

Edgewood



Explorer

March 1997

Volume 4 Number 1

THIS OLD HOUSE

By Kathy Korbholz

Appearances by distinguished guests highlighted the third annual Friends of Edgewood general meeting and pot luck on Sunday October 20th. These guests included: San Mateo County Supervisors Ted Lempert and Ruben Barrales, Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District Board Member Wim DeWitt, and Julia Bott, Director, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club.

House Picture

Barrales, Himes, Spangler, Korbholz, Lempert

During the formal portion of the meeting, attended by about 50 faithful Friends, President Bill Korbholz outlined FOE accomplishments during 1996 and work in progress for 1997. He asked each of the committee chairs to give a brief update on their activities and plans. Park Ranger Lynne Fritz thanked all the Friends for their time, efforts and love shown on behalf of Edgewood.

One feature of afternoon festivities was the second annual presentation of the Best Friends Awards. The first award was presented to Ken Himes *for his*

quiet leadership, unflagging efforts and countless hours in the battle to prevent star thistle and other exotics from spoiling the habitats necessary to preserve Edgewood's precious native plants. In presenting the award Bill noted it is a "rare blessing when someone like this seems almost magically to appear on the scene. FOE is a volunteer organization, and Ken epitomizes the definition of a volunteer. So far this year Ken has personally volunteered over 250 hours toward pulling non-natives such as star thistle and bristly ox-tongue, and guiding our efforts to not only control weeds, but take the upper hand."

The second Best Friend Award was presented to Nita Spangler *for her devotion to the preservation of Edgewood through her tireless efforts in researching Edgewood's colorful history, and her public support for the adoption of a new master plan. Bill described Nita as a "steady and outspoken supporter of Edgewood and our parks in general, a dedicated student of regional history, one of the now infamous seven who authored the first working draft of the Master Plan and a close and trusted friend of Edgewood."*

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RANGER ROUNDUP

By Lynne Fritz

I am pleased to introduce Ranger Tom Baker, the newly assigned Park Supervisor at Edgewood Preserve. Tom has worked for San Mateo County Parks for 28 years. He spent most of his career at Sam McDonald and Pescadero Creek Parks. He facilitated the development of those parks and helped build the many miles of trails out there. Tom has also worked at Poplar Beach and most recently at Huddart Park. Tom has had the help of volunteers at all these parks. Tom became familiar with Edgewood when we acquired it. He participated in the program to eliminate the heavy off-road vehicle activity that was prevalent at that time. It will take him some time to familiarize himself with all aspects of the Preserve and your program, so please give him the wonderful support you gave me.

Isobel Aguirre, my new assistant, started on March 7. She looks forward to getting acquainted with you and all you do for Edgewood.

I'd like to thank Jan Simpson and the Docent trainers Toni Corelli, Susan Sommers, Ken Himes, Bob Buell and Bill Kirsher for committing their time and expertise to train new Docents. I thank all the Docents for the time and energy you commit to educating Edgewood's visitors and for helping to protect Edgewood's special natural resources.

My thanks also goes out to Elly Hess, Ken Himes and all who weed with them on Fridays. Your unending dedication is unlike any I have ever seen. Keep it up. I'll try to send more volunteers your way.

Thanks also to Christine Romano-Puckett, Bruce Puckett, Susan Sommers, Matt Leddy and his horticulture class for planting 25 flats of native grass at the base of Hill 1. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Edgewood's revegetation program.

Finally, a very heartfelt thanks to all who have nurtured the Master Plan to fruition. Your support, input, persistence and patience throughout this

process is commendable. Your input and constancy have assured a quality product and protection of the resource.

Reminder: Everything you do at Edgewood Preserve sends a message and sets an example to others. Please be familiar with and abide by all the park regulations, especially (1) staying on designated trails, (2) not picking or removing any native plants or rocks etc., (3) not smoking on the trails. Every park visit is an opportunity to educate others. Thank you for your help in this effort.

WHY AREN'T DOGS ALLOWED IN EDGEWOOD?

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 native wildlife habitats and patterns (for instance, "marking" territory). Other mammals, such as deer, avoid dogs' scent by going elsewhere, like trying to cross the highway.
3. Edgewood is the home for naturally occurring predators, such as bobcat and coyote; the dog is their competitor.
4. Edgewood's preserve status requires extra stewardship on everyone's part to insure rare habitats and endangered species are protected and allowed to flourish

Dogs are welcome in Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve, just across Edgewood Road. There are three miles of trails and leashed dogs are allowed on all of them. As a special treat, there is a 16 acre section in the center of the preserve where dogs can roam off leash. For a map of the trails at Pulgas Ridge, please call the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District or send an e-mail message.

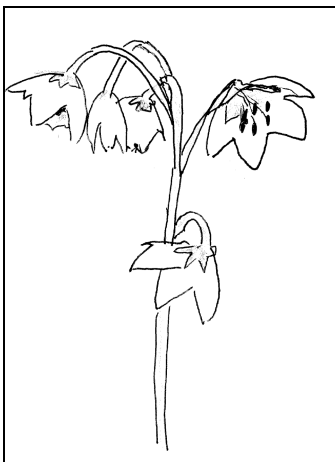
**EDGEWOOD'S TWO FRITILLARIA,
HABINGERS OF SPRING**

By Ken Himes

Amongst the earliest wildflowers to appear at Edgewood County Park and Preserve, are two species of the genus *Fritillaria*. They are the Fragrant Fritillary, *Fritillaria liliacea* and the Mission Bells (or Checker Lily) *Fritillaria affinis*. Although both have an early flowering period in common, they occur in entirely different habitats. Both can be seen near certain trails at Edgewood and their flowers have an unsuspecting beauty. One is rare with a limited distribution, while the other is widespread.

The genus *Fritillaria*, which includes about 20 species, is in the lily family. Many of California's *Fritillaria* species are of limited distribution and are declining in numbers. Habitat loss is the prime reason, but horticultural collecting is reducing some of showier species.

Thirteen species are listed in the 5th edition (1994) of the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Ten of the thirteen *Fritillaria* species have been placed in Category 1B, one of the five categories used to express degree of concern. Species that appear on list 1A are presumed extinct in California. Happily, no *Fritillaria* species is on 1A, but if threats continue, then some (about half) of our *Fritillaria* species could become extinct.



Fritillaria liliacea, the Fragrant Fritillary, has been placed on List 1B, but it has received habitat protection in several parks and preserves, including Edgewood. There are three colonies located in different areas of Edgewood. The most visible colony is the one along the Serpentine

Loop Trail, northeast of the service road in the southern part of the park.

The Fragrant Fritillary grows from a bulb and reaches a height of 5 to 15 inches. The leaves are arranged alternately along the lower stem. The whitish flowers with green stripes often face outward or nod downward. It prefers open grassland habitat, and grows in heavier (clay) soils, often derived from serpentine.



Fritillaria affinis, Edgewood's other *Fritillaria*, occurs in an entirely different habitat. It prefers moist shady woods at Edgewood, although it can be found in open grassland along the more immediate coast.

This plant also grows from a bulb, but its stem can be much higher, up to 3 feet. The lower leaves are in whorls, while the uppermost are in an alternate arrangement with nodding flowers. The color ranges from brownish purple mottled yellow to pale yellowish green mottled purple.

It is the coloring of the flowers and its nodding form that gives rise to its two common names: Checker Lily and Mission Bells. The full range of colors occurs in the various colonies at Edgewood. These flowers blend in with their surroundings, but are a great beauty when spotted. This is especially true when one examines the inner petals; but be careful as poison oak is an almost constant companion.

Some locations are:

- Sylvan Loop - southern branch, near junction with trail to Sylvan way
- Sylvan Loop - southern portion, near junction with Edgewood Trail

- Sylvan Loop - northern portion, about midway
- Edgewood Trail - both west and east of junction connecting trail to Sylvan Loop
- Ridgeview Loop - where it switches back and descends at northwest central ridge. (2 locations)

The plants never seem to flower in great numbers, but the presence of a glossy ovate leaf indicates additional plants. This single leaf has been called a resting leaf as that plant will not put up a flowering stem that season.

Both *Fritillaria* can be seen right now -- late February, early March. But don't wait too long, or you will miss seeing Edgewood's harbingers of spring, the two species in the genus *Fritillaria*.

15 NEW DOCENTS GRADUATE

By Jan Simpson

ALERT to wildflower lovers, those of you who enjoy Edgewood Preserve, and those who would like to learn more about this diverse park we have fifteen new Edgewood Preserve docents who just completed training. This year's participants have shown great enthusiasm, and have diligently attended the five evening sessions and week end field trips taught by: Susan Sommers, Toni Corelli, Ken Himes, Bill Kirsher, and Bob Buell.

New docents -- Delpha and Sam Berry, Kate Connors, Lorie Coon, Frank Figoni, Judy Grimsby (yes our very own Ranger), Donna lee Hopley, Donna Maytham, Joyce Nicholas, Donna Petersen, Nancie Plumb, Robert Strode, Ed Sully, Kathie Weatherby, and Ann Wenner -- join the thirty seven other active CNPS docents leading walks this spring. They are all anxious to share their newly acquired knowledge and their appreciation of Edgewood.

Edgewood Preserve Wildflower walks began for the season on Sunday, March 9th. Be sure to check the enclosed schedule for dates, times and starting

location for the weekend docent led walks. If you have questions about these or other local wildflower walks, call the California Native Plant Society Hotline.

Speaking of Wildflower walks --in response to visitor requests for pictures of Edgewood's wildflowers, the Friends of Edgewood and the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society have joined together to publish a brochure containing full color pictures of twenty of the most common native wildflowers.

The brochure was a labor of love designed and published by Bill and Kathy Korbholz. Pictures were taken by Sonja Wilcomer, Ken Himes and Kathy Korbholz. Wildflower identification and bloom period was supplied by Toni Corelli and Ken Himes. Bill Korbholz spent hours pushing the computer technology envelope to create a fully digital master. Those who have seen the finished product are really excited.

This souvenir is available in two ways -- from the docents leading the wildflower walks or at the CNPS Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale, April 26 & 27 at Foothill College. The price is two dollars, just enough to cover the publishing costs. Those who buy a brochure will receive a coupon for two dollars off your new or renewing Friends of Edgewood membership. Can't wait to get a brochure? Send in your membership renewal now and receive a brochure in the mail. This offer is good while supplies last -- at least through the 1997 wildflower season.

TRAIL PATROL GROWS IN 1997

by Nancy Mangini

The first meeting of the 1997 Edgewood Park Volunteer Trail Patrol will take place on March 18th at the Elks Club in Redwood City. At that meeting, veteran patrol members will welcome five new members into their ranks and formally schedule the next six weeks of weekend walks which have had such a positive impact on how visitors view and

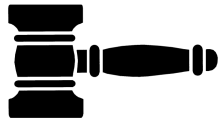
enjoy Edgewood Natural Preserve. Scheduled weekend patrols will begin on March 22nd this year and continue throughout the spring and summer months.

New to the Patrol this year are Herb Fischgrund, Mary Dean, Al David, Kay Filler, and Less Filler. Responding to a direct mail recruitment effort supported by the FOE Board of Directors, these FOE members have stepped forward to help park visitors learn about appropriate ways in which the unique features of Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve can be viewed and enjoyed and to help keep park staff informed about trail conditions.

With the addition of the five new members, the Trail Patrol now numbers 20 active members.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By **Bill Korbholz**



1996 has been a busy and productive year for the Friends of Edgewood, and a personally rewarding one for me as President. Last January we set the following 5 priorities for 1996:

1. Master Plan draft delivered to Patrick Sanchez; approval process tracked to completion
2. Edgewood interim management plan in place
3. FOE incorporated
4. Weed eradication, trail patrol stepped up
5. New programs initiated for Publicity, Exhibits, Sight-Impaired, and Community Outreach.

I'm happy to report on the progress we made toward those goals.

1. The original 7-person Master Plan committee did indeed deliver its final draft to Patrick Sanchez in January. Since that time, many Friends have diligently reviewed the two drafts prepared by the County's Bernardine Alling, and have participated actively in the two County-sponsored workshops. On December 12, the Parks and Recreation Commissioners met to consider the draft for the first time. Many

individuals spoke at that meeting. Ultimately the Commissioners recommended the adoption of a management strategy favoring natural protection over development. This was a major achievement for the Friends and I congratulate all of those who worked so devotedly toward developing a proper Master Plan for Edgewood.

2. In the absence of an approved new Master Plan, Lynne Fritz and her staff have done a great job managing the Preserve. They have focused on maintaining trails, coordinating volunteer activities, and refurbishing the display cases.
3. Our application for incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation has been submitted and is pending approval.
4. Thanks to Elly Hess and Ken Himes, our weeding programs have been very successful this year. Ken is using controlled experimentation to determine the most effective ways to check the spread of certain exotics. And Nancy Mangini now has 16 active trail patrollers, who accumulated a total of 380 patrol hours this year.
5. Sandy Cooperman and Frank Figoni were our Publicity and Exhibits chairs, respectively, this year. In conjunction with CNPS, Sandy set up a telephone hot line, and this coming April she will create an exhibit on Edgewood at Redwood City Library. Frank worked hard to install and refurbish the display cases in the park.

As we close out this year, I would like to thank the entire Executive Board for their dedication and contributions this year, and for being such great fun to work with. I have never been associated with a nicer group of people, and I look forward to more fun and success next year.

BROOM REMOVAL AND OAK PLANTING

by **Ken Himes**

In November of 1996, two members of an applies biology class from Gunn High School, Palo Alto, joined Ken Himes in a restoration project at Edgewood County Park and Preserve. Ranger Lynne Fritz arranged for Stephanie Hert and Naomi Hamburger to complete ten hours conservation

work as part of a pilot program in Gunn's biology department. It was determined that the oaks of Edgewood could be a very worthwhile subject for such a project.

An area near the amphitheater in the day use area had been cleared of most of the French and Spanish Broom several years earlier. Both of these non-native brooms out compete the native flora in disturbed habitat. They can invade even undisturbed habitat, like along the Blue Oak Trail at Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve. The eventual result is a loss of biological diversity as these two aggressive shrubs crowd out most native plants.

The first part of the Gunn High School project involved introducing the girls to the five species of oaks that occur at Edgewood. The keys in the Jepson manual provided help with the identification. We also noted which oaks were more abundant and if there were any habitat preferences in their distribution at Edgewood.

Next, we needed to remove a few large broom plants from the site. The site was otherwise bare except for a few oak saplings, and hundreds of seedling broom plants. We used weed wrenches for removing the larger plants. The wrench clamps on the lower stem and enables removal of plants with a three inch stem diameter. I remember Naomi saying, "Great fun, lean on the handle and out they come!" Well, out they come if the soil is moist, but perhaps it is the leverage provided by the long handle that is the key.

Obtaining the oaks was easy as Ranger Judy Grimsby had collected acorns of both Coast Live and Valley Oaks from the vicinity of the day use area. We planted the acorns directly into the ground and mother nature will do the rest.

It isn't yet clear if this planting will succeed as young oaks face many threats, such as: drought, predation by gophers, etc. One thing is certain, we have fewer broom plants, and we have two students who have a better appreciation of the biological diversity at Edgewood as represented by its five oak species.

Editor's Note: Having been privileged to go on nature walks with Ken, I am certain Ken planted the seeds of stewardship, awe, wonderment and appreciation for the glory that is Edgewood. Just like the oaks seedlings face threats, our young people face threats on the streets. Thank goodness for people like Ken who take time to help adolescents gain an appreciation of nature and its power to inspire. Contact Lynne Fritz, 363-4017 if you know of other young people who could benefit from a volunteer project.

MEETING (continued from page 1)



As the weather has warmed, there has been a noticeable increase in vandalism inflicted on the habitat railings near the Sunset entrance. In early March about 150 feet of railing was destroyed. The County staff and the Trail Patrol will be tracking these occurrences and will be implementing measures to prevent further incidents.

You can help defeat these senseless, expensive and malicious acts, which threaten the beauty and health of the Preserve. Please report any and all observations of vandalism immediately to the Ranger Hotline.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
Income & Disbursement Statement
For 12 Months Ended January 23, 1997**

Receipts	
Dues and orders for booklets/videos	\$3,345.00
Disbursements	
Newsletters	736.62
Posters, videos, booklets	176.12
Filing for non-profit status (see note)	926.28
Attendance at exotic pest plant conference	163.08
Tools for control of exotic pest plants	117.00
Annual pot luck expenses	124.31
Miscellaneous (P.O. Box, etc.)	45.01
Total Disbursements	\$2,288.42
Net Income	\$1,056.58
Cash balance beginning of 1996	\$4,950.62

Cash balance end of year (1/23/97)	\$6,007.20
Note: includes \$830 tax which is refundable at the time FOE qualifies for non-profit status	

..... ✂ clip here ✂

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

New or continuing members of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve are asked to pay membership dues annually to offset the expenses associated with preserving Edgewood. If you would like to join the Friends, continue your membership, or simply make a contribution, please clip and complete this section. Mail it to the return address on the back of this panel with your check payable to **Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve**. With your membership or contribution, you will receive four more issues of the Edgewood Explorer.

Name

Address

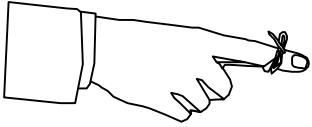
City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

- \$15 Basic membership
- \$25 Family Membership
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership
- \$50 Supporting Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, and the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*)
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, and a 16x20 poster-photo)
- In addition to my dues, I am enclosing a gift of _____.
- Please send _____ copies of the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, at \$15 each.
- Please send _____ copies of *The Flora of Edgewood Park* at \$3 each.

Particular interests:

- Docent
- Newsletter
- Revegetation
- Legal
- Exotics control
- Trail patrol
- Public relations
- Trail/fence maintenance



UPCOMING EVENTS

☐ *Weekends Through June.* **WILDFLOWER WALKS.** See insert for meeting times and locations

☐ *Saturday and Sunday April 26 and 27,* **WILDFLOWER SHOW AND SALE** Sponsored by Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS. Foothill College, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free; parking requires eight quarters.

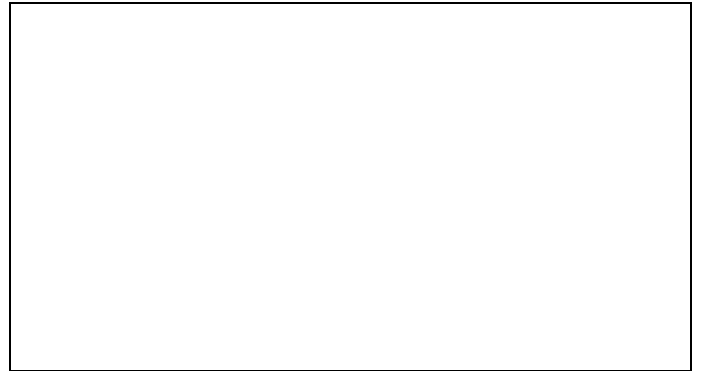
☐ *Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27,* **TRAIL DAYS.** contact Lynne Fritz for trail maintenance and other volunteer opportunities.

☐ *Saturdays, May 31.* **CRYSTAL SPRINGS TRAIL DAY.** Join the XXXX

NATURE

After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on--have found that none of these finally satisfy, or permanently wear-- what remains? Nature remains.

--Walt Whitman, "New Themes Entered Upon" (1882)



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 for all to enjoy the natural beauty and habitat. The newsletter is produced by Kathy Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends.

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