



THE GIFT

By Ellen Sawyer

This essay was contributed in Spring, 2000. The author is referring to Annabelle Zahl and her guide dog Halo, featured in the June 1999 issue of the Edgewood Explorer.— ed.

It had been several years since my friend, Nancy, and I had walked Edgewood Park to see the wildflowers. Last week, we set aside a day to enjoy an outing there. We knew the recent rains would have enhanced what we were going to see. What we never anticipated is how we would “see” the flowers on this particular day.

As we climbed the small hill at the southern entrance, there was a lady walking ahead with a dog. With a second look, we realized it was a guide dog and the lady was blind. She walked with assurance along the trail. It wasn’t long before we caught up to where she had stopped as if to look and take it all in. She listened to our conversation identifying the flowers and then came over to ask about the owl’s clover. She asked if I would take her hand and let her feel the clover. After that, the three of us walked along and she often asked us to help her feel various flowers. She told us that she had come to the Park many times before she had become blind and knew the flowers well. She always seemed to sense where we were on the trail. When we reached a point on the path unknown ahead to the dog, she left us to retrace her steps to the gate. She also left us with “new eyes” to appreciate all we were observing that day.

No doubt, she comes quite often to walk with her guide dog and perhaps others have experienced her feeling the flowers. For us, she confirmed that a preserve like Edgewood Park is partly about the flowers in the spring, but also so much more. Edgewood Park is a gift to the human spirit.

EARTH DAY AT EDGEWOOD WRAPUP

By Bill Korbholz



Peter Ingram presides over opening ceremonies

By any measure, our Earth Day 2000 event at Edgewood was a great success. But how does one measure the success of an Earth Day event?

Benefit to the Earth

In our case, the *Earth* is Edgewood Natural Preserve. The most obvious measurable benefit was the removal of over 18,000 Italian thistle weeds by a crew of 58 volunteers. Those of you who are familiar with our weeding efforts at Edgewood know how challenging it can be at times to recruit volunteers. The fact that many of

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A CLOSER LOOK AT HILLSIDE (OR HILL) MORNING GLORY

By Bob Young

This is the eleventh of a series of articles describing the flowers pictured in our wildflower brochure published jointly by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve. — ed.



Hillside Morning Glory, *Calystegia subacaulis*, a member of the Morning Glory Family, was given its scientific name in 1838. The genus name, *Calystegia*, is from two Greek words, caly and steg. Caly means cup, which refers to the shape of the calyx that appears just below the flower. Steg means to cover or conceal, referring to the bracts that are just below the calyx and are large enough to cover the calyx.

The specific epithet, *subacaulis*, means "almost stalkless." This refers to the very short stem of the flower. Usually, morning glory plants are thought of as vines, growing high up through shrubs. The Hillside Morning Glory plant, however, is found growing in grasslands and appears as a green clump about one foot in diameter and less than one foot tall. It's interesting to break down this scientific word into its four Latin parts: **sub** usually means "below," or "under," but can mean "almost" or "approaching." In botany sub can mean "less so

than a similar plant." **a** means "not," "without," or "less." **caul** means stem of a plant. **is** is a Latinizing suffix. From the above we get "almost/without/a stem." (Most of this information was found on the internet at www.winternet.com/~chuck/g/dictionary/html).

Hillside Morning Glory can be found under 1500 feet elevation in the south portion of the north Coast Ranges, in the San Francisco Bay area, and in the south Coast Ranges north of Ventura. It blooms from April to June. The flower color is cream to white, often purple-tinged along the midveins. It has the typical morning glory funnel shape; the flower petals are about two inches long; the mouth of the flower is about 2 ½ inches wide. `

RANGER RIC'S ROUNDUP

By Ricardo Trejo

This year's Earth Day at Edgewood Park and Preserve had several projects and aspects to choose from. The following activities were available: docent-led walks in the park which were lead by the Friends of Edgewood, restoration projects lead by California Native Plant Society, culvert rock headwalls installation and trail maintenance done by Woodside Horse Association, and interpretive display signs installation by FoE and Edgewood Park.

Because of last and this year's Earth Day, volunteers have signed up for other projects on different days to help Edgewood Park and Preserve's work. This type of dedication and enthusiastic attitude will help to achieve Edgewood goals. We want to thank all the above groups for their time and work and our volunteer coordinator Nick Ramirez for his continual efforts.

We look forward to working with all of you throughout the coming year and all of you will have a chance to work with another Park Aide. Shortly, Edgewood crew will be growing by one more Park Aide to assist in Park duties. As Park staff and volunteers continue to grow, we can look for a brighter outlook for Edgewood Park and Preserve. `

KEN SEYDEL (AND FRIENDS OF EDGEWOOD) RECEIVE AWARD

By Kathy Korbholz



Supervisor and Board President Rich Gordon congratulates Ken

At the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting on April 18th 2000, Ken Seydel and the Friends of Edgewood were recognized for their participation in the California Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program. Mary Burns, Director of the Parks and Recreation Division, introduced Walter Cox and Herman Ramirez of CalTrans who presented Ken and the Friends of Edgewood with one of three (out of more than 800 groups!) statewide *Volunteer of the Year* awards.

In part the award reads: *"Presented in recognition of your group's civic pride and unselfish spirit. Although few people are aware of the hard work necessary to maintain a roadside, everyone appreciates an attractive highway. Therefore, on behalf of California's traveling public, the California Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway Program wishes to thank each member of your group for the countless hours donated to help beautify the great State of California."*

Then, Ken and the Friends of Edgewood were honored with a resolution passed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. The resolution, which outlined Ken's ten-year participation in the program read:

WHEREAS, Mr. Ken Seydel and the Friends of Edgewood Park and Preserve from the County of San Mateo are one of the three groups selected for their exemplary community service while participating in the CalTrans Adopt -A-Highway Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ken Seydel and the Friends of Edgewood Park and Preserve were selected from over 800 active Adopt-A-Highway groups and organizations to receive one of three CalTrans District 4 Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer of the Year Awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ken Seydel has participated in the CalTrans Adopt-A-Highway Program since 1990, and has over the years enlisted the support of the Friends of Edgewood Park and Preserve in a litter removal project on a section of State Route 280 in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ken Seydel and the Friends of Edgewood Park and Preserve are doing a community service that directly affects the appearance of their county for those who live in and visit it, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ken Seydel and the Fiends of Edgewood Park and Preserve have set an exemplary example of what community effort can accomplish as they partner with CalTrans in the Adopt-Highway Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors does hereby honor and recognize Mr. Ken Seydel and the Friends of Edgewood Park and Preserve for their exemplary community service and their selection as recipients of the CalTrans District 4 Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dated: March 14, 2000`

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- Redwood City Trading Post (\$25 gift certificate)
- REI (Whitney Day Pack)
- Stacks Restaurant (breakfast for 2)
- Toni Corelli (many copies of her *The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County*)
- Una Más Restaurant (lunch for 2)
- Wolf Camera (photo accessories)



The lucky raffle prize winners

Final Note of Thanks

Staging Earth Day 2000 at Edgewood required a phenomenal amount of coordinated effort. To the many Friends of Edgewood, Ranger Ricardo Trejo and his staff, and our other supporters, all of whom collectively spent over 400 hours planning and executing this event, I say thanks for a job well done! ^



Volunteer staff with bags of Italian thistle

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE

By Ken Seydel

The first Saturday in April was a beautiful sunny spring day - almost 80° (no foolin’). Four new Freeway Warriors: Kate Conners, Katherine Greene, Susan Russell, and Roger Myers joined “old timers” Bob Archibald, Billy James, Frank Figoni, Dianne Hunt, Bill & Kathy Korbholz and Ken Seydel to make one of our largest crews. It was fortunate that we had so much help as our section of the freeway was more than ready to be cleaned. We had been rained out in February and 29 bags of trash were waiting to be collected.

Vacations and otherwise busy schedules of our volunteers impacted the June 3rd cleanup. We only had seven workers: Frank Figoni, Dianne Hunt, Bill & Kathy Korbholz, Janice Mcomber, Roger Myers and Ken Seydel. However this is an experienced and hard-working group and we managed to finish cleaning our entire adopted section. Among items picked up this time were \$15.45 and two Taurus hubcaps.



As we were finishing, both the local manager of the Farm Hill CalTrans Station and the Director of Adopt-A-Highway for the entire Bay Area happened to drive by. They recognized and appreciated that the Friends of Edgewood were doing a superior job!

Additional volunteers are always welcome to join the fun on the first Saturday of the even months. If you have an interest please contact Ken Seydel. We will see that you are safety trained and equipped with your very own Picker, hardhat, goggles, gloves, and bright orange vest. ^

WEEDING SCHEDULE

The year 2000 affords all of our great volunteers lots of opportunities to come out to Edgewood and help with weeding. This season we will offer weeding activities at the following times:

- Tue/Wed afternoons: 5:30 p.m. to dark
- Fri mornings: 8:30 a.m. to noon
- Sat mornings: 9:00 a.m. to noon.

In addition to our returning veterans, we hope many of the folks who volunteered for Earth Day 2000 will join us again to help us fight the never-ending problem of invading non-native plants.

Special Incentive for Newcomers

This season we are staging weeding events every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Everyone who is not a member of the Friends of Edgewood who comes to one of these Saturday events will be given a free 1-year membership.

What to Bring

Water and gloves are essential, and sunscreen is recommended. You should wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.

Where to Meet

The meeting locations are indicated on the calendar to the right.

- WK—West kiosk (junction of Edgewood and Serpentine Loop Trails, near I-280 overpass)
- ER—Edgewood Rd. west of I-280 overpass
- DC—Day Camp parking lot
- CT—Clarkia Trail head at Cañada Road.
- PR—Park & Ride lot at I-280 and Edgewood Rd.

If you arrive at the meeting location late, you may be able to find the weeding party by checking the map at either the meeting location or the closest entrance to Edgewood.

If you would like more information about weed management efforts at Edgewood, call Ken Himes.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June					1	2 DC	3
	4	5	6 WK	7 WK	8	9 ER	10
	11	12	13 WK	14 WK	15	16 DC	17 PR
	18	19	20 DC	21 DC	22	23 ER	24 PR
July	25	26	27 DC	28 DC	29	30 DC	1 PR
	2	3	4	5	6	7 ER	8 PR
	9	10	11 WK	12 WK	13	14 DC	15 PR
	16	17	18 WK	19 WK	20	21 ER	22 PR
	23	24	25 WK	26 WK	27	28 ER	29 PR
	30	31	1 WK	2 WK	3	4 ER	5 PR
August	6	7	8 WK	9 WK	10	11 DC	12 PR
	13	14	15 CT	16 CT	17	18 ER	19 PR
	20	21	22 WK	23 WK	24	25 ER	26 PR
	27	28	29 WK	30 WK	31	1 ER	2 PR
	3	4	5 WK	6 WK	7	8 TBD	9 PR
September	10	11	12	13	14	15 TBD	16 PR
	17	18	19	20	21	22 TBD	23 PR
	24	25	26	27	28	29 TBD	30 PR



UPCOMING EVENTS

o *Saturdays and Sundays through June 25th*, **WILDFLOWER WALKS**. Docent-led walks begin at 10:00 a.m., end by 1:00 p.m., and start at the Day Camp entrance.

o *Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays through the summer*, **WEED REMOVAL AT EDGEWOOD**. Bring water, gloves, sunscreen, and your enthusiasm. See page 6 for meeting times and places.

o *Saturday August 5th*, **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAY**. Meet at the Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. Call Ken Seydel for more information or to arrange for safety training.

o *Saturday, August 6th*, **TOUR DE PENINSULA**. Sponsored by the S.F. Chronicle with proceeds benefiting the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, this 33-mile bicycle ride passes by Edgewood along Cañada Road. Call Julia Bott for more information regarding riding in or staffing the event.

ANSWERS TO STATE SYMBOLS QUIZ

The following State of California symbols are found at Edgewood.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Redwood | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tree |
| Serpentine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rock |
| needlegrass (proposed) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Grass |
| Purple | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Flower |
| California poppy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bird |
| Quail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

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