



Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

October–November '04

October and November Monthly Meetings!

FOSC monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, 7-9pm, at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave. Everyone is welcome! Highlights of upcoming meetings include:

October 20—Greg Tatarian of Wildlife Research Associates will present the 2nd half of a mini-series on bats. He will show slides and speak about how considerations for bat habitat can be incorporated into restoration efforts.

November 17—Presentation on river systems and local creeks by Christopher Richards, editor, Guide to East Bay Creeks and the Creek and Watershed Map of Oakland & Berkeley.

Huge THANKS and goodbye to Sally!

Our loss, Canada's gain! FOSC volunteers, staff, and board members will sorely miss Sally Kilburg who is moving with her spouse, Khati Hendry, to the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia in November. Sally, an active member of FOSC for eight years, has been instrumental in moving us from a group of neighborhood volunteers to an incorporated non-profit with thriving restoration, education, and watershed monitoring programs, and respect from other watershed organizations and public agencies. Sally has served as board president, vice president, and chair of the Fundraising Committee. But more than that, her energy, creativity, tenacity, and "can-do" attitude have been an inspiration to us all. We'll miss her big smile, her premier sausage grilling skills, astute advice, and commitment to accomplishing our vision for Sausal Creek. In reflecting on FOSC she said, "We really do make a difference, and that is what sets us apart from so many other local nonprofit efforts . . . next time I see the creek after our move, I will be amazed at how much more fabulous work has been accomplished." We will miss you, Sally. Good luck to you and Khati! —Linda Morse

Hot off the presses—FOSC's new brochure

Pick up copies of the Friend's colorful new brochure at the next meeting and pass them along to your friends and relations! You can also download a copy in .pdf format at www.sausalcreek.org, or request copies by contacting FOSC at (510) 501-3672 or coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

CTBD Report

Creek-to-Bay Day, September 18th, was attended by 160 volunteers! The morning was cloaked in a lovely cool mist, perfect working weather, and we accomplished an admirable amount of work. Massive amounts of weeds were removed, clearing spaces for new plants. Loads of trail work was done, the demonstration garden was spruced up, and our adopted stand of endangered pallid manzanita was attended to. We sent off five truckloads of invasive plant material to be composted. We collected 75 bags of garbage from the creek and watershed that was counted in the 2004 statewide Coastal Clean Up statistics. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to Arizmendi for donations of baked goods.—Kristen Hopper

Sausal Creek education program in full swing

The new "Sausal Creek Keepers" education program is underway. Staffed by dedicated volunteer docents, this program hosts classes from the Oakland Unified School District on Thursday mornings at Joaquin Miller Park or Dimond Park throughout the school year. In the field, students will remove invasive plants, collect native seeds and cuttings to propagate at the nursery, restore native plants in redwood understory areas, and mark trails. They will hike in the watershed and become familiar with the natural world. FOSC's original education program, now called the "Sausal Creek Explorers," takes place on Tuesday mornings. The Explorers will do propagation, mapping, and binocular activities. If you are interested in becoming an education program docent, please contact Sue Morgan at jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com. Thanks to our supporters, including anonymous donors, the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and the Alameda County Clean Water Program. —Sue Morgan

FOSCBLOG

Go to www.sausalcreek.org/blog to read and participate in the Friend's new weblog (aka "blog"). Thanks to volunteer Robert Stewart for creating and maintaining FOSC's newest communication tool! Robert is giving a one-hour training to those interested in being blog contributors. Attend on Tuesday 10/26, 7pm or Saturday, 11/13, 10am at the Chabot Space and Science Center. Please RSVP to 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 private citizens . . . like you! (See below.)

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO FOSC

Please help the Friends maintain and expand our efforts in 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. We need your support to promote our mission of watershed protection.

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.

Name _____
Address _____
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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

Don't miss our next monthly meetings on October 20 and November 17, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

This is the third article in a series about FOSC's "Biodiversity Project."

The Oak Understory

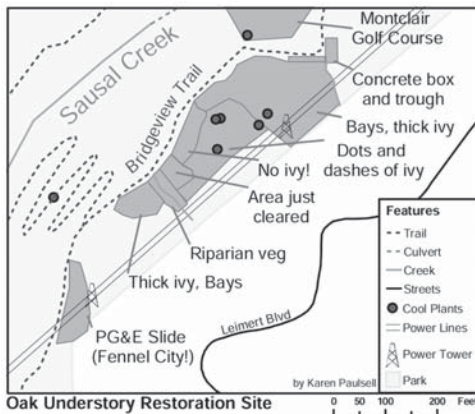
While we continue caring for the oaks in the Dimond Canyon restoration area, we've adopted another oak spot along the Bridgeview Trail near the Dunn Switchbacks. The canopy is mainly oak, not dominated by bay trees. One area of great understory has no ivy while other areas have very light and patchy infestations. Understory natives are doing great: snowberry, sword and wood ferns, blackberry, thimbleberry, wood rose, and, of course, poison oak.

Our restoration efforts in the oak understory area are inspired by the Australian "Bradley Method": we remove invasive plants from areas that are well-established with natives. This allows space for the natives to fill in. Although people's least-favorite thing to do is remove ivy, and their favorite thing to do is plant natives, it makes sense to let nature do the work.

We've found some really good plants in the oaks and nearby: trillium, angelica, and the only meadow rue in the watershed. The site is adjacent to the switchbacks (which the Friends helped build) that lead down to the creek, and that we keep clear of ivy. And we recently found a tiny patch of wild ginger by the creek, poking out through the ivy.

We've worked one spot near the small ephemeral stream twice now, removing a good-sized ivy mat from a great thimbleberry area. While we may plant out some nursery stock in the first area, this second area is going to need much more revegetation work. It's not pure Bradley Method, but it's great to know you're beating the ivy to the punch in one small patch of understory.

—Karen Paulsell



FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org 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 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, etc. 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave. All welcome!

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~5th Sunday of the month~

• Sunday 10/17, 11/21, 12/19, etc. 9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507.

Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

• Wednesday 10/13, 11/10, 12/8, etc. 7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center. All welcome!

Water Quality Monitoring

~now, 5th Sunday of the month; please

call first to confirm e³ for location~
• Sunday 10/17, 11/21, 12/19, etc. 9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-8036.

Saturday Workdays

~Most, but not all Saturdays. Check website or call for details.~

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

Info: Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Outdoor Education Docents Needed

~Tuesdays e³ Thursdays, 9am-noon~

• Work with OUSD students doing restoration/propagation in the Sausal Creek watershed. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com or 531-6293. (See article on reverse.)

FOSC seeking designer/editor for bi-monthly newsletter

We are seeking a replacement for our fabulous and fearless [I did not write this—Ed.] newsletter designer and editor, Jennifer Stanley, whose artful designs and witty headlines have made an impression on newsletter readers for the past two-and-a-half years. Her work on the newsletter has been instrumental in establishing FOSC's visibility and professionalism. We are seeking a designer who is interested in our mission, has desktop publishing software and a computer, and newsletter layout and editing skills. This is a paid position that averages about eight hours every two months; rate negotiable depending on experience. For more information and to express interest, please contact us at (510) 501-3672 or coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

October-November '04 newsletter contributors:

Kristen Hopper, Sue Morgan, Linda Morse, Karen Paulsell, Alisa Shor.
Editing and design, Jennifer Stanley.