



## SAVE COUNTY PARKS

Several leaders in our community are beginning a drive to put a tax measure on the ballot to get a dedicated source of funds for County parks. As you may already know, Parks budgets have been cut a total of 30% the past 2 years, and that means a reduction in services, reduced hours, and potential closings. Our County has no dedicated source of tax funds for parks, and *desperately* needs a way to ensure that Parks get funding during difficult times like these.

Right now it's important to demonstrate to our Supervisors that there is strong public support for moving forward with some kind of tax measure. Show your support by signing the enclosed petition and sending it in **NOW**. In fact, you can encourage your friends and neighbors to sign the petition too.

## EDGEWOOD MAPPING PROJECT

**By Bill Korbholz**

In the last *Explorer*, I introduced our mapping project. Since then, we've made lots of exciting progress.



Toni Corelli (center) trains mapping volunteers  
(Continued on page 5)

## POWERS OF 10 COMING TO EDGEWOOD!

**By Peter Ingram**

***Save the date: Sunday, October 19, 2003, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at the Day Camp.***

The Friends of Edgewood will be celebrating our tenth anniversary this year, and we will be hosting a very special event that you will not want to miss. The lawn area of the Day camp will be transformed into a Main Street of displays and exhibits that you can stroll through as you enjoy the offerings of an anniversary ice cream social.

There will be lots of fun things for children to see and do. Adults will be equally delighted by the many interactive opportunities to appreciate a decade's worth of accomplishments and help create a vision for the next ten years.

There will be a short ceremony focusing on the successful collaborations in preserving and protecting Edgewood and the many exciting challenges ahead.

What can you do to ensure that the Friends' anniversary is a meaningful and memorable event? It's easy – just mark your calendars, gather up your kids, grandchildren and friends and come join us at the Day Camp on October

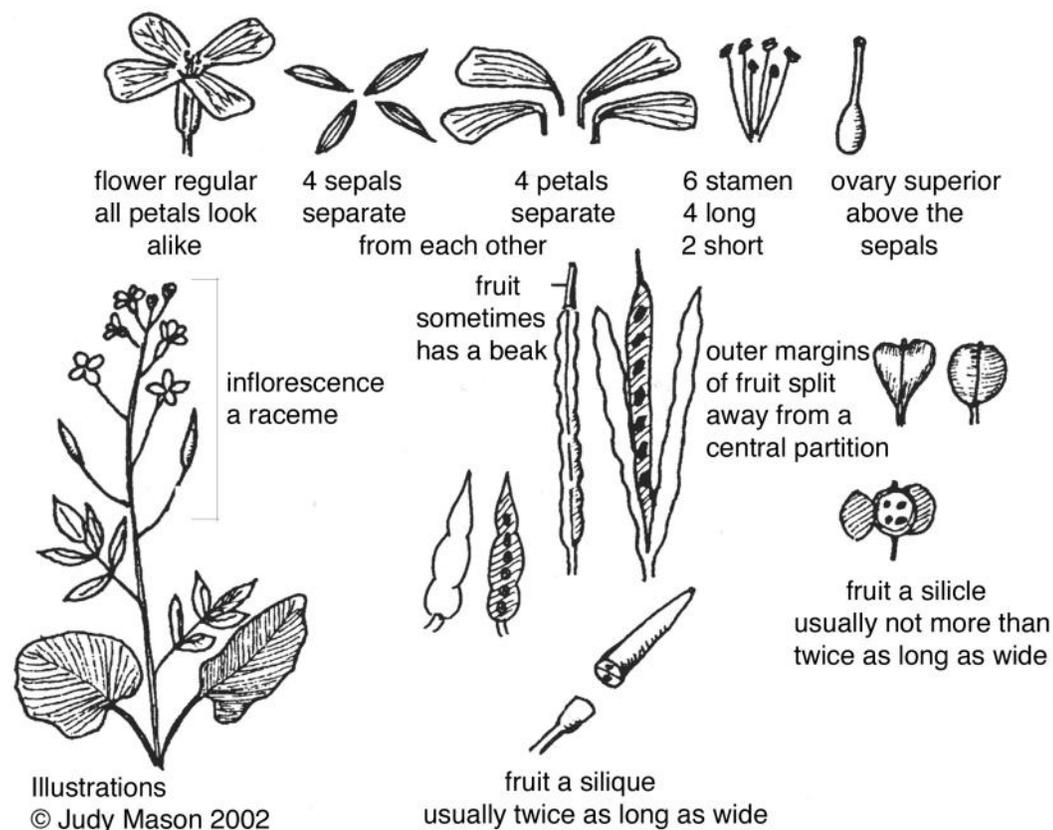
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**BRASSICACEAE - MUSTARD FAMILY**By **Toni Corelli**

*This is the second of a series of articles about flowering plant families. —ed.*



- Annuals, herbaceous perennials
- Leaves basal and alternate, simple or compound
- Inflorescence generally a raceme
- Flowers bisexual, regular; sepals and petals 4, separate, petals often in the shape of a cross; stamens 6, 4 long 2 short; pistil 1, ovary superior, style 1, stigma lobes 2
- Fruit a silique (long and narrow) or a silicle (short and broad, or roundish)
- Some genera cultivated as ornamentals or for food (e.g., broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard, radish, water cress). Many have a pungent juice.
- Synonym - Cruciferae, meaning cross-like, refers to shape the petals make.

American winter cress (*Barbarea orthoceras*) was inadvertently left out of the flora but can be

added by cutting out the description and image on page 4 and adding it to your flora. It occurs in the moist areas and has bright yellow flowers.

Many members of our Brassicaceae Family flower early and quickly, and some of the flowers are very small. What is more obvious are the fruits (fertilized ovaries): these are either silicles or siliques. Silicles are short and broad, or roundish; siliques are long and narrow.

The silicles of the shining peppergrass (*Lepidium nitidum*) and the shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) are often observed on our tours. They are illustrated in the family characteristics illustration. The silicle for the shining peppergrass is almost round with a notch at the tip; the shepherd's purse is somewhat heart shaped. Both have a line down the front of the fruit; this is where the silicle will split when the seeds are ripe and many tiny seeds will spill out. The moonwort (*Linaria annua*) is a new addition to the plant list recently discovered near the bathroom facility at the day camp. It has bright pink flowers and silver dollar-like fruits. The hairy fringedpod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*) also has a round shaped silicle; inside the center there is only 1 seed, the area around the seed is sometimes perforated.

The few-seeded bitter-cress (*Cardamine oligosperma*) is one of our most common plants along trail. It has very small white flowers; the compound basal leaves are more noticeable

(Continued on page 4)

## SWALLOWS

By Lee Franks

Swallows are the most conspicuous, well known, and beneficial of birds; they feed in flight on numerous insects detrimental to man. They're instantly recognizable by their slender, streamlined bodies. They are "familiar" birds throughout the world (100 species in all), often nesting in close association with people, even inside their homes. They are known to many as harbingers of spring and as symbols of good luck. It's difficult to think of an animal with more innate grace and beauty than swallows.

The swallow that "returns to San Juan Capistrano Mission" each March is the Cliff Swallow. Watching them gather mud to build their globular homes in colonies under bridges, or in the eaves of buildings is a sight to behold. They stuff as much mud as possible into their tiny beaks and carry it substantial distances.

The Cliff Swallow is one of 8 species found in California, all of which are migratory. The remaining seven are the Purple Martin (largest), Cave Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Violet-Green Swallow, and the Northern Rough-Winged Swallow. Three of these species, the Cliff, Bank, and Barn are colonizing species that breed in colonies and build their nests close together. In this way, there is no territory for the individual bird to defend, except for its own nest.



Northern Rough-Winged Swallow

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[www.pma.edmonton.ab.ca/vexhibit/eggs/vexeggs/passers/](http://www.pma.edmonton.ab.ca/vexhibit/eggs/vexeggs/passers/)

Spring and early summer visitors to the Park passing under Hwy. 280 will no doubt be aware of one of the two California swallow species that nest at Edgewood. The conspicuous Northern Rough-Winged Swallow will be nesting in holes on the underside of the highway. Unlike the Cliff, Bank, and Barn, these swallows are not colonial. They prefer to nest in isolated pairs. This brown-backed, dusky-throated little swallow (5-6") prefers the vast open grasslands near Hwy. 280 for low altitude aerial foraging. John James Audubon (1838) discovered the Northern Rough-Winged Swallow in 1819, virtually by accident when he collected a few of what he thought were Bank Swallows (also brown-backed) in Louisiana. Only with later, closer observations did he determine that he had actually collected representatives of a distinct species.

The most distinguishing characteristic of this swallow is its "rough" primary wing feather, from which its common name has been derived. This characteristic produces a "file-like" roughness when one's finger is drawn along the edge of the quill from the base toward the tip of the feather. The function of these small serrations is unknown. Some ornithologists have suggested that they function to produce sounds that are a part of courtship flights.

The Rough-Winged Swallow arrives here from Mexico and Central America over well-defined routes in April, and departs in August. Unlike many small land birds, they migrate during daylight hours, with periodic interludes of foraging. Spring migration is prolonged and not pronounced, sometimes described as leisurely. They readily associate with other species, especially Bank Swallows. Immediately after arrival the swallows begin to show spasmodic interest in nesting sites. Individuals of both sexes hover close in front of available cavities, call, perch occasionally at the entrances, at times actually enter for a brief period, and sit watchfully close by. Occupancy rate of artificial cavities is high. However to date, they have avoided nest boxes in the Park. One has to wonder why they choose these cavities, which expose their nests to the hazards of spring rains and cold nights.

The other swallow that breeds in the Park is the Violet-Green Swallow, and they do use the nest boxes. The

*(Continued on page 5)*

(BRASSICACEAE, Continued from page 2)

forming a rosette at the base of the plant. Although it is called few-seeded, there are many seeds in each silique, the elongated fruit of the Mustard Family.

Many species of Brassicaceae have been cultivated since prehistoric time. This family is very diverse and comprised of about 350 genera and 3,500 species. `

(POWERS OF 10, Continued from page 1)

19<sup>th</sup>! The future of Edgewood Natural Preserve is directly tied to the many dedicated members of the Friends of Edgewood, our superb County staff, and hundreds of volunteers who together provide the ongoing stewardship of this incredible place.

See you there! `

**Barbarea orthoceras** Ledeb.  
**AMERICAN WINTER CRESS** Native  
 Flowering time: March-July  
 Habitat: woodland

Description: Upright herbaceous perennial to 5 dm.

Leaves basal and alternate, compound, 1-pinnate; basal leaves to 20 cm, with 3-5 pairs of leaflets; petiole to 3 cm; stem leaves to 10 cm, with 1-2 pairs of leaflets, sessile and clasping the stem.

Inflorescence a raceme; peduncle to 2 cm; pedicel to 3 mm; sepals yellow-green to 2 mm; petals yellow to 3 mm; stamens inserted, style 1, stigma slightly 2-lobed.

Fruit an upright silique, to 5 cm.

Name Derivation:

Named for Saint Barbara/upright horned, referring to the fruit



#### Pending Classification Changes

The April 2002 **Fremontia** (issued in January 2003) describes a number of pending taxonomic changes, mostly for the Scrophulariaceae and Liliaceae families. These changes do not have to be ratified by any other scientific organization, but can take effect now that they've been published. However, they will probably continue to evolve until they are published in a new edition of the **Jepson Manual**. After talking with a curator at the Jepson Herbarium, it became clear that there will be even more changes and some of the current changes may not withstand the scientific scrutiny that follows a publication of this kind. So for now we will stay with the current taxonomic classification as is published in **Jepson**. I will be discussing more about the changes published in **Fremontia** when I get to specific families where changes will be made.—Toni

(EGIS, Continued from page 1)

First, we've anointed our project EGIS, for Edgewood GIS. Recall that GIS is the industry acronym for a Geographic Information System.

**Objective**

Our objective is to produce a resource mapping system to enhance the ability of Edgewood's managers and stakeholders to manage Edgewood's resources effectively.

**Grant Received!!!**

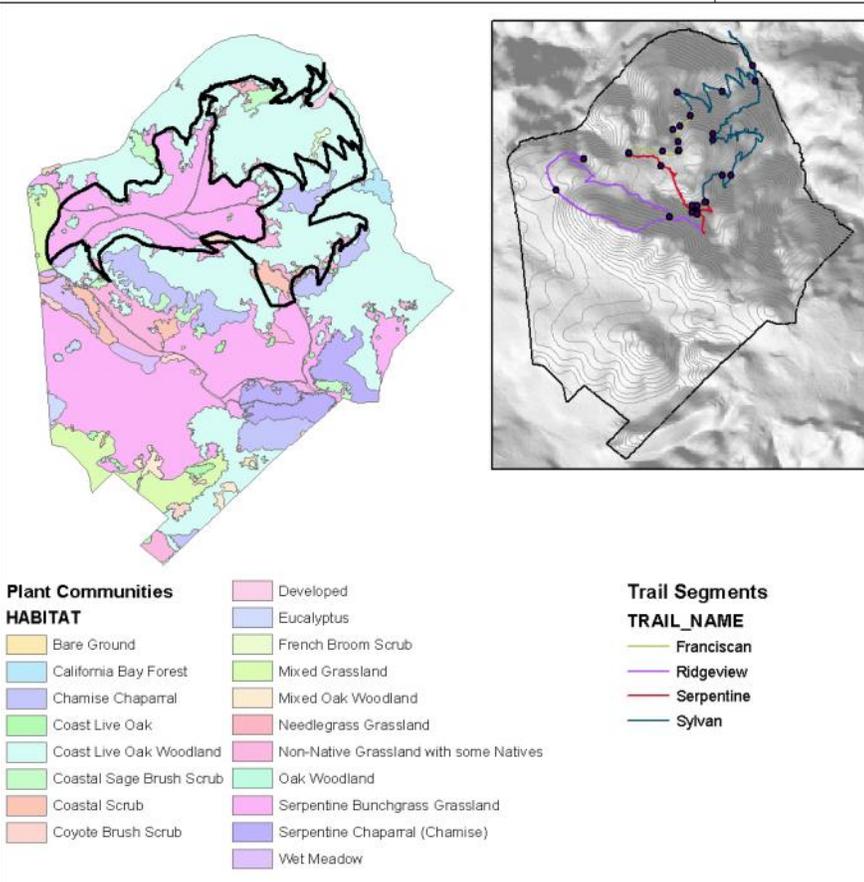
Our project got a big boost in April when ESRI (the largest vendor of GIS software) granted us software, books, and training valued at around \$10,000.

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE**

**By Ken Seydel**

April 5<sup>th</sup> was a gorgeous spring morning! There had been rain the previous week and everything was green and fresh. We Freeway Warriors get to be off-trail and walk among the wildflowers (and poison oak). We had a small group of Carolyn Dorsch, Billy James, Kathy Korbholz, Susan Russell and Ken Seydel. Fortunately there did not seem to be much trash and we managed to clean our entire adopted section and were finished well before 11:30. Together we collected 20 bags of non-native substances.

We found the usual money (\$1) and a hubcap (Plymouth). This time Carolyn picked up a woman's passport, then a check, and then a purse containing another passport for the woman's daughter and a camera. It looked like the purse was stolen, and the thief was throwing everything except the cash out the window!



Preliminary maps produced by EGIS volunteers

(Continued on page 6)

(SWALLOWS, Continued from page 3)

Violet-Green with its snow-white underparts and face, and shiny, rich, yellowish-green upperparts, is very similar in appearance to the Tree Swallow. It associates with other swallows while

migrating and foraging over open country. They generally arrive in this area in May, after other cavity nesting species (bluebirds, chickadees, wrens, etc.) have begun their nesting. They readily accept a wide variety of cavity types, including abandoned woodpecker holes in trees and tree stumps, natural tree cavities, crevices and cracks in cliffs and buildings, and of course nest boxes.

Several Violet-Green pairs have been documented helping Western Bluebirds to rear nestlings and subsequently breeding in the Western Bluebirds' nests after their young have

(Continued on page 6)

(EGIS, Continued from page 5)

### Mapping Underway

Thanks to the San Mateo County Weed Management Area and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, both of whom lent us Trimble GeoExplorer 3 GPS units, we trained 24 volunteers in mapping procedures at Edgewood in April. We've begun mapping by focusing on trails and man-made artifacts like culverts and kiosks. Shortly we'll begin mapping plant communities, both native and non-native.

Applying the data collected in the field from these GPS units to our GIS software, I've been able to produce some preliminary maps that demonstrate our potential. See page 5.

### Another Grant Received!!!

In May the San Mateo County Parks Foundation granted us \$5,000 to purchase our own GPS (Global Positioning System) unit. This is great news and to show its gratitude, the Friends of Edgewood has committed to raise \$1,500 to donate back to the Foundation to offset the grant.

### How You Can Help

Our project is off to a terrific start, and we expect to stay on plan to produce a prototype operational system by the end of this year. The data that we produce will be made available to all stakeholders.

We are asking FoE members to show their support for this project by helping us raise the \$1,500 to partially repay the Parks Foundation for their generous grant. Please send your tax-deductible donation directly to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or contact Julia Bott, the Executive Director, at (650) 321-5812 or [julia@supportparks.org](mailto:julia@supportparks.org). Make sure to mark EGIS on your donation. `

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## DOCENT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY

### By John Allen

Carol Hankermeyer is hosting an enrichment activity on Leading Walks with Children on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm and Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm.

(SWALLOWS, Continued from page 5)

fledged.

Occasionally a Violet-Green pair, which exhibit more aggressive behavior than the Western Bluebirds, will evict a bluebird pair from their nest cavity before their eggs hatch.



Violet-Green Swallow

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As with other swallow species, the Violet-Green feeds exclusively on flying insects which are swallowed in flight. They will feed at various heights, skimming low over fields or water, or circling high above ground, often at greater altitudes than other swallows. At whatever height we might find them, they're sure to appear extremely graceful and maneuverable.

### References

The Birds of North America No 14, 1992: Brown C. R. , Knott, A. M. , Damrose, E. J.

The Birds of North America No 234, 1996: Dejong, M. J. `

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The Wednesday session will be a brainstorming session on how to lead kids' walks. A former teacher and Filoli children's docent will share her ideas with the group and we will also view the Environmental Volunteers' training video "Take this Walk with Me in the Foothills."

The Saturday session will be a "lab practical" hike on the Sylvan Loop at Edgewood Park. Experienced children's educators and scout leaders will share with us some of their tricks on how to engage children with nature. Meet at the Old Stage Day Camp in the parking lot.

Attendance is limited to 20 people and reservations are required. To reserve your slot contact me. `

### INTERPRETIVE CENTER UPDATE

By Peter Ingram

Edgewood's Master Plan calls for the development of a low-intensity, small-scale interpretive center, if shown to be feasible. Now, thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Friends of Edgewood, the feasibility of an interpretive center has been determined.

On December 5, 2002, the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission accepted the conceptual plan for the themes, center's location and design, and exhibits, which were prepared by the Acorn Group and Ron Yeo, FAIA Architects, Inc. These are firms with extensive experience in interpretive activities and eco-sensitive building design.

The Concept plan is available on the County's web site at <http://www.eparks.net/Planning/index.htm#conceptual>.

In case you're curious, the site that was selected is the gently sloping hillside on your right as you approach the inner parking lot at the Day Camp. A 1200 sq. ft. building can be nestled among existing trees in a previously disturbed area.

The Foundation is now raising money for phase 2 of this project—the architectural design and environmental review. This phase should kick off within the next three months. Watch for future updates in the *Explorer*.



### 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 six-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 (above premiums plus Toni Corelli's 360-page fully-illustrated *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve* (while available)
- \$250 Patron Membership (above premiums)
- I am enclosing a gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please send \_\_\_ copies of the *Edgewood Checklist of Plants* (\$2), \_\_\_ copies of *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve* (\$25). Includes tax, S&H.

Please do not send any premiums.

I would like to participate in the following:

- Docent program
- GIS/GPS mapping
- Newsletter/web
- Weed management
- Schools outreach
- Habitat restoration



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- o *Saturdays and Sundays through June 15<sup>th</sup>*, **WILDFLOWER WALKS**. The remaining walks start at the Day Camp.
  
- o *Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup>* **LEADING WALKS WITH CHILDREN**. Docent enrichment activity. See article page 6.
  
- o *Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>*, **WEED ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP AT EDGEWOOD**. Learn how and why weeds grow so well, and how restorationists have used that knowledge to fight them at Edgewood. For more information contact Ken Himes or Paul Heiple.

- o *Saturdays, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>*, **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAY**. Contact Ken Seydel.
  
- o *Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>*, **SAN MATEO COUNTY PARKS & REC VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT**. Watch for upcoming announcements.
  
- o *Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>*, **FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD 10-YEAR CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to come out for the festivities.
  
- o *Last Sunday of Every Month*, **SUNDAY BIRD WALK**. Meet Audubon Society docent Lee Franks at the Day Camp kiosk at 8:00 am.

The Edgewood Explorer is published quarterly 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 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.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org), mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax toll-free at (866) GO-EDGEWOOD, or email [info@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgeswood.org).

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**SAVE THE DATE  
 TEN-YEAR CELEBRATION  
 OCTOBER 19, 2003**