



Bi-Monthly Meeting

July 16—Capt. Dennis LeGear and Capt. Geoff Hunter of the Oakland Fire Department will give a presentation on the history of wildland/urban interface fires in Oakland, and approaches to defensible space for homeowners. Also, come learn more about our plans for a redesign of the Demonstration Garden in Dimond Park.

JMNP Nursery Update—Capital Improvement Project

The nursery looks empty after our successful plant sale held in late April, as we sold about 1200 plants. There was a run on *Sisyrinchium californicum* (*yellow-eyed grass*), *Lupinus albifrons* (*silver bush lupine*), *Tellima grandiflora* (*Fringe cup*), *Achilleum millefolium* (*yarrow*) and CA Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*).



The nursery also looks tired and desperately in need of some capital improvements. For example, we built a temporary shade structure seven years ago out of eucalyptus trees plunked into holes bored into the serpentine rock. These poles are now weathered and getting soft where they contact the ground. Plant watering has hastened their decline.

Right now, we're reaching out for help as we embark on a capital campaign for much-needed nursery infrastructure repair, starting with a permanent shade structure. We found Michael McFadden for design as well as longtime supporters Richard and Diana Surber's construction company and McCutcheon Construction Inc. for some donated materials.



Now we need your help, to help us raise the funds to improve this vital space. Most granting agencies don't support capital improvements. We've kicked off a fund drive (*see box*), and now need about \$3,000 more dollars to replace the old

wood poles with aluminum ones, set cement footings, and lay new shade cloth cover this summer. This is the first stage of the proposed improvements (*the total renovation will cost about \$45,000*). We'll be taking our request on the road so you'll be hearing more about this as the summer progresses.

Please help in any way you can.

—Mark J. Rauzon

SPONSOR THE NURSERY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We're halfway to our goal of \$6,000 for a new shade structure. So far, we've raised:

- \$1,400 from plant sale proceeds
- \$500 from a Local Hero's donation (*Wendy Tokuda and Richard Kauffman*)
- \$200 from an anonymous donor
- \$840 from FOSC Board members' donations

Help us raise another \$3,000! \$100 buys a new footing for the shade house; \$500 buys a new path; \$3,000 the structure itself. Make a check out to "FOSC—Nursery Improvement Project" and either mail it us (PO Box 2737, Oakland, 94602) or drop it by the nursery.

Other ways to help: mail us a gift certificate to Ace Hardware, OSH, Ashby Lumber, or Home Depot. We'll also need people skilled in concrete, carpentry, or landscape construction, as well as lots of willing-to-learn volunteers. Contact coordinator@sausalcreek.org or 510-501-3672 with specific questions. Thank you!
—Kristin Ohlson

Earth Day 2008: FOSC Volunteers have done it again!

Over 185 people participated in Earth Day activities at Barry Place, Dimond Park/ Dimond Canyon, Beaconsfield Canyon, Shepherd Canyon, and at our native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. At Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon, we planted over 200 plants, removed 14 cubic yards of green waste, and cleaned up one illegal dumpsite along Sausal Creek, removing another cubic yard of debris. At the nursery, we prepared the grounds for our annual plant sale (*lots of weeding!*), made potting soil available for community gardeners, and cleaned up the nursery stock. One week later, we hosted our successful 3rd annual plant sale, which was part of the Bay Friendly Garden Tour.

Thank you goes out to Whole Foods and Jean Quan's office for helping us to feed volunteers. Also to Martin Matarrese and Kristin Hathaway from the City of Oakland who worked so hard to make this a huge success. Most importantly, thanks to all of you who came and volunteered your time cleaning up and beautifying the Sausal Creek watershed!
—Kathren M. Stevenson

SUPPORT THE WORK OF FOSC

Please help us maintain and expand our efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed and help support the nursery improvement project 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 member meeting July 16, 7-9 pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Friends of Sausal Creek: A Vital Organization



Excerpted from "Friends of Sausal Creek: A Vital Organization in Oakland" by Brissa Mejia, a 5th grade student at Monarch Academy. Ms. Mejia volunteered at the nursery as part of her final R.O.P.E.S. project. For more information about Monarch Academy, visit aspirepublicschools.org/monarch.

Are you wondering why some Oakland creeks and forests are losing their beauty? Do you wonder why creeks have filthy water? It's because most people are not trying to restore creeks to their natural cleanliness. Instead, they are cutting down trees and polluting the water and as a result, they are increasing the amount of global warming in Oakland. The Friends of Sausal Creek is important because they are working on a restoration project to save plants and animals around the creek and helping the environment.

One step they took to start Sausal Creek was to find volunteers. Some other steps they took were to get tools for digging and pots to put plants in. Another step they took was to start putting the seeds and seedlings in the pots. After eleven years of hard work and determination, the Friends of Sausal Creek's restoration project was finally completed. This event is important because it demonstrates that hard work really pays off. Friends of Sausal Creek has improved since it began because they've received more volunteers and now they can plant more plants. By having more volunteers, they can help the workers finish their jobs. For example, if they are in need of clean pots, the volunteers can help by cleaning out some of the pots.

The restoration project helped change water quality, and hydrology, the study of water. This is important because all these things help make Oakland a better place with less pollution. This makes a difference in people's lives because without the restoration project, the city of Oakland would have been even more polluted than it already is. All this pollution, adding to global warming, is killing many living and healthy plants, people, and animals.

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

- 3rd Wednesday every other month.*
- Wednesday 7/16.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors

- Meetings**—note new venue
- 2nd Wednesday of the month.*
- Wednesday 6/11, 7/9.
7pm-9pm Montclair Branch Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd.
All Welcome!

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- 3rd Sunday of the month.*
- Sunday 6/15, 7/20.
9:30 am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm 527-2507.

Saturday Workdays

For info about the nursery, contact Molly Bolt at 928-6675, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the restoration program, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676, field@sausalcreek.org. Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly, Sequoia Arena, Joaquin Miller Park.

- Saturday 7/12. 8 am-noon; call Mark Rauzon to confirm, 531-3887.

This paper demonstrates how vital Sausal Creek is to the Oakland community. If you want to be healthy and live to be more than one hundred years old, maybe you should plant a tree or volunteer at Friends of Sausal Creek. You have a choice to volunteer. Please make a difference. —*Brissa Mejia*

The Friends of Sausal Creek would like to thank Pat Bacchetti for donating "crew leader" T-shirts for our events (stay tuned, we'll let you know when we have FOSC tees to sell), Michael McFadden for the nursery improvement plans, and Cresco for the weed whacker.

June-July '08 newsletter contributors:

Brissa Mejia, Kristin Ohlson, Mark J. Rauzon, Kathren M. Stevenson
Editor: Sara Marcellino. Designer: Joan Bittner.