



The November Monthly Meeting has Changed Date and Location!!

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the monthly meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 14 at Fruitvale Elementary School** at 3200 Boston Avenue. Turn off Fruitvale Avenue onto Harold Street and go towards Coolidge Avenue. Go three blocks and make a left onto Boston Avenue, the school will be on the left. We will be showing, "Urban Stream Restoration; A video of ecological restoration and techniques with Ann Riley" and talking about our plans to revegetate the stretch of the creek the City of Oakland restored this summer. I hope to see you there! -Charlotte Bell

Sausal Creek- Then and Now

My first memories of Sausal Creek go back to the late 60's when I was about 8 years old. My friends and I would hike from Alameda to Oakland's Dimond Park. We thought the park was the jungle and we always marveled at all the lush, green vegetation as we made our way up the creek. At every twist and turn I was wary of seeing mountain lions, bears, bobcats, deer, foxes, and coyotes. Today, I just laugh when I think about that. The only animals we ever saw were some squirrels and birds. We often tried to walk back to Alameda in the creek bed, but were never successful. By the time we completed the 10 mile round trip we were tired and hungry, but the trip was well worth it.

Like some of us, Sausal Creek has changed a lot since the 60's. Right now the creek has been undergoing some especially big changes. Over the summer, the City of Oakland removed three concrete structures from the creek bed above El Centro and reconfigured the creek to enhance the riparian habitat.

Many of people have done an excellent job working to make this restoration project happen. Some of the people I'd especially like to thank are Kristin Hathaway, Lesley Estes, Stuart Richardson, Michael Thilgen, Anne Hayes and the many volunteers in the revegetation portion of the project.

However, the work is far from complete. FoSC still needs volunteers to help revegetate the slopes of the restoration area. 20,000 plants need to be in the ground before the rainy season ends. For information on how to volunteer call Stuart Richardson at (510) 864-7175. -Michael Grayson



Pacific Dogwood

Youth Environmental Advocates Are Monitoring Sausal Creek!



The San Francisco Foundation

Six high school students from the Youth Environmental Advocates (Y.E.A.) program, an educational component of the Unity Council's waste reduction campaign and outreach project, have begun assessment and water quality monitoring activities in the lower Sausal Creek Watershed. The Y.E.A. program began in February 2000 to involve high school students in waste reduction efforts in their community. Student participants regularly make presentations about the 4 Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot (compost) to community members at schools, neighborhood meetings, and events.

Now Y.E.A. students are collaborating with FoSC in the Lower Watershed Assessment and Outreach Program funded through a grant from the San Francisco Foundation. This will be a yearlong assessment with an aim of identifying and eliminating sources of pollution entering Sausal Creek below MacArthur Boulevard. Y.E.A. will be involved in monitoring water quality of the creek and conducting presentations to community members of the lower watershed to raise awareness about the condition and causes of pollution in Sausal Creek.

Y.E.A. students are learning about watershed pollution issues and will characterize conditions near Sausal Creek's banks. They are also being trained in water quality monitoring and will collect water quality data once a month, for twelve months, at four designated test-sites in the creek channel.

An additional component of the Watershed Assessment Program involves bacteria testing at sites where E. coli and coliform was detected in September 1998. The bacteria testing will be conducted by the project team leader and a FoSC volunteer.

After all monitoring activities are complete, Y.E.A. students will summarize their findings and integrate water pollution prevention as a component in the water conservation presentations they make at schools, neighborhood meetings, and events.

On October 6, Y.E.A., participated in oyster monitoring at the mouth of Sausal Creek where they learned how the conditions of Sausal Creek can influence conditions in the Bay. The following week, the students conducted their first creek walk assessment starting at William Wood Park and ending on E.27th Street. In November, they will complete the creek assessment, going from E. 27th Street to Hawthorn (the last location the creek is above ground), and also begin the water quality monitoring. - Halima O'Neil

Sausal Creek on the Web

- Have a last minute question about a workday? Go to volunteermatch.org, click on the search page, enter your zip code and Sausal Creek as the keyword and you'll get up to date information about our events.
- Get the newsletter via e-mail! If you want the newsletter sent as an attachment (.pdf) instead of in the mail, call Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168 or e-mail bell_charlotte@hotmail.com.
- Subscribe to FoSC's listserve! To add yourself: Send a message to listproc@envirolink.org with SUBSCRIBE FOOSC <your name> as the only thing in the body.

November 17- Explore Arrowhead Marsh with Save the Bay

Educators will learn about the salt water marsh habitat, the SF Bay watershed and issues facing the bay all while canoeing one of the bay's remaining wetlands. (Adults only). 9:00 - 2:30. Limit 28. Fee, \$25. For more information or to register, call Apple Szostak of the Aquatic Outreach Institute at (510) 231-778.

Dolores Siegenthaler, Thanks!

Many thanks to Dolores Siegenthaler for being a bird monitoring team leader for three years. Unfortunately for us, she is needed to monitor birds for the Friends of Temescal Creek and can no longer lead us. She is a very talented birder and is one of the few of us who can identify several birds by sound. Dolores has also propagated plants for the Friends for several years, first at Merritt College and then at her home. Even though Dolores will no longer be a team leader her skill, experience, and perspective will continue to be valued at FoSC.

For now bird monitoring will be held at one location each month with our remaining, and very talented, team leader Martha Lowe. However, we would like to have two teams of bird monitors out each month. So, if you are interested in leading a group of birders on the second Saturday of each month, call Martha Lowe at (510) 530-7923.

The Friends of Sausal Creek are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland. Additional support is provided by the San Francisco Foundation. For more information, call Stuart Richardson at (510) 912-7792 (day) or (510) 864-7175 (eve) or email at sausalcreekprojects@att.net. Newsletter edited by Govind Acharya and Charlotte Bell. Printing and postage of this newsletter provided by the City of Oakland.

The Native Oysters Bred this Year!

Our oyster monitors found 42 native oysters which settled on the oyster shell necklaces we hung from Fruitvale Bridge. This is the first time the breeding of native oysters in the Oakland Estuary has been recorded. Thanks everyone who has come out, including the Youth Environmental Advocates whose numbers really helped when we did the initial oyster count. I also want to thank two new FoSC volunteers who found the majority of the native oysters we have documented, Au and Anh Ta. We are continuing to monitor the growth of these new oysters and checking the necklaces for new oysters. I hope everyone can make it out at least once. It's a lot of fun!

-Charlotte Bell

*Coopers Hawk -
adapted from a picture
by Sandy McRuer*



Who to Call for Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For a dumping in progress, call 911.
- For sewer backups and spills and storm drain flooding, call 615-5566.
- For other spills and dumping in Oakland creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call 238-6600.

Join One of Oakland's Volunteer Programs!

- To volunteer to stencil a storm drain or to learn more about the Adopt-a-Creek program, call 238-6600.
- For more information about the Maintain-a-Drain storm drain program or the Adopt-a-Spot cleanup program, call 434-5131.

Monthly Meetings

- Wednesday, November 14
- Wednesday, December 19
- Wednesday, January 16
7 - 9p, **NOVEMBER ONLY-** Meeting at Fruitvale Elementary School (3200 Boston Avenue). USUAL LOCATION: Dimond Library- 3565 Fruitvale Avenue

Bird Monitoring

- Saturday, November 10
- Saturday, December 8
- Saturday, January 12
7:30a - 9:30a. Call Martha Lowe at (510) 530-7923 for location.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Sunday, November 18
- Sunday, January 20
9:30a - 12:00p. Call Emma at (510) 527-2507 or send e-mail to lightbrown@onemail.com for more information.

Oyster Monitoring

- Saturday, November 17
- Saturday, December 1
- Saturday, January 5
9:00a - 12:00p. at the foot of the Fruitvale Bridge connecting Oakland with Alameda. For more information, contact Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168.

Water Monitoring

- Saturday, November 3
- Saturday, December 1
- Saturday, January 5
Call Mark Lane at (510) 684-3247 for location and time.

Book Club

Friday, December 7. We will be starting a new book. For information, call Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168.



Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737

Oakland, CA 94602

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Please attend the next monthly meeting—
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 14, 7:00 P.M., at FRUITVALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL