



Friends of Sausal Creek

www.sausalcreek.org
(510) 501-FOSC (3672)

February-March '10

Bi-Monthly Meetings

March 17—Oakland geology writer Andrew Alden will talk about the local and regional geologic setting of Sausal Creek, the rocks underlying its catchment, and the mystery of Dimond Canyon and its possible relation to the Hayward fault.

Volunteer to Be a Crew Leader Throughout the Year!

Our restoration sites are booming with volunteers these days, and we've had many large scale events throughout the year outside of Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day. We're looking for volunteers interested in helping out at the large events, as well as our monthly Saturday workdays. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with FOSC's restoration efforts! Please contact Megan for more details about training options and scheduled workdays at (510) 985-1669 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Board of Directors 2010: Hellos, Good-byes, and Thank You

We are excited to announce two new board members as of January: Eddie Dunbar and Sean Welch.



"This adult stage little bluet damsel fly (family Coenagrionidae) occurs in the Sausal Creek watershed and is an aerial predator."

Eddie Dunbar is President of Oakland's Insect Sciences Museum. His goals in FOSC are to better publicize the work of the existing aquatic survey, to expand surveys to include terrestrial insects in the watershed, and to organize Oaklanders around creation of a Sausal Creek natural history guide.

Sean Welch is an attorney who counsels clients on election law, campaign finance, and government law issues. He is a huge fan of the Sausal Creek rainbow trout, the largest of which his two-year old daughter has named "Tommy."

We are sorry to say good-bye to Krisztian Varsa, and wish him fantastic stream adventures in Montana. Thank you, Krisztian, for your many contributions over the last year—leading the

aquatic insect monitoring program, serving as crew leader for large work days, taking FOSC into the Facebook age, and providing cutting edge graphic design on several projects.

A huge thank you to Pat Bacchetti for presiding over the board in 2009. Her leadership, especially on nursery issues, made all of the year's transitions smoother and more fun. Her continued leadership as she steps down to VP will make for another smooth transition as Carl Kohnert moves into the role of president. With Secretary Helen McKinley and Treasurer Harry Schrauth continuing in their offices, and Eleanor Dunn, Mark Rauzon, Paul Frank, Richard Kauffman, Kristin Ohlson, Mark Rauzon, and Jill Sunahara continuing to serve, we are fortunate to have a board with a broad spectrum of professional expertise coupled with a strong passion for the creek. Thank you all for giving so generously of your time!

—Kimra McAfee

SAVE THE DATE

Earth Day volunteer events throughout the watershed will be the morning of Saturday, April 17.

Good News for Beaconsfield Canyon

Restoration Design Group (RDG) has started work on a preliminary restoration plan for Beaconsfield Canyon, thanks to funding from the Coastal Conservancy. After conducting a preliminary watershed assessment and geomorphic analysis, RDG will prepare a plan to address the goals of restoring natural stream dynamics and associated habitat; improving channel and bank stability; and improving water quality by reducing excessive sediment discharges. Stay tuned for neighborhood meetings as FOSC and the City of Oakland work together to eventually remove the failing creek culvert. The ongoing volunteer efforts to reduce fire fuel by removing invasive plants and planting natives were a major factor in moving this project forward and securing the funding. Beaconsfield Canyon workdays continue to be held the last Saturday of most months, 9am-noon. All are welcome! For more information, contact Richard Kauffman at (510) 531-1237 or richard@rkcommunications.com.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF FOSC

Please help us maintain and expand our efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today!

Mail this form with check made payable to: Friends of Sausal Creek, P.O. Box 2737, Oakland, CA 94602. FOSC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contribution is fully tax-deductible. A receipt will be sent for your records. With a minimum donation of \$25 to FOSC, you are eligible for a year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine at the discounted rate of \$17.95. Note that this subscription rate is not a tax-deductible contribution.

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I have enclosed an additional \$17.95 for one year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine.

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Don't miss our member meeting on March 17, 7-9pm. Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

State of the Creek Message

As the new year is dawning, the board and staff of FOSC would like to update all of the Friends of the creek with a 2010 State of the Creek message. Last year was a time of transition; our executive director, restoration manager, and nursery manager all moved on to other positions. In April, the board was fortunate to find a dynamic new executive director, Kimra McAfee, to lead us forward. After learning the ropes, Kimra has been able to lend her own imprint to fundraising and management of our current projects. Restoration Manager Megan Hess came to us from Save the Bay; she's recently taken the title of nursery manager as well. Megan has the energy and organizational skills to handle both roles—not an easy task.

The board goes forward with two of the original founding members, Mark Rauzon and Eleanor Dunn, as well as two new members. We now total twelve and include a couple of EPA employees (past and present), a civil engineer, an environmental consultant, an educator, a biologist, a communications specialist, a retired public works civil servant, and a pair of attorneys and veterinarians. We are all brought together by a desire to help the City of Oakland maintain and develop Sausal Creek as a healthy place for plants, fish, and people.

Currently, we are working on a project in Dimond Park to revamp the Native Plant Demonstration Garden and connect the play area with the creek. We are just finishing a project at the nursery that has enlarged the Demonstration Garden, improved the irrigation system, and provided interpretive signs. We're just wrapping up a large three-year grant from the Regional Water Quality Control Board that provided for a Watershed Assessment Plan. With that in hand, we can more readily identify problem areas of storm drain run-off, erosion, and water quality issues.

Over the years, the organization has grown into its name—we are the Friends of Sausal Creek, a watershed-wide organization. While most nursery and Dimond Park restoration workdays are led by staff, volunteers are leading restoration efforts throughout the watershed: Barry Place, Wood Park, Bridgeview, Beaconsfield Canyon, Shepherd Canyon, and Fern Ravine. One of our 2010 goals is to increase our outreach in the lower watershed, touching more students and community volunteers through hands-on restoration work. We are planning to add an Earth Day clean up site at the mouth of Sausal Creek near the

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org to get information about all activities. For details about ongoing projects, check the Volunteer section of the Friends' website at www.sausalcreek.org.

Bi-Monthly Meetings

3rd Wednesday of every other month.

- Wednesday 3/17, 7pm-9pm.
Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 2/10 & 3/10,
7pm-9pm. Park Boulevard
Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park
Blvd. All welcome!

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Saturday 2/20 & 3/20,
9am-noon.
Contact Eddie Dunbar at

eddie@bugpeople.net or (510)
506-2837 to get involved.

Saturday Workdays

For details on restoration and nursery workdays, go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html or contact Megan Hess at (510) 985-1669 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly, turn at Sequoia Arena,
first lot, Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday 4/24, 8 am-noon.
Call Mark Rauzon to confirm,
(510) 531-3887.



Fruitvale Bridge, and hope to lead other clean up and native planting events there throughout the year.

All of this takes money. As the End-of-Year Appeal has just finished, we would like to thank all of you who contributed. The chart shows just how important

individual contributions like yours are. Our overhead is quite small, so that means that around 85% of the money donated goes right to creek restoration. Fundraising from other sources is a big part of what the board and staff do as well.

FOSC's past shows that what seems impossible can be done.

We are looking forward to continuing that tradition in 2010...with your help.

—Pat Bacchetti

February-March '10 newsletter contributors:

Pat Bacchetti, Eddie Dunbar (photo), Megan Hess, Kimra McAfee
Editor: Kimra McAfee. Designer: Joan Bittner.