



Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

April-May 2003

REMINDERS

- Monthly meetings, Wednesday, April 16 (help prepare for Earth Day!) and May 21, 7-9pm, Dimond Library.
- Keep your calendar clear for Earth Day at Sausal Creek! April 19, 2003, one of the biggest workdays of the year. Come help clean the creek, dig in the dirt, and meet your neighbors.
- Contact us to donate tools, equipment, office supplies, or anything else.

Earth Day 2003, Acting Locally

Typing "Earth Day, history" into my web search engine, I found one of the original documents that founded Earth Day. This discovery gave me a renewed sense of excitement about Earth Day 2003, fast approaching on Saturday, April 19. The synergy that became Earth Day, I learned, was partially spawned by a 1970 proposal to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The wording of this "Proposed Earth Day Resolution" is timely and particularly poignant 23 years later given the current state of our involvement in Iraq.

"WHEREAS; As earthians we need a day to celebrate our global unity and destiny, and WHEREAS; The observance of Earth Day will alert concern and interest for our planet – with it's precious treasures of living things and, WHEREAS: Earth Day is to remind each person of his/her right, and the equal right of every other person, to use of this global home and at the same time the equal responsibility of each person to preserve and improve the Earth and the quality of life thereon, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; That in the city and county of San Francisco March 21st (vernal Equinox) be designated Earth Day – a special day to remember earth's tender seedlings of life and people; a day for planting trees and grass and flowers, for clearing streams and wooded glens ..."

Our huge, participatory Earth Day celebrations are no longer held at "the moment when night and day are equal throughout the earth – reminding us of earth's beautiful systems of balance which humanity has partially upset and must restore." Perhaps the day got moved to a warmer month for those who live in colder climes. No matter; the spirit is there whatever the month or day, and now more than ever, global unity is an ethos for which to strive.

As customary, FOSC will be facilitating Earth Day events throughout the watershed as part of the City of Oakland's citywide cleanup (call the City's Events Hotline at 238-7611 for

more info about citywide happenings.)

There will be plenty of tasks to busy the hands of volunteers with all kinds of interests and abilities. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by adults. For a safe, successful effective event, team leaders are needed to manage small groups cleaning the creeks, propagating plants, and bashing weeds. Please attend the April 16 meeting to determine projects and/or call FOSC (501-FOSC) to lend your team-leading skills (or with questions).



On the day of the event, meet at one of the following locations at 9:00 a.m. (team leaders should arrive at 8:30 a.m.):

- Dimond Park (meet at the Dimond Recreation Center, 3860 Hanly Road)
- 1900 Fruitvale Ave. (in partnership with the Unity Council)
- Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery

I look forward to the inspiration Earth Day imparts to care for "earth's tender seedlings" by tending the banks of our own lovely creek.
~Kristen Hopper

Welcome Back Julia Morgan School

On the Saturday following Earth Day, April 26, the Friends will host the Julia Morgan School's third annual work-a-thon. All 130 students (middle schoolers) and their families are expected to participate. Last year, these industrious youngsters removed truck-loads of ivy from the riparian restoration area. This special Dimond Canyon workday goes from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to lead teams throughout the day: sign up for any length of shift. Call 501-FOSC to help out.

Phone It In: Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- Dumping in progress: 911
- Sewer backups and spills and storm drain flooding: 615-5566
- Other spills and dumping in Oakland creeks, storm drains, and waterways: 238-6600



End of Winter Peace

End of winter, the white winter light filtered through the oaks as the treetops are tossed by winds. The raggedy call of the woodpecker carries over the bubbling stream, but the skies roar and the land sighs in our urban world. To escape, I flee to a green glen of Dimond Canyon, cool and damp in the hollow. A seep trickles soundlessly, fresh fungus and sprouts everywhere. A Steller's jay in a blue pullover, with peaked black hood, hops to the ground. Up close I see the cerulean blue eye stripes on its forehead. A varied thrush, looking like a gigantic Blackburian warbler, is fossicking in the earth, an easily spooked bird, soon to wing its way north. The spotted towhee shares the same bit of ground, scratching for bugs in the leaf litter. It looks like the black-headed grosbeak, soon to be here on its summering grounds. I can hardly wait for the new waves of migrant birds and the winter to melt into full spring. Already the mockingbird sings of spring, and its excitement is contagious. If it would only stop imitating that car alarm, I could embrace the hope of spring in the face of war.

~Mark J. Rauzon

Compromise Plan Allows School Field Trips to Nursery to Continue

Due in part to FOSC's squeaky wheels, the #53 AC Transit bus route was in part preserved, allowing for continued field trips to the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery and Chabot Space and Science Center. Due to budget cuts, the #53 will no longer go up Lincoln, Joaquin Miller, Skyline, and to the Chabot Space and Science Center. However, AC Transit will be implementing Demand Response Transit (DRT) for groups of 20 or more that call at least 48 hours ahead of time to schedule pickup anywhere along the #53 route. Individuals can tag along with groups already scheduled. For information, dial "511," the Bay Area's new travel guide, and follow the prompts to AC Transit.

Share Your Bay-Friendly Garden in Alameda County Garden Tour

The Alameda County Recycling Board is looking for home gardens to feature in its 2004 Natural Gardens Tour. If your garden is water-conserving, reuses plant trimmings through mulching and compost, provides wildlife habitat, is free of synthetic pesticides, and features native and Mediterranean plants, please contact Kathy Kramer at Kathy@KkramerConsulting.net or (510) 236-9558 by June 15, 2003.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our monthly meetings! Next ones are April 16 & May 21, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Friends of the Month—Cogitaters on Vegetation

One important yet often overlooked component of restoration work is project follow-up. Ecological restoration, a relatively new idea in land management, entails a mind-boggling amount of variables for any given project. But without follow-up, how will restorationists learn what works (and what doesn't)?

The Friends of Sausal Creek are lucky in this sense because our limited budget is offset by some very dedicated and energetic volunteers. This year, Karen Paulsell (dedicated volunteer for the past year and a half), Eric Wrubel (watershed resident and land management professional), and Allison Purcell (watershed assessment professional) have spent their considerable talents and precious time to create a two-faceted vegetation monitoring program to provide crucial follow-up.

The monitoring group will determine the success of this year's plants in marked quadrants along the canyon's east slope (and they'll need your help; see next article). They will also determine overall plant cover, diversity, and native vs. non-native plant distribution by evaluating transects along the trail. The data generated by these two studies will help us determine what works and what doesn't, making better use of volunteers and dollars (and impressing potential funders!). Thank you, Karen, Eric, and Allison! ~Kristen Hopper

Dedicated Followers of Vegetation

A Vegetation Monitoring Crew is going to monitor the restoration area. We'll be looking at three things:

- (1) The coverage and number of native and non-native plants throughout the restoration area;
- (2) The plots that were planted during the 2002-2003 winter, to determine survivorship of plants (based on a prior tally of what was planted);
- (3) The size and health of trees planted along the creek.

The first item will require counting plants in a large number of 24 square-foot areas down both sides of the trail, a speedy process *if* we can get a few two- or three-person teams. Can you recognize plants, and want to learn our natives (and a few of those pesky invaders)? We could use your help. Most of this work will take place in late April or early May. To take part, please contact me at 655-0818 or kpaulsell@pacbell.net. ~Karen Paulsell

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC to get information about all activities. Also, for details about ongoing projects, check the Volunteer section of the Friends' website at www.sausalcreek.org.

Earth Day, April 19, 2003

Saturday, 9:00am-noon. Details, see article on reverse; more to follow at www.sausalcreek.org. Please save the date!

Julia Morgan School Workday

Saturday, 4/26, 9:00am-3:00pm. Team leaders needed to supervise middle-school volunteers.

Saturday Workdays

- **Dimond Canyon:**
9:00am-noon. Meet at the El Centro Trailhead.
- **Plant Propagation:**
1:30-4:00pm at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery.

Info, Kristen Hopper, 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Outdoor Education

Docents Wanted

~*Wednesdays*~
9:00am-noon at Dimond Canyon or the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at 531-6293 or class@sausalcreek.org.

Monthly Meetings

~*5th Wednesday of the month*~
• Wednesday 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, etc. 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

~*2nd Wednesday of the month*~
• Wednesday 4/9, 5/15, 6/11, etc. 7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center. All welcome!

Bird Monitoring

~*Quarterly outings*~
Saturday, April 12, early in the morning. For more info, call or watch www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/teams.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~*5th Sunday of the month*~
• Sunday 4/20, 5/18, 6/15, etc. 9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507.

Water Quality Monitoring

~*1st Saturday of the month* • *please call first to confirm e³ for location*~
• Saturday 5/3, 6/7, 7/5, etc. 9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-8036.

The Friends are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland.

April-May 2003 Newsletter Contributors

Kristen Hopper, Karen Paulsell, Mark J. Rauzon, Jennifer Stanley, Priscilla Stuckey. To contribute to the FOSC newsletter, email coordinator@sausalcreek.org or call 501-FOSC.