



Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

June-July-2003

JUNE MEETING

City of Oakland Watershed Improvement Program Director Lesley Estes will be joining us to discuss the possibility of creek repair below Wellington in Dimond Park, including the possible daylighting of the culverted section with a bridge across Wellington. Sound interesting? Join us at the Dimond Library, June 18, 7:00pm. **Get your fix now 'cuz there's no meeting in July!**

The Languid Pace of Summer

Summer is a slow time for FOSC, with the plants largely dormant in Dimond Park and not many big volunteer groups to manage. It's a time to relax and focus on plant propagation at the nursery for next year's planting season.

Therefore, the number of work events this summer will be reduced. Additionally, the Outdoor Education program led by volunteer Sue Morgan will go fishin' (so to speak) until October.

Dates, and some descriptions, of summer volunteer opportunities are listed below. Schedule in one or two (or more!) The volunteer nursery crew plan to work at the nursery every Saturday throughout the summer, but call first to make sure if you want to volunteer on a day not listed. If you have questions, please contact Kristen Hopper, FOSC field coordinator, at (510) 387-9744 or field@sausalcreek.org.



JUNE/JULY SCHEDULE

Friday Seed Collection, 9:30am-noon

- June 13, 27
- July 11, 25

Saturday Dimond Canyon Restoration Work, 9:00am-noon

- June 14: weed experimental planting islands
- June 28: Cape Ivy patrol
- July 19, 26

Saturdays at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery, 1:30-4:00pm

Volunteers will be there every Saturday (but call first). Highlights include:

- June 14: transplanting and seed sowing
- June 28: transplanting, potting up, and seed sowing
- July 19: transplanting, potting up, seed sowing
- July 26

Special Workdays featuring Project YES, 10:00am-2:00pm

Volunteer and/or help lead Project YES group.

- Monday, July 28, Tuesday July 29
- Monday, August 4, Tuesday August 5

Charlotte Rocks! And rolls on outa town ...

At the end of June we will be saying good-bye to Charlotte Bell Acharya, our Operations Manager. She will be moving to Ithaca, New York where her new husband, Govind Acharya, will be attending graduate school. Charlotte first began working with the Friends several years ago as an intern with the Aquatic Outreach Institute. Her "can-do" attitude attracted immediate attention, and she fearlessly took on and successfully completed several significant FOSC tasks. She developed into a volunteer extraordinaire, and at a time when we really needed someone to step up to the plate, she came in to fill the Operations Manager's position when Anne Hayes moved to Santa Cruz. Anne was a hard act to follow, but not only did Charlotte grow into the position, she redefined several important aspects of the job. Charlotte has performed above and beyond the call of duty, and has volunteered far more hours than she ever turned in on her timesheet. As communications centrale, she has tracked and kept all of us informed of our many diverse projects, always keeping an eye out for potential funding. She has represented FOSC admirably as a participant in multiple other East Bay creek-related efforts, especially the Peralta Creek Restoration and Hawthorne School playground enhancement projects. We will miss Charlotte's enthusiasm, commitment, steadfastness, and great attention to detail. We will also miss her ability to round up volunteers (including Govind) whenever our august projects required them. Thanks a million Charlotte! We wish Charlotte and Govind all of the best in their camping trip across the country, and their further academic and professional pursuits.

—Sally Kilburg

Share Your Bay-Friendly Garden

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.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Please help the Friends maintain our efforts on behalf of the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today. FOSC depends more than ever on supporters like you to sustain our work on Sausal Creek. Thanks for your support!

Mail this form with check made payable to "Friends of Sausal Creek" 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 tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

A receipt will be sent for your files.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Amount of Donation

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$12 Other: _____



Matching Gifts: Can your workplace match your donation? If your workplace has a matching gift program, please let us know.
In Kind: We can always use in-kind donations. Contact us to donate tools, equipment, office supplies, or anything else.

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www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

The next monthly meeting is on June 18, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. Don't miss it 'cuz there's not one in July!

Phone It In: Reporting 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**
- Let FOSC know you made a report (optional) **501-FOSC**



Keeping it Clean

Memorial Day weekend has past, and summer is around the corner. Images come to mind of barbecues at Dimond Park and children playing in Sausal Creek. But this also raises a question: How polluted is Sausal Creek? While the water quality in Dimond Park does not have the dangerously high *E.coli* bacteria levels seen farther downstream, that doesn't mean the water is always clean either.

The data provided by FOSC's monitoring teams tell us that, in Dimond Park, water quality is good enough to support aquatic life. However, data and experience show that, sometimes, the creek is not so clean. In the last year, we've received reports that the creek was red, green, and blue. And I've seen times when the water is foamy or has an oily sheen.

Unfortunately, the people polluting the creek probably don't know they are doing anything wrong. They're cleaning paint cans in the street or hosing the motor oil off the driveway; they don't know that drains in streets and parking lots empty their contents, untreated, into the creek.

As members of FOSC, we can share our knowledge of the storm drain system with our neighbors and friends. To stencil the storm drains on your block with the message "No Dumping, Drains to Bay," contact the City of Oakland Watershed Improvement Program at (510) 238-6600. When the feisty mood strikes, explain to a favorite neighbor that washing a car and letting the soapy water flow into the street creates water pollution problems for us all. Use the numbers below to report spills. Also, help us track problems; contact us at (510) 501-FOSC or coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

—adapted from an article by Charlotte Bell Acharya that ran in the June MacArthur Metro.

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR abbreviated for Summer '03

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.

Saturday Workdays

Please see abbreviated summer schedule on the reverse.

Outdoor Education

Program on hiatus until fall.

Monthly Meetings

~3rd Wednesday of the month but no meeting in July~

- Wednesday 6/18, etc. 7pm-9pm; Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

- Wednesday 6/11, 7/8, 8/13, etc. 7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center. All welcome!

Bird Monitoring

~Quarterly outings (tentative)~

Saturday, July 12, October 11, early in the morning. For more info/to confirm, call (510) 631-3887, or watch

www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/teams.html.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~3rd Sunday of the month~

- Sunday 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, etc. 9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown, 527-2507.

Water Quality Monitoring

~1st Saturday of the month • please call first to confirm & for location~

- Saturday 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, etc.

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

June-July 2003 Newsletter Contributors

Govind and Charlotte Bell Acharya, Kristen Hopper, Sally Kilburg, Mark Rauzon, Jennifer Stanley. To contribute to the FOSC newsletter, email coordinator@sausalcreek.org or call 501-FOSC.

The Wild Side

All's not as it seems on the surface at Sausal Creek. Near the demonstration garden, I saw a silver object swimming in the water. A fish? No ... a mole with air trapped in its fur! Out of its element, it swam through a small rapid trying to reach the other side. Unfortunately, a low cement wall blocked its exit and it had to turn tail and swim back for cover. Later, on the Bridgeview Trail, I found another animal out of its element. A shiny, pecan-sized water beetle colored like a roasted coffee bean crawled along the path looking for what the mole had found. Both critters negotiated their challenges with versatility. Maybe they were just up for a change of scene; even critters need their walk on the wild side. —Mark Rauzon