



## Bi-Monthly Meetings

**Come Meet Our Neighboring Creek**  
**Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Dimond Library**

Laurey Hemenway, Watershed Coordinator for the Friends of San Leandro Creek (FSLC), will discuss how FSLC works with the local community to promote watershed education through creek programs for local students, creek stewardship, and interpretive hikes in the upper San Leandro Creek Watershed.

### In the Catbird Seat

“The catbird seat” is a phrase used to describe an enviable position, and that is indeed how I felt when I spied a catbird during our October bird monitor survey in the Dimond Park Demonstration Garden. I breathlessly called over fellow birders Hilary Powers and Glen Tepke for a view before it vanished. Glen was watching a black-throated gray warbler, not too shabby a species in itself, and quickly pulled out his trusty camera. He was able to photograph this gray catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)—a rara avis around here because it is an eastern species that flew west on what should have been a southward migration to Latin America. It’s related to the more familiar northern mockingbird and likes berries, so it stayed in the demonstration garden for several days, allowing many Bay Area birders to see it. The photos Glen and I snapped and posted on the web got 500 hits in three days! This avian treat was followed by a white-throated sparrow, another eastern species. Together they are testimony to the promise of restoration: if you build it, they will come. They’re coming from far and wide, as we rebuild a home for nature in the midst of our urban world. —Mark Rauzon, FOSC Board



Gray Catbird

### Welcome, HNU Interns!

Next time you come to a restoration or nursery workday, you will likely meet our new interns, Shirley Knight and Adrian Peer. Shirley and Adrian are able to help us this school year thanks to Holy Names University’s AmeriCorps program. Shirley is a biology major who plans to pursue a graduate degree in conservation biology. She hopes



through FOSC to gain skills and a better understanding of restoration techniques so she can run her own restoration projects in the future. Adrian, an education major, hopes to teach third or fourth grade and is looking forward to helping with outdoor education programs during his time with FOSC. As they work through their senior year at HNU, each will contribute 300 hours to FOSC—a real boon for our school field trips and community workdays.

### END-OF-YEAR APPEAL

I had the opportunity recently to hear a wonderful presentation on the good news story of FOSC: the thousands of hours of volunteer time contributed over the years by neighbors and friends; the hundreds of school kids who have come to learn about the watershed and experience an outdoor environmental laboratory; the important ongoing restoration work we sponsor; and the community building efforts we promote. Much of this story is your story. Your efforts and contributions make a huge difference in what we accomplish. We invite those of you who haven’t had the opportunity to contribute to join us. A vital part of our annual budget comes from individuals just like you. To donate, cut out the donation coupon below and mail in a check, or go to our website, sausalcreek.org, and push the Donate button on the right side of the home page. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and will continue the good news of the Sausal Creek Watershed. —Carl Kohnert, FOSC Board President

### Fall Plant Sale—A Torrential Success

The first major storm of the year arrived on October 24, just in time to threaten a wash-out of our fall native plant sale. The rain cancelled our scheduled musicians, invited speakers, and other fun activities, but it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of our volunteers or, incredibly, the loyal visitors who braved the downpour to buy plants. Volunteers helped them find the right plants for their needs and shuttled the new owners and their purchases to their cars. When all the receipts were tallied, we netted \$3,900—that’s \$900 more than last year’s event when the sun was out. We ended the day rain-soaked but happy. A big thank you to those of you who braved the weather and took home some lovingly propagated treasures from our nursery. —Carl Kohnert, FOSC Board President

## END-OF-YEAR DONATION

We need your contribution to continue our restoration and education efforts in 2011. Thank you for helping to preserve 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. 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.

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 \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have enclosed an additional \$17.95 for one year’s subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine (not tax-deductible).

## Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737  
Oakland, CA 94602  
(510) 501-FOSC  
www.sausalcreek.org



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Don't miss our member meeting on January 19, 7–9 p.m. Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

### The FOSC Kids Website Takes Off!

[sausalcreek.org/kids/](http://sausalcreek.org/kids/)



FOSC is thrilled to announce the launch of a new website designed especially for kids. An extension of our environmental education field work, the site offers interactive ways for kids to learn more about the creek and watershed, both at home and in their classrooms, and have fun doing it. It also provides resources and materials for teachers.

Combining kid-friendly graphics with the latest in web design, the site features seven main interactive areas, plus “more” pages that include news stories on the watershed, a glossary of watershed terms, and a suggestion box where kids can submit ideas for additional content. The main pages are:

- Our Watershed—A basic definition for kids, plus an introduction to preventing watershed pollution
- Our Schools & Community—An interactive map of the watershed where kids can locate their school, home, parks, and other community landmarks
- Fun Stuff—Word search and crossword puzzles, games, and other activities
- Kids Gallery—For classes to show off watershed-related projects, drawings, and photos
- Plants & Animals—A database of plants, birds, and insects found in the Sausal Creek Watershed, with common and scientific names
- Sausal Creek History—In addition to articles from our existing website, this section includes a Sausal Creek Timeline narrated by Joaquin Miller Elementary School students, based on the narrative and images from *Sink or Swim: A History of Sausal Creek* by Cleo Woelfle-Erskine and Annie Danger
- For Teachers—Watershed-related resources and lesson plans for educators

## FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Call (510) 501-FOSC, or email [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org) (unless otherwise noted) to get information about all of our activities. For details about ongoing projects, check the Volunteer section of the Friends' website at [sausalcreek.org](http://sausalcreek.org).

### Bi-Monthly Meeting

*3rd Wednesday of every other month*

- Wednesday 1/19, 7–9 p.m.  
Dimond Library, 3565  
Fruitvale Ave.

### Saturday Workdays

*Winter Solstice Planting*

- Saturday, 12/11, 9 a.m.–noon  
Barry Place, Dimond Park,  
Escher Dr. (Shepherd  
Canyon), Fern Ravine  
(Sequoia Arena), and WD  
Wood Park. For details on  
these and other restoration  
and nursery workdays, go to  
[sausalcreek.org/volunteer/  
calendar.html](http://sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html), or contact  
Megan Hess at (510) 325-9006  
or [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org).

### Board of Directors Meetings

*2nd Wednesday of the month*

- Wednesday 12/8 & 1/12,  
7–9 p.m.  
Park Boulevard Presbyterian  
Church, 4101 Park Blvd.

### Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly*

- Saturday 1/22,  
8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Sequoia Arena, Joaquin Miller  
Park—Take Skyline Drive to  
Sequoia Arena, just south of  
Chabot Space Center; meet in  
the first parking lot.  
Call Mark Rauzon to confirm,  
(510) 531-3887.

FOSC applauds Joaquin Miller Elementary School's Helene Moore for her assistance throughout this two-year project and thanks her students for providing a great deal of the content for this first phase of the website. Thank you also to Pacific Gas & Electric for providing funding for the website design, and to project initiator Susan Piper, Policy Analyst for Oakland City Councilwoman Jean Quan.

Over time, we hope that students and teachers from schools throughout the watershed will make additional contributions to the website. If you like doing research or working on web content and would like to contribute to the effort, please email [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org) or call (510) 501-3672.—*Kimra McAfee*

### December '10-January '11 newsletter contributors:

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