



Butters Canyon Conservancy

Formerly Butters Land Trust

Protecting the Headwaters of Oakland's Peralta Creek

2011 Newsletter - Happy Holidays

A few words from our president:

David Barron

Our Tenth Year!

This year was a milestone for us, marking our 10th anniversary! Butters Canyon Conservancy was incorporated in July of 2001 (as Butters Land Trust), and since then we've had some huge ups and downs, although even the downs were overcome in the long run. This year was largely free of the surprises, shocks, even panic attacks that we've seen in years past. That's a testament to how far we've come, and how much we've accomplished, as most of the lots along Butters Drive are under protection and can no longer be sold or developed.

This year was about consolidating our position. We had our third annual Celebrity Bartender and Silent Auction event at Montclair Bistro, and as before it was a resounding success. Our warmest thanks go to our new Councilmember Libby Schaaf, who poured drinks most of the evening. Our primary goal now is to pay off the promissory note we gave when we purchased the lot at the northwest end of the Canyon. The original amount of the note was \$60,000. Coming into this year, we owed \$35,000. This year, we expect to pay that down to \$25,000. We'd love to be able to pay it off all at once, but the slow, steady progress we've been making is the next best thing.

Beyond that, we had successful Canyon clean-up days on Earth Day in April, and Creek to Bay Day in September. This is a great opportunity for our neighbors to get involved at "ground level." We'll be doing it again this year, so watch your email.

While our main goal is payment of the promissory note, we also have ongoing expenses each year. For a good description of what those entail, see Paul Dries's column elsewhere in this newsletter. This will be the focus of our fundraising efforts, and we hope you'll pitch in to help us fulfill our obligations. And of course, we hope you'll keep walking and riding through the Canyon, and taking full advantage of what we've preserved together! Here's to future generations enjoying what we all cherish. We thank you so very much for your continued support and we hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

TRUE OR FALSE?

by Carol Bernau

1. The total amount of land conserved by land trusts in the United States is the size of the state of Washington.
2. California ranks first in the nation in acres conserved, and first in the Pacific (CA, HI, NV).
3. There are now 44 land trusts operating in California which are all-volunteer groups.
4. Preservation of urban parks, gardens or open spaces is now a priority for over 25% of land trusts.
5. Conservation receives only 2% of all charitable giving.

Answers on page 4

3rd Annual Celebrity Bartender & Silent Auction Night Fundraiser—another Success!

by Lynette Hoy

Thank you to everyone who came out once again and supported us in our most important event of the year to benefit Butters Canyon! We are eternally grateful to everyone. It just keeps getting better! Our first year we raised \$2,000, the second year \$4,832, and now in our third year, we raised over \$4,900. A big thanks goes out to our celebrity bartender this year, councilmember Libby Schaaf for district 4. She was great fun and folks enjoyed getting to know her more! Fun was had by all, great food, awesome door prizes and silent auction items.

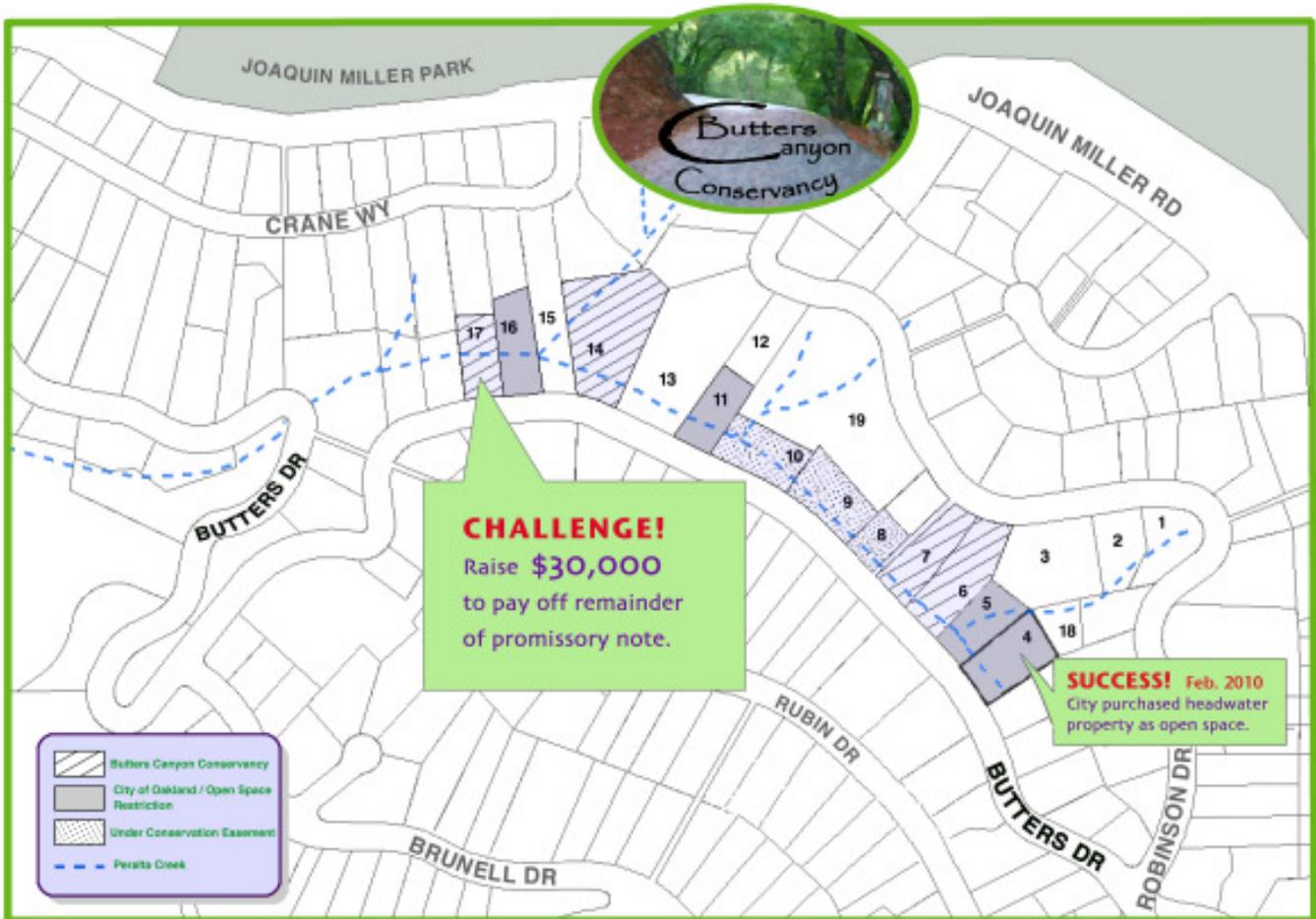
We had the joy of meeting many Montclair business owners we did not see last year as well and so many new faces—new renters and homeowners to the surrounding Oakland Hills. It was such a delight to see people meeting their neighbors, some for the first time!

Again this year, Montclair Bistro donated a percentage of liquor sales and a percentage of dinner sales, so many people stayed for dinner. We also had appetizers in the Garden Room where all the amazing silent auction items were displayed. This year we had someone serving us so more time was spent by all, viewing all the great items on display. We moved to have a majority of silent auction items and limited our door prizes as folks seemed to like that much better than in years past. What do you think? Let us know how you liked the offerings and if you would like to see other things too. We love feedback! The main program was in the Garden Room, where David Barron, president of the Butters Canyon Conservancy, updated everyone on where we are with the canyon. Libby Schaaf also spoke and told us a bit more about her commitments and some of her plans going forward.

Celebrity continues on page 3



*District 4 Council Member Libby Schaaf
preparing a drink at the Bistro event*



Butters Canyon Conservancy

Butters Canyon
Then (10 years ago)...



And now

Thanks to your support and hard work

Vacation Homes and Timeshares

By Paul Dries

Vacation homes, owned by neighbors, have proven to be a valuable fundraising tool for BCC. They are generally within driving distance and weekly and weekend rates are within the budget of many in the neighborhood.

Most vacation homes are vacant 85% of the time. Some people own timeshares they don't use. If you have a property you aren't utilizing or are under-utilizing think about allowing BCC to find a good tenant for a week or a weekend! This is a great income source for you and a tax write-off to boot, for the funds from the rental you donate to BCC.

It could be used throughout the year and not just once a year for a fundraising. Promotion would be limited to our neighborhood and neighborhood email listings to help insure the best possible renters (our neighbors) who will show the proper respect and look after your property. The exception would be close friends who live outside the neighborhood and have the same values. What a great idea to boost your return on investment and give back at the same time!

If you have any interest in assisting us with this fundraising effort, please reach out to Paul Dries, board member and treasurer. His email is pgdries@gmail.com.

Sudden Oak Death, do we have it in Butters Canyon?

By Dolores Apton

According to Matteo Garbelotto, who heads the Forest Pathology and Mycology Laboratory at UC Berkeley, it appears that the fungus-like pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death is showing up more frequently in the Oakland Hills. For now, the disease remains patchy in our area but it is known to have killed millions of trees along the Northern California coast since it was first detected about a decade ago. The mold, named *Phytophthora ramorum* favors cool moist foggy climates and is spread by Bay Laurels.

Although they transmit the disease it does not kill them. Mr. Garbelotto, who is one of the nation's foremost experts on Sudden Oak Death, has recruited citizen volunteers, including a Butters Canyon Conservancy Board Member, Dolores Apton to collect samples during a one day so-called SOD "blitz." On April 30, 2011, after a training session to detect disease symptoms, we each reported to our chosen territory to survey and collect samples from 10-20 Bay Laurels. We tagged the trees with plastic tape, noted the longitude and latitude of each one and put a leaf in an envelope to be analyzed by UC Berkeley students and staff.

So to answer the question—do we have it? I'm happy to report the results of the blitz last spring. None of the 10 Bay Laurel samples I collected in the canyon had the disease. However a homeowner in the neighborhood has reported that her Oak had Sudden Oak Death and had to be cut down. Comparing the results between 2010 and 2011 the infection rate is definitely increasing at an alarming rate. The survey turned up epidemic levels of the mold in Los Gatos and Saratoga – much higher levels than in previous years. In Marin County a disturbing 53% of the samples there tested positive compared with 35% a year ago.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The San Francisco Chronicle listed three ways you can help in a recent article: (1) remove bay trees near oaks; this increases the survival rate of oaks tenfold, (2) use phosphonate spray which has proved to be effective against the disease, (3) avoid doing large scale projects such as grading, soil removal or tree pruning in infected areas during the rainy season.

For more information please link to the UC website <http://www.matteolab.org> where all the SOD blitz 2011 results can be viewed as well as opportunities to attend future informational meetings in the area.

Financial Statement

Covering 6/1/2010 to 5/31/2011

by Paul Dries

Income - Donations and Grants (1)	\$10,520.00
Income - Fundraising (2)	\$4,757.70
Income Total	\$15,277.70
Expenses - Insurance (3)	\$2074.00
Expenses - Interest on Loan (4)	\$1,583.28
Expenses - Real Estate Taxes (5)	\$1,806.24
Expenses - Other (6)	\$361.89
Expenses Total	\$5,825.41
Principal Payments on Loan	\$10,000.00
Net Cash Flow	(\$547.71)

- (1) Includes donations from neighborhood and other supporters plus \$500 in company matching and \$1,000 volunteer grant from Chevron. Our Treasurer is a Chevron retiree and is able to file for these company benefits.
- (2) Celebrity Bartender and Silent Auction October 2010. 2011 results were similar.
- (3) Insurance - Directors and Officers Insurance and Property Insurance
- (4) Interest on loan which resulted from purchase of a lot in 2007. Original balance was \$60,000.
- (5) Real Estate Taxes - BCC pays parcel taxes on 4 lots
- (6) Other Expenses include Land Trust Alliance Dues, meeting expenses and corporate fees.

Directors are all volunteer and there are no paid employees.



Good time had by all at Bistro Event

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 again this year and everyone loved it. Last year we had a trip to Africa that was purchased but by the time we went to print we were unable to interview the winners, so stay tuned! Another email will tell you all about it. We had several trips this year, from a weekend in New York City to a week in Barbados! Again, thanks to all of you that donated, we could not have done it without you! We again had a trip or two for a Safari Trip in Africa, to incredible jewelry pieces created by our own Carol Bernau, to a wine tasting for six, courtesy of Clif Family Winery in St. Helena. Stay tuned as there are fundraising changes coming, with lots of fun to be had by all. Paul Hoy, board member and webmaster for BCC, again provided us with an updated incredible video to show us a taste of Creek to Bay Day, Oakland Earth Day, preservation before and after pictures and more. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can get it posted to the website after the New Year for those of you that could not join us.

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

True or False Answers

- 1. True.** Land trusts are nonprofit organizations that work with private land owners to voluntarily conserve forests, farms, parks, and other cherished places that enrich our lives. Despite a weak economy, more U.S. land is being voluntarily conserved, as urban parks, family farms, forests, gardens and even farmers' markets – a total of 10 million acres in the last 5 years. Land saved from development jumped 27%, from about 37 million acres in 2005 to 47 million in 2010, according to a five-year census of the nation's 1,700 private land trusts by the Land Trust Alliance, a conservation umbrella group for land trusts.
- 2. True.** Land trusts in California have protected 2,303,442 acres—this represents a 34% increase in acres conserved since 2005.
- 3. True.** There are now 197 land trusts operating in California, including 103 staffed groups and 44 all-volunteer groups. Your local land trust, Butters Canyon Conservancy, is an all-volunteer group. We rely on volunteers for all of the work we accomplish.
- 4. True.** Preserving urban parks, gardens or open spaces is now a priority for 27% of trusts, a threefold increase over respondents in 2005.
- 5. True.** According to a study by Giving USA, conservation only receives 2% of all charitable giving. Most people believe it deserves more, and are surprised at this figure. Butters Canyon Conservancy depends on the support of the neighborhood and others in the Bay Area for its survival. We hope you will remember us when you plan this year's giving.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for new board members, and we also need additional volunteers for flyer distribution, maintaining mailing lists, and event volunteers. Please contact Paul Dries at pgdries@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Board of Directors

David Barron, President
Carol Bernau, Secretary
Paul Dries, Treasurer
Lynette Hoy, Communications Director
Paul Hoy, Webmaster
Dolores Apton
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