

# THE CLAREMONT CANYON CONSERVANCY

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

FALL 2009 *News*



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*The East Bay Regional Park District's David Amme leads a grassland tour at one of the "Four Corners" at the top of Claremont Canyon. This northeast corner, which is on EBMUD land, was formerly thick shrubs with a scattering of trees but was converted in 2003 to grassland (the trees were retained) by a regular mowing regime. This kind of type-conversion for fire safety is viewed as controversial by some people. The Park District is considering similar work in parts of mid- and lower-Claremont Canyon.*

## President's Message

by Barry Pilger

IN THE FALL OF 2007 Conservancy president Martin Holden wrote of fall being a time of hoping and waiting for the rain clouds to roll in from the Pacific. This September, we were treated to an earlier-than-usual rain that lasted an entire weekend. We breathed a collective sigh of relief thinking that fire season might be over. By month's end, however, the weather returned to hot and dry, and on September 29 a small fire started near the east end of the Caldecott Tunnel. Firefighters brought the fire under control by the end of the day, but it consumed thirty acres of grassland, comprised mostly of highly flammable, flashy weedy fuels.

Every fire is different. The one we worry most about is the one that starts on a Diablo wind day, spreads to areas where dense fuels, such as tall eucalyptus and pine trees on windy ridgetops, can cast embers far and wide.

In the fall of 2007 Martin also wrote of the recently awarded FEMA pre-disaster mitigation grants awarded to the University of California and the City of Oakland for work on UC, Oakland, and East Bay Regional Park District land. He also mentioned the Park District's forthcoming environmental impact report for fire mitigation work throughout 21 parks in the East Bay Hills.

Fast forward to 2009: The FEMA grants are stalled. The Park District's EIR was just released. Work anticipated under these two programs is still months—perhaps years—away. Why are the wheels of government moving so slowly? It's because a tiny handful of citizens filed objections to the first

environmental assessment issued by FEMA in conjunction with its pre-disaster mitigation grants. This small but forceful group holds opinions that are contrary to virtually all experts in fire mitigation and most environmental groups. Throwing up one legal argument after another, it still seeks to prevent the planned work from going forward.

Up to this point they have succeeded. They have one apparent motive: They want to stop the removal of non-native species from the project areas, including Claremont Canyon. They prize eucalyptus, pine and acacia over native flora. Never mind that this group stands alone in its belief that these pyrophytes play no role in wildland fires different from oaks, bays or madrones.

The Conservancy continues to work tirelessly to assure that this fire mitigation work commences. We have documented vast support for this work from the Conservancy's membership for the removal, over time, of invasive, non-native species from Claremont Canyon and the conversion to native, less fire-prone species.

Our monthly stewardship sessions continue to provide an opportunity for neighbors to get to know Claremont Canyon better and improve it in small ways.

The Conservancy has produced a video entitled, "A History of Fire in Claremont Canyon." Moreover, in response to volumes of misinformation about fire safety and vegetation management, the Conservancy has written a policy statement in Q&A format that addresses this important issue in a substantive way. Both are available on our website.

We thank all of our members for their past support and encourage you to continue your support of the vital mission of the Conservancy.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

© 2009 Bill McClung



*A circle of hats surrounds Rike Burmeister who hosted us after an urban-wildlife nature walk.*

© 2009 Martin Holden



*Kids from John Muir School sit on a log with Marilyn Goldhaber during our spring butterfly walk.*

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*Paul McGee holds up a noxious weed, hedge parsley, while Bob Nelson from KPFA takes notes.*

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**October 24—GEOLOGY RAMBLE** with Martin Holden, the Conservancy's naturalist and former president, 10 to noon. Meet at the Chert formation along Claremont Avenue. This walk is moderately strenuous.

**November 7—HEADSLOPE 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](mailto:sfflea@earthlink.net). First of this year's 6 consecutive monthly sessions.

**November 8—ANNUAL MEETING** of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy. Starts at 4 p.m. at the Claremont Hotel (see back page and page 6 for details).

**November 21—REGULAR THIRD SATURDAY STEWARDSHIP.** Saturday from 10 to 12. Location TBA.

**November 27—FOREST AND FIRE DYNAMICS IN CLAREMONT CANYON** with Scott Stephens, Director of the Fire Science Laboratory at UC Berkeley. Thanksgiving weekend (a Friday). Location TBA.

**December 5—HEADSLOPE 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](mailto:sfflea@earthlink.net).

**December 12 – 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 13 Oakland Christmas Bird Count, which Dave Quady has led in Claremont Canyon for many years.

**December 19—REGULAR THIRD SATURDAY STEWARDSHIP.** Saturday from 10 to 12. Location TBA.

**January 2—HEADSLOPE 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 session.

Questions or to rsvp, contact [info@ClaremontCanyonConservancy.org](mailto:info@ClaremontCanyonConservancy.org).

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*A HEARTY THANK YOU TO BILL McCLUNG from the board and all the members of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy.*

*Bill recently stepped down from the board to be freer to offer his professional services. Bill is part owner of Shelterbelt Builders, University Press Books, and Musical Offerings, all in Berkeley, and sits on the vegetation management committee of the North Hills Phoenix Association.*

*Bill was responsible for initiating many of the Conservancy's programs. "I want to stay involved in the various projects and issues that have interested me. The Conservancy is an important institution and I think we can all be proud of what we have accomplished these eight years. I have always envisioned it as something that will last a century or longer, and I have every intention of continuing to participate in its mission and activities as long as I can."*

## Twentieth Century Canyon Dwellers

by Mary Millman

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOW IN THE MIDST of a comprehensive project to collect an audio history of Claremont Canyon, the beginnings sprang from a casual curiosity about the early days in the canyon. Our board member, Tamia Marg, who spent her childhood there remembered “Tappy” Marron, whose family built the house that the Park District now occupies at the end of Gelston Road. The Marron clan were dairy farmers and Tamia knew that Tappy, or a relative, could be reached in Chico at the newer Marron ranch. After a few tries, we got her phone number and I subsequently drove to Chico accompanied by my old audio recorder and my still older camera. I was expecting a flood of anecdotes.

Warmly greeted by Tappy and her middle son, Peter, who had himself grown up in the canyon, I soon realized that there was more than entertaining stories to be learned and saved in the interview process. Tappy was 91 years old but her eyes twinkled and her memory was keen. She recalled when Claremont Canyon had thick vegetation only in the washes and ravines. She remembered with fondness her relation to the owls and the foxes and other canyon wildlife. The affection of her family for their Gelston Road house and surrounding holdings meant that a large piece of the canyon could be saved as open space when the Regional Preserve was created in the 1970s. Tappy insisted that I get ahold of George Hemphill, her childhood friend and playmate who lived on the adjoining dairy farm to the north where the two aged poplars now stand.

After recording accounts of Joe Engbeck, our vice president, who had organized Friends of Claremont Canon and led it to the successful creation of the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve, and Afton Crooks, who was indispensable to that campaign to save Claremont Canyon, Tamia and I contacted George. He was only too happy to share his memories. Also 91, he recalled roaming the canyon on his horse Pronto and to this day follows the events and welfare of Claremont Canyon. At this point we realized that

there might be more nonagenarians whose memories deserved recording. Among these are Hulet Hornbeck, now 90, who served the East Bay Regional Park District as Chief Land Acquisition Officer from 1965 to 1985. With full appreciation of the value of open space, Hornbeck retired from his post only after helping create the largest regional park district in the entire nation. He was especially proud of Claremont Canyon, the green north slope of which he could see every time he drove east across the Bay Bridge. We also interviewed Elwin Marg, also now age 91, who acquired 84 acres including what is now Gwin Canyon in the early 1950s for his desire to live in an area with low density and his wife’s affinity for nature and the outdoors. Dr. Marg provided an interesting perspective on the last great battle against residential development in the canyon.

At present we are concentrating on developing a comprehensive list of previous canyon dwellers and persons who contributed to the formation of the Regional Preserve. We know now that the story of Claremont Canyon is rich with personalities, experiences, and varied interests. We are certain that these histories will make a significant contribution to the Conservancy’s effort to preserve Claremont Canyon.

**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: [info@ClaremontCanyonConservancy.org](mailto:info@ClaremontCanyonConservancy.org)

Website: [www.ClaremontCanyon.org](http://www.ClaremontCanyon.org)

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

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

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George Hemphill (left) shows Tamia Marg where he and “Pronto” used to ride in Claremont Canyon.



*French broom can be seen invading from the north, on land owned by UC (top, center), and from the south into Gwin Canyon (foreground), on land owned by the East Bay Regional Park District. Both agencies battle broom but have been lax in these locations. The picture was taken during blooming season in 2006 from Chancellor Place on the south rim of Gwin Canyon. Broom often takes hold along trails and can be spread into wildlands with other disturbance such as fire. Recent pictures on our website show further incursion into these and other areas of Claremont Canyon. A concerted, coordinated effort is needed to tackle this problem.*

## **French Broom—A Tenacious Invader**

*by Mary Millman and Tamia Marg*

IF YOU CONSIDER THE SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCES made by French broom in Claremont Canyon over the past decade, John Burroughs' invective against the weeds of autumn might come to mind: "They are all outlaws; every man's hand is against them; yet how surely they hold their own!"

Possessed of extraordinarily aggressive traits, French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) long ago escaped urban gardens and found free range in the wildlands of the west coast. Thriving on recently disturbed soil, broom seeds easily take root. Once even minimally established, broom begins an insidious process of capturing nitrogen from the air and setting it in the soil, making the soil too rich for most native species—but very inviting to other invasives. Cutting the plant off at the root only intensifies the root structure; pulling up or weed-wrenching disturbs the soil so that nearby seeds tend to sprout. Seeds can survive more than 40 years and are not destroyed by fire, enhancing broom's aggressive potential. This plant's arsenal is impressive and requires a response that is both deliberate and long term. Casual or occasional trimming or extracting does nothing to arrest the advance of broom.

The "Vegetation Management Almanac in the East Bay Hills," published in the 1990s by our local Hills Emergency Forum, illustrated 38 native plants, weeds, and invasive exotics. French and Scotch broom were included but not prioritized. Since then, what little attention has been paid to the broom invasion has

focused only on the heightened risk that mature broom adds to wildfire vulnerability. With a few notable exceptions, the applied remedy has been simple: chop it down so it won't be there in October when the fire risk is highest. However, unless the individual plant is very old, broom that has been chopped down in the fall will grow back with a vengeance in the spring. Does any predominantly native preserve like Claremont Canyon have a chance against an aggressor thus equipped?

Fortunately, both science and methodology exist to arrest and, with follow-up, virtually eliminate the broom invasion in all west coast open spaces, including a 500-acre watershed like Claremont Canyon. Modern land management for this purpose and a great variety of practical techniques are regularly taught at the workshops of the California Invasive Plant Council (CalIPC). Examples of successful broom elimination on public lands are readily available. Even within Claremont Canyon itself, a privately owned 15-acre parcel has been managed to halt the advance of broom and to suppress the vitality of the seed bed, even as broom is expanding in directly adjacent public areas.

aged to halt the advance of broom and to suppress the vitality of the seed bed, even as broom is expanding in directly adjacent public areas .

The basic strategy for success proceeds from a clear understanding of both native flora and broom. The first step is to survey the land and create an inventory of flora and its location so that, for example, outliers might be identified, threatened sensitive habitat might be located, areas of mixed vegetation might be distinguished, and places where broom seed might spread downhill could be flagged. In a relatively small area like Claremont Canyon, such survey work could be done by direct observation or more sophisticated data-based methods.

With survey information clearly in hand, a strategy can be constructed using triage as the operative principle—identify what needs to be saved first and leave for last that which is least likely to succeed. Concentrate on removing broom first from the most pristine areas—those outliers that could become a serious broom colony that will threaten native flora. Working outward from these areas, the last places to be treated would be colonies in areas likely to be invaded by other weeds when the broom is eliminated. The exact removal techniques will differ depending on the location of the broom colony, the extent of financial and public support for broom removal, the advantages of the season, and the depth of commitment to the goal of elimination, which is to say the amount of follow-up. In any case, complete control of broom in Claremont Canyon is definitely possible.

Perhaps the greatest barrier to the development of a canyon-wide survey and strategy is the multiplicity of jurisdictions

among which the canyon is divided: EBMUD on the ridges, UC Berkeley in the upper canyon, the East Bay Regional Park District along the urban/wildland interface in the mid and lower canyon and in Gwin (a north-to-south side canyon to the main canyon), the City of Oakland with the westernmost riparian segment of the canyon in Garber Park, and finally a few undeveloped acres that are still in private hands. While it is unrealistic to expect that these diverse jurisdictions, with land-management agendas that often conflict, could conduct the necessary survey and agree on strategic priorities (let alone concur in the selection of techniques), a volunteer citizen's organization like our Conservancy, which speaks for the entire canyon, might be an appropriate mechanism for achieving these fundamental tasks. In the 1970s, Claremont Canyon was "saved" from development and preserved as open space by the close cooperation of many citizens with the Park District and UC. It was not on anyone's screen at the time that the native wildland/open space character of the canyon might be threatened in the future by invasive weeds. Yet broom is a major threat to the canyon today and the jurisdictional circumstances suggest that citizens once again need to come forward to "save" Claremont Canyon.

In the meantime, small, individual efforts can make a difference if they are carried out so not to disturb the soil or advance the spread of seeds. Everyone who walks in the canyon can learn what broom looks like even when it does not have its characteristic yellow flower. In the winter and spring, when canyon soil is saturated, small broom plants should be pulled up carefully and left to disintegrate. At other times, especially in late summer, the best thing to do is to remove the seed pods from the plant and carry them out of the canyon for burning or other disposal. With a good strategy, close cooperation, and persistence, all canyon stakeholders, starting with the public, can defeat this invader.

## Goat Grazing in the East Bay Hills

by Martin Holden

I RECENTLY JOINED PARK DISTRICT'S FIRE CAPTAIN BRIAN CORDEIRO on a tour of some goat-grazing sites along the Stonewall Ridge Trail in the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve. Captain Cordeiro is in charge of overseeing the goat-grazing program for the District from Castro Valley to Richmond.

"Homeowners love the goats," says Cordeiro.

It's true. Goats are efficient consumers of low, "flashy" fuels (grass and weeds), especially in areas that are steep and treacherous. However, many people, including myself, have now come to realize that goats can be detrimental. They eat ALL vegetation, including desirable, beneficial native plants and shrubs. They also churn up the soil, creating erosion and water-quality problems.

Laura Baker, Conservation Chair of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, has been a close observer of the goat grazing program for a long time. Speaking as a private citizen, she reflected the views of many environmentalists. "As currently practiced, goat grazing to reduce fuels in the East Bay Hills is simply wholesale biomass removal," says Baker. "What goats do is damage—they're like locusts with horns and hooves. They girdle trees and shrubs, trample soil, and defecate weed seed. They're popular because they're cheap: the agencies don't have to pay for people trained to manage the resource."

While goat herders like Goats R Us (see picture below) usually charge about \$700 per acre, they charge the District less than half that amount in return for being allowed to over-winter their livestock on District land. It's a deal for both sides that's too good to pass up. To improve the grazing program, Baker suggests requiring the grazing manager to securely enclose sensitive resources, to monitor the intensity and timing of graz-

ing, and to ensure that weed invasions haven't been triggered. She also thinks that the program should be under the oversight of the Rangeland Manager, who is responsible for the District's other grazing programs. "What folks need to know is that in many instances there are better alternatives to goat grazing. To the District's credit, these are mentioned in its recently released draft Vegetation Management Program. Other agencies, like the City of Oakland, also have to re-think their goat grazing programs and follow the District's lead by creating an actual plan to manage vegetation for its native habitat value, not just its fuels component."

After I showed Captain Cordeiro the oaks and toyon trees in the Claremont Canyon Preserve that had been girdled and killed by the goats (see back page photo), he decided to rotate the herds off the site for a year to let some of the vegetation recover. "I don't like to see bare soil," he said, but he added, "Goats are here to stay, but they are not going to increase any more." That will come as welcome news to many.

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*A sea of goats, Angora, Alpine, Nubian, and more, graze in Claremont Canyon Preserve. The goats are owned by Egon and Terri Oyarzún of "Goats R Us," who employ Chilean goatherds and their border collies to watch over the herd. The contractor is required by the Park District to protect native shrubs and to move the goats often enough to prevent overgrazing, but in many conspicuous areas (such as along Claremont Canyon's Ridge Trail (pictured above) and at the East Ridge Trailhead in Redwood Park), more care is clearly needed to preserve native plants and biodiversity.*

## November 8 at the Claremont Hotel

by Marilyn Goldhaber

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for this year's Annual Meeting at the Claremont Hotel (see back page for details). Our keynote speaker will be our own Jerry Kent who will talk about a century of historic fires of the East Bay Hills and their ramifications for us today. Jerry will share his marvelous archival photos, some of which can be seen on our website video section.

More than any other individual, Jerry has studied the problem of fires in the hills and has led public discussions since 1991 on what might be done to mitigate fire dangers in an ecologically sound way. Jerry retired from his post as Assistant General Manager of Operations at the Park District in 2003 but continues working toward fire safety issues with an emphasis on ecological preservation. Bring a friend or neighbor and enjoy late afternoon refreshments.



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*Matt Morse (left) and Jerry Kent study Claremont Canyon's 12 "polygons" during a September tour of the canyon with other Conservancy board members. Polygons are areas designated as "treatment" or "maintenance" (depending on whether the work scope is new or ongoing) according to the Park District's newly released long-term "Plan and EIR." These designations and related work plans are critical for Claremont Canyon. As this newsletter goes to press, the Conservancy is formulating a detailed response.*

## Lichen Survey Underway

by Janet Doell

THE CALIFORNIA LICHEN SOCIETY (CAL S) has been in existence since 1994 when a small group of nine lichenologists banded together to promote the appreciation, conservation and study of lichens, primarily in California but with an interest in lichens throughout western North America. The membership of the Society now hovers just above 200, mostly living in California but with a scattering around the U.S.A., and even a few overseas. Activities include workshops,



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*The sun streams down as Janet Doell (center, above) passes around a sample of lichen from the Claremont Chert during our first lichen tour with CAL S. Below, Bill Hill points to a sample of Parmotrema chinese (bluish-green) with Parmelina quercina (yellowish green and brown).*

field trips, and the publication of a Bulletin which appears twice a year.

Occasionally CAL S will survey the lichens of a given area and publish the results in the Bulletin. CAL S became acquainted with the Claremont Canyon Conservancy when the second edition of the CAL S mini guide to some common California lichens was published. The University Press Book Store in Berkeley traditionally hosts an invitational event whenever they add a new subject to their field guide section, and the CAL S mini guide is their first book on lichens. Bill McClung and Martin Holden invited members of CAL S and interested members of the Conservancy to a conversational gathering to talk about lichens and related matters. About a dozen people attended this event.

Out of this gathering grew the idea for CAL S to do an inventory of the lichens found in Claremont Canyon. An introductory outing was organized in late January, and six CAL S members and twice that many interested members of the Conservancy attended. Four locations were visited that day.

Large portions of the Canyon are of a dry nature, and those parts dominated by eucalyptus trees or annual grasses are largely devoid of lichens. Subsequent trips by the CAL S team to identify the lichen flora have attempted to investigate as many different habitat and vegetation types as possible. The interesting combination of grasslands, north coastal scrub, oak-bay woodland, some redwoods and eucalyptus, together with a variety of elevations have kept the CAL S survey team busy and involved over the last six months, and barring unforeseen circumstances CAL S will have a report ready for the Conservancy at the time of the Annual Meeting in November.



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## Found: 1895 Alameda-Costra Costa Boundary Marker

by Mary Millman

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SOMETIMES IMPORTANT THINGS end up in unexpected places. In 1895 several 400-pound cast iron boundary markers were placed along the ridgetop boundary between Alameda County and Contra Costa County. One was positioned right at the top of Claremont Canyon, close to what we know as “Four Corners,” the intersection of Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Claremont Avenue/Fish Ranch Road. On each side of the three-foot-high square pillar, a detailed low relief “California Golden Bear” was portrayed. The bears that faced the two counties, looking east and west, were painted a golden color with the appropriate county and date appearing in raised lettering below the bears.

For about thirty-five years the boundary markers stood on the ridge, presiding over early development of Claremont Canyon and the East Bay Hills in general. At that time, the roads were simple dirt thoroughfares, with Old Tunnel Road and the leaky wood-framed “Broadway” Tunnel providing an alternate east-west route. Looking west, Claremont Canyon was largely agricultural with no significant residential intrusion. This was the era of dairy farming and cattle grazing, and the introduction of eucalyptus plantations in the upper canyon.

By the 1930s, however, various developments combined to alter the character of the canyon including construction of the “Caldecott” Tunnel which finally opened in 1937 and the paving of Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Apparently, when the pavers got to “Four Corners,” they heaved the boundary marker aside and down the steep slope of the upper canyon. A little later, a couple of young horsemen came across the fallen marker and notified George Hemphill whose dairy farm was located in mid-canyon near the two poplars that now stand to the north of Gelston Road. George L. Hemphill (see page 3) had the horses and equipment to move the boundary marker. Even then an avid history buff, George Hemphill hung onto the boundary marker till the year 2000 when he donated it to the Moraga Historical Society, located at the Library on St. Mary’s Road in Moraga, where it is securely anchored today (above photo).

Our board member, Jerry Kent, stumbled across the boundary marker on one of his many trips to the Historical Society and was impressed by its appearance and its survival. Not long before, George Hemphill had told the story of the boundary marker to the Conservancy’s oral history project, but he didn’t mention that it was a 400-pound cast iron pillar with beautiful bears on it. When the Conservancy put two and two together and realized how handsome the old boundary marker really was, we felt that it might be possible to return the original boundary marker to its “Four Corners” location, or alternatively, make a copy and install it there. We are working on this right now, with the whole-hearted cooperation of the Moraga Historical Society.

## Volunteers and Service Workers Make a Difference to Community and Canyon

(Photos below by Marilyn Goldhaber, 2009)



Paul McGee tends to the creek on Creek-to-Bay Day, sponsored by the City of Oakland.



Lynn Yamashita, our dynamic volunteer, shows up at most stewardship events in Claremont Canyon. She will be honored this year at our Annual Meeting.



Justin Greer of Expert Tree Service came to the rescue when a large eucalyptus broke off and crashed onto the Claremont Canyon Preserve’s main trail off Stonewall Road. The Park District had been watching this and several other trees, which were slated for removal



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*Goats munch the bark of a struggling toyon tree at the Stonewall trailhead. See page 5 inside.*

## THE CLAREMONT CANYON CONSERVANCY

SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF CLAREMONT CANYON

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

**Sunday, November 8, 2009, 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: Jerry Kent, "Historic Hill Fires and Their  
Ramifications for Claremont Canyon Today"

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

**RSVP:** [info@ClaremontCanyonConservancy.org](mailto:info@ClaremontCanyonConservancy.org) or call 510-843-2226