



Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

AUGUST 2002

Wednesday, August 21 Monthly Meeting

At August's meeting, FOSC's newly elected board officers and new board members (good Friends, all) will be announced. Meet team leaders who will discuss their activities over the last year, and plans for the coming months. Help shape activities and logistics for the annual Creek to Bay Day on September 21. Meet (friends) and eat (chocolate). See you at the Dimond Library at 7:00p.m.!

Friend of the ... Years! Dearest Anne,

It's the end of an era. Anne Hayes, one of the founding members of the Friends of Sausal Creek and current president, you are leaving to sample life in Santa Cruz! To say you will be missed is an extreme understatement. Anne, best friend, you were there at the inception of the Friends. Remember that 1995 meeting led by the Aquatic Outreach Institute? Smart organization, they soon hired you to, among other duties, coordinate FOSC. With calm and integrity, you have guided our growth like a patient gardener, providing a steady professionalism to our bumptious organization. Mark Rauzon remembers you as the first person to snorkel in the creek. "Donning a wetsuit and mask, you dove in to have an intimate experience of the creek," muses Mark. Leaving Oakland for Richmond did not diminish your influence, and you were chosen as our second president. Your background in creek and environmental issues, community organization, writing and human dynamics made you an ideal leader; your knowledge of chocolate always made for a fulfilling meeting. Your help and imprint on the organization will endure like ivy, impossible (in this *one* case, **thankfully**) to eradicate. We hope you will remain on the board for a while, but sadly, we know your path meanders away from Sausal. We will miss your steadying hand. Best of luck, Anne! With affection, *Your Friends*



Make a Date with Creek to Bay Day

On September 21, Oaklanders will join hundreds of thousands of volunteers worldwide cleaning waterways on Creek to Bay Day, Oakland's way of celebrating international Coastal Cleanup Day. Sausal is a popular cleanup site, and, since the event's inception seven years ago, Creek to Bay Day has been an excellent opportunity for FOSC community outreach. As on Earth Day, the Friends will be hosting two cleanup sites—Dimond Park and the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery—and will deploy cleaners and greeners to other places throughout the watershed. Activities will include garbage and litter pickup, non-native plant eradication (aka "weeding"), planting and propagation of native plants. Please tell friends and neighbors to come out for this event! Snacks and drinks are provided; you can set a good eco-example by bringing your own cup, water bottle, fork and napkin. As always, leaders are needed to coordinate groups of volunteers. Event outreach, projects and logistics will be on the agenda at the next two meetings. Your participation will help make this Sausal's most successful Creek to Bay Day so far. Make it a date!

Keep on Growing!

The vitality of the Friends comes directly from the involvement of our members. And, since our inception, we've been blessed with volunteers and board members who've given their time and energy to develop FOSC into a force for local community and environmental progress. In the last year, the Friends worked with the City of Oakland to build a nursery, release a section of Sausal Creek from its cement strait jacket and plant 20,000 plants along her shores. In the process, we trained and educated many in the art of native plant restoration. We became a non-profit corporation, hired and supervised new staff members, worked on safety and liability issues and set up new financial procedures. This summer, we nearly tripled the growing capacity of our homegrown native plant nursery, started a seed collection group and continued to remove invasive plants from the canyon.

To keep on growing and doing extraordinary work, FOSC needs new energy. Now. We need volunteers with a wide variety of expertise and interests. Commit as much (or little) time as you like, and focus on your areas of interest. If you don't know where to start, we're here to help you figure it out.

As stated in previous newsletters, on August 14 new officers will be elected to the board; new board members are needed too, so if you are interested in joining the board, please let us know ASAP. We are especially looking for expertise in fundraising, finance, managing non-profits and restoration. General members are welcome (and needed) to participate in existing groups, such as the bird, oyster and aquatic insect monitoring teams and the GIS/mapping committee. We are also in the process of forming new committees devoted to specific aspects of the group's work. These committees will be made up of general members as well as board members, and will be a powerful new way for people with expertise or interest in a FOSC program to work behind the scenes on projects important to the Friends' development. The first two committees will deal with field restoration projects and with general operations.

And if, like many of us, you are strapped for time, you can help in other ways. Donations of funds or in-kind (see www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/needs.html) are always needed and appreciated. The work of the last several years could not have been done without a core group of board members dedicated to developing our organization and advancing our mission. The fulfilling work of growing FOSC in the future is up to all of us. To be a part of it, contact Charlotte Bell at 501-FOSC or coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

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.

Turbulence is life force. It is opportunity. Let's love turbulence and use it for change.

—Ramsay Clark

Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 501-FOSC
www.sausalcreek.org



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Please attend our next monthly meeting, Wednesday, August 21, 7:00pm, at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Nursery Growing Area Tripled

Through the combined efforts of an energetic Americorps-NCCC team and many of our dedicated volunteers, Phase II of the Nursery Construction was completed last month, almost tripling the irrigated growing area at the Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. Over a thousand feet of trenches were dug, piping was installed, roads were cut and the whole area cleaned up. If you haven't been up there for a while, please come on by to see our progress. By creating this native plant nursery, we hope to have a positive effect on Oakland's restoration projects for a long time in the future. Depending on funding, we hope to complete Phases III and IV by this time next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to help and oversee the Americorps team, and our thanks especially to Michael Thilgen, Laurie Kunit and Sally Kilburg, who together organized and ran the project, Martin Matarrese, who provided essential support from the City of Oakland, and Councilmember Dick Spees, who provided and helped obtain the necessary funding.

Peralta Creek Project

The first community meeting to kick off the Peralta Creek restoration project in César Chávez Park was held June 27 at the Bay Apostolic Church next to the park. Attended by about 50 people, the meeting was hosted by project partners the City of Oakland, the Unity Council and the Urban Creeks Council. Attendees toured the creek site with project designer Josh Bradt of the Urban Creeks Council, who gave an overview of proposed changes. Community members voiced their concerns about problems with the creek and suggested ideas for the project.

The project will rely on extensive community stewardship. Students from Fremont High School along with several community members initiated this on July 20 by monitoring water quality at the creek. The group was pleased to find mayflies and dragonfly nymphs living in the stretch of the creek that runs through the park, and will continue monitoring on a bi-monthly basis. Another group will learn how to raise native plants at the FOSC's Joaquin Miller Nursery. This group will meet for the first time in September to begin raising plants for installation in the fall of 2003. To participate or for more information, please contact Kristin Hathaway at the City of Oakland at 238-7571.

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC to get information about all activities. Also, for details about ongoing projects, check the Volunteer section of the Friends' website at www.sausalcreek.org.

Monthly Meetings

~5th Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday 8/21, 9/18, 10/16, etc. 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, etc. 7pm-9pm, at the Chabot Space & Science Center (through the end of the year). Everyone welcome.

Plant Propagation

~Saturday~

1:30-4:00pm. Meet at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. (Thursdays are CANCELLED.)

Seed Collecting

~alternating Friday~

(Please call first to confirm.)

- Friday 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, etc. 10am-noonish; info: Robin North, 336-1861. Call for location.

Dimond Canyon Field Work

~Saturday~

CANCELLED pending hire of new Field Coordinator.

Oyster Monitoring with Save the Bay

~1st Saturday of the month~

- Saturday 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, etc. 9am-noon; meet at the Fruitvale Bridge.

Bird Monitoring

~2nd Saturday of the month~

- Saturday 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, etc. For time, location, and other details, contact Martha Lowe at 530-7923 or info@indigodev.com.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~3rd Sunday of the month~

- Sunday 8/18, 9/15, 10/20, etc. 9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507 or lightbrown@onemain.com.

Water Quality Monitoring

~1st Saturday of the month~

- Saturday 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, etc. 9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-8036. Meet at the Fruitvale Bridge.

The Friends are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland, with additional support from the San Francisco Foundation and the Conservation Fund/Kodak Greenways.

August newsletter contributors: Charlotte Bell, Kristin Hathaway, Anne Hayes, Sally Kilburg, Mark Rauzon, Jennifer Stanley, Michael Thilgen