



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

February-March '09

Monthly Meetings

February 18—Stakeholder potluck, Dimond Recreation Center, 5-7pm, see below for details.

March 18—Helene Moore, technology coordinator at Joaquin Miller Elementary School, will describe the unique ecology/technology program she has put together. Six classes, K through five, are participating. They've been taking field trips to sites in the watershed and comparing findings with kids on the east coast and midwest doing similar projects. The web-facilitated program has gotten both teachers and students excited about native plants, water quality, environmental stewardship and regional variation in all of these areas.

Stakeholder Get Together—February 18

If you're a longtime or new propagator at our native plant nursery, crew leader, site steward, or member interested in getting more involved this year, we'd love to see you at our potluck get together on Wednesday, February 18. We'll meet at the Dimond Recreation Center (3860 Hanly Road) from 5-7 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Contact Sara with any questions at coordinator@sausalcreek.org or 510-501-3672. Looking forward to seeing you!

Dynamic Leadership: FOSC's Board of Directors

We're excited to announce four new Board members as of January: Paul Frank, Bill Lassell, Jill Sunahara, and Krisztian Varsa.

Paul Frank is a civil engineer with CH2M Hill, where he specializes in stream modeling and design-related aspects of wetlands and rivers. For years, Paul has looked for a way to give back to and learn more about his local community.

Bill Lassell has been a FOSCEr since the early years—in fact he videotaped much of Dimond Canyon's extensive restoration in 2001, which was featured at FOSC's 10th anniversary celebration in 2007. He was reminded about FOSC while enrolled in a watershed class where we were modeled as a successful community-based watershed group. He's looking forward to getting involved again.

Jill Sunahara is a consultant specializing in water quality, water resources management, and environmental compliance and permitting for Horizon Water and Environment. Jill looks forward to getting to know her own watershed community better and engaging with our field projects while she gets her hands dirty.

Krisztian Varsa is a recent East Coast transplant who landed an abode in Oakland and work at WRT Design Firm in San Francisco. Krisztian is passionate about water and watersheds and sees his work with FOSC as the application of his natural resource management graduate studies. He is also co-leading FOSC's aquatic insect sampling with Emma Brown (*see write-up under "Activity" section*). Welcome Paul, Bill, Jill and Krisztian!

I'd like to also recognize two now not-so-new Board members, **Richard Kauffman** and **Carl Kohnert**, who joined the Board in 2008. They have both made significant contributions to FOSC's leadership. Richard is an independent writing and editing professional who helps fine-tune most of our documents and continues to come up with fantastic ideas around outreach, fundraising, and communications. He also gets his hands dirty while leading his neighbors in the restoration of Beaconsfield Canyon. Carl is an EPA Emeritus who has been helping with several of our field projects. He acts as a liaison to the City of Oakland on FOSC's behalf, has helped forge a partnership between FOSC and the USEPA Region 9 Laboratory around our water quality monitoring efforts, and supports staff development. Carl was just elected Board Vice-President for 2009.



Thank you to all Board members for your tireless commitment to the Friends of Sausal Creek. Thank you to outgoing president Mark Rauzon for your multiple years of service, incoming President Pat Bacchetti for stepping in during a recession, *continued on back >*

Changes to the Restoration Program

We knew it would happen sooner or later, but the time has come to say goodbye to Kathren Murrell Stevenson, who has done stellar work leading our Restoration Program since September 2006. Among her many accomplishments with FOSC, Kathren helped increase the number of active volunteers and community members, fostered many partnerships with groups and individuals, including the City of Oakland around goat grazing, and provided a fresh look at how to save the pallid manzanita. Dr. Stevenson will teach the class "Restoration Ecology" at Mills College this spring, regaling her students with in-depth knowledge of the topic as she takes them on regular field trips to ours and other watersheds. We wish her much luck in her new venture!

As we look to fill this position soon, please contact me if you or someone you know might be interested in leading the restoration program.
—Sara Marcellino

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 _____

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



NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CA
PERMIT NO.
2486

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our potluck on Feb. 18th 5-7pm and member meeting on Mar. 18th 7-9 p.m. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

City of Oakland Helps Restoration of Barry Place

Barry Place in Oakland's Fruitvale District is the westernmost restoration site on Sausal Creek. It is one block north of Fruitvale Ave. on E. 27th Street. It used to be just trash and weeds, and Sausal Creek was barely visible. The Friends of Sausal Creek has worked here the last few years removing trash that would otherwise end up in the Bay. We now replace ivy—which once entangled trash strewn dangerously on uneven ground—and other invasive weeds with native plants supplied by FOSC's nursery. Newly planted native vegetation thrives. Young oaks once buried now get sunlight. Irises, yarrow, mugwort, gumplant, blue-eyed grass, poppies, clarkia, manzanita and other flowering natives provide beauty for humans and shelter and food for other living things.

Imagine our surprise when all of these natives were cut down in September, just before Creek to Bay Day. We think whoever cut the plants didn't recognize the native flora and were attempting to improve the site. The young struggling plants at Barry Place looked quite dry by September after so long without water. California natives are their least impressive just before the rainy season, yet this is when they seed for the future.



This tale has a happy ending, thanks to the good work of staff from Oakland's Environmental Services Department. **Daniel Chau** coordinated the city services for Creek to Bay Day. He contacted me afterwards, and I mentioned the lost plants. An environmental horticulturist by training, he understood our loss. He and **Mark Gomez**, also from Environmental Services, appropriated \$450 to buy replacement plants. They arranged to have these plants purchased from FOSC's nursery and delivered to Barry Place the day before our annual winter Solstice planting. FOSC volunteers planted them the next day, and the plants benefited from a little winter rain. Mark and Daniel are also creating signage for Barry Place to discuss and flag the native flora.

Despite the dearth of rain since Solstice, the plants are doing well. We neighbors of Barry Place look forward to spring flowers. It is a work in progress, but I am heartened when I see people picking poppies as they walk by. To see this is to understand the power of any restoration project, for what was once a dangerous eyesore is now a place of

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

5th Wednesday of every other month.

- Wednesday 3/18.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 2/11, 3/11.
7pm-9pm Montclair Branch
Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd.
All Welcome!

Saturday Workdays

For more info about the nursery, contact Molly Bolt at 928-6675, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the restoration program, contact Sara Marcellino, 501-3672,

Aquatic Insect Sampling

Come join FOSC in your local stream for insect sampling in March! Sampling will take place weekends of March 7th and 14th, both Saturday and Sunday 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.

beautiful life. It takes a community to make this change, and that community needs institutional support. On behalf of the Friends of Sausal Creek and all of us who enjoy the little bit of wildness that Barry Place provides, we extend a heartfelt thanks to these diligent and sensitive city workers.
—Sheelah Weaver

continued from front > outgoing VP Kristin Ohlson for keeping us all straight, Secretary Helen McKinley for the can-do attitude, Treasurer Harry Schrauth for your keen insights into the ins and outs of Oakland's bureaucracy, and stalwart long-time Board member Eleanor Dunn for hanging in there. FOSC thrives with your support and leadership!
—Sara Marcellino

February-March '09 newsletter contributors:

Sara Marcellino, Sheelah Weaver.

Editor: Sara Marcellino. Designer: Joan Bittner.