



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

June — July '06

Monthly Meetings

June 21—Eleanor Dunn, President of the Friends of Sausal Creek, will discuss the early history of Sausal Creek and the Dimond (formerly known as Rhoda) District.

July—No meeting.

Successful Earth Day and Plant Sale Events

More people worked with FOSC on Earth Day than ever before. Together with Michelle Doppelt, the wonderful new Recreation Center Coordinator, we had 125 people at Dimond Park to work on a variety of projects. Over 40 hands went to work pulling introduced ivy from oak trees in Dimond Park. The “Ivy Beleaguers” were inspired by the loss of the Dimond Oak, the oldest oak in Oakland, and determined to see that its acorn progeny were not smothered or choked by entwining vines of Algerian and English Ivy. Strands were pulled down from the oaks, and a “donut” of open ground was cleared around the trees.



The Demonstration Garden was weeded and mulched under the watchful eye of Michael Thilgen. Overgrown trails were renewed and spruced up. The area of Dimond Canyon between the creek and the new native

plantings on the creek’s west side saw the removal of a strip of non-native Cape ivy. Elliott Smith’s team removed an incredible amount of acacia and broom on the west side of the canyon. (*Elliott Smith tragically died in a skiing accident on May 16, more will be devoted to him in the next issue.*) The Burmester team built a small wooden bridge and reshaped the drainage area. President Eleanor Dunn led a Kid Krew, who looked at bugs in the creek, mulched along the trail, and potted up some seedlings for the kidlets to take home.

The bi-annual trash and debris clean up at Barry Place on East 27th St. is paying off, thanks to John Bowers and Sheelah Weaver. The volume of rubbish to clean up is decreasing and the Barry Place volunteers planted creekside species to add native diversity to the creek bed. Up at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, we built 12 tables for plants and installed steps for a trail up to

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the scenic overlook. We cleaned out and enclosed the shade house, weeded and tidied much of our plant stock.

Speaking of nursery, our first-ever native plant sale was a huge success—over 500 people visited the nursery, buying about \$6K worth of native plants, donating another \$1K to FOSC. A heartfelt “thanks” goes out to all the volunteers and leaders who came out for both events. See you next year!
—Mark Rauzon

For all of their donations to Earth Day and the plant sale, FOSC would especially like to thank the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation for a nursery capital improvement grant, Saag’s Sausages, Jean Quan’s office, Ashby Lumber, Costco, and the City of Oakland.

Friend of the Month—Ralph Kanz

Rare plant species live in the Sausal Creek watershed. At its headwaters, there is a dying stand of pallid manzanita. The next ridge over, going south, there are stands of endangered Presidio clarkia, an ‘annual’ which is often weed-whipped prior to seed set. The legislation in place to theoretically protect these and other listed species, the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Environmental Quality Act, has little official local enforcement. What stands between these species and extinction is Ralph Kanz, FOSC volunteer extraordinaire. Ralph combines intimate knowledge of the species’ needs and last known locations with astute political skills, knowledge of the law and official contacts. For his tireless monitoring, documenting, and calling attention to these plants of special concern in our own backyard, we nominate Ralph Kanz as our Friend of the Month. The Barry Place project thanks Ralph for his fearless canopy opening work on Earth Day.

—Kristen Hopper & Sheelah Weaver

Joaquin Miller (went walkin’)

Local writer Kristen Caven has written a song about Joaquin Miller and the Oakland Hills—and dedicated it to FOSC! Teachers and performers can listen to the tune, download the music to sing with kids, and learn more about the original habitat of Joaquin Miller Park from her website www.kristencaven.com/JM.htm. Check it out!

—Sara Marcellino

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.

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www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Springtails from the Creek

Note: Springtails are an aquatic insect, Order: Collembola

It has been a busy couple of months for our volunteer aquatic insect sampling group. In February and April, we went to the Palo Seco Creek site (Palo Seco is a tributary to Sausal Creek) with a mixed group of old timers and new volunteers. During March and April, we hosted two separate groups of high school students from Camille Nowell's sophomore Integrated Science-2 class at Piedmont High School.

In March, at the Dimond Park creek site, a notable recreational use for pipettes was discovered. Fortunately, some serious science took place before the water sports began. The students who attended our April sampling at Palo Seco Creek were mellow yet engaged in active competition to find the most



insects. The Water Penny Award (Order: Coleoptera) goes to the three young women who wore their galoshes that day (see photo) – a must for any stream monitoring.

We never know for certain what

we will find when we go out to the stream. Palo Seco Creek jumped its usual channel during the rainy winter, forging a new, deep stream down part of the trail. We took samples from our usual sample site, which was still underwater, as well as from a portion of the new streambed.

On both occasions (February and April), we found fewer insects in the original stream channel than in the new channel, although the diversity mix was still good in both cases. At the Dimond Park site in March, we found 117 Minnow Mayflies (Family: Baetidae)—“small, but lively” is recorded in my field

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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 6/21, no July meeting. 7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 6/14, 7/12. 7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center. All welcome!

Saturday Workdays

Most, but not all, Saturdays
9am-noon—Restoration Activities
1:30-4pm—Nursery Activities
For info, contact Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

3rd Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 6/18, 7/16. 9:30am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm 510-527-2507.

Water Quality Monitoring

Quarterly.

- Sunday 7/22, 10/21. 9am-noon; call Mark Lane to confirm, 510-219-8036.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly, Sequoia Arena, Joaquin Miller Park.

- Saturday 7/22, 10/21. 8am-noon; call Mark Rauzon to confirm, 510-531-3887.

notes. One aquatic worm and one aquatic beetle represented the rest of the sample. Insect diversity is not a strong attribute of Sausal Creek, but it is always good to see old friends.

—Emma Brown

If interested in collecting and learning more about the aquatic insects in Sausal Creek, contact Emma Brown, who leads FOSC's sampling team (see Activity Calendar, above). Or join in on water quality or bird monitoring. And we always need volunteers for our restoration work and on Saturday afternoons at the nursery. Come join us anytime!

June-July '06 newsletter contributors:

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