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Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

NOVEMBER 2002

**Wednesday, November 20
Monthly Meeting**

Don't miss the Friends' November 20th meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Dimond Library. Elliott Smith will be showing slides of his work to date—funded by a grant from Alameda County—featuring photos from the creek restoration area, oyster monitoring, seed gathering, education program, and “a couple of wild critters who have shown up in the viewfinder.” Look, share, and reminisce with fellow volunteers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There will be *no meeting in December* but we'll have our annual Solstice Party (potluck) instead. Details will be provided in the December newsletter.
- All are invited to the next Peralta Creek restoration meeting, Wednesday, December 4th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at 1900 Fruitvale Ave., Suite 2A, upstairs from the César Chávez Branch Library. The final design for the restoration project on Peralta Creek, Sausal's next-door neighbor, will be presented.

FOSC Rolls Out the Barrel

A warm, sunny afternoon at the Nature Friends Club in Butters Canyon set the stage for FOSC's first annual “Creektoberfest” with over 100 in attendance. Members of the Almenrausch Schuhplattler Group, dressed in leiderhosen and other traditional garb, taught FOSCers to polka the musical stylings of Big Lou's Polka Casserole. Two “Best Friend” awards were presented, one to Dick Spees, FOSC's supporter on the Oakland City Council, now retiring, and the other to Martin Mataresse, our longtime helper in the Parks and Recreation Department. Then, the Jon Arkin Quartet performed more music in the beautiful Barvaian Chalet clubhouse.

In addition to the fun and goodwill, we surpassed our financial goal, netting \$2,500. The event garnered some good publicity: FOSC Administrative Coordinator Charlotte Bell was pictured on the front page of the Montclairion dressed as *Heidi*.

Thanks to the businesses that helped fund the entertainment:

- Fritz Hochfellner, Pacific Union Realtors, www.fritzsellshomes.com
- Glenview Lock and Key, 4211 Park Blvd.
- Ultimate Grounds Coffees and Teas, 4225 Park Blvd.
- Law Office of Sally Kilburg, (510) 482-5331

And, a special thanks to all those who labored to make the event so successful as to ensure it will be the first of many. ~Mark Rauzon

Get Phased In

It's almost a year since FOSC volunteers began planting 20,000 plants on the slopes of Dimond Canyon, after clearing invasive ivy, blackberry, and other plants. The lushness and variety of plants has been a delight, especially near the creek. The alders have grown several feet, the dogwoods and willows are promising small thickets. We've had a good show of wildflowers too, from the early blue-eyed grass to the yarrows and sneezeweed, with the glowing red California fuchsias taking us into fall.

As this winter's rainy season approaches, we're getting ready for Phase Two: keep the invasives from reinvading, and plant another 2,000 plants in the canyon. Please consider stopping by some Saturday soon to help. To halt the invasion, we'll be filling in the blanks where some plants didn't survive and increasing the diversity with new species of plants. These work sessions are held every Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Meet where El Centro crosses the stream. At the nursery, we'll be working hard to get the plants ready, transplanting small seedlings, a pleasant “sit-down” chore, in a spot with a stunning view! Nursery work sessions happen every Saturday from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

In addition to help from individual volunteers, we're happy to have large groups, such as middle school (and older-aged) classes and scouting groups. Please contact Kristen Hopper at 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org to schedule a date when work can be planned to match your group's abilities, or for more info. ~Karen Paulsell

Sausal Aquatic Insect Sampling Report Available

The Friends of Sausal Creek Aquatic Insect Monitoring Team has been monitoring insects in Sausal Creek on a near-monthly basis since early 1998. Emma Brown, FOSC's longtime Aquatic Insect Monitoring Coordinator, has prepared a brief report on the issues facing Sausal's monitoring team, as well as a general description of the team's findings. The report is available online; go to www.sausalcreek.org/sausal/nature_pdf/ and click on “Insect Report.” The data gathered by the team is an important tool not only for FOSC to gauge the health of the creek, but also to provide to government agencies and potential grantors.

Thanks to the Aquatic Insect Monitoring Team (most particularly to stalwart Emma) for their diligence in gathering and providing this data. If you are interested in helping or observing the sampling process, join the team the third Sunday of the month from 9:30 am to noon. Call Emma Brown at 527-2507 for location and other details.

GIVE 'TIL IT HELPS

We need your contribution more than ever. 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. Please help the Friends maintain and expand our efforts on behalf of the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today. Or tomorrow. Well, sometime this week anyway. Thanks for 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 files.

Name _____

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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

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www.sausalcreek.org



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ATTENTION

YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST UNLESS YOU RESPOND TO THE ENCLOSED CARD.

Please attend our monthly meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 7:00pm, at the Dimond Library. Printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Friends of the Month: Diana Surber & Co.

Diana Surber has been a volunteer with the Friends since last winter's plantings, but she really stood out this month. She, her husband Alex Smith, and son worked two shifts in the kitchen at Creektoberfest sacrificing their ability to mingle and enjoy the event.

We were afraid we scared Diana away by allowing her to work so hard at Creektoberfest, but we were wrong. At the monthly meeting she expressed interest in becoming the treasurer, and we hope she will. Thanks, Diana, for your efforts and your interest!

Consensus at Native Plant Conference: FOSC Rules!

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) conference convened Sunday, October 20th at the Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Dimond Park. FOSC native plant guru Michael Thilgen greeted approximately eighty participants from throughout the state from as distant as Merced, Chico, and San Diego. Federal, state, and municipal government administrators were represented, as well as nonprofit and nursery workers.

Speakers, including Michael, Kathy Kramer, CNPS Education Director and founder of the Aquatic Outreach Institute, FOSC President Sally Kilburg, and FOSC founding member Mark Rauzon, gave attendees an overview of FOSC and its efforts. The group then moved up the canyon, where Michael waxed eloquent about the natural history of Dimond Canyon and described the recent creek channel restoration and the thousands of volunteer hours that went into the effort. Later in the afternoon, at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery, the development of the nursery was discussed while many wandered the area checking out the natives (not to mention the plants!).

On Monday, part two of the conference, "Creating Funding Partnerships for California Native Plant Projects," brought two hundred to the Oakland Museum. Malcolm Margolin, noted local and natural historian, gave a spellbinding talk about Bay Area natural history. Lesley Estes, Oakland's Watershed Program Supervisor, described Oakland's facilitation of FOSC's development. Michael narrated a slide presentation of FOSC's creek restoration efforts. And many people visited the FOSC table at the event. General consensus was ... FOSC rules! ~Elliott Smith

November newsletter contributors:

Charlotte Bell, Emma Brown, Kristin Hathaway, Karen Paulsell, Mark Rauzon, Elliott Smith, Jennifer Stanley

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.

Monthly Meetings

~5th Wednesday of the month~

No meeting in December—party instead! Check newsletter in December for details.

• Wednesday 11/20, 1/15, 2/19, etc.
7pm-9pm; Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

• Wednesday 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, etc.
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center (through the end of the year). Everyone welcome!

Dimond Canyon Workdays

~Saturdays~

9:00am-noon. Meet at the El Centro Trailhead. Info, Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Plant Propagation

~Saturdays~

1:30-4:00pm at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Info, Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Outdoor Education Docents

~Wednesdays~

9:00am-noon at Dimond Canyon or the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at 531-6293.

Seed Collecting

~alternating Friday mornings • please call first to confirm e³ for location~
• Friday 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, etc.
Info: Robin North, 336-1861.

Oyster Monitoring with Save the Bay

~Monthly monitoring has come to a close; come by on December 7 to help and learn for the last time this season.~
• Saturday 12/7. 9am-noon; meet at the Fruitvale Bridge.

Bird Monitoring

Program under revision. For information about planned quarterly outings, email Mark Rauzon at Mjr@uz@aol.com.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~5th Sunday of the month~

• Sunday 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, etc.
9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507 or lightbrown@onemain.com.

Water Quality Monitoring

~1st Saturday of the month • please call first to confirm e³ for location~
• Saturday 12/7, 1/4, 2/8, etc.
9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-8036.

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