



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

October-November '09

Bi-Monthly Meetings

November 14—We are moving the November meeting to a Saturday and taking it outside! Board of Directors President Pat Bacchetti will lead a bird walk along the restored areas of Sausal Creek looking for winter resident birds. Meet at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park at 8:00am. If it's raining, we will meet indoors at the Dimond Recreation Center for a virtual bird walk.

Native Plant Sale and Open House at the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery, Saturday, October 17

Please join us on Saturday, October 17, between 10am and 3pm to purchase native plants just in time to plant for the winter rains.

Come learn more about gardening with native plants at the 11am workshop, and about plant propagation at the 1pm workshop. Native plant experts will be available all day with practical ideas for all spaces and to help you pick appropriate plants for your specific planting area.

Our nursery grows local natives from seeds and cuttings collected in the Sausal Creek watershed and nearby. Our main goal is growing plants for creek restoration projects, school native plant projects, Oakland parks, and similar uses.

For more information or to volunteer to help before or during the sale, visit www.sausalcreek.org/plantsale.html, email coordinator@sausalcreek.org, or call (510) 501-3672.

Creek-to-Bay Day 2009—A Huge Success!



Thank you to the more than 250 volunteers who came out for Creek-to-Bay Day 2009! Fuel reduction was the theme of this year's efforts. More than

50 cubic yards of invasive species were removed from along the creek, which included Algerian ivy, Himalayan blackberry, and invasive elm trees. Much progress was made on our Dimond Park Demonstration Garden, which is currently being

revamped thanks to a Prop. 84 grant through the Coastal Conservancy. Ten years have passed since this garden was planted, and many of the shrubs have perished in the natural succession of plants; oak trees have matured and shaded out many of the native shrubs including manzanita and ceonothus species. On September 19, we removed all the dead woody debris and the invasive and flammable grasses—just doing our neighborly part to make the watershed safer.

The day would not have gone so smoothly if not for our wonderful crew leaders and Board of Directors. Thank you to area businesses who sustained our hardworking crew with refreshments: Little Caesars, Lucky, Noah's Bagels, Romano Pizza, Whole Foods, and World Grounds. Thank you also to the Insect Sciences Museum for their display.



Find us on
Facebook

Join our Group, "The Friends of Sausal Creek" or
Support our Cause, "Restore Sausal Creek!"

Seeking New Board Members

FOSC is looking for a few new people to join our Board of Directors for 2010. In particular, we seek to recruit new Board members with a passion for or experience with fundraising, grant writing, and financial management. Our Board of Directors comprises a dynamic, committed, fun community of people helping to steer this model watershed group into the future. For more information on what Board involvement entails, please contact me at coordinator@sausalcreek.org or (510) 501-3672. Thank you!

—Kimra McAfee

Stopping the Spread of Invasives

The tiny, highly invasive New Zealand mudsnail, which can crowd out all other invertebrate life (on which fish and other animals depend), was recently found in Baxter Creek in Contra Costa County. As far as we know, all Alameda County sightings so far have been in Alameda Creek. Please remember how important it is to take precautions against spreading

continued on back >

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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Amount of Donation

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

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

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P.O. Box 2737
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www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our Native Plant Sale (Oct. 17) and Membership Meeting (Nov. 14). Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

Lisa Lemus & Phillip Wong—Friends of the Month

Sausal Creek flows underground just west of the 580, but above ground a core group of neighbors is working hard to beautify this section of the watershed. Lisa Lemus and Phillip Wong are the second set of friends who have led the efforts in William D. Wood Park, taking over from Tim and Stephanie Reed about five years ago. After a successful Earth Day event, Lisa and Phillip agreed to host monthly work days, provided the neighbors kept coming, and so they have!

Lisa and Phillip's goal was to increase the safety and beauty of the neighborhood, and the park provides a focal point for the community to be, well, neighborly. The monthly three-hour work days are followed by a potluck lunch. In addition to drawing volunteers from the neighborhood, Lisa and



Phillip are thrilled when outside groups contribute to their efforts, as the dynamo Adventure Service Club of Piedmont has in the past year. For Lisa and Phillip, what makes this personal commitment doable is the back up leadership that the

other community members have been willing to provide. And Lisa now notices other folks coming out to spontaneously clean or garden on their own outside of the work parties.

Now, after five years of park cleaning and removing fuel to increase fire safety, this coming winter the group is hoping to start planting, using native plants propagated at the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery. Starting small, they are planning a little demonstration garden area, which is close enough to one neighbor's house so the drought-tolerant native plants can get the necessary water while they become established. Another small planting area will be underneath the Wood Park sign.

Thank you to Lisa, Phillip, and all of the Wood Park neighbors for their efforts! Wood Park work days are posted on the Friends of Sausal Creek event calendar, and Lisa and

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 *Special day, time, and event!*

- Saturday 11/14, 8am Bird Walk
Meet at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park.

Board of Directors Meetings *2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 10/14 (no November meeting)
7pm-9pm Park Blvd.
Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park Blvd. All welcome!

Upcoming Volunteer Events

For info about the nursery, contact Megan Hess at 985-1669, nursery@sausalcreek.org.
For the restoration program, contact Megan Hess at 985-1669, field@sausalcreek.org.
Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

Come join FOSC in your local stream for insect sampling! Sampling will take place Saturday, November 14, from 9am to noon. We will provide the tools, just wear warm clothing, bring a towel to sit on, and come ready to get wet and experience unusual local wildlife in Sausal Creek! Contact Krisztian Varsa at kgvarsa@gmail.com or (301) 509-1206 to get involved.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly, turn at Sequoia Arena, first lot, Joaquin Miller Park.
• Saturday 10/10. 8 am-noon.
Call Mark Rauzon to confirm, 531-3887.

Phillip welcome you to come by, check out their progress, and lend a hand.
—Kimra McAfee

continued from front > invasive species. Something as simple as cleaning hiking boots can prevent the spread of these snails, as well as seeds of invasive plants and soil pathogens like *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of Sudden Oak Death (SOD). To learn more about the New Zealand mudsnail, please visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/mudsnail/>.

October-November '09 newsletter contributors:

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