



Butters Canyon Conservancy

December, 2013

Formerly Butters Land Trust

Protecting the Headwaters of Oakland's Peralta Creek

Who was Henry Augustus Butters?

(Sue Duckles)

What could be more surprising than a recent e-mail from the UK received by BCC President David Barron? "Subject: Henry Augustus Butters Jr and Sr. Have you anything to do with these two important sons of Oakland? David Sunray, Arundel, Sussex, England". David Barron replied

that many of the streets in this area were named for men killed in WWI. According to local historian Dennis Evanosky, Butters Drive was named after Henry Augustus



Butters Jr. (or Harry). Research by Mr. Sunray revealed that Butters Jr. was born on 28 August 1892 in San Francisco, son of Henry Butters and Lucy Beebe Butters of Oakland. Butters Jr. joined the British Army in 1916.

Why was Mr. Sunray interested in Harry Butters Jr? His wife's family had, for many years, a large pocket watch inscribed on the back: Henry A. Butters Jr., 1905



(picture). R. W. Edwards, Oakland Cal (a well regarded silversmith from 1901 to 1914), is printed on the watch in two places. Captain Nelson Zambra, Somme, Sept 1,

1916 wrote: "Harry and another officer were in the dugout at the gun position. The Germans were putting over a heavy barrage of gas shells and the air became very poisonous. Harry said, "It's time we moved out of this"...Immediately he was outside, a gas shell hit him direct. Death must have been instantaneous."

It is amazing that, using the internet, someone on the other side of the world could find out so much about the namesake of Butters Dr., and then bring us knowledge of such a beautiful memento. It is not known how this watch ended up with the Sunrays. But, those of us who enjoy Butters Canyon have something new to think about when we walk down Butters Rd.

Ref: An American Citizen, published 1917: Life and War Letters of Henry Jr.

President's Letter

2013 has been a year for us to "stay the course." After our roller-coaster early years, with the land sales, surprise auctions, swaps, and conservation easements, Butters Canyon Conservancy has settled comfortably into a more mature phase.

Our primary goal right now is payment of the purchase money loan on the last lot we purchased. We continue to pay it down, and now owe only \$15,000. That's \$45,000 we've paid down since the

B.



purchase (not including the \$40,000 cash we paid at closing). With your help we've made solid, steady progress.

The loan was initially financed by the seller, but in order to pay that off two public-spirited neighbors stepped forth and refinanced the loan. Our current lenders deserve to be paid back, and our fund-raising efforts are directed primarily towards that end.

But our on-going mission is also stewardship. We have an obligation to maintain the lots that have been preserved. This includes annual fire clearance and the removal of downed trees, as well as periodic removal of items that have been illegally dumped.

C.



Those of you who have helped us on Creek to Bay Days, Earth Days and canyon clean-up days know what that takes. You know how big the job can seem, and how much a group of dedicated neighbors can accomplish in just one morning. (And those of you who came to the last Creek to Bay Day know the answer to the question: "Exactly how wet can you get without actually drowning?")

We also have on-going expenses for insurance and taxes, and miscellaneous administrative expenses. As a non-profit we don't pay base property taxes, but we are obligated for some of the many assessments that you all see on your tax bills. Paul Dries, our hard-working treasurer, has managed to reduce some of those assessments, but they haven't been eliminated.

D.



So we very much still depend on your support. We need to honor our obligation to our lenders, and maintain enough

in the bank to cover on-going expenses. Please give whatever you can to help us preserve the gem that is Butters Canyon.

And of course, take time to visit the Canyon. Take in the peace and serenity, try to spot a few of the animals and birds who make their home there, and enjoy the fruits of your support. The Canyon is only as valuable as the pleasure it provides us all.

David Barron

Children's Corner

(or for the child at heart).

Who Lives in Our Canyon?

See if you can identify all five animal pictures in this newsletter.

(Key on Page 4)

Treasurer's Report Paul Dries

INCOME	
Donations	
Individuals	\$9,634.00
Employee Match	\$800.00
Other non profits	\$600.00
Business	\$1,000.00
Total donations	\$12,034.00
Tax and Insurance rebates (one time)	
Tax rebate	\$3,120.00
Insurance rebates	\$796.00
Total rebates	\$3,916.00
Total donations and rebates	\$15,950.00
EXPENSES	
Insurance	\$1,400.00
Property tax	\$1,223.00
Debt interest	\$694.00
Administration & general	\$86.00
Printing & postage	\$227.00
Total expense	\$3,630.00
Debt Payment	\$10,000.00
Cash remaining	\$2,320.00

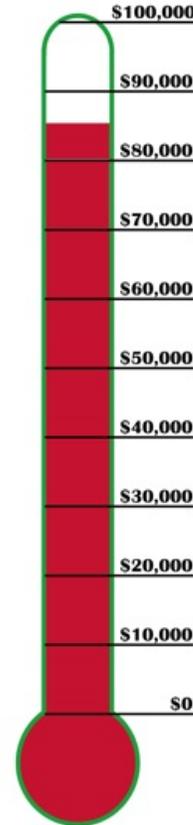
(All data for fiscal year ending 5/31/2013.
One time rebates: reimbursement of 4 years of OUSC tax, change of insurance company.)



Land Acquisition Debt: Current status

BUTTERS CANYON CONSERVANCY

**ONLY \$15,000
MORE TO GO!**



**THANK YOU TO OUR
MANY SUPPORTERS!**

BUTTERS CANYON CONSERVANCY, with your help, purchased one of the last undeveloped lots in the Canyon when it was threatened with development.

BUTTERS CANYON CONSERVANCY didn't have the necessary funds on hand, so the purchase required taking out a large loan. Supporters provided a big initial boost by paying for the down payment, and have contributed \$85,000 so far.

BUTTERS LAND TRUST needs to pay off the remainder of this loan, which in total is just over \$100,000.

**PLEASE MAKE
A DONATION!**

**KEEP YOUR
CANYON GREEN!**

How you can help *Volunteer!*

We need your help to maintain the canyon. Volunteers for workdays such as Earth Day in the spring and Creek to Bay Day in the Fall are always needed. Do you have ideas for Canyon activities or fund-raising? Nothing can be done without committed volunteers. We need new board members and additional volunteers for flyer distribution.

Donate!

Even when we pay off existing loans for land acquisition, we still have annual costs to pay, including taxes on each parcel, and insurance. Our treasurer has worked hard to bring costs down, but we still have to pay our taxes!

Remember BCC in your will!

"I give and bequeath to Butters Land Trust, Federal tax identification number 04-6962275, currently located at 3039 Burdeck Drive, Oakland, Ca 94602, (the sum of \$_____ or _____ % percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate or the proceeds from the sale of property I own by my estate located at _____) for its general purposes."

**Butters Canyon Conservancy
Board of Directors**

David Barron, President
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Paul Dries, Treasurer
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Sue Duckles, Newsletter Editor
Robert Faber
Eric Ironson
David Stone



Butters Canyon Conservancy

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Key: Who Lives in Our Canyon?
A. Dusky Footed Wood Rat
B. Great Horned Owl
C. Black Tailed Deer
D. Raccoon
E. Gray Fox
F. Skunk

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