



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

December-January '08-'09

Monthly Meetings

December 13—Winter Solstice planting day, meet at Scout Hut in Dimond Park, 8:45 a.m., and plant with us for the morning. Contact field@sausalcreek.org to RSVP.

January 21—Jon Bauer, EBMUD Water Conservation Representative, will give a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation with Q&A on Water Conservation and Rebate Programs at Dimond Library, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE to FOSC's End of Year Appeal!

The long, summer dry season is over, and the rains have begun. Sausal Creek was getting pretty dry, the driest it's been in years and many plants and fish perished in the drought.

We hope the same doesn't happen to FOSC. With the economic crisis that hit us all, we know some people will be cutting back. But we are like the creek, without your financial support our programs will begin to wither. If you only have X amount to donate, please consider your own grassroots organizations. And know we are not taking management resort trips, 100% of your donation goes directly into project funding and staff support. So please cut out the bottom stub and send us your check. Try to match the donation you gave us last year—we'll be much-obliged.

—Mark J. Rauzon, FOSC Board President

Native Plant Nursery Renovation: Progress Continues

Like mushrooms sprouting overnight, our nursery has taken on a new and improved look. And just in time for FOSC's successful fall plant sale and open house, which took place on October 26.

Construction at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery has made great progress this fall. Phase 1, the shade house renovation, was completed in November with the help of many volunteer crews. The rotting eucalyptus poles have been replaced with cement pilings and steel supports. The next time you visit us at the nursery you'll see a new shade house standing where the old one served us for seven years. You'll walk on gravel and decomposed granite paths and huddle out of the rain under a new awning.

But it was not a fairy godmother's wish come true, it was the result of lots of hard work by our dedicated staff and armies of volunteers. Many thanks to the crews that made the new

shadehouse and plant sale possible: Civicorps; Castro Valley Interact Club; Patriarch Achenagoras Orthodox Institute and Ascension Greek Orthodox Church volunteers; Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society; Piedmont Key Club; McCutcheon Construction; Building with Books; Eta Kappu Nu at UC Berkeley, and many FOSC volunteers.

Phase II, the irrigation update, will happen this winter, and we hope to see a new propagation education pavilion constructed in summer of 2009 as part of Phase III.

—Molly Bolt and Mark J. Rauzon



Welcome New Native Plant Propagators!

Please welcome our new plant propagators at the nursery! They completed a twelve-hour class in propagation and will help grow the plants for next year's restoration work. Congratulations to Suzanne Ludlum, Susan Rambo, Tyler Cutforth, Julie Ginsburg, Karen Schroeder, Kelsey Rinehart, Adrienne Boyars, Bill Schoenecker, Sandra Crinnion, Vadim Pokotylo, Ben White, Chris Kasey, Namita Singh, Katrina Ellis, and to the current volunteers who joined us: Adrienne Bryant, Beth Cortright, Annette Osenga, and Stephen White.

—Molly Bolt

*Thank you to
Jean Quan's office and Aidells Sausage
for your generous Creek to Bay Day
food donations!*

Up for Adoption—A Great Spot

On the Sunset Loop in Joaquin Miller Park, there is a wooded spot that we would like someone to adopt. It needs about 3-5 hours a month of attention to weed cape ivy, which is much less of a problem than when we began our work there. Just as you turn off of Joaquin Miller Road, if you walk through the yellow gate straight ahead past the kiosk and open meadow, on your left you will run into the Sunset Loop trail and this spot—a mere 3 minute walk from Joaquin Miller Road. Please email me at field@sausalcreek.org if you would like to adopt this spot.

—Kathren M. Stevenson

END-OF-YEAR DONATION

Now would be a great time to donate to FOSC, so that we can continue our restoration and education efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed. Thank you!

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 _____

Email _____

Amount of Donation

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

Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 501-FOSC
www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our member meeting on Jan. 21st, 7-9 p.m. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Winter Rains Reward Native Plants

During summer dormancy, many California native plants adapted to our climate shut down and sleep. Native plants expect little to no water because they have adapted to our Mediterranean climate, with dry summers and wet winters. Watering dormant natives can in fact kill them and is beneficial only during plant establishment, defined as the first year after planting. Even then water is only necessary once or twice a week to increase survivorship during year one.



That's why native plant aficionados and water conservationists appreciate fall and winter so much. Indeed, fall and winter are the busiest times of the year for us at the Friends of Sausal Creek because between November and February is when we plant the local natives grown all year at our nursery. Fall and winter are when the air cools down and the first rains have moistened the soil. That moist soil is much easier to dig and plant.

Now that we've had a deep, soaking rain, there is no shortage of things to plant, whether in your own garden or with FOSC at one of our planting days (for our big annual planting party, see December 13 solstice announcement on front side). At this time of year we plant over 150 different species native to redwood, oak woodland, perennial grassland, and creekside habitats. For a complete list of natives which grow well in each of these habitats, see the "FOSC Habitat Plant List" on our website, www.sausalcreek.org/sausal/nature.html.

And if we don't get much rain again this winter, remember that hand watering young plants during dry spells is a necessary and important job.

So go plant some native plants, and let Mother Nature take over the watering chores. Watch this year's rainy season green all of those special drought-tolerant plants, trees, and shrubs adapted to our East Bay climate. You'll be glad you did.

—Sara Marcellino

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 every other month.

- Wednesday 1/21.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 12/10, 1/14.
7pm-9pm Montclair Branch
Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd.
All Welcome!



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.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

Stay tuned for revamped sampling efforts to capture the greatest number of insects in the streams, between February and April 2009. Email Krisztian Varsa at kgvarsa@gmail.com or call Emma Brown to get involved, 527-2507.

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

FOSC is looking for a few new people to join our Board of Directors for 2009. 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!

—Sara Marcellino

December '08-January'09 newsletter contributors:

Molly Bolt, Sara Marcellino, Mark J. Rauzon, Kathren M. Stevenson
Editor: Sara Marcellino. Designer: Joan Bittner.