



# Friends of Sausal Creek

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

October — November '05

## Monthly Meetings

**October 19**—Lia McLaughlin, Watershed Coordinator for the CALFED Non-native Invasive Species Program, will talk about life history and potential control methods for several invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals that are found in the Sausal Creek watershed, and the invasives' effect on certain native species.

**November 16**—Join Steve Cochrane, a naturalist, amateur mushroom hunter, and past president of the San Francisco Mycological Society, for an evening of mushroom and fungi discovery. He will discuss the ecology, toxicity, and edibility of some Sausal Creek mushrooms and fungi with a focus on mushroom identification. Also, learn why mushroom identification may be useful to you. Bring in mushrooms that you find in your yard, along with a spore print if possible. Information on how to take a print can be found at [tinyurl.com/c4omo](http://tinyurl.com/c4omo).

## Friend of the Month—Sheelah Weaver

Ever since Sheelah Weaver first arrived on the FOSC scene as a birdwatcher about six years ago, she has accepted increasing responsibilities with rare grace and humor. As our Board President for the past year, Sheelah has guided the organization with a steady hand and eye on the bottom line. She has also acted as our fundraising coordinator, greatly aiding FOSC in its recent time of need as she almost single-handedly pulled off our wonderful fundraiser at the Peralta House in July. (Sheelah actually lived at the Peralta House as a college student!). So we want to thank Sheelah for her time and commitment to FOSC.

—Mark J. Rauzon



## July Fundraiser at the Peralta House

Our July fundraiser at the Peralta House was a fantastic success. Close to 75 FOSCers showed up—on one of the hottest days of the year—to learn about this historic house in Oakland from Peralta House Board Vice-president Peter Kvalen and to enjoy delicious watermelon *aqua fresca*, wine, and treats, while taking part in one of the most entertaining native plant auctions I've ever witnessed, thanks to auctioneer extraordinaire Mark Rauzon. Most importantly, the event raised close to \$2,000, which helps us as we face a fiscal shortfall due to insufficient current grant funding.

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Thanks to our generous event donors: KP Corporation for the printing and mailing of postcards, Kermit Lynch Winery and Harry Schrauth for wine, the Peralta House for the free event space, and all who volunteered their time at the event. Check out the photos posted on our website. —Sheelah Weaver

## Education Program Seeks Docents

The Friends of Sausal Creek's Environmental Education Program begins its fifth year this fall, and would love some new volunteers for our Sausal Creek Explorers and Sausal Creek Keepers programs. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm. If interested in learning more, contact me at 531-6293 or [jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com). —Sue Morgan

## Update on Sausal Creek Spills

When a water main broke in August, a flood of EBMUD water poured into Sausal Creek. The creek rose about six inches and became very muddy. Repairs were quickly made by the City of Oakland. Various reports discussed creek conditions on the FOSC listserve. Some people expressed concern regarding the health of the creek's aquatic inhabitants when flushed with chlorinated drinking water. Luckily, post-flood observations reported signs of aquatic life, including trout. Also, these observations showed us new introduced aquatic species and some "biological pollution." For example, small mosquito fish or guppy-like fish were seen in several pools, while some crayfish, one bullfrog, and one turtle were also sighted. Also a pet rabbit, feral cats, fox squirrels, and *Homo sapiens* were sighted, including some Friends of Sausal Creek. And look for an update about Sausal Creek trout in the next issue of *Bay Nature* magazine.

—Mark J. Rauzon

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!

## FOSC NEEDS YOUR DONATION

Given our current fiscal shortfall, now would be a great time to donate to FOSC, so that we can continue our restoration and education efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed.

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

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

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our monthly meetings on October 19th and November 16th, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

### The First "Friends of Sausal Creek"

The first "Friends of Sausal Creek" arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area over 10,000 years ago. They were people known as the Ohlone or Costanoans. The tribal groups that lived on the east shore of San Francisco Bay probably numbered roughly 2,000. In Oakland, they were mostly concentrated around Lake Merritt, Emeryville, Alameda, and Lake Temescal. The mouth of Sausal Creek, in the area now known as Alameda, was an excellent site for Native American habitation. This was indicated by the presence of six shellmounds. The largest was located in an area that is now bounded by Central Avenue, Court Street, Johnson Avenue, and Gibbons Drive.

Like most California Indians, the locals lived solely by hunting and gathering the plentiful resources here. The East Bay sheltered rabbits, deer, raccoons, wildcats, and grizzly bears. Wildfowl were abundant in the marshes: ducks, curlew, snipe, and plover were often caught in nets woven from plant fibers and strung between bushes. Along upper Sausal Creek one might have seen groups of women and children, their reed



baskets full of acorns after an afternoon's work, making their way to their camps on the lower creek through the willows that give Sausal Creek its name. Acorns, a food more nutritious than wheat, were their dietary staple. Other greens, roots, bulbs, and seeds were also gathered as food.

The Ohlone used various sophisticated practices to manage their sources of food, acting as 'stewards' of the creeks, wetlands, woods, and grasslands. They pruned trees and plants, selectively culled animal and insect populations, and practiced periodic burning of groundcover to promote the growth of native grasses for seed gathering and to create forage for deer and elk. Rather than exhaust the plants and animals in an area

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### FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto: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](http://www.sausalcreek.org).

#### Monthly Meetings

*3rd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 10/19, 11/16.  
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,  
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors Meetings

*2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 10/12, 11/19.  
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space  
& Science Center. All welcome!

#### Saturday Workdays

For information contact Kristen Hopper, 510-387-9744 or [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org) or go to [www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html](http://www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html).

#### Aquatic Insect Sampling

*3rd Sunday of the month.*

- Sunday 10/16, 11/20.  
9:30am-noon; call Emma Brown  
to confirm 510-527-2507.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

*Quarterly.*

- Sunday 10/16. 9am-noon;  
call Mark Lane to confirm,  
510-219-8036.

#### Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly. Sequoia Arena,  
Joachim Miller Park.*

- Saturday 10/8. 8am-noon;  
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,  
510-531-3887.

like the Sausal Creek watershed, Ohlone groups moved annually between transient and permanent village sites in a seasonal cycle of hunting, fishing, and gathering. They truly were the first "Friends of Sausal Creek."

*—Edward Goehring*

*To learn more about how the Ohlone lived, visit Coyote Hills Regional Park, the Oakland Museum of California, or the Dimond Branch Library, which has over 1,500 books in its American Indian Collection. Or check out News from Native California, a magazine offering an inside view of the California Indian world. Author Edward Goehring lives on Sausal Creek and has studied the history of native peoples for many years. He also creates visual art based on the prehistory of the San Francisco Bay Area. The image on this page is courtesy of him.*

#### October-November '05 newsletter contributors:

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