



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

December'06 - January'07

Monthly Meetings

December—No monthly meeting, instead come out to Sausal Creek on Saturday, 12/16 for a Winter Solstice celebration and planting party (see back for details).

January 17—Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance (ACA), will discuss the process of deconstructing dams on Bay Area creeks, specifically how ACA worked toward removing Niles and Sunol Dams, plans and hopes for removal of additional dams, and what this means for restoring riparian habitat, steel-head trout, and salmon.



Save the Date for FOSC's 10th Birthday Party!

*FOSC's 10th Anniversary Party will be held March 24, 2007,
4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Joaquin Miller Community Center.*

Stay tuned for more details!

* OUR END-OF-YEAR APPEAL *

The Friends of Sausal Creek have made a big splash during our ten years of action. Many wonderful volunteers have helped build a great organization that protects the Sausal Creek watershed.

It's that time of year when we ask for your help. We're hoping to raise \$8,000 to help sustain our current roster of programs—the restoration efforts, the public education, the native plant nursery, the monthly speakers program, and more.

Now is the time to show how much you care about FOSC by cutting out the coupon below and sending us an end-of-year tax-deductible donation or go to our website and donate online. We'll be grateful and you'll be glad, too. Thanks for your help in keeping FOSC flowing.

—FOSC Board of Directors

Staff Restructuring

The Friends of Sausal Creek have restructured our staff to provide a more efficient organizational structure and better prepare us to meet required grant and other commitments. We have named Sara Marcellino our first ever Executive Director (ED), promoting her from Operations Manager. Kristen Hopper will now focus her efforts solely on the nursery as our Nursery Manager. And finally, we have hired Kathren Murrell Stevenson to be our part-time Restoration Coordinator. Kathren comes to us from UC Davis, where she recently completed her graduate degree in plant ecology and conservation biology with Michael Barbour. She has been living and hiking in the Sausal Creek watershed since December, 2003. The Board is excited about these changes and looks forward to our next 10 years of making a positive change under this new structure. Congratulations Sara and Kristen, and welcome Kathren!

—Eleanor Dunn

Creek to Bay Day—Thank You!

Creek to Bay Day 2006 was successful once again, attended by close to 200 volunteers who accomplished a great deal of work, especially ivy removal from the many oak trees in Dimond Park. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and special thanks to Councilwoman Jean Quan for coffee and breakfast, to Aideles for the delicious lunch sausages, and Safeway for a contribution of food.

Newsletter images taken at Barry Place, Earth Day 2006, by Skyline High School sophomore Julie Kvalen.

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!

Oak Walk in Dimond Canyon Sunday, December 9th

Join the Friends of Sausal Creek and Councilwoman Jean Quan at 1:00 p.m. for a walk in Dimond Canyon to appreciate our oak woodlands. We will start at the Scout Hut where the Dimond Oak stood for some 200 years, share stories about this tree, and discuss how Oakland got its name. We'll then head upstream and talk about sudden oak death, and the threat it poses. We'll turn around at the site where the Council Oak once stood and head back, seeing how neighbors can help oaks in their yards. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park, 3860 Hanly Road. No RSVP necessary, but do call us with any questions (510-501-3672). See you there!

—Mark J. Rauzon

END-OF-YEAR DONATION

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. Thank you!

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
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 501-FOSC
www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our Solstice Party on Dec. 16th (meet at the Scout Hut at 8:45 a.m.) and Monthly Meeting on Jan. 17th at Dimond Library.

Barry Place: Part of FOSC's Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Sausal Creek forms the border between two old, densely populated neighborhoods in Oakland, the San Antonio and Fruitvale neighborhoods. What many don't know is that some open space exists along several blocks that make up this border. One location where open creek is visible is called Barry Place, a single block just east of E. 27th St. and two blocks north of Fruitvale Ave.



At Barry Place, Sausal Creek has been mostly hidden until this year. It all started several years back, when FOSC member John Bowers adopted Barry Place and along with a few volunteers, removed garbage from this open stretch of creek every Earth and Creek to Bay Day.

This year, neighborhood residents joined John to begin transforming the flora at Barry Place, too. To date, ivy, fennel, blackberry and other invasives have been removed, making the view of the creek a little clearer while freeing the small, struggling oaks which have managed to grow despite the degradation of the site. Our intent is to open the canopy for the oaks so they can eventually replace the acacias as the natural structure holding the steep and severely eroded creek banks.

FOSC volunteers are changing the flora to make the site more visually appealing and to provide better habitat for the many birds that call Barry Place home, including hawks and a nesting pair of golden eagles. We can't forget the raccoons, possums, and other small mammals who also live there—and the many resident squirrels who are responsible

for the small, surviving oak population. At our solstice event on December 16th, we'll continue planting at Barry Place—please come out and join us! —Sheelah Weaver



FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org for 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 1/17, 2/21.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 12/13, 1/10.
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space
& Science Center. All welcome!

Saturday Workdays

For the nursery, contact Kristen Hopper at 387-9744, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For field work, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676, field@sausalcreek.org. Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

3rd Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 1/21. 9:30am-noon;
call Emma Brown to confirm,
510-527-2507.

Water Quality Monitoring

Quarterly.

- Sunday 1/21. 9am-noon;
call Mark Lane to confirm,
510-219-8036.

Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly, Sequoia Arena,
Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday 1/20. 8am-noon;
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,
510-531-5887.

Solstice Work Party, December 16

Just as Winter Solstice brings the darkest day of the year, the rainy season is accompanied by the greening of plants adapted to our climate. Join us on December 16 as we plant natives from our nursery as part of our Solstice celebration. We need crew leaders to lead groups in up to eight different restoration areas. We will meet in Dimond Park at the Scout Hut at 8:45 a.m. and work until noon, followed by lunch back at the Dimond Park Recreation Center at 12:30. Come help us as we plant for a new year of restoration. E-mail me at field@sausalcreek.org to RSVP. Heavy rain at 8:45 a.m. cancels.
—Kathren M. Stevenson

December'06-January'07 newsletter contributors

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