

# Edgewood



# Explorer

December 2008

Volume 15 Number 4

## REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By **Bill Korbholz**

The weather was perfect for this year's annual general membership meeting and picnic at Edgewood. Once again, Arguello Catering ([www.arguellocatering.com](http://www.arguellocatering.com)) generously contributed a tasty lunch for the 50-plus members and guests to enjoy. Plus, we had a beautiful cake.

After lunch, president Bill Korbholz began the program by proclaiming that the State of the Org was, well, or-



ganized! Bill was alluding to this year's dominant activity, the development of a 4-year Strategic Plan (SP)—(see Strategic Plan article in the adjacent column). Bill introduced docent coordinator Kate Finnigan, who served on the SP Steering Committee, to describe our effort and our results.

A large rendering of the SP cover page, featuring a water color of an Edgewood landscape donated by Trevlyn Williams, formed the backdrop to Kate's remarks.

Following Kate, Bill invited Carol Hankermeyer (Youth Outreach), Mary Wilson (Docent Training), Drew Shell (Weed Management), Stuart Weiss (Butterfly Reintroduction), and Julia Bott (Interpretive Center) to brief us on their respective programs.



FoE's 2008 Best Friend, Alf Fengler - photo ©Kathy Korbholz

Prior to announcing this year's Best Friend, Bill surprised us with a special President's Award to Regina Neu, the consultant who guided the Friends through the SP process.

This year's Best Friend is Alf Fengler, a dedicated

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## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS COMPLETE!

by **Carolyn Strange**

The completed Strategic Plan—our first!—was unveiled at this year's Annual Meeting, as we celebrated our Fifteenth Anniversary. Many of you may recall, as your Executive Committee embarked on strategic planning, we asked some questions during the Annual Meeting in October 2007. Your answers to that informal "picnic Post-it® poll" helped kick off a busy year.

Why plan? The most basic reason is to improve the organization's ability to do even better what we already do well—protect Edgewood. Even a simple to-do list is a powerful focuser and motivator. But a strategic plan is so much more because the process takes a step back to look at where we've been, who we really are now, what we should be doing and how, where we want to go, and only then outlines the steps to get there.

We began by revisiting our organization's mission, vision, and values. We reviewed past and current activities, and considered possible future ones. We examined various aspects of how we operate. We fearlessly probed what we do well, and what we want to do better. We renewed our appreciation and deep gratitude for wonderful long-time members, partners, and other relationships.

Now, one document summarizes a solid record of accomplishments, and outlines a path forward. Having sorted through possibilities and set priorities should make it easier to respond to opportunities and challenges that arise, as well as make more clear how, and whether, to respond. It helps focus and guide, but can't substitute for leadership and judgment. We've emerged with greater confidence

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## EDGEWOODIANA—TICK TALK & LIZARD LORE

by Carolyn Strange

**Q:** I know that you can get Lyme disease from tick bites, and I understand that lizards are involved in some beneficial way... how does this work?

**A:** Western fence lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) seem to provide a service in killing the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease in California, as well as the nation. The disease ecology is different here, though, and our “blue belly” lizards are thought to be part of the reason Lyme disease doesn’t hit California as hard as the eastern states.

The first California case was recognized in 1978, the year after the disease was initially described in Lyme, Connecticut.



Western black-legged ticks on a finger. Left to right: nymph, adult male, adult female. Source: California Department of Health Services.

The responsible spiral-shaped bacterium, or spirochete, (*Borrelia burgdorferi*), identified in 1982, is the same on both coasts, but the ticks and their hosts differ.

Of the several dozen tick species in California, only six attach to humans. Of these, the western black-legged tick, (*Ixodes pacificus*)

attaches to us most frequently, and it’s the one that transmits the spirochete. *I. pacificus* has been reported in 56 of California’s 58 counties, and in 42 of those—including San Mateo—ticks tested positive for *B. burgdorferi*.

More than 100 species of lizards, birds, or mammals can serve as hosts for this tick, reason enough to shriek at a tick on your arm, “Don’t put your mouth in me—I don’t know where its been!” If a tick does bite, hope it dined on fence lizard previously. But you might not catch it in the act. About half the people who get Lyme disease don’t recall seeing a tick.

Of the four tick life stages (egg, larva, nymph, adult), three must suck vertebrate blood to advance to the next stage, but only the nymph



Western fence lizard © Alf Fengler

and adult transmit the spirochete to humans. Adults are most active from fall through early spring. Nymphs, about the size of poppy seeds, are active primarily in spring and early summer. That’s also when people are most at risk for catching Lyme. So, it’s mostly the little guys doing the

dirty deed. Prompt tick removal (within 24 hours) seems to prevent spirochete transmission, but tiny nymphs are hard to detect.



Western fence lizard © Alf Fengler

The problem is not just that you’re less likely to notice nymphs. They’re also more likely to infect you, because a greater percentage of nymphs than adults is infected with the spirochete—three to four times higher, in some California populations. Logically, it should be the other way around, because as each life stage feeds, the chance of infection increases. (Indeed, in the Northeast, infected adult ticks outnumber infected nymphs by about two to one. Also, much greater percentages of those tick populations are infected.)

Enter our fence lizards, an important host for nymphal ticks here. Whereas other hosts can contract Lyme disease from tick bites, western fence lizards don’t. Something in lizard blood, probably a small protein, kills the spirochete. Better yet, the gut of a lizard-fed nymph gets cleansed of the spirochete, so the nymph matures into an adult that can’t infect you (at least with the spirochete). So, whenever you spot a western fence lizard, slow down and say thanks.



What do you want to know about Edgewood? Send your questions to: [Edgewoodiana@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:Edgewoodiana@friendsofedgewood.org)

(Annual Meeting—Continued from page 1)

docent and weeder who regularly photographs interesting plants while weeding, and challenges docents to identify them.

Bill then called the formal meeting to order for the election of 3 Board members for 2009 – 2010. Paul Heiple and Christal Niederer, both new to the Board, were elected, as was Bill Korbholz. They join continuing Directors Peter Alley, Herb Fischgrund, and Mary Wilson. And all the Board members, new and returning, join in thanking retiring Board members, Peter Ingram and Susan Crocker, for their many years of dedicated and inspired service to the Friends of Edgewood. We would certainly not be where we are today were it not for Peter and Susan.

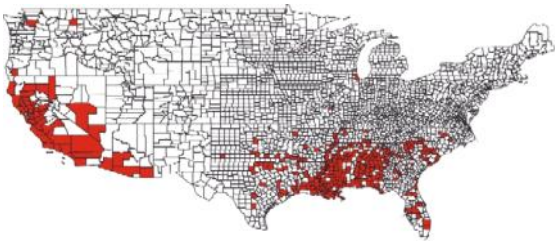




## ARGENTINE ANTS 24-7-365

by Paul Heiple

As their name would indicate, the Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*, formerly *Iridomyrmex humilis*) are native to South America, specifically Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and southern Brazil. They seem to have first arrived in the US in a shipment of coffee in New Orleans in the late 1890's, and have been on the move ever since. For years now, I have noted them as far into Edgewood as the Central Ridge. I had always thought they would retreat to the surrounding human habitat when the dry years returned, but this year, I have found that the dry weather has not driven them anywhere, which means they are likely to be a permanent species in Edgewood



Red areas indicate presence of Argentine ant (<http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/science/mcants.htm>)

little dark ant that invades your house in large numbers, making those trails of ants along walls, driveways, sidewalks, and any other surface that is hard and stable. For most of us in the Bay Area, it is the only ant we see around our homes, because it drives all the other ant species out, save one.

What makes the Argentine ants so successful in the invasion of Mediterranean Climates? The title of this article is one reason: these ants never stop to take a break. Unlike most species of ant (and most wildlife), Argentine ants are always actively searching for food—they find everything that can be eaten. The scout ants search in a random pattern, probing into the smallest spaces to find food, and once they find it, they lay down a trail to guide hundreds of worker ants to the site. And when these workers arrive, should they discover another ant species has already claimed the site, they will waste no time driving off the original owners.

The Argentine ants also never let down their guard at the aphid, scale and mealy bug colonies that they farm. That's right, farm. A number of ant species farm, many of them actually being better at it than the Argentine ants, whose farming activities are restricted to guarding their livestock, like shepherds or cattlemen. Other ants actually move their herds of aphids around and take them into their nests. However, the Argentine ants do vigilantly guard their aphids, scale, and mealy bugs, seen as pests by all of us who garden, keeping them protected from predators and parasites and allowing them to multiply to very large numbers. In return, the ants have a steady supply of tasty, sugary secretions. Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that even

if these ants move their nest, they keep the trails leading to the locations of their farms.

That brings me to the second reason Argentine ants are so successful: their large numbers. They do not have separate competing colonies of ants like most ant species. In fact, the Argentine ants in California are so closely related to each other, they can move from one nest to any other and be considered a member of the group. Multiple fertile females (queens) can be found in most nests. I myself have counted as many as forty queens emerging from a crack in the driveway, where they were nesting. With a ratio of one queen per 1,000 workers, each nest has close to 40,000 ants, and with one-nest site every 10 to 20 feet, the number of ants available for any task is huge.

The final advantage these ants have is in the way they nest, in that their nests have no permanency. Whenever conditions are not to their liking, Argentine ants just pick up the entire colony and move.


And they will move into any space that gives them some protection—old gopher and mole tunnels, cracks in walls and driveways, under rocks and logs, even under rugs; as long as it is warm dry and snug, the ants will like it; and as they do little if any construction, they can move in overnight.



Argentine ants on a Hillside Gooseberry (*Ribes californicum* var. *californicum*) ©Alf Fengler

All of these characteristics allow the Argentine ant to overwhelm and displace all the other ant species in an area. Save one. Earlier I mentioned that there is one ant species

that does manage to survive alongside the Argentine ant, and this is the winter ant, *Prenolepis imparis*. The winter ant, as its name implies, is active only in the cool months, which is when the Argentine ant is slowed down by cold weather. Although still active, the Argentine ant is not active enough to out-compete the winter ant.

Still, they do displace other species, these Argentine ants, and the impact this has, and will have, on the environment is not fully known. One impact we do know about happens to the coastal horned lizard. This lizard is driven out when Argentine ants move in because the rocks and logs he normally goes to for shelter during the day are rendered unusable by the presence of the ants. An additional concern is that the seed dispersal and other services native ants provide may not be performed once these ants are displaced by the Argentine ant, and we don't know what the results of this would be. 

## INTERVIEW WITH THE BRUSH RABBIT

by Anne Koletzke

“You have come to speak with me?” she asked, barely visible in the pre-dawn light as she emerged from the tangle of brush.

“Yes,” I said, delighted to finally meet this tiny creature, one of Edgewood’s shiest residents, the Western Brush Rabbit (formal name, *Sylvilagus Bachmani*). “I was hoping you would tell me how it is that you manage to survive, having so many predators and being such a, well, such a small rodent.”

“I have no idea,” she replied brightly, “because I am not a rodent. The order *Rodentia* is for rats and the like. We rabbits belong to the order *Lagomorpha*, which includes our cousins the hares (who share our Family name, *Leporidae*) and the pikas (Family name, *Ochotonidae*). I’m surprised that you don’t know this, as it was as long ago as 1912 that our people finally got through to your people and convinced them we should have an Order of our own, much to the chagrin of the rats, who had gained a lot of status hanging around us.”

“Well it was an easy mistake to make,” I said, a bit defensively. “Take your front teeth; they look like a rat’s, and they grow non-stop so that you have to constantly gnaw on things, just like a rat’s.”

“Yellow rodent teeth are not at all like our pearly white teeth, no doubt because *we*—unless times are very hard and we are forced to eat carrion—are strict herbivores, whereas rodents eat, well, what can one say about what rodents eat?! And while we’re clearing things up, you know that song, *All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth*? Well that’s the version the rats created after they stole the original from us. The original rabbit version is *All I Want for Christmas is my Four Front Teeth*, because, unlike rodents, we have a set of small, peg-like incisors directly behind our big front incisors.

“But now,” she continued, “I have a question for you; a riddle, really: When is a cottontail not a cottontail? Give up? *When he or she is a brush rabbit!* You see, although the 16 species that make up the Genus *Sylvilagus* are called cottontails (which includes us, of course), a brush rabbit’s tail is not a flashy, cottony white, but a modest, dignified gray. We don’t know why this is exactly, but we think it has something to do with helping us to blend in with our surroundings, which definitely better our chances of staying alive, given that we are, as you pointed out, quite small, weighing in at only one pound, two at the most.

“And because we are so small, we have had to develop a number of survival strategies. Becoming ‘invisible’ by keeping perfectly still often works, especially for the

young kits. On the other paw, running zig-zag at 25 miles per hour is also very effective, as is climbing a short way up a tree or bush. And of course, there is our swimming ability, which, if I do say so myself, is exceptional. Then too, even though we are solitary creatures, we look out for the others in the colony by repeatedly thumping our back foot on the ground in warning when danger approaches.”

“And your burrows, they must help to keep you safe,” I said.

“Oh, we cottontails don’t dig underground burrows, although we have been known to borrow a burrow on occasion. No, unlike all the other rabbits, we, like the hares, create our nests by scraping out shallow depressions, or forms, in the dirt—but always, always under the protective cover of the brush. It is the thick and tangled brush that is our greatest protector.”

“Ah,” I said, “I guess that’s why you’re called brush rabbits.”

“Well, it seemed impolite to point out something so obvious, but yes.”

“But then where do you give birth to your babies, who I know are born blind and hairless? Surely not in one of those forms?!”

“Of course, in one of ‘those forms.’ Before a doe gives birth, she lines the form with soft grass and fur, and once the kittens are born, she covers them with a blanket of leaves and grass to keep them warm and safe. Then she stays away, only stopping by to feed her kits in the morning and the evening.”

“*You leave your babies alone by themselves all day and all night*?!” I said in astonishment.

“I know this must seem casual, even uncaring, parenting, but the truth is, if we does stayed in our nests, predators would have a much better chance of finding them. Sometimes, doing less really is doing more.

“Now with that little pearl of wisdom,” she said with a soft chuckle, “I must leave you, as it’s almost light, and my kits will be hungry. It’s been so nice talking with you. Perhaps we will meet again one day.”

And before I could answer, she disappeared into the brush.



Brush Rabbit © Barry Langdon-Lassagne

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[http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Sylvilagus\\_bachmani.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Sylvilagus_bachmani.html)



## THE HEALING PLANTS OF EDGEWOOD

### The Mighty Oak

by Mary Anne Leary

I thought it would be nice to talk about one of Edgewood's lovely trees for this winter newsletter. Edgewood is graced with five oak species: blue, coast live, leather, scrub and valley oak. *Quercus*, the genus for the oak, is a Latin word that means "oak tree" or "garland of oak leaves." Glenn Keator, in his book, *The Life of an Oak*, states, "Scholars tell us that when different languages have distinctly different words for plants, it indicates the importance of those plants to the cultures that have named them, and so it is with oaks." The oak is widespread throughout the Northern Hemisphere and has much history and many ancient legends associated with it.

In her book, *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*, Toni Corelli writes of how the oak tree is one of the most important sources of wood in the Northern Hemisphere and is also used for dyes, cork and edible fruits (acorns). Oak wood is known for its hardness and the beauty of its grain, and historically, oak wood has been used in the building of furniture, homes, forts, ships, cathedrals, even castles. Since oak wood is impervious to the effects of alcohol, it is used to make barrels and casks for storing wine, spirits and liqueurs.

Acorns, containing a substantial proportion of carbohydrate and fat, have been the staple food not only for the Native Americans but also for other cultures. In times of old in England, the acorn was a valued source of food for livestock, and particularly for feeding swine. During times of famine, starving peasants used acorns in their diet, even making bread from it. All parts of the acorn are edible, but often contain large quantities of a bitter substance that is removed by soaking the shelled acorns in water for one to two days; a process that can be quickened by putting wood ashes in the water in which the acorns are being soaked. The acorns can be boiled or ground into flour and used for baking. They can also be baked until very dark and used as a coffee substitute. White oak acorns usually have a better flavor than red oak acorns.

The bark of the oak tree is the part most used in medicine, being a tonic, astringent and antiseptic. The medicinal qualities of the bark can be extracted both by water and by alcohol. As a decoction, it has a strong astringent and bitter taste with a slightly aromatic odor. It can be used as a gar-

gle for chronic sore throats, or applied locally to bleeding gums. It is also used in hot baths for chilblains and frostbite, or as a hot compress for inflamed glands, hernias and hemorrhoids. A stronger decoction is useful in chronic diarrhea and dysentery. Long ago, the thin skin of the acorn was used to cover open cuts or wounds, and ground and powdered acorns were taken in wine and considered a diuretic. In addition to the bark's medicinal properties, the bark can be soaked in water to produce a tanning solution used to preserve leather.

The oak tree is sometimes referred to as the king of trees and is known for its sturdiness, inflexibility and enduring qualities. For example, oaks give shelter to many life

forms: they serve as a host to insects (as is evident by the galls seen on oaks), have various types of relationships (mycorrhizal, parasitical and saprophytic\*) with mushrooms, a parasitic relationship with many plants (Indian warrior and mistletoe, to name two, which are actually only hemi-parasitic\*\*), and they provide a home and food to numerous birds and rodents.

The oak flower essence reveals the incredible strength of the oak, and yet the challenges that the oak endures. While an oak tree can crack open, and its

branches can break or die back, the tree seems to never give up. A person who is in need of the oak flower essence doesn't know when or how to give up. They will struggle with a chronic disability or illness while never accepting defeat. The oak flower essence allows such a person to recognize when they need to surrender and share the burden, giving them an acceptance of their limitations.

Though the oak flower essence addresses endurance, strength and perseverance, it also helps a person to learn to balance these traits with knowing when to yield and receive help from others when necessary; there is a tempering of the person's willpower so that it doesn't become too rigid or unrelenting to his or her own detriment.

\*For a discussion of these terms, see the agroforestry website  
\*\*For a discussion of this term & mistletoe see usgs website.

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[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)



Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) on the left & Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) on the right at Inspiration Point in Edgewood 12/03/08 ©Alf Fenger

## Strategies & Solutions



CONSERVATION  
CONFERENCE

January 17-19, 2009  
Sacramento Convention Center &  
Sheraton Grand Hotel  
Sacramento, CA

### ATTENTION! HEADS UP! NEWS FLASH!

Two of Friends of Edgewood's newly elected Board Members, Paul Heiple and Christal Niederer, will be Presenters at the CNPS 2009 Conference in January.

As stated on CNPS's Conference website, "The conference will focus on: 1) finding and promoting solutions to the environmental challenges confronting California's flora 2) integrating the best science with the most effective public policies to meet these challenges 3) pressing forward more and better regional and statewide landscape-level conservation initiatives." 🌱

*(Strategic Plan—Continued from page 1)*

that we're doing the right things, and with increased commitment—and a Plan—to do those things right.

In addition to helping us coordinate and manage the Friends of Edgewood, the Strategic Plan also functions as an organizational resume or brochure, making it easier to introduce the Friends to new and prospective members, docents and other volunteers, as well as potential partners and funders for important projects.

We invite all our members to find out more about the Strategic Plan, and encourage you to get involved with implementing it. We couldn't do anything without you! And we could do so much more with more help. Go to [www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org) and scroll to "Strategic Plan." You'll find two documents: a one-page summary, and the 16-page Plan. More pages of work plans and other internal documents will assist the teams who help turn the Plan into action over the next several years. Join in! 🌱

## DOCENT TRAINING 2009

by Mary Wilson

Training will begin January 28, 2009 for those wanting to become docents for the Friends of Edgewood Spring Wildflower Walks. Please be on the lookout for friends and neighbors who might be interested.

Being an Edgewood docent is a great experience! It allows you to share your love of, and concerns for, Edgewood directly with the public, and it is an opportunity to expand your knowledge and understanding of the Preserve.

As you can see from the chart below, training sessions take place twice a week for five weeks. Each week, the Wednesday-evening speaker also leads the hike the following Saturday. Each docent trainee receives a binder chock full of facts about the Preserve. For this binder and other materials there is a \$25 materials fee.

2009 Docent Training Schedule

Wednesday 7 – 9:15 PM	Saturday 9:30 AM – 1 PM	Topics
January 28	January 31	Introduction & History
February 11	February 14	Geology of Edgewood
February 25	February 28	Chaparral
March 11	March 14	Oak Woodlands
March 25	March 28	Serpentine Grasslands
April 8	April 11	Leading Hikes

Wednesday training classes are held at the Veterans' Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City, and the Saturday hikes take place at Edgewood.

To register, or for more information, please email me at [docent-trainer@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:docent-trainer@friendsofedgeswood.org) or leave a phone message at (866) GO EDGEWOOD. Thank you for your help! 🌱

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Once again, our Road Warriors beautified the 2-mile segment of I-280 adjacent to Edgewood. As usual, we removed trash one weekend morning per month. This period's volunteers were Carolyn Dorsch, Dave Hershey, Jane Kos, Ken Seydel, Michael Yantos, Susan Russell, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Margaret Marshall, and Lisa Tough.

Although we don't do this work for pay, we do often find items of value, and this quarter was no exception, producing a hubcap, a bungie cord, a brand new sponge, a left glove, an antler, and \$1.01.

Interested? Join us by contacting Ken Seydel at [kbseydel@gmail.com](mailto:kbseydel@gmail.com). You'll be safety-trained and issued your very own hardhat and picker, which can also be used to remove mysterious items from behind your refrigerator. 🌱

## ADOPT-A-WEEDWAY

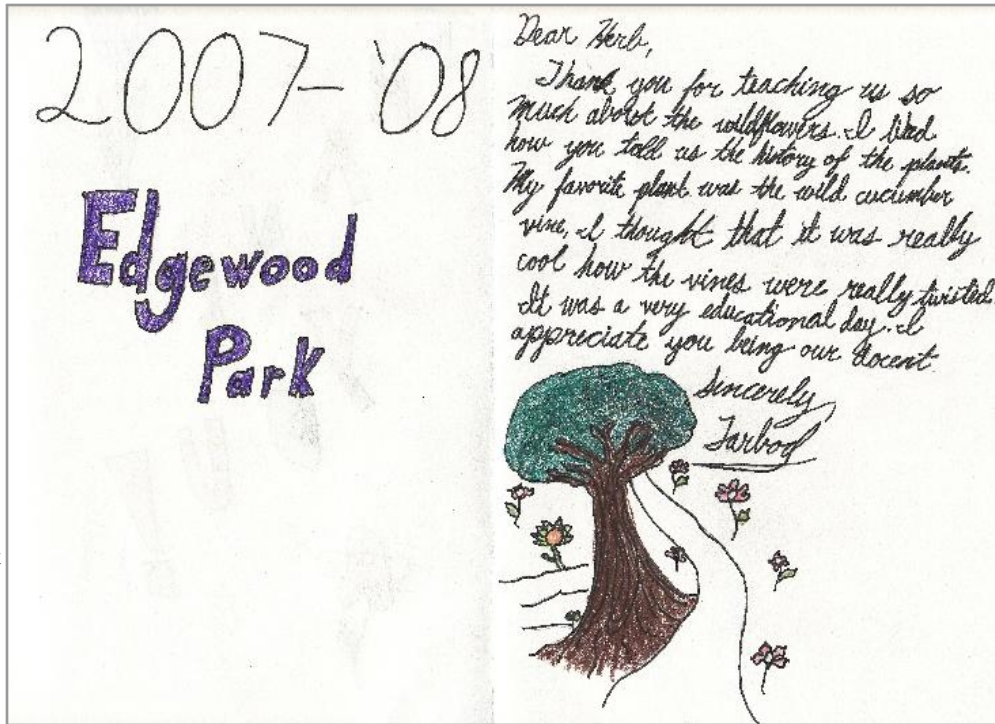
Want to be an Edgewood Weed Warrior? Go here to learn more: <http://edgeswood.thinkersrus.net/> 🌱



**YOUTH OUTREACH 2008**

by Carol Hankermeyer

As the year draws to a close, Youth Outreach celebrates a banner year of leading children's walks. Schoolteachers' requests for field trips have far outnumbered any other year since the beginning of the program in 1997. Our final count was 18 field trips, with 450 students coming to learn about the amazing diversity of plants and animals at Edgewood Preserve and why it's so important to save them. La Entrada and Summit High School must have really valued the spring hike experience since they came



back for more in the fall. It's heartening to see increased public interest in Edgewood, which has so much to offer in natural wonders.

Published here is the evidence of students' appreciation in a thank-you note to one of our very dedicated docents. I also greatly appreciate all our outstanding docents and would surely welcome YOU in the Youth Outreach Program. We provide a docent guide binder, mentoring by experienced docents, and special enrichment sessions. If you are interested, please

contact Outreach@friendsofedgewood.org. 📧

**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.

- \$10 Student/Retired** (includes quarterly newsletter)
- \$25 Friend** (newsletter)
- \$50 Advocate** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards)
- \$75 Supporter** (newsletter plus choose one):
  - Set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards and 1-year subscription to BAY NATURE magazine
  - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood*
- \$100 Steward** or  **\$250 Guardian** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards, plus choose one):
  - 1-year subscription to BAY NATURE magazine
  - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood*

- Please do not send any premiums.**
- I am enclosing a gift of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Please send \_\_\_ copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* (\$2.50), \_\_\_ copies of the *Edgewood Vascular Plant List* (\$3.00), \_\_\_ copies of the Apr-Jun 2004 BAY NATURE magazine (\$6.00), \_\_\_ copies of Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve (\$25.00). Includes tax, S&H. All items subject to availability.

I would like to participate in the following:

- Docent program
- GIS/GPS mapping
- Newsletter/web
- Public relations
- Weed management
- Schools outreach
- Habitat restoration
- Adopt-A-Highway

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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City

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State

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Zip

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Day Telephone

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Eve Telephone

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Email

**FOR THE DARKNESS OF THE WINTER SOL-  
STICE, SOME THOUGHTS OF SUN**

"How glorious a greeting the sun  
gives the mountains!"  
~John Muir

"The sun is but a  
morning star."  
~Henry David Thoreau

"Here comes the sun  
Here comes the sun  
And I say  
It's alright"  
~George Harrison

I'll tell you how the sun rose,  
A ribbon at a time.  
The steeples swam in amethyst,  
The news like squirrels ran.  
The hills untied their bonnets,  
The bobolinks begun.  
Then I said softly to myself,  
"That must have been the sun!"  
~Emily Dickinson

"Turn your face to  
the sun and the  
shadows fall behind  
you."  
~Maori Proverb



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- CNPS 2009 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE:**  
January 17-19, 2009 (see notice Page 6).
- BIRD WALKS.** Bird walks will be on 12/21, 1/25, 2/22, and 3/29 starting at 8:00 AM at the inner Stage Coach parking lot. Rain cancels. For more information, contact Marilyn at birdwalks@friendsofgedgewood.org
- ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY.** The next sessions will take place on 12/06, 01/04, 02/07 & 03/01. Rain changes everything. To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel.
- DOCENT-LED WILDFLOWER WALKS.** These walks will take place March through June. When we set the exact dates, we'll let you know through the website, a flier, & the March newsletter.

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 Anne Koletzke with contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our web site at [www.friendsofgedgewood.org](http://www.friendsofgedgewood.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 [info@friendsofgedgewood.org](mailto:info@friendsofgedgewood.org).

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