Leaved Mule Ears...	2
Edgewood Leads Volunteer Hours	2
Spring School Outreach Activities	3
Adopt-A-Highway Update	4
Roger Myers Receives Best Friend Award	5
Docent-Led Wildflower Walk Numbers Up	5
Ranger Roundup	6
Membership Dues	7
Upcoming Events	8
Tour De Peninsula	8

A CLOSER LOOK AT NARROW-LEAVED MULE EARS

By Bob Young

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



Photo by Kathy Korbholz

Narrow-leaved Mule Ears (*Wyethia angustifolia*) 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 genus name honors Nathaniel J. Wyeth, the collector of the original species *Wyethia helianthoides* probably in eastern Idaho in 1833.

Wyethia angustifolia is a perennial plant, growing one to two feet high. It appears in grasslands, under 6000 feet elevation, from southern Washington and western Oregon, south to Monterey County, and sparingly in the Sierra Nevada. The specific epithet *angustifolia* comes from two Latin words: *angust*, meaning drawn together, or narrow; and *foli*, meaning leaf. On Edgewood, Mule Ears blooms in April and May on non-serpentine soil. In the summer, all parts of the plant dry and turn brown, the roots going

dormant until the next season.

Mule Ears is in the Sunflower Family of plants. The large, yellow flower is similar to the agriculturally-grown sunflower and to the florists' sunflower. The diversity of plants in this family can be seen by comparing the size and shape of the Mule Ears plant with the two other members of the sunflower family in our wildflower brochure: Goldfields and Tidy Tips. Even more diversity within this very large family can be found in plants such as thistle, marigold, chrysanthemum, sagebrush, lettuce, and others.

A web site (www.xmission.com/~drudy/mtman/html/nwythint.html) contains a biography of Nathaniel Wyeth, many pages of his journals, and selected letters. He organized and led two expeditions to the fur country, with the purpose of establishing a fur trapping business to compete with the entrenched companies. In one of his letters dated 1833 to Thomas Nuttall, botanist and ornithologist, he mentions that he had sent "a package of plants collected in the interior and on the western coast of America."

Nuttall, an Englishman, was a lecturer in natural history at Harvard. He resigned that post in 1834 and joined Wyeth's party, traveling to Idaho, then to Fort Vancouver, Washington. He later traveled to Hawaii. It was Nuttall who wrote up the botanical description of *Wyethia*, naming the plant in honor of its first collector.

On Edgewood Natural Preserve, we also have another plant in the genus *Wyethia*: *W. glabra*. This plant, known commonly as Mule Ears, has very broad leaves and therefore is easily distinguished from Narrow-leaved Mule Ears. `

EDGEWOOD SETS PACE FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2000

San Mateo County Volunteer Coordinator Nick Ramirez reports that last year 6,932 volunteer hours were spent on activities relating to Edgewood Natural Preserve, representing almost 30% of the 23,753 hours across County parks. Fitzgerald came in second with an impressive 2,973 hours. `

SPRING SCHOOL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

By Carol Hankermeyer

Spring brought out many wildflowers at Edgewood and many local school children to witness them. We have had record participation and interest in field trips this season. Here is a summary of those events.

On April 12 a group of four high school homeschoolers visited Edgewood to learn about the ecology of California grassland communities. Each student was to report on a specific aspect or group of organisms: one on native plants, another on insects, a third on reptiles and amphibians, and the fourth on birds and mammals. Unfortunately, ticks, which were not on the list to study, showed up on the students en masse!

Diane Garcia, science teacher at JLS Middle School, brought 52 sixth-graders to Edgewood on April 16 as an introduction to their study of plants. Six valiant docents were recruited to lead students on several different trails from the Day Camp. Everybody seemed gratified by the experience, as witnessed by glowing letters of appreciation from the teacher and students.

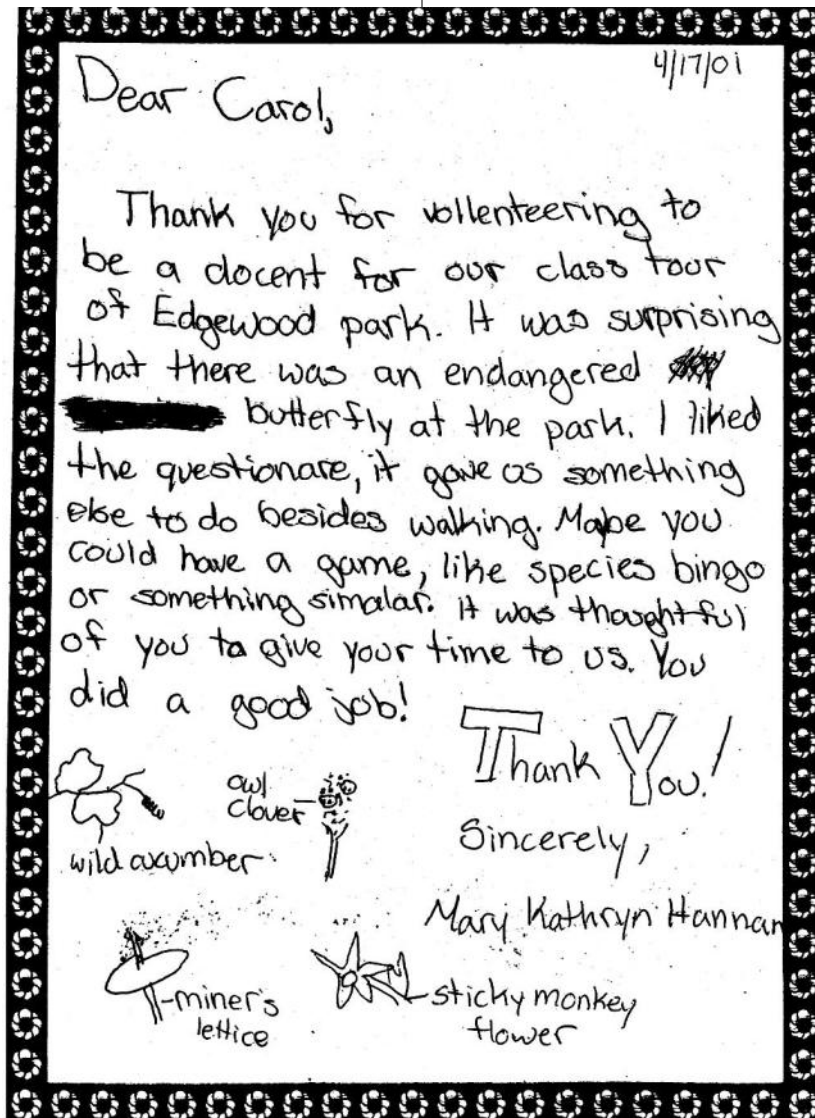
On May 9 I led a group of 9 Tiger Cub Scouts, parents and siblings on an afternoon discovery hike on the Sylvan

Loop Trail. A Treasure Hunt, including a search for wildlife signs and woodrat nests kept them *almost* occupied. What an active crew! And can anyone answer the question why Native Americans went around nearly naked while white settlers wore so many clothes??

On May 23 we welcomed Sharon Cotter's class of third graders from Encinal School. Three docents took them on the Sylvan Loop Trail to find out about animal and plant adaptations as well as Native American life in the foothills. We received very positive feedback from teacher, parents and students. We'll greet the rest of Encinal's third graders—100 students in all!—on June 4 and 8 to wind up the school field trip season.

It's impossible to overstate the contribution made

by the Edgewood docents who are willing to brave the uncertainties, frequent chaos, and special demands placed on them when leading groups of school children in the Preserve. I wish to honor all of them for their gift of time and talent and remind everybody that without them the Schools Outreach Program would simply not exist. They are: John Allen, Sam and Delpha Berry, Kate Connors, Barbara Erny, Herb Fischgrund, Dick Gehrler, Paul Heiple, Pat Lisin, Alex Maksymowicz, Donna Maytham, Roger Myers, Pat Oren, Susan Peterson, Jan Simpson, and Robert Strode. Thank you one and all!



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE

By Ken Seydel

Although the weatherpersons called for rain all weekend, the sun came out on the morning of Saturday April 7, the freeway dried out, and 8:30 found six of our intrepid freeway volunteers ready to go picking: Carolyn Dorsch, Bill & Kathy Korbholz, Roger Myers, Susan Russell, and Ken Seydel. Some of our regulars were probably confused by the weather and thought the event was cancelled by rain.

We enjoyed the early spring flora and fauna fresh with the recent rains. In the process we managed to collect 19 bags of litter. This cleanup was a part of the "Keep California Beautiful Month". And as such we reported what was collected to the Adopt-A-Highway Program. They were interested in what percentage of the litter was "Accidental" or "Deliberate". We concluded that about 80% was deliberate. This includes trash which probably blew out of the beds of pickup trucks. Not securing loads constitutes deliberate littering in our opinion! The "accidental" litter is usually dominated by a surprising amount of automotive detritus. Are we overly optimistic to hope that our input might result in some sort of stricter enforcement?

WE REALLY COULD USE A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS!! Recently we have lost 4 of our regulars, and desperately need replacements.

If you have an interest in joining our great group 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.

(Continued from page 1)

the area where the entire weeding effort for Edgewood began. Her proclamation, dated March 29, 2001, read:

Whereas Elly Hess realized in 1989 that Fuller's Teasel was invading Edgewood Park and, if left unchecked, could eventually supplant cherished native wildflowers, and

Whereas Elly began her personal attack on these invaders and mobilized other weed warriors to fight this infestation on a regular basis, and

Whereas Elly quietly energized and inspired her warriors to carry on the battle, even years before positive results were measurable, and

Whereas Elly organized this effort for over 10 years, continually identifying new enemies and new battlegrounds and expanding her group's efforts beyond Fuller's Teasel to weeds such as French Broom, Fennel, Bellardia, Cotoneaster, Olive, Yellow Star Thistle, and Bristly Ox-Tongue, and

Whereas Elly kept meticulous records of her weed warriors' activities, hours, and plants removed, and reported these records to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division Staff from 1989—1999, and

Whereas the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve wish to encourage others to aspire to Elly's high standards of stewardship and protection of natural habitats,

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 proclaim the northwest triangle of Edgewood bounded by the Edgewood Trail and the adjacent park boundaries to be forever known as Elly's Meadow.

(Continued from page 1)

The WMA organization is responsible for objectives 2 and 3, while the Friends of Edgewood, CNPS, and SMC Parks & Recreation are responsible for objective 1. That means this year we will be removing YST from an additional 5 acres over and above the current 7 acres where it has been treated for the past 2 years. Much of this removal will be accomplished by mowing, which will require renting equipment and will consume most of the \$6,000 allocated for this objective.

However, CNPS and FoE are responsible for most of the hand removal and monitoring efforts. These efforts have already begun and will continue in earnest through August.

Regularly Scheduled Weeding

Our regular weeding outings that occur Friday mornings, Saturday mornings, and Wednesday

(Continued on page 6)

ROGER MYERS RECEIVES BEST FRIEND AWARD

By Kathy Korbholz



Best Friend honors were bestowed on Roger Myers during a surprise good-bye party held at the Day Camp. The Executive Committee cast an early ballot so Roger could be given the award

before he and his wife Leslie moved to Whitefish, Montana in early June. The Committee hopes to lure Roger and Leslie back to the Bay Area in October so we can present the Best Friend Award during the annual General Meeting.

Roger was genuinely surprised and moved by the number of friends (many from the MROSD docent program), the heartfelt thanks for his many contributions, and expressions of how much he will be missed. Leslie indicated he had no idea how many lives in the environmental community he had touched so profoundly.

The Best Friend award read:

Roger Myers Is a best friend of Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve

For his precedent-setting adoption of a threatened habitat (the "bush mallow site") in 1999 and dedicated effort in personally removing 66,561 noxious plants in 3 years, effectively restoring it to a native habitat;

For his enthusiastic participation in Friends activities such as training docents in the reptiles, amphibians, and geology of Edgewood, leading docent walks, and supporting the Friends' Adopt-A-Highway and general weeding efforts; and

For his grace, gentleness, generosity, and kindness that taught us to lobby for the critters and be stewards of the land.

Ed note: What better way to carry on Roger's effort than to take over his site or adopt your own? You may consider forming a small group to adopt a site; that way the responsibility is shared, and it offers a chance to socialize in a beautiful setting. If you are interested, contact Ken Himes. He will help you select a site, give you instruction, a copy of the weeding permit and deputize you to weed on your own. (Since Edgewood is a natural preserve, all weeding must done under strict permit which involves counting the amount of each species removed.)

DOCENT-LED HIKE NUMBERS WAY UP THIS YEAR!

By Dianne Hunt

Thanks to all our Docents and participants for much higher numbers than last season. As of the end of May, we have had 473 attendees led by 35 Docents.

Walks will continue until June 17th, meeting at the Old Stage Day Camp area at 10:00 am by the Kiosks and lasting until 1:00 pm. Don't miss your last chance to come out with a Docent!!!

Also, thanks to Docents Pat Oren and Bob Young who have been working very hard on the Demonstration Garden in the Old Stage Day Camp parking lot.

Finally, thanks to all the Docents who have been filling the three Kiosks with wonderful photos, information (and even a snake skin!).

You should check out the Garden and the kiosks, if you haven't had a chance yet.

Have a wonderful summer and see you on the trails!!!



RANGER ROUNDUP

By Ricardo Trejo

In the summer of 1998, soon after Ranger Munds and I were assigned to Edgewood Park, we met with Nick Ramirez, Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coordinator to evaluate what type of projects could be performed by volunteers; what supplies, hand tools and equipment would be needed for the projects; and what accommodations could be made for volunteers' physical limitations, if necessary.

Having since used diverse volunteer groups for projects at the park, Ranger Munds and I are impressed with the energy and drive these volunteers bring to accomplishing their assigned tasks and projects. Volunteers are motivated; they perform their tasks willingly and take pride in their work. They are dedicated to making park improvements and want park visitors to enjoy the improvements to the park. Volunteers have helped in many ways and for various projects, some of which are the following:

- Trail tread restoration
- Signs installation
- Construction of French drain ditches
- Facility maintenance
- Weed eradication
- Interpretive Programs

Even though at times the work was physically demanding and required that volunteers haul heavy materials and tools about a mile to reach the work site, invariably the volunteers have been enthusiastic about meeting the challenge.

There have been many compliments from park visitors regarding the improvements of the trails and the Old Stagecoach picnic area, and the habitat restoration/eradication of noxious weeds.

The credit for the success of these types of programs and projects goes to the many volunteer organizations, companies, and individual volunteers who have volunteered. The Volunteer Program is a big success and many hours have been, and continue to be donated to

the Parks. For example, at this year's Trail/Earth Day 2001 held on April 21st, we recorded the following volunteer hours:

Habitat protection sign installation	15
Sylvan Trail tread restoration	40
Clarkia Trail restoration (S.M. Horse Association)	22
Weed eradication (CNPS and FoE)	154
Total volunteer hours	231

The grants described in the article beginning on page 1 are contingent upon the use of a volunteer work force; hence, the effort towards community outreach and education.

With additional new programs and projects such as the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Project, expansion of weeding zones, and continuation of maintenance of the parks' recreation amenities (picnic areas, trails, etc.), labor needs increase and a stronger Volunteer Program becomes even more important in accomplishing our park projects.

If you, your company or organization would like to volunteer and participate in a challenging park project, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, please contact Nick Ramirez, Volunteer Coordinator. You may also call Ranger Trejo or Ranger Munds for more details.

(Continued from page 4)

afternoons support our responsibility to the IWMP. But they also go beyond, in that they address areas not covered by the IWMP.

Vegetation Management Plan and NFWF Habitat Restoration

SMC was granted \$50,000 by the Parks Foundation to develop a County-wide Vegetation Management Plan. Rana Creek received the contract to develop the plan. Rana Creek is now in the process of gathering knowledge from other sources, largely

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
volunteers, on the status of weeds in the County. Some members of FoE and CNPS will be assisting in this activity.



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has granted \$70,000 through the San Mateo County Parks Foundation for

Edgewood Preserve Habitat Restoration. Specifically, the project proposes to restore approximately 100 acres of grassland to arrest and reverse the invasion of introduced annual grasses and other exotic species to encourage native biodiversity and recover the Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*) and native plant populations. Dr. Stuart

Weiss, a well-known conservation biologist with considerable history studying this species, has been contracted to head the project. Some members of Foe and CNPS will be volunteering to assist Stuart.

Something for Everyone

These 4 areas of activities provide lots of opportunities for people to participate in different ways. There are already several dozen volunteers who regularly or occasionally help. More volunteers are needed primarily to help pull weeds, but as well, to assist in monitoring, photo-documenting, and record-keeping. Our corps of weed warriors has had a measurable positive impact on native habitats. You could be a part of the solution.

To volunteer, contact Bill Korbholz or Ken Himes. Or check out our schedule on www.friendsofedgewood.org and just drop by. Reservations are not necessary, and there is no waiting!`



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 06/2001, membership runs through June 2001.

Questions, call Bob Young.

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.

I would like to participate in the following:

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

- o *Through June 17th*, **DOCENT-LED WILDFLOWER WALKS**. All remaining walks start at the Old Stage Day Camp.
- o *Saturday AUGUST 4th*, **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 *Sunday, August 5th*, **TOUR DE PENINSULA**. See article on this page.
- o *August 10th-19th*, **SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR**. Watch for ads and be sure to visit the Parks & Recreation booth.

TOUR DE PENINSULA COMING AUG. 5

By Julia Bott

The SF Chronicle Tour de Peninsula is scheduled for Sunday August 5, and again the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation will benefit from the profits.

The 33-mile ride, which starts and ends at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, has a set course that takes riders on beautiful Sawyer Camp Trail and along Edgewood Park and Preserve. There are 10- and 20-mile routes too.

If you don't want to ride in the event, you can help out as a volunteer.

For more information, contact Julia Bott at (650) 321-5812 or www.supportparks.org.

The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Edgewood for the human, plant, and animal generations to come. The newsletter is produced by Kathy and Bill 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.friendsofedgewood.org, mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax toll-free at (866) GO-EDGEWOOD, or email info@friendsofedgewood.org.

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
PO Box 3422
Redwood City, CA 94064-3422

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 179
REDWOOD CITY, CA
94064