



## Bi-Monthly Meetings

**February 26**—Purple Rain benefit at the Parkway Theatre.

**March 19**—Beverly Ortiz, Park Naturalist, Coyote Hills, will describe local Ohlone land management practices and speak about the impact of the late 1700s/early 1800s Spanish missions and Mexican ranchos on local flora and fauna. This is part of a lecture series hosted by The Vinapa Foundation for Cross-Cultural Studies, in partnership with several agencies and organizations, marking the second annual Native/Spanish Contact Commemorative Event.

## Marie Wadman- Friend of the Month

Marie Wadman lives in the Sausal Creek Watershed and wanted to do something to help restore it. After looking around at some of the problem areas in Dimond Canyon, she decided to adopt the spot just past the turnaround, across the creek from the main trail.

Marie has really taken the proverbial Cape Ivy by its pungent purple rhizomes. This past summer, her approach was to



work for a few hours per month with some friends. The result was that there was much less Cape Ivy at the location. Then this fall Marie stepped up her efforts by leading crews on Creek to Bay Day and on our Building with Books Joint Service Project day. By the end of the second large

work day there was a huge bare area where once invasive plants had been. An erosion control blanket was installed to cover up the cleared spot. And finally, at the Winter Solstice Planting Party, Marie led the troops in putting over 500 local natives in the ground at her adopted spot. With all of the lovely rain we've been having, the plants are busily working on establishing roots. Thanks to a lot of enthusiasm and hard work, the area just past the turnaround has been transformed from a carpet of invasive weeds to a canvas for native oak woodland understory. Thanks Marie, for adopting a spot. (Please contact Kathren at [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org) to adopt your own spot in our watershed). —Kathren M. Stevenson

## VOLUNTEERS COUNT!

This year over 6000 hours were volunteered to our vital community based restoration programs. You can make a difference by acting locally. Come on out to a regularly scheduled workday. Or if you'd like to do something to help but prefer to keep your own time **Adopt-A-Spot**. You can get involved solo like Friend of the Month Marie Wadman did. Or you can organize your neighbors to work on your corner of the watershed like Richard Kaufman and others have done. For more information contact [Field@SausalCreek.org](mailto:Field@SausalCreek.org)

—Kristen Hopper

We only want to see you laughing in the Purple Rain.....

**Tuesday, February 26, 9:15**

**The Parkway Theatre**

**1834 Park Blvd. Oakland presents**

Prince in the ever-popular cult musical

**Purple Rain (1984)**

Admission: \$8. Proceeds go to The Friends of Sausal Creek.

## Beaconsfield Canyon Reborn

For several summers, as I looked over my back yard fence into the canyon below, I had visions of the 1991 firestorm. Every year, the berry vines grew larger and more ominous, the ivy tightened its noose around pines and oaks and the leaves and litter grew so thick you couldn't find the bottom. It was a disaster waiting to happen. So in the summer of 2004 I called the Oakland Fire Department and pleaded for help. Two summers later I was still pleading. But as I was shuffled between officials, I started to make some useful contacts. A member of the citizen advisory committee of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District introduced me to her friends at FOSC.

Beaconsfield Canyon is a five-acre slice of the Sausal Creek watershed tucked in between Ascot and Chelton drives in Montclair. The city purchased the property from a developer in 1992 and declared it a city park but had done little to maintain or improve it.

Thrilled to have any interest from anyone, I was happy to take my new friends from FOSC on a hike through the canyon. They found a surprising number of native plants that had survived the onslaught of invasive weeds. Subsequent conversations focused more on restoration than merely fire prevention, and I started to realize the canyon's potential. Where I had seen nothing but a daunting struggle against fire-breathing vegetation, they saw a habitat.

My committee friend encouraged me to organize a neighborhood workday instead of dogging the Fire Department. They were accustomed to squeaky wheels and had too many as it was. But if the city saw that the community was involved, they might be more likely to get involved as well.

Her theory proved correct. Last summer, the Fire Department began a three-year clearing program and even went so far as to coordinate their efforts with ours so the native plants wouldn't get weed-whacked with the others. Since last spring, we've held monthly workdays and, with only a handful of volunteers, have managed to haul out a small mountain of ivy, poison hemlock, berry vines, broom and other non-native plants. Beaconsfield is a long way from being a pristine, native landscape, but there is the distinct smell of progress.

This month, on January 26, we'll have our first planting day with several hundred plants from the FOSC nursery so please come out and join us. —Richard Kauffman

## Friends of Sausal Creek

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our bi-monthly meeting on March 19th, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

### Mission Success

Thanks to your support, in combination with some wonderful groups which joined in to help out, we had a wonderful fall restoration season. We here at FOSC would like to express our thanks to all of you who have helped us make our nursery and field programs so successful. Memorable highlights for the fall season:

- Re-sculpted the trails, installed a bioswale and improved erosion control with Student Conservation Association (SCA) at our Redwood Restoration Site, off Monterey Boulevard.
- Planted over 200 plants at the same Redwood Restoration Site with Lawrence Hall of Science and Earth Team.
- Completed a Joint Service Project (*restoration and education*) in Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon with 200 high school students from Building With Books.
- Removed invasive plants from the spot across Sausal Creek just upstream from the turnaround, and installed erosion control, along with over 500 local native plants.
- Joined with neighbors and friends to plant another 1200 local natives at various spots in the watershed as part of our Winter Solstice Planting Day.
- Fed 4 African Elephants at the Oakland Zoo for 3 days with the Acacias we removed from our Grassland Restoration Site (*thanks SCA for joining us again for this wonderful day of restoration and education*).
- Removed a washing machine, piece by piece, from the creek at Barry Place, and worked as a team to bring it up the steep slopes to the street.
- Excellent progress at Satellite sites in the watershed, including Beaconsfield Canyon, Escher Creek, and Barry Place.
- Tremendous progress at the Benevides cul-de-sac (*stay tuned for Acacia removal and the replanting of a beautiful native plant garden in 2008*).
- A heroic start in reclaiming the Bridgeview trail from invasive plants. *continued >*

### 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). Please note that our General Meeting is now held every **odd month**.

#### Bi-Monthly Meetings

*3rd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 3/19.

7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors

**Meetings**—note new venue  
*2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 2/13, 3/12.

7pm-9pm Montclair Branch Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd. All Welcome!

#### 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

*4th Sunday of the month.*

- Sunday 2/24, 3/30.  
9:30 am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm 527-2507.

#### Bird Monitoring

Quarterly. Sequoia Arena, Joaquin Miller Park.

- Sunday 4/20.  
8 am-noon; call Mark Rauzon to confirm, 531-3887.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

*Quarterly.*

- Sunday 3/22.  
9am-noon; call Nick to confirm, 530-4490.

The planting season extends through the first week in February. Please check our website ([www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org)) for upcoming planting days at our Grassland Site 1/19; Beaconsfield Canyon 1/26; Redwood Site 1/28; and the Cape Ivy Site 2/9.

—Kathren M. Stevenson

*Please call the City of Oakland  
if you notice illegal dumping, irrigation problems,  
or graffiti: 510-615-5566*

#### February-March '08 newsletter contributors:

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