



# Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

www.aoinstitute.org/sausal

New Phone Number:  
(510) 501-FOSC (3672)

April 2002

## Wednesday, April 17 Monthly Meeting

At the Friends' April 17 meeting, Priscilla Stuckey will describe the recent work of the Butters Land Trust whose mission is to conserve wild landscapes and open space, particularly riparian zones, in Butters Canyon, located in the upper Peralta Creek Watershed (Sausal's neighbor). We will also brainstorm with the Mapping Committee about Sausal features for our map-in-progress. Crucial last minute planning for Earth Day and more will benefit from your contributions. Please join us! (For time and location, see Activity Calendar on the reverse.)

### Earth Day the Sausal Way aka We Need Volunteers!

Every year, Earth Day is a great way for the Friends of Sausal Creek to reach out to the community, make our contributions known, and, most importantly, recruit new members and volunteers. The Friends are participating in many Earth Day/Earth Month events, so make sure to schedule one or more of these in, or better yet, help plan or lead activities.

### Creek Cleanup, Propagation, Planting, Saturdays, April 20 & 27

Our watershed is the beneficiary of the City of Oakland's citywide Earth Day Celebration, Saturday, April 20th, at two Sausal Creek sites this year (check [www.oaklandshines.com](http://www.oaklandshines.com) for a complete list.) From past experience, we know there is the potential to attract close to 200 volunteers on this day. To take advantage of this fortuitous resource—and to help ensure an event that is smooth-running, safe, and effective—volunteers are needed to lead small groups of individuals in area cleanups, propagation, and planting.

On Earth Day, meet at 9:00am (Team Leaders should arrive at 8:30am) at the Dimond Recreation Center, 3860 Hanly Road, to weed, plant, and clean in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Dimond Park, and upstream in the canyon. Or, go to the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery (meet at the parking lot just west of the ranger station) for a day of propagation. If you haven't been out to the creek in a while, these are excellent opportunities to view the restoration work in the canyon or to see the progress of the Friends' native nursery.

On Saturday April 27, the Friends welcome the students, teachers, and parents of Berkeley's Julia Morgan School to Dimond Park. Up to 200 eager and willing volunteers are expected to help with native plant restoration activities in the park and the canyon from 9:00am 'til 3:00pm. Volunteers are needed to lead teams throughout the day; sign up for any length shift.



City of Oakland  
Earth Day 2002 Logo

### Earth Day the Sausal Way (cont.)

#### Earth Month Outreach Events

Volunteers are need to help Halima O'Neil table at three events in April. "I can definitely use some seasoned FOSC volunteers to help answer questions about the Friends and various Sausal Creek watershed projects," says Halima, FOSC's new Administrative Coordinator. Tabling volunteers can also assist the public with hands-on activities such as native plant transplanting or fun nature-based activities for children.

- Wednesday, April 17, 10:30am-2:30pm: City of Oakland 8th Annual "Environmental Expo," Frank H. Ogawa Plaza; *great opportunity for those that work downtown.*
- Sunday, April 21, 10:00am-4:00pm: Chabot Space & Science Center Earth Day Celebration (more info: [www.chabot.space.org](http://www.chabot.space.org)); *outreach will include plant propagation.*
- Saturday, April 27, 11:30am-4:00pm: San Leandro Creek Watershed Festival, Root Park on E.14th & Hays, San Leandro; *table and fraternize with other creek and like-minded groups.*

For more information about participating in or helping with FOSC Earth Day Events, please call Halima at 501-FOSC. Planting and propagation Team Leaders should contact FOSC Field Coordinator Monica Stafford at 459-0644.

### Spring Brings Changes for the Bird Monitoring Team

Spring is bringing change to the FOSC bird monitoring program. The original goals of the team were to: 1) collect data on what bird species are using the watershed and on their distribution and relative abundance; and 2) educate people on bird identification. An adequate amount of baseline data has been collected and it is time for the team to rethink its focus. The educational aspect of the program has been but mildly successful—the point count protocol is designed to collect data, not to educate—so the team would like to develop other ways to engage people in learning about the birds they see in the watershed. To this end, the next time they meet, the team will discuss ideas for educational activities related to birding and revamping the data collection process. Site monitoring will continue on a regular basis, but perhaps only once or twice a year at each site. This should still allow for future analysis of trends in bird distribution and abundance while freeing up time for educational activities. The bird monitoring team will meet next on April 13, time and place to be announced. Be prepared to brainstorm! Contact Martha Lowe for details: (510) 530-7923 or [info@indigodev.com](mailto:info@indigodev.com).  
—Martha Lowe

### Report Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For 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.

### REFLECTING POND REFLECTING POND

Offered by Walter Epp at the Friends' March 2002 Equinox Celebration. Full text available at [www.aoinstitute.org/sausal/equinox2002.htm](http://www.aoinstitute.org/sausal/equinox2002.htm). See reverse for more.

*"MAY WE GATHER our hearts together to thank you Nature, Creek, and Canyon, for the quiet peace that soothes the soul, the singing waters that tickle the mind, the places of beauty and recreation that refresh the body, and all the other gifts you have continued to give. We hope this restoration project meets your approval as our effort to give something back and mature from just taking-taking to establishing more reciprocal respectful relations."*

## Sausal Creek Equinox Celebration, March 23, 2002

After a morning with occasional downpours on the volunteers, spring sun shone on 55 people gathered for an Equinox ceremony led by Mark Rauzon, Cathy Holt, Walter Epp, John Steere, and Ruby Stein. Fred Wahpepah, a local Native American elder, led a special oak tree planting with sacred herbs, tobacco, and a rainbow trout found on Sausal's banks. The little tree was then given water from other local creeks, as well as water collected from seven continents, and was blessed by David Ponedel. Walter spoke of the spiritual lessons from plants (see "Reflecting Pond"). With a reminder of the power of water to reflect our intentions, everyone spoke of their appreciation for water. Poems and songs were offered, and Mark thanked all of the volunteers for creating a new beginning for Sausal Creek, and presented the Friends' president, Anne Hayes, with an amusing "trophy" (a piece of railroad track). Then everyone enjoyed refreshments generously donated by World Ground Cafe and Noah's Bagels. Many thanks to Cathy Holt, author (*The Circle of Healing: Deepening our Connections with Self, Others, and Nature*, available at the Berkeley Ecology Center and Cody's) and educator (see [www.talkingbirdspress.com](http://www.talkingbirdspress.com)) for gathering us by the waters.

### April Friends of the Month: "Many Hands Make Light Work"

With the canyon nearly completely replanted and spring upon us, we pause to mark the season and celebrate our accomplishments. Looking back over the last year since we began to propagate native plant cuttings and seeds, the amount of plant material created is simply astounding. Over 20,000 plants were put into the ground, creating a new beginning for our watershed. Many hands make light work, and indeed, we had lots of help. So many people have invested a significant amount of personal time and contributed to the collective labor that created our nursery and replanted the canyon. The Friends and interns put in 15,500 hours of work. That's 3,875 weeks or 7.45 person years!!! So we take this moment to expand on the recognition given at the March Equinox Celebration and officially thank all the volunteers that showed up to help on the canyon replanting effort. Special acknowledgement is due to Michael Thilgen, Stuart Richardson, Sue Morgan, Ron Gartland, Laurie Kunit, Elliott Smith, and Nancy Jones. *You are all Friends of the Month!*

—Mark Rauzon

### Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737  
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(510) 501-FOSC  
[www.aoinstitute.org/sausal](http://www.aoinstitute.org/sausal)



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To receive this newsletter in .pdf format instead, send an email to [jxstanley@yahoo.com](mailto:jxstanley@yahoo.com).

## FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### Monthly Meetings

~5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday, April 17
  - Wednesday, May 15
  - Wednesday, June 19
- 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

### Board of Directors Meetings

~2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday, April 10
  - Wednesday, May 8
  - Wednesday, June 12
- 7pm-9pm; Chabot Space & Science Center. Everyone welcome. For info, call Anne Hayes at 237-0663.

### Dimond Canyon Planting

~every Saturday (note special events on 4/20 & 4/27)~

9am-noon; meet at the El Centro Trailhead. For info, call Monica at 459-0644.

### Plant Propagation

~every Saturday (note special events on 4/20 & 4/27) & every other Thursday~

Saturdays, 9am-noon and 1:30-4:00pm; meet at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Info: Monica, 459-0644. Alternating Thursdays (4/18, 5/2, 5/16, etc). Info: Robin North, 336-1861.

### Planting & Propagation with Children

~every Wednesday~

9am-noon; at Dimond Park or the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at 531-6293.

### Oyster Monitoring with Save the Bay

~1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month~

- Saturday, May 4
  - Saturday, June 1
  - Saturday, July 6
- 9am-noon; meet at the Fruitvale Bridge. For info, contact Charlotte Bell at 339-8168.

### Lower Watershed Water Monitoring

~2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month~

- Saturday, April 13
  - Saturday, May 11
  - Saturday, June 8
- 10am-1pm; meet at the Unity Council. For info, call Halima at 501-FOSC.

### Bird Monitoring

~2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month~

- Saturday, April 13
  - Saturday, May 11
  - Saturday, June 8
- For time, location, and other details, contact Martha Lowe at 530-7923 or by email at [info@indigodev.com](mailto:info@indigodev.com).

### Aquatic Insect Sampling

~5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month~

- Sunday, April 21
  - Sunday, May 19
  - Sunday, June 16
- 9:30am-noon; for info, contact Emma Brown at 527-2507 or by email at [lightbrown@onemain.com](mailto:lightbrown@onemain.com).

### Watershed Walk, Saturday, May 11, 2002 (tentative date)

Laurel Marcus of the Watershed Assessment Resource Center (WARC) is planning to lead a watershed walk in the upper Sausal Creek Watershed to assess some of the incision in the upper creeks in Joaquin Miller Park down to Dimond Park, and the impacts of increases in impervious surfaces. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurel at [lmarcusassoc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lmarcusassoc@ix.netcom.com) or 832-3101.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED