



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

December '09 - January '10

Bi-Monthly Meeting

January 20—The Restoration Committee will be leading this meeting to discuss and prioritize projects for the coming year. We hope that our Dimond Park and Canyon neighbors will join us, in addition to volunteers from the many FOSC restoration sites—Beaconsfield Canyon, Bridgeview, Fern Ravine, Shepherd Canyon, and Wood Park.

End-of-Year Appeal We Need Your Help in 2010!

Despite a sagging economy and having our state grants frozen for several months, FOSC staff and volunteers managed to make significant strides in 2009. But our coffers are below where they need to be. Your contributions make up a vital 20 percent of our budget; they go toward paying staff, buying tools, and other essentials that grants often won't cover.

We have ambitious plans in 2010 for expanding our restoration work, recreating the Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Dimond Park, and bringing more school kids to the creek to learn about conservation and habitat protection. Any amount you can give makes a difference. Either cut out the donation coupon below and mail us your check, or go to our website, www.sausalcreek.org, and push the Donate button on the right side of the home page. Thank you for your loyal and ongoing support.

—Richard Kauffman, FOSC Board Member



Fall Plant Sale 2009

A huge thank you to our volunteers, who had the nursery looking amazing, and our shoppers, who flowed steadily through all day. Your efforts netted \$3,000, but more importantly, we came together as a community to spread native plants around our watershed and beyond. The new shade house looks grand and the new native plant demonstration garden is thriving. With your continued support in the new year, we can complete the nursery electrical upgrade and build an additional shade structure for environmental education and propagation efforts. —Patricia Bacchetti, FOSC Board President

Mail vs. Email: What is Your Preference?

Please help us save paper and reduce our newsletter printing and postage costs. If you received this newsletter in the mail, but would prefer to receive an electronic copy, please email coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

Volunteer Jobs Available

Internship: We are seeking an intern to assist with restoration and environmental education programs. Please see www.sausalcreek.org/pdf/FOSCintern_Dec09.pdf for details.

Bookkeeper: Do you have experience with QuickBooks? Then you are the volunteer we have been seeking! We know that there is someone out there who is passionate about our watershed and loves working with numbers. The time commitment is minimal, but the appreciation will be monumental. Please contact coordinator@sausalcreek.org or (510) 501-3672 for more details.

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

FOSC is looking for a few new people to join our board of directors for 2010. In particular, we seek new board members with a passion for or experience with fundraising, grant writing, and financial management. Our board of directors comprises a dynamic, committed, fun community of people helping to steer this model watershed group into the future. For more information on what board involvement entails, please contact me at coordinator@sausalcreek.org or (510) 501-3672. Thank you! —Kimra McAfee

END-OF-YEAR APPEAL

We need your contribution to continue our restoration and education efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed in 2010. 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. With a minimum donation of \$25 to FOSC, you are eligible for a year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine at the discounted rate of \$17.95. Note that this subscription rate is not a tax-deductible contribution.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Amount of Donation

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

I have enclosed an additional \$17.95 for one year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine.

Friends of Sausal Creek

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www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our member meeting on Jan. 20, 7-9pm. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Inaugural Fern Ravine Wetland and Redwood Forest Work Day a Big Success!

On November 7 we held our first work day at Fern Ravine wetland and redwood forest near the Sequoia Horse Arena in Joaquin Miller Park. The Fern Ravine Creek headwaters contain a rare palustrine wetland and adjacent redwood forest that is the focus of a new FOSC and Friends of Joaquin Miller Park restoration and enhancement project. The wetland



and redwood forest are critical to the long-term health of Sausal Creek, but invasive plants and trampling of the redwood forest understory over many years have

degraded the habitat. The goal of the project is to restore, enhance, and protect this important natural resource.

Our enthusiastic group of fourteen volunteers worked for three hours removing invasive plants from the wetland and adjacent uplands. Ten of the volunteers were from the Piedmont Chapter of buildOn at Piedmont High School. The group removed about six cubic yards of invasive plants, including French broom, Himalayan blackberry, broad leaf forget-me-not, poison hemlock, coyote bush, and other exotic grasses and forbs. In addition to the removal of invasive plants, volunteers were able to transport and strategically place logs and other downed woody debris along Fern Creek and in the adjacent redwood forest to help stabilize steep slopes and protect against soil erosion prior to the onset of winter rains. Thank you to all the volunteers for a great job!

We are holding another work day at Fern Ravine wetland on Saturday, December 12 from 9am to noon. Please come and join us in our efforts to restore and enhance these important wetland and forest habitats. Stay tuned for the announcement of additional workdays during 2010 for the removal of invasive plants and the planting of native species.

—Robert Leidy and Pamela Beitz

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.

Bi-Monthly Meetings

3rd Wednesday of every other month.

- Wednesday 1/20.
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 1/13, 2/10.
7pm-9pm, Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park Blvd. All welcome!

Saturday Workdays

Winter Solstice Planting

- Saturday, 12/12, 9am-noon, Dimond Park and Fern Ravine Wetland (Sequoia Arena)
- Saturday, 12/19, 9am-noon, Beaconsfield Canyon

For details on these and other restoration and nursery workdays, go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html or contact Megan Hess at (510) 985-1669 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

Come join FOSC in your local stream for insect sampling! Sampling will take place Saturday, December 5, from 9am to noon. We will provide the tools, just wear warm clothing, bring a towel to sit on, and come ready to get wet and experience unusual local wildlife in Sausal Creek! Contact Krisztian Varsa at kgvarsa@gmail.com or (301) 509-1206 to get involved.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly, turn at Sequoia Arena, first lot, Joaquin Miller Park.

- Saturday 1/23, 8 am-noon.
Call Mark Rauzon to confirm, (510) 531-3887.



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!

December '09-January '10 newsletter contributors:

Patricia Bacchetti, Pamela Beitz (photo), Megan Hess, Richard Kauffman, Robert Leidy (photo), Krisztian Varsa (photo)
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