



EDGEWOOD WEED-N-FEED

By Katherine Green



Volunteers from 1st Weed-N-Feed (l. to r.): Carolyn Curtis, Don Mayall, Carol Belew, Bill Korbholz, Sandra Overton, Ken Himes, Katherine Green, Bob Archibald, Mary Anne Leary, Paul Heipel, Susan Peterson, Kathy Korbholz (behind camera)

Many docents got together in June to follow Ken Himes on a tour to see some of the more remote endangered plants that our preserve protects. In exchange for this wonderful excursion we spent about 45 minutes weeding Italian thistle. Afterwards we relaxed at the picnic area and had an excellent pot luck.

Our first meeting went so well, we planned another in July. We traded some manual labor (this time pulling yellow star thistle) for Ken's interpretive walk. We saw 10-15 flowering species all on the trails, including rein orchids, rough asters, and a rare native snapdragon! Our group got to meet the new ranger, Ricardo Trejo, and two new park aides during the potluck.

Ken has graciously agreed to make this Weed-n-Feed a regular event!. We are planning the next one on Saturday, September 19th from 9 to noon. We meet at the Old Stage Day Camp entrance. So come and learn about the unusual species of Edgewood that we don't see during our spring wildflower walks! Please bring your favorite

dish, and gloves to weed with. We hope to see you there!

If you have questions, please call Katherine Greene or Dianne Hunt.

TRAIL PATROL ON 4TH OF JULY

By Nancy Mangini

The Volunteer Trail Patrol has been effective the last 4 years in protecting Edgewood from unauthorized after-hours revelers.

In 1995, the trail patrol's first year, six uniformed patrol members helped Ron Weaver monitor after-hours entry of fireworks-watchers. Approximately 40 to 50 people came. Lit cigarettes and alcohol were left at the gate.

In 1996, 12 uniformed patrol members came out to help Ranger Lynn Fritz monitor after-hours entry. That year, 100 to 150 people came and the patrol was needed to keep things under control with drunken people and "amorous" star watchers on Hill 1.

After the master plan was passed in 1997, Patrick Sanchez decided to close the park and prohibit staff from participating in gate surveillance after hours. That night, 5 non-uniformed FOE volunteers stood gate duty at Sunset entrance and, with the help of sheriff's patrol back-up, turned back 50 to 80 would-be

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A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CALIFORNIA BUTTERCUP

By Bob Young

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



Photograph by Kathy Korbholz

California Buttercup 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. This buttercup is also common from southwest Oregon to Baja California and into the Sierra Nevada foothills.

The scientific name for the California Buttercup is *Ranunculus californicus* (pronounced ruh-NUN-kyoo-luhs cal-ih-FOR-nih-cus). This full name was given by botanist George Bentham in 1848. Pliny the Elder gave the original name of the buttercup, *ranunculus*, in the early part of the first century.

In Latin, *ran* means frog and *cul* and *uncul* denote little. Therefore, since the buttercup likes wet places, much like the habitat of frogs, the name *ranunculus* is fitting. The Spanish word for frog is *rana*.

The buttercup is in the Buttercup Family. It is a

perennial, coming back each year from the old roots. Some other members of this family are larkspur and columbine. Another name for the family is Crowfoot Family, a name based on the shape of the deeply divided leaves.

On Edgewood, our buttercup blooms with glossy yellow blossoms from February to May, generally in non-serpentine grassland. It grows in both sunny and moderately shaded areas. The flowers are about an inch across, with from seven to twenty-two petals. The flower stems are from seven inches to two feet tall.

In *Flowers of Coast and Sierra* (1928), Edith S. Clements, Ph.D., gives a "fairy-lore" explanation of the origin of the buttercup. This tale concerns the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow:

"Many had tried and failed to find this treasure, but at last an old miser succeeded. As he hurried along with his bag full of round yellow gold-pieces, a mischievous little elf crept up behind and cut a hole in it. Unaware of his loss, the old man kept on his way, leaving a trail of shining disks in the grass. Fearful lest these disappear if they were not fastened to something, fairies attached each to a flower stem and so the buttercups were born." `

FRIENDS AT SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR

Ten members of the Friends of Edgewood volunteered to help staff the Parks & Rec. booth at the San Mateo County Fair this year. Organized by Lynne Fritz, the booth was a great success in exposing fair-goers to the variety of parks available in San Mateo County and encouraging volunteerism.

FOE wishes to thank the following members for their help on 8/15 and 8/21: Carol Belew, Guy Cohen, Frank Figoni, Carol Hankermeyer, Bob and Elly Hess, Dianne Hunt, Peter Ingram, Nancy Mangini, and Margaret Marshall. `



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Korbholz

It's hard to believe that fall is just around the corner, especially since as I write this, the temperature and humidity are both in the 90's!

New Parks & Recreation Personnel

Congratulations to Mary Burns, the new P&R Director. We're enthusiastic about getting to know her and look forward to working with her. Kendall Simmons remains Superintendent of the County's southern sector, including Edgewood.

Ricardo Trejo continues as the Ranger III in charge of Edgewood, and he will be assisted by Ranger II Rick Munds. It's great to have 2 full-time rangers at Edgewood, and I think you'll enjoy chatting with them on your visits.

Changes in Store for the Friends

The upcoming annual meeting (see insert) will

be our most important one to date. We'll have our usual great food and fun, and the always popular Best Friend award. And there are some very exciting changes in the Edgewood Docent program which we will be announcing.

Also, this year we will conduct our very first election of our corporate directors and adopt our new corporate bylaws. These annual meetings are a great way to get to know your fellow Friends, show your support for FOE, and have some fun! I hope to see you there on 10/18. `

DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS

Our first training session for the docent training program will be Wednesday night, October 14th. We already have twenty new docent trainees signed up for this season's program! If you would like a docent training schedule, or if you are interested in being a mentor for one of our new trainees, please call Dianne Hunt, Docent Coordinator. `

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 and the full-color brochure *Common Native Wildflowers of Edgewood*.

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 *Saturday, September 19, 9 to noon, WEED-N-FEED.* Meet at the Day Camp entrance.
- o *Saturday, September 19, 7 to noon, REDWOOD CITY FARMER'S MARKET.* Stop by and see the Friends of Edgewood booth. This is an opportunity to buy FOE T-shirts and wildflower brochures.
- o *Wednesday, October 14, DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS.* Call Dianne Hunt, (650) 261-1935 for details and new training location.
- o *Sunday, October 18, 3 to 6 PM, 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND POT LUCK.* Meet at the Day Camp picnic area.

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attendees.

In 1998 Kendall Simmons authorized park staff Ranger Ricardo Trejo to use uniformed trail patrol volunteers together with park staff to close the park and perform joint gate surveillance. Due to the canceling of Redwood City fireworks, the two uniformed trail patrol members were

adequate to turn away the 8 to 10 people and one carload of partygoers who came to the Sunset entrance gate.



Frank Figoni, Bill Korbholz, Nancy Mangini, and Kathy Korbholz (behind camera) patrol on 7/3/98.

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 Kathy Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends.

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