



# Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

October-November 2003

**Monthly meetings:** Wednesday, October 15 (featuring Roger Buttermore, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, speaking about the control of invasive plant species, fire abatement, and conservation practices in the East Bay) & November 19, 7-9pm, Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale.

## Fire Safety vs. Endangered Species

Since the 1992 Oakland Hills fire, the City of Oakland has coordinated a substantial fire abatement program throughout the hills. Herds of goats chew away at the flora and work crews whack weeds. The commendable aim of this program is to deplete the amount of flammable material in the hills. However, the City has been facing a substantial amount of criticism over the indiscriminate removal of native species by the fire abatement crews and the goats. A recent example is the cutting down of a federally listed endangered species, the pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*), by a City crew. This came on the heels of the loss of a population of this same species on Manzanita Flat along Skyline Boulevard by the goats.

Martin Matarrese, Oakland's Parkland Resources Supervisor, Office of Parks & Recreation states, "I think it would be helpful for the City to hire someone to survey and map fuel reduction areas for native plants and species of special concern. The map should be in a GIS format, so it can be updated. This person could write a prescription for treatment and flag 'out of bounds' areas. We need to be able to differentiate between flammable vs. non-flammable natives and their tolerance to cutting. This person could train city staff on endangered and species of special concern and native plant recognition. The goal should be risk reduction with sensitivity to native plant communities."

FOSC is committed to working with the City to both ensure sound fire safety management and conservation of rare and native species in the Sausal Creek watershed. We would like to hear your thoughts on this important issue. Email your ideas to [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org) and/or come and discuss at our next general meeting, October 15, 7pm, at the Dimond Library. *~Pete Veilleux*

## Eagle-size Help for the Friends

The Friends wish to thank to Andrew Appleton, a 17 year-old student from Head Royce School who lives in the watershed. He has been joining the Friends on workdays for the past three years and has chosen to do his Eagle Scout project with FOSC. He is currently constructing two pamphlet boxes which he will place on the Bridgeview Trail and on Skyline near the redwoods. These will hold our newsletter and our new Birding Brochure (coming very soon!) *~Pete Veilleux*

## One Hundred Volunteers on Creek to Bay Day

Thanks bunches to all the Friends who showed up on Creek to Bay Day on September 20. Over 100 people worked at ten different sites, hacking back invasive exotics and picking up bags and bags of trash. A special thanks to our super-dedicated team leaders: Andrew Appleton, John Bowers, Terrell Brand, Chris Burmeister, Jean Busch, Heather Christensen, Sam Cohen, Nancy Jones, Ralph Kanz, Mark Lane, Sue Morgan, Linda Morse, Robin North, Karen Paulsell, Elliot Smith, and Eric Wrubel.

Thanks also to the City of Oakland, the California Coastal Commission, and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for helping to make it all happen. For those of you who were unable to make it and would like to help out, please come on down some Saturday. There's still plenty to do!

*~Pete Veilleux*



## Friend of the Month: Sally Kilburg

In August, two great things happened to Sally Kilburg. First, Sally was elected vice-president of the Friends of Sausal Creek. A seasoned Sausal stalwart, Sally is more than qualified for her new VP role, as she last year served as FOSC's president. Her charisma, intelligence, and good cheer have served FOSC well for over six years, and lack of space prevents

listing all her accomplishments. Sally shepherded FOSC's application for non-profit status through a notorious bureaucracy. She spearheaded fundraising committee efforts and was the driving force behind last year's fun and successful Creektoberfest event. She has generously hosted FOSC meetings and gatherings at her home on many occasions. For her unflinching commitment to improving our watershed, we recognize Sally as September's Friend of the Month. The second great thing (which is probably really the first great thing) is that Sally and her partner of 22 years, Khati Hendry, were married on August 6th at Niagara Falls, Canada (thanks to our enlightened neighbors to the north.) Congratulations and warmest wishes for Sally and Khati! *~Pete Veilleux and Jennifer Stanley*

## HOW YOU CAN MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO FOSC

Please help the Friends maintain and expand our efforts on behalf of the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today. This newsletter-free to you and your elected officials--costs the Friends about \$1,000 each month to produce, print, and mail. To accomplish our mission--"promoting watershed awareness"-- we need your support.

Mail this form with check made payable to "Friends of Sausal Creek" 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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Amount of Donation

\$100  \$50  \$25  \$12  Other: \_\_\_\_\_



**Matching Gifts:** Can your workplace match your donation? If your workplace has a matching gift program, please let us know.  
**In Kind:** We can always use in-kind donations. Contact us to donate tools, equipment, office supplies, or anything else.

## Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Attend our monthly meetings! Next ones are October 15 & November 19, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

### Zero Harvest Limit Recommended

On July 15, 2003, the Department of Fish and Game released its *Summary and Analysis of Public Recommendations Regarding Changes to Inland Sport Fishing Regulations* on July 15, 2003. Sausal Creek is mentioned in the summary as follows:

"The Department is opposed to a complete fishing closure on Sausal Creek. The local trout population is not genetically unique, and as far as anyone knows, is not in danger of being eliminated. The Department would propose instead to change the current harvest limit of five trout, to a zero-harvest, catch-and-release, barbless-hook-only regulation, in recognition of the local community's desire to optimize the abundance of trout in their small urban creek. The Department's alternative proposal maximizes fishing opportunities while still providing the potential for achieving the maximum survival and abundance of local trout, through the elimination of harvest.

"There is no credible scientific data to indicate that the trout or steelhead populations of the Bay Area have been severely affected by the current fishing regulations. The habitat improvement efforts currently being undertaken by local restoration groups are much more likely to restore and increase the populations of trout in Sausal Creek than any fishing ban.

"The Department believes that a regulation allowing only a no-harvest trout-fishing season will allow some angler access, while still providing adequate protection for the trout population of Sausal Creek."

Read the entire summary at the Department of Fish and Game's website, [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg\\_comm/2003/sportfishnumerical.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2003/sportfishnumerical.pdf).

#### The Buck Stops Here

At the Bridgeview Trail willow patch, a flagged willow wand looked wan and peaked. Upon further investigation, I saw the bark was tattered and bark rubbed off the stem. The branch died without a jacket of bark to pass the sap to the branch tip. This is a sign that here a battle occurred (or a stag party!) A passing buck met his imaginary sparring partner and polished up his antlers by removing its summer velvet, taking off the gloves, so to speak, for a contest with his real challenger. In so small a territory as Dimond Canyon, only one buck might lord his harem of doe-eyed deer, holding the rights to the realm. ~Mark J. Rauzon

### 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](http://www.sausalcreek.org).

#### Monthly Meetings

~3rd Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday 10/15, 11/19, 12/17, etc. 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday 10/8, 11/12, 12/10, etc. 7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center. All welcome!

#### Saturday Workdays

~many, but not all, Saturdays~

- **9am-noon:**  
Restoration Activities
- **1:30-4:00pm:**  
Nursery Activities

Info, Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org) or go to [www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html](http://www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html).

#### Seed Gathering

~times and locations vary~

Help gather native seeds for propagation efforts. Call Kristen Hopper, 387-9744, for schedule or go to [www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/nursery.html#seed](http://www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/nursery.html#seed).

#### Aquatic Insect Sampling

~3rd Sunday of the month~

- Sunday 10/19, 11/16, 12/21, etc. 9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

~1st Saturday of the month; please

- Saturday 11/1, 12/6, 1/4, etc. 9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-8036.

#### Bird Monitoring

~Quarterly outings~

Saturday, October 11, early in the morning. Call for more info and check [www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/teams.html](http://www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/teams.html).

#### Outdoor Education

##### Docents Needed

~Wednesdays through December 17~

- Wednesday 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, etc. 9am-noon. Work with students in Dimond Canyon or the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at [jmpnnpnenviroed@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpnnpnenviroed@yahoo.com), or call 501-FOSC.

The Friends are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland, with additional support from CH2M Hill.

October-November 2003 newsletter contributors:

Ralph Kanz, Mark Rauzon,  
Jennifer Stanley, Pete Veilleux