



Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

OCTOBER 2002

**Wednesday, October 16
Monthly Meeting**

Creek to Bay Day is over and, by the time of the general meeting, **Creektoberfest** will have past as well. So, we will turn our attentions from event planning to more varied diversions. Steven Asztalos from the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is scheduled to speak to us about his organization. And, then we will invite feedback from all present about what they think are the Friends' most important activities. The results of this brainstorming session will help the board prioritize and match projects with potential funding sources. Please come lend your viewpoint!

Creektoberfest!!!

Good Food, Great Music, Beautiful Venue—Don't Miss the Social Event of the Season

Creektoberfest is happening this Saturday, October 12th, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. at the lovely *Natur Freunde* (Nature's Friends) Club in the heart of Butters Canyon, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland. Enjoy live music and outdoor dancing, beer and bratwurst (or tofu *Hund*), and support FOSC's efforts to preserve and restore Sausal Creek. Dance to **Big Lou's Polka Casserole** from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and to the **Jon Arkin Quartet** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Call Charlotte at 501-FOSC to reserve tickets (\$30 for adults and \$10 for kids) or with questions. Ich bin ein FOSCer!

Creek to Bay Day Field Dispatches

Veterans and newcomers, from the headwaters to the Bay, from the young to the rest of us, came together on Creek to Bay Day, September 21, to tidy up our watershed. At the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery, about 20 volunteers cleaned, patched asphalt, weeded, planted and transplanted. Over 784 *Achillea Millefolium* were transplanted into 2" pots and improvements were made to the sunny growing area.

Further downstream, a team of ten accomplished even more than Sam Cohen himself expected on the San Luis Glade project. "A year ago, the glade was choked with Scotch Broom, blackberry, and acacia. There is now a trail through it and much of the invasives are gone," noted Sam. Oakland Parks & Rec's Martin Matarrese cut most of the remaining acacia and volunteers hauled it out for chipping. The result of this joint FOSC and Boy Scout restoration project will have the tributary running in the old channel, rather than flowing down the trail and over the bank.

At Dimond Park, over 130 volunteers were greeted with the gracious remarks of Councilmember Spees who announced that he would award A's tickets to the day's hardest workers. Great improvements were made in the demonstration garden, as trails and garden beds were cleared of Himalayan Blackberry, *Vinca*, Bermuda, Kikuyu Grass and other invasives. From under the mass and tangle, the garden plants emerged. A group from CH2M Hill (now an FOSC sponsor, thanks to FOSC VP Linda Morse) were out in force, relocating boulders in the stone circles and spreading wood chip mulch; their efforts won them the A's tickets! As is his custom, John Bowers led a team down to Barry Place at 27th Street to remove trash from this less frequented creekside area, which many feel has park potential. Thanks to all who pitched in!

Wednesday's Child(ren)

School's back in session, and FOSC volunteer Sue Morgan is continuing the Wednesday morning education program she inaugurated last year. Approximately 15 elementary school classes will take two half-day field trips to Joaquin Miller and Dimond Parks on consecutive Wednesday mornings. The first field trip to the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery focuses on identifying and propagating native plants and interpreting maps. Kids will use binoculars to learn about watersheds and creeks, and orient themselves to geographic landmarks in Oakland. The next Wednesday, students will identify and observe native plants in their natural setting and compare their effects in the restoration area with non-native vegetation. Having children plant at the restoration site impresses upon them how their plant propagation activities the week before have long-term, positive effects on the watershed. Students will also test water pH and sample aquatic insects, learning basic scientific concepts and the relationship between water quality and the creek's health. In Dimond Park,

students will visit the Native Plant Demonstration garden, learn about the adobe brick of the Peralta Hacienda and see what is reputed to be Oakland's largest oak tree (and perhaps one of the oldest in the country.)

Teachers value the opportunity to bring their kids out of the classroom and into the natural environment. So, naturally, demand for this program has been overwhelming. Sue has already scheduled schools for the fall semester and will not be scheduling more classes until November. However, we could still use more adult volunteers, aka "Outdoor Education Docents," for this program. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sue Morgan at 531-6293. And, thanks so much Sue, for the far-reaching contribution you are making to our watershed and to our community.



Friends of the Month: The Nursery Three

Many thanks to the nursery crew, **Nancy Jones, Robin North and Karen Paulsell**, for their hard work at the Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. Their

bright, smiling faces can be found at the nursery every Saturday afternoon from 1:30-4:30 p.m. The three have been working at the nursery consistently since last winter and learned a lot from Monica Stafford, our previous restoration coordinator.

During August, there was no restoration coordinator. These three rose to the occasion, volunteering to lead our weekly Saturday workdays at the nursery and our seed collection walks. Robin North became (and still is) the coordinator of the seed collecting walks that occur every other Friday. Karen Paulsell not only helped us prioritize the long "to-do" list, she also kept up the supply of cookies! And, Nancy Jones was always there to meet, greet and orient all of the new volunteers.

Thanks, you three, for keeping the an eye on the nursery and volunteering to lead projects. You smoothed the transition between field coordinators and have played a huge role in making the nursery such a success!

"I am at two with nature."-Woody Allen

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Please attend our monthly meeting, Wednesday, October 16, 7:00pm, at the Dimond Library. Printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Sausal Creek Watershed Walk

The Aquatic Outreach Institute (AOI) and the Watershed Assessment Resource Center (WARC) are leading a Creek and Watershed Walk along upper Sausal Creek on Saturday, October 19th, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The walk, offered as part of AOI's 13th Annual "Creeks, Wetlands, and Watersheds" Conference, will include a watershed assessment. Participants will walk down the creek from Joaquin Miller to Dimond Park, looking at invasive plants, riparian ecology and at the rapid incision in the creek banks of the upper watershed, a result of increases in impervious surfaces. To sign up for this workshop (\$25), contact Martha Berthelsen at 251-9566 or martha@aoinstitute.org. For more information, go to <http://www.aoinstitute.org/conference/conference.html>.

Sausal Creek as Conference Poster Child

On October 20 & 21, the Sacramento-based California Native Plant Society is presenting a conference called "Creating Funding Partnerships for California Native Plant Projects" that features Sausal Creek as the poster child for riparian restoration projects. Speakers include our own Michael Thilgen, Lesley Estes from the City of Oakland's Watershed Improvement Program, as well as local natural and cultural historian Malcom Margolin. The conference kicks off at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday October 20, with a Thilgen-led field trip to the demonstration garden in Dimond Park and the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. The conference resumes the next day at the Oakland Museum from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., followed by a reception. FOSC will have a table at the conference. Conference promoters hope to "help create partnerships between non-profits, businesses and government agencies interested in pollution prevention, water conservation, and increasing the use of California native plants." The cost is \$10 for the first day and \$20 for the second with an additional \$10 per person after October 10; indicate that you are a FOSC member to have this late fee waived. For more information, download a flyer at <http://cnps.org/education/education.htm>. To register, contact Kathy Kramer at 236-9558 or at Kathy@KKramerConsulting.net.

October newsletter contributors:

Charlotte Bell, Sam Cohen, Sally Kilburg, Sue Morgan, Jennifer Stanley, Michael Thilgen

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 10/16, 11/20, 12/18, etc. 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

• Wednesday 10/9, 11/13, 12/11, etc. 7pm-9pm, at the Chabot Space & Science Center (through the end of the year.) Everyone welcome!

Dimond Canyon Workday

~Saturdays, starting October 12~

9:00am-noon. Meet at the El Centro Trailhead. Info, Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Plant Propagation

~Saturdays~

1:30-4:00pm at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Info, Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Outdoor Education Docents

~Wednesdays~

9:00am-noon at Dimond Canyon or the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at 531-6293.

Seed Collecting

~alternating Fridays• please call first to confirm and for location~

• Friday 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, etc. 10am-noonish; info: Robin North, 336-1861.

Oyster Monitoring with Save the Bay

• Saturday 11/2 & 12/7. 9am-noon; meet at the Fruitvale Bridge.

Bird Monitoring

Program under revision. For information about planned quarterly outings, email Mark Rauzon at Mjrauz@aol.com.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~5th Sunday of the month~

• Sunday 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, etc. 9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507 or lightbrown@onemain.com.

Water Quality Monitoring

~1st Saturday of the month• please call first to confirm and for location~

• Saturday 11/2, 12/7, etc. 9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-8036.

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 CH2M Hill.