



FRIENDS RECAPTURE GRASSLANDS FROM YELLOW STAR-THISTLE

By Bill Korbholz

This summer we redoubled our efforts to remove exotics from Edgewood, by enhancing our regular weeding sessions with a new intense program focused on yellow star-thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*. (For a background article on yellow star-thistle at Edgewood, refer to the June 1999 issue of the *Edgewood Explorer*.)

We began our efforts in May when Kathy



Ken Himes instructs volunteers

Korbholz, Katherine Greene, John Allen, Ken Himes, and I first met to plan our strategy. We realized that yellow star-thistle (YST) was so far out of control that manual removal alone would not be effective in reducing its extent at Edgewood. We figured that mechanical mowing and cutting were the most expedient methods to complement the hand pulling. Ken advised us that the optimal time for mowing, when approximately 2% of the plants have flowered, was fast approaching.

In late May we contacted Lynne Fritz, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, and invited her,

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ANNUAL MEETING TO RECOGNIZE ALL FOE MEMBERS

This year's annual meeting promises to be a fun celebration for all Friends of Edgewood as we incorporate a Members Appreciation event into our 6th annual general meeting.

The festivities will take place October 24th from 2 to 5 p.m. at Edgewood's Old Stage Day Camp. In addition to electing Directors for the next 2-year term and reviewing this year's successes and plans for next year, the event will feature a **delicious barbecue and special recognition awards** for our members and invited guests who have supported us over the years.

You won't want to miss this exciting opportunity to rejoice with your friends, make new acquaintances, enjoy great food, and, of course, learn who will be named Edgewood's Best Friend for 1999. Mark your calendars now and watch for our flyer with the details in the coming weeks.

NANCY MANGINI RETIRES FROM TRAIL PATROL CHAIR

After organizing the FoE Trail Patrol program in 1995, and nurturing it to a membership of over 2 dozen patrollers, Nancy Mangini has decided to devote much of her spare time to an accelerated MBA program, and has resigned from running this important activity. We thank Nancy for her leadership and dedication, and wish her well in her professional pursuits.

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A CLOSER LOOK AT GLOBE LILY (FAIRY LANTERN)

By Bob Young

This is the eighth of a series of articles describing the flowers pictured in our wildflower brochure. — ed.



Photo by Sonja Wilcomer.

Calochortus albus (Globe Lily or Fairy Lantern), a member of the Lily Family, is shown in the brochure "Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood" published jointly by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve.

In the 1830's, British horticultural explorer David Douglas gave this plant its scientific name. During Douglas' third collecting expedition to North America, he trekked across California where, among other plants, he discovered the tree that eventually came to be known as Douglas Fir.

The Globe Lily is in the genus *Calochortus* (pronounced cal-oh-KOR-tuhs). This genus name comes from two Greek words: CALO, meaning beautiful, and CHORTUS, meaning grass. The reference to grass is made because of the grass-like appearance of the upper leaves.

The specific epithet, *albus*, meaning white, refers

to the color of the flower, although sometimes the flower is tinted a light pink.

The plant leafs out each spring from a bulb. At first, a one- to two-foot long strap-like basal leaf grows along the ground. Then, a flower stalk appears with its upper grass-like leaves and nodding flower buds. As the weather warms, the buds open and the delicate flowers appear, usually from April to June in Edgewood Natural Preserve. The leaves often wither by the time the flowers bloom. The flowers, each over one inch long, hang lantern-like on the stems. They have satiny petals fringed with hairs along the edges. The petals are so strongly arched that the tips often cross each other, forming the lantern shape.

The seed capsule is one to two inches long and is almost as beautiful as the blossoms after it develops into a three-sided, pale green, nodding fruit.

In the summer, the plant goes dormant as the leaves and flower stem die to the ground.

The plant grows on lightly shaded banks in the Coast Ranges of California, south to Ventura County and can be found on the northern Channel Islands. Because the Globe Lily/Fairy Lantern is one of the most-admired California native wildflowers, it has received several other descriptive names over the years, such as Satin Bells, White Globe Tulip, Alabaster Tulip, and Indian Bells. `

DOCENT TRAINING TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

By Dianne Hunt

An all-new Docent Training program will be instituted for the 1999-2000 season. Schedules will be mailed in mid-September, and the first evening training class will be held in mid-October.

If you are interested in becoming an Edgewood docent, please contact me or email docent_coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org. `

RANGER RIC'S ROUNDUP

By Ric Munds

At Edgewood Park, we are continuing to advance our new programs and ongoing ones. One new program is the test mowing of the yellow star-thistle. Hand pulling is not sufficient progress so Ken Himes and Rick Trejo have organized areas to be mowed and the use of string cutters in difficult areas. Aside from the mowing, most important is the monitoring to see how much re-growth occurs.

The other program is the marking of sensitive habitat next to the trails. For example, the marking of the leatherwood on the Sylvan trail. This is a subtle marking recognizable by staff during trail maintenance. Don't be surprised if you see a trail closure sign due to brushing. Brushing is the cutting back of poison oak and other hanging branches into the trail walking area. We began in July after the flowers went to seed.

One of our latest concerns is vandalism. The Day Camp area has been hit lately with spray paint. Sunset Hill and Hill 1 continue to be areas of unauthorized night activity. (On a recent Sunday morning 43 beer bottles were collected.) These areas were not used on the Fourth of July, thanks to the Friends of Edgewood patrol.

Until we meet on the trails, thanks for all your help. `

THINGS ARE PICKING UP FOR ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY VOLUNTEERS

By Ken Seydel

Our hardy freeway volunteers have been out cleaning the areas adjacent to Edgewood twice since the last newsletter.

One June 5th we had 11 people working for 3 hours and they filled 29 bags of trash. One notable item found was someone's crutch. Makes you wonder!

In July, Cal-Trans erected the freeway sign giv-

ing us recognition for our work. The sign is about 1 mile north of Farm Hill Blvd. on I-280 northbound. Look for it.

On August 7th our group was out again, but somewhat decimated by illness, vacations, and other necessities of life. Frank Sheehan of the Bay Ridge Trail group helped us out for a few hours, and most of our volunteers worked 3.5 hours and gleaned 26 bags of trash. That didn't quite finish the job; 5 more bags were collected the next week. We could use a few more bodies! Two of our people found money, and one person found a sleeping bag—with a body in it! Fortunately it was alive.

Once again, thanks to our faithful volunteers on these two occasions: Bob Archibald, Vicki Rogers, Billy James, Frank Figoni, Dianne Hunt, Anne Koletzke, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Cory Mangini, Margaret Marshall, Janice Macomber, Ryan Cooper, and Ken Seydel.



Our group of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers does their thing on the first Saturday of the even months. The next cleanups will be on October 2 and December 4. The group could use more adventuresome people. If you have an interest please contact Ken Seydel. We will see that you are safety-trained and equipped with your very own picker, hard hat, goggles, gloves, and bright orange vest. `

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Senior Planner Sam Herzberg, and Rangers Ricardo Trejo and Rick Munds to join us at Edgewood to inspect the extent of the problem. This inspection, on June 3, left no doubt that more effort was needed to impede the spread of star-thistle through Edgewood's fragile habitats.

Lynne was quick to offer the services of Ronnie Cardoza to help with mowing, and Ricardo and Rick were anxious to help with weeding, mowing, and organizing the effort. Sam came away from the meeting with greater insight into this important area of focus for the upcoming work to implement the Edgewood Master Plan. The following Monday, June 7, Peter Ingram confirmed Parks and Recreation's commitment in his regular bimonthly status meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Mary Burns, Lynne, and Ricardo.

To get things rolling, we had to identify potential mowing sites and survey them to determine plant densities to use as a measure of the



Katherine Greene records plant counts for John Allen

effectiveness of our efforts. On June 12 many of us joined Ken to lay out four 100-foot transects in our two selected mowing sites. We identified the plants that we encountered at 6-inch intervals along these transects. Not surprisingly, the majority of plants that we counted were YST.

On June 19th thirteen volunteers answered our special call for help, marking the first of many weekend star-thistle removal events. The group removed thousands of plants, representing the potential for millions of seeds for new plants next season.

Ronnie mowed the two sites on June 22nd, and over the next few days Ken, Rob Parker, and I

weed whacked near what came to be known as mow site 1, north of the service road and west of the frog pond. (Ricardo had trained and certified us to use the County's string cutters.)



The June 19th "massive weeding party"

On June 26, mow site 2 (along the Service Road near the junction of the Franciscan Trail) was removed to clean up some of the areas around rocks and shrubs. A small brushfire broke out from a spark when the mower blade struck a rock. The fire was quickly controlled, but this unexpected event will provide us with another valuable data point in assessing the effectiveness of various mitigation techniques.



Western boundary of mow site 1

We decided to designate July our "attack" month and kicked off the effort with a challenge Kathy

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Korbholz introduced at the Friends of Edgewood Executive Committee meeting on July 1. Kathy's creative challenge was to offer a free pair of weeding gloves to anyone who would commit to any level of weeding effort during July. At that meeting, 10 people signed up for 141 hours, and Carolyn Curtis carried the message to the upcoming CNPS meeting as well. We posted flyers at Edgewood to recruit casual visitors.

Get Exotics

- Take a chance!
- Make a difference!
- Go *NATIVE!*
- Join the party!

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve is under attack by Yellow Star-thistle. This escaped exotic is threatening the rare and endangered native plants and animals at Edgewood.

Mowing and weed whacking are helping, but they can only cover selected areas. The volunteers who come regularly to remove weeds need your help.

The Friends of Edgewood have organized special weeding parties every Saturday in July from 9 to noon. Come join other volunteers who are concerned about the health of Edgewood's fragile habitats. Meet on Edgewood Road under the I-280 overpass at 9 am. Bring sturdy gloves and water.

For more information, call the Friends of Edgewood Hotline at (650) 361-1218.

During the month of July we held 3-hour weeding parties every Saturday morning. Many volunteers who had not previously done weeding came out and helped. A woman who had come from the east coast to visit her new grandson saw our poster and helped one Saturday. Other neighbors and Edgewood hikers who noticed the activity dropped in as well. Two volunteers drove in from Sacramento after seeing a company intranet posting arranged by Katherine Greene. The spirit of volunteerism had reached new heights.



July 17 Docent Reunion, L. to R.: Herb Fischgrund, Carol Hankermeyer, Carol Belew, Ken Himes, Alex Maksymowicz, Kathryn Strachota, Harry Cornbleet, Roger Myers, Katherine Greene, John King. Kate Connors behind camera.

Roger Myers in particular caught the spirit when he attended the July 17th FoE Docent Reunion. The meeting included a brief weeding effort and visit to the "bush mallow site," an area that has recovered from an arson fire which occurred in the early '90's. Roger became so concerned about the invasion of YST at this site that he made a special request of Ken to adopt it as his personal weed removal project. By the end of August he had devoted a total of 34.5 hours and had single-handedly removed 27,666 plants by exact count, effectively clearing that site. Roger's site adoption may set a precedent for managing weed removal in the years to come.



Looking northward past the small brushfire at mow site 2

The weekend sessions continued through August. Rick Munds and park aide Scott Morton did additional mowing and weed whacking, expanding the extent of mow site 1. We also had help on 2 occasions from Hillcrest Juvenile Hall.

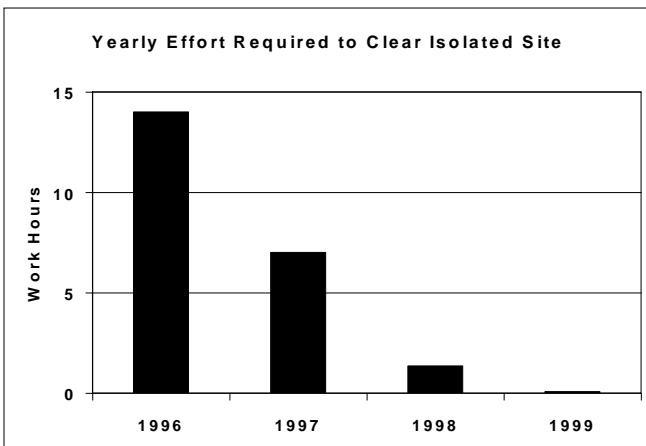
Throughout this period, Ken continued to lead his regular Tuesday/Wednesday evening and Friday morning sessions. Ken had assumed responsibility for the Friday sessions from Ellie Hess, who had led them since 1989.

All of these sessions proved tremendously valuable. During a period of Ken's absence, Dave Chapman and Rob Parker stepped in to lead the evening groups and cleared large areas of YST along the Edgewood Trail near the west kiosk. It was important to rework these areas as

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follow-up to prior years' weeding efforts.

Removal of the YST plants is effective in limiting site re-infestation. While the seeds can survive for several years in the ground, the amount of germination from previous years' seeds is relatively small. Records were kept of the year-over-year efforts to clear a dense isolated 20'x45' colony near the frog pond. This graph depicts the dramatic decrease in work



hours required to clear the site. These figures reinforce our hopes that our efforts this year will be rewarded.

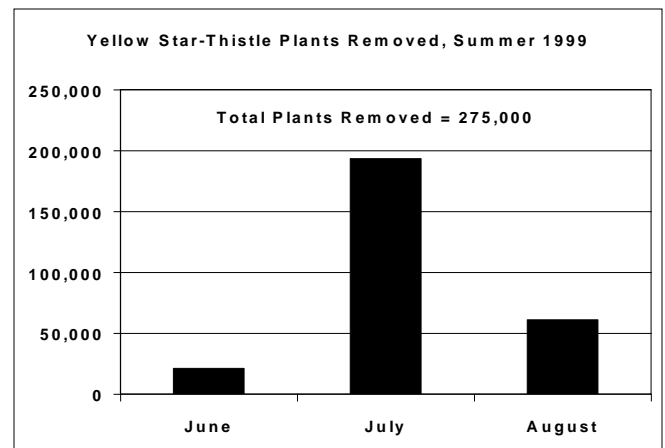
The season for removing YST has just about ended, now that the remaining plants have begun dropping seed. The statistics describing our efforts this summer are truly impressive:

- Acres cleared 4
- People doing weeding 62
- Work hours 474
- Plants removed by hand 275,000

It is impossible to adequately thank the many volunteers and County employees who actively participated in and supported these efforts. Here is an alphabetical list of their names. We apologize in advance if we missed anyone.

Sally [unknown], John Allen, Carol Belew, Andy Butcher, Dave Chapman, Kate Connors, John Copeland, Harry Cornbleet, Carolyn Curtis, Ray Deutsch, Frank Figoni, Herb Fischgrund and wife, Bonnie Giovannini, Katherine Greene, Ben Gregory, Carol Hankermeyer, Paul Heiple, Ken Himes, Adeline Horowitz, Dianne Hunt, Peter Ingram, John King, Anne Koletzke, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Jane Kos, Alex Maksymowicz, Anita Marlin, Don Mayall, Scott Morton, Rick Munds, Roger Myers, Franklin and Jean Olmstead, Rob Parker, Jean Rusmore, Jan Simpson, Susan Sommers, Georgia Stigall, Kathryn Strachota, Carolyn Strange, Jean Struthers, Mark Taube, Wes Walker, Jaime Wilson, and 16 community service volunteers from the County's Hillcrest Juvenile Hall.

In the coming months we look forward to working with the County staff and other interested parties when we can begin to evaluate this year's results and plan for next year, in the hopes of making even greater inroads toward removing yellow star-thistle from Edgewood.



Panorama of mow site 1 at the foot of the central ridge. Photo taken 8/8/99.

AFTERNOON WEEDING CONTINUES

By Ken Himes

There are still a few weeks left in the Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon weeding campaign. All weeding sessions start at 5:30 p.m. and continue until about 1/2 hour before darkness sets in. You need only bring work gloves. There will be plenty of time to become familiar with the wonderful flora of Edgewood.

In case you arrive late, look for a map posted at the trail head or kiosk, indicating the location for the scheduled work.

For more information about either the Friday morning or Tuesday/Wednesday afternoon sessions, call me.

Date	Meeting Place	Weeding Area
Sept. 7, 8	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Yampah meadow along Edgewood Trail.

Date	Meeting Place	Weeding Area
Sept. 14, 15	Junction of Serpentine Loop Trail and Ridgeview Loop connector (near west kiosk)	Carex (sedge) meadow, 75 feet northeast of west kiosk.
Sept. 21, 22	Same as 9/14.	Same as 9/14.
Sept. 28, 29	Same as 9/14.	Same as 9/14.
Oct. 5, 6	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Yampah meadow.
Oct. 12, 13	West kiosk near 280 overpass	Wild creeping rye meadow.
Oct. 19, 20	Same as 10/12.	Same as 10/12.
Oct. 26, 27	Same as 9/14.	Same as 9/14.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

New or continuing members of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve are asked to pay **tax -deductible** 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.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

- \$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



UPCOMING EVENTS

o *Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through October 27, Friday mornings year-round, **WEEDING AT EDGEWOOD.** See enclosed article by Ken Himes.*

o *Saturday October 2, December 4, **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAYS.** Call Ken Seydel for more information.*

o *Mid-October, **DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS.** Call Dianne Hunt.*

o *Sunday October 24, 2 to 5PM, **6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS RECOGNITION EVENT.** Watch for the flyer in the coming weeks.*

**Mark
your calendar
for the 6th Annual
FOE General Meeting
and Members Appreciation
BBQ and Celebration.
October 24, 1999
2 to 5 p.m.**

The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit 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 Bill and Kathy Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends. For more information about the Friends of Edgewood, visit our web site at www.friendsofedgeswood.org, mail us at PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422, call or fax, or email info@friendsofedgeswood.org.

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