



Friends of Sausal Creek

promoting watershed awareness

February 2002

<http://www.aoinstitute.org/sausal/>

Meet the Plant Transportation Team

Were you wondering how all of those beautiful native plants keep arriving in the canyon? Well, let me tell you! A dynamic group of volunteers meet on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings with their trucks and station wagons to load and transport thousands of plants each week. I would like to thank the Transport Team for all of their help in making the last two months as successful as they have been. The group is a mixture of nursery volunteers, members of the Board of Directors, the spouse of a FOSC member, and other restoration enthusiasts. Karen Paulsell, Dick Neely, Sally Kilburg, and Laurie Kunit are weekly regulars and make up the core of the Transport Team. Rahn Twitchell, Mark Lane, and Steve Jones are also regular volunteers providing essential additional carrying capacity and assistance during critical weeks. Paige Witte, Dolores Siegenthaler, and Robbie Neely round out the group helping out when they have been needed or have had time.

In coordination with Michael Thilgen's overall vegetation plan, we transport the requisite plants for each zone to the canyon. However, the plan frequently calls for more plants than we can move and often plants that we are (were) unable to identify. During the very wet month of December, the team was so effective that we had to take some time off because we had too many plants in the canyon. The rainy Saturday mornings didn't help. We transport plants from three nursery sites associated with the Friends of Sausal Creek. The Sweeney Nursery, located in San Leandro, Dolores Siegenthaler's home nursery and the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery (JMP). Sue Morgan, especially is to be commended on her precise and productive propagation and management of our native plant inventory at JMP. Gathering plants there is always a joy, as they are all well-labeled, organized, and HEALTHY! If you meet any of these volunteers during the restoration process, take a second to thank them for all the extra time and effort they have given to making this planting season such a success. -Ron Gartland



Chestnut-backed Chickadee (central California coast)
by Larry McQueen

Friend of the Month- Ron Gartland

Ron Gartland became involved with the Friends last summer when he discovered our nursery project in Joaquin Miller Park. He quickly became a regular, coming out on Saturdays and Wednesdays to propagate plants for the Dimond Canyon Restoration project. His curiosity and enthusiasm for the work raised our spirits and advanced our progress at the nursery.

When the planting began in the canyon, Ron volunteered to coordinate the transportation of plants from our various nursery sites. It was a logistically challenging effort, which Ron has performed beautifully. Each week he planned the transport, coordinated with the other drivers, and packed his cousin's classic Chevy station wagon with plants.

On Saturdays he was in the canyon, often in the pouring rain, always in good humor, ready for the morning's work. He played a major role in plant layout, personally placing thousands of nursery plants in the canyon for other volunteers to plant. In January, when we were running behind schedule, Ron offered to lead extra workdays on Sundays. And for a week in early February he supervised the East Bay Conservation Corps as they worked in the canyon. In all, he has been a major contributor to the project's success.

Ron will move to the Mojave Desert in late February to assume his new responsibilities as Restoration Ecologist for the Bureau of Land Management. We wish you all the best, Ron, even as we regret not having more time to spend with you. You are a Friend, indeed.

-Michael Thilgen

January Meeting Recap and February Meeting Forecast

At January's monthly meeting, Tim Reed, long-time member of the Friends of Sausal Creek, demonstrated the power that mapping can have on our understanding of the watershed. During the meeting he showed us that trees already form a greenbelt along Sausal Creek, even where it is culverted. He also showed us our membership distribution throughout Oakland and beyond. We could use mapping to uncover the feasibility of making a public greenway or to track how changes in the creek have affected the birds in the watershed. A new group is forming which will examine how we can use mapping to better understand our watershed. For more information email Tim Reed at timreed@sfu.edu or call at 261-6170.

The meeting also was a chance for people to make suggestions for future meetings. One suggestion was for us to hold a couple of meetings in the lower watershed, focusing on natural resources and community activities in the Fruitvale District. For the February meeting, we decided to revisit the Sausal Creek Watershed Action Plan and discuss the group's priorities for 2002 and beyond. Please plan to attend!

FoSC Short Term Action Priorities (February 2002 - April 2002)

At their December meeting, the Board of Directors identified the following priorities for the group.

- Complete the planting in Dimond Canyon
- Maintain ongoing operations of the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery
- Set up accounting system for FoSC
- Define funds needed for next 12-18 months and assure availability of funds
- Develop calendar of events for year and determine volunteer needs
- Hire workday and administrative coordinator
- Implement risk management plan
- Running monthly meetings
- Publish the monthly newsletter

Sausal Creek on the Web

- For info about events, go to volunteermatch.org, click on the search page, enter your zip code and Sausal Creek as the keyword.
- If you prefer an electronic newsletter (.pdf), email at bell_charlotte@hotmail.com.
- Add yourself to the FoSC listserve: Send a message to listproc@envirolink.org with SUBSCRIBE FoSC <your name> as the only thing in the body.

Who to Call for Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For a dumping in progress, call 911.
- For sewer backups and spills and storm drain flooding, call 615- 5566.
- For other spills and dumping in Oakland creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call 238-6600.

The Friends of Sausal Creek are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland. Additional support is provided by the San Francisco Foundation. For more information call (510) 501-3672, a.k.a. (510) 501-FoSC. Newsletter edited by Charlotte Bell. Printing and postage of this newsletter provided by the City of Oakland.



Friends of Sausal Creek

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Oakland, CA 94602

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Monthly Meetings

- Wednesday, February 20
- Wednesday, March 20
- Wednesday, April 17
7pm - 9pm, Dimond Library
3565 Fruitvale Avenue

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, February 13
- Wednesday, March 13
- Wednesday, April 10
7pm - 9pm, Call Anne Hayes for location, 237-0663.

Dimond Canyon Planting

- Every Saturday
9am - noon
At the El Centro Trailhead in Dimond Park. For more info contact Stuart Richardson at 912-7792.

Plant Propagation

- Thursday, February 21
- Thursday, March 7
- Every Saturday
9am- noon, at the Joaquin Miller Park nursery. For info call Sue Morgan at 531-6293.

Planting & Propagation with Children

- Every Wednesday
9am - noon
At Dimond Park or the Joaquin Miller Park nursery. For info call Sue Morgan at 531-6293.

Oyster Monitoring

- Saturday, March 2
- Saturday, April 6
- Saturday, May 4
9am - 12pm at the Fruitvale Bridge. For more info, contact Charlotte Bell at 339-8168.

Lower Watershed Water Monitoring

- Saturday, March 9
- Saturday, April 13
- Saturday, May 11
10am - 1pm, meet at the Unity Council. For more info, call Halima O'Neil at 633-1826.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Sunday, March 17
- Sunday, April 21
- Sunday, May 19
9:30am - 12:00pm. Call Emma Brown at 527-2507 or send e-mail to lightbrown@onemain.com for info.

Bird Monitoring

- Saturday, March 9
- Saturday, April 13
- Saturday, May 11
7:30am - 9:30am Call Martha Lowe at 530-7923 for location.

Book Club

- March 8, 7:30 pm.
Call Anne Hayes for location, 237-0663.

**Please attend our monthly meeting!
Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm, at the Dimond Library**