

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve

Edgewood Explorer



February 1994

Volume 1 Number 1

WELCOME!

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the newly formed Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve.

To bring you up to date on the status of Edgewood, on July 27, 1993, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted to amend its Joint Powers Agreement with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to exclude development at Edgewood County Park and declare it a Natural Preserve. On August 11, 1993, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ratified this change. Edgewood is now safe from development, thanks to great support from the community!

Our newsletter will be published four times a year and aims to keep you informed on activities of the Friends of Edgewood, hike schedules, volunteer opportunities and needs, and the natural features of the Preserve.

FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD INSTALL FENCE

Late this summer, under the direction of Ranger

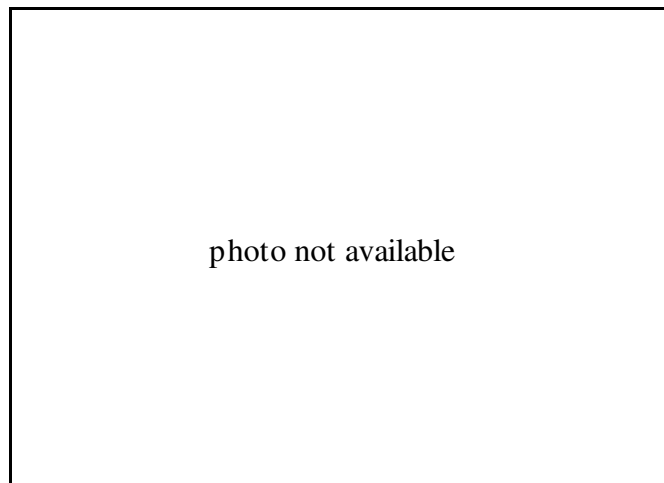


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Lynn Fritz, a couple dozen people finished the simple wooden fence that protects part of Edgewood's threatened species habitat. Paths cutting through the meadow were wiping out butterfly host plants; as they continued up the slope, these paths caused worse and worse erosion of the hillside. The fence clearly signals that these paths are not "legal" trails.

This effort was unofficially the first project of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve—a great success! We had a good time working out there, sharing labor, sweet rolls and apple juice, getting to know each other, knowing we were doing something tangible to protect Edgewood.

VICTORY CELEBRATION FOR SAVE EDGEWOOD PARK COALITION

By Carolyn Curtis

With a grand celebration last October, we saluted



the Coalition's victory and got our new
Friends celebrate



organization off to a festive start. In our tradition of volunteerism, we had a potluck picnic in the Day Camp area. Dessert was two ceremonial sheet cakes:



one with the Coalition logo, the other with Chris Romano's brochure drawing in frosting, with the words "Thank you Supervisors."

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Dozens of us showed up bearing edibles. Elly Hess, who's been heading the weeding effort at the park for years, was there, as was John Allen, who is in charge of the Edgewood docents. Susan Sommers, the first to fight development at Edgewood, was in attendance, as was Carolyn Curtis, coordinator of the Coalition and temporary

Barrales, Sommers, Lempert

coordinator of the Friends, and Wim de Wit of the Midpeninsula Open Space District. Leaders from several Coalition organizations participated, such as Julia Bott, director of the local Sierra Club chapter,

Chris Bohl of the Emerald Lake Homeowners' Association, and lots of California

Barrales, Curtis, Huening

Native Plant Society activists. It was a delight for all of us letter writers, signature gatherers, and other hell raisers to meet each other face to face, some for the first time. Supervisors Ruben Barrales, Tom Huening, and Ted Lempert attended, as did Paul Koenig, the Director of Environmental Services for the county, and Rick Silver, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's office sent a representative. Our new Director of Parks, Patrick Sanchez, came up from southern California a day before his new job started so that he could attend our event. Ron Weaver, the ranger responsible for Edgewood, was there, as was Ranger Lynn Fritz, who guided our efforts putting in the fence at the Sunset entrance. (See "Friends of Edgewood Install Fence" in this newsletter.) Don Mayall and Mike Partelow filmed the event for a future video.

THE GOLF COURSE BATTLE: IT'S REALLY OVER

1. *Legal protection:* Thanks to Supervisor Barrales, the contract between the County of San Mateo and the Midpeninsula Open Space District (which, like the county, put up 1/4 the funds for purchasing Edgewood) has been rewritten so that Edgewood's habitats are protected, any development is prohibited, and any further change to the contract or Edgewood's status requires consent of both parties. This new contract was approved overwhelmingly by MROSD and the Board of Supervisors in summer of 1993.
2. *The other side has given up:* The Edgewood Park Citizens' Committee, the group pushing to put a golf course on Edgewood, has changed its name to the San Mateo County Golfers' Association.

3. *Ballot proposition extremely unlikely:* Because of item 2, any attempt to overturn item 1 isn't likely to happen, for lack of money and support. If such a proposition made it onto the ballot, it would be overwhelmingly defeated.

GRAFFITI AT EDGEWOOD

Because it is within an urban area, Edgewood Natural Preserve has fallen victim to taggers defacing signs and rocks with graffiti. If you notice any graffiti, please contact ranger Ron Weaver.

HELLO-TO-SPRING: WILDFLOWER WATCH BEGINS!

By Laverne Rabinowitz

We're moving into the season that finds Edgewood at its most colorful -- when the waves of wildflowers surge across the serpentine grassland and when the woodlands reveal their flowery secrets. To help guide your walks in the Preserve this spring, we've compiled a partial list of the wildflowers that begin their bloom over the first three months of the season. (For a list of all the flora identified in the Preserve, refer to The Flora of Edgewood Park.)

Beginning in February:

Shooting Star
 Royal Larkspur
 Blue Dicks
 California Buttercup
 Blue-eyed Grass
 White Fritillary
 Popcorn Flower
 Wild Hollyhock
 Baby Blue Eyes
 Douglas Iris

Sun Cups
 Bee Plant
 Hound's Tongue
 Trillium/Wake Robin
 Indian Warrior
 Nemophila
 Zygadene Lily
 Woodland Star
 California Saxifrage
 Blue Witch Nightshade (Jan.)

Beginning in March:

Goldfields
 Tidy Tips
 Annual Lupine
 Phacelia
 California Poppy
 Cream Cup

Dwarf Brodiaea
 Owl's Clover
 Gilia
 Bird's Eye
 Linanthus
 Phlox
 Fiddleneck
 Sticky Monkey Flower
 Bush Lupine
 Indian Paintbrush
 Flowering Currant
 Solomon's Seal
 Mission Bells/Checker Lily
 Dannie's Skullcap
 Hooker's Fairy Bell
 Mule Ears

And starting in April:

Farewell-to-Spring
 White and Yellow Mariposa Lily
 Godetia
 Western Larkspur

Cream Sacs
 Ithuriel's Spear
 Yarrow
 Indian Pink
 Blow-Wives
 White Globe Lily or Fairy Lantern
 Crimson Columbine
 Innocence/Chinese Houses

But when considered in the context of the geologic evolution of this land, these last thirty years represent only a heartbeat.

Most of the land which now constitutes Edgewood Natural Preserve was at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean around 150 million years ago, and consisted of deep water marine cherts and limestone resting on the basaltic ocean floor. This land was subjected to the pressures of the North American tectonic plate to the east and the Pacific tectonic plate to the west grinding and mashing against each other. This movement resulted in a huge land mass being squashed up against and attached to the mainland as the sea floor was being dragged under (subducted by) the westward advancing North American continent. This so-called Franciscan formation is generally believed to have been created during the Cretaceous period, from about 130 to 150 million years ago. To put this in perspective, the dinosaurs roamed the earth from around 100 to 200 million years ago. The San Andreas fault is young by comparison, having been created around 30 million years ago.

Much of the terrain in Edgewood Natural Preserve is a part of this Franciscan formation, consisting of greenstone, chert, gray wacke, siltstone, shale, and of course the state rock, serpentine.

More on the makeup of Edgewood Natural Preserve's land in the next issue.

NEEDED: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve needs an official board of directors. Required positions for boards are traditionally:

- President (currently Carolyn Curtis is coordinating)
- Vice President

EDGEWOOD MASTER PLAN REVISION

Though it's inoperative, the old master plan for Edgewood Park, including the rejected golf course plan, is still on file in the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division. Who'll help draft a new one? We hope to work closely with Parks and Recreation Commissioners and other County personnel.

This effort involves a limited number of meetings and possibly some research or legwork. Call Carolyn Curtis, if you're interested.

A BRIEF GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF EDGEWOOD NATURAL PRESERVE

By Bill Korbholz

Most of us are by now aware that last July Edgewood County Park dramatically changed from a county park to a county park *and a natural preserve*. And some of us can recount the history of the park as far back as 1980, when San Mateo County acquired the 467 acres of the current site, or even as long ago as 1967 when the property was originally acquired by the State of California as a possible college site.

- Corresponding and Recording Secretary (1 position or 2)
- Treasurer (currently Bob Young)
- Directors at Large

Other posts that are pertinent for us follow; certain people have been doing a splendid job with some of these.

- Escaped Exotics Control (Elly Hess)
- Membership (Jessie Schilling of the California Native Plant Society is running the database)
- Revegetation (Susan Sommers)
- Newsletter Editor and Publisher (1 position or 2)
- County Parks and Recreation Division liaison
- Publicity
- Exhibits
- others you can think of?

Note: Docent walks, coordinated by John Allen, are through the California Native Plant Society.

Organizations like ours usually have a general membership meeting to elect a slate of officers (and usually celebrate). We might have our general membership meeting in October, because we had our kickoff then and because it's a quieter time at the park, and it's before holiday frantiness starts.

Please call Carolyn Curtis if you're interested in any of these positions or have ideas for additional ones.

Coming soon: a draft of our bylaws! Don't say we didn't warn you!

EDGEWOOD PRESERVE REVEGETATION BEGINS!

By Mary McMahon

Thursday, February 10 was a red-letter day in the history of Edgewood Preserve. Nine members of the California Native Plant Society and the Friends of Edgewood Preserve held the first meeting to plan the revegetation of Edgewood Preserve. Many areas of the park have been badly damaged by off-road vehicles, vandalism and dumping. With the park saved from further development, now is the time to heal the damage and to prevent further abuse. The immediate goals of the project are to restore the destroyed native plant communities and to preserve the remaining sensitive habitats in the park.

The revegetation project will be a long-term effort, requiring years of study and labor. Studies must be made to identify the areas to be restored. Soil samples must be taken to ensure that the best seeds and best methods of planting are used. Groups must be formed to carry out the actual planting, weeding and watering. Budgets must be created and funds obtained. Coordination with all interested parties must be established. Documentation must be collected to verify the progress of the project. These are only a few highlights of what needs to be done.

However, the project will be a labor of love and excitement. This is a unique opportunity for those who know and enjoy the park to actively participate in renewing the land we fought so hard to save. Environmental history will be made as nature is given back what was taken away.

This project will depend on skills ranging from those of a botanist to those of hole diggers and coffee brewers!

So come aboard. Participate in recreating the Preserve. For further information or to indicate your willingness to be involved, call Mary McMahon.

"SAVING EDGEWOOD PARK" VIDEO

A 28-minute video depicting the history of the effort to save Edgewood Park is available to all Friends for \$12, including tax and postage. The beauties of the park have the starring role in the video, which is almost entirely filmed at Edgewood; the video is also a wonderful resource for describing to friends just what Edgewood is. A Supporting or Benefactor Membership in Friends of Edgewood entitles you to a copy as part of your membership, or you can order a copy by writing to the Friends address on this newsletter (checks payable to Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve).

of Edgewood Park" are available to Friends for \$3, including tax and postage. A Supporting or Benefactor Membership

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WHY AREN'T DOGS ALLOWED?

1. Dogs aren't permitted in any San Mateo County parks; Edgewood was off limits to them even before it became a preserve.
2. Even when they're on leashes, dogs disrupt wildlife patterns (for instance, "marking" territory). Other mammals, such as deer, avoid dogs' scent by going elsewhere, such as across Highway 280.
3. Edgewood is the home for naturally occurring predators, such as bobcat and coyote; the dog is their competitor.

Now that Edgewood is a preserve, the animals living there should be left alone as much as possible; it should be their sanctuary.

"THE FLORA OF EDGEWOOD PARK"

This is a 16-page publication of the California Native Plant Society (Santa Clara Valley Chapter) listing over 440 species found at Edgewood, arranged by plant family and indicating where in the Preserve the plants may be found. It was compiled by botanist Toni Corelli and draws on the extensive fieldwork of Susan Sommers. Copies of "The Flora

in Friends of Edgewood entitles you to a copy as part of your membership, or you can order a copy by writing to the Friends address on this newsletter (checks payable to Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve).

UPCOMING EVENTS

☐ **March 9, 11 am - 2 pm.** “Explorer Hike” through the serpentine grasslands of Edgewood sponsored by MROSD. Meet at the park-and-ride lot, Edgewood Road at I-280.

☐ **March 26, 27.** Hike through Edgewood sponsored by the Sierra Club. Meet at the Old

Stage Day Camp entrance (off Edgewood Road).
Sandra Cooperman.

☐ **March 30, 31.** Hike through Edgewood followed by gourmet potluck. Sponsored by the Sierra Club. Meet at the Old Stage Day Camp entrance (off Edgewood Road). Bob & Elly Hess.

☐ **April 23, 24.** Trail Days at Edgewood. Ron Weaver will lead groups to repair and rebuild trails, and extend the habitat barrier at the Sunset entrance. Ron Weaver.

☐ **May 21.** This is an early announcement of the second annual “Explore the Edge” run/walk at Edgewood. Details in next issue.

The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve a place where all can enjoy the natural beauty and habitat.

This inaugural issue of Edgewood Explorer has been published by the Friends’ interim publishing committee, consisting of Carolyn Curtis, Bill Korbholz, Laverne Rabinowitz, and Angela Sutton. We welcome articles or suggestions. Contact Bill Korbholz. Deadline for submission for next issue is April 1.

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
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