



# Friends of Sausal Creek

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

April - May '07

## Monthly Meetings

**April 18**—Dr. Andy Gunther, who has received training from Vice President Al Gore, will present an hour-long slide show about global warming and climate change, based on “An Inconvenient Truth.” His goal is to help educate one million people in the next 12 months about global warming.

**May 16**— Western Clinical Herbalist Jennifer Adams will discuss the importance and uses of the Sausal Creek watershed’s medicinal plants. She will bring some medicinal plants from the watershed for display.

## The Importance of Local Native Plants

Native plants represent an important part of the natural heritage of Oakland. Local native species are being lost to urbanization. The Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery protects plant species that are locally rare by conservatively collecting from within the plant gene pool and distributing the plant progeny to appropriate sites elsewhere within the watershed.

The use of local natives is also important considering the many micro-climates that characterize California coastal habitats. Within each micro-climate, the plant and animal life is genetically adapted to particular physical conditions. By reintroducing local natives, often referred to as local ecotypes, our goal is to provide reintroduced populations with the genetic diversity necessary to thrive in micro-climates of the Sausal Creek watershed and to adapt to future changes in the local physical environment. For these reasons, plants we grow for the watershed are all either descendants or clones of plants already living here. Many commercial consulting firms in the business of restoration are not so lucky as to have an in-house nursery, and therefore often end up buying plants of unknown origin from a commercial nursery.



It is also important to preserve intact native plant communities. Volunteers at our nursery have propagated 176 out of the 225 native species found in our watershed. After our restoration enthusiasts tirelessly remove noxious weeds like Cape ivy and Himalayan blackberry, we replant a diverse assemblage of native species, restoring biodiversity at the community level. Instead of a monoculture of blackberry or Cape ivy, the understories of our

habitats are once again beginning to thrive with a renewed number of native species. Through this work we preserve local biodiversity at the genetic, population, and community levels.

Our goal is to continue to develop the nursery, to increase our volunteer capacity, and to increase the number of plants we produce for use in restoration, education, and beautification projects in the Sausal Creek watershed.  
—Krieten Hopper

## Earth Day Event: Saturday, April 21

“Everyday is Earth Day.” But April 21st is the day each year when FOSC marks Earth Day by hosting a work day that gives us a chance to rededicate ourselves to the planet that sustains us. Join us as we clean up Dimond Canyon and the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. Meet at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park at 8:45 a.m. to clean the creek, pull weeds, mulch trails, and meet your neighbors. Another effort will take place at the same time to prepare our nursery for the May 6 plant sale. The nursery is located off of Joaquin Miller Road (turn left on Sanborn Avenue, park in the lot and walk a lovely quarter mile down to the nursery). Coffee, lunch, and special T-shirts will be provided. We thank you, and Mother Earth thanks you. See you there!  
—Mark J. Rauzon

## Upcoming Garden Tours

There are two free garden tours coming up. On **Sunday, April 29**, the Bay-Friendly Garden Tour will showcase natural gardening techniques from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit over 40 public and private gardens throughout Alameda County on this self-guided tour. The tour continues to celebrate the diverse styles of Bay-Friendly gardens, which offer something for everyone—come and discover ideas for creating your perfect retreat. Online free registration at [www.BayFriendly.org](http://www.BayFriendly.org).

On **Sunday, May 6**, check out the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This free, self-guided tour showcases 60 pesticide-free, water-conserving East Bay gardens that provide habitat for wildlife and contain 30% or more native plants. Information and free registration at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net).

The Friends are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland, with additional support from private citizens . . . like you!

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount of Donation

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

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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 April 18 and May 16, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

### Native Plant Sale: May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ever wonder where we get all of those great local native plants for our restoration efforts? The Friends of Sausal Creek's Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery is a volunteer-powered project. Our nimble fingered, avid native plant enthusiasts propagate thousands of local native plants each year. The plants provide the heart and soul of our Restoration Program's revegetation efforts, and supply other creekside restoration projects throughout the city in a "work for trade" type arrangement.



Until last year, the nursery served as an "in kind" match in grant proposals for FOSC's restoration work but had no income itself. Through our plant sale, as part of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, the nursery makes a contribution to the nursery manager's salary and to its many ongoing expenses.

We need to increase the number of plants both to sell and for our restoration projects. We've taken the first step in this process – the greenhouse is loaded with flats full of tiny seedlings that will need transplanting in the next few weeks. Last year, we had a tremendous burst of volunteer help during the few weeks just before the plant sale, and we need that burst again. Most of the seedlings will go into 2-inch or 4-inch pots.

Your help can contribute significantly to the plant sale's bottom line. It's a great way to donate to our organization while getting better acquainted with our watershed's beautiful native plants. Volunteers can take home samples of things that we may have in over abundance such as tidy tips and baby-blue eyes.

Nursery volunteer hours are 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., every Saturday. If you've got a Scout group, school group, garden club, or other organization that does community service projects, get in touch with Kristen at [nursery@sausalcreek.org](mailto:nursery@sausalcreek.org) and schedule an afternoon. For more information about what we'll be selling on May 6 and directions to the sale, visit <http://www.sausalcreek.org/plantsale.html>.

—Kristen Hopper & Karen Paulsell

## FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto: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](http://www.sausalcreek.org).

### Monthly Meetings

*3rd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 4/18, 5/16.  
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,  
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

### Board of Directors Meetings

*2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 4/11, 5/9.  
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](mailto:nursery@sausalcreek.org). For the field program, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676, [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org). Or go to [www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html](http://www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html).

### Aquatic Insect Sampling

*3rd Sunday of the month.*

- Sunday 4/15, 5/20. 9:30am-noon;  
call Emma Brown to confirm,  
527-2507.

### Water Quality Monitoring

*Quarterly.*

- Sunday 5/19. 9am-noon;  
call Mark Lane to confirm,  
510-219-8036.

### Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly, Sequoia Arena,  
Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday 4/14. 8am-noon;  
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,  
510-531-3887.

The Friends of Sausal Creek wishes to thank the Rose Foundation for its generous grant supporting the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, including support of our "Nursery Road Show" presentation and this special issue of our newsletter dedicated to native plants. If interested in showing the presentation to your garden group, contact Sara at [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org) or 501-3672.

### April-May'07 newsletter contributors:

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