



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

February - March '07

Monthly Meetings

February 21—Come watch and offer input on the inaugural presentation of our new "Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery Road Show," funded by the Rose Foundation. Also, we will share highlights from a report recently compiled by Jones & Stokes that helps outline future restoration plans and long-term vision for our Redwood Site.

March 21—Native plant and bird enthusiast Pat Bacchetti, who is also a FOSC Board member, will discuss how to garden for birds using native plants around your yard.

TEN YEARS & COUNTING

By now you know that the Friends of Sausal Creek is ten years old. Perhaps you've seen the creek flowing freely all year long, which happened once we helped remove the old cement sewer line. Or maybe you have come out for a workday to plant or weed in the creek side or labored at the nursery to get some of the 30,000 native plants (we've lost count!) in the ground. Perhaps you've helped restore the 100,000 sq. ft. of habitat that otherwise would be weeds, or helped expose hundreds of kids to nature.

Yes, FOSC has made these physical changes to the watershed, but more than that, we have created a nature-based community that reaches from the hills to the bay. In a time when people crave community, we have let the creek teach us how tied together we all are, and in the process become a model of how a grassroots community group can operate.



Kathy Kramer talks with Malcolm Margolin at a meeting, circa 1996



Lesley Estes, Anne Hayes, Harry Schrauth, and Sam Coben, circa 1997

And so at 10, we want take this opportunity to acknowledge 50 plus people who have been involved in the management of FOSC over the past decade, either as a committee member, governor, or significant outside supporter. No doubt we have forgotten others, but let this

list stand as a symbol of our strong community. With your help, we will continue to succeed.

—Mark J. Rauzon

Alisa Shor	Eric Wrubel
Anne Hayes	Harry Schrauth
Annette Thompson	Helen McKinley
Barbara Goldenberg	James Hafner
Carol Wright	Jean Quan
Charlotte Bell Acharya	Jennifer Stanley
Diana Surber	Joan Lohman
Dick Spees	John Bowers
Dolores Seigenthaler	Karen Pausell
Ed Wilkinson	Kathren M. Stevenson
Eleanor Dunn	Kathy Kramer
Elliott Smith	Khati Hendry
Emma Brown	Kristen Hopper
Eric Havel	Kristin Hathaway

Kristin Ohlson	Ralph Kanz
Laurie Kunit	Robert Stewart
Lesley Estes	Ron Gartland
Linda Morse	Sally Kilburg
Mark Lane	Sam Cohen
Mark Rauzon	Sara Marcellino
Martha Lowe	Sheelah Weaver
Martin Matarrese	Stuart Richardson
Michael Grayson	Sue Morgan
Michael Thilgen	Sue Piper
Monica Stafford	Tim Reed
Nancy Jones	Tina Stott
Pat Bacchetti	Walter Epp
Pete Veilleux	And You!



March 24: Come Celebrate 10 years of Protecting Sausal Creek

Help us celebrate the Friends of Sausal Creek's Tenth Anniversary!

Our party will be held on March 24, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., at the Joaquin Miller Community Center (just inside the park, located off JM Drive). Come mingle with your fellow creek-freaks, and hear from two great local celebrities: Wendy Tokuda, KRON anchor and watershed activist, and Malcolm Margolin, Heyday Books Publisher and raconteur extraordinaire. Listen to the jazzy three-piece Aaron Cohen Trio, imbibe wine, beer and other beverages, snack on hors d'oeuvres, and bid on the fun items offered in our silent auction. Tickets are \$20 a person, which includes one free drink. To purchase advance tickets, RSVP, or for more information, contact Sara Marcellino at 501-3672 or coordinator@sausalcreek.org. Don't miss it!

Watershed Assessment Class Begins March 29

This spring, as part of FOSC's recently funded watershed plan, consider taking a watershed assessment field course at Merritt College. Teacher Laurel Marcus will emphasize urban watersheds and focus on the Sausal Creek watershed. Class participants will learn how to collect field data and review the methodology and analysis for a watershed plan. Learn how creek restoration projects are affected by urban watershed processes and how to retrofit urban drainages to improve water quality and creek conditions over the long term. Class will be held Thursday evenings from 3/29-5/24 (except for Apr. 5), and includes four Saturday field days (4/21, 4/28, 5/12, 5/19). For more information or to sign up, visit www.merritt.edu, click on "enroll now," and enter ENVMT 32 or Code M1238. Or call me at 501-3672 and I'll walk you through it.

—Sara Marcellino

Winter Solstice Planting Day—Thank You!

FOSC would like to say THANK YOU to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped us get 1,900 plants at eight sites into the ground! We also thank Noah's Bagels and Lanesplitter Pizza for the delicious and sustaining food donations.



Mark Rauzon, Michael Thilgen, Bill Castle and others work at FOSC's Demonstration Garden, Diamond Park, circa 2001

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our monthly meeting on Feb. 21 and March 21, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

FOSC: Ten Years of Protecting the Sausal Creek Watershed

1995: First meetings called by the Aquatic Outreach Institute (AOI), presided over by Kathy Kramer, held at Elizabeth Sanborn Park and Dimond Library.

1996: FOSC officially formed with help from City of Oakland and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Anne Hayes, a Dimond District neighbor, is hired by AOI to help coordinate the establishment of FOSC.

1997: In March, 15,000 sq. ft. area cleared of invasive ivy and a native plant garden established in Dimond Park.

1998: Bird monitoring begins, two publications completed, native trout found in Palo Seco Creek (one of the headwaters of Sausal Creek). Eleanor Dunn facilitates trail repair and redesign of the switchbacks connecting the Bridgeview Trail with the creek.

1999: Received Urban Streams Restoration Grant, and established bylaws. Stu Richardson leads multiple work parties to restore canyon after sewerline replacement. Nursery established at Camp Sweeney in San Leandro.

2000: Our "George Washington," Sam Cohen, is elected first Board President, Watershed Action Plan is completed, and slope by the golf course slides.

2001: FOSC officially becomes a 501c(3) nonprofit organization. Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery is established with grant from the City. 30,000 sq. ft. of major Dimond Canyon restoration takes place, Monica Stafford hired as first Field Coordinator, and Anne Hayes elected President.

2002: Environmental Education Program established, first Creektober Fest held, and an Organizational Assessment written. Charlotte Bell hired as Administrative Coordinator and Kristen Hopper as Field Coordinator.

2003: Sally Kilburg Board President and recipient of Oakland Heritage Alliance and Local Hero for District 4 awards, monitoring programs continue, six site biodiversity focus is established. Fund Development Strategy written by Jim Hafner. The pallid manzanita, a federally listed plant species found in the watershed, receives attention.

2004: Business plan completed, Linda Morse elected Board President, nursery greenhouse and sheds are built. FOSC weighs

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 2/21, 3/21.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month (note change for February.)

- Wednesday 2/13, 3/14.
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space
& Science Center. All welcome!

Saturday Workdays

For info about the nursery, contact

Kristen Hopper at 387-9744,
nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the field program, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676,
field@sausalcreek.org. Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

3rd Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 2/18, 3/18. 9:30am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm, 527-2507.

in on Oakland herbicide debate, focus on Board development, rainbow trout commonly seen, Alisa Shor is Operations Manager.

2005: Oldest oak meets its demise and is honored in Dimond Park, second Local Hero Award goes to Karen Paulsell, Sheelah Weaver elected Board President, and Sara Marcellino Operations Manager. Peralta House fundraiser a success, over 200 species of birds seen in the watershed, Earth Team/Oakland High restoration project takes place at El Centro.

2006: First native plant sale at JMNP successful, Eleanor Dunn elected Board President, and first Executive Director is Sara Marcellino. Hydrological assessment begins, rainbow trout rarely seen after big winter rain scours channel, and redwood site receives Bella Vista funding. Field position is split, making Kristen Hopper Nursery Manager and Kathren M. Stevenson Restoration Coordinator.

February-March '07 newsletter contributors:

Sara Marcellino, Mark J. Rauzon

Editor: Sara Marcellino. Designer: Joan Bittner.