



# Butters Canyon Conservancy

Formerly Butters Land Trust

*Protecting the Headwaters of Oakland's Peralta Creek*

## 2009 Newsletter

**A few words from our president:**

**David Barron**

### **Last undeveloped lot bought by the City of Oakland!**

The last time we reported on a transaction involving a canyon lot, we called it a "quiet milestone." We sold that lot to the City of Oakland, as part of a deal that involved paying back a loan of Measure DD funds. It was protected before and after the sale—only the name of the owner changed.

This time, the milestone is LOUD! The City Council just approved the purchase of the uppermost canyon lot (at the southern end of Butters Canyon). This is the last remaining undeveloped lot in the canyon proper. The lot is relatively flat with an existing dirt road access. It's quite possibly the most developable lot in the canyon. We've had our eye on it for a long time. It has always been one of the most expensive lots; we were afraid we would lose it before we could find a way to preserve it. However, the recession has driven down land values, and thanks to the unflagging efforts of our Councilmember Jean Quan, some of the remaining Measure DD funds were allocated for the purchase.

Escrow hasn't closed yet, but we understand that is just a matter of time, now that the Council has formally approved the sale. The City's procedures have to be followed, so it may be a few weeks. We'll be sure to let you know when the deed is recorded.

In the meantime, we still owe \$45,000 on the lot we purchased at the other end of the canyon. Thus far, we've paid a total of \$55,000 towards that lot, so we're more than halfway towards paying the entire price and retiring the mortgage. (No, we're not planning on burning the mortgage. High particulate levels and all that...) So keep those contributions coming in. We've come so far, and have such a short distance to go to be fully paid off!

For now, though, we can take a moment to savor this latest triumph. And if you want to let out a shout, maybe stomp your feet...well, go right ahead. Sometimes a little noise is fully justified.

### **Butters Canyon 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Giant Family Yard Sale—May 17, 2009**

Wow! We had a great turnout, and raised over \$2,000.00. Numerous neighborhood families, as well as The Oakland -Fukuoka Sister City Association, set up their own tables. Fees for individual tables brought in approximately 10% of the overall proceeds from the event. Elizabeth Glenewinkel and Michael Johnson made their driveway and yard available to receive, sort, price, display and sell donated items. Thanks to Elizabeth and Michael we were able to pull it off. CARH and Oakland Technology Exchange West helped by taking unsold items for reuse or resale.

There was fun to be had by all, and characters were everywhere!

*yard sale continues on page 3*

### **Celebrity Bartender & Silent Auction at Montclair Bistro complete success**

*by Lynette Cravens*

Thank you to all who joined us for an incredible evening of food, friends and fun on October 1, 2009, at the Montclair Bistro. Special thanks to Jean Quan for being our celebrity bartender. Because of all of you, it was a successful FUNdraiser! For a first time effort, we were thrilled to raise \$2,166.00. The passion and awareness generated by the event for the canyon—priceless. Special thanks also goes out to Nancy Ekstrom of Utopia in Montclair. Nancy did a great job with the silent auction, with incredible items and a beautiful display we all enjoyed.



Jean Quan walks people through the years on the canyon map

David Barron, president of the board of directors spoke of our progress, "...they said it could not be done." Jean discussed the

*Celebrity continues on page 3*



*John Donaldson, comedian or just affected by the heat?*



JOAQUIN MILLER PARK

CRANE WY

**SUCCESS!**

September 2007

Purchased by BCC with loan from City of Oakland and \$61,000 raised from neighborhood. Loan paid off through sale of Lot 5 to City as open space.

**SUCCESS!**

July 2007

Purchased by BCC for \$100,000. \$42,000 raised from neighborhood. BCC raised \$15,000 over next 2 years and paid down promissory note!

**CHALLENGE:**

Raise \$45,000 to pay off remainder of promissory note.

**SUCCESS!**

Acquired lots 6 & 7 in swap for adjoining lots.

	Butters Canyon Conservancy
	City of Oakland / Open Space Restriction
	Under Conservation Easement
	Peralta Creek

BRUNELL DR

RUBIN DR

# Butters Canyon Conservancy

**News you can use:**

New website address is coming soon... we will send you an email when it is "live" so you can tell all your friends, and create a new bookmark for yourself for easy access. We will of course link from the current website address in case you forget for a period of one year. Currently the website is still [www.butterslandtrust.org](http://www.butterslandtrust.org).

**Volunteers needed!**

We need help with flyer distribution, maintaining mailing lists, and event volunteers. Please contact Paul Dries at [pdries@earthlink.net](mailto:pdries@earthlink.net) if you can help.

**Editor & design:** Lynette Cravens ([lynette-c@live.com](mailto:lynette-c@live.com))

**Layout:** Paul Hoy ([ahoy@aol.com](mailto:ahoy@aol.com))



## FUNdraiser brings awareness of Butters Canyon

*Celebrity from page 1*

long road in securing this canyon from development and how well we have done as a community —coming together to make it all happen. As you all know, Jean was key in securing Measure DD funds which were used to acquire and preserve four lots in the canyon.



Left to right: Monte Poole, sports writer for the Tribune and Lynette Cravens, event coordinator and board member

We had over 20 door prizes this year, including generous donations from many local merchants from Melt Massage to the Golden State Warriors! Monte Poole joined us, and gave away our sports prizes. Paul Hoy, board member, created a beautiful and informative video. The presentation ran throughout the evening, taking us through time and showing the canyon before (and after) restoration and preservation efforts began. If you missed the event, you can view the video on our website. It will be ready for viewing in time for Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the next fundraiser. Thank you again for your generous donations and for bringing your love and excitement for the canyon to the event.

See you in the canyon!

## Yard sale brings the community together

*Yard sale from page 1*

John Donaldson, Butters Canyon volunteer and enthusiast was at attention and keeping us all laughing in the 90+ degree heat! Thanks John! And Val Kieser kept us entertained with her incredible accordion. Thanks Val! Great food was contributed by many. Money raised at the event went to pay down the \$45,000 loan resulting from the purchase of a lot in 2007, but we still have a way to go...every cent counts and every cent goes to support the efforts of conserving and preserving Butters Canyon.

Thanks again to all that attended and participated in either donating their time and energy—items to sell or all the above!



Val Keiser plays her accordion

## Clean-Up Efforts 2009

**Oakland Earth Day—April 18, 2009.** A stalwart crew of neighbors, friends and board members showed up for the National Earth Day event, which Oakland celebrates on the Saturday before the Official Earth Date of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The weather looked ominous, but turned out to be fair and pleasant. We were joined by several newcomers who heard about us through the City of Oakland's ad campaign. We appreciated the help! Also joining us were the neighborhood Butters Canyon fans coming together to rid the canyon of trash and invasive plants. Excellent home made treats were graciously supplied by Amy McClure, Cherie Donahue and Judy Anderson.



**Creek to Bay Day—September 19, 2009.** Oakland's 14th Annual Creek to Bay Day took place at Lake Merritt, the Oakland Estuary and twenty-four creek locations on Saturday, September 19, 2009, as part of the 25th annual California Coastal Clean-Up Day. Butters Canyon was one of those locations in the Oakland hills. We had many newcomers as well as our Butters Canyon neighborhood fans. A truck load of garbage, weeds and other invasive species were cleared, even Jean Quan stopped by to enjoy the great weather and assist in clean-up efforts. Thank you to all for a great job.

**See you next year!**

### Board of Directors

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Eric Ironson  
Jim Wolford

### Butters Canyon Conservancy

(formerly Butters Land Trust)  
3039 Burdeck Dr.  
Oakland, Ca. 94602  
415-395-4129 (David)  
510-530-2746 (Carol)  
[www.butterslandtrust.org](http://www.butterslandtrust.org)

Butters Canyon Conservancy  
(formerly Butters Land Trust)  
3039 Burdeck Dr.  
Oakland, CA 94602