



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

## President's Message

by L. Tim Wallace

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT on all the good work going on in and around Claremont Canyon. The Garber Park Stewards are closely related to the Conservancy and we've reported on joint activities in past newsletters. We also greatly admire local groups working on creeks and trails, as well as the local chapters of the Sierra Club and the California Native Plant Society.

In this newsletter, we cover a new group Take To The Hills (see pages 4-5). T<sup>3</sup>H brings fresh energy to trail building with an emphasis on the little canyon located between Strawberry and Claremont canyons. That canyon, and the foot path or "social trail" traversing it, have variously been called Derby, Dwight, Clark Kerr and even (at least once) Rattlesnake Canyon/Trail. Along with T<sup>3</sup>H, we are working with the agencies that own the land to settle on a name that will stick. For now, we agree with T<sup>3</sup>H that the historic name of Derby, in honor of Derby Creek whose headwaters begin in that small canyon, makes sense. Except for a small stretch above UC's running track (see photo caption on right), Derby Creek goes underground all the way through Berkeley and out to the Bay.

We continue our strong mandate to promote wild-fire safety in the canyon and surrounding hills. The long awaited planning and environmental process to manage

vegetation on public lands in Oakland has begun. We are watching carefully as this process unfolds. As per Oakland's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (see next page), the city hired a consulting firm earlier this year to scope the plan and CEQA documents for its high fire severity zones. To find out more and to provide feedback, go to [www.oaklandvegmanagement.org](http://www.oaklandvegmanagement.org).

To our members, if you haven't already done so in the past 12 months, please take a moment to renew your membership. You can do this easily now online through Paypal or major credit cards. Or, if not yet a member, please consider joining and supporting a good local cause. New members are always welcome.

Lastly, if you or someone you know has skills and talents to share with the board, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are seeking one, perhaps two, new board members. The board is a working, all-volunteer group that meets on the second Thursday of each month. If interested, please reach out

by phone or email. Please see a listing of committees under the Members/Volunteer tab on our website. Happy spring everyone.



*Board Member Josh Borkowski gazes up at the only part of Derby Creek that sees the light of day. Stream channels were completely filled-in years ago and were replaced by one large storm drain network, according to a 2010 report published by the Oakland Museum. (Photo by Marilyn Goldhaber 2017.)*

## Local hazard mitigation plans explained

by Marilyn Goldhaber

FEMA offers pre-disaster grants to communities to fund actions that can be taken *before* a disaster strikes. To be eligible for the grants, communities are required to first develop a plan called a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. LHMP's encourage day-to-day decision-making for land use, site design, and other functions that could mitigate or lessen the impact of a future disaster. Mitigation planning includes the following:

**Public Involvement** – Emergency managers, government agencies, businesses, civic groups, environmental groups, and schools.

**Risk Assessment** – Estimation of the frequency and magnitude of natural and man-made disasters, and assess potential losses to life and property.

**Mitigation Strategy** – Activities to be implemented that are effective, technically feasible, cost-effective, and environmentally sound.

The counties of Alameda and Contra Costa and cities of Berkeley and Oakland have their plans in place, as does EBMUD. The East Bay Regional Park District has its plan underway (draft available). The plans need to be updated every five years to qualify for future FEMA grants. To view a FEMA fact sheet and related California Senate Bill 1241, see [www.claremontcanyon.org/mitigation-reports](http://www.claremontcanyon.org/mitigation-reports).



*Macilenta transcendens* (transcend cup lichen).

## STEWARDSHIP EVENTS IN THE CANYON

PLEASE JOIN US for stewardship events in Claremont Canyon throughout the spring and summer months: once a month (third Saturday) in Garber Park led by Shelagh Brodersen of the Garber Park Stewards and once a month in the main canyon (fourth Saturday) led by Jon Kaufman. All levels of fitness are welcome. Watch for the monthly emails or check the Conservancy website for added events and to see where to meet. We usually meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance when working in Garber Park and at signpost 29 for main canyon events. Events are 10 AM till noon.

When venturing into the canyon, please wear long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes and a hat. If you have gloves, please bring those too but we'll have extras. Please contact [GarberParkStewards@gmail.com](mailto:GarberParkStewards@gmail.com) for Garber Park events and for all other events contact [info@ClaremontCanyon.org](mailto:info@ClaremontCanyon.org).

## Newest lichen for Claremont Canyon

by Kay Loughman

AT THE INVITATION OF THE CONSERVANCY, in 2009 members of the California Lichen Society surveyed lichens at sixteen sites in Claremont Canyon. Read a report of the survey in the Conservancy's Fall 2009 Newsletter at [www.claremontcanyon.org/our-publications](http://www.claremontcanyon.org/our-publications). In all, 81 lichen species were identified. The results of the survey were published in the Bulletin of the California Lichen Society, vol. 16(2), 2009.

Since that time a few more species have been found, none showier than the newest addition to the list. In February this year, Alex Pierce discovered and photographed the *Macilenta transcendens* (transcend cup lichen) growing on a stump in the far reaches of her Strathmoor Road yard. From Alex's pictures, Lichen Society President Tom Carlberg was able to supply the identification. This species is found throughout North America and, like several other *Macilenta* species, produces a lipstick-red fruit.

Specimens of most lichen species collected in the canyon have been deposited in the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley. Photos of those specimens, as well as more pictures of *M. transcendens*, may be viewed at: <http://nhwildlife.net/album3/Lichens/>.



Conservancy board members Josh Borkowski (leftmost) and Bob Strayer (rightmost) flank a group of cheerful Cal student volunteers last March on Berkeley Project Day.

we hope to move the trail forward the last hundred yards and connect it with the existing trail on the East Bay Regional Park District's land.

We can always use more hands-on to help build and maintain trails and remove invasive plants. Our regular volunteer day is the fourth Saturday of the month. See our monthly email newsletter that comes out at the beginning of every month or check our website for specific activities.

## Volunteers Make the Canyon Beautiful

By Jon Kaufman

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO LIVE on the interface of a city and wildland and can enjoy the convenience of urban living and the pleasures of undeveloped land. But keeping our wildland beautiful and enjoyable does not happen automatically. Earlier this spring a group of UC students and area residents learned that first hand.

Five UC students joined with regular Conservancy volunteers in March to participate in the semi-annual Berkeley Project Day. Recent rains had made Claremont Canyon sport new green foliage, but also left portions of our upper canyon trails muddy and difficult to navigate. The volunteers went to work on the Willow Trail on UC land below Signpost 29, carving channels so the water would drain off the trail, then filling the channels with small branches to prevent getting clogged with mud.

We were pleased to see immediate improvement and hikers went out of their way to compliment us on our work. We also were pleased to see how well the new connector trail to the Gwin Canyon Trail has held up with all the recent rains. This connector trail runs along a steep slope and therefore is particularly susceptible to erosion. However, we had shored up the lower side of the trail with fascines fashioned from smaller branches and with tree trunks when available. That seems to have been effective and the completed portion of the trail is in good shape. In coming weeks,

**Claremont Canyon** is the largest relatively undeveloped canyon on the western slope of the Oakland/Berkeley Hills. Most 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 preserve or restore a healthy native ecosystem, reduce wildfire hazards, and foster education and research.

### Join the Conservancy:

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

Family Membership: \$50 per year.

Student or Limited Income: \$25 per year.

### Contact Us:

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

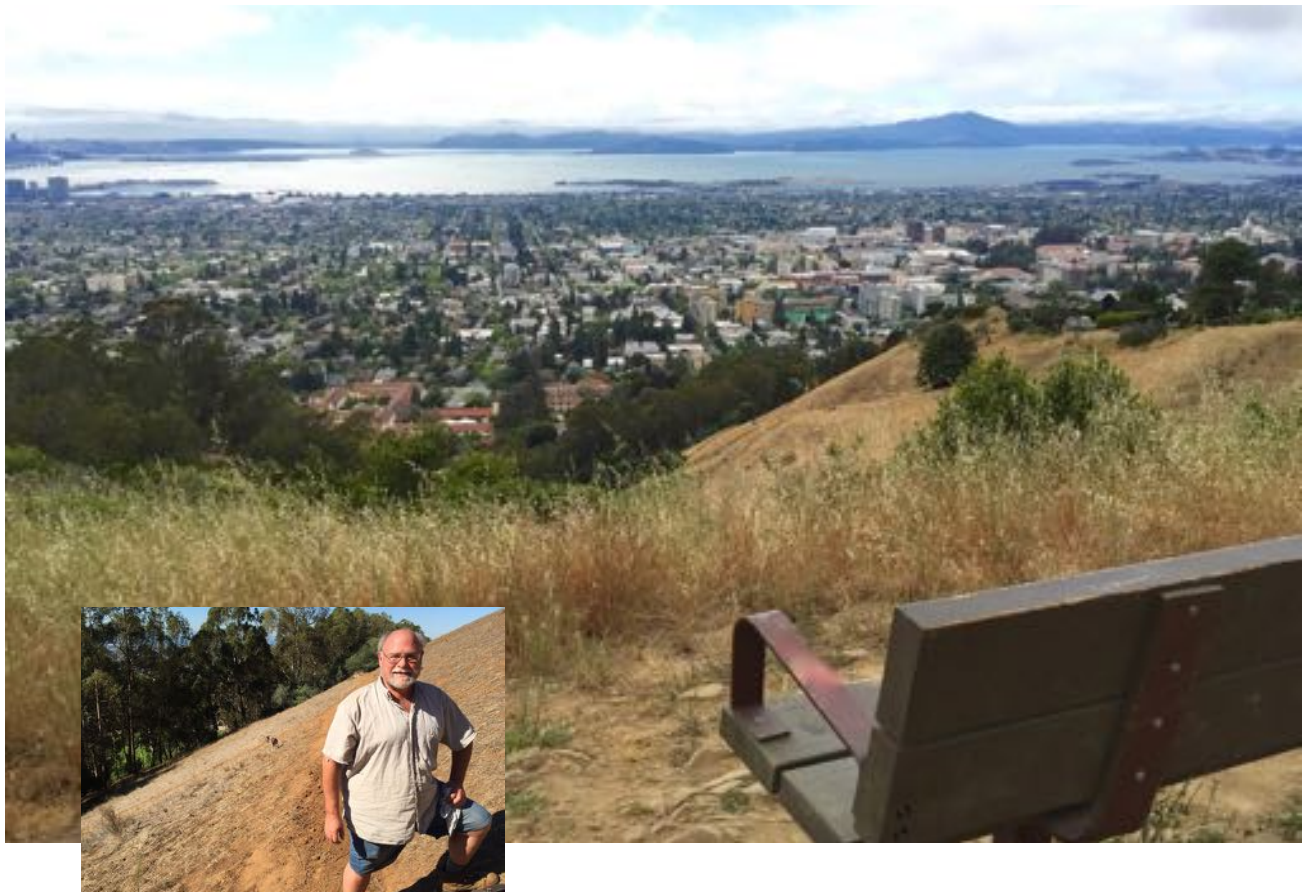
Email: [info@ClaremontCanyon.org](mailto:info@ClaremontCanyon.org)

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

**The Board of Directors:** L. Tim Wallace, President; Jon Kaufman, Vice President, Joe Engbeck, Vice President; Marilyn Goldhaber, Secretary; Josh Borkowski, Steve Holtzman, Jerry Kent, Nancy Mueller, Bob Strayer and Dick White, Members at Large.

**Treasurer:** Kay Loughman

**The Claremont Canyon Conservancy News** is edited by Marilyn Goldhaber and Kay Loughman.



© 2016 Marilyn Goldhaber

*A resting spot along the Stonewall-Panoramic Ridge Trail overlooks Derby Creek Canyon, the little canyon wedged between Strawberry and Claremont canyons. In the inset is trail builder Steve Glaeser at the start of the project to improve the trail that goes up from behind the Clark Kerr Campus (see red-tiled roofs in the mid-ground).*

## **New life for a not-so-hidden trail**

*Guest article by Jim Rosenau*

A HEAVILY USED FOOT PATH into the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve was recently upgraded by a volunteer trail crew, Take To The Hills. T<sup>3</sup>H was formed two years ago by Steve Glaeser (inset, above) and myself (photo on opposite page) to build stairways and make the trail safer for travel.

Though the trail does not appear on any existing Park District or UC map, was never formally engineered, and was scarcely maintained, it has, for years, attracted both casual and experienced hikers traveling between Dwight Way and Panoramic Hill. Often misunderstood as belonging entirely to UC Berkeley, because it originates just above the Clark Kerr Campus, the trail, in fact, also crosses East Bay Regional Park District land. Despite its popularity, the trail, now labeled on Google Maps as the Clark Kerr Fire Trail, but referred to by others as the Derby Creek Trail, was deeply eroded and very hazardous.

Starting on Dwight Way just behind the Clark Kerr running track, the trail begins with a long stair climb through a eucalyptus grove. Once you get above the trees and past a graffiti-clad rock, the trail forks. The left fork, which was rerouted around a steep, erosive slope, leads quickly to a meadow with dramatic views and then on to upper Dwight Way. This section of the trail has long been used as a way to get up out of town for a quick view and hit of nature. Panoramic Hill residents count on it as an escape route.

The right fork leads through Derby Creek Canyon to the Stonewall-Panoramic Ridge Trail. It passes through a native woodland of oaks, bays and redwoods, a place that remains shady and cool all year. Though favored by the adventurous, the entrances to this woodland were somewhat obscured until T<sup>3</sup>H began working on them this past winter. Poison oak, log-falls and slippery mud slopes challenged anyone who made the trip.

*Author, Jim Rosenau (below) works on stairs leading to upper Dwight Way. To the right are stairs leading down towards the Clark Kerr Campus. Over a two-year period, Take To The Hills installed a total of 175 stairs milled from locally obtained eucalyptus logs.*



© 2017 Steve Glaeser

In addition to building stairs, T<sup>3</sup>H, with permission from the landowners, cleared poison oak, installed a bridge over Derby Creek, widened and leveled much of the trail, cleared storm-downed trees, begun to control thistles and French broom, and installed erosion control measures. In the meadow near upper Dwight and Panoramic Way our crew installed recycled redwood benches with views of the bay. Two Eagle Scout candidates, Devin Craig and Gabe Walden, tackled sections of the trail this spring, installing about 50 treads and another bench.

In response to all the improvements, trail usage surged, particularly after the entrances to the trail were improved. Now that it is relatively easy to traverse Derby Creek Canyon to and from the Stonewall-Panoramic Ridge Trail, many are making this woody connector part of their route. Though muddy in places during the rainy season, it is otherwise very fit for hikers in sturdy shoes.

Take To The Hills was hatched at a trailside meeting about three years ago when Steve Glaeser and I first met to discuss what could be done about

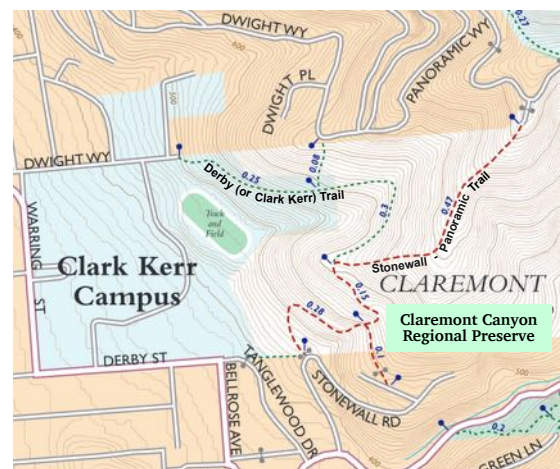
*On the map to the right, UC Berkeley's Clark Kerr Campus appears in light green and the Park District's Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve in white/ivory. The renovated trail, represented by a dotted green line, traverses both public lands.*



© 2017 Steve Glaeser

the failing stairs on UC's land at the base of the trail. Steve is a path building leader for Berkeley Path Wanderer's Association, an organization dedicated to improving the public paths throughout the city of Berkeley. Because the trail crosses the properties of multiple landowners, Steve and I immediately decided to create a new entity to conduct this project. T<sup>3</sup>H is an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks which provides non-profit status and liability insurance for volunteers. T<sup>3</sup>H has raised over \$4,000, most of which went to pay for locally-milled eucalyptus treads to replace and install stairs on steeper sections. We are working to raise another \$2,000 to cover existing commitments and to complete work on the trail next winter.

What's most satisfying to the T<sup>3</sup>H trail crew is the delight and gratitude that hikers express for the overdue improvements. All appreciate such a gem, so close to home. [www.TakeToTheHills.net](http://www.TakeToTheHills.net)



About 1978, photographer unknown



*Afton Crooks, co-founder of Friends of Claremont Canyon, (center, with binoculars) meets with three East Bay Regional Park District board members in 1978 to advocate for the purchase of private land in Claremont Canyon. Below is a view of the north slope of the canyon, at about the same time, showing the Marron Farm (center), which was being offered for sale.*

## Conservancy Membership

*by Marilyn Goldhaber*

**HONORING OUR MEMBERS:** From our founding in 2001, we have encouraged nearby residents and community organizations to support the Conservancy by becoming Founding Sponsors with a commitment to contribute \$1,000, either all at once or over ten years. Many of our Founding Sponsors have reached their pledge and many continue support into the future with another \$1,000 to cover the next ten years. To see our full list of Founding Sponsors, please see our 2016 Spring Newsletter at [claremontcanyon.org/our-publications](http://claremontcanyon.org/our-publications).

In our next newsletter we will feature a report on the early days when Friends of Claremont Canyon (which later merged with the Claremont Canyon Conservancy) was formed.

We are pleased to list on the opposite page persons who made contributions during our most recent membership drive.

Please consider joining or donating to the Conservancy. Thank you!



© 1978 Nat Goldhaber

Gerald Abrams  
 Patricia and Ronald Adler  
 Linda Agerter and Richard Judd  
 Marie and Ray Alberti  
 Michael and Lisa Alvarez Cohen  
 Jeffrey and Joan King-Angell  
 Patricia Angell  
 Russell and Annetta Aubry  
 Gay and Alan Auerbach  
 Linda and Mike Baker  
 Elizabeth Balderston  
 Skip Battle  
 Maria and Scott Beamer  
 Bernadette Bell and  
 Kenneth Wachter  
 Ed Bennett  
 Marc and Cristina  
 Hawes-Bensadoun  
 Beverly Bense and Alan Dimen  
 Steven Berger and  
 Paula Hughmanick  
 Dorothy Berndt  
 Adelle Bischoff  
 Susan Blumstein  
 Stephen Bomse and Edie Silber  
 Charles and Katherine Bond  
 John Bongiovanni and  
 Susan Miller  
 Theodore Booth and  
 Charlotte Biern  
 Stephen and Naomi Born  
 William Boyd  
 Roland Brandel  
 Martha Breed  
 Marion Brenner  
 Shelagh and Bob Brodersen  
 Don and Carol Anne Brown  
 Cynthia Brown  
 Lisa Bruce  
 Carolyn Burgess  
 Lorna and Warren Byrne  
 Shyan Chang  
 Paul and Helen Chapman  
 Warren Chiang and Julie Chin  
 Jean Marie Circiello  
 Marcia Wood and Bill Flenniken  
 Marilyn Citron and Kevin Flynn  
 Michael and Lisa Alvarez Cohen  
 John Coll  
 Joan and Frederick Collignon  
 Bob Connor  
 Elaine Cooper and Les Goldner  
 Jan and Luciano Corazza  
 Betsy Cotton  
 Laurie Craise  
 Kim and Kazumi Cranney  
 Lawrence and Lois Dahms  
 John Dal Pino  
 George Davis and  
 Katherine Westine  
 Barbara de Janvry  
 Rhea and Rajan Dev  
 Tim DeWolf and  
 Cristina Campbell  
 Kathleen Dittmer  
 Thelma Dixon  
 Kevin Donahue  
 Lew Douglas  
 Chris Doyle  
 Laurie Doyle and Sam Greyson  
 Fredrica Drotos  
 Thad Dunning and  
 Jennifer Bussell  
 Burton Edwards and Lynne  
 Dalpoggetto  
 Daphne Edwards  
 Joe Engbeck and Sondra Reid  
 Karin Evans and Mark Humbert  
 Samuela Evans  
 Bill Falik and Diana Cohen  
 Robert Farina and  
 Mary E.S. Loomis  
 Elizabeth Farnsworth  
 Richard and Martha Fateman  
 Bruce and Madeline Feingold  
 Marc and Vallery Feldman  
 Fred and Alice Feller  
 Louis and Brigitte Fisher  
 Paul Fitzgerald and  
 Linda Williams  
 Nathan and Caroline Francis  
 Francis Frederick  
 Jane Freeman  
 Sheryl Fullerton  
 Kathryn Golden and Ashley James  
 Alan and Barbara Goldenberg  
 Marilyn and Nat Goldhaber  
 Barbara Gordon and Peter Kane  
 Heidi Hadsell  
 Timothy Hallahan  
 Katherine Hamel  
 Quentin and Vanessa Hardy  
 Anne Hartman  
 Louise Simpson Hendry  
 Robert Herr  
 Lorin and Anne Hill  
 John Hitchen and Kathleen King  
 Blossom Hofmann  
 John and Barbara Holzrichter  
 Kent and Debra Hughes  
 Marian Huntoon  
 Benjamin and Won Hur  
 Joshua Jackson  
 Naomi Janowitz and  
 Andrew Lazarus  
 Marily and Thomas Johnson  
 Andrew Johnson and  
 Elizabeth Shippey  
 Frederick Johnson  
 Ray Johnston and Sharon Muneno  
 Leah Kaizer and David Salk  
 Lawrence Kampel and  
 Anne Rosenberg  
 Adib and Karin Kanafani  
 J.R.K. Kantor  
 Nathan Kaufman and Lynn Franco  
 Amy Kaufman and H.J. Saddler  
 Jon Kaufman and Jill Horowitz  
 Walter and Jocelyn Kaufmann  
 James and Celia Kelly  
 Jerry Kent  
 Kerruish Fund  
 David Kessler and Nancy Mennel  
 Tom and Indra Klatt  
 Judy Krolikowski  
 Norman La Force  
 Germaine LaBerge  
 Mary Lamprech and  
 Mark Robinson  
 Jacqueline Levin  
 Noemi Levine  
 Ray Lifchez  
 Kenneth Lipman  
 Bill and Kay Loughman  
 Thomas and Susan Luten  
 Margaret Lynch  
 Robert and Ann Lynn  
 Laura Mahanes and  
 Steven Weissman  
 Michael and Katherine  
 Maidenberg  
 Rani Marx and James Kahn  
 Andrew Masri  
 Howard and Mary Matis  
 J. Bruce McCubbrey and  
 June Wiley  
 Kevin McCusker and  
 Jill Van Dalen  
 Morton McDonald  
 Derek McGreal  
 David and Nanette  
 Cooper-McGuinness  
 Paul McKaskie  
 Michael and Susan Meadows  
 Roger Mendelson  
 John and Romemary Merchant  
 Karen and Michael Meryash  
 Michael and Tina Meyer  
 Alice Meyers and  
 Malcolm Zaretsky  
 Joan and Trygve Mikkelsen  
 Robert and Catherine Miller  
 Lawrence Moll and Ginny Irving  
 Matthew Morse and S  
 usan Mattmann  
 Eleanor and Norman Moscow  
 Robert and Nancy Mueller  
 Peter Nussbaum  
 Julio Ozores  
 Alex Pappas  
 Beresford Parlett  
 Victoria Peirotos  
 Andrea and Michael Pflaumer  
 Peter Pfister and Bonnie Stack  
 Sue Piper  
 Mary Porter  
 David Quady  
 Carol Rice  
 James Ringland and Karen Ivy  
 Kenneth Robin  
 Diana Rogers  
 Deborah and Michael Roosevelt  
 Tony Rossmann and Kathy Burns  
 Pat Rougeau  
 Marguerite Ryce  
 Jonathan Ryshpan  
 Nancy and Alan Saldich  
 James Sanford  
 Jack Sawyer  
 Richard Scheffler  
 Berndt and Cheryl Schleifer  
 Sederberg-Calk Charitable Fund  
 Gillian Servais  
 Tom and Madeleine Shearer  
 Paula Shoher and Stephen Swan  
 Henry Siegel  
 Louise Simpson Hendry  
 Sharon and Sam Singer  
 Ronald and Joan Sipherd  
 Suzanne Siskel and  
 Peter Gajewski  
 Jerry Skomer  
 Neil and Karyn Ott Smith  
 Loretta and Frank Smith  
 Randolph and Frances Starn  
 Kristine Steensma  
 Robert Stein and Jessica Pers  
 Kathy and Chip Sterling  
 Bess and Steve Sternberg  
 Zach Stewart  
 Michael and Patricia Sullivan  
 Elouise and John Sutter  
 Joan Symonds  
 Sam and Sheli Nan Tabachnik  
 Orna Tarter  
 Bruce Teel and JoAnne Dunec  
 Stephen Teigland and  
 Doris Vanordstrand  
 Joe Testa  
 Frederic and Jeanne Thomas  
 Mary and Anthony Thompson  
 Kenneth C. Tietz  
 Ric and Elaine Tombari  
 Claudine Torfs  
 Anne Torkington  
 David and Beth Trachtenberg  
 Richard Umansky  
 Dale Uptegrove  
 Lee Velde  
 Tim and Marye Jayne Wallace  
 Stephen Walrod and  
 Lauren McIntosh  
 Jane-Ling Wang and  
 Hans-Georg Mueller  
 Janice and Lanny Weingrod  
 Judy Weiss and Stuart Swiedler  
 Michael and Sandra Westall  
 Bruce and Gundi  
 Ley-Whipperman  
 Richard White  
 Joseph and Arnette Whitehouse  
 Carolyn Whittle  
 Patrick Wildi and Sharon Collier  
 Marilyn Williams  
 Lance and Barbara Williams  
 Patricia and Jeffrey Williams  
 Wendy Williams  
 Thomas Wolf  
 Eugene Wong and Sally Sherman  
 Marcia Wood and Bill Flenniken  
 Gordon and Evelyn Wozniak  
 Beverly Zoller



P.O. Box 5551  
Berkeley CA 94705  
[www.ClaremontCanyon.org](http://www.ClaremontCanyon.org)

## THE CLAREMONT CANYON CONSERVANCY

SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF CLAREMONT CANYON



© 2015 Marilyn Goldhaber

*Wild gooseberry blooms in Gwin Canyon, a side canyon in the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve.*