

Butters Land Trust

—preserving the headwaters of Peralta Creek

April 2002

Butters Land Trust conserves wild landscapes in Butters Canyon and along Peralta Creek and promotes environmental awareness throughout the watershed, to preserve vital habitat for all Bay Area residents to enjoy.

Board of Directors

*Priscilla Stuckey, President
Stuart Richardson, Vice President
Judy Anderson, Secretary
Carol Bernau, Treasurer
Dolores Apton
Ismael Pulido*

Advisory Members

*Jacqui Smalley, Golden Gate
Audubon Society
Pat Eckhardt, Golden Gate
Audubon Society*

But solitude is only a human presumption. Every quiet step is thunder to beetle life underfoot.

—Barbara Kingsolver, *Prodigal Summer*

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www.butterslandtrust.org
blt@butterslandtrust.org**

More Lots Purchased for Preservation!

The land trust is thrilled to announce that the two lots immediately upstream from the land trust's present lots have been purchased by a neighbor for preservation. (See canyon map on p. 3.) This family is planning to donate the lots to the land trust within the year. Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming dedication celebrations!

Dedication Ceremony a Joyous Event

On Saturday, February 2, about fifty neighbors and friends of Butters Canyon met at the bridle path to celebrate the donation of three parcels to the land trust. Several horses and riders were among the fifty, as were a few of the dogs who walk daily through the canyon. Just as the celebration was getting under way, the group made way for a fire truck steaming slowly along the drive, as firefighters from our local station came to celebrate with us.

"We preserve land so that more people, not fewer, can enjoy it."

With these words Priscilla Stuckey welcomed all to the ceremony, which had been planned by Dolores Apton and Carol Bernau. After introducing the board of directors, she was followed by a representative of the Bay Area Open Space Council, Brian Rod, who had helped to open the conversation with the

landowners that led to donating the lots. Councilmember Dick Spees offered his enthusiastic support for preservation efforts, remarking that Butters Canyon is slated for acquisition funds through the city as soon as they become available. A ceremonial "cutting of the ivy" marked the official start of the land trust's preservation work.

Plants of the Canyon

a walk along Butters Drive with East Bay native plant expert

Michael Thilgen

Sat., May 4, 2002

10:00 A.M.

meet on Butters Drive at the Robinson (upstream) end of the canyon

Local poet Michael McClure closed the celebration with a reading of several of his poems. He was accompanied by the faint rustle of deer in the underbrush across the creek and the faraway sound of a flute. At the close of festivities the group enjoyed homemade cookies and sparkling cider.

The festivities were covered by Rob Roth of Channel 2 and camerawoman (also neighbor) Renee Gaumont, who put together a fine story that aired that night. Gary Turchin of the *Montclarion* devoted his column to the event, offering a superb overview of the trust and its work.

For more information on donating land or conservation easements, contact Carol Bernau at 530-2746.



20,000 Native Plants in Dimond Canyon

Hundreds of volunteers have been busy throughout the rainy season planting more than 20,000 native plants in the newly restored Dimond Canyon. Every Saturday morning and often on weekdays throughout the winter they gathered to scratch holes in the mud and place wildflowers, plants, shrubs, and trees in the dirt.

The Friends of Sausal Creek report that volunteers put in 15,500 hours of work for the project— or 7.45 person-years!

Enjoy the budding growth by taking a walk in Dimond Canyon. Head down Park Boulevard, turn left at El Centro (1 block above the Chevron station), and park at the trailhead. Walk along the creek and check out all the new, fast-growing plants. Take your dog as well, but please keep Rover on a leash!

Land Trust Gets New Advisory Board Members

The Butters Land Trust is fortunate to be adding two advisory members to the board. Jacqui Smalley and Pat Eckhardt, both from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, will provide their expertise in environmental law and nonprofit organization. Welcome to both of you, and thanks for helping out!



Great horned owl babies, hatched in March, look like this just about now, one month later. They will be ready to leave the nest in May. Owl habitat overlaps with that of hawks, with hawks hunting by day and owls by night. The great horned owls are the ones we hear hooting in the canyon during the evening and night hours. By day they hide at their roost sites, but you may spot them at the center of a crowd of scolding blue jays. Great horneds eat prey ranging in size from rats to skunks. Their powerful feet have two outer toes that can rotate to get a firm grip on prey. Great horned owls may retain their mates from season to season. They keep permanent territories, remaining in the area year-round.

Photo by Greg Clark

Earth Day Is Here!

The City of Oakland is encouraging everyone to pick up a few pieces of litter for Earth Day. If you want to have fun with others, join in one of the many Earth Day celebrations around the city. Here are two of them:

Saturday, April 20, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., Clinton Basin, Oakland Beach cleanup and planting grasses

Join the Golden Gate Audubon Society, BayKeeper, the Port of Oakland, and the local neighborhood association to clean up the beach along Oakland's Embarcadero and plant grasses for wetland restoration.

Take 880 to Fifth Avenue, turn onto the Embarcadero, park, and walk toward the bay. Signs will direct you.

Saturday, April 20, 9 A.M. to noon, Dimond Park and Joaquin Miller Park Weeding & propagating native plants

Join the Friends of Sausal Creek either in Dimond Canyon or at the native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. In Dimond Park, along El Centro (off Park Blvd.) the Friends will be weeding the native plant garden next to the creek.

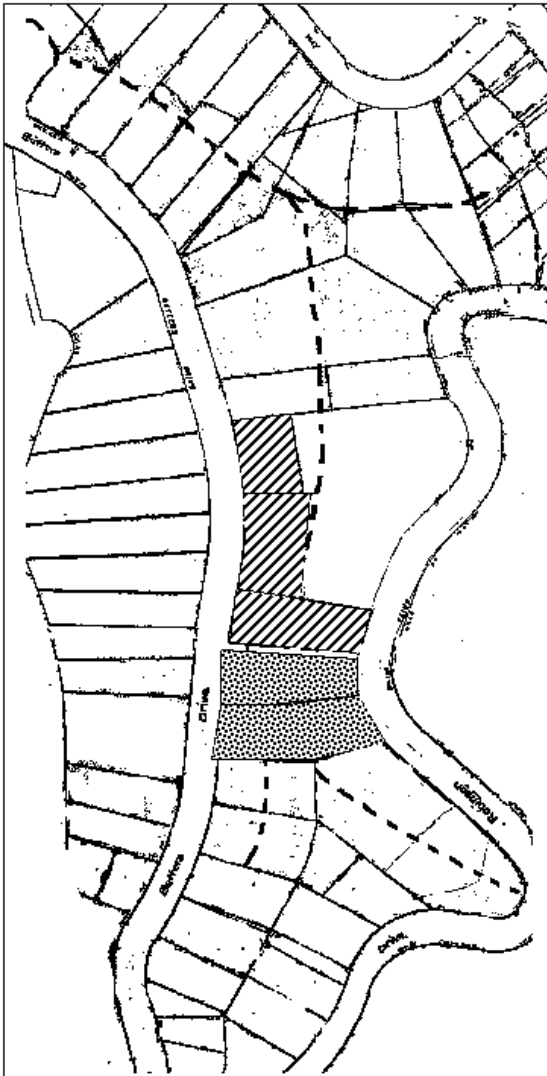
In Joaquin Miller Park, volunteers will propagate native plants at the ongoing native plant nursery. Take Robinson across the street into the park, go past the community center, and follow the signs to the nursery.



Friend of Butters Canyon: Lois Johnson

Lois Johnson is a realtor who lives in the neighborhood and was instrumental in arranging the recent sale of two lots to the family wishing to preserve them. Our gratitude to you, Lois, for helping that transaction take place! Lois has indicated she will be donating part of her commission from this sale to the land trust. Thanks again!

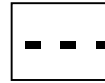
Lois would like readers to know that if clients request it, she is willing to donate a percentage of her commission on any real estate sale to the land trust. Support like this from many directions is what makes the land trust successful!



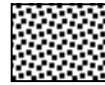
Butters Canyon



Parcels preserved in perpetuity through donation to the land trust



Peralta Creek



Parcels purchased for preservation

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are always welcome, to do anything from office work to publicity to distributing leaflets to fundraising. If you have a few hours to contribute, please call the land trust at 482-2496.

Sponsor Needed for Sign!

The land trust would like to install a sign on its property—a simple kiosk design made of reclaimed redwood, like the signs found in the regional parks. We've already lined up the reclaimed redwood and the volunteer labor for the sign, but one-time fees and permits from the City of Oakland amount to more than \$500. Is there someone who would like to sponsor this sign?

Please support the work of Butters Land Trust!

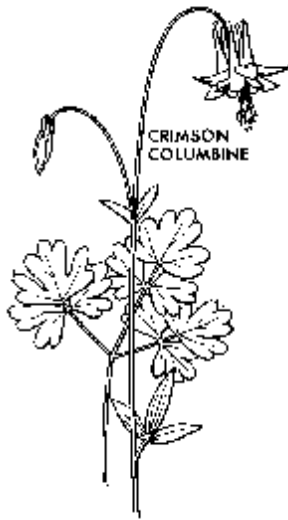
1000 steps will take you on a round trip through the canyon. Donate only a nickel or dime—or even a penny—for each step of canyon way that you enjoy, and you can be enrolled as a supporter of canyon preservation. The land trust would like to add 1000 names to its list of supporters in the next year.

A nickel per step amounts to only \$50. With this donation, the land trust can purchase about 4 square feet of canyon property.

A dime per step is \$100, or 8 square feet of canyon property. A hundred dollars also represents a month of operating expenses for the nonprofit.

A dollar per step adds up to \$1000, which purchases 80 square feet of creekside property. It also pays for a year's liability insurance on preserved canyon parcels.

Make your check out to: Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation. Mail it in the enclosed envelope to: Butters Land Trust, 6114 LaSalle Ave. #168, Oakland, CA 94611.



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