

Edgewood



Explorer

BOY SCOUTS CONSTRUCT NEW RAILING

Nathan Graham, together with 10 of his friends and fellow Boy Scouts from Troop 149 in Redwood City, constructed a habitat railing at the top of Hill 1, the hill overlooking the Serpentine grasslands near the Sunset entrance to Edgewood Park. This was Nathan's Eagle Scout service project.

The 75-foot long railing will help to keep visitors from trampling the hill and threatening the Bay Checkerspot butterfly habitat.

Nathan and his crew worked on the project for 6 days this past June, and collectively spent 148 hours.

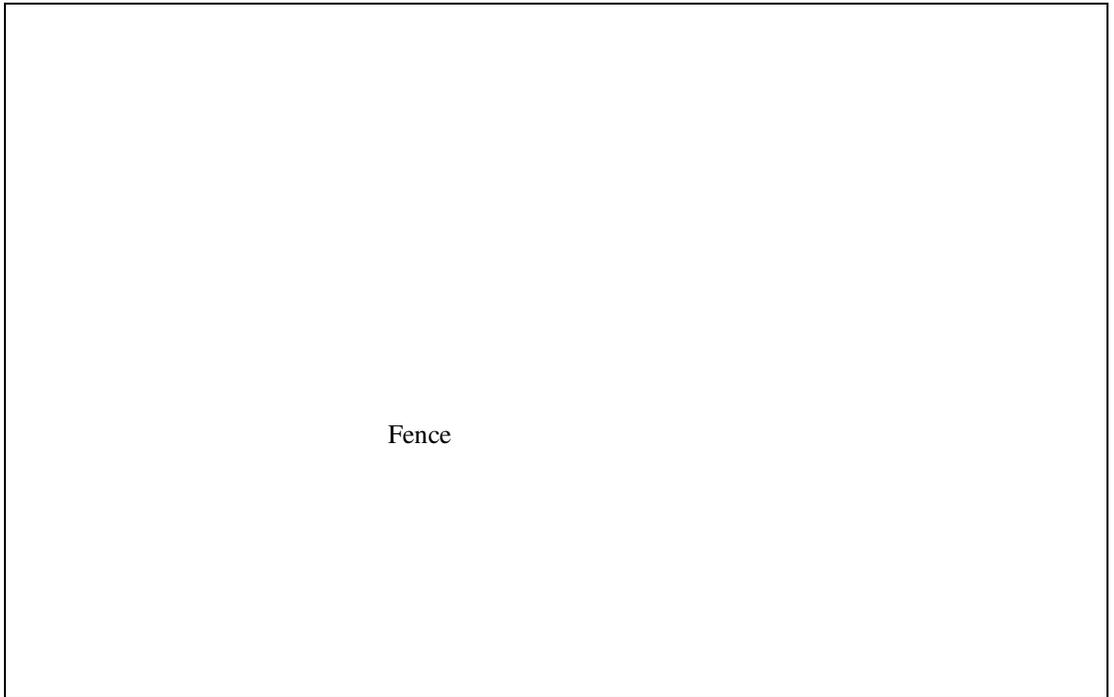
Project material was donated by Maria Reeser of American Title in Redwood City, Rod Cardinale of Safeway in Half Moon Bay, and Bill Zack of Eureka Federal in San Carlos.

Nathan's 10 helpers consisted of Dan Patton, Rob Mott, Arya Lashgari, Ryan Fay, Shea Cardinale, Natalie Erkaline, Erick Hutchison, James Wilsey, Audie Lashgari, Carl Carandang, and Ryan Fay, with coordination and support from Ranger Lynne Fritz.

Nathan did an excellent job of organizing, executing, and reporting on this project, and his crew's work will long be remembered and appreciated.

SECOND ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

The second annual Friends of Edgewood potluck picnic dinner will occur on October 15 at the picnic area in the Old Stage Day Camp. Festivities will run from 3 to 6 pm. Supervisors Ted Lempert and Ruben Barrales, and Director Patrick Sanchez will be joining us. Watch for a special reminder soon.



Fence

Final work crew (l. to r.): Erick Hutchison, James Wilsey, Nathan Graham, Ryan Fay, Audie Lashgari

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TRAIL PATROL ON DUTY ON THE 4TH

By Nancy Mangini

Five members of the newly formed Edgewood Park Volunteer Trail Patrol joined forces with Ranger Lynne Fritz in the twilight hours of July 4th to safeguard Edgewood from fireworks and after-hours celebrants looking for a place to party.

Margaret Marshall, Bill Korbholz, Frank Figoni, Nancy Mangini, and Susan Summers spent their July 4th evening at the Sunset entrance to the Park helping San Mateo County Park Rangers manage the yearly flow of people who come to Edgewood to watch the many fireworks displays visible from the Ridgeview Hill and parts of the Serpentine Loop. Feeling it was better to ensure safe usage of these vantage points than to try to keep determined watchers out, rangers and volunteers kept the gate open until 10 PM. Those who entered the park were told to leave fireworks, cigarettes, and liquor behind if they wanted to watch the show. Although keeping people on the trails after the sun went down proved to be somewhat of a problem, most fireworks-watchers were delighted with the presence of the flashlight-wielding Trail Patrol and cooperated with the rules. Also, the visible presence of khaki-shirted volunteers and rangers at the park entrance discouraged several cars filled with young celebrants from "hanging out" at Edgewood that night.

Good Beginning, Promising Future

Since beginning its weekend patrols on May 1st, the Volunteer Trail Patrol has had a positive impact both on park visitors and park rangers. The regular trail reports submitted by patrol members to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department are providing needed information on park usage, allowing the Parks Department to allocate the most effective use of ranger-led patrols. Also, regular contact with patrol members appears to be reinforcing the impression among visitors that park rules are now being consistently enforced. Every six weeks, patrol members get together to share trail experiences with each other and with park rangers.

This summer, the county provided a CPR and First Aid certification training course for all patrol members who wished to participate. Certified patrol members will be issued first aid kits by the County to carry while on patrol, thus providing another service to park visitors should the need arise.

With this successful beginning behind them, members of the Edgewood Park Volunteer Trail Patrol hope to encourage other members of the Friends of Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve to consider joining their ranks. Although full membership in the patrol is reserved for those who complete the training program offered by the County in the winter, anyone considering joining the patrol is invited to "hike along" with a current trail patrol member to see if regular walks in Edgewood with friends is something they would enjoy.

To arrange for a "hike along" with a trail patrol member, contact trail patrol members directly or call Nancy Mangini.

UPDATE ON EDGEWOOD'S MASTER PLAN

By Bill Korbholz

The Master Plan committee has been working hard and is making good progress on the re-write to Edgewood's 13-year-old Master Plan.

The latest draft is now 130 pages and still growing. We have written 8 high-level management principles which serve as guidelines for managing the park. They are, in order from most to least important:

1. To *protect* Edgewood's rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats
2. To *preserve* the diverse species, populations, and natural habitats so that they can be enjoyed with minimal disturbance by visitors
3. To *restore* altered habitats to their natural state by removing non-native species and replanting with appropriate site-specific vegetation, except in the Old Stage Day Camp area

4. To *promote* enjoyment of Edgewood through low-impact recreational use
5. To *educate* the public regarding the preserve's rare and fragile natural and cultural resources
6. To *restrict* man-made structures and improvements to the minimum necessary to accomplish the preceding objectives and ensure that they are in keeping with the character of the preserve
7. To *maintain* park improvements in safe, attractive, and functional order
8. To *manage* the park in a manner that ensures the health and safety of visitors and employees

The committee's goal is to deliver its draft to Director Sanchez before year-end. Upon acceptance, the Parks and Recreation Department will follow through on public and agency review, revision, and ultimately adoption and production of the new master plan.

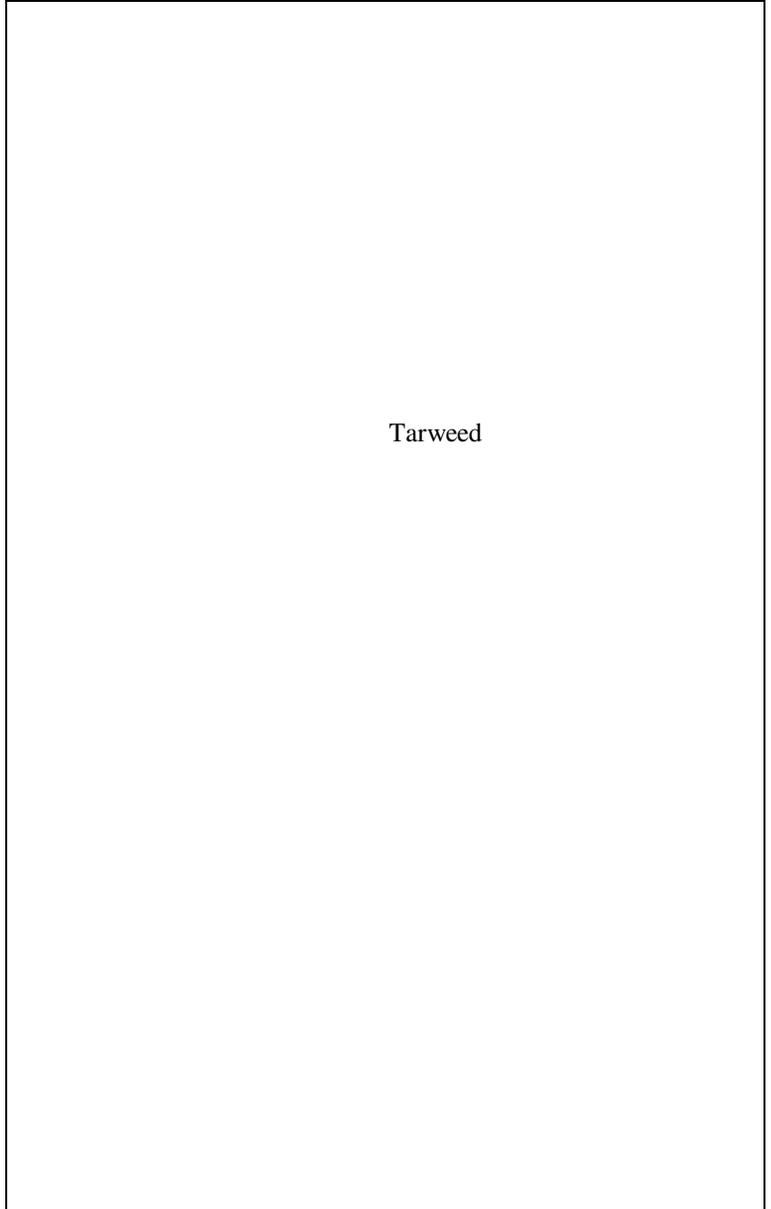
The committee consists of Bob Emert from Parks and Recreation and six Friends of Edgewood: Carolyn Curtis, Bob Hartzell, Bill and Kathy Korbholz, Susan Sommers, and Nita Spangler.

THE LAST FLORAL SHOW

By Laverne Rabinowitz

What would you consider the "last carpet" of flowers at Edgewood--growing out of what is by now very arid earth? Hayfield tarweed (*Hemizonia congesta luzulaefolia*) and several *Madia* (common, threadstream, and slender; and coast tarweed) are found on Edgewood's grasslands.

Particularly prolific are the *Hemizonia* (illustrated), on the heels of their final displays of spring blooms and lasting until October. Loosely branched and 1 to 2 feet in height, these plants are members of the Composite family. The flowers of the Hayfield tarweed have the aroma of myrrh. The foliage is also heavily scented, and the crushed leaves give off a spicy aroma reminiscent of balsam (some would



Tarweed

Courtesy of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco

call it not so pleasant!). The leaves and stems are covered with sticky hairs (hence the name tarweed).

While this species has white flowers, other tarweeds have yellow blossoms. And the *Madia elegans* or "Common madia" has a touch of burgundy near the base of the yellow ray flowers. Of the 25 or more California tarweed species, 3 are sources of honey--one (from *Hemizonia fasciculata*) is dark-amber in color and strong in flavor, formerly used in the manufacture of chewing tobacco and shoeblack.

These common yet dainty flowers are a welcome sight at the end of the season at Edgewood.

WEED WRENCH TO THE RESCUE

By Bob Hess

Over the years, people who do weeding have dreamed of a tool to help uproot the big ones. Such a tool has been invented and is appropriately called the "Weed Wrench." The Weed Eradication Group has one and Bob Young finds it very useful.



The Weed Wrench is a tool designed to remove woody plants by uprooting. It is a portable, manually operated, all-steel device. Its powerful stem-gripping jaws with an 18:1 leverage ratio are teamed with a 6:1 leverage ratio for pulling.

The tool has proved to be an efficient and safe means of selectively and permanently eliminating

unwanted shrubs and sapling trees. Persons of ordinary strength can use it effectively after a few minutes of familiarization.

WHO'S ON BOARD

The FOE Executive Board consists of 4 elected officers, the immediate past president, and chairs of permanent and temporary committees. The current officers, elected in October for 1-year terms, are:

- John Allen, President
- Jan Simpson, Vice-President
- Laverne Rabinowitz, Secretary
- Bob Young, Treasurer

Carolyn Curtis joins the board because she was last year's president. She also chairs the Membership Committee. Other committee chairs are:

- Elly Hess, Escaped Exotics Control
- Bill Korbholz, Newsletter
- Nancy Mangini, Trail Patrol
- Jan Simpson, Docent Program
- Susan Sommers, Chris Romano, Revegetation

THE INFLUENCE OF HENRY FINKLER

By Nita Spangler

On the eastern slope of Edgewood County Park, Henry C. Finkler purchased land in 1908, and with his wife, built a home which they occupied until his death in 1930. They eventually owned 200 acres.

Finkler bought a building which came from a closed San Francisco exposition, and had the structure barged to Redwood City where he reconstructed it in the area now known as the Old Stage Day Camp. He had a concrete bridge built which is still in use as the entry to the park, and he designed his own on-site water supply from a hillside spring. Finkler's Bridge is the only landmark in the area that keeps his name.

Finkler and his wife, who was one of the founders of the Redwood City Women's Club, entertained frequently at their country home, and he is credited

with keeping the weather statistics that were used when a prize-winning slogan in a Chamber of Commerce promotion declared Redwood City to have "Climate Best by Government Test."

DOCENT TRAINING TO START

By Jan Simpson

The flowers will be blooming at Edgewood again in full force in six months! It is time to sign up for Edgewood Docent Training, a series of 6 evening sessions led by knowledgeable members of the California Native Plant Society and current Edgewood docents. The training prepares people to lead the highly popular walks through Edgewood during the spring and summer.

You will learn about the natural features of this exquisite preserve and feel comfortable in sharing your knowledge with others. The introductory session will be Thursday, October 19. If interested, call Jan Simpson.

..... ✂ clip here ✂

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

New or continuing members of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve are asked to pay membership dues annually to offset the expenses associated with preserving Edgewood. If you would like to join the Friends, continue your membership, or simply make a contribution, please clip and complete this section. Mail it to the return address on the back of this panel with your check payable to **Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve**. With your membership or contribution, you will receive four more issues of the Edgewood Explorer.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

EXOTIC TRAINING IN STORE

The Friends are sponsoring Elly Hess and Susan Sommers to attend the California Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium 95 this October.

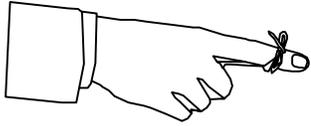
This three-day workshop at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove will focus on the control and eradication of exotics, and should be very useful in our continuing efforts to manage exotics at Edgewood. In particular, attention will be given to eradication of star thistle, which has spread so widely this year.

Watch for the potluck!

- \$15 Basic membership
- \$25 Family Membership
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership
- \$50 Supporting Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, and the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*)
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, and a 16x20 poster-photo)
- In addition to my dues, 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 Flora of Edgewood Park* at \$3 each.

Particular interests:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Exotics control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail patrol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail/fence maintenance |

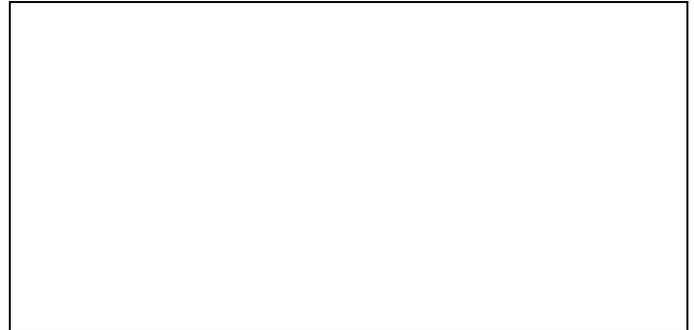


UPCOMING EVENTS

❑ October. Volunteer Trail Patrol BBQ. Members of the Volunteer Trail Patrol are looking forward to attending a BBQ to celebrate the first season's patrolling in Edgewood. Lynne Fritz will be notifying members of the specifics.

❑ Sunday, October 15. Second Annual Potluck Picnic Dinner. Mark this date on your calendar, and watch for a flyer for more information on this annual event hosted by the Friends of Edgewood. The party will run from 3 to 6 pm at the Old Stage Day Camp.

❑ Thursday, October 19. Docent Training Kickoff. Training for next season's new Edgewood docents begins. To register or for more information, call Jan Simpson.



The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve a place for all to enjoy the natural beauty and habitat. The newsletter is produced by Bill Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends.

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
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