

# Butters Canyon Conservatory

DECEMBER 2019

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2019 comes to a close, BCC is “another year older and deeper in...” Wait a minute, we’re not deeper in debt; you helped us pay off our mortgage a while ago! However, our treasury is not entirely robust, and could use a little infusion. We haven’t asked you, our loyal supporters, for over a year. Our expenses have increased, and we know you have just been waiting to be asked!

So we’re just another year older. Or, as we prefer to think of it, another year more mature. And we have matured a great deal since our founding as Butters Land Trust, way back in 2001. As most of you know by now, **we’ve protected almost all the Canyon**, either through acquisition of parcels or conservation easements, or by having the City take title to parcels as open space.

But our work is never done. We continue to convene on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day each year, to engage in removal of invasive plants, new planting, and general Canyon clean-up. And we still have parcel taxes and insurance premiums to pay. (While we’re generally not required to pay basic property taxes, we are required to pay certain parcel taxes and special assessments.)

**Our work is never done. We rely on your support!**

**Oh, and did we mention fire clearance?** We all know how bad the fire danger has been in Northern California. For those who might have forgotten, the recent power outages (both threatened and actual) should have brought home the message. As a result, the City has been much more rigorous in their clearance requirements. We can do some of the clearance ourselves, but the job is too big for a handful of volunteers to handle, and the rest we have to pay for. For example, last year our costs were \$2580. Our clearance costs have been increasing significantly, and we don’t see that trend reversing any time soon.

Thus, our need for funding continues. Everyone in the neighborhood (and those cycling through) enjoys the Canyon, and we rely on the support of all of you to help us fulfill our mission of Canyon stewardship. We hope you’ll remember us as part of your year-end contributions.

Before closing, I want to say a special thank you to **Sue Duckles**. Sue has been our Treasurer for a number of years, and has done a tremendous job in a sometimes demanding, usually unsung task. She recently retired, and has had to step down as our Treasurer. We expect her to continue her involvement generally with BCC, though, and she’ll remain a fixture in the neighborhood. If you see her in the Canyon, be sure to say hello and thank you!



✦ Thank you, Sue!

—David Barron, President

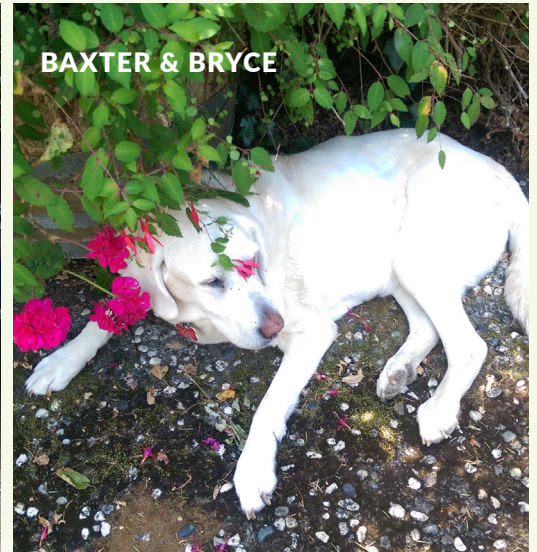
# The Dogs OF BUTTERS CANYON

Dogs do seem to love Butters Canyon. It's a neighborhood meeting and greeting place for dogs and dog walkers. Friendships (among people and/or dogs) have been made along the way. So, here to kick it off, and perhaps to inspire you to follow suit:



← Coco and Gidget have been looking forward to “work days” at Butters Canyon for as long as they’ve been mine; Coco (the lighter pup) since 2011 and Gidget, her younger sister, since 2012. Twice a year they get to romp and play and get hecka dirty in Butters Canyon. It is truly a dog’s paradise. Working at Butters Canyon for Earth Day in the spring and Creek to Bay Day in the fall are two firm commitments on my calendar.

—Dolores Apton



✿ Baxter was never happier than when on a walk to Butters Canyon, a ball in his mouth and smile in his heart. His curly tail — distinguishing him from other Labs — flagged his upbeat persona. Each walk was an adventure and chance to meet and greet, and if he was lucky, romp a little in the canyon, sniffing out tennis balls (amazing how many he found!) Baxter The Yellow Lab and his predecessor Bryce both have gone over the Rainbow Bridge, where they are able to play in the canyon every day, not having to bothering with leashes, and with an endless supply of thrown balls to fetch.

—Carol Bernau & John O'Shea



✿ Lily (left) has lived next to Butters Canyon for all of her 8 years. She loves to take walks along the canyon, sniffing all the smells of fauna and flora, and listening to the birds and squirrels. Sometimes Lily barks to let her family know that something is in the canyon. It's usually a human or a dog, but occasionally it's a deer or coyote. Lily loves Butters Canyon!

Bec (right) is Lily's little brother who just turned one. He also loves Butters Canyon. Bec is a Chinook, which is a breed known for their friendliness. Nothing makes Bec happier than walking in the canyon and meeting other dogs and humans. He looks forward to many more years of adventure in our beautiful canyon!

—Bobbi Babineau-Lounds

## What better way to celebrate Butters Canyon than to sponsor a “Dogs of Butters Canyon” photo contest?

Please submit your photo(s) and a brief description of your dog(s) to [carol.bernau@gmail.com](mailto:carol.bernau@gmail.com). All entries will be posted on the kiosk in Butters Canyon for everyone to admire. (Or a centerfold in our next issue of the newsletter?)

## HELP WANTED!

### BCC Treasurer

We're looking for someone with some accounting experience and detail orientation to take over our Treasurer position for Butters Canyon Conservancy. You'd need to spend about 40-50 hours a year as Treasurer plus attending Board meetings every other month (and sharing pizza and beer), and hopefully participating in canyon activities. Responsibilities include making Federal and State required filings, paying taxes and invoices, keeping and reconciling donor and banking records, and interfacing with City and County tax offices regarding exemptions, property taxes, etc. This is of course a volunteer position. Benefits include working with a convivial group of volunteers and the neighborhood's eternal gratitude. If you are interested, or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Dave Barron at (email) or Carol Bernau, Acting Treasurer, at [carol.bernau@gmail.com](mailto:carol.bernau@gmail.com).

### More Help Wanted

BCC in its over 18 years has been fortunate to know a cadre of dedicated supporters. However, as time passes some of our most ardent fans have experienced life changes and can no longer participate. So, we always need volunteers to:

- Join our Board of Directors
- Deliver newsletters
- Post flyers for events
- Organize our manual and digital files
- Maintain our website
- Maintain our canyon kiosk
- Help organize events
- Join us on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day
- Loan a chipper or gas-powered weedwhacker
- Make cookies for Earth Day volunteers
- Donate!



Question:  
What is  
Maria  
looking at?

Answer on last page →

## BUTTERS CANYON CONSERVANCY

(aka "Butters Land Trust")  
6114 La Salle Ave. #745  
Oakland, CA 94611-2802



## Save these dates in 2020

*Earth Day (Oakland)*  
Saturday, April 18

*Creek to Bay Day*  
Saturday, September 19

## Answer: A Nest!

Maria, our neighborhood birdwatcher extraordinaire, uncovered this nest on Canyon Day while pulling invasive ivy. She returned a few hours later to check. She saw a Song Sparrow calmly sitting on the nest and eggs. Song Sparrows are year-round residents of the canyon.

