



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

December'05 - January'06

Monthly Meetings

December—No monthly meeting, instead come out to Sausal Creek on Saturday, 12/17 for a Winter Solstice celebration and planting party (see back for details).

January 18—Our neighbors to the north—Seattle and Portland—are ahead of the Bay Area when it comes to dealing with urban and stormwater runoff, a serious problem for many urban streams. Bay area environmental writer/editor and creek activist Lisa Owens Viani will discuss some of the innovative ways these cities are tackling runoff in order to protect and preserve their waterways.

* * * * * OUR END-OF-YEAR APPEAL * * * * *

This time of year the creek is at its lowest. Lack of rain over many months makes the water flow trickle with barely a sound. So it is with the Friends of Sausal Creek. We are at our lowest point. We have only a few months left of operating finances, through mid-February. Like a massive drought, grants we applied for have not been awarded, and our cash flow is trickling to an end. Soon the creek will run in the red.

Just as Sausal Creek has cut a deep canyon, so has FOSC made a lasting impression during its ten years of action. Many wonderful volunteers have helped build up a great organization. However, the environment has changed, and we must likewise change. We must cut a new channel in order to flow around obstacles, go underground, emerge in new places. Where exactly that will be, we don't yet know.

To maintain our current roster of programs—the restoration sites, the public input, the educational program, the native plant nursery, the monthly speakers program—we need another \$30,000 annually.

NOW is the time to donate. In fact, to save postage, we're not sending out an end-of-year appeal letter this year—THIS IS IT. We are all in this together. I hope we can continue to flow together into our tenth year, cutting a deeper course through Oakland.

If you care about FOSC, there are several things you can do:

- Cut out the coupon and send us a donation.
- If you know of any large donors, contact them and ask for support.
- If you are a regular computer user, receive your newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail.

And attend our December 4th Fundraiser at Eli's Mile High Club! Thanks for your help keeping FOSC flowing. — Mark J. Rauzon

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"BLUES FOR CREEKS" FUNDRAISER AT ELI'S!

Join us for a winter fundraiser on Sunday, December 4th from 4pm-8pm at Eli's Mile High Club, 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Come kick off your holiday festivities to the rockin' blues of the Marshall Law Band! Admission is \$20, \$35 per couple, or \$50 per family. For tickets or for more information, contact Sara at coordinator@sausalcreek.org or 510-501-3672. Tickets also available at the door.

Friend of the Month—Kathy Kramer

This month we honor Kathy Kramer, who has been a major supporter of FOSC since its inception. Over ten years ago, Kathy met with staff from the City of Oakland and Alameda County to establish a watershed awareness group in the Sausal area. As Founder and Executive Director of the Aquatic Outreach Institute (now The Watershed Project), Kathy assumed responsibility for organizing our new group and encouraged new members to become involved in our great social and ecological experiment. Kathy's support has continued through the years: she has found many opportunities to promote the group, introduced us to other creek activists, and connected us with funding sources. Often working behind the scenes, she has been a reliable source of support, helping us celebrate our accomplishments while offering guidance in darker times. In this small gesture of gratitude, we declare Kathy Kramer our Friend of the Month. —Michael Thilgen

Creek to Bay Day—A Big Thank You!

Creek to Bay Day 2005 was attended by 150 volunteers, who accomplished a great deal of work. They cleared invasive weeds, collecting 60 cubic yards of plant debris as well as 40 cubic yards of garbage. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to Councilperson Henry Chang Jr. for his \$2,500 donation for



tools and irrigation system improvements at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, to Councilperson Jean Quan for coffee and breakfast, and to Aidele's for the delicious lunch sausages. —Harry Schrauth

END-OF-YEAR 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
 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____



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P.O. Box 2737
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(510) 501-FOSC
www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our Solstice Party on Dec. 17th at the Nursery and Monthly Meeting on Jan. 18th at Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

Solstice Planting & Party at the Nursery

Join us for our annual Winter Solstice celebration and work party on Saturday, December 17th. We'll work from 9 am until noon, and then share a festive lunch. This year's work project takes place at the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery, where we'll be "buffing up" the small demo garden and the great serpentine grassland hillside for their first appearance in the Bringing Back the Natives tour.

The Friends of Sausal Creek started the nursery in 2001 with the bare minimum: a shaded growing area, irrigation, and a work area with tables. Tools were in a big metal box, and the office was in a plastic garbage can. With funding from the city and many volunteer hours, the nursery has grown in functionality and productivity. First we added an irrigated sunny growing ground.



Then we added a big tool shed, a smaller shed for records, maps and books, and best of all—a greenhouse. This year, we added a pot-washing sink, a small pond for runoff collection, and a new compost bin.

The area we'll be planting used to be an eyesore of looming eucalyptuses and acacias. Most of the "eucs" were cut down to construct the work area and shade house. A crew of Americorps workers cut down the acacias, and Mike and Laura Doyle made frequent visits to control the resprouts. Volunteer crews have removed lots of the broom and poison hemlock that once infested the site. The education program planted a few oaks in the deeper soil at the top of the hill, where a few oaks were already sprouting.

Much of the hillside is thin serpentine soil, with lots of purple needlegrass and many grassland and serpentine species. Another small portion seems to want to grow up to be coastal scrub, so

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FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email 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.

Monthly Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 1/18, 2/15.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 12/14, 1/11.
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space
& Science Center. All welcome!

Saturday Workdays

For information contact Kristen Hopper, 510-387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

3rd Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 12/18, 1/15.
9:30am-noon; call Emma Brown
to confirm 510-527-2507.

Water Quality Monitoring

Quarterly.

- Sunday 1/15. 9am-noon;
call Mark Lane to confirm,
510-219-8036.

Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly. Sequoia Arena,
Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday 1/14. 8am-noon;
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,
510-531-3887.

we'll help it along with some scrubby outplants. We'll be enriching the mix of species across the whole hillside on our planting day. It's so great to have this fenced (deer-safe) area to grow some of our rarest species, right at the nursery.

Come exchange your holiday greetings with old friends and new. We look forward to seeing you. To get there, take Highway 13 to the Joaquin Miller/Lincoln Avenue exit, then take Joaquin Miller Road uphill. Turn left onto Sanborn Road at the Woodminster Theater sign (Robinson Street is on the right). Park at the yellow gate or the nearby parking areas. Walk past the yellow gate, and stay to the left. It's a 5-minute walk, max. Moderate to heavy rain cancels the party.

—Karen Paulsell

December'05-January'06 newsletter contributors:

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