



# Friends of Sausal Creek

www.sausalcreek.org  
(510) 501-FOSC (3672)  
**April — May '08**

## Bi-Monthly Meetings

**April**—Join us at our Earth Day and Plant Sale events (see below for details).

**May 21**—Come hear about the current state of Sausal Creek's inhabitants. Emma Brown, longtime volunteer in charge of FOSC's aquatic insect monitoring program, along with Igor Lacan, who wrote his graduate thesis on volunteer monitoring and data verification, and Robert Leidy, a U.S. EPA expert on fish in Bay Area Creeks, will discuss what is known about the creek's insects and fish and what options exist for improving their habitat.

### JMNPN Plant Sale: Sunday, April 27, 10am-4pm

We're in full spring here at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, which means our annual plant sale is here! This year's plant sale and garden tour will be held on Sunday, April 27 from 10am-4pm. As part of the Bay Friendly Gardening Tour ([www.BayFriendly.org](http://www.BayFriendly.org)) we'll have hundreds of plants to sell, a



propagation talk, a raffle, and some free books to give away! If you would like more information about what we'll be selling on April 27 or need directions, visit <http://www.sausalcreek.org/plantsale.html>.

If you are able to help out with the plant sale—either preparing beforehand or on the day of—please let me know. We need volunteers to weed, label, and sort plants, clean up the nursery, direct traffic, help with cashiering, assist visitors in selecting stock, and clean up afterwards. Taking on either an

hour shift or a five hour shift would help lighten the work.

We also could use some cardboard boxes to help shoppers transport their plants home, and we'd love to borrow walkie-talkies, some hand wagons, and a pickup truck or two for the day.

There are many highlights at the nursery from the winter season. We inoculated our live oak and madrone trees with beneficial fungi, filled the greenhouse with cuttings, and sowed

a prodigious amount of thimbleberry, cow parsnip, California honeysuckle and ninebark. We've enjoyed the leatherwood and dirca blooming on our seed collecting walks. By the end of the planting season in February the nursery felt a bit empty (*a testament to all the restoration work parties!*), but it has filled up quickly with pots for the year ahead.

Our Native Plant Nursery at Joaquin Miller Park is a fantastic place to explore, share, and learn more about native plants. If you have or want knowledge about botany, ecology, herbal medicine, gardening or related topics, come visit us! Anyone can join us collecting or propagating with no prior experience. Contact me at 510-928-6675 or [nursery@sausalcreek.org](mailto:nursery@sausalcreek.org) to find out how you can get involved or to schedule a work party for your volunteer group.

—Molly G. Bolt

### Earth Day: Saturday, April 19, 8:45am-12:00pm

April 19th is a special day when FOSC marks Earth Day with a chance to rededicate ourselves to the planet that sustains us. Join us as we clean up Dimond Canyon and Park and the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. Meet at the Scout Hut in Dimond Park at 8:45 am to clean the creek, pull weeds on slopes leading down to the water, mulch trails, and meet your neighbors. Another effort will take place at the same time to prepare our nursery for the plant sale on April 27th, located off of Joaquin Miller Road (turn left on Sanborn Avenue, park in the lot and walk a lovely quarter mile down to the nursery). Coffee, lunch, and special T-shirts will be provided. Contact [field@sausalcreek.org](mailto:field@sausalcreek.org) or 510-388-5676 with any questions or to lead a crew.

See you there!

### Wish List for Field Programs

FOSC could use a few items for its Restoration and Nursery Programs. They include:

- weed whacker or brush cutter
- solid wheelbarrow tires
- loppers
- clippers
- leather gloves in good condition
- hand pruners
- white board (24"x36" ideal)



## 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.

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

## Friends of Sausal Creek

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss Earth Day (Apr. 19), Plant Sale (Apr. 27) and our member meeting (May 21, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library). Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

### Only Rain Down the Drain

Ten years ago, the City of Oakland conducted DNA analysis of local rainbow trout populations to determine if the populations were native as opposed to hatchery stock. Trout living in Sausal Creek were determined to be native.

On February 7, 2008, 11 of these trout were found dead near El Centro Avenue in Sausal Creek.



Continuing as a watchdog for the Sausal Creek watershed, FOSC immediately notified the City of Oakland about the trout kill. The City immediately investigated the site and found evidence that solvents and/or paints were poured into a nearby storm drain immediately upstream of the El Centro trout pool. The City, together with the California Department of Fish and Game, collected water, soil, and fish samples to attempt



to establish causality between the illegal dumping incident and the fish kill.

Though the investigation is still pending, the perpetrators may face a fine between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

This sad story is a reminder that illegal dumping actions into storm drains can have immediate detrimental environmental consequences. Having spent tens of thousands of volunteer hours restoring this local habitat to improve water quality and to restore trout habitat, in partnership with the City of Oakland, the Alameda County Flood Control District, and the California Coastal Conservancy, FOSC is using this incident to remind everyone that only rain goes down the drain—any other dumping into these drains is illegal. Unlike the sanitary sewer, storm drain water is not treated before it reaches creeks and the Bay.

If rinsing water-based paints off of paintbrushes, it is okay to use the kitchen sink. Other types of paints and solvents are considered hazardous waste, and should be sent to

### 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).

#### Bi-Monthly Meetings

*5th Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 5/21.  
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors

**Meetings**—note new venue

*2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 4/9, 5/14.  
7pm-9pm Montclair Branch Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd.  
All Welcome!

#### Aquatic Insect Sampling

*5th Sunday of the month.*

- Sunday 4/20, 5/18.  
9:30 am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm 527-2507.

#### 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).

#### Bird Monitoring

Quarterly. Sequoia Arena, Joaquin Miller Park.

- Saturday 4/26.  
8 am-noon; call Mark Rauzon to confirm, 531-3887.

the Alameda County Hazardous Waste drop-off facility, in Oakland at 2100 East 7th Street. If you have any questions about what is considered hazardous, please visit [stopwaste.org](http://stopwaste.org).

To hear more about the status of the inhabitants of Sausal Creek and fish conservation, please join us at our May member meeting. Emma Brown, Igor Lacan, and Robert Leidy (*a U.S. EPA expert on fish in Bay Area Creeks*) will discuss what is known about the creek's insects and fish and what options exist for improving their habitat here in Oakland, forever our goal here at FOSC.

Thanks for your help in protecting creeks in the Sausal Creek watershed!  
—Kathren M. Stevenson

#### April-May '08 newsletter contributors:

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