

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation Newsletter

Acalanes Ridge Dedication *Public Opening*

Please join us Saturday, June 4 to celebrate
23 acres of new open space

Acalanes Ridge Photos: Steve Hillierhoff

Acalanes Ridge Dedication Saturday June 4, 2011 10:00am

*Please allow 20 - 30 minutes walking time from
Larkey Park to the Dedication Area.*

- * *Dedication Ceremony*
- * *Light Refreshments*
- * *Optional Docent-led Hike*

The docent-led hike will go from the dedication area to the new property at the top of the ridge. This guided hike will include steep inclines and may not be suitable for everyone.

RSVP

gunther@muirheritagelandtrust.org or call 925-228-5460
For special accommodations or for persons with disabilities
please use the contact information above.

Directions to dedication site: Park at Larkey Park or nearby
and walk up the EBMUD aqueduct trail to the dedication site at
the top. (See map.)

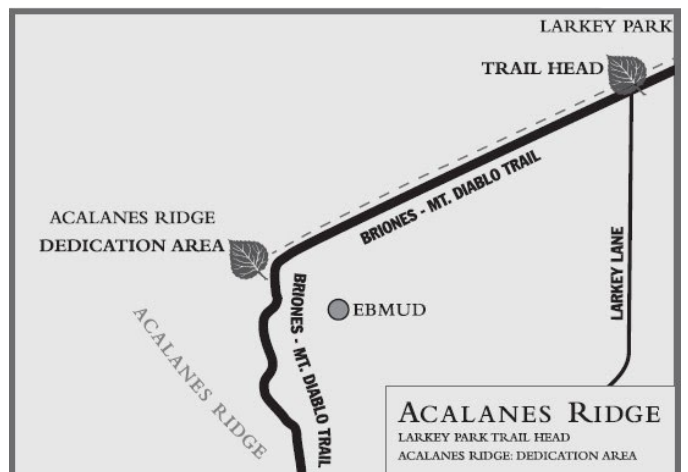
Thank You to Our Members

With this invitation from the Muir Heritage Land Trust, our quest for the property at the top of Acalanes Ridge comes to a happy end. It took nine years and many partners to reach this point.

As part of our contribution to the effort, we pledged \$50,000 toward the acquisition price. I'm proud to announce that we raised over \$62,000.

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity!

-Lesley Hunt



MEAN MISTER MUSTARD

In spring, as our eyes look toward the hills, we often see bright yellow ribbons of blooming mustard decorating the green hills like frosting on a cake. It's a beautiful sight—unless you're a member of the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation's Mustard Eradication Team.

Black mustard, *Brassica nigra*, has long been the target of both the city's open space staff and Foundation volunteers. Black mustard is a non-native, aggressive weed which threatens to take over many of the hills and dales of our natural lands. It crowds out native wildflowers and grasses and completely dominates the land on which it grows.

A group of Foundation volunteers—Phil Johnson, Brad Heckman, Linda Judd, Ralph Kraetsch, Barney Howard, Bill Hunt, Lesley Hunt, City representatives, and your correspondent—formed a task force last winter to study the problem and come up with measures to begin to solve it.



Brad Heckman takes a break from mowing one of the thick mustard patches at the Sutherland area of Shell Ridge.

The group decided to focus on Shell Ridge Open Space because its mustard infestations were the broadest, covering scores of acres, mainly on west-facing slopes and hillsides. We'd initially thought we could, with the help of City staff and equipment, do some industrial-strength mowing and hold back further enemy advances. But the rainy weather stymied our efforts—and gave the mustard a big head start.



Bill Barnard searches and destroys single mustard plants at Sutherland--outliers that migrate from the pack and extend the reach of the invading army.

Undaunted, the group decided to concentrate on a smaller target, hoping to eradicate all mustard in a given area and prevent it from going to seed. (Mustard seed is not carried by the wind, but is somewhat sticky and spread by wildlife in the area like squirrels and voles.) We chose the Sutherland area of Shell Ridge because we believed we could eliminate all of the infestations there. We brought in two Foundation mowers, purchased two weed whackers, and deployed our volunteer strike teams many days over a period of weeks once the weather improved.

We have nearly cleared all of the mustard from the Sutherland area and plan to finish hacking it away by the summer. We'll await next spring eagerly to see how our labor paid off. Want to see our progress? Volunteer Brad Heckman has created a photo gallery showing the many faces of our work. You can view those images at: <http://tinyurl.com/OpenSpaceBlackMustardControl>.

And if you want to help out by joining our team, visit the Foundation website to learn how to sign up: wcosf.org. See you out on the land.

--David Ogden

Volunteers Needed for Heritage Day at Borges Ranch

Walnut Creek history comes alive at Heritage Day. This year's celebration takes place on Saturday June 11th from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Borges Ranch in Shell Ridge. From the bus ride up from Northgate High School to arts and crafts, demonstrations, music, and more it's a day of fun for staff, volunteers and the public. As activities have increased over the years so has our need for volunteer assistance in helping staff deliver this program. Volunteers are needed for a few hours to help greet people as they board the bus, direct visitors to activities at the ranch, help with crafts and staff some of the games and activities. To volunteer at this fun event you must be at least 16 years of age. Call Supervising Ranger Nancy Dollard at 925/943-5899 x2135 for more information and to find out how you can help.

Apology: The last edition of the newsletter contained a number of typos and the beginning of David Ogden's article about the oak celebration was cut off. We have posted the corrected version on the website which you can download to keep or share. We are sincerely sorry for the errors. *—The Editors*

Acalanes Ridge Acquisition Contributors

\$10,000 and more

WCOSF Land Acquisition Fund
Bill & Lesley Hunt

\$5,000 and more

Laurie & Rebecca Shapley
Bob Simmons & Judy Whelan

\$3,000 and more

Selma M. King
Stuart Mangini & Renae Magaw

\$1,000 and more

JoAnn Hanna
John & Linda Judd
Carolyn & Ralph Kraetsch
Joan Kunz
Tom & Pam Lee
Joe & Mary Alice Stadum

\$500 and more

Bob & Cindy Brittain
Rich Carlston
Richard & Joyce Daniel
Douglas Garrett
Brian Hirahara
Barney Howard
Geoffrey Jenkins
Tim Ory & Diana Minnick
Frank & Jane Patty
Cindy & Tom Silva
Ray Thibodeau

\$200 and more

Tom & Donna Aswad

Ken & Sonia Binning
Harvey & Phyllis Ceaser
Glenda Dugan
Jack & Maureen Fritschi
Laura & Graeme Johnson
Gabrielle Levine
Michael Lukza
Jon Maienschein
David Ogden & family
Jeff & Ellen Starr
Curt & Polly Byrne Wade

\$100 and more

Vern & Betty Alton
Jan Askin
Robert & Cathy Butler
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Jerry Christopherson
Kent & Nancy Clancy
Ruth Collins
Gene DeMar
Jennifer Fish
Ken & Carol Fowler
John Friedman
Leslie & Virginia Gallagher
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Rosellen & Greg Hong
Phil Johnson
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Lois McCleary
Alisdair McGregor
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Jeffrey Radigan
Robin Kokemor & Art Rangel
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Stuart & Karen Rowley
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Gene & Lily Schulting
David & Linda Scotting
Barney & Nancy Speckman
Jim & Barbara Stedman
David & Carol Williams
Farid Zainal

\$50 and more

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Jeri & John Aylward
Fred & Florie Baumann
Jake & Janice Bronson
Tim & Carolyn Carlson
Michael & Anne Cisson
Ron & Martis Dawson
Dale & Mary Ellen Dalgaard
Stephanie Chan Doherty + Brian
Sarah Franklin
Ed Griswold
Gen. Jack Hancock
Diane Hickey
Jack & Judie Hockel DDS
Sally Jaspersen
Kathryn Jelter
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Martin G. Simmons
Greg & Lorraine Souder
Paul Valle-Riestra
Dan Wanker
Dr. Franz Wassermann
Douglas & Ruth Waterman
Carl Weinberg
Roberta & Vic Zorzynski

Up to \$50

Klaus & Lucy Adler
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Karen Hershenson
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Betty Bispo
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Maria X. Borquez
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Diana Doughtie & family
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Robin & Michael Ricard
Larry & Elaine Santone
Pat Smith
Alfred & Helene Twyford
Peggy Watkins
Mike Weiss
Elsie Witt
Joanne & Eugene Wong



Even though the day of the 20th anniversary oak celebration was one of the coldest of the year, a good crowd, including some early volunteers we hadn't seen for years, turned out to honor Ralph, Dick and Dan. Mayor Cindy Silva presented proclamations to the three founders.

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation
 PO Box 309
 Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0309

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**Acalanes Ridge
 Dedication
 June 4 10 a.m.**

**RETURN SERVICE
 REQUESTED**

Yes, I want to help protect and preserve Walnut Creek's Open Space

We invite all who share this goal to join the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation. Memberships and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. There are numerous areas where you can help. If you are interested, please drop us a note or email, or visit our website at www.wcosf.org.

I would like to join the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email (*we never share*) _____
 Skills I am willing to share _____

I would like to volunteer!

_____ Oak Restoration Project
 _____ Native Grasses
 _____ Quail Habitat
 _____ School program

MEMBERSHIPS

Benefactor.....\$250
 Sustaining.....\$100
 Family.....\$40
 Individual.....\$25
 Senior.....\$15


**OPEN SPACE
 FOUNDATION BOARD**

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 Brian Murphy - V. President
 David Ogden - Secretary
 Joe Stadum - Treasurer

Sonia Binning Stuart Mangini
 Chris Chapple Gary Muerle
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 Barney Howard Florence Stone
 Linda Judd Mike Weiss
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