



6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS APPRECIATION BBQ

By Kathy Korbholz



On October 24th, the Friends of Edgewood celebrated its 6th anniversary by hosting a members appreciation BBQ at its annual general meeting. The BBQ featured hot dogs, hamburgers, and delicious side dishes prepared by members of the Executive Committee.

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Master chefs Frank Figoni and Stew Simpson

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

By Peter Ingram

This is Peter's report as distributed at the General Meeting on October 24th. — ed.

When I assumed the role of president in January, my first report to the Board and Executive Committee included the following areas of focus for 1999:

- Stewardship
- Edgewood Master Plan implementation
- Relationship with County staff
- Create the vision for a new visitor center in Edgewood Preserve
- Strengthen the Docent Program
- Increase our commitment to the Community Outreach Program
- Implement the adoption of Hwy. 280 adjacent to the Preserve
- Increase membership and our volunteer pool

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on all fronts, as well as major strides on some important additional activities. Your Board of Directors and Executive Committee have worked very hard on behalf of the Preserve, with your continued, incredible support. That is why we're here today to say thank you to all members for sustaining the Friends of Edgewood!

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A CLOSER LOOK AT GOLDFIELDS

By Bob Young

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



Lasthenia californica (Goldfields) 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 1834, the name *Lasthenia* was first applied to a plant found in Chile by botanist Cassini. He offered no explanation why he chose this name, but it probably honors Lasthenia of Mantinea, a Grecian woman philosopher who studied with Plato in the 300s B.C. *Lasthenia californica* has had other scientific names in the past: *Baeria chrysostoma* in 1836, then *Baeria gracilis*, then *Lasthenia chrysostoma*. By the time *The Jepson Manual* of California plants was published in 1993, *Baeria* and *Lasthenia* had been lumped together into the *Lasthenia* genus.

The genus Goldfields is in the Sunflower Family which is also sometimes referred to as the Daisy Family or the Aster Family. In this family of plants the flower heads are not a single flower, but each flower head is composed of a collection of many flowers. Broadly speaking, there are

three types of flowers in this family: those with both ray flowers and disk flowers, those with ray flowers only (e.g. the Dandelion), and those with disk flowers only (e.g. the Thistles). Goldfields are in the first group, having both ray and disk flowers. The ray flowers occupy the margins of the flower head, while the much smaller disk flowers occupy the center.

On Edgewood Natural Preserve, Goldfields are one of the earliest flowers to bloom. A single blooming plant is inconspicuous; but, when hundreds of these plants bloom at the same time, a very large, bright, golden-yellow carpet appears in the grassy fields.

On a relatively dry site such as Edgewood, Goldfields do not get much more than three inches tall. In more moist sites the plants can get up to nine or ten inches tall. Found throughout California, below 4500 feet elevation, *Lasthenia californica* also grows in southwest Oregon, Arizona, and Mexico. `

NEW DOCENT TRAINING HAS BEGUN

By Dianne Hunt

We have 9 very enthusiastic new Docent Trainees for the 2000 season:

- Ed Morgan
- Susan Russell
- Tim Oren
- Pat Oren
- Rebecca Peters
- Oksana Newmen
- Lillian Maksymowicz
- Alice Heller
- Pat Lisin

Thanks to Susan Sommers, John Allen and Roger Myers for great training presentations and walks in October and November. Our next training by Ken Himes will be in January and will feature the oak woodland plant community at Edgewood.

Edgewood tee shirts are available in all sizes for \$20.00. They make wonderful Christmas Presents. Call me if you'd like to purchase one.

Have a wonderful holiday season and we hope to see you on the wildflower walks next spring! `

DEATH CAP MUSHROOM FOUND AT EDGEWOOD

By Bill Freedman

Bill Freedman wrote this article in Dec. 1998, too late for last December's issue. We are printing this update now because of its timeliness to the mushroom season. For Bill's compilation of fungi found at Edgewood, please refer to the table on the following page. — ed.

My wife Louise and I make periodic forays along the Sylvan Loop in our continuing survey to describe the fungi of Edgewood. We think that you should be alerted that one of the fourteen varieties found recently was the most dangerous mushroom in the world, the Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*). We found four of them, which was as many or more than any other species found. We would like to emphasize that this is the first time we have encountered this fungus in this park. It heralds the arrival of more of them. In January, 1997, it was the most common fungus found in Mills Canyon, Filoli, and other local areas. It was also reported for the first time in Vancouver, Canada.

Since 1979, they have been popping up in large numbers in the Bay Area. We commonly receive reports of them being found in areas where they were previously unknown. This has led to several incidents in which experienced mushroom collectors ate them by mistake.

We have provided the Rangers with several copies of a warning poster designed to alert visitors about this mushroom's potential for poisoning. The poster was created under the auspices of the national amateur mushroom society, the North American Mycological Association. In 1998 we distributed about 4,000 copies through the U.S. and a few other countries. These posters may have contributed to the recording of no poison cases in the 1998-1999 season until 12/4/98, when three young men in Monterey ate some to get high. All were ultimately returned home after a short stay at Stanford Hospital for observation. Please examine the paintings on the poster. The paintings show you exactly what the green-capped mushroom looks like.

Mushrooms aren't all bad though. They contribute much to the health of our forests. They entangle their mycelial threads to form a mantle around the rootlets of plants (called *mycorrhizae*), and extend a network of mycelia into the soil beyond the reach of the tree roots .

Exchanging nutrients such as water, nitrogen, phosphates, trace metals, etc. with the vascular cells of the tree roots, they interdependently absorb carbohydrates created by the trees' photosynthesis in return. So we can't say that the Death Cap is evil to anyone but the dogs, cats, and humans who eat them.

But don't worry. They won't bite you unless you bite them first. To do damage to humans, 3 to 4 ounces must be eaten. Cooking doesn't destroy their toxic chemicals. It is not dangerous to touch or smell them. You can use a mirror to enjoy their lovely colors and the veils and cups below their stems as you would a flower.

We have identified another interesting toxic mushroom at Edgewood. This is the first time we have found *Inocybe sororia*, a yellowish-gray form which smells like fresh corn silk.

We ask that visitors not remove fungi from Edgewood for culinary purposes. Although damaging or collecting plants or other natural objects is



Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*)

forbidden, we have noted that many fungi have been pulled from the ground and discarded. We would like people to recognize that fungi are the winter wildflowers and should be respected as much as their spring companions.

We want to compliment the well-coordinated volunteers and rangers on their park management. The trails are ideal. The park has never been in better condition. `

THE FUNGI OF EDGEWOOD, COMPILED BY BILL FREEDMAN

Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Description
	<i>Agaricus diminutivus</i>	Diminutive Agaricus	white cap, small scant ring
	<i>Agaricus xanthoderma</i>	Yellow Skin	white, clumped, stem ends yellow
	<i>Amanita calytrata</i>	Coccoli	large orange, white cap, edible
			green metallic cap, partial skirt at mid-stem, saclike cup at base
	<i>Amanita vaginata</i>	Grisette	gray cap, thin stem, striae on cap
	<i>Bolbitius vitellinus</i>	Egg-Yolk Fungus	tiny, on grass, yellow, gills black
	<i>Boletus amygdalinus</i>		poroid, stains blue, large
11	<i>Clitocybe nudum</i>	Blewit	all purple, in rings, edible
12	<i>Cortinarius scaura group</i>		all yellow rusty spores, web-like veil
13	<i>Cortinarius sp.</i>		thin stripe, white/ochre cap
14	<i>Cortinarius sp.</i>		short stem, brown cap
15	<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Mottled Crep	small tan brackets on bark
16	<i>Daldinia grandis</i>	Carbon Balls	black hemispheres on bark
17	<i>Entoloma rhodopolium</i>		gray, pink gills and spores
18	<i>Exidia alba</i>	White Jelly	clumps of white jelly on bark
19	<i>Exidia glandulosum</i>	Black Jelly	masses of black jelly on bark
20	<i>Hebeloma crustinilliforma</i>	Poison Pie	pale brown, wet cigarette odor
21	<i>Inocybe sororia</i>	Corn Silk	gray spores, fibrous cracked cap
22	<i>Lactarius alnicola</i>		white with white milk, bitter
23	<i>Lactarius galactorrhea</i>		orange, zonate, golden milk
24	<i>Lepista saeva</i>		on grass, tan center to cap
25	<i>Marasmius sp.</i>		small, brown, on wood chips
26	<i>Mycena sp.</i>		tiny, dry, all pink, on litter
27	<i>Omphalina postii ?</i>		tiny pink, umbilicate, with moss
28	<i>Phellinus gilvus</i>	Oak Conk	velvety brown bracket, hard woods
29	<i>Phylotopsis nidulans</i>	Sewer Gas Mushroom	orange clusters on hardwood
30	<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Fawn Mushroom.	tan cap, J-shaped stem, on wood
31	<i>Russula cremicolor</i>		white, cream-colored cap
32	<i>Russula delica</i>		white, low, gills fragile, moderate size
33	<i>Russula domestica</i>	Emetic Fungus	all red, stem white, peppery
34	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Split Gill Fungus	pearly gray, on trees and humans
35	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	False Turkey-Tail	small orange brackets, on oak
36	<i>Stropharia ambigua</i>		chocolate gills, cap edge remnants
37	<i>Suillus flavoporus</i>		pores bright yellow, brown cap
38	<i>Suillus lakei</i>	Poor Man's Peach	peach-like
39	<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	False Turkey Tail	gray to brown cap, edge unruffled
40	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey Tail	colorful thin bracket, zoned
41	<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Witch's Butter	contorted orange, on sterium

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Carol Hankermeyer

San Carlos Charter Learning Center was again front and center this fall with two field trips to Edgewood Preserve. In mid-October four classes of 2nd/3rd graders and 3rd/4th graders braved a hike on the Sylvan Loop trail, where children learned to distinguish between oak woodland, grassland, and chaparral communities and to recognize the characteristic plants of each one.



The teachers involved in the field trip were Eve Ryser, Lale Beller, Vicki Zakrzewski, and Elysha Passeggi. Eve Ryser collaborated with me in coordinating the outing. On both events, docents Kate Connors and John Allen joined me in leading groups of 10 to 13 students. Many thanks to Kate and John for supporting the outreach program.

Dramatic differences in vegetation between serpentine and non-serpentine soils were pointed out, especially with regard to the invasion of non-native plants. The classes were interested in learning to distinguish between native and non-native plants in anticipation of a weed eradication project the school had planned as a service project for Edgewood Preserve.

To complete that project, Eve Ryser and Lale Beller brought their two classes to Edgewood Preserve on November 18. Ranger Ric Munds, with the help of Park Aid Matt Amorose, directed the attack on *Vinca major* (periwinkle), a plant which threatens the seep area of the preserve by gulping great quantities of spring water and turning the landscape into a monoculture. Students learned from Ric that

Vinca crowds out native plants and offers no value to wildlife. They also learned it has a very tough and extensive root structure! Kids and parent volunteers worked enthusiastically and effectively to remove a hefty pile of the stubborn plant. Their work made a significant impact on the *Vinca* infestation. During an hour and a half of intensive labor, no one complained once, and some even wanted to stay longer. They were rewarded afterward by a

pleasant lunch in the Old Stage picnic area. And they learned that yes, they CAN make a difference! `

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Today we are celebrating our collective successes and honoring several of our colleagues for their special efforts. The fifth year of the Trail Patrol and the recent "war on yellow star-thistle" are but two examples of how we model stewardship, which was the genesis of the Friends in the beginning and is the passion that continues to bring us together and strengthen us as an organization.

As we look ahead to the new millennium, we are 180 households strong in our membership base. We have a very active Executive Committee of 16. The Docent Program now has 70 active, trained docents. The Trail Patrol grew to 28 active members this year. Our newly formed Adopt-A-Highway CalTrans program has 16 trained volunteers (and a new Friends sign on northbound Hwy. 280). And, as an indicator of our ability to mobilize volunteers from a wide range of organizations and interests, our "Weed Warriors" team included 62 dedicated volunteers in the short time since July. While this level of

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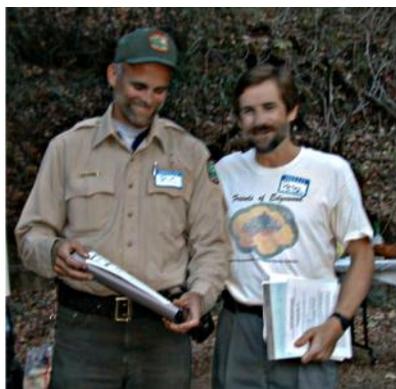
Peter gives Best Friend award to Nancy Mangini

Peter Ingram presided over the festivities which attracted a record crowd of around 65 members and guests. He recognized special guests Parks Director Mary Burns, Parks Superintendent Lynne Fritz, Ranger Ric Munds, Parks Commissioner Linda Dyson-Weaver and her husband Ron, Parks & Recreation Foundation Executive Director Julia Bott, CNPS Chapter President Don Mayall, Former Parks Commissioner Nita Spangler, Volunteer Coordinator Nick Ramirez, and CNPS Chapter Secretary Georgia Stigall.

After everyone enjoyed the food and company, Peter convened the general meeting in order to conduct the election for Directors to serve 2-year terms starting January 1. The three candidates who had been recommended by the Nominating Committee were elected by unanimous consent. They are John Allen, Kathy Korbholz, and Lennie Roberts.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards. This year Nancy Mangini received the Best Friend award for her initiative and leadership in forming the Edgewood Volunteer Trail Patrol and nurturing it from its inception in 1995.

Ric Munds was given a special award for his enthusiastic individual support of the 1999 war on yellow star-thistle and other weeds at Edgewood and his



Ric Munds accepts special award from Peter

personal dedication to protecting and preserving Edgewood.

Ric Munds then recognized Ken Himes on behalf of Edgewood's Rangers and the County Parks & Recreation Division by awarding Ken a special certificate of recognition for his weeding work in 1999, for his continued dedication to volunteer efforts, and "...in recognition and appreciation of years of dedicated service to Edgewood Park and Preserve."`



Ken Himes receives recognition award from Ric

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commitment deserves celebration, we must continue to bring new people to the many daunting tasks ahead in order to insure the future of Edgewood. Just the threat of yellow star-thistle alone will require enormous amounts of time and work to head off disaster and protect fragile habitats and vulnerable species. Much work remains to be done. So, if you are a member and are able to volunteer some time in an area of personal interest, we need your help!

The County of San Mateo Parks & Recreation Division has seen many staffing changes in 1999, including the promotion of our friend and previous Edgewood Ranger Lynne Fritz to Parks Superintendent, and the addition of Sam Herzberg, a talented senior planner, to Director Mary Burns' staff. Ricardo Trejo has been the supervising Ranger at Edgewood for more than a year and we have established a solid working relationship with him and Ranger Ric Munds. Nick Ramirez moved to the very important position of Volunteer Coordinator in late 1998, while long-time Superintendent Kendall Simmons retired from the County last spring.

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There have been many collaborative experiences with the County this year, from working with staff on trail maintenance guidelines for sensitive habitats to joining with the Parks & Recreation Commission to advocate to the County Board of Supervisors for increased staffing and funding during the budget process. We have begun discussions with the newly formed Parks & Recreation Foundation and the County staff about a new visitor center for Edgewood. Under the auspices of the County exotic plant removal permit with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Lynne and Ricardo were instrumental in bringing resources to the yellow star-thistle effort this summer. They demonstrated genuine flexibility in meeting our needs and real interest in insuring success. Given the huge responsibility for Edgewood entrusted by the people of San Mateo County to a very small professional staff, these examples of our growing partnership illustrate that we are interdependent on each other and

dependent on the countywide network of volunteers for preserving Edgewood for the human, plant, and animal generations to come.

1999 is the sixth year of operation for the Friends of Edgewood and the first year that we have operated as a fully sanctioned public benefit (non-profit) corporation. It was also the first year that we fully sponsored and operated the highly successful Docent Program, which had been nurtured by CNPS for many years. It was a formative year for developing relationships with local schools and mentor programs within our Community Outreach environmental education program. And our quarterly newsletter, the *Explorer*, continued to provide our members with world-class reporting and fascinating stories about Edgewood.

It has been my joy and pleasure to serve with each and every one of the dedicated, principled and hard-working people who invest energy in Edgewood Natural Preserve.



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.

- \$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.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

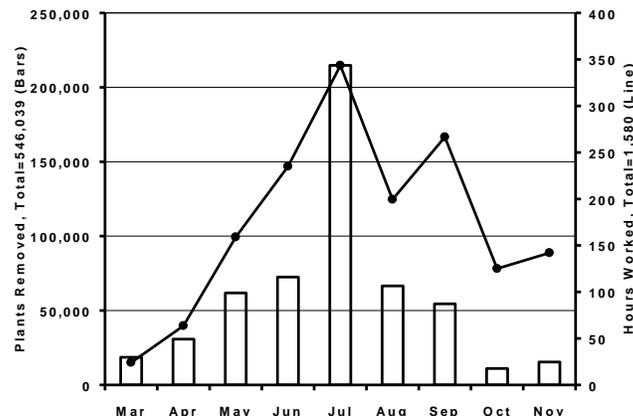
o *Saturday December 4, February 5, ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAYS.* Call Ken Seydel at (650) 369-2222 for more information.

o *Saturday January 1, NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.* Make a resolution to get involved in one of the many projects sponsored by the Friends of Edgewood and give something back to this wonderful preserve.

o *Saturday, February 5, WEED ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY AT EDGEWOOD.* Ken Himes and Paul Heiple will describe the ecology of invasive exotics. They will discuss how soil and geology affect the distribution of plants. Meet at 10 am at the Park & Ride.

1999 WEED MANAGEMENT RESULTS

Over 70 weed warriors contributed their time and effort to achieve the very impressive results shown in the chart below. At an estimated 1,000 seeds per plant, we have effectively removed some 500 million potential weeds. Thanks to all!



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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