

# Edgewood

# EXPLORER

FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD • FALL 2024

## Red Light, Green Light

by Melissa Hero

On Friday, July 13, Betsy Althaus, Nancy Enzminger, and I co-led a night hike in Edgewood. Thirteen adult guests and four children (ages 8-12) joined us. We started at the Ed Center at 6:30 p.m. (when it was still light) and trekked up the Sylvan trail, pointing out the poison oak and making sure everyone understood the dangers of stepping off trail, especially when the sun is down and it is dark.

We focused on our five senses on this hike, although we did not actually taste anything. We saw woodrat nests and brush rabbits; smelled the scent of “cowboy cologne”; noted berries and fruits of poison oak, blue witch, and blue elderberry; and felt the differences in a madrone trunk, where there was bark and where there was not. Betsy described indigenous uses of blue elderberry and shared a land acknowledgement honoring the Ramaytush Ohlone.

We pointed out turrets on the hillsides near the bridges and curves of the trail. Nancy talked about the life and biology of the turret spiders. We left some battery-operated red tea lights on the side of the trail so that we could find the turrets on the way back down in hopes of seeing the turret spiders themselves. We used a tea light to mark a Calisoga (a spider similar to tarantulas) hole that we had found on our pre-hike Monday. Throughout the hike up the trail, we placed red tea lights at promising spots we hoped to visit on our way back in the dark.

We hiked up to the Serpentine memorial bench and gave everyone a chance to enjoy the sunset and the view of the bay, have a water break, and add some layers. Sunset was at 8:31 with last light at 9:02. The moon was an approximately half-illuminated waxing First Quarter moon which had risen at 1:24 p.m. There was quite a bit of cloud cover after dark.

Before heading back down the Sylvan trail, we handed out red and UV flashlights and red filters for those with their own white flashlights. We told participants to keep an eye out for the red tea lights, as well as something that looks like a tea light from a distance, but has a neon green light.



A hike participant's photo of a California pink glowworm. The glow comes from the underside of the last three segments of its body, which look white because of the flash. *Photo by Joe Montes de Oca* [CC BY-NC](#)  
Green glow *Inset photo by Melissa Hero* [CC BY-NC](#)

As we hiked back down the trail, we found two Calisoga spiders and some small turrets with turret spiders peeking out. Everyone got a great look at the first Calisoga when we used a blade of long dried grass to tickle the silk which lined the top of the hole's entrance. A few people saw the second Calisoga before it retreated to the back of its hole.

Soon after that stop, we spotted our first neon green “tea light” on the side of the trail. We found California pink glowworms (*Microphotus angustus*), which are beetles related to fireflies. The females bioluminesce for a total of 10 days to display for their mate. Sexually mature pink females retain most of the larval features (which is called paedogenesis). The males have wings, and sometimes emit a very small amount of light if disturbed. On our pre-hike we spotted 12 glowworms, but found only four on this hike. Everyone got good looks, but we had to hightail it back down the trail because we needed to be out of the park by 10 p.m.

Another night hike is scheduled in Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve on Oct. 19. Signups on the FoE [Eventbrite](#) page will begin two weeks before the hike. ❖

# Rainy Spring Impacts Wildflower Hikes

by Kathy Korbholz

It was another successful year for our Friends of Edgewood annual spring wildflower hikes. Our 2024 season was blessed and troubled with plentiful rainfall. On the positive side, the wildflowers were gorgeous and some old friends, like checker mallows, were more abundant than in many past years. On the negative side, the gloomy, rainy days kept visitors away and even cancelled some hikes. Despite the weather, we offered 80 separate hikes to 450 visitors. We also offered two special event hikes which had great turnouts: a weed ecology hike (~25 attendees) and the Familias Unidas hikes (~50 attendees).

The post-hike reports written by our fabulous docents reflect enthusiasm about Edgewood and their love of sharing its beauty with visitors. Our emeritus docents have access to these reports; those docents who can no longer navigate the trails especially appreciate the colorful hike descriptions and feeling connected to the docent program community. We tried a new docent-facing tool (electronic rosters) and behind the scenes improvements (automating communication and record keeping systems) with great success. Thanks to Bill Korbholz and Barrie Moore for their efforts to make these time-saving devices a reality.

Again this year, we had a significant number of no-shows – almost 50%. These are guests who register for the hike on Eventbrite and despite two email reminders and pleas to tell us if they are unable to attend, still silently fail to show up. Our docents are divided on their reaction to no-shows. Some are happy to lead anyway and appreciate a smaller, more attentive group. Others feel disappointed, after all their preparation work, to have such a small turnout. We feel certain the inclement weather may have driven up the

no-show rate this year. Most docents carry liability waivers that drop-in visitors can sign to join a hike.

Thank you to the 40 different docents who provided another fantastic spring wildflower season for our visitors. Over two thirds of these were our newer docents – those

who have graduated since our COVID shut down. We send a survey at the end of each season both to those docents who led hikes and those who did not. We want to learn what docents liked, what could be improved, and what keeps them engaged. We received all positive responses to queries about the docents' own enjoyment, feeling prepared, and use of the roster. We also asked if docents would be interested in leading hikes for Spanish-speaking participants. Almost half of the respondents would be willing to try if they had help with translating botanical terms and could co-lead with a Spanish-speaking docent.

If you want to help with the Spanish-speaking outreach, contact Barrie Moore, [mc@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:mc@friendsofedgeswood.org). If you would like to become a docent, contact Sandy Bernhard at [docent-training-coord@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:docent-training-coord@friendsofedgeswood.org).

The wildflowers are fading, but there is much to see in the preserve throughout the year. Check the FoE [Eventbrite](#) page for current hike listings. Watch for spring wildflower hike listings beginning next February. ❖



Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own. —Charles Dickens



Banded garden spider. California gall wasp. Columbian black-tailed deer. Photos by Carol Mathews [CC BY-NC](#) Top right: Common madia. Photo by Sue Lindner [CC BY-NC](#)

# Friends of Edgewood General Meeting Date Set

by Barrie Moore

Join us Sunday, Oct. 6th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for our 2024 Friends of Edgewood General Meeting. Our annual general meeting is a great time to catch up with friends, enjoy good food, and learn more about what Friends of Edgewood will be focused on in 2025.

**You won't want to miss this year's guest speaker, Wes Radez, Executive Director and Publisher of *Bay Nature*.**

We will also announce this year's Best Friend.

We will meet in the group picnic area at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. We hope to see you there!

**Save the Date!**  
**FoE General Meeting**



**Sunday**  
**October 6th**  
**3pm - 5pm**



Above: Friends of Edgewood volunteers at the Redwood City 4th of July Celebration interacted with more than 200 visitors, sharing information about FoE and the preserve. Festively dressed in red, white, and blue, Barb Erny (blue), Sally Albert (red), and Rebecca Reynolds (white) staffed a shift that day, as did (top left) volunteers Bill Korbholz and Michele Conway. Photos by Barb Erny, Barrie Moore

Bottom left: Friends of Edgewood volunteers Larry Goity and Cynthia McLaughlin staffed a shift at Summerfest, the annual San Mateo County Parks Foundation celebration, which was held Aug. 10 this year at Coyote Point Recreation Area. Photo by Barrie Moore

# Bark From the Inside Out

by Bruce Homer-Smith

All plants grow from the tips of their shoots and roots in structures called apical meristems. Cells in these areas can differentiate and grow into complex structures such as leaves, branches, and flowers. Plants continue growing from their tips throughout their life.

## Secondary Growth

In addition, some plants are able to create new growth from a secondary meristem. It's located on both sides of the phloem tissues that transport food up and down the plant. The vascular cambium, inside the phloem, creates new xylem and phloem cells. The cork cambium, outside the phloem, creates new skin cells.

Conifers all produce this secondary growth, growing a series of skins, new ones underneath the old ones. Cells in the old outer skins die, forming bark.

Woody dicots, such as maples and manzanitas, also grow concentric skins from the inside out. Woody plants have a competitive advantage over plants that don't grow as tall. The leaves of woody plants have better access to energy-producing sunlight than the plants left below.

## Reading Bark

Just as you can identify plants from their leaf and flower characteristics, you can identify woody plants by their bark patterns. These patterns also tell you something of the individual plant's life history.

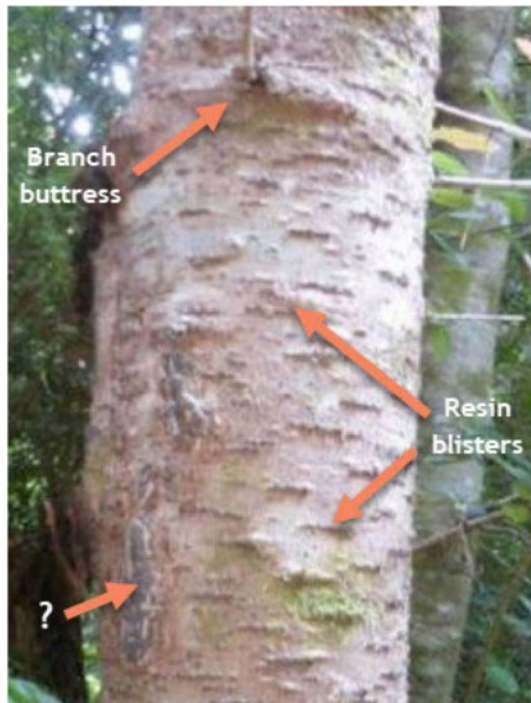
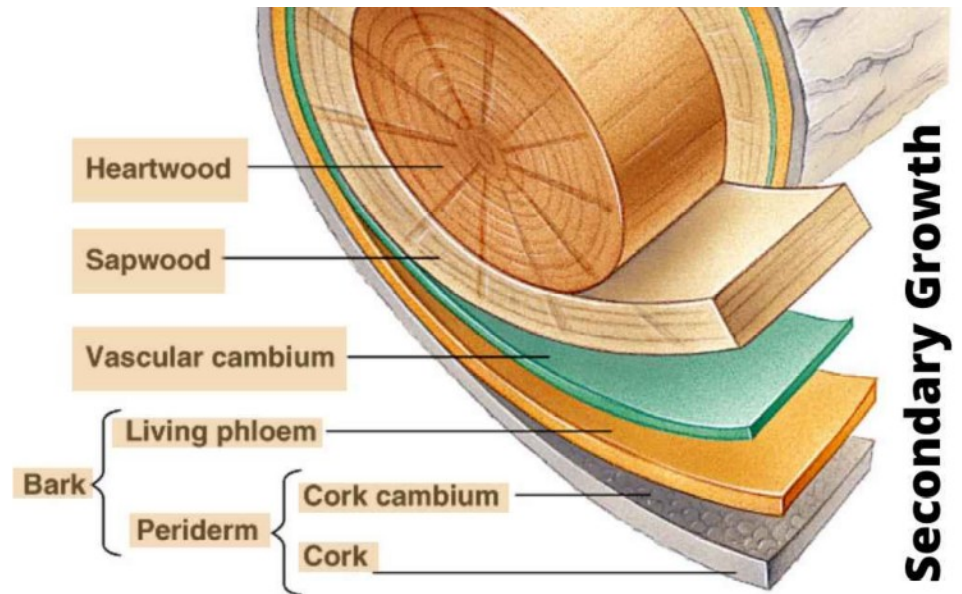


Photo by Zoya Akulova-Barlow [CC BY-NC](#)



If you spend a few minutes with a tree's bark you'll find markers of its history. Cankers, special bark growths, often grow to contain invading fungi. Discoloration may indicate chemical changes in bark that is responding to bacterial infections. You may find recent or old wounds from woodpeckers, mammals, and insects. Fallen branches will leave a record of where they lived.

Here's a look at Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) bark:

### Young Douglas Fir Bark

Young outer bark is smooth, with horizontal blisters filled with resin (aka pitch), a sticky, turpentine-like substance that discourages attackers. All pines, firs, and cedars use resin in this way.

Resin is different from sap, which carries food between tree cells.

The ? area may be a fungus infection, which can gradually decompose the outer layers of bark. Or it may be a reaction by the tree to localize an attack. What do you think?

*continued on page 5*



Photos by Zoya Akulova-Barlow [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)



## Bark from page 4

### Middle-Aged Douglas Fir Bark

As the tree's circumference expands, the dead cells at the bark surface separate based on their DNA-defined characteristics. For Douglas fir, vertical sections of smooth young bark break apart in sharp flakes and often assume a brownish-red color.

Even though the bark is tough and waterproof, small corky pores allow gas exchange with living phloem cells underneath.

### Old Douglas Fir Bark

The tree's bark gets thicker over time. The expanding bark breaks up in fairly random patterns, each chunk holding fiercely to its neighbors.

UV rays eventually break down the lignin in the outer cells, causing the wood to lose its color and turn gray.

Bark recesses hidden from UV effects will stay brown longer.

Feel the bark of these old, tough trees – they retain their hard, sharp edges.

I find bark an especially fertile place to examine nature because I'm not good at categorizing it. I have recently been enjoying walking up to a tree to see what I can notice about its bark. I hope you try it out too! ❖

Check out these two new Edgewood videos online.

#### Tick Ecology and Habitat Research Edgewood Natural Preserve

**Overview** by Dr. Tara Roth, Vector Ecologist,  
San Mateo County Vector Control District  
**Research Findings** by Samantha Poblano,  
Senior, Marin Academy.

Presented June 19, 2024.

[youtube.com/watch?v=ZZZTltenga8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZZZTltenga8)



#### Wildlife at Edgewood Natural Preserve: Bobcat vs. Woodrat

Wildlife cameras at Edgewood captured this cat-and-mouse encounter in March, 2024. Bobcats and woodrats are nocturnal creatures rarely seen during the day. Camera traps hidden off-trail give us a chance to witness hunting behaviors and other after-dark activities.



[youtube.com/watch?v=0yXaVdE7Sg8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=0yXaVdE7Sg8)



## Recognizing Our Valuable Volunteers *Photos by Peter Ingram, Barrie Moore, Kathy Korbholz*

by Kathy Korbholz, Volunteer Recognition Coordinator  
 We welcomed 44 volunteers to our volunteer recognition event July 14, celebrating 31 years as Friends of Edgewood supporters. This annual event provides an opportunity for all volunteers to mingle with longtime friends, to meet some of our newer volunteers, and to engage with folks from other programs within our FoE community.

FoE celebrated our 30th anniversary last year. The name tags for this year's volunteer recognition event said, "31 and Counting" to represent our continued commitment of volunteer support for Edgewood for the next 30 years.

According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics (January 2024), about 30% of nonprofits don't last beyond 10 years. We noted that Friends of Edgewood has passed that milestone three times!

We joyfully introduced Kelly O'Connor's charming design for our new youth T-shirts available from the Ed Center store. (Did you know we have onesies for babies too?)



We love to find out how many years each person attending the event has volunteered with FoE. We tally the years, and this year it added up to more than four centuries! That is a lot of devotion to Edgewood. Another moment of joy was all our volunteers proudly waving this year's volunteer gift, our new lighter-colored FoE hats, also available for purchase from the store.

One of the extraordinary highlights of the year's event was the beautifully decorated cake donated by Barb Erny. The multi-layer cake was adorned with perfect replicas of Edgewood wildflowers, each one individually handcrafted by Barb with such accurate detail and color that they were all easily recognizable as those we see in the field. Barb said it took over 20 hours to create her masterpiece. A wonderful example of devotion to Edgewood.

For the last few years, we have used trivia questions to recognize some of our volunteer programs and hopefully pique interest in finding out more about them. Check out a few of these questions on page 7. ❖



# Friends of Edgewood Trivia

Try these trivia questions that highlight some of our volunteer programs. For more information, see [Volunteer Opportunities](#) on our website under the “Support” tab.

1. Camera Trappers, coordinated by Laurie Alexander, place motion-activated cameras at strategic locations across Edgewood. They have captured images of bobcats with glimpses of the white patches on the back of bobcat ears. Which is a theory about false eyes on bobcat ears?
  - a. They make bobcats look larger, alert, and aggressive.
  - b. They help bobkittens follow their moms in dim light.
  - c. They trick larger predators into thinking they’ve been seen.
  - d. All of the above.
2. The Road Warriors, coordinated by Dave Hershey, picks up trash every month from the I-280 segment that runs 1.7 miles along Edgewood’s western border. Estimate how many miles the FoE Road Warriors have walked in the 25 years they have been cleaning?
  - a. 2040
  - b. 1560
  - c. 1400
  - d. 1280
3. The Trail Ambassador Program, coordinated by Kathy Korbholz, which began during COVID as a way to get knowledgeable volunteers into the preserve to help answer visitor questions, continues to this day. From their reports, which of these are true?
  - a. Woman lifted her toddler inside a trail-side fence next to a sign that said “Please stay on the trail.”
  - b. Visitors seen tromping through the tidy tips, said they were just looking for fragrant fritillaries (four weeks too late).
  - c. Rogue weeders, seen attacking Italian thistle, were encouraged to join the sanctioned Weed Warriors.
  - d. All of the above.
4. The Education Center, coordinated by Nancy Enzminger, is meant to be a gateway to understanding and appreciating Edgewood. This busy building, with the Blooming Board coordinated by Deanna Schiel and the many hands-on displays, certainly fulfills that mission. Which three holidays in 2024 had the most visitors to the Ed Center?
  - a. New Year’s Day / Mother’s Day / Father’s Day
  - b. Martin Luther King Jr. Day / Easter /Mother’s Day
  - c. New Year’s Day / Earth Day / Memorial Day

Answers: 1. d; 2. a (probably a low estimate); 3. d; 4. b (96 / 92 / 167 respectively)

## Become a Friend of Edgewood!

JOIN or RENEW your membership ONLINE or by MAIL:

**ONLINE:** [foew.org/donate](https://foew.org/donate)

**BY MAIL:** Send this completed form with your donation amount circled to Friends of Edgewood, 3 Old Stage Coach Rd., Redwood City, CA 94062-3801.

\$25 \$50 \$100\* \$150\* 250\* \$500\* \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make me a Sustaining Member and charge my credit card \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month. (\$5 minimum)

EXPLORER newsletter preference:  email  mail

\*Check if you wish to receive eligible thank you gifts:

6 Edgewood greeting cards for donations of \$100+

Plus 1 year of *Bay Nature* magazine for donations of \$150+

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of credit card: MasterCard Visa Discover

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

CVC \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting the Friends of Edgewood.

Friends of Edgewood is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

## Switch to a Sustaining Membership Easier for you. Better for Edgewood.

Friends! A sustaining membership lets you make a monthly donation via your credit card and have a huge impact on programs like Project 467, free nature hikes, and more. Can you spare just \$5 or more per month to support Friends of Edgewood and the park we love?

Go to [foew.org/donate](https://foew.org/donate), and follow directions to become a sustaining member, or email us at [mem@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:mem@friendsofedgewood.org), and we will help you get set up.



Est. 1993

# Friends of Edgewood

PRESERVE • EDUCATE • RESTORE

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve  
3 Old Stage Coach Road  
Redwood City, CA 94062-3801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

Open Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and  
Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

To learn more about Friends of Edgewood, visit our website at [foew.org](http://foew.org), call us at 650-367-7576, or email us at [info@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgeswood.org).



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FALL 2024 • VOLUME 31 NUMBER 3

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- When visiting Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, please review trail maps, obey signs, and stay on approved trails.
- See [friendsofedgeswood.org](http://friendsofedgeswood.org) to learn about our mission, find membership information, and discover volunteer opportunities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hikes

Kid-Friendly Hikes for families: Sept. 1 and Oct. 6  
Night Hike: Oct. 19  
Space is limited. See [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) to sign up.

### Nature Tales

Story time for ages 0-5 with their caregivers  
Sept. 7, Oct. 5, and Nov. 2 from 10:30–11 a.m.

FoE Annual General Meeting: Oct. 6, 3–5 p.m.

The Edgewood EXPLORER is published quarterly by Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring Edgewood and educating the public about its treasures. Friends of Edgewood Board of Directors: Laurie Alexander, Sandy Bernhard, Caroline Bowker, Junko Bryant, Elisa Chavez, Michele W. Conway, Nancy Enzminger, Peter Ingram (president), Bill Korbholz, Kathy Korbholz, Angela Mallett, Perry McCarty, Barrie Moore, Rebecca Reynolds, Matthew Tobin. The newsletter is edited by Michele W. Conway and supported by many friends.