

THE CLAREMONT CANYON CONSERVANCY

A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF CLAREMONT CANYON

FALL 2008 *News*



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A LONE RIDER ALONG SKYLINE TRAIL crosses the EBMUD watershed east of Grizzly Peak Boulevard at Four Corners. In 2002, the Conservancy worked with the late CDF Chief John Elliff, and the Diablo Fire Safe Council, to arrange with EBMUD and the CDC Delta forces to thin shrubs and manage weeds here. The area has since been maintained by EBMUD crews. The resulting mosaic of grassland, shrubland, and tree cover comprise an outstanding example of a strategic ridge fuel break system designed to contain wildfire before it passes down into Claremont Canyon.

Fire Safety in Claremont Canyon

by Martin Holden

FROM ITS INCEPTION, the Claremont Canyon Conservancy has been concerned with fire safety in and around the Canyon. We believe that all parties, public and private, share in the responsibility of reducing wildfire risk.

We support our public stakeholders, the East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay MUD, the University of California, and the City of Oakland in their efforts to create zones of managed vegetation along the wildland-urban interface and along ridgetops and roads. Usually this means removing invasive, exotic, flammable vegetation, such as eucalyptus and broom. In some cases, thinning and cutting native vegetation may also be required. The resulting zones offer reduced fuel loads and provide critical places for firefighters to stage their equipment and defend against an oncoming wildfire.

When taking fire safety measures, we must also keep in mind the ecological health of the land. Fortunately, the two goals go hand-in-hand: discouraging exotic and encouraging native vegetation can lead to a more sustainable habitat as well as a more robust and firesafe landscape.

At least two major programs of wildfire mitigation are under way in Claremont Canyon, a FEMA-funded program on UC land and a locally-funded Measure CC program on Park District land (see page 7). Both are undergoing administrative review and environmental impact assessments. Hopefully, by our next newsletter, there will

be more to report on each of these important programs.

On private land, homeowners and businesses can do their part by scrupulously following city guidelines for creating defensible space around structures and for choosing appropriate building materials that address fire safety. Recent research shows that wise planning at the home site is one of the best predictors of surviving a wildland fire. The State of California's General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space can be found on the Wildfire Prevention District's website (www.OaklandWPD.org). An important new resource for assessing the fire safety of your home can be found at UC's Center for Fire Research and Outreach website (<http://firecenter.berkeley.edu>).

A final component of reducing wildfire risk is careful attention to ignition sources, in particular under power lines, along narrow road edges, and in places where people and cars congregate. Reporting suspected ignitions or blocking of road access is everyone's job, especially during high-wind/low-humidity days that we see each year in the fall. Fortunately for this year a little rain has come early, giving us a brief sigh of relief.

In the following pages you can read about the Conservancy's ongoing programs to help our community become more informed and more appreciative and knowledgeable about the wildland at our doorstep. The goal of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy is to energize all of us to become better stewards of the land. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join.

Nature Walks and Stewardship Sessions

by the Nature Walk and Stewardship Committee:
Matt Morse, Mary Millman and Bill McClung

APPRECIATION OF CLAREMONT CANYON is greatly enhanced by being in the Canyon with friends and knowledgeable people. Please join us for our nature walks and stewardship sessions listed on this page. Admission is free. Some of our favorite places in the Canyon are Garber Park, Gwin Canyon, Four Corners, the Side Hill Trail, the Claremont Chert, and the Chips (sites where eucalyptus were cut and chipped). Please *rsvp* claremontcanyon@hotmail.com to assure your place and to get last minute changes or call 510-843-2226.

Stewardship: On the first Saturday of the month for six consecutive months we will conduct relatively intensive stewardship sessions in UC's chip area focusing on exotic abatement and native rejuvenation. We will consider the meanings of stewardship in specific areas. Mary Millman will lead this series in coordination with UC's Tom Klatt. On the third Saturday of the month we visit a place in the Canyon to observe the flora and fauna, repair trails, pick up trash, manage weeds, and do other work that will help preserve and enhance Claremont Canyon. Bill McClung will lead this series.



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BUTTERFLY MAVEN BARBARA DEUTSCH, a frequent nature walk leader, shows students from John Muir School host plants and caterpillars on a walk in Garber Park organized by our UC Intern Casey Amberger. If you would be interested to work on a committee to expand our school program at John Muir and other local schools, please contact Bill McClung at wmcclung@rcn.com.

Schedule of Events

October 26 – *Successional and Fire Dynamics in Claremont Canyon with Joe McBride* – Meet at the end of Norfolk Road, 9 to 11 a.m.

November 1 – *Stewardship with Tom Klatt in the University's eucalyptus removal areas*, 9 to noon. Meet at the Chert, .2 miles above Alvarado on Claremont Avenue. Rsvp to sfflea@earthlink.net. First of 6 consecutive monthly sessions.

November 9 – *Yoga Time with Domonick Wegesin*. Meet at the Rispin entrance to Garber Park, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

November 15 – *Stewardship with the Berkeley Project volunteers*. Meet at Four Corners, 9 to 12 noon.

November 18 – *Redwood Walk in Upper Canyon* with Joe Engbeck and Mia Monroe, longtime Muir Woods park supervisor. Starting at Four Corners to the Redwood Creek Place. Meet at Four Corners, 10 to 12 noon.

November 23 – *A Botanizing Ramble Down into Gwin Canyon* with Chris Thayer and Stephen Edwards, 2 to 4 p.m. Meet at the end of Norfolk Road.

November 28 – *Thanksgiving Weekend Geology Walk with Doris Sloan*, author of *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*. We plan to concentrate on the geology and flora of the dramatic Claremont Canyon Chert, the old quarry that is exposed along Claremont Avenue at University Turnout 29 above Alvarado Road. Meet at the Chert, .2 miles above Alvarado on Claremont Avenue, 10 to 12 noon.

December 6 – *Stewardship with Tom Klatt* in the University's eucalyptus removal areas. 9 to 12 noon. Meet at the Chert, .2 miles above Alvarado on Claremont Avenue. Second of 6 consecutive sessions. Rsvp to sfflea@earthlink.net.

December 7 – *Birds of Claremont Canyon* with Dave Quady. 8 to 11 a.m. Starting at Four Corners. With a bonus: the "let's see if we can find any owls!" session, beginning at University Turnout 28 at 5 a.m., lasting until about 6:30 a.m. Our daytime walk will be a preview of what might be found in the canyon during the December 14 Oakland Christmas Bird Count, which Dave Quady has led in Claremont Canyon for many years.

December 14 – *The Trees and Plants of Garber Park with Lech Naumovich*. Meet at the Rispin entrance to Garber Park, 10 to 12 noon.

January 3 – *Stewardship with Tom Klatt* in the University's eucalyptus removal areas. 9 to 12 noon. Meet at the Chert, .2 miles above Alvarado on Claremont Avenue. Third of 6 consecutive sessions. Rsvp to sfflea@earthlink.net.

Adopt a Spot

by Matt Morse

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW OF YOU to help test and perfect a new project called *Adopt-a-Spot in Claremont Canyon*. Volunteers, either singly or in groups, will "adopt" an area in the Canyon for stewardship activities. The size of the "spot" and the frequency of stewardship work are up to you. For example, you might adopt a turnout along Claremont Avenue

and work removing invasive exotic plants such as French broom or hemlock once a month for a couple of hours. Or, you might be interested in an area near a stream or in the redwoods, with activities every other month. Some of you who commute through the canyon might like to do some light caretaking for an hour or so each week.

We're setting up a website for participants to map their spot, share their thoughts and activities, upload photographs of flora and fauna, announce events related to the spot, and so on.

You can see a preliminary version of this website at: <http://tinyurl.com/4y6elr>.

Claremont canyon is a big place (around 500 acres) and is in need of much ongoing care. If the *Adopt-a-Spot* pilot project is successful, we hope to enlist more people to adopt spots and thus enhance the restoration and maintenance work that is being done in this beautiful canyon. This is a great opportunity for students interested in community service, as well as adults. Please contact Matt at matt@mac.com.

In the Chips

by Mary Millman

IN SEPTEMBER WE CONDUCTED our regular, third-Saturday stewardship session in the wood chips across from the chert in mid-canyon. In general, we carried out the stewardship functions that UC's Tom Klatt voluntarily carries out several times a week: searching out and pulling up blue and red gum eucalyptus seedlings (to exhaust the seed stock), checking on the baby redwoods, and trying to hold the line against the invasion of broom and to a lesser degree, Italian thistle.

One great benefit of having our noses so close to the chips for a couple of hours was direct observation of the regenerative process in the upper canyon in the second year after the removal of the eucalyptus, and after such a long, dry summer. Happily, we saw numerous reviving bay laurels, lots of returning poison oak, native blackberry, cascades of yerba buena, gooseberry, healthy reestablishment of coyote brush (so beneficial for the birds), and numerous live oak seedlings, planted mostly by the jays, pushing up from the chips.

Of course we also saw the vigorous invasion of broom seedlings most of which are still too small to be well established, and so, are easy to pull up. With a good look at the rebounding natives, holding down the broom and thistle seems even more important.

We are pleased to report that the chips are not a moonscape and we look forward to the boost in regeneration that the fall rains will bring. Natural native restoration will be the tale of about a decade. We will keep you posted, and you are always welcome to come see for yourself.



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GETTING CLOSE UP WITH GOOSEBERRY PLANTS at Four Corners. We learned about photographing plants and bugs on a walk with Nature Walk leader and photographer Sharon Beals, March 2005.

Claremont Canyon is the largest relatively undeveloped canyon on the western slope of the Oakland/Berkeley Hills. Much of the Canyon's watershed is owned by the East Bay Regional Park District, the University of California, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the City of Oakland, with about one-fifth in private hands.

The Claremont Canyon Conservancy promotes the long-term stewardship of the entire watershed, coordinated among the stakeholders to reduce wildfire hazards, preserve or restore a healthy native ecosystem, and promote education and research.

Join the Conservancy:

Founding Sponsor: \$1,000 over 10 years.

Family Membership: \$50 per year.

Student or Senior: \$25 per year.

Contact Us:

PO Box 5551, Berkeley CA 94705, 510-843-2226

Email: ClaremontCanyon@hotmail.com

Website: www.claremontcanyon.org

The Board of Directors: Martin Holden, President; Joe Engbeck, Vice President; Marilyn Goldhaber, Secretary; Barry Pilger, Treasurer; Jerry Kent, Tamia Marg, Bill McClung, Mary Millman, Matt Morse, Dick White, and Tim Wallace.

The Claremont Canyon Conservancy News is edited by Marilyn Goldhaber and Joe Engbeck.

Major New Park District Fuel Reduction Work in Mid-Canyon

by Bill McClung

BACK IN THE 1970s, the Conservancy's secretary and newsletter editor, Marilyn Goldhaber, and her husband Nat lived on Park District land in a small farm house up a driveway about .2 miles above Gelston Road. They raised a few goats, which occasionally got loose onto Claremont Avenue, and generally took care of the land. Their place was connected to Gelston Road, the site of the original Marron ranch house, by an old utility road, along which the previous owners could walk under the live oaks and enjoy wonderful views of Claremont Canyon.

By the 1980s the Goldhabers had moved to Stonewall Road, the old farm house was removed by the Park District, and the pathway to Gelston was recolonized by the dense native north coastal scrub that now characterizes most of the south-facing side of Claremont Canyon.

This year, that old farm road is being restored as a part of a major four-part effort (see pictures below and on opposite page) of the Park District to improve the wildfire safety of the mid-Canyon area. Substantial reduction of fuels has been achieved around Gelston Road, the house, and the area that was logged in 2006 has been cleared of resprouts and weeds.

When completed and maintained, this large area will provide a strategic link in the system of fuel breaks that may be critical to successful fire containment in the future.

We asked Assistant Fire Chief John Swanson to describe what has been done recently by the Park District to maintain and expand the Mid-Canyon fuel reduction zone and he provided these details:

"We removed between 60 and 75 trees from the "Mid-Canyon Site" on the slope above Claremont Avenue to reduce hazardous fuels, while at the same time improving wildlife habitat. Many of the trees were overhanging or could easily reach Claremont Avenue if they fell, so their removal also mitigates a long-term hazard to traffic and public safety. Most of the trees designated for removal were eucalyptus, though some bays and oaks were also removed to reduce ladder fuels. The lower limbs of others were pruned to reduce the vertical continuity of fuels that could otherwise lead to fires ascending into the tree crowns, increasing fire intensity and leading to potential for mid- to long-range spotting through ember production.

"The US Fish and Wildlife Service

identified the project as within "proposed critical habitat" for the Alameda whipsnake.

"Tree removal work was preceded by some tree limbing and ladder fuel reduction by a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) crew from Delta Conservation Camp, under the direct supervision of a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) fire captain. EBRPD Fire Captain Brian Cordeiro specified what work was to be done and then provided oversight.

"Trees were removed by a contractor, Phillips & Jordan, and a subcontractor under their direction. All trees to be removed were individually designated by EBRPD Resource Analyst Kerry Bearg, a professional forester. He was on the site daily to administer the contract and work with the contractor to ensure that the project's fire hazard reduction objectives were being accomplished, while protecting natural resources. Fire Captain Brad Gallup, also a graduate forester, provided additional assistance and oversight.

"Vegetation Management Specialist David Amme from EBRPD's Stewardship Department provided project implementation monitoring and advice.

"The contractor, Phillips & Jordan, was selected through a competitive bidding process.

"Funding was provided largely by a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, through their National Fire Plan Wildland Urban Interface Initiative.

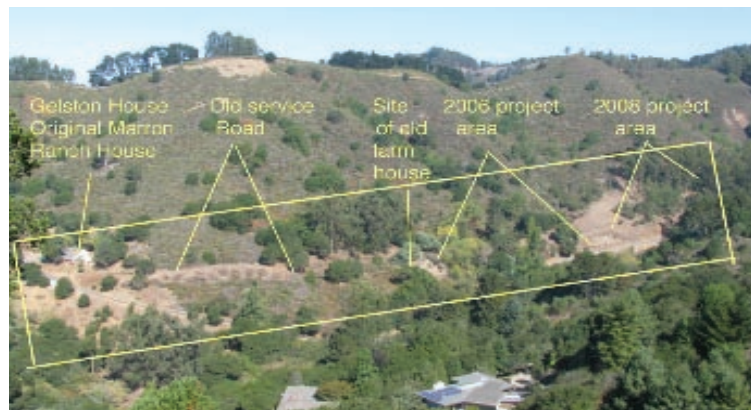
"In the coming weeks, we will be seeding native grasses onto areas of disturbed soil to provide soil cover and protection during the coming winter rainy season. Additionally, we will be assessing other site improvement needs, including maintenance activities for the next several years.

"Following ladder fuel reduction work at the Mid-Canyon site, the CDCR Delta Crew, supervised by EBRPD Fire Captain Cordeiro, cut and stacked brush and downed

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trees along an old trail that parallels Claremont Avenue between Gelston Street and the Mid-Canyon site. Piles will be burned when conditions are favorable."

The Conservancy wishes to express its appreciation for everyone involved in this complex and challenging work.



THE MID-CANYON FUEL REDUCTION AREA
as viewed from Drury Court across the Canyon.

© 2008 Marilyn Goldhaber



THIS YEAR, THE OLD SERVICE ROAD near Gelston was partly restored and extended into the 2.5-acre area where eucalyptus were removed in 2006 (viewed from the site of the Goldhabers' old farm house, above, last September). An additional stand of eucalyptus was thinned and logged east of the area (viewed from Claremont Avenue, below). Although eucalyptus stumps are not pleasant to see in the first few years after logging, care was taken by the Park District and its contractors to save live oaks and other native plants for natural recovery of the landscape.

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Place Names in Claremont Canyon

By Nancy Mennel and Bill McClung

ALVARADO ROAD, CLAREMONT AVENUE, FOUR CORNERS, Grizzly Peak, Gwin Canyon, Harwood Creek, the KPFA Tower, Panoramic Hill. These are familiar names to many of our Conservancy members. Yet not one of them appears in the classic reference *California Place Names: the Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names* by Berkeley professor Erwin G. Gudde, updated in 1998 by William Bright.

The study of place names, toponymy, has not yet reached Claremont Canyon, but we'd like to give it a try. The Conservancy is now forming a working group to collect information ranging from local lore to historical research on the names past and present found in the Canyon.

Scholars have found that toponyms can provide valuable insight into the historical geography of a particular region, and we think there will be benefits to our recovering and defining the historical names, like Telegraph Canyon in the upper watershed, as well as proposing new names for sites we visit and discuss, such as the Redwood Creek Place in Claremont Canyon.

Do you know a bit of local history in this regard that you would like to share? Or better yet would you like to join this fledgling project? If so, please email Nancy Mennel, who has agreed to be the initial organizer of this project at nancym77@gmail.com.

Newest Board Member – Jerry Kent by Marilyn Goldhaber

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that Jerry Kent, formerly of the East Bay Regional Park District, has joined the Board of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy. Jerry began his career as a park workman in 1962 at Redwood Regional Park, and retired 41 years later as the Assistant General Manager of Operations. During most of his tenure he oversaw fire related vegetation management programs District-wide. He had a *front-row-seat* during the expansion of the Park District from six parks that totaled 6,000 acres in 1962 to 65 parks and 98,000 acres today.

Jerry was instrumental in various blue ribbon panels and consortia. He staffed the 1982 East Bay Hills Blue Ribbon Fire Hazard Reduction Planning Study. He was the Park District's representative while developing the East Bay Hills Vegetation Management Consortium Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Plan following the 1991 Tunnel Fire. Jerry also was a principal staff member with the Hills Emergency Forum between 1992 and 2003. More than any other individual, Jerry Kent has studied the problem of fires in the East Bay Hills and lead public discussions since 1991 on what might be done to prevent them. Jerry retired from the Park District in 2003, but continued working toward fire safety in the East Bay Hills, serving on the Executive Committee of the Measure CC Campaign that was passed by voters in 2004. Welcome Jerry!



Redwood Survive the Drought

by Joe Engbeck

IN THIS DRIEST OF DRY YEARS, the Conservancy's redwood planting program has taken a new turn. Planting for the year—and for the seven-year-long project as a whole—was completed in March 2008 when a group of volunteers put the last of our seedlings into the ground. Since that time our main concern has been that this year's extraordinarily severe drought would be too much for our newly planted seedlings. We worried that we might lose all of them! To tip the scales toward survival, a half dozen people have been filling one- and two-gallon containers with water, lugging them into the canyon, and watering individual seedlings, one by one. One volunteer, for example, lives in Orinda and regularly shops at the Berkeley Bowl. Since she makes the trip by way of Claremont Canyon she simply stops off and spends a few minutes watering selected redwood seedlings. Other volunteers have also adopted routines that fit their circumstances.

One little group of volunteers was more ambitious. Using their own funds, they bought a 200-gallon water tank and several hundred feet of garden hose. They put the tank into the bed of a pickup truck, fill it with water, and then drive up to any one of several strategic spots in the canyon where they can use the hose to distribute water to the seedlings. It's hard work slogging uphill and down with containers of water. But the rewards are genuine. Most of the Conservancy's seedlings are surviving nicely.

At this point in time, the University has removed between 8,000 and 9,000 eucalyptus stems from upper Claremont Canyon, and about 3,500 redwood seedlings have been planted in their place. Our seedlings supplement the redwood planting that was conducted a little over thirty years ago by the Piedmont Rotary Club under the direction of the University's landscape architect. The Conservancy's planting program has benefited from the advice and encouragement of several UC faculty members, and the support of UC administrative staff. UC professor emeritus William J. Libby, an internationally recognized expert in forest genet-

Anyone wishing to help with watering and nurturing the redwoods please call 510-843-2226 or email Jhenbeck@aol.com.

ics, helped the Conservancy acquire a supply of seeds that was gathered from naturally occurring coast redwoods high in the Oakland/Berkeley Hills a couple of miles south of Claremont Canyon. Members of the University of California's Forestry Club and their faculty advisor, Kevin O'Hara, a professor of forestry who specializes in redwood forest ecology, have also been very helpful. Tom Klatt continues his role as liaison to community groups interested in Claremont Canyon, and the Conservancy also continues to work cooperatively with representatives of the East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the City of Oakland, and other public agencies.

The result of all this effort will become increasingly apparent in the years to come as a cool, moist, relatively fire resistant redwood forest develops alongside some of the canyon's streams and watercourses—just as redwoods tend to occur naturally. The rest of the canyon—that is, at least 70 percent of the upper canyon and 90 or 95 percent of the canyon as a whole—will continue to be dominated by grass, brush, and a native oak/laurel forest including the maple, buckeye, elderberry, madrone, willow, and other native trees and shrubs that thrive in such environments throughout the East Bay.

Those trees and their native understory plant communities are not in any danger of being crowded out by redwoods or out-competed for water. In fact, the redwoods are very efficient at filtering moisture out of the ocean fog (which frequently fills Claremont Canyon during the otherwise dry summer months), and it therefore seems likely that as the redwoods mature, they will actually increase the amount of moisture available to themselves and other kinds of vegetation in the upper canyon.

Yes on Measure WW

THE CONSERVANCY BOARD urges its members to vote *YES* on Measure WW on the November 4 ballot. The measure extends the successful \$225 million bond measure (Measure AA) passed in 1988 without raising the present property tax rates. The language of the proposition is as follows:

"Extend Existing Regional Park Bond With No Increase In Tax Rate" - To continue to restore urban creeks, protect wildlife, purchase and save open space, wetlands, and bay shoreline, acquire, develop and improve local and regional parks, trails and recreational facilities, shall East Bay Regional Park District be authorized to issue up to \$500 million in general obligation bonds, provided that repayment projections, verified by independent auditors, demonstrate that property tax rates will not increase above the present rate of \$10 per year, per \$100,000 of assessed valuation."



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CONSERVANCY MEMBERS ENJOY A RAMBLE across the Canyon last May, lead by Martin Holden (taking the picture).

Update on FEMA Fire Prevention Grants

By Martin Holden

MANY CONSERVANCY MEMBERS have followed with interest the story of the hard-won FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants to fund wildfire fuel reduction work in the East Bay Hills. The grants, worth nearly \$6 million, were awarded to the State of California Office of Environmental Safety, to be administered by UC, the City of Oakland, and the California Department of Forestry.

The first of the three grants to come up for public comment was a fuel reduction project on UC land in Strawberry Canyon. Last May, scores of people, including fire officials, land managers, and East Bay Hills neighbors wrote to FEMA in support of this work. However, a group opposed to eucalyptus removal has effectively pushed for additional justification, sending grantor and grantee back to the drawing board.

Delay in this project prevents the other two projects, including one for Claremont Canyon, from moving forward. The Conservancy is doing its best to urge all parties to complete the process. If you would like to help, please contact me at ClaremontCanyon@hotmail.com.

Update of Measure CC

by Mary Millman

ALTHOUGH THE CONSERVANCY and others were expecting a Fall 2008 meeting at which the Measure CC Draft EIR would be unveiled, it appears now that the document will be presented in early 2009. Recently, I asked Brian Wiese, the District's Chief of Planning and Stewardship, "Why?" I said, "What is the main conversation within the District?" Mr. Wiese replied, "There are many conversations; the effort is to simplify and direct them consistent with the original goals of Measure CC."

The first two original goals are 1) reduce fire hazard on publicly owned lands and 2) enhance ecological values for plant and wildlife habitat. These goals are inevitably intertwined by the District's commitment to "fuel management" as the dominant methodology for wildfire control.

As we noted last issue, the District has identified twelve areas in Claremont Canyon where the characteristics of the vegetation (8' flame length or propensity to generate embers aloft) would require "treatment" to mitigate their wildfire hazard potential.

Some of the "treatment" will be determined by advanced computer models which image, among other things, the probable behavior of a Diablo wind-driven fire. Considerable "treatment" has already been carried out in Claremont Canyon, especially above Stonewall where the eucalyptus grove has been thinned.

Other aspects of "treatment", however, seem to have arisen more recently and might take additional time to work out. Specifically, the District has decided to expand the 125' statutory "buffer" zone or defensible space to 200'

Joe Didonato of the EBRPD to Speak at Annual Meeting on November 16

by Marilyn Goldhaber

JOE DIDONATO of the East Bay Regional Park District will be our keynote speaker at this year's annual meeting, November 16 at the Claremont Hotel (see back page). Joe has been with the District for 19 years and is stewardship manager overseeing the disciplines of fisheries and wildlife, integrated pest management, water management, and wildland vegetation and range management. His department also coordinates regulatory oversight, permit management, and endangered species management.

In his keynote address, Joe will tell us how the District balances fire safety work with protection and restoration of habitat. These concepts are particularly important right now as the Park District hammers out its Measure CC-related plan and EIR.



What is Measure CC? In November 2004 Measure CC garnered approval from a little over the required two thirds of voters in the East Bay Regional Park District's Zone 1 (western Alameda and Contra Costa counties). The Measure imposed a \$12.00 annual parcel tax on single-family units (\$8.28 on multi-family units) in order to produce—at about \$3 million per year—a \$46 million supplemental fund for "park access, wildfire protection, public safety, and environmental maintenance" within 21 parks and recreation areas, including Claremont Canyon.

from the edge of the residential structure. This means greater emphasis on urban responsibility for fuel management, and also means a meandering perimeter in wildland for the District to manage.

A final factor mentioned by Mr. Wiese as contributing to the delay is the concept of "adaptive management" or the recognition that inherent in any initial treatment is the question of long term maintenance. In other words, at every step in the logic of wildfire mitigation, the District is looking at initial treatments from many perspectives including the long view. Measure CC funds were structured for only a 15 year period. When the District says "We are putting our money and our effort into planning" it is looking well beyond 15 years and considering maintainable and sustainable wildfire mitigation methodology.

The importance and the difficulty of these calculations can't be overestimated, and in light of the task, a slight delay in the issuance of the draft EIR is understandable. We are sure he speaks for the District when Mr. Wiese says emphatically, "We want to get it right"



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www.ClaremontCanyon.org

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THREE GREAT HORNED OWLETS *and their parents* were seen nesting in the crotch of a eucalyptus tree last April, right above a popular trail in the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve ... to the delight of many visitors. Check out our website for a video.

THE CLAREMONT CANYON CONSERVANCY

SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF CLAREMONT CANYON

MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS, *Please join us ...*

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 4-6 p.m.

The Claremont Hotel

Annual Meeting

Reception	4:00 p.m.
Presentations	4:30 p.m.
Open Forum	5:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Joe Didonato, “Balancing Fuel Management with Protection and Restoration of Habitat ”

Complimentary wine bar and refreshments. Bring a friend or neighbor.