



Monthly Meetings

October 17—Diane Dovholuk, Compost Educator with StopWaste.Org, will give a presentation about the basics of composting and how to use compost to improve your soil and grow healthy plants.

November 28—What's up with Bird Flu, what about climate change and birds? And where the heck is Anadyr? These are some of the questions that Mark Rauzon will answer this month in his presentation "Birds of Alaska and Taiwan." Mark has spent the last two summers investigating Asian birds and their connection to the spread of disease. Other interesting concepts to be presented include climate change, the over-exploitation of fisheries, and introduced species.

Welcome Molly, FOSC's new Nursery Manager!

Hello, I'm Molly Goulet Bolt. In late July, I was hired to be the new Nursery Manager at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. I am a certified horticulturist (Merritt College), an ISA certified arborist, and a lab teacher in Soil Management at Merritt College. I am extremely delighted to work again in the nonprofit sector after several years of self employment as a pruner. I live in Oakland with my husband, where we spend much of our free time enjoying our niece and renovating our home. Because there are so many wonderful projects and people to get to know at FOSC, please consider joining me for a Saturday afternoon workday, or take me on a tour of your favorite Sausal Creek watershed project. I would love to hear from you, and can be reached at nursery@sausalcreek.org or 510-928-6675.

—Molly Bolt

NURSERY NEEDS

The Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery could use things—if you're cleaning out the garage or the office, please keep us in mind. They include:

- 4" pots of sturdy black or green plastic
- Garden hoses 25' or 50'
- Envelopes—business or document sized
- Hand tools (pruners, trowels) and long handled tools in good condition
- Gallons of white vinegar for pot cleaning

Contact Molly Bolt to arrange a pickup or dropoff.

THANKS to recent donors, including Nabolom Bakery for workday pastries and Jennifer Smith for irrigation help.

Building with Books Restoration Work Day, Nov. 10!

The Friends of Sausal Creek are partnering with Building with Books (BWB) to get a lot accomplished in Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon on Saturday, November 10, from 10am-4pm. BWB enhances education by empowering youth in the U.S. to make a positive difference in their communities while helping people of developing countries increase their self-reliance through education. We have over one hundred high school students coming to work, to help us prepare for winter planting by clearing invasive plants and trails. We'd love to have you join us as a crew leader to help make all the projects run smoothly, or by participating in various support roles (set up, sign-in, etc). Contact me at field@sausalcreek.org or 510-388-5676, you'll have a great time while supporting this great program! Lunch will also be provided. —Kathren M. Stevenson



Cape Ivy Action Alert

Cape Ivy is spreading in Dimond Canyon. To adequately deal with the infestation, we are looking for people to adopt spots in the canyon, to learn what Cape ivy looks like, commit to pulling it out (including the roots), and put the remains in garbage bags. Cape ivy will not die in home composting systems. Any portion of stem or root left on the ground will enable resprouts to grow. To find out more about how you can help, email Kathren at field@sausalcreek.org.

Restoration and Monitoring of Watersheds Class, with a Sausal Creek Focus, Starts October 23

Sign up today! I will be teaching a class that covers the basic principles of watershed and creek hydrology, hillside and channel erosion, and riparian biology. Students will learn to directly apply their knowledge doing GPS-based field data collection and assessment in the Sausal Creek watershed. Creek restoration analysis and techniques as well as numerous examples of creek projects and watershed assessments will be presented. We'll meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 from 10/23 through 11/27, and have four field days, 11/3, 11/4, 11/17 and 11/18, from 10am-2:30pm. Go to www.merritt.edu to sign up, Code ENVST 33A or M1020, for 2 Units. Cost is \$40. Contact me at laurelm@ix.netcom.com with any questions.

—Laurel Marcus

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

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Amount of Donation

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

Friends of Sausal Creek

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our monthly meeting on October 17 and November 28, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

The End of the "Fifth Season"

My heartbeat quickens as we begin to sense the end of the "Fifth Season," as Judith Larner Lowry so poetically calls August through October in *Gardening with a Wild Heart*.



She writes, "That long luxurious warm spell with no rain, when a hammock, a book, and a glass of lemonade" are the gardener's tools. Lowry continues, "With no moisture, the weeds will be at rest as well, so the gardener can make his leisurely way through the garden, watching pollinators at work, watching flowers turn slowly to seed."

My patience for the rain starts to fade as I look at the native plants that I have

nurtured (or let die) through the summer in containers. Luckily, November is the ideal time to plant natives, after the first rains have moistened the dry soil that is still warm from the summer sun. So prepare yourselves, it is almost time to plant. Once you plant, roots will be invisibly established over the first winter, and you may not see much change in the growth visible above ground until the second year. But a deep, developed root system allows for a healthier plant. Patience is difficult in the first years of native gardening, but the reward is worth the wait. Water in the dry season is necessary every 3-4 weeks the first year of the native garden, but then you can let these plants adapted to our Mediterranean climate bloom and set seed without much fuss.

Map out your planting plan: dig the hole, plant, and let the rains take over. If we have a long dry winter, you will have to mimic the rains with hand watering. You may have to protect the young plants with deer-proofing materials, as there is no true deer-proof plant. Don't fertilize since natives are adapted to our clay soil. Pesticides are likewise unnecessary.

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.

Monthly Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 10/17, 11/28.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 10/10, 11/14.
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space
& Science Center. All welcome!

Aquatic Insect Sampling

3rd Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 10/21, 11/18.
9:30 am-noon; call Emma
Brown to confirm 527-2507.

Saturday Workdays

For info about the nursery, contact Molly Bolt at 928-6675, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the restoration program, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676, field@sausalcreek.org. Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly. Sequoia Arena,
Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday 10/20. 8 am-noon;
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,
531-3887.

Watch the bees, beetles, butterflies, and spiders come to your garden as it grows! They won't harm the plants; rather they provide food for the birds that will find your native neighborhood oasis. For inspiration, take a walk in the watershed, along Sausal Creek where we at FOSC have restored the banks with plants native to the watershed. Look closely and you will get ideas about plant combinations, exposures that mimic your garden, and an idea of what things will look like with time. The time has come to prepare for the rains, so get ready to abandon your hammock! —*Patricia Bacchetti*

Quotes from Gardening with a Wild Heart, by Judith Larner Lowry, U.C. Press 1999, a truly inspiring and thoughtful book about restoring California's native landscapes in the garden.

October-November '07 newsletter contributors:

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