

Hopes flutter as butterflies are released

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The bay checkerspot butterfly, once common in Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve in the hills above Redwood City, had all but vanished -- a victim of habitat loss because of auto emissions. On Thursday, biologists released butterflies into the park as part of a reintroduction campaign.



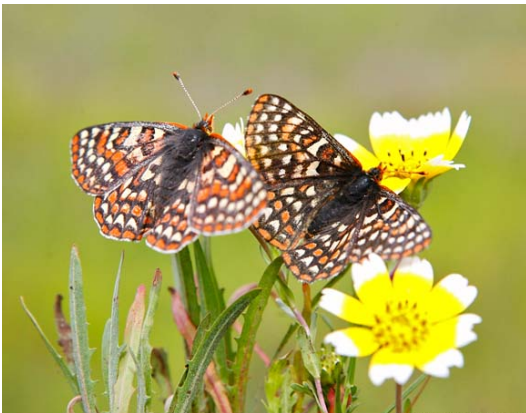
Chronicle / Michael Maloney

Biologist Stuart Weiss releases bay checkerspot butterflies onto tidy tip wildflowers at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve in Redwood City on Thursday, part of a reintroduction campaign.



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Sarah Pike, 4, of San Francisco holds a bay checkerspot butterfly.



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Newly freed butterflies rest on tidy tip wildflowers, a food source.



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Hikers walk the trails of the park, which at some spots veer close to Interstate 280.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/06/BAG79P3VV91.DTL>

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