

# Friends of Sausal Creek

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

April — May '06

## Monthly Meetings

**April 19**—George McRae of the Baxter Creek watershed and former resident in the Sausal Creek watershed will discuss common reptiles and amphibians of our East Bay urban environments and ways of attracting and providing habitat for them.

**May 17**—Eddie Dunbar, Executive Director of BugPeople, will explore the insect diversity that lies at every footstep in Sausal Creek.

### First-Ever FOSC Native Plant Sale: Sunday, May 7th

Your opportunity to purchase native plants grown in the Sausal Creek watershed has arrived! FOSC will host its first-ever plant sale from 10am-5pm on Sunday, May 7, at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, as part of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. For more information about the tour, specific plants for sale, or how to get to the nursery, visit [www.sausalcreek.org/plantsale.html](http://www.sausalcreek.org/plantsale.html) or contact [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org).

—Sara Marcellino

### Earth Day: Saturday, April 22

On April 22, we will be holding our big Earth Day volunteer effort. There will be two main sites for staging the work: Dimond Canyon and the Nursery in Joaquin Miller. The focus in Dimond Canyon and Park will be Ivy. We hope to make significant progress removing Algerian ivy from the oaks by creating a “doughnut” of ivy-free space at the base of each trunk. Also, the Cape ivy blanketing the creek bank is so tenacious in places that it needs to be bagged and removed, so if we can find a big scale (does anyone have one to lend?) we’ll have you “bag your weight in Cape ivy”. Of course, we’ll also clean up the creek and weed the demonstration garden. At the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, we’ll build tables, a lumber rack, and a bench, so bring your woodworker skills. There will also be general nursery clean up and transplanting activities. Hope to see you out there. Meet us at either the Scout Hut or the Nursery at 9 am.

—Kristen Hopper



It's easier than ever to donate to FOSC: [www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org) now accepts secure online donations! Follow the link from our homepage for more information.

### Thank You Earth Team

Lots of exciting things have happened in Dimond Canyon this winter, from the loss of four significant trees to heavy amounts of precipitation pushing the creek level up over the culvert at the bottom of Wellington Ave (thus sending bits of flotsam across the playing field in Dimond Park).



My favorite juicy morsel is the near completion of the big re-vegetation project on the west side of the creek in Dimond Canyon. Over several visits this past fall, the Earth Team—working with Oakland High students and FOSCers Karen Paulsell and Elliott Smith—cleared roughly 4000 square feet of invasive weeds to make way for establishing a beach head of native understory.

To learn about ecological restoration, the students marked off eight plots, took pictures of the site prior to clearing a dense thicket of Algerian and Cape ivy and Himalayan blackberry, covered the area with erosion control blanket, planted 550 locally grown natives (from our very own Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery), then mapped the placement of the plants in each of the eight plots. They will return in May to count plants and determine short term survivorship. With a prayer to the rain gods we hope that the plants will establish and add diversity and vitality to the ecology of this wonderful stretch of creek.

Many thanks to Chicory Bechtel of Earth Team, to the great Oakland High School students who did most of the hard work, and to the wonderful supervisory skills of seasoned volunteers Karen Paulsell and Elliott Smith. Speaking of, **CONGRATS TO KAREN PAULSELL**, who recently won a District 4 “Local Hero” Award. She certainly deserves it for her articulate conservationist message presented at meetings, for her extensive nursery work and map production, and for being a data maven extraordinaire!

—Kristen Hopper

The Friends are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland, with additional support from private citizens . . . like you!

## SUPPORT THE WORK OF FOSC

Please help us maintain and expand our efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today!

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Friends of Sausal Creek

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



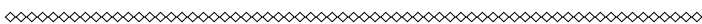
NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OAKLAND, CA  
PERMIT NO.  
2486

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our monthly meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

### Insects of the Sausal Creek Watershed

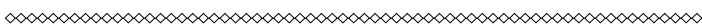
Eddie Dunbar, Executive Director of BugPeople, will be speaking at our May member meeting. In conjunction with that talk, we are highlighting two insects that you see this time of year in the Sausal Creek watershed.



**Syrphid Fly on Oxalis.** Syrphid flies (*family Syrphidae*) still thrive in Oakland's temperate climate. Adults hover in vegetated areas and visit flowers to sip nectar. Larvae are maggot-like predators of aphids and other soft-bodied arthropods on plants.



**Ladybird Beetle on Fennel.** Some ladybird beetles (*family Coccinellidae*) congregate in large masses in hilly areas of Oakland and disperse in the spring. Adults are characteristically red with black markings. Larvae are caterpillar-like and feed on aphids.



#### About BugPeople:

BugPeople's "Exploring California Insects Program" engages teachers of science and their students in studies of local insect fauna through workshops, collecting trips, field and lab use of real science equipment, and web content. Insects are studied, written about, and photographed. The findings are published in ways that include web field guide pages, electronic books (eBooks), lesson plans, teaching materials, and multimedia presentations. Writing Insects of the San Francisco Bay Area is a current project. Also, the "Exploring California Insects Program" is proud to present the Lake Merritt and Greater Oakland Insects, a field guide available at Lake Merritt's Rotary Nature Center for \$10 or via CD-ROM. For more information, visit BugPeople at [www.bugpeople.org](http://www.bugpeople.org).

### 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).

**Annual Oakland Earth Day Cleanup, Saturday April 22, 9am-noon.** Meet at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park. *See article on reverse for more details.*

**First-ever FOSC Native Plant Sale, Sunday May 7, 10am-5pm,** at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. *See article on reverse for more details.*

#### Monthly Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday 4/19, 5/17.  
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,  
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors Meetings

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

- Wednesday 4/12, 5/10.  
7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space  
& Science Center. All welcome!

#### Saturday Workdays

Most, but not all, Saturdays  
9am-noon—Restoration Activities  
1:30-4pm—Nursery Activities  
For info, contact Kristen Hopper,  
387-9744 or [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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

- Sunday 4/16, 5/21.  
9:30am-noon; call Emma Brown  
to confirm 510-527-2507.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

- Sunday 4/16. 9am-noon;  
call Mark Lane to confirm,  
510-219-8036.

#### Bird Monitoring

Quarterly. Sequoia Arena,  
Joaquin Miller Park.

- Saturday 4/29. 8am-noon;  
call Mark Rauzon to confirm,  
510-531-3887.

#### Outdoor Education

##### Docents Needed

If interested in becoming a docent volunteer with the Environmental Education Program, please contact Sue Morgan at [jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com).

**Come join us!**

#### April-May '06 newsletter contributors:

Eddie Dunbar, Kristen Hopper, Sara Marcellino  
Editor: Sara Marcellino. Designer: Joan Bittner.