



# Friends of Sausal Creek

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

October-November '08

## Monthly Meetings

**October 15**—Friends of Sausal Creek's Restoration Committee meeting at Dimond Library, 7-9 p.m.

**November 19**—Board member Mark Rauzon will talk about seabirds of the Bering Sea and Alaska's Marine National Wildlife Refuges, climate change, and why we should or should not drill in these areas.

## Native Plant Sale and Open House at the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery, Sunday October 26

It's here, FOSC's fall native plant sale and open house! Please join us on Sunday, October 26 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to purchase native plants just in time to plant for the winter rains. From 3-5 p.m. we will celebrate the construction of a new shade house for the plants and unveil plans for continued renovations!

Come learn more about plant propagation at the 11 a.m. workshop, or get some general ideas for garden design at 1:30 p.m. Native plant experts will be available all day with practical ideas for all spaces, to help you pick appropriate plants for your specific planting area. Join in on the raffle for Patagonia clothing and check out the community information tables.

The Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery grows local natives from seeds and cuttings collected in the Sausal Creek watershed and nearby. Our main goal is growing plants for creek restoration projects, school native plant projects, Oakland parks, and similar uses.

For more information, visit [www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org), email [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org), or call 501-3672.

## Nursery Propagation Training Sessions, November 2008

In November, I'll be hosting a Nursery Propagation Training, where you can learn more about native plants and how to grow them, what's growing along your favorite hiking trail, and how to make your watershed healthier.

These training workshops will take place the first four Sundays of November. Anyone fourteen or older can join us to learn basic botany, ecology, plant identification, and propagation techniques. To enroll, we ask that you commit to attend three of four classes and 12 workdays over the next year as a

propagator or crew leader.

The fee for the Propagation Training is on a sliding scale, from free to \$20, and everyone who completes the classes and workdays gets a FOSC t-shirt.

Classes will be held at the JMNP Nursery on the first four Sundays in November, 12-3 p.m. If you would like more info on the class or how you can join, please contact me at 928-6675 or [nursery@sausalcreek.org](mailto:nursery@sausalcreek.org). We look forward to seeing you at the nursery!  
—Molly Bolt

## Seeking New Board Members

FOSC is looking for a few new people to join our Board of Directors for 2009. Our Board of Directors comprises a dynamic, committed, fun community of people helping to steer this model watershed group into the future. For more information on what Board involvement entails, please contact me at [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org) or 510.501.3672.

Thank you! —Sara Marcellino

## Weekday Weed Warriors

We are trying to get a "weekday weed warrior" group up and running again, engaging folks who are interested in volunteering a couple of hours twice a month during weekday hours. The weed warrior group conducts triage on small, manageable populations of invasive plants, about an amount that can be managed with a group of 5-8 volunteers over a few hours of time.

In the spring of 2008, we met on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. at various locations throughout the watershed. We would like to reconvene this group beginning in October; the



day of the week and time depend on who wants to join the group. Triage like this can be really effective, so volunteers can make a big difference. If you like working with a small group of adults and have some time, join us! Please email me at [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org) to see if this is the right volunteer opportunity for you.

—Kathren M. Stevenson

## SUPPORT THE WORK OF FOSC

Please help us maintain and expand our efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today!

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

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Friends of Sausal Creek

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



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Don't miss our member meeting on Nov. 19th, 7-9 p.m. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!!

### Reducing our Impact on the Environment: House and Garden Audit Workshop

As part of the State Waterboard Grant for our Watershed Assessment Project, I have been presenting a PowerPoint show to local organizations. This PowerPoint serves as an introduction to a book by Laurel Marcus entitled *The House and Garden Audit: Protecting your Family's Health and Improving the Environment*.

*The House and Garden Audit*, and its presentation, offer some solutions to the natural processes and human actions that cause many of the Bay Area's environmental problems. Issues such as development in East Bay watersheds and the role of invasive non-natives in creek bank failures and gullying are discussed. At the community level, the presentation offers tips on how to keep pollutants and silt out of creeks and how creek restoration in urban watersheds helps protect our ecosystems.



On a household level, the talk describes how to manage some typical household pests without toxic substances, how to reduce water use (e.g. remove your conventional

lawn), what garden practices eliminate the need for pesticides, what non-toxic methods help handle common garden pests, how to attract "beneficial wildlife" such as butterflies and other pollinators to your garden, and other options to reduce runoff around your home.

Of course, no conversation that discusses reducing water and pesticide use and attracting beneficial wildlife would be complete without a plug for planting native plants. (See information about our fall plant sale on Sunday October 26 at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery in this newsletter.)

The grant supports the Friends of Sausal Creek to give 8 workshops; so far, five have been completed, and three more are scheduled. The venues include other creek groups, neighborhood associations, the Glenview PTA, the Upward

### 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).

#### Bi-Monthly Meetings

3rd Wednesday of every other month.

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

#### Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 10/8, 11/12.  
7pm-9pm Montclair Branch  
Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd.

#### Aquatic Insect Sampling

3rd Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 10/19, 11/16.  
9:30 am-noon; call Emma  
Brown to confirm 527-2507.

#### Saturday Workdays

For info about the nursery, contact Molly Bolt at 928-6675, [nursery@sausalcreek.org](mailto:nursery@sausalcreek.org). For the restoration program, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676, [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org). Or go to [www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html](http://www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html).

#### Bird Monitoring

Quarterly, Sequoia Arena,  
Joaquin Miller Park.

- Saturday 10/25. 8 am-noon;  
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,  
531-3887.

Bound program, and a garden club. The grant also paid for copies of the *House and Garden Audit* to be distributed to all workshop attendees.

Even though the grant requirement will soon be met, we have additional books available, and would like to keep scheduling presentations, particularly for groups in the Sausal Creek watershed. If you're interested, please contact me at [kpaulsell@pacbell.net](mailto:kpaulsell@pacbell.net) or 510 655-0818.  
—Karen Paulsell

**A Big Thanks**  
**goes out to Jen Smith of the Greensmith**  
*for her recent pro bono irrigation repair at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. Your help is much appreciated by FOSC and its native plants!*

#### October-November '08 newsletter contributors:

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