

Edgewood



Explorer

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ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, October 5th

The Friends of Edgewood will hold its fourth annual meeting, election of officers, and pot luck on Sunday October 5th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the Day Camp area. There will be an update on the incorporation status and information about the proposed new bylaws. Friends are asked to bring a dish to share - your choice; table service and drinks will be supplied. Save the date and join the fun.

If you wish to nominate a candidate, or volunteer yourself, call Bill Korbholz at 367-8820. Unsure what is involved in a given position? Feel free to call a current Board member and ask.

- **President**, Bill Korbholz
- **Vice-President**, Peter Ingram
- **Secretary**, Laverne Rabinowitz
- **Treasurer**, Bob Young

FRIENDS FILE FOR EXEMPT STATUS

By Peter Ingram

The Friends of Edgewood Executive Board has completed state and federal applications seeking recognition as a California public benefit corporation under the provisions of federal 501 (c)3 tax laws.

On July 31st, two voluminous packages of forms, narratives and spreadsheets were mailed off with a sigh of relief. Now we must wait two to six months to receive a response from the California Franchise Tax Board and the Federal IRS. If either agency is satisfied with our initial submittals and does not require additional information, the Friends may be issued a

“favorable determination letter” and begin three years of probationary status with the IRS as a tax exempt corporation. During this period we will be required to file annual forms that demonstrate that we are operating within the bounds as delineated in our application.

Gaining approval of our applications for exempt status will fulfill a long-standing goal of the Friends. With not-for-profit corporate status, the Friends will be able to seek grants and contributions to further our work in preserving Edgewood Natural Preserve for the human, plant and animal generations to come. Incorporation also confers an official status on the organization that will add to our stature as we advocate what is right for the preserve and its visitors. And, for those members who value tax deductions, exempt status means that your annual membership dues and your generous contributions will be tax deductible.

During the application review and approval period, I have been designated by the Executive Board as the Friends’ contact person for state and federal agencies. If you have any questions concerning the exempt status application process, please contact me. Watch future issues of the Explorer for updates on our quest for exempt status!

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RANGER ROUNDUP

By Lynne Fritz

As the summer draws to a close I thank all of you who took time out of your summer schedule to volunteer at Edgewood. I know continued weeding and patrolling in the hot summer sun is a true sign of commitment to the park. Thanks!

Rangers Tom and Judy and their summer staff have concentrated some efforts to reduce unauthorized access across from the Park & Ride Lot by installing and maintaining barbed wire at the fence line. They are also monitoring the trash problems generated by the flower vendors on Edgewood Road. Staff have spoken to them and are getting cooperation. Please report future observation of trash or other such impacts to Judy or Tom at the park office.

Staff continue to monitor the habitat barriers, trim and repair trails, and are starting to install more new trail signs. Judy is currently preparing a mammal display and looks forward to doing a display on "Hill 1" this winter. Anyone with historic photos of "Hill 1" that Judy can use is encouraged to call her at the park office.

Final copies of the Edgewood Master Plan should be available by the week of August 18. Please call the Administration Office in Redwood City if you want a copy.

Most exciting for me has been preparing for our first annual Volunteer Recognition Event on Sept. 27. This is our first official event to acknowledge and recognize the outstanding support and commitment of our park volunteers. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

In the fall I will start our Parks Division Newsletter, so Judy will be writing this column. She will be able to bring you up-to-date, on-the-spot information about Edgewood. I will still contribute to this newsletter in a different format.

See ya 'round Friends of Edgewood, so long Ranger Roundup.

FOE STANDS VIGIL ON THE FOURTH OF JULY



For many years, "Hill 1" near the Sunset Entrance to Edgewood Park has been a favorite place for local residents to view Bay Area fireworks displays on the fourth of July.

For the past three years, the Edgewood Park Rangers, with the help of the Volunteer Trail Patrol, controlled this after-hours activity by ensuring that visitors remained on authorized trails, did not bring alcoholic beverages into the park, did not smoke or use fireworks themselves, and left when the fireworks displays ended.

This year, however, the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department decided to close Edgewood to after-hours visitors in strict compliance with the recently adopted master plan. Unfortunately, that meant simply closing the gates and instructing all park staff to go home at 8 PM, leaving the park vulnerable to uncontrolled access by people who were used to coming in on that particular night.

Because repeated requests for some official presence at the Sunset Entrance were denied by the park service, several members of the Friends of Edgewood Park took it upon themselves to stand vigil at the Sunset gate. Luckily, both the San Mateo County Sheriffs Department and the Redwood City Police Department sent patrol cars to check on and provide back up for the volunteers. As a result, 50 - 75 would-be revelers in various states of sobriety were turned away that night, avoiding what could easily have developed into a vandalism and/or wildfire threat to the park and surrounding areas.

The Friends of Edgewood would like to thank Peter Ingram, Mike & Nancy Mangini, and Frank Figoni for spending their July 4th in the service of Edgewood and the community in which they live.

PROMINENT CITIZENS LIVED AT EDGEWOOD

This is the third in a series of articles about the early days of Edgewood. They are adapted by Kathy Korbholz from Nita Spangler's research.

In January of 1908, Henry C. Finkler and his wife bought what was to become Edgewood Natural Preserve from an interim owner, Dr. Miles Taylor. Like the Isaacs before them, they continued to make improvements by adding outbuildings, a barn, and landscaping. For a time Finkler tried hog farming and later turned to a small herd of goats which may have contributed to overgrazing the property. A later resident credits Finkler with stockpiling the rocks used in retaining walls around the Day Camp picnic area.

The hillside land around what is now Edgewood Road was as unstable in Finkler's time as now; it was the cause of frequent repairs and detours. In the early 1900's, one wash out was so severe, locals called on the county to relocate the road. In 1907 a new highway was dedicated moving the road from the south side to the north side of Cordilleras Creek. In the summer of 1917, when a heavy wooden bridge over the creek linking Finkler and his neighbors to the new county road collapsed, Henry prevailed upon the County road department to build a concrete bridge. Finkler argued that a parcel of land, dedicated by the heirs of the J. C. Johnson estate for the new road, made the bridge a county responsibility. Superior Court Judge George Buck was among those who visited the site and declared the bridge part of the West Union highway. That bridge is still used as the entrance into the Old Stage Day Camp and appears on county maps as "Finkler's Bridge."

In his early years Finkler was active in outdoor sports and took up competitive high wheel bicycle riding. He became the state champion in both long and short distances. Even in later years he never relinquished his love for the wheel and was often seen biking over the local roads. Because of his riding on Sundays, Finkler claimed to be "best on Mondays."

Finkler became secretary to the State Supreme Court when he succeeded his father's decade in that position in 1878; he was nineteen years old. He held the office for over fifty years. One local history book states, "The position is one of large responsibility, but its duties have been performed by Mr. Finkler in a manner that has won for him the commendation and admiration of all who have been in any way connected with the supreme court, while his uniform courtesy and willingness have gained for him a well merited popularity." By his meticulous record keeping, he also served the justices as their statistician and historian.

Finkler was very public-spirited and was instrumental in getting improvement to his



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Korbholz



The Friends of Edgewood Board has been busy these last couple of months.

Thanks to the hard work of the special working committee led by Vice President Peter Ingram, our application to become a California public benefit corporation was filed last month (see Peter's article on page 1). This represents a major milestone for our organization's development, and positions us to achieve our goal of acquiring non-profit corporate status this year.

I'm also pleased to report that Carol Hankermeyer has agreed to join our Board as our new Community Involvement chairperson. Carol will focus this year on organizing an activity at Edgewood with one of our local schools.

Finally, a note about two events coming up in the next couple of months. Redwood City's annual Climate Best Fest takes place on the weekend of September 20/21, and the Friends will have a booth. I hope to see lots of you there, and encourage you to bring your friends who may want to learn more about our organization.

And of course on October 5 we'll have our annual general meeting and potluck dinner at the Day Camp. This is your chance to chat with your

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DOCENT TRAINING TO START

By Jan Simpson

The Introductory Sessions for the 1997-1998 California Native Plant Society Docent Training for Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve begins October 16th. This is an extraordinary opportunity to learn about the flowers, geology, animals and the history of Edgewood. We need your help to share the wonders of the Preserve next spring. If you are interested in finding out the details about the five evening training sessions and weekend field trips, please call me, Jan Simpson, (650) 368-1057 and I'll give you

NEW BYLAWS ARE COMING TO THE FRIENDS

By Peter Ingram

As part of the exempt status application process described in this issue, the Executive Board determined that the interim bylaws under which the friends have operated since October 1993 required updating and modification. Since the Friends have not yet been recognized as exempt, the organizations' own requirements could take precedent and thus the interim bylaws were formulated to suit our unique nature and style. However, we have been lead to understand that in the eyes of the state and federal tax authorities the bylaws of a California public benefit corporation must span a broader legal spectrum. So, in June the Board set about developing a new set of bylaws that would include the requisite legal provisions and also reflect - and protect - the characteristics of the organization that have worked so well for us to date.

The current process for election of officers includes the annual election of the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer by the membership. Under the proposed new bylaws, the membership would elect six directors for two year terms, with three elected alternately every other year. Following the election, the Board of Directors would select the four officers from within the six directors and the officers would serve one year terms. Additionally, the Board would appoint one "Director Emeritus" who has served previously as a director/officer, who would have full Board of Directors voting rights. And finally, the Board would appoint an "Executive Committee" comprised of directors and committee chairs that would be empowered to carry out the operational activities of the Friends, much the same as our current board.

On July 17, 1997 at a special membership meeting, the new Bylaws were approved for submittal to the state and federal agencies responsible for reviewing incorporation applications. Stay tuned for the next steps of implementing the new bylaws.

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district. He lobbied to get the state highway moved from the east side of the railroad tracks, beginning at Beresford to the west side at Five Points, (now the intersection of El Camino Real and Woodside) then the southern limit of Redwood City, thereby eliminating two dangerous grade crossings. He was also active in rerouting the Hetch Hetchy water supply through the Pulgas tunnel with pipeline instead of the original long three mile tunnel beginning at the south side of Redwood City.

For years Finkler had a deep interest in the climatic conditions of Redwood City. According to his statistics, there were three locations in the world with perfect climatic conditions: (1) the Canary Islands; (2) the northern part of Africa; and (3) a radius of twenty miles around Redwood City. He submitted his report to a bicycling friend, Franklin Kane, then in the President's cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. Kane passed on the information to the war department which selected Camp Fremont as a base for a training camp in 1917 at Menlo Park.

Finkler held the local climate in such high regard that he encouraged the County Board of Supervisors to grant what is now the Pulgas Ridge Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space property, as an ideal site for the San Francisco Tubercular Preventorium Hospital buildings. His weather records were used to support a prize winning slogan in a Chamber of Commerce promotion which declared Redwood City to have "Climate Best by Government Test." This slogan is still in use today.

Henry Finkler married Miss Aileen Jane Brophy, a native of Salem Oregon, in 1885. They shared a strong interest in civic affairs and were well known throughout Redwood City. "Mrs. Finkler, though always devoted to home interests, found opportunity and inclination to extend her field of usefulness into the world around her and was long an active and energetic leader in community life. She was prominent in club affairs, being a gifted and inspirational speaker, and was a potent factor in political circles in her section of the

state."

She was a founding member of the Redwood City Women's Club and served as its President in 1915. For one year she served as auditor of the northern district of California Federation of Woman's Clubs and rendered particularly effective service as a member of the national committee on child labor. She was a member of the George C. Evans Relief Corps, the Red Cross Society and a life member of the Woman's Building Association of San Francisco. She also was active in the State Republican Party where she served as a member of the state central committee from 1916-1918. She initiated the idea of holding an annual floral parade in Redwood City and was chairwoman of the parade committee for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Finkler took great pleasure in entertaining their friends. Their home, described as beautiful, on 200 acres in the scenic foothills of Redwood City, was the setting of many happy gatherings. At her death, one of the local papers is quoted as saying, "Mrs. Finkler always proved



ABOUT YELLOWJACKETS



"Yellowjacket" is the common name for several different species of wasps that naturally occur in California. Some species are considered pests and are often common in parks, especially at picnic areas and around garbage cans. The pest species in the San Mateo County Park System are *Dolichovespula arenaria*, *Paravespula pensylvanica*, *Paravespula vulgaris*, and *Paravespula germanica*.

Yellowjackets are attracted to and eat sweet foods, honey, candy, fruits, soft drinks, etc. For protein they hunt other insects and spiders. In addition, the common pest species collect red meats, chicken and fish - the same foods that people often bring to eat in the parks.

Yellowjackets live in colonies (actually large families) housed in nests. Some species attach the nest to trees, shrubs or buildings. Native pest species, like those at Edgewood Preserve, usually construct nests underground, often in old rodent burrows. A newly arrived immigrant species, the German yellowjacket tends to nest inside buildings. Each colony is ruled by a single queen - there are no kings.

Nests are constructed from paper. Yellowjackets make a pulp by gathering wood or plant fibers, chewing it up and mixing in some of their own saliva. When the pulp is spread out it dries to

form paper. The inner core of the nest is a series of horizontal combs which contain many six-sided cells used for rearing immatures. The core is surrounded by a spherical envelope of overlapping sheets of paper.

Yellowjackets sting only when they sense a threat to themselves or their colonies. Those flying about the preserve are looking for food, and will usually not sting unless swatted at or accidentally touched. Those near the nest will attack anything that disturbs the ground or passes close by.

To avoid getting stung:

- Don't go barefoot.
- Don't swat with your hands.
- Use lids on soft drinks.
- Check food before you put it in your mouth.
- Avoid using things yellowjackets are attracted to (perfume and other scents, hairspray, suntan lotion, brightly colored clothes, sweets).

If you are stung:

- If the stinger remains in your skin, remove it by scraping from the side with your fingernail.
- Apply cold water or ice in a wet cloth.
- Lie down.
- Lower the stung arm or leg.
- Do not take alcohol.

People who are highly allergic to yellowjacket venom may develop serious medical problems. If you have any of the following symptoms after being stung, **SEEK IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY TREATMENT**: hives, widespread swelling of limbs, painful joints, wheezing, shortness of breath, faintness, dizziness, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, nasal discharge or stuffiness, tightening of the throat.

Information taken from a San Mateo Parks and Recreation Division pamphlet, reprinted and published with the permission of the East Bay Regional Park District of Oakland, California.

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herself a charming hostess." The Finklers were significant members of Redwood City's high society. They never had children.

The Finklers were preparing advertising materials for the subdivision and sale of their property in September of 1927 when Mrs. Finkler became ill and died. She had been in frail health for several years. He was still so despondent three years later he committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart.

On the day of his death, Finkler summoned a close friend, John E. Layng of Layng and Tinney Undertaking Company, to come to his home. Fearing that the man was slightly deranged and might be dangerous, Layng asked a local business man, Walter Hilton to accompany him. When the two arrived at the house, Finkler seemed quite normal and showed them around the main house; he had been living in a small rental unit since Mrs. Finkler's death. He showed

them where he kept his papers and valuables in case of his death. All three men left the house together and were talking outside near the rear. Layng was talking to William Bement, the hired hand and Hilton was talking to Finkler. Then Finkler turned, walked away and started up a narrow canyon toward the spring which fed the house. A short distance from the others, Finkler drew a revolver and fired a bullet into his heart. His death was instantaneous.

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fellow Friends, reflect on this year's accomplishments, elect officers, enjoy great food and beverage, and learn who will receive this year's highly coveted Best Friend award. Watch for the announcement flyer coming out soon.

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**. In return, you will receive four more issues of the Edgewood Explorer and the full-color brochure *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood*.

- \$15 Basic Membership (includes newsletter)
- \$25 Family Membership (newsletter)
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership (newsletter)
- \$50 Supporting Membership (newsletter, *Edgewood Checklist of Plants*, and Edgewood photo greeting cards (boxed set))
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (newsletter, *Checklist*, greeting cards, and 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*)
- \$250 Patron Membership (newsletter, *Edgewood Checklist of Plants*, greeting cards, video, and 16x20 photo-poster)
- 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 *Edgewood Checklist of Plants* at \$3 each.

- Particular interests:*
- Public relations
 - Docent
 - Exotics control
 - Newsletter
 - Trail patrol
 - Revegetation
 - Community outreach

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone



UPCOMING EVENTS

- o *Saturday & Sunday, September 20 & 21,* **REDWOOD CITY'S CLIMATE BEST FEST.** Join the fun in downtown Redwood City from 10 am to 6 PM. Bring your friends to the Friends of Edgewood Booth.
- o *Sunday, October 5,* **FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK.** This always popular membership meeting will take place from 3 to 6 PM in the Day Camp. Watch for a flyer with information on the elections to be held that day.
- o *Beginning Thursday, October 16,* **DOCENT TRAINING FOR SPRING WILDFLOWER WALKS.** For training session and field trip dates, call Jan Simpson.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABELS

You'll note a four-digit number following your name on the labels we use to mail the Explorer.

This is a code indicating when your current membership in Friends of Edgewood expires. For example, if the number is "9711" your membership runs through November 1997, and your renewal will be welcomed at that time. A convenient way to renew would be to do so at the annual meeting on October 5.

We just updated our membership data base and want to make sure it is accurate. Please compare this code with your records and if you believe your membership period ends on another date, call Jessie Schilling.

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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FIRST CLASS