

Edgewood Explorer



PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

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Friends of Edgewood Partners with the Committee for Green Foothills

by Bill Korbholz



CGF's Stegner Giving Circle guests enjoy a special hike through Edgewood.
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This past April, Friends of Edgewood partnered with the Committee for Green Foothills (CGF) in hosting their Stegner Giving Circle Hike and Picnic at Edgewood. The event, targeting CGF's most generous donors, marked the first joint project between our organizations.

CGF's mission is to protect the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties through advocacy, education, and grassroots action. FoE has been collaborating with Lennie Roberts, CGF's Legislative Advocate for San Mateo County, on several environmental fronts in our area. Most importantly, we have been working together to redirect PG&E's plans to replace one of the two gas pipelines that run through the serpentine grasslands at Edgewood. We are arguing that routing the new pipeline around Edgewood rather than through it is the least damaging environmental alternative. CGF, and Lennie in particular, have great experience in fighting to protect our natural resources, and they are essential partners to us in protecting Edgewood.

Getting back to the Hike and Picnic, about 30 guests gathered at the Clarkia Trailhead on Cañada Road on the morning of April 3. Docents Trevlyn Williams and Kathy Korbholz joined me in leading 2 groups up the Clarkia, where we met up with Paul Heiple. Paul described the history and status of the Edgewood Weed Warriors, a

program run by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), emphasizing the importance of removing and controlling non-native plants at Edgewood and showcasing some of their impressive successes. Continuing down the Sunset Trail, the groups met Stuart Weiss from Creekside Science. He led them out into the normally off-limits Bay



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checkerspot butterfly habitat and proceeded to describe the plight of this federally-listed insect and the multi-year efforts to restore the population at Edgewood.



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The groups then continued their casual interpretive walks along the Edgewood Trail to the Education Center (EC), arriving in time for a brief tour of the EC and to freshen up before lunch. A few guests who chose to bypass the morning walk were directed to park across Edgewood Road off of Crestview Drive, where Ranger Stephen Kraemer provided shuttle buses to transport them safely to Edgewood. *(continued on Page 2)*

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We all gathered for lunch in the large picnic area in the Day Camp, after which CGF Executive Director Megan Medeiros led a short program highlighting the special nature of Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, recapping the good work being done to preserve it by the CNPS Weed Warriors, Creekside Science, and the Friends of Edgewood. Guests were reminded of the



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CGF Executive Director Megan Medeiros addresses the group in the Day Camp.

threat to Edgewood's sensitive habitats posed by PG&E's plans to replace their pipeline through Edgewood, rather than circumventing the Preserve.

Guests were then invited to walk with a docent back to their cars on Cañada Road, following the Sylvan Trail, thereby completing a lovely 5-mile loop. Shuttle buses were provided for those who opted out of the walk back.

I believe this Stegner Giving Circle Hike and Picnic at Edgewood was a great success, and I'm very gratified by the strong cooperative relationship between FoE and CGF.

2016 Docent Class

by Mary Wilson

In preparation for Docent Training 2016, Sandy Bernhard, Deanna Schiel, Anita Stewart and I formed a committee to review and update the docent binder/manual material. The resulting binder is in color, and our Docent Trainees are very pleased with it! Many of our current docents like the new docent binder/manual so well that they have ordered a copy at a reduced price. We thank Friends of Edgewood for very generously paying the full price for the new, more expensive Docent Binders for the trainees and for subsidizing the cost for copies ordered by current docents.

Sandy Bernhard and I co-coordinated the Docent Training this year. Deanna Schiel and Anita Stewart helped with set-up on Wednesday evenings. I owe all three of these wonderful volunteers a huge debt of gratitude for their help with the development of the new Docent Binder and with the changes and improvements we made to the Docent Training curricula.

In addition to our returning trainers Alf Fengler (Grasslands), Paul Heiple (Geology), Ken Himes (Chaparral, Woodlands), and Mary Wilson (Floral Morphology), three new trainers joined Docent Training this spring. They are Ken Hickman (Wildlife), Kathy Korbholz (Edgewood History) and Trevlyn Williams (How to Lead a Walk). We thank all of our presenters for their very helpful and inspiring presentations. The changes in the Docent Binder and in the Docent

Training have prepared the 2016 docent trainees so well that most of them have already led a walk this spring. This is very rare. Again, many thanks are due to our trainers and to Sandy, Anita and Deanna.

I am very impressed with the difference Sandy has made to our program and am delighted that she will be Docent Training Coordinator starting next year. I have enjoyed coordinating the Docent Training very much for the past 10 years but am grateful to be able to pass the job on, especially to such an organized, thoughtful person as Sandy.

Please welcome our 2016 docents: Gina Barton, Corrina Blaney, Edward Drury, Andre Goforth, father-and-daughter team Jake and Alice Lowenstern, Cynthia McLaughlin, and Huey-Shin Yuan.



2016 Docent Class learns "How to Lead a Walk".
© 2016 Mary Wilson

WORK OUT IN THE WOODLANDS AND GRASSLANDS OF EDGEWOOD NATURAL PRESERVE

by Bob Young and Jane Kos

Trail maintenance work provides almost all of the benefits of working out at a gym but with the added benefit of giving something back for the privilege of enjoying all the trails at Edgewood Natural Preserve and at other open spaces. Our trail maintenance crew provides erosion control and repair work which helps to free up an already overextended park staff to attend to other essential matters. Our crew is so pleased that Head Ranger, Stephen Kraemer, has granted us permits to do our drainage work. Our efforts add to the enjoyment and safety of so many trail users: hikers, equestrians, joggers, and nature-loving strollers who love the preserve, which we all consider to be a true gem. Most of all, let's not forget the opportunity to be in the out-of-doors rather than indoors at a gym.

Join our crew and your workout could include:

- ❑ Treadmill exercise: hiking to the work site – ten to twenty minutes
- ❑ Deep knee bends: squatting down to pick up tools and broken branches
- ❑ Upper body work: using a pick and shovel
- ❑ Weightlifting: carrying and working with tools



www.dogpatchbush.org

Our present work crew is made up of two women and three men. We would like to increase the total number to eight. We work one day a week for two hours. We enjoy working all year 'round.

This, of course, may not be something that everyone would enjoy doing, but try us out and see if it's for you.

The Trail Maintenance Crew works directly under the San Mateo County Park Ranger, and we consult with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) so that our work is limited to sites approved by both the Park Ranger and the CNPS. This avoids the possibility of endangering any California native plants during our trail work.

For more information or to join our Trail Maintenance Crew, email us at Info@FriendsOfEdgewood.org. Be sure to include "Trail Maintenance Crew" in the email subject.

EFFECTS OF EROSION AT EDGEWOOD

by Kathy Korbholz

*Little drops of water
Little grains of sand
Run away together
And destroy the land¹*



© 2016
Kathy
Korbholz

The seemingly minimal forces exerted by drops of water and grains of sand, when combined with the element of time, can level a mountain. Erosion is the removal of the surface layer of the earth's crust by the natural agents of wind, water and ice.

Wind causes erosion in two ways. Abrasion, or the scouring action of sand/soil particles against the softer areas of rocks, plants and man-made structures, is the first mechanism. This action is usually limited to a height of 18 inches, but can extend to 36 inches, above the ground. The second erosion mechanism, deflation (from the Latin *to blow away*), is the erosive action of the wind carrying off unconsolidated material. During wet periods, water loosens material and leaves it lying on the surface.

During dry periods, winds carry off these loosened products of weathering. Deflation moves only sand and dust, leaving behind larger particles the size of pebbles or cobbles. With enough time and wind, only stones remain to form a surface cover.

Water in stream beds or rivulets originates as runoff from neighboring slopes. Runoff flows as a sheet of water or in closely spaced shallow channels called rills. This slope wash (or sheet erosion) is sometimes powerful enough to overcome the soil's resistance and manages to carry a great deal of surface material downslope. Disturbed or denuded soils are less resistant to slope wash.

Moving water can gouge its own water channel, transport debris, and deposit sediments (including exotic plant seeds) at various points along its course. The nature and extent of water-caused erosion depends on the kinetic energy of the stream, which is a function of the amount of water and the gradient of the channel. The faster the flow, the greater the resultant erosion. The diameter of particles which moving water can carry actually varies as the square of the velocity of the stream.

Human trampling promotes erosion by loosening soil materials and destroying plant cover. The trampling damage caused by humans is about eight times that caused by deer. Deer native to San Mateo County have weight ranges similar to humans: 94 lbs for small does to 200 lbs for large bucks. When deer walk, their weight is distributed over their four feet, and their back feet land on or very near the deer's front tracks. Each deer

print, even for a large buck, covers less than six square inches, while a single human boot track can exceed fifty square inches!

Each human boot step loosens soil and breaks or destroys plant cover underfoot. The unintentional erosive effects of human trampling are seen in Edgewood at shortcuts across switchbacks. In serpentine areas where the soil depth is thin, and plant cover naturally sparse, trampling-caused erosion of precious soil nutrients is especially devastating.

At Edgewood Preserve further evidence of human-caused erosion exists on the two hillsides facing the Sunset Trail. There, trampling from off-road vehicles caused plants and soil to be displaced and to be more susceptible to the erosive effects of wind and water. The scars made by off-road vehicles in the 1970s can still be seen on many of Edgewood's hillsides, especially in the summer.

The presence of plant material - living, withering, and in mulch form - mitigates the effects of water and wind erosion. First, the tree canopy "softens" the pelting force of rain during a storm. All above-ground plant material impedes the flow (velocity) of both wind and water, thereby reducing their carrying capacity to remove soil particles. Above-ground plant residue increases surface roughness, thereby slowing surface runoff and filtering out sediment as rain water percolates. Finally, the root systems of plants physically bind soil particles. On slopes, tap roots penetrate through the soil mantle and help prevent erosion by anchoring to firmer strata below.

Erosion is a part of the natural ecology of Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. New gullies, washed out culverts, and fresh bare spots with little or no plant cover are all evident after a rainfall. Because erosion can never be reversed, those who cherish the Preserve's future must help visitors understand the importance of staying on sanctioned trails and leaving plant material undisturbed. Together, we can work to protect our Preserve from excessive erosion.

¹ Robert E. Horton, "Sheet Erosion-Present and Past," *Trans. Am. Geophys. Union*, XXII (1941), 300



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- Visão Geral
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Edgewood Welcomes Visitors in Multiple Languages!

Thanks to the leadership of Mickey Salgo, new versions of our “Welcome to Edgewood” trifold brochures are ready to be posted on the website. Mickey and his cadre of dedicated helpers have completed translating of the brochure into seven languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian and German.

Many thanks to all who helped, especially Isabelle de La Tullaye (French), Sean and Leiyann Connolly & Martha Vercootere (Chinese), Alf Fengler (German), and Tatsiana Niaronava (Russian).

Go [online](http://www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/Edgewood-County-Park) (www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/Edgewood-County-Park) to download and print the brochure in any of seven languages. To print each document to fold as trifold brochures, select “Print”, “Layout” then “2-sided, Short-End Binding”.

[Welcome to Edgewood](#) [Français \(French\) Bienvenus à Edgewood](#) [Español \(Spanish\) Bienvenido a Edgewood](#) [Português \(Portuguese\) Bem-vindo a Edgewood](#) [Deutsch \(German\) Willkommen in Edgewood](#) [Русский \(Russian\) Добро пожаловать Эджвуд](#) [中文 \(Chinese\) 欢迎来到埃奇伍德](#)

Spring 2016 Junior Explorers Program Report

By Carol Hankermeyer

Business is booming in the kids’ education department at Edgewood. The Junior Explorers (JE) Program hosted a record number of schools and scout groups this spring. As of this publication, JE docents have led 208 students on 12 field trips, with more coming down the pike! We can certainly attribute at least some of this increased patronage to greater public exposure of our program through the Friends of Edgewood website and our new [Facebook page](#), set up by Christine Hernandez and monitored by Alice Kaufman. Many thanks to you both! We hope the [Facebook page](#) will also be successful in attracting new Junior Explorer docents. To handle the growth in requests, webmaster Pamela Gage has graciously set up a new online field trip processing procedure, which is currently being tested.

By the time the September issue of the Edgewood Explorer is published, we hope to announce a new Junior Explorers Program Coordinator (or Coordinators)! This is very positive news for the continuation and growth of the children’s field trip program.

One of our success stories this year was being able to fund buses for two second grade classes from John Gill School (thanks to FoE Board approval), which otherwise would not have been able to afford a field trip to Edgewood Park. Here is the teacher’s grateful response:

“Thank you so much for the wonderful experience you provided for my students. They continued to talk about the field trip throughout the entire week. The best part of it for me was just giving the kids the chance to apply everything they had learned in the classroom to the outdoors and real world experiences. That was everyone’s first time to Edgewood. During the entire ride back to campus, students kept asking me when I was going to take them back to the park. If it were up to the kids, we would be taking frequent field trips to see you this year. :-)

So much of the experience tied into what we had been learning in the classroom. Being part of the habitat, looking up close at plants and animals, seeing the life cycle of the acorn sprout and trying to count the rings of the fallen tree, listening and

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hunting for wildlife and evidence of wildlife, and understanding the importance of the food chain all became real tangible concepts for the kids."

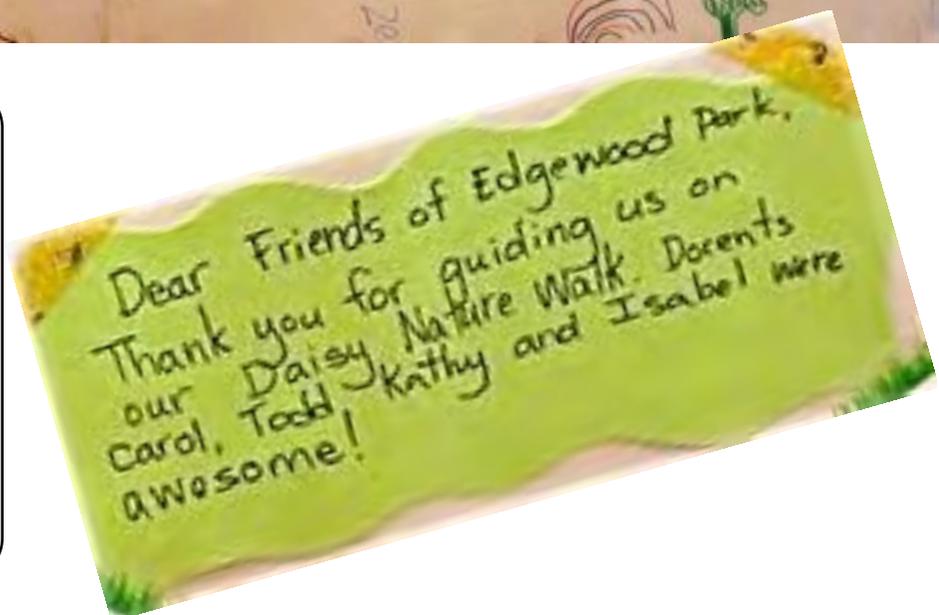
I can never express too many times my gratitude to our stalwart and dedicated core of Junior Explorers docents: Ashley Eastman, Barbara Erny, Isabelle de la Tullaye, Kate Connors, Kathy Dollard, Kathy Goforth, Laurie Alexander, Martha Vercoutere, Mickey Salgo, Rebecca Reynolds, Robert Strode, Todd Reimche, Yours Truly, and a terrific new docent who just came aboard, Jan Rusnak. You, too, can have fun being a Junior Explorers docent. To find out how, pick up our flyer at the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center, visit [Junior Explorers Docent \(www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/Junior-Explorer-Docent\)](http://www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/Junior-Explorer-Docent), or email JuniorExplorers-Coordinator@FriendsOfEdgewood.org

See the mural and card below to realize how much you docents are appreciated by the kids you inspire! These are just a couple of the "Thank you's" we have received.

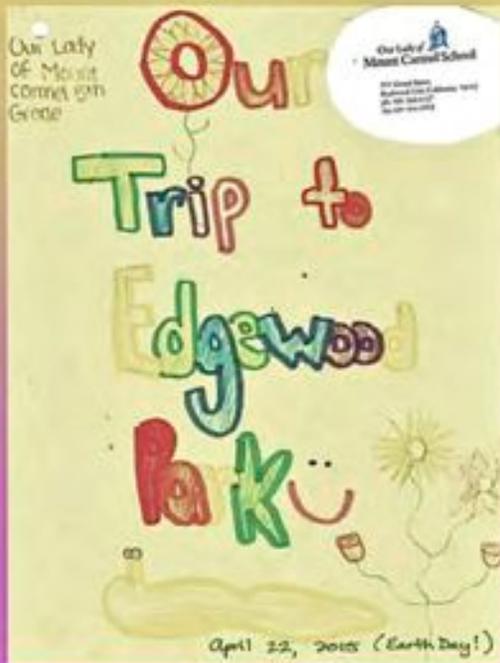


Nature Hikes Resume July 16

The Friends of Edgewood offers third Saturday Nature Hikes from July 2016 to February 2017. Each third Saturday, an Edgewood docent will lead a 3-hour nature hike focusing on a particular subject or theme. Past topics have included Wood Rats, Oaks, Medicinal Plants, and more. Nature Hikes begin at the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at 10 AM.



Edgewood park field trip



By Tory

This year, my class went to Edgewood park in Redwood City, Ca. I saw many interesting things including a lot of dusky footed wood rat nests, banana slugs, and a bee trapped in a fairy lantern flower. There were a lot of great things I saw but these were my favourite. My favorite part of this field trip was seeing a lot of lizards, seeing the hawks nest, and learning about nature with my friends. In conclusion, this field trip was interesting and full of great memories.

Yes, I'd like to become a Friend of Edgewood!

Here's my membership donation to support preservation, education, and restoration:

Join or renew online at FriendsOfEdgewood.org

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Advocate [™]
- \$100 Steward [™]
- Other: \$ _____

[™] Donors of \$50 or more receive a set of six Edgewood greeting cards; donors of \$100 or more also receive a one-year subscription to *Bay Nature Magazine*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I'd like to get the newsletter by email mail.

- Please keep my thank-you gifts.
- Please keep my donation anonymous.

Make checks payable to **Friends of Edgewood**, and mail to:

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

For volunteer opportunities, visit www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/Get-Involved



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Mission Statement of The Friends of Edgewood — To protect and celebrate Edgewood as a unique treasure by promoting exemplary stewardship, and by reaching out with informative public programs. www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org

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Bill and Jean Lane Education Center - Summer Hours and By Appointment*

Wed	9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Sat	9:30 am to 4 pm
Sun	9:30 am to 4 pm

*Subject to volunteer staffing.

2016 Board of Directors
 Laurie Alexander
 Alice Kaufman
 Bill Korbholz
 Kathy Korbholz
 Linda Leong
 John Morse
 Todd Reimche
 Mickey Salgo
 Howie Smith
 Mary Wilson



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adopt-A-Highway

Next Sessions: 6/4, 7/10, 8/6, 9/11

To volunteer or get more information, contact

Dave Hershey at adoptahighway-coordinator@FriendsOfEdgewood.org

Docent-Led Wildflower Walks

Sat/Sun ending 6/5/16; 10 AM @ BJLEC

Second Sunday Bird Walks

6/12/16 - 8 AM @ BJLEC

7/10/16 & 8/14/16 - 7 AM @ BJLEC (new time!)

Third Saturday Nature Hikes resume 7/16/16

For more event info, see

www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/events

The Edgewood Explorer is published quarterly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring Edgewood and to educating the public about its treasures. The newsletter is edited by Linda Leong and is supported by contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our website at www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org, mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, leave a message or fax us toll-free at (1-866) GO-EDGEWOOD (1-866-463-3439), or email us at info@FriendsOfEdgewood.org.