



# Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

www.aoinstitute.org/sausal

New Phone Number: 501-FOSC  
We now have our own phone number:  
(510) 501-FOSC (3672).  
Please make a note of it : )

March 2002

## Wednesday, March 20 Monthly Meeting

At the March meeting, Youth Environmental Advocates (YEA), a group of high school students working with the Unity Council, will describe their recent monitoring efforts in the lower watershed, and the next phase of their work—community education and outreach.

We will also hear from the new Mapping Committee (see reverse for more info). Led by members Tim Reed and Mark Lane, the committee will show us the most recent features to be included in the Sausal Creek watershed map.

We will also hear about work along neighboring Peralta Creek and receive updates on our own ongoing and upcoming projects and events. **See you there!**

### A Little Help for the Friends

Funding from Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the San Francisco Foundation's Bay Fund Program, and direct donations of the FOSC membership has enabled the recent hire of three part-time staff to provide much-needed organizational support to the Friends. Please welcome Halima O'Neil, Jennifer Stanley, and Monica Stafford!

Halima will serve as our Administrative Coordinator, handling general inquiries, maintaining the FOSC database, and facilitating meetings. A recent Cal State Hayward Environmental Science graduate, Halima came to FOSC when member Stuart Richardson asked the Friends of the Estuary, where she was an intern, to lead a watershed education program at Fruitvale School. (Halima now manages that program.) She is also leading outreach efforts in the lower watershed, and continuing and expanding her work with youth and community members in partnership with the Unity Council.

Monica's sprawling job title for the Friends is Nursery Manager & Volunteer Field Coordinator. She has coordinated habitat restoration projects for the last seven years, primarily in her capacity as the SF Presidio's Native Plant Nursery Manager. Recently transplanted to the East Bay, Monica says she's been anxious to get involved within our watershed, adding, "it's a privilege to do so with such a dedicated group of individuals."

Jennifer, who many of you may remember as the City of Oakland's previous liaison to the Friends, will be producing the monthly newsletter, revamping the website and brochure, and otherwise helping promote FOSC activities and achievements. Since her departure from the City, Jennifer has been keeping busy with freelance graphic and web design projects.



### March Friend of the Month: Au Ta Kieu

Au Ta Kieu has volunteered at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery every Saturday since September 2001, after learning of the Friends from the volunteermatch.org website. He has always been willing to take on anything. During his first time at the nursery, I noticed him mending the fence to prevent deer from getting in. Never shy about enlisting Saturday volunteers for Wednesday sessions with students, and realizing he was out of school for the quarter break in December, I inquired as to whether he would consider working with kids. He said, "Oh, no problem." Turns out, he's just great with the kids. He amiably filled in for me on a Saturday when I couldn't open the nursery. Some of you may recall that there was a problem that Saturday: rain! (And lots of it.) Yet Au did not let this slow him down. He, his brother (who often accompanies him), and Stuart Richardson persevered, transplanting plants and cleaning up the nursery *in the rain*. We gladly make Au Ta Kieu a Friend of the Month for his dedication, tenacity, good fellowship, problem solving abilities, and quiet assertiveness. Thank you "Au so much" for finding us and continuing to give us your time, abilities, and good cheer.

—Sue Morgan, Team Leader of Saturday Workdays at the JMP Nursery



### March 23: Celebrate the Equinox, Honor the Creek and Our Volunteers

On Saturday, March 23, observe the arrival of spring with a festive celebration along Sausal Creek. Meet at the El Centro trailhead at 9am and plant alders, dogwoods, and other streamside plants cultivated at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. At 11am, we will gather at the clearing upstream from the trailhead for a bit of ritual: Fred Wapepah will invoke sacred space in the Native way; David Ponedel will conduct a water ceremony using water from the seven continents. We'll express gratitude and appreciation for all that water, "the life blood of Mother Earth," gives to us. The volunteers who have worked so hard this winter will also be honored. Then we'll share food, some donated by local businesses; potluck finger food or beverage contributions are welcome too.

Join us at 9 for the planting, or just come at 11 for the celebration. Children are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, call Cathy Holt at 845-5879.

—Cathy Holt, FOSC Volunteer & Equinox Celebration Coordinator

#### Report Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For dumping in progress, call 911.
- For sewer backups and spills and storm drain flooding, call 615-5566.
- For other spills and dumping in Oakland creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call 238-6600.

REFLECT ON VOLUNTEERING  
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Workdays happen every Saturday 9am-noon, in Dimond Canyon and at Joaquin Miller Park. Want to volunteer? Just drop on by! Saturdays don't work for you? Call 459-0644 or go to [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) for information about FOSC's variety of volunteer opportunities.

## Join the New FoSC Mapping Group

The Friends can now use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology to develop a map that shows FoSC restoration sites and monitoring stations, and will help us learn about our watershed. By showing where various monitoring efforts, planting projects, and restoration activities are taking place, and by including a variety of other data (e.g., geographic, demographic, municipal services), a Sausal Creek watershed map will help us develop a better understanding of the entire watershed and where our efforts should be directed. For example, mapping where sewer lines cross the creek could help site water quality monitoring locations or help locate sewage leaks. The committee has met twice so far and is open to anyone-no GIS are skills required. They plan to meet once a month, tentatively the first Wednesday. Contact Tim Reed at [timreed@sfsu.edu](mailto:timreed@sfsu.edu) for more info.

## Calling All Car...

...penters, landscapers, architects, construction managers, and contractors! Everyone with interests or skills is needed for Phase II of our native plant nursery development in Joaquin Miller Park. From birdhouse to greenhouse construction, grounds maintenance to grading, much needs doing. Lend *your* expertise to the construction committee. To learn more, call Monica at 459-0644.

## Virtual Friends

**SAVE PAPER:** If you would prefer this newsletter via email in .pdf format, send an email to Jennifer at [jxstanley@yahoo.com](mailto:jxstanley@yahoo.com).

**STAY CURRENT:** Add yourself to the FOOSC listserv to stay current with Friends' activities and add your voice to the discussion. Send an email to [listproc@envirolink.org](mailto:listproc@envirolink.org) with SUBSCRIBE FOOSC and your name (not your email address) as the only thing in the body. Nothing goes in the subject line.

**PROVIDE INPUT:** Got ideas for the website redesign? Send URLs of sites you like, suggestions, and ideas to Jennifer at [jxstanley@yahoo.com](mailto:jxstanley@yahoo.com).

**VOLUNTEER:** Most of the Friends' volunteer opportunities are listed at [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). Go to the Search page, and enter "Sausal Creek" (no quotes) as the keyword.

## FOOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### Monthly Meetings

~the 3rd Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday, March 20
  - Wednesday, April 17
  - Wednesday, May 15
- 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

### Board of Directors Meetings

~the 2nd Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday, March 13
  - Wednesday, April 10
  - Wednesday, May 8
- 7pm-9pm; location TBA. For info, call Anne Hayes at 237-0663.

### Dimond Canyon Planting

~every Saturday through mid-April~

9am-noon; meet at the El Centro Trailhead. For info, call Monica at 459-0644.

### Plant Propagation

~every Saturday & every other Thursday~

9am-noon; meet at the Joaquin Miller Park nursery. Saturday info: Sue Morgan, 531-6293. Alternating Thursday (3/21, 4/4, 4/18, etc) info: Robin North, 336-1861.

### Planting & Propagation with Children

~every Wednesday~

9am-noon; at Dimond Park or the Joaquin Miller Park nursery. Call Sue Morgan at 531-6293 to preschedule.

### Oyster Monitoring

~the first Saturday of the month~

- Saturday, April 6
  - Saturday, May 4
  - Saturday, June 1
- 9am-noon; meet at the Fruitvale Bridge. For info, contact Charlotte Bell at 339-8168.

### Lower Watershed Water Monitoring

~the second Saturday of the month~

- Saturday, March 9
  - Saturday, April 13
  - Saturday, May 11
- 10am-1pm; meet at the Unity Council. For info, call Halima at 501-FOOSC.

### Bird Monitoring

~the second Saturday of the month~

- Saturday, March 9
  - Saturday, April 13
  - Saturday, May 11
- 7:30am-9:30am; call Martha Lowe at 530-7923 for details.

### Aquatic Insect Sampling

~the third Sunday of the month~

- Sunday, March 17
  - Sunday, April 21
  - Sunday, May 19
- 9:30am-noon; for info, contact Emma Brown at 527-2507 or by email at [lightbrown@onemain.com](mailto:lightbrown@onemain.com).

 Mark your calendar: **EARTH DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 20.**  
To help plan or lead volunteer cleanup or restoration activities, call Monica at 459-0644.

The Friends of Sausal Creek are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland. Additional support is provided by the San Francisco Foundation. For more information, contact Halima O'Neil at (510) 501-FOOSC (3672) or by email at [Amadi1549@cs.com](mailto:Amadi1549@cs.com). Newsletter printing and postage provided by the City of Oakland.

## Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737  
Oakland, CA 94602  
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