



Butters Canyon Conservancy

Formerly Butters Land Trust

Protecting the Headwaters of Oakland's Peralta Creek

2010 Newsletter

A few words from our president:

David Barron

How Far We've Come

It's nearing the close of another year and for Butters Canyon it's been a good one. Since we last reported to you, the City of Oakland closed escrow for the purchase of the lot at the south end of the Canyon, bringing that critical unprotected lot under protection from development. The City intends to rezone all the lots it owns in the Canyon to Open Space, which will effectively ensure that they remain pristine and green for current and future generations.

As you can see from the map elsewhere in this newsletter, this makes a nearly unbroken chain of protected properties in the Canyon, stretching between the last developed lots at either end. There are two lots fronting on Butters Drive that remain in private ownership without conservation easements, but each lot contains a residence (on the end of the lot opposite Butters Drive), so they are already semi-protected.

However, we still owe \$35,000 on a purchase money loan for one of the lots. We've paid that down from \$60,000, so we're making real progress, but we have a ways to go. And the City's purchase of the end lot exhausted the Measure DD funds which were available for the protection of lots in the Canyon. Beyond this, we have ongoing annual expenses for things like property assessments, insurance, and fire clearance. (But no wages or salaries—we're all volunteers at BCC!) So our fundraising efforts are never finished, and our focus must turn away from the City and more towards our individual donor base.

We can look back over 2010, and the years since Butters Canyon Conservancy was formed as the Butters Land Trust, and take great pride in our accomplishments. From a humble beginning in one neighbor's living room, to a total of 11 lots protected, we've come a long, long way! We thank all of you—individual donors, the City of Oakland, the Bella Vista Foundation and the Skaggs Foundation—for helping us get this far.

For 2011, onward and upward! We're counting on your support to help us!

Oakland Hills and Butters Canyon Hike to Benefit the Canyon

by Dennis Evanosky (Guest Contributor)

Eleven hikers joined me for a three-hour hike that featured the history, geology and geography of Butters Canyon. This hike was introduced at the Butters Canyon Annual Fundraiser, "Celebrity Bartender and Silent Auction" at the Montclair Bistro. Each person paid \$20 to go on the hike, with all proceeds going to Butters Canyon.

Our first stop was "The Abbey," Joaquin Miller's home where we learned about the "Poet of the Sierras" and some of his shenanigans. Along the way we spoke about the flora and fauna—

Oakland Hills continues on page 3

2nd Annual Celebrity Bartender & Silent Auction Night at Montclair Bistro Huge Success Again!

by Lynette Hoy

Thank you to everyone who again supported us in our now inaugural event to benefit Butters Canyon! Wow! It just keeps getting better! Last year we raised just over \$2,000 and this year we raised \$4,832. A big thanks goes out to our celebrity bartender this year, Monte Poole. Even with the Giants playoffs game going on that night he was with us, and many of his friends joined us too. Fun was had by all, great food, fun and music.

We had a great surprise this year, as LynAnn King, of "LynAnn King and Jef Labes sing the timeless hits of Johnny Mercer" shared her love of Johnny Mercer with us, and it was a real treat. We listened with big smiles as she sang a melody, just giving us a taste of his timeless hits. LynAnn King performs dinner theatre across the Bay Area, so take a look at www.kingsings.com to see where she will be next!

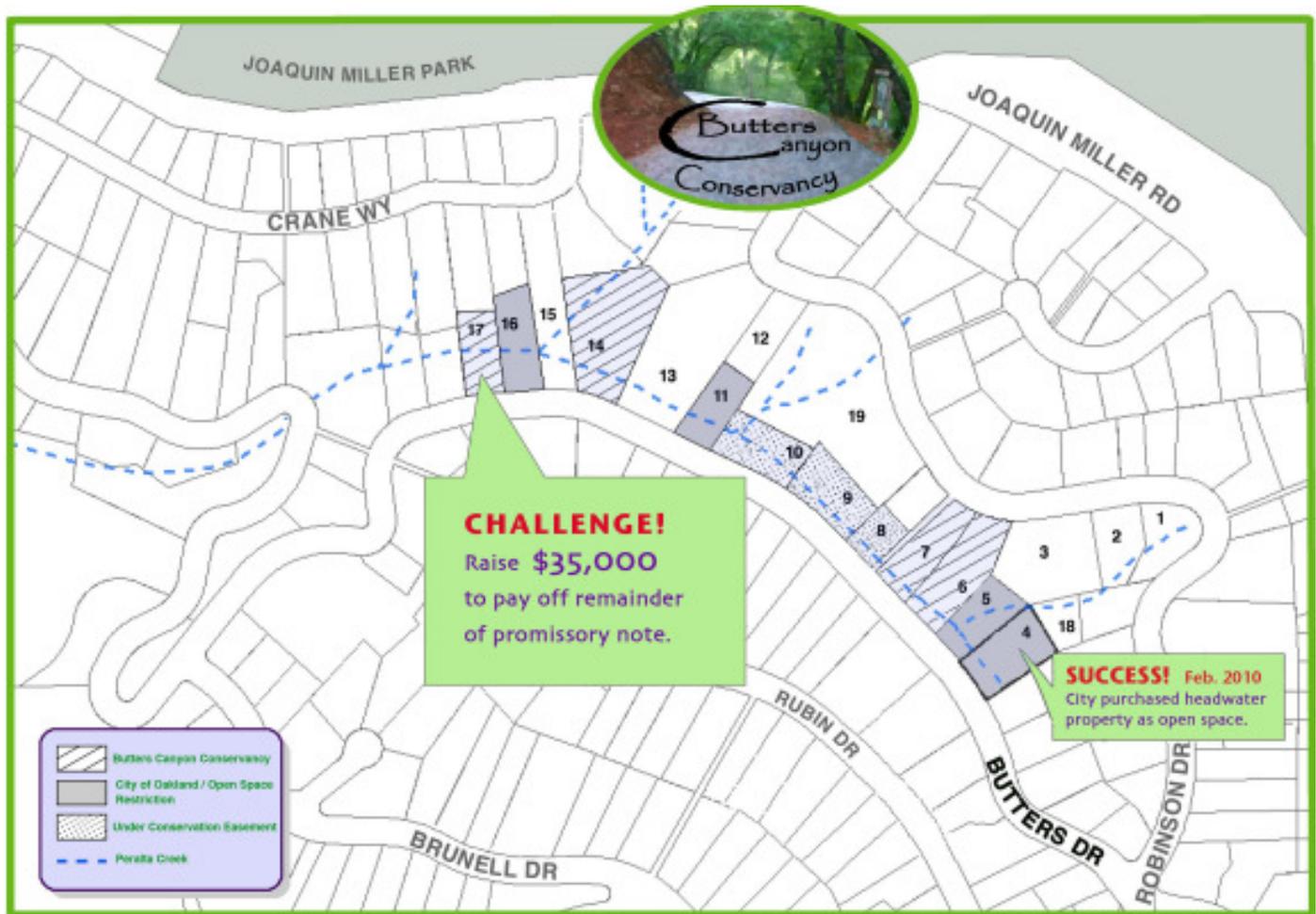
Our now new Mayor Jean Quan joined us, as did our new councilmember for district 4 Libby Schaaf, as well as candidate Melanie Shelby. We were happy and proud to see all those who support the Canyon and many new faces.

This year, Montclair Bistro donated a percentage of liquor sales and a percentage of dinner sales, so we had many people stay for dinner. Appetizers were served in the Garden Room where we had the main program. This year we had nearly 30 door prizes from local merchants like Melt Massage, Chabot Space and Science Center entry tickets, Montclair Physical Therapy and much more.

Celebrity continues on page 3



*Monte Poole the Celebrity Bartender and Stephanie Sokel,
at the Montclair Bistro Fundraiser*



Butters Canyon Conservancy



More Research Shows:

Kids are spending 50% less time outdoors than they did 20 years ago. The average child today spends more than seven-and one-half hours a day watching TV, playing video games or operating a computer.

Early-life outdoor experiences—whether alone or with others—have been identified as the most important factor in developing an environmental ethic.

Short-term exposure to natural areas through brief walks and even looking at images of nature has been found to have positive effects on mood, reducing feelings of anger and anxiety.

Sources: (Juster et al 2004); (Burdette & Whitaker 2005); (Kuo & Sullivan 2001).

Also see: www.beoutthere.org

Volunteers needed!

We need help with flyer distribution, maintaining mailing lists, and event volunteers. Please contact Paul Dries at pgdries@gmail.com if you can help.



Some of the amazing door prize items at the Bistro Fundraiser

Take Two Trees and Call Me in the Morning

Spending just a few minutes in a place with some trees can improve concentration, help with problem-solving and reduce stress. As little as 10 minutes in a green space can lower blood pressure. That's quite doable! So, get out there and spend time walking in Butters Canyon, take the kids, walk the dog, or just have some alone time.

Source:—Frances Kuo, Phd, codirector of the Human-Environment Research Lab. At the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Fundraiser Brings More Awareness of Butters Canyon

Celebrity from page 1

Many thanks to all our donors of door prizes! We did the silent auction this year and it was a real hit. Again, thanks to all of you that donated, we could not have done it without you! We had items from a Safari Trip in Africa, to incredible jewelry pieces created by our own Carol Bernau, to a wine tasting and lunch for six, courtesy of Clif Family Winery and Farm in St. Helena. We know this event will just continue to grow, and we look forward to sharing the fun with you again next year. If you have any great silent auction ideas, make sure to contact me at lynette-c@live.com.



People begin to gather for the Bistro Fundraiser

Paul Hoy, board member, again provided us with an incredible video to show us a taste of Creek to Bay Day, Oakland Earth Day, preservation before and after pictures and more. We promise to get it up on the website after the New Year for those of you that could not join us. David Barron, our president gave us an update. We had lots of fun giving away the door prizes and announcing the silent auction winners.

Thank you again for joining us and sharing your love of Butters Canyon. We appreciate your donations! We will see you next year. Until then, see you in the Canyon!

A CLEAN SWEEP!

by Carol Bernau

An able group of approximately 20 young women from the Mormon Helping Hands Service Project volunteered for public service to help the environment. They contacted City of Oakland's Environmental Services Division who put them in touch with Butters Canyon Conservancy. We were thrilled to have some extra help. Despite the efforts of all our volunteers on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day, there's always more to do to keep the canyon in good shape.

So, bright and early at 8 a.m. on a sunny morning in March a cheerful group of volunteers came ready to help. Under the guidance of BCC Board Members Dolores Apton and Bob Faber, the group uprooted and cleared a whole dumpster load of invasive Scotch broom and other debris from the canyon.

Once Scotch broom gets a foothold, it is very difficult to remove, and, as the year progresses, the plants are capable of dispersing thousands of seeds which then sprout and create – MORE Scotch broom. Why remove these seemingly pleasant yellow-blooming shrubs? First of all, broom creates a tremendous fire hazard, as it is extremely flammable, particularly during the dry fire season. Second, broom is such a successful non-native invader that it crowds out all the natives that normally grow. Third, when native plants are crowded out, so are all the native birds and insects which are vital to the habitat. It is a vicious circle.

We wish to thank the energetic group from the Mormon Helping Hands Service Project. And the plants and creatures of Butters Canyon thank you, too!

Oakland Hills and Butters Canyon Hike

Oakland Hills from page 1

including laurel, redwood and buckeye trees and rattlesnake grass.

We stepped out onto a landslide (that hasn't slid in a few hundred years, so it was safe) and talked about the Native America presence. I showed everyone a pair of Native American tools that I found on the landslide and talked about the hematite quarry just over the ridge. The Native Americans valued the hematite. They made red paint and placed the ground hematite in their burials.

The area has the most interesting geological history. We saw some rocks that date back more than a million years and learned about the formations that make up the Oakland hills (including one named for our friend Joaquin Miller).



Evanosky explains the history and geology of the area

We trekked by Butters Canyon and spoke about the conservancy and about Harry Butters, the man for whom the street and the canyon are named. Harry joined the British army and fought in World War One. He was killed at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

We ended the tour on the hill near the fire station where we were able to trace the (much-too-close) Hayward Fault below us. If you missed the hike, call Dennis to see when the next opportunity will be!

Call Dennis at: 510-772-5209, Email: evanosky@pacbell.net.

Website: www.oaklandhistory.com

Oakland Landmarks Blog: <http://oaklandmarks.blogspot.com/>



Mormon Helping Hands Service Project volunteers contributing to clean up Butters Canyon

Clean-Up Efforts 2010

OAKLAND EARTH DAY: All the friends and neighbors of Butters Canyon gathered to clear non-natives, especially pesky German ivy, as well as regular ivy, pulled weeds and tried to not get poison oak! We cleared trash and debris from the canyon and had fun doing it. We were joined by new neighbors living right by the Canyon, the Babineau-Lounds family—welcome! All enjoyed being green, ate homemade snacks and felt the joy of doing a good thing.



Hard at work in the canyon

Editor & design: Lynette Hoy (lynette-c@live.com)
Layout: Paul Hoy (ahoy@aol.com)

CREEK TO BAY DAY: Each year in September, the City of Oakland sponsors Creek to Bay Day, coinciding with National Coastal Cleanup Day. After all, everything that goes into our local creeks ends up in the Bay, doesn't it? This is our second canyon and creek clean-up event of the year. The zealous neighbors and friends who showed up rolled up their sleeves (it was warm and sunny!) and helped once again to clear trash, pull weeds, snack and socialize.

Board of Directors

David Barron, President
Carol Bernau, Secretary
Paul Dries, Treasurer
Lynette Hoy, Communications Director
Paul Hoy, Webmaster
Dolores Apton
Robert Faber
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.bccconservancy.org
butterslandtrust@aol.com

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