

# Edgewood



# Explorer

December 2005

Volume 12 Number 4

## THANK YOU, KATHY KORBHOLZ

This month marks the end of Kathy Korbholz's 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive term as President. The Friends of Edgewood Board of Directors extends its deepest thanks to her for these 4 years of service.

During this period, Kathy steered our organization through changes in the Parks & Rec's leadership, its staff coverage at Edgewood, and even temporary park closures, including Edgewood.



Kathy was a guiding force behind our landmark 10-year anniversary celebration, Powers of Ten. From planning through culmination of the event, she inspired others to contribute their creativity and passion for Edgewood, making the event legendary in its scope and impact.

She also brought focus and guidance to our successful Expressions of Edgewood photo exhibit in 2002 at the County History Museum, furthering our goals to publicize Edgewood and our organization, and to raise money toward the Interpretive Center.

In addition to her unflagging sincerity, integrity, and professionalism, she has brought grace and humility to the organization. Kathy has a unique gift for combining a little bit of the details, a touch of checking up/following up, a pinch of intervention and a whole lot of trust when it comes to her leadership style.

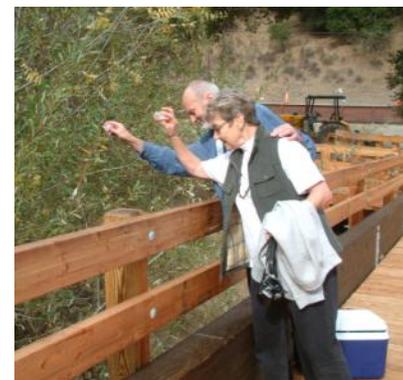
Edgewood, the County and the Friends are very fortunate that "K2" decided some years ago to invest her energy, caring and love in this place and in this way. She is special, and we are extremely grateful. ☼

## ANNUAL MEETING AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER TOUR

By Carolyn Dorsch

Over 70 members and guests attended the Annual Meeting and Picnic on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. While normally held in mid-October, we scheduled it a few weeks later to coincide with the first phase of the Interpretive Center (IC). The weather cooperated nicely, allowing all to cross the new bridge over Cordilleras Creek and to see for the first time an actual layout of the new interpretive center.

Docents arrived early and were briefed on the new bridge and IC site. At about 11:00 a.m., visitors began to arrive. They were greeted by docents in the front parking lot and were given an opportunity to



Architect Ron Yeo and wife make a wish from new pedestrian bridge

"make a wish" on their inaugural walk across the bridge. Bill and Kathy Korbholz were the genius behind these environmentally friendly wishing ice tokens. A few days earlier they had gathered water from the creek, filtered it, and boiled it (just to be extra safe), and froze it into wishing

*(Continued on page 5)*

### INSIDE THE EXPLORER

Docent Training Set to Start.....	2
Woody Plants at Edgewood .....	2
President's Farewell.....	3
Bird Monitors .....	3
Adopt-A-Highway Update .....	7
Membership Dues .....	7
Upcoming Events .....	8

## DOCENT TRAINING SET TO START

By Mary Wilson

I hope those of you who enjoy Edgewood but are not yet docents will consider joining our 2006 docent training course. We will start earlier than last year to give new docents a chance to "try their wings" during the peak of the grassland bloom season.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the plants, animals and geology of Edgewood and to learn how to share this knowledge with our visitors. Our instructors are John Allen, Toni Corelli, Paul Heiple, Ken Himes, and Bob Buell.

Docent training runs from January 25<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup> and includes 6 Wednesday evening classes and 6 hikes on the following Saturdays. Please contact Mary Wilson at docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org or phone 1-866-GOEDGEWOOD.

(Current docents who wish to refresh their knowledge should make arrangements directly with me.) ☺

## WOODY PLANTS AT EDGEWOOD

By Toni Corelli

Woody plant communities dominate about half of Edgewood (EW) as shown on vegetation maps. The woody plant communities at EW include live oak woodland, foothill woodland, mixed evergreen woodland, chamise chaparral, mixed serpentine chaparral, mixed northern coastal scrub, and riparian woodland.

Our non-woodland communities include

serpentine grassland, non-serpentine grassland, and the wet meadow communities. The herbaceous plant life forms include annuals, biennials, and herbaceous perennials (non-woody).

Edgewood woody plant life forms can be grouped into trees, shrubs, subshrubs, woody vines, and brambles:

- trees have one erect trunk and have a height of 4 meters (~13 feet) or more
- shrubs are multistemmed at the base and are mostly shorter than 4 meters
- subshrubs are shrub-like, the lower stems are somewhat woody, the upper stems and twigs are less woody; the plant may die back seasonally (e.g. blue witch, golden-yarrow, sticky monkeyflower)
- vines are trailing or climbing woody plants (e.g. Virgin's bower and hairy honeysuckle)
- brambles have arching branches and do not usually climb up on surrounding vegetation (e.g. blackberries)

The total number of plants classified as woody plants at EW is 84. This represents 17% of the 481 plants that are listed in the Edgewood Flora. However, the number of herbaceous plant species, 397, or 83%, far outnumbers the woody plant species at EW. As shown in Table 1, the total percentage of woody plants is higher at EW than the percentage of woody plants found in the Santa Cruz Mts. (SCR Mts.).

The herbaceous plants are much more diverse than the woody plants and are well represented in the grasslands and meadow habitats and in the

Plant Life Forms	EW # species	% EW	SCR Mts. # species	% SCR Mts.
tree	32	6%		
shrub/subshrub/woody vine/bramble	52	11%		
<b>Total woody plant species</b>	84	17%	206	11%
<b>Total herbaceous plant species</b>	397	83%	1,669	89%
<b>Total vascular plant species</b>	481	100%	1,875	100%

Table 1. Proportion of Woody Plants at Edgewood vs. Santa Cruz Mts.

(Continued on page 6)

## PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL

By Kathy Korbholz

It has been my pleasure and my privilege to serve as the president of the Friends of Edgewood for the past four years. During that time we held a successful juried photo show – Expressions of Edgewood, hosted an ice cream social for the neighborhood to commemorate our tenth anniversary, and most importantly celebrated the initial construction on the interpretive center project. I think we can all feel proud of these accomplishments.

At the annual meeting in October I read a poem, entitled *Little drops of water* by Mrs. J. A. Carney (1845):

Little drops of water  
Little grains of sand  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the beauteous land

Little deeds of kindness,  
Little words of love,  
Make our earth an Eden,  
Like the heaven above

And the little moments,  
Humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages.  
Of eternity.

“Little drops of water”... is a well-known proverb that extols the need for small, individual efforts taken systematically, that lead on to achieving broader, larger goals.

I am continually impressed with the caliber and commitment of those who participate in the various Friends of Edgewood volunteer activities to help make our project visions a reality. Each time I come away from events or meetings feeling uplifted and my spirits renewed. As Herb Fischgrund, new member of our Board of Directors said, “The Friends of Edgewood is the greatest little organization on the peninsula.” I highly recommend you get involved – you will find you receive much more than you give. ☺

## BIRD MONITORS

By Lee Franks

Sequoia Audubon trained volunteers have been collecting data on bird populations and nesting sites for the past several years, as participants in the Bird Conservation Program at Edgewood Park and Preserve. We recently evaluated this data and came up with the following.

### Population Density Trends

	2002	2003	2004
<b>Oak woodland birds / acre</b>	0.73	0.78	0.92
<b>Chaparral birds / acre</b>	0.53	0.54	0.56
<b>Grassland birds / acre</b>	0.36	0.40	0.40

**Table 1.** Population Densities

The spike in the oak woodland bird numbers in 2004 is the result of changes in the behavior of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Dark-eyed Juncos in the months of November and December. Because food sources decline in the winter months, these two species start looking elsewhere for their food.

After the winter rains start, they like to form flocks made up of resident and non-resident birds, and in so doing they become “vagrants” for a few months. These flocks tend to establish foraging circuits that go beyond Park boundaries, causing their presence in the Park to fluctuate randomly.

The number of chickadees and juncos encountered by volunteer observers in November and December of 2004 was greater than the number of those encountered in 2002 and 2003, probably because the foraging circuit included more visits to the Park in 2004.

Overall, we are pleased that the population density trends in the three habitat types that exist in the Park are moving in the right direction, indicating that the Park birds are finding adequate food and shelter to survive and reproduce.

(Continued on page 4)

*BIRD MONITORS (Continued from page 3)*

**Species of Special Interest**

There are 3 species that are monitored more closely than the remainder. They are the Western Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, and the California Quail. They are of special interest because two are ground nesters (meadowlark and quail), while the bluebird is a cavity nesting species that is recovering from endangered status.

The Western Bluebird recovery is being addressed in the Park and around the country by providing artificial housing in the form of nest boxes. Our interest here is to monitor the survivability of the young produced by the parents using the boxes.

The breeding grounds for both the meadowlarks and quail have been located and mapped. Measures are taken each year during the breeding season to protect these breeding grounds from disturbances resulting from Park maintenance activities and various land restoration projects

As Table 2 shows, the trend for the Western Bluebird is very positive, but the quail and meadowlark numbers drop off in 2004. Quail reproduction is closely related to winter rainfall amounts. The rain seems to regulate breeding by influencing the chemistry of the plants that they eat, especially those plants in the pea family. The higher the rainfall amounts, the larger the quail broods. We expect the quail numbers to bounce back in 2005 as a result of record high rainfall amounts this

	# Species Detected			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>California Quail</b>	470	410	409	273
<b>Western Meadowlark</b>	171	237	260	165
<b>Western Bluebird</b>	52	90	105	108

Table 2. Number of Species Detected

past winter and spring.

Western Meadowlark behavior presents a challenge to field observers. While these birds are present in the Park year-round, their numbers vary widely, depending on the time of year. This is because following completion of their breeding cycle in September, they join with non-residents to form foraging flocks, and like the chickadee and junco, they travel on a foraging circuit that includes the Park as well as other surrounding areas like the campus at Canada College.

Because they vary the number of trips to the Park in the non-breeding months each year, we expect to see large swings in the number detected in any given year. The number of breeding pair that use the Park to reproduce each year is a better indicator of how this species is doing. Breeding pair numbers have been fairly constant at 7-8 pair each year.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b># nests built</b>	3	6	8	9	9
<b># eggs laid</b>	13	31	30	40	39
<b># young hatched</b>	8	14	20	40	35
<b># young fledged</b>	8	9	20	38	35

Table 3. Nest Boxes

**Nest Boxes**

Western Bluebirds are the species that historically make greater use of the boxes installed in the Park. Table 3 shows bluebird box information collected by volunteers for the past 5 years.

The first year boxes were installed, only 3 nests were built. The last two years, 9 nests were built, indicating that the bluebirds not only found the boxes, but that they prefer to use them over natural cavities usually found in trees and old wooden fence posts.

Healthy females will normally lay 4-5 eggs per clutch. The average for this 5-year period was

*(Continued on page 5)*

(BIRD MONITORS, Continued from page 4)

4.37, indicating that the females are getting adequate food from areas surrounding the boxes. Whether all eggs hatch or not is dependent on the skill of the hen in incubating the eggs, the presence of predators in the nest, and whether the eggs were fertilized. The table numbers show that the hatch rate got off to a poor start in the early years (57%) and then improved dramatically in the last two years (99%). The installation of predator baffles beneath the box openings was one action that contributed to this hatch rate improvement.

Regarding the fledge rate (# birds leaving nests as young adults), the numbers show only one year where the number of young that fledged fell significantly below the number of young hatched (14 vs. 9). Five young died from starvation in one nest that year most likely because the parents were taken by a predator or died of natural causes.

An overall rosy picture is painted by the breeding success of the Western Bluebird in the Park. The population density of this species is increasing yearly as a result of the boxes and the quality and quantity of the food found in the grasslands where the birds nest. Visitors to the Park now have the opportunity to view a sizable number of these handsome birds, that was not possible prior to 2000.

### Acknowledgments

I am grateful to volunteer observers Sue Hecox, Whitney Mortimer, Theresa O'Brien, Sue Rowinski, Marilyn Travis, and Matt Weinand for generously giving of their weekend time to take field censuses each month; to County Park Rangers Ricardo Trejo and Katie Beltrano for their assistance with nest box installations, with purchase of predator guards, and for providing plans and schedules of annual land restoration projects; to Bill Korbholz of Friends of Edgewood for GPS mapping of nest sites; to Sue Cossins and Peter Grace of Sequoia Audubon for acquiring EXCEL software for use in managing the huge amounts of field data collected each year.

### Volunteers Needed

If you would like to be trained to participate in the Bird Conservation Program at Edgewood, contact me. Not only will you be rewarded knowing your efforts are helping the birds, but you will find that participation is a great way to improve your bird ID skills, especially song/call recognition. ☼

ANNUAL MEETING (Continued from page 1)

ice tokens. With the help of dry ice, the creek cubes remained frozen all day.

After crossing the bridge, visitors could walk up to the future building site of the Interpretive Center. It had been mapped out with the actual wall locations, rooms, and displays. Volunteers were available to answer questions about the IC.

President Kathy Korbholz called the Annual Meeting to order shortly after noon. After a brief recap of the year's activities, the annual "Best Friend of Edgewood" award was announced. This award recognizes one individual each year for his or her contributions to Edgewood. This year's award went to Bob Young, who was recognized for his past service as an officer, membership secretary, and docent. He is involved in the habitat restoration work at the park, and in recent years has also maintained the native plant garden in the main parking lot.



Bob Young receives Best Friend Award from Kathy Korbholz

Following was the election of the new Board members for 2006. The Board consists of seven members. Every year

three new members are elected for a two-year term. The seventh member of the Board, Director Emeritus, is appointed for a one-year term.

(Continued on page 7)

(WOODY PLANTS, Continued from page 2)  
herbaceous understory layer of the woody plant communities.

**Woody Plants vs. Area**

Per Table 2, EW has 41% of the total woody plant species that occur in the SCR Mts. This is high since EW only represents approximately 0.05% of the total land within the SCR Mts.

	# Woody Plants	% Woody Plants SCR Mts.	# Square Miles	% Square Miles
SCR Mts.	206	100%	1,386	100%
EW	84	41%	.73	0.05%

Table 2. Species Richness of Woody Plants at Edgewood vs. Santa Cruz Mts.

**Non-Native vs. Native Woody Plants**

The Edgewood Flora indicates that 21% of the woody plants at EW are non-native compared to 15% for the SCR Mts. See Table 3.

Non-indigenous woody plants found at EW are California native plants that do not occur there naturally. They were probably planted at EW:

- Cupressus macrocarpa* Monterey cypress
- Pinus radiata* Monterey pine
- Sequoia sempervirens* coast redwood
- Platanus* sp. sycamore

The 10 most invasive non-native woody plants at EW are:

- Acacia* spp. wattle
- Cistus creticus* rock-rose
- Cotoneaster* spp. cotoneaster
- Crataegus* spp. hawthorn
- Eucalyptus* spp. eucalyptus
- Genista monspessulana* French broom
- Olea europaea* olive
- Vinca major* periwinkle
- Pyracantha* spp. firethorn
- Rubus discolor* Himalayan blackberry

**Conclusion**

The bottom line is that the woody plant communities that occupy 50% of the area

at EW contain only 17% of the total plant species represented there. The herbaceous plant species (83%) far outnumber the woody plant species and are well represented in all of the natural plant communities at Edgewood.

**Maps Viewable on Web Site**

Several maps of Edgewood are available for viewing from the Friends of Edgewood website, <http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org>.

You can view the EW vegetation map at <http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org/egis/maps/Vegetation.pdf>.

For an aerial view go to <http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org/maps/satellite.jpg>.

**References**

Corelli, T. (2004) **Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve** Second Edition.

Corelli, T. (2005) **Illustrated Field Guide to the Woody Plants of the Santa Cruz Mountains.**

Stuart, J.D., Sawyer, J.O. (2001) **Trees and Shrubs of California**; Illustrated by Andrea J. Pickart. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

Thomas, J.H. (1961) **Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California.** Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

Friends of Edgewood web page: <http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org/>. ☺

	EW		SCR Mts.	
	# Woody Plants	% Woody Plants	# Woody Plants	% Woody Plants
<b>Non-native</b>	18	21%	31	15%
<b>Non-indigenous</b>	4	5%	4	2%
<b>Native</b>	62	74%	171	83%
<b>Total</b>	84	100%	206	100%

Table 3. Non-Native vs. Native Woody Plants

ANNUAL MEETING (Continued from page 5)

By acclamation, the three candidates, Herb Fischgrund, Yvette Pirie, and Michael Tu were declared the new 2006 Board members. Kathy Korbholz joins them as the 2006 Director Emeritus. The 2006 Board will be the following:

- President: Peter Ingram
- Vice President: Carolyn Strange
- Secretary: Bill Korbholz
- Treasurer: Yvette Pirie
- Directors: Herb Fischgrund, Michael Tu
- Director Emeritus: Kathy Korbholz

The success of the IC site tours, picnic and annual meeting could not have been achieved without the help of so many volunteers. While we can't list everyone, a few special thanks are in order. Julia Bott, Executive Director of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation and Board Members Susan Russell and Connie Sevier were on hand to explain the first phase of the IC. Over

(Continued on page 8)

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE**

By Ken Seydel and Bill Korbholz

For our work in October, November, and December, ten different volunteers helped us clean our section of I-280 adjacent to Edgewood. For those 3 months, we collected a total of 43 bags of trash in just over 9 hours. In addition to the usual hubcaps and car parts, we found a 3rd-place ribbon from the Woodside Classic (?), a Duraflame log, and a live garter snake.

We'd like to thank the following freeway warriors who joined us during this period: Carolyn Dorsch, Don Hohl, Billy James, Bill & Kathy Korbholz, Jane Kos, Susan Russell, Ken Seydel, Jan Smith, and Michael Yantos.

We are saddened by the loss of Sarah Divine, who was a reliable member of our team prior to her recent illness. We will miss her cheerful attitude and willingness to volunteer. ☹

**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 06/2006, membership runs through June 2006. Questions, call (866) GO-EDGEWOOD or contact membership-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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City State Zip

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

**RENEW NOW WITH THIS 2005 RATE SCHEDULE!**

- \$15 Basic Membership (includes newsletter)
- \$25 Family Membership (newsletter)
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership (newsletter)
- \$50 Supporting Membership (newsletter, *Edgewood Checklist of Plants*, boxed set of Edgewood photo greeting cards, and 1-year subscription to BAY NATURE magazine)
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (above premiums plus Toni Corelli's Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve)
- \$250 Patron Membership (same premiums as \$100 Benefactor level)
- I am enclosing a gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please send \_\_\_ copies of the *Edgewood Vascular Plant List* (\$2), \_\_\_ copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* (\$2), \_\_\_ copies of the Apr-Jun 2004 BAY NATURE magazine (\$5), \_\_\_ copies of Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve (\$25). Includes tax, S&H. All items subject to availability.
- Please do not send any premiums.

I would like to participate in the following:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed management     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS/GPS mapping  | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools outreach    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/web   | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Highway     |



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☐ *Sundays, Dec. 18, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 26,*  
**BIRD WALK.** Meet Audubon Society docent Lee Franks at 8 am at the Day Camp kiosk.
- ☐ *Wednesday, Jan. 25,* **DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS.** See article on page 2.
- ☐ *Weekly,* **NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL.** Join the group any Friday morning at 8:30. Contact John Allen or Ken Himes.
- ☐ *Monthly,* **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY.** The next sessions are scheduled for Jan. 8, Feb. 4, Mar. 5. Contact Ken Seydel to volunteer or for more information. ♻️

*ANNUAL MEETING (Continued from page 7)*  
fifteen docents arrived early to greet visitors at the bridge and future IC building site. Biologist Stuart Weiss explained the Bay checkerspot butterfly project to a large group of interested members. Danny Sullivan's Arguello Catering again provided a wonderful variety of fresh salads, sandwich meats, cookies and beverages.



Thanks to everyone for making this another great event!



Stuart Weiss describes plans to reintroduce the Bay checkerspot butterfly

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 (866-463-3439), or email [info01@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:info01@friendsofedgeswood.org).

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