



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

June — July '09

Bi-Monthly Meetings

July 15—FOSC Board of Directors President Pat Bacchetti will present an overview of the organization's accomplishments in the last year, and the group will discuss projects for the coming year, including prioritizing restoration sites, planning Fall and Spring Plant Sales, and organizing other community and fundraising events.

Summer Evening Restoration

Join FOSC in restoring the creek this summer by helping remove invasive species and keeping the creek litter-free. In addition to our usual Saturday morning restoration work days, we are launching occasional Tuesday evening sessions to avoid the summer heat! Work day information is posted on the event calendar at www.sausalcreek.org or contact me at 985-1669 or field@sausalcreek.org. Here are the Tuesday evenings we have planned:

Tuesday, June 9, 6-8pm at the Bridgeview Trailhead

Tuesday, June 30, 6-9pm at Dimond Park

Tuesday, July 21, 6-9pm at the Bridgeview Trailhead

Hope to see you there!

—Megan Hess

Earth Day Accomplishments

Earth Day 2009 at Sausal Creek was a huge success! Many thanks to all the crew leaders who contributed to the planning and leadership of the six events in the watershed (Tara Alicott, Steve Asztalos, Pat Bacchetti, John Bowers, Adrienne Bryant, Tyler Cutforth, Kevin Dick, Fanny Fankuchen, Kristen Hopper, Nancy Jones, Richard Kauffman, Carl Kohnert, Brian Lilla, Ian & Lesta Nadel, Kristin Ohlson, Karen Paulsell, Mark Rauzon, Rosemary Resnick, Alexis Strauss, Jill Sunahara, Krisztian Varsa, and Sheelah Weaver), and to the more than 150 volunteers who donated their time at the sites! Among the accomplishments of the day was the removal of roughly twelve cubic yards of invasive species from Dimond Canyon, and the transport of hundreds of native plants from the hot sun to the cool shade at the JMNPN nursery (during which time the impressive new shade structure was completed and gravel pathways were



constructed). Meanwhile, countless other invasive species and trash were removed from Barry Place, Shepherd Canyon, Beaconsfield Canyon, and the Bridgeview Trailhead. What a day! —Megan Hess

WANTED:

Someone with carpentry skills to construct bat and owl nest boxes or to donate such boxes. Please contact Mark Rauzon at mjrauz@aol.com. Thank you!

Looking for Bookkeeping Assistance

After four years of dedicated service, our wonderful volunteer bookkeeper, Carol Wright, is stepping down. We are looking for a volunteer with experience using QuickBooks to take over as soon as possible. Carol reports that the time involvement is between five and ten hours a month, depending on where we are in our fiscal year. If you have this expertise, or know anyone who might, please contact Kimra at coordinator@sausalcreek.org or 501-FOSC.

Beaconsfield Canyon and FOSC in the News!

The May 2009 issue of *The East Bay Monthly* featured an article on local stream restoration groups, highlighting Beaconsfield Canyon and FOSC! Thank you to writer Lauri Puchall for helping spread the word on our efforts. Below is an excerpt; you can read the article in its entirety online at <http://www.themonthly.com/feature-05-09.html>.

"The Fire Department now relies heavily on the Beaconsfield group for advice about appropriate timing for weeding and pruning. Volunteers are teaching city employees to cut native plants after they reseed, and to attack non-natives early, before they go to seed and spread. Last year, the Fire Department hired a land management consultant knowledgeable about natives to clear the canyon of flammable brush; this year a botanist oversees crews. And recently, Beaconsfield group members began meeting regularly with Fire Department officials to coordinate a schedule for their combined efforts."

Adopt-A-Site

There are several restoration sites along the creek that have benefited from volunteers who've taken charge in giving ongoing care and maintenance through site-adoption. If you are interested in spending four to six hours of work each month at one of the Dimond Canyon sites, please contact Megan at field@sausalcreek.org. We are looking for volunteers to commit to at least three months of ongoing maintenance. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about native and invasive species in the watershed, and to build your knowledge of habitat restoration.

HELP SUPPORT COMPLETION OF NURSERY RENOVATION

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
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www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our member meeting on July 15, 7-9 p.m. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Update from the New ED: JMNP Needs Your Help!

It certainly has been a busy and exciting time to join the Friends of Sausal Creek community. Thank you to Sara Marcellino for her uncountable contributions to FOSC over the past four years, and for expertly facilitating my transition into the Executive Director position.

FOSC continues to accomplish so much on a relatively small operating budget, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our volunteers. We thank **Clif Bar** and **Patagonia** for their recent grants to support our work. Clif Bar's generosity will fund outreach and several work days at our restoration sites. Patagonia's funding allows us to renew our efforts to protect the pallid manzanita population at the Chabot Space & Science Center.

Despite these grants, our funding is much lower this year. **EBMUD** is generously funding part of the irrigation upgrade at the nursery, but the grant excluded any labor. **We need your personal donations to bring our nursery renovation to completion.** Thank you to professional irrigation consultant Jen Smith, who has donated a significant portion of her services. Thank you also to Kristen Hopper for her project management, and to the Board of Directors, especially Pat Bacchetti, who are all working together to ensure that our plants have a reliable water source throughout the summer.

Please check out Mark Rauzon's slide show of the nursery since 2001, especially the incredible changes in the last year. Go to www.rauon.zenfolio.com and click on the "Nursery Re-do" link. Then sit back and marvel at what we all have accomplished!

—Kimra McAfee

Nursery Renovation Kudos

McCutcheon Construction—In addition to pouring the concrete footings for the shade house last fall, McCutcheon donated the time and materials to build the penultimate housing for our new pump.

Nancy Jones and **Karen Paulsell**—Nursery volunteers extraordinaire, Nancy and Karen's omnipresence has been crucial during Molly's leave. Special thanks to Nancy for helping keep the plants watered while the irrigation system is being renovated, and to Karen for leading the planting of the new demonstration garden at the nursery.

Ian and **Lesta Nadel**—From shade house pole assembly to affixing the cloth, from lugging trash and granite to constructing safety railings, Ian and Lesta's contributions have been invaluable.

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 of the month.

- Wednesday 7/15.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 6/10 and 7/8.
7pm-9pm at the Park Blvd.
Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park
Blvd. All welcome!

Upcoming Volunteer Events

For info about the nursery, contact Molly Bolt at 928-6675, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the restoration program, contact Megan Hess at 985-1669, field@sausalcreek.org. Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

Come join FOSC in your local stream for insect sampling! Sampling will take place Sunday, June 7, 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.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly, turn at Sequoia Arena, first lot, Joaquin Miller Park.
Saturday, 7/11. 8am-noon.
Call Mark Rauzon to confirm,
531-3887.

Water Quality Monitoring

FOSC plans to monitor Sausal Creek water quality, collecting water samples at various locations along the Creek. The monitoring will take place on Sundays between mid-July and the end of August. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will analyze the samples, checking for *E. coli* bacteria, and will provide FOSC with a findings report. If you are interested in a fun and educational project (no previous experience is necessary) please contact Carl Kohnert at 654-4062 or cckohnert@sbcglobal.net.

We are delighted to announce the birth of Rowan Khalil Bolt on April 9. Congratulations to Molly and Crow!

June-July '09 newsletter contributors

Tom Coroneos (photo), Megan Hess, Kimra McAfee
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