



## Monthly Meetings

**December**—No monthly meeting, instead come out to Sausal Creek on Saturday, 12/15 for a Winter Solstice planting party (see back for details).

**January 17**—New Friends, old Friends, we want to hear from you! Come to this meeting, as we'd like to know how to again engage you old timers and nurture new FOSCers. What topics do you want covered? What projects would you like to see done? What works for you, or doesn't, about FOSC? Come to this meeting and let us know!

### \* END-OF-YEAR APPEAL TIME \*

The end of 2007 is here as is that time of year when we ask for your help through our end of year appeal letter. Please look for a letter from the Friends of Sausal Creek asking for your monetary, tax-deductible donation. Member support is important to us and greatly appreciated, especially this year as we have a challenge match from a generous donor: if we can raise \$10,000 through the appeal, he'll give us \$5,000 more, so please help us reach this goal!

### \* SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS \*

FOSC is looking for new people to join our Board of Directors, a dynamic, committed community of people helping to steer this model watershed group into the future. For more information on what Board involvement entails, please contact 510-501-3672.

### \* THANKS GO OUT TO... \*

The Friends of Sausal Creek would like to thank the Tyrers and Wayne Kirchoffer for their generous cash donations; CRESCO for their donation of tools to a recent workday; Dale Sheffer for the hose; and Kathy Kramer and Cinda McKinnon for pots for the nursery; lastly, the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay for lending us their McLeod.

—Sara Marcellino

### A Perch for Elliott

Thanks to Wes Grover and Piedmont Scout Troop 203, FOSC is happy to announce our new pair of commemorative benches for Elliott V. Smith, perched at our grassland restoration site above the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. Elliott was a special Friend of Sausal Creek, who passed away suddenly last year. During the celebration of his life, many of Elliott's friends and family sat high up on a grass-cloaked ridge in the Sausal Creek watershed and remembered Elliott's enthusiasm for the natural world. I especially remember Sir Elliott for his fondness of raptors, and fittingly a pair of red tail hawks circled us slowly that day, keening as they rose and drifted out of sight. Please feel welcome to visit these benches, to watch for raptors and think of Elliott, during our nursery hours on Saturday afternoons.

—Kristen Hopper

## Trails and Tributaries of the Sausal Creek Watershed Here!

It's finally here—the long-awaited map of "Trails and Tributaries of the Sausal Creek Watershed"! Created by long-time FOSC volunteer and map maven Karen Paulsell, it has been five years in the making. Karen used her GPS unit and walked into deep ravines to add creek and trail segments. Initially, she developed a park map for the Joaquin Miller Park Working Group and received useful feedback that shaped her final map overlays.

Trails and Tributaries of the Sausal Creek Watershed



Friends of Sausal Creek  
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FOSC is grateful to the following for "putting us on the map": Tyko Cvar, an Eagle Scout, who donated his time and material to build and install map boxes; GreenInfo Network and especially Louis Jaffe, who volunteered a tremendous amount of work to make the map look beautiful

and prepare it for offset printing; the Alameda County Clean Water Program for funding; and of course Karen Paulsell. Hopefully this map will encourage more of us to explore less familiar parts of the watershed and to do our part to keep Sausal Creek healthy.

—Mark J. Rauzon

## Request for Information from Members about Creek Conditions

As part of the ongoing hydrologic analysis of Sausal Creek, we are trying to identify areas of the creek that are undergoing severe erosion. This can be an area where the channel bottom or banks are eroding from the existing flow, or where existing structures, such as culverts or retaining walls, are causing scour of the adjacent channel. Can you help us identify these areas? We are hoping that those of you who are familiar with the creek can help out. The following questions have been developed to try and identify the specific areas we are looking for:

- Do you know of any sites downstream of existing culverts where there is an active gully forming that has downcut the channel more than 3 feet?
- Do you know of any areas of erosion that are posing a threat to an adjacent structure or road?
- Do you know of an active erosion area that has caused the bank to slump into the channel?
- Do you know of any active erosion area that is contributing a significant volume of sediment to the channel?

If so, either contact me at Tom@Hydrologic-Systems.com or Sara at coordinator@sausalcreek.org. Thanks!

—Tom Burke

## Friends of Sausal Creek

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our monthly meeting on January 16, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

### Winter Solstice: Plant, Meet your Neighbors, and Celebrate the Season

On Saturday morning, December 15, we will be gathering again to beautify our Sausal Creek surroundings and to celebrate each other as we welcome the rainy season, the time when the ground gets ready to receive our nursery transplants. This is one of the most enjoyable activities that we, as FOSCers, celebrate and participate in together. It offers an opportunity to see neighbors and to meet one another, so mark your calendars to gather at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park 'round 8:45 a.m. and plant with us for the morning.

A big focus this year will be the spot just past the turnaround in Dimond Canyon, where we hope to install willow stakes and



lots of oak woodland natives to replace the Cape ivy, Algerian ivy, and Himalayan blackberry that has been removed from the hillside. We became interested in this site in early

spring 2007 when Karen Paulsell and Mark Rauzon saw Cape ivy spreading down the hillside like wildfire. Since then, we have had two big clearing days in the spring and then were fortunate enough to have the spot "adopted" by Marie Wadman. Marie lives in the watershed and has been working two Mondays a month to prepare this area for planting. She and her friends have made great progress. If you walk by now, you will see a big open patch with erosion control installed along the banks. The planting of this site will mark a culmination point in the restoration cycle. And, it shows how neighbors just like you can make a huge difference through our adopt-a-spot program!

In addition to this site, we will be planting the riparian corridor in Dimond Canyon, the Benevides turnaround, and various spots in Dimond Park. Plantings will also take place at Barry Place, and are likely to take place at Escher Creek and in Beaconsfield Canyon.

### 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).

#### Monthly Meetings

*3rd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 1/16.  
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors Meetings

*2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 12/12, 1/9.  
7pm-9pm

#### 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).

#### Aquatic Insect Sampling

*5th Sunday of the month.*

- Sunday 1/20.  
9:30 am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm 527-2507.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

*Quarterly.*

- Sunday 12/16.  
9am-noon; call Nick to confirm, 530-4490.

#### Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly. Sequoia Arena, Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday 1/19.  
8 am-noon; call Mark Rauzon to confirm, 531-3887.

We wish you a joyous holiday season and hope that you will make us a part of it. For more information or to RSVP, check in with me at [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org) or 510-388-5676. Crew leaders are always in high demand, so let us know if you can lead a group.

—Kathren M. Stevenson

### Save the Date for a fun FOSC event

*Tuesday evening, February 26, 2008, at the Parkway Theatre...check out the next newsletter for more detailed information!*

### December '07-January '08 newsletter contributors:

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