

Edgewood



Explorer

December 2010

Volume 17 Number 4

REPORT ON THE 2010 GENERAL MEETING

by Mary Wilson

It has been a busy year!

More than 40 people attended our Annual General Meeting on Oct. 17. Although rain also “attended” the meeting, it gave us the opportunity to have our lunch and meeting inside the new Education Center. Although doorless and lightless, the Center provided a roof, windows, and walls; it was a very special introduction to the Ed Center.

Jon Altemus, Scenic Exhibits Manager of General Graphics Exhibits, the company that is designing and creating the exhibits for the Education Center, replaced our planned series of short tours with a wonderful presentation of the exhibits that he repeated for the second half of us. We really appreciated Jon’s flexibility and also the patience of those who waited in the damp amphitheater outside while others were enjoying Jon’s presentation; it is very fortunate that we are outdoor people who know how to dress for rain.

Thanks must also go to Arguello Catering, who, once again, donated their usual delicious and beautifully laid out lunch. Neither the mud nor rain nor having to change plans at the very last minute to set up their tables inside the Education Center seemed to bother them in the least. Thanks again!

After lunch, we called the General Meeting to order and elected Paul Heiple, Christal Niederer, and Laurie Alexander as our new Directors for 2011.

We also presented our Best Friends awards to people who have provided outstanding help to our organization in the past year. That’s right, awards, plural. It was just too diffi-



Photo © Kathy Korbholz

Julia Bott and John Morse,
2010 Best Friends of the Friends of Edgewood

cult to give only one Best Friend award this year, so we broke with tradition and gave two. The first Best Friend Award was presented to John Morse for the hours he has spent (and continues to spend) setting up and running a database for our membership data that had definitely outgrown its spreadsheet, and for serving as interim membership coordinator. Keeping track of membership information is a vital function for the Friends of Edgewood, so thank you, John! We really appreciate the job you have done and are doing for us!

The second Best Friend award was given to Julia Bott, President of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, who has steered the fundraising, exhibit planning, and construction of the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center for the past several years. The outcome of her hours and hours of effort is very visible today, and we are very grateful. Thank you, Julia!

Another new “plural” for the Friends of Edgewood is the addition of the Education Center Docent Program to the Wildflower Walks and Junior Explorers Docent Programs. We are very excited about this new addition and hope that many of you will participate in it. To find out what that participation will require, please see the article by Frances Morse on page 6 of this issue of the *Explorer*, where you will also find an article by Mary Wilson on the 2011 Wildflower Walks Docent Training Schedule! 📄

IN MEMORIAM — CHRISTOPHER MOORE

Christopher Moore became a member of Friends of Edgewood in 2007. He loved taking photographs of Edgewood’s native flowers, two of which are on the Friends of Edgewood website, <http://www.friendsofedgewood.org/photos>.

These two photos, in fact, of the common or hairy fringe-pod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*). According to Bill Korbholz, “These are fairly amazing photos, because the flower is so minute and rarely seen. We are much more familiar with the fruit from which the common name is derived.”



Sadly, Chris passed away November 1. How much he loved Edgewood became clear when it was requested in his obituary that donations in Chris’ memory be made to Friends of Edgewood and the American Cancer Society. Thank you so much from all of us at Friends of Edgewood to Chris and his family for their thoughtfulness and generosity. ♥

BIRD BRAINS—PART II

by Carolyn J. Strange

People used to assume (having failed to look carefully, or think critically) that humans alone used tools, and assigned much importance to this ability. We crow somewhat less these days—or perhaps just more cautiously—having served ourselves varying portions of humble pie after actually studying our fellow Earthlings. We now know that tool use is widespread in the animal kingdom, including birds: African vultures throw rocks at ostrich eggs to open them, and several bird species use spines or twigs to probe crevices for food, or pry off bits of bark—they may even break off side twiglets to improve their spears. And after finding or crafting a fine implement, maybe it's no surprise that some birds have been observed carrying their tools from one job to the next.

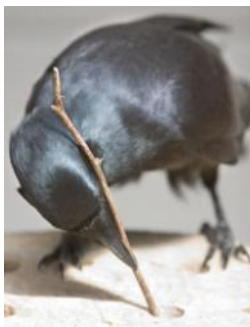
Herons in Japan sometimes fish using bait: they cast live insects, berries, twigs, or crackers onto water, then crouch and wait patiently nearby. They also reposition bait that's floating away.

Some European corvids (crow family members) have been known to use whatever is handy to plug their aviary drains, creating bathing puddles on hot days. Australian counterparts, faced with a glass cylinder that was partially filled with water, on top of which a tempting grub floated out of reach, raised the water level by dropping in pebbles until they could nab their reward. When the treats in the cylinder were placed in a tiny bucket that was placed out of reach, one bird picked up a wire, tucked one end into a crevice in the floor, bent it to the perfect curvature, and used her new hook to retrieve the snack bucket. On the first try! Her birdy colleagues also made the wire-bending mental leap, but needed another trial or two to get it right.

Even a cursory survey of smarty-pants birds would be incomplete without mention of Alex, the famous African grey parrot with his large vocabulary, who knew what dozens of words meant—including abstract concepts—and arranged them creatively to express things. Edgewood has no native parrots (!), but Alex illustrates a couple of important points. He came equipped with natural imitative abilities that, combined with training and decades of patient experimentation, provided researchers with a portal into his mind. Likewise, determined scientists are making use of natural caching behaviors to glimpse into the minds of jays and other corvids. Learning how to leverage such inborn behavioral handles—instead of imposing irrelevant (to the animal) human-centric tasks—makes it easier to explore the mental capacities of birds and other animals. It's also the case that many avian Einsteins belong to the parrot and crow families, which include generally social species having the largest forebrains among birds. Indeed, the brain-to-body size ratio of some parrots equals that of chimps.

But even pigeons can combine two separate lessons to solve a problem: Lesson 1—Learn to peck a hanging ba-

nana while standing on a box beneath. Lesson 2—Learn to push a box along the ground. Problem—Banana hanging too darned high! Pigeon Solution—Push box underneath banana and get on box. This sort of problem solving was once thought insightful in chimps.



A crow using a stick tool © Dr. Simon Walker

You've probably seen cartoons of an evolutionary series of animals crawling from the sea onto land and "culminating" with upright humans: Fish to amphibian to reptile to mammal to primate to human. Iconic though it may be, this linear metaphor leads our thinking astray. The evolutionary Tree of Life actually branches out in two dimensions, and over another considerable dimension of time. Other creatures have been on their own evolutionary journeys, and their brains can't be assumed to be mere precursors of our own. The reptile and mammal lineages branched away from each other some 300 million years ago. Birds branched off from reptiles after that. Scientists increasingly accept that complex brains and sophisticated cognition sprouted independently more than once, in multiple branches of the evolutionary tree. If this is another serving of humble pie for humans, there's no reason to choke on it, except perhaps with awe, because, to paraphrase Darwin, there is grandeur in this view.

Although not really so surprising, this dawning awareness underscores the research challenges, because, no matter how we define "intelligence," in birds (and cephalopods such as the octopus), it springs from brains anatomically quite different from our own, and from within widely disparate evolutionary contexts. Most research on intelligence was built upon a psychological perspective (human, of course), but researchers are now trying to study animal minds from more of an ecological context, attempting to meet them on their own terms—which is much easier said than done. It takes a clever human to avoid giving human-biased intelligence tests!

Meanwhile debate continues about what some findings *really mean*. How do we pin down the characteristic components and processes of "intelligence," "thinking," or "reasoning"? (Jays have apparently been granted full credit for "planning" for breakfast, as discussed in Part I, in the last issue, available online.) Animal cognition researchers sometimes complain that definitions keep changing, or, more pointedly, that human cognition researchers keep moving the goalposts. Yet it's proper that new glimpses into animal minds should often highlight assumptions about how our own minds work, and trigger re-evaluation of fundamental concepts. A few go so far as to ask, "Why not shift the burden of proof to show that animals are *not* mentally complex?"

For now it seems clear that bird brains are, if not "alien," then very "other" brains, and studying their minds presents challenges for our own. In learning about them, we learn about ourselves. ✍

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JUNIOR EXPLORERS

by Carol Hankermeyer

Junior Explorers welcomed Kate Connors as its new field trip coordinator in 2010. Kate and I have collaborated this year on running the program. She has done a super job of organizing the spring and fall field trips. The latter have been surprisingly numerous for this time of year. We are encouraged to note that all our field trip requests have been from schools, perhaps as a result of Kate's active outreach to local school districts. It indicates our program is being considered as an educational experience, not just a walk in the woods.

Diversity is the word that best describes the groups participating in the Junior Explorers program this fall. Two of the field trips were led for the International Baccalaureate Environmental Science classes from Sequoia High School. As one would expect, the students were very bright and motivated, keeping the docents on their toes. But the docents certainly rose to the occasion, engaging and informing these high school juniors with their usual excellent performance.

Our next participants were equally bright, but from a different age group: North Star Academy third graders from

Redwood City. They were bursting with enthusiasm, questions, and energy. The teachers from both schools gave glowingly positive reports on their



experience at Edgewood, and felt they achieved their goals to great satisfaction.

Finally, we have scheduled a field trip for a group of special education students from Roosevelt School, which will present a totally different challenge for the docents. This field trip is scheduled for mid-December, which is the latest fall-field-trip date we have ever had!

As always, we thank our wonderful docents for their dedication and for sharing their talents. Those offering their time to lead field trips this fall were: Laurie Alexander, Amity Binkert, Isabel Stenzel Byrnes, Kate Connors, Fran Cummings, Katherine Dollard, Barbara Erny, Paul Heiple, Pat Oren, Judy Pugh, Jim Rea, Robert Strode, Martha Veroutre, and myself.

Please remember that Junior Explorers is always looking for new docents. And don't forget to spread the word about our program to any educational institutions or any contacts you may have. ♥

EDGEWOOD'S WARRIORS

by Anne Koletzke

Edgewood's Road Warriors have been hard at work once a month throughout the year to keep the area between Edge-

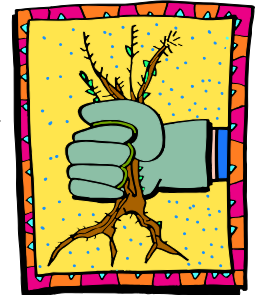


wood and Hwy 280 cleared of trash and debris. This year, they have collectively logged 58 volunteer appearances during 21.5 elapsed hours, for a total of 141.25 volunteer hours in which a total of 73 bags of trash were gathered. And that doesn't even include December!

Without question, these folks have done an incredible job enhancing the beauty of Edgewood: Pam Berreyesa, Carolyn Dorsch, Kelly Fellows, Andrew Griffith, Dave Hershey, Karen Johnson, Bill Korbholz, Kathy Korbholz, Jane Kos, Bonnie MacKinnon, Diana Quon, Darin Ring, Janet Ring, Susan Russell, Ken Seydel, Jan Smith, Lisa Tough, and Michael Yantos.

Edgewood's Weed Warriors have also been busy this year enhancing not only the beauty, but the health, of Edgewood by ripping out noxious non-native plants, sometimes 2-3 times a week, depending on the season. They have racked up an incalculable number of hours.

This time of year, weeding happens only on Friday mornings, 9 AM to Noonish. The work location is chosen weekly depending on seasonal conditions. For more information, go to the Friends of Edgewood Weeding Website: <http://edgewood.thinkersrus.net/>. Should you decide to become a Weeder,



you will be in the very good company of these very fine folk: John Allen, Sandra Bernhard, Chuck Brooks, Sue Conway, Phil Darlington, Alf Fengler, Catherine Froc, Paul Heiple, Dave Hershey, Ken Himes, Natalie Howe, Jane Kos, Ralph Hunter, Joan Marlowe, Christal Niederer, Diana Quon, Thanh Mougeot, Deanna Schiel, Howie Smith, Peter White, Mary Wilson, and Bob Young. ☺

CNPS EVENT

California Gardens: Beauty & Sustainability With Native Plants. A one-day symposium on native plant gardening and design. Saturday, 2-19-2011, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Foothill College Appreciation Hall, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA.

Speakers include Bart O'Brien of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Bernard Trainor of Bernard Trainor & Associates, David Fross of Native Sons Nursery, Judith Lowry of Larner Seeds, Nevin Smith of Suncrest Nurseries, Paul Kephart of Rana Creek, and Dr. Glenn Keator of Merritt College. The program includes continental breakfast, lunch, and a reception. Plants and books will be available for sale.

Discounts on registration fees for early birds, CNPS members, and students. Space is limited, so register early. For more information and to register visit: <http://symposium.cnps-sc.v.org>

OWLELULIAH! by Anne Koletzke

“H’lo owl.”

“Hello human. How good to see you! Thank you for sending me the e-mails of the three *Explorer* readers who answered my two homework questions.”

“How’d they do?”

“They all correctly answered the first part of the second question, namely, that a group of us is called a Parliament of Owls, but no one explained why this was a bit of a trick question. So I will elucidate: this was a bit of a trick question because owls do not group. Nor do we flock, gather, congregate, or assemble. We are the most solitary of birds. Even those of us who migrate, migrate alone. That said, it is true that several owls, usually nesting pairs, will sometimes share a stand of trees or an area of the forest, but that does not make them a *group*. They are not together, but separate. Not united, but independent. Not connected, but detached. Not singular, but plural. Not through, but individual. Not one, but many. Not”

“OK, OK, I get it, I get it! But you have to admit, it would be easy for a person, seeing lots of owls in one place, to think they were a group; and then, being human, to want to give that group a name. Although I must say, when it comes to names, I find “parliament” a decidedly odd choice. I don’t suppose you happen to know how you got saddled with that particular word?”

“As a matter of fact, I do. Thank you for asking. Back in the late 1300s, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poem entitled *The Parliament of Fowls*. Many centuries later, in 1953, C.S. Lewis, enjoying a small play on words, named the fourth chapter of his fourth book in *The Chronicles of Narnia* ‘A Parliament of Owls,’ and the name has stuck ever since.

“Ah, I see from your dropped jaw that that little piece of erudition has left you speechless. Perhaps I’ll just move on to my other homework question: what is even more exceptional than an owl’s farsighted vision? Of the three answers I received, only one was correct, but the other two had such merit, I must mention them.

“The first suggested that our ability to turn our heads almost 360 degrees was even more exceptional than our eyesight. Now, it is absolutely true that we owls can do this with our heads. And it is also absolutely true that without this skill, we would not be the extraordinary hunters we are. Why? Because, we have eyes that, unlike your eyes, are fixed in their sockets, so in order to see anything that isn’t directly in front of us, we have to turn to face it. But we can do this with ease thanks to the 14 vertebrae in our neck (7 more than you have!). Still, this is not our most exceptional trait.

“The second incorrect but good answer suggested that it was the heart-shaped face of Barn Owls that made them so

exceptional, and you can see by looking at my handsome face that this is true. Unfortunately, it is not the right answer; but it is getting very close. You see, how the feathers are shaped and arranged on our facial disc—and here I’m speaking of all owls, not just Barn Owls—greatly affects what we hear, because these feathers amplify and focus sound directly into our ears.

“And this, of course, brings me to the third and correct answer to my question: it is our hearing that is even more exceptional than our farsighted vision. We hear so well, we can, when necessary, locate and catch prey with pinpoint accuracy in total darkness, using only our extraordinary ears to guide us.

“Our ears are internal (don’t let names like Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl fool you), and are so large, they take up most of our head (which just goes to show, wisdom has nothing to do with having a big brain). We Barn Owls have ears that are asymmetrically placed—my left ear opening is higher than my left eye and is directed downward, while my right ear opening is lower than my right eye and is directed upward. Other owls have ear openings that are of different sizes, and there are owls that have a special flap that catches sound behind them. Some owls can even alter the shape of their ear openings. So this is why we can hear a mouse scurrying through the leaves on the forest floor, or hear his heart beating beneath three inches of snow. Pretty amazing, don’t you think?”

“Absolutely! Although I know a certain meadow mouse who is probably going to find all this a tad alarming.”

“Ah, the famous m.m., your field reporter. I am so glad you mentioned him, because we Edgewood owls have a message we’d like him to give to Edgewood’s meadow mice. We want them to know how much we appreciate them, being, as they are, a keystone species and a major part of our diet. We are well aware that our lives mirror theirs: when there are a lot of them, there are a lot of us; when their population declines, so does ours. The truth is, we could not exist without them. And for that, they have our deepest gratitude and respect. We very much want them to know this. Could you please tell your friend m.m.?”

“You’ve just told him yourself. He’s in my pocket. But since you can hear a mouse’s heartbeat beneath three inches of snow, you probably know that already.”

“Oh yes. I’ve known from the moment I saw you walking up the hill. Come out and say hello, small one. I promise not to make you my dinner.”

“H’lo owl.”

“Hello mouse. How good to meet you!”



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)



THE HEALING PLANTS OF EDGEWOOD

The Flexible Strength of the Arroyo Willow by Mary Anne Leary

It is nice to talk about a lovely tree or shrub during the time of Winter Solstice. In this issue we will talk about the Arroyo Willow, a tree that grows in the riparian woodland areas of Edgewood Preserve. Arroyo is the Spanish word for stream, brook, or creek, making reference to the Arroyo Willow's preference to thrive in a riparian environment. The Arroyo Willow, *Salix lasiolepis*, is native to California and the Western states, extending into northern



Inflorescence of the Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) © Alf Fongler

Mexico. It flowers between February and April each year, producing a cluster of yellow catkins on its stems. The Arroyo Willow is a deciduous shrub or small tree that is enjoyable

to watch as the "white fluff unfolding from the seed pods can be observed on the mature female catkins (and) floating in the winds in the late spring-summer," as stated in Toni Corelli's book, *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*. Tiny seeds are embedded in the white fluffy down, which acts as a transport for the wind dispersal of the seeds.

A relative of the Arroyo Willow, the White Willow (*Salix alba*), is the willow-family species particularly known for producing salicin (derived from the Latin word, *salix*), the precursor of aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid). However, several other willow species produce salicin, as do some non-willow plants such as Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Birch (genus *Betula*), Spiraea (genus *Spiraea*), and Wintergreen (genus *Gaultheria*).

Willow bark was used by the Native Americans to help reduce fever and pain, and was also used and written about by Hippocrates in the 5th century. By 1829 salicin was isolated into crystalline form by a French chemist named Henri Leroux; and in 1838, Raffaele Piria, an Italian chemist, converted the crystalline form into a sugar and a second aromatic component, which upon oxidation became salicylic acid. In 1853, another French chemist, Charles Frederic Gerhardt, neutralized the highly acidic extract into a buffered form, which we now know as acetylsalicylic acid, or aspirin.

Interestingly, salicylic acid (usually standardized to a 5% - 10% solution) that is derived from the black willow bark (*Salix nigra*) is often used for acneic skin conditions; it provides beta-hydroxy acids, which help to exfoliate the skin without skin irritation and allow for enhanced cell renewal. Herb Pharm, whose products can be found in

health food stores, produces a Willow/Meadowsweet Compound in a liquid tincture that also contains Jamaican Dogwood tree bark (*Piscidia erythrina*) and St. John's Wort flower and bud (*Hypericum perforatum*) for those who wish to use an aspirin alternative for headache, fever, and pain relief.

As for other uses, the Arroyo Willow provides a nesting and feeding place for birds and other small animals. In the past, Native Americans used the roots and stems of the Arroyo Willow for creating cradleboards, hunting bows, baskets, mats, and also for roofing and thatching. And today, the Arroyo Willow is being used to help clean up contaminants in our environment through a process called phytoremediation, which is "an emerging technology that uses plants to clean organic and inorganic contaminants in-situ from soils, wetlands, and groundwater." You can learn more about this process at <http://www.ebi.calpoly.edu/about/ecoremediation.pdf>

So how can we use the Arroyo Willow for our own healing? Patterns of imbalance that we may recognize within ourselves that would benefit from the Arroyo Willow Flower Essence are those of being easily distracted; feeling bitterness or resentment toward life, ourselves or others; feeling stuck in an uncomfortable situation that we can't seem to remedy; or creating a negative world-view and blaming others or outside circumstances for it. When we think of the yielding strength of the Willow tree we can see its healing qualities in action, for the flower essence can provide assistance in helping us to let go of resentment, bitterness, and blame, and to recognize and take responsibility for our capability to create life circumstances that are more in alignment with who we truly are. What a wonderful opportunity we have at this time of the Winter Solstice to take an internal inventory to see if there are areas of our lives that require support to release that which no longer serves us. This time of introspection can allow us to recognize and let go of old disempowered patterns of behavior, and so help us to start refreshed and renewed in the approaching new year.

Best wishes for a
Healthy and Happy
Winter Solstice to all!



Kemp Scherer, Cynthia Athina *The Alchemy of the Desert*
<http://daphne.palomar.edu/scroul/luisenob.htm>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salix_alba
Corelli, Toni. *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*

ARTICLE ON EDGEWOOD IN SF EXAMINER

Thanks to Katherine Dollard for alerting the docents to an October 14, 2010 article in the *San Francisco Examiner* concerning the second attempt to reintroduce the checker-spot butterfly at Edgewood. You can find this article at <http://www.sfoxaminer.com/> by searching for "butterfly reintroduction" and following the link that results. ~ ed.

WILDFLOWER WALKS DOCENT TRAINING

by Mary Wilson

This year the Docent Training Program will, as in the past, consist of classes on Wednesday evenings and hikes on Saturday mornings. Except during the month of February, the classes and hikes will take place at two-week intervals, as indicated in the schedule below.

The Wednesday training classes will meet at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City. The Saturday morning hikes will take place at Edgewood.

The instructor who teaches the Wednesday evening class will lead the following Saturday morning hike to reinforce and expand on the Wednesday topic. The trainers will be John Allen, Toni Corelli, Ty Freiberg, Paul Heiple, and Ken Himes. There will be a small fee of \$25 for materials. The expectation is that newly graduated docents will lead walks for the public only when they feel ready, and there is not a required number of walks that they must lead.

If you are interested in taking this Docent Training, or know someone who is interested, you can email me at docent-trainer@friendsofgedgewood.org, or leave a voicemail message at 866-GO-EDGEWOOD (866-463-3439); please note that this is a voicemail-only number. Thank you!

2011 Wildflower Walks Docent Training Schedule

| Wednesday Classes 7:00 PM–9:00 PM | Saturday Hikes 9:30AM–1:00 PM | Topics |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| January 26 | January 29 | Introduction & History |
| February 2 | February 5 | Geology of Edgewood |
| February 16 | TBA | Leaves & Flowers |
| February 23 | February 26 | Chaparral & Exotics |
| March 9 | March 12 | Oak Woodlands |
| March 23 | March 26 | Leading Hikes |
| April 6 | April 9 | Serpentine Grasslands |



EDUCATION CENTER DOCENTS NEEDED

by Frances Morse

Are you looking to engage and inspire walkers on your wildflower walks even before you get to the trails? Wanna' stay involved with Edgewood even if you're no longer able to get out as frequently into the park? Are you ready to bring your love of weeding indoors? Would you like to educate visitors about the specialness of Edgewood so they won't drop trash on trails or pick the wildflowers?

Have I got an opportunity for you! Sign up now to be an Education Center Docent.

If you were at the FoE Annual Meeting on October 17, which was held in the new Bill and Jean Lane Education Center, I'm sure you were amazed by the huge models of the Checkerspot Butterfly and Blow Wives, impressed by the wonderful green qualities of the new building, and


wowed by the colorful retro tiles in the new bathrooms. Our new Education Center will be open year round for educational and research activities, and will be the starting point for our wildflower walks and school groups visiting the park.

We are looking for lots of Edgewood enthusiasts to staff the building, beginning before our wildflower walks start in mid-March 2011. Training for the Education Center docents is tentatively scheduled for February 2011, and promises to be fun and interesting. I hope many of you will join me in signing up for this training. Because we don't yet have firm training and opening dates, we aren't asking for a final commitment right now, but are trying to form a pool of interested people. Knowing how many people are interested will help with planning efforts. If you think you might want to be involved, please reply by e-mailing EdCenterCoordinator@friendsofgedgewood.org or calling (866) GO-EDGEWOOD (866-463-3439) as soon as possible. (please note that this is a voicemail-only number).

Like the Little Engine That Could, who puffed "I think I can" as she hauled a load of toys over the tall mountain, we have all pulled together for the last 10 years to make the Education Center a reality. Now we are ready for the next phase—keeping the Center open as often as possible and staffed with people who want to share their love of Edgewood.

I think *I* can. Let us know if you think *you* can!

Again, please e-mail EdCenterCoordinator@friendsofgedgewood.org or call 866-GO-EDGEWOOD (866-463-3439) as soon as possible to let us know you're interested in staffing our new center. More details will follow soon.

And if you haven't yet seen the inside of the Education Center, you can see it here: <http://friendsofgedgewood.org/ECTour01.htm> 



BAH! HUMBUG!

Nature has no mercy at all. Nature says, "I'm going to snow. If you have on a bikini and no snowshoes, that's tough. I am going to snow anyway." ~ Maya Angelou

The problem with winter sports is that—follow me closely here—they generally take place in winter. ~ Dave Barry

I am against nature. I don't dig nature at all. I think nature is very unnatural. ~ Bob Dylan

Weather forecast for tonight: dark. ~ George Carlin

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water. ~ Carl Reiner

I like these cold, gray winter days. Days like these let you savor a bad mood. ~ Bill Waterson

I am at two with nature. ~ Woody Allen



WINTER SOLSTICE

by Carol Hankermeyer

Buckeyes dangle heavy ornaments
on the naked branches
of a most unlikely Christmas tree.
They blaze up golden in the rising sun.

A Northern Flicker loops
through the air over my head
flashing orange underwings.
Moments later his startling scream
pierces the chilly morning air.

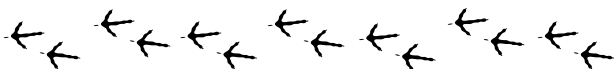
In a bush by my shoulder
a wrenit bursts forth with her long
trilling song. She's utterly hidden
in the dense underbrush,
though close enough to touch.

Alert and long-necked,
a yearling buck rests nonchalantly
on the upper lawn
watching me like a sphinx.

The fiery maple leaves drift and swirl
slowly to the ground
and the wild grape has strung
its blood-red garlands over trees
and fence tops, everywhere I look.

The quail are bobbing in and out
of the junipers, muttering urgently,
waiting for my morning offering
of wild seeds cast into the dew-drenched bushes.

All are reasons enough to waken
these darkest days of winter,
reasons enough to be alive.



DAM(N) IT

by Jim Rea

Look at that river
Its power we can't ignore
And we say dam it
What happened to the rapids
I use to hear them roar
And I cry damn it
We can have a lake
With 50 miles of shore
And we say dam it
What happened to the mountainside
With cliffs and trees and more
And I cry damn it
We can add some fish
Trout and bass galore
And we say dam it
What happened to the salmon
Here the eagles use to soar
And I cry damn it
Let the river flow



MEMBERSHIP DUES

New or renewing members may clip and complete this section to pay tax-deductible annual membership dues. Please send your check, payable to Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, to the return address on the back of this panel. Renewing members can determine their membership expiration date by checking the six-digit code to the right of their name on the mailing label. For example, if the code is 06/2011, membership runs through June 2011.

Questions? Call (866) GO-EDGEWOOD (866-463-3439) or contact membership-coordinator@friendsofedgewood.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State and Zip Code _____

Day Telephone _____

Evening Telephone _____

Email _____

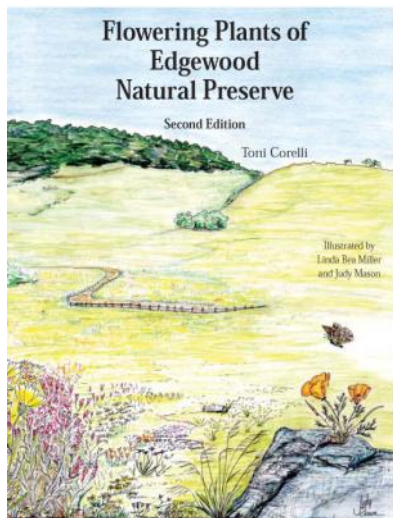
- \$10 Student/Retired** (includes quarterly newsletter)
- \$25 Friend** (newsletter)
- \$50 Advocate** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards)
- \$75 Supporter** (newsletter plus choose one):
 - Set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards and 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine
 - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*
- \$100 Steward** or **\$250 Guardian** (newsletter, set of 6 Edgewood photo greeting cards, plus choose one):
 - 1-year subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine
 - Toni Corelli's *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*.
- Please do not send any premiums.**
- I am enclosing a gift of _____.**

Please send ___ copies of *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood* (\$2.50), ___ copies of the *Edgewood Vascular Plant List* (\$3.00), ___ copies of the Apr-Jun 2004 *Bay Nature* magazine (\$6.00), ___ copies of *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve* (\$25.00). Includes tax, S&H. All items subject to availability.

I would like to participate in the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent program | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS/GPS mapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/web | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Highway |

Toni Corelli has reduced the price of her book, *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve!* We are now selling it for only \$12, which is more than half off the original price. The book includes an addenda to keep it current with new discoveries and nomenclature changes. ~ ed.



**MAKES A
GREAT
HOLIDAY
GIFT!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY.** The next sessions will take place on 1/9, 2/5, & 3/6. To volunteer or get more information, contact Ken Seydel. Also, see article on page 3.
- CNPS CALIFORNIA GARDENS: BEAUTY & SUSTAINABILITY WITH NATIVE PLANTS.** One-day symposium February 19, 2011. See article on page 3.

If men had wings and bore black feathers, few of them would be clever enough to be crows.

~ Henry Ward Beecher

The Edgewood Explorer is published quarterly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Edgewood for the human, plant, and animal generations to come. The newsletter is produced by Anne Koletzke with 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 toll-free at (866) GO-EDGEWOOD (866-463-3439), or email info@friendsofedgeswood.org.

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
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Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain
beat upon your head with silver
liquid drops. Let the rain sing you
a lullaby.

~ Langston Hughes

Mission Statement of The Friends of Edgewood
*To protect and celebrate Edgewood as a unique
treasure by promoting exemplary stewardship, and
by reaching out with informative public programs.*
www.friendsofedgeswood.org