



# Friends of Sausal Creek

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

June — July '05

## Monthly Meetings

**June 15**—Susan Schwartz, Executive Director of Friends of Five Creeks, presents “Green Thread in the Urban Fabric —Walks to Explore New and Upcoming Restoration.”

**July**—No Meeting.

### FOSC SUMMER FUNDRAISER AT THE PERALTA HOUSE!

Come one, come all for a summer celebration! Join us July 23 from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Peralta Hacienda Historic House, 2465 34<sup>th</sup> Ave., for a live native plant auction, food, wine, music and games while learning about this historic cultural landmark. \$15 donation requested—please be generous, this is a fundraising effort and we need your support. For more information, or to donate if you’re out of town, visit [www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org). Tickets available at the door. See you there!

## A Way-Cool Earth Day

Speaking for myself, I had a way-cool Earth Day. The gray and drippy skies made me want to huddle in bed, but I showed up on time, finding other Sausal Creek team leaders setting up tables, laying out T-shirts, and arranging signs. City Council



member Jean Quan and her husband brought us breakfast, so we muddled around greeting volunteers and choosing our weapons—weed wrenches, shovels, hand picks, trash bags—and new gloves!

Suzanne Rauzon and I led a small crew of volunteers who were either wearing rubber boots or willing to risk wet feet as we planted some old familiars along the edge of the creek: Sneezeweed, yellow monkeyflower, and scarlet

monkeyflower. We also added more twinberry and some additional elk clover and giant vetch. I was most jazzed about adding a couple of plants that we IDed last summer, including small-fruited bulrush, which grows waist-high leaves and a tall spike with lots of tiny white flowers, and slough sedge, which makes big clumps of bright green leaves and five-foot spikes with droopy flowers and seed heads. We were later joined by a couple of folks from the trash-picking crew who had found slim pickings—a real testament to the ethos that FoSC promotes.

I took the leftover plants up to the nursery. There was a big crew there from the Student Conservation Association busy at a variety of tasks. Some were doing transplants on the native iris; others were working on the new pot-washing sink or setting posts for a new compost bin. Students from a Permaculture class at Merritt College were finishing up creating a tiny “pond” at the outlet for a French drain in the shady growing ground. Zowie, a water feature!

Other teams were at work throughout the watershed: a couple of broom-removal crews, a weeding and mulching group focused on the Dimond Park Native Plant Garden, another crew working on removing invasives on the trail at the end of Benevides, a trash-picking crew at Barry Place, and a crew taking care of our pallid manzanita area up on Skyline.

Back at the Scout Hut, I snared the last of the hero sandwiches that Ignacio De La Fuente had sent us for lunch. A few latecomers were still at work there—one mom and a crew of zealous little boys in gigantic new T-shirts, happily ripping ivy off the trees. We lunched, watching a black phoebe darting around like a mad thing while listening to a robin sing.

—Karen Paulsell

*FOSC would like to thank Asbby Lumber, Orchard Supply Hardware, the offices of City Council members Ignacio de la Fuente and Jean Quan, and the Oakland Tool Lending Library for their Earth Day donations.*

## Goodbye to FOSC Best Friend Linda Morse

We are sad to say “so long” to Linda Morse as she and her husband Tim retire to rural Vermont—a far cry from the urban creek she cared for so diligently. I first remember meeting Linda when she was covered with mud—and loving every minute of it—as we moved logs in the rain. Linda joined the Friends seven years ago by way of the birding group and increased her dedication by joining the FOSC Board in 2001. We hitched our wagon to Linda as we moved through non-profit incorporation and the Business Planning process she spearheaded, work that insures FOSC will live long and prosper. So hats off to you Linda, and thanks. You have our gratitude and we wish you many happy trails.

—Mark Rauzon

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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AMOUNT OF DONATION

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

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



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Don't miss our monthly meeting on June 15th, 7-9pm at the Dimond Library. No meeting in July. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Happy summer!

### Aquatic Insects at Sausal Creek: An Update

As you may recall from the previous monitoring update (see volunteer section of FOSC's website), aquatic insects are indicators of stream health. Of particular interest are the Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (EPT), commonly known as the Mayfly, the Stonefly, and the Caddisfly families. A high ratio of EPT families to other aquatic invertebrate families indicates good stream habitat. Within the EPT, we look for a variety and abundance of representative insects to indicate a healthy mix of trophic levels (feeding groups) and habitat types.

The spring counts are the most significant in terms of finding trends, therefore our analysis will highlight data collected from the Sausal Creek channel restoration area for the months of March through May. The spring sample sizes at Sausal Creek have decreased by one-third annually since the channel was modified, perhaps due to lack of food sources. The light vegetative cover and the new rock in the streambed may be a



limiting factor on the number of insects that can be supported within the stream.

Over the years, Sausal Creek has seen its ups and downs in the proportion of EPT to the total number

of organisms in our sample. In 1998, that proportion was 48%. It fell back to 21% following the sewer pipe repair and replacement and 10% following the channel restoration. As of March 2004, it had soared to 91%.

The diversity of invertebrates at Sausal—once at a high of 14 Families—decreased in 2004 to only three. However, over time the Baetids (Ephemeroptera) have displaced the flies (Diptera) and worms (Oligochaeta) as the most abundant organisms. The Baetids are the most pollution-tolerant members of the EPT, and their presence is primarily responsible for the rise in the EPT ratio. While the number of insects in our sample has gone from 1,002 to only 112 since 2002, we are pleased to note that beneficial insects are outnumbering the fly larvae.

*continued >*

### FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email [coordinator@sausalcreek.org](mailto:coordinator@sausalcreek.org) to get information about all activities. Also, for details about ongoing projects, check the Volunteer section of the Friends' website at [www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org).

#### Monthly Meetings

*5th Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 6/15, no July meeting, 8/17. 7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

#### Board of Directors Meetings

*2nd Wednesday of the month.*

- Wednesday 6/8, 7/13, 8/10. 7pm-9pm at the Chabot Space & Science Center. All welcome!

#### Saturday Workdays

*Most, but not all Saturdays.*

*Check website or call for details.*

- 9am-noon: Restoration Activities. Call 387-9744 for location.
- 1:30-4pm: Nursery Activities. Info: 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

*5th Sunday of the month.*

- Sunday 6/19, 7/17, 8/21. 9:30am-noon; call Emma Brown to confirm 527-2507.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

*5th Sunday of the quarter.*

- Sunday 7/17, 10/16. 9am-noon; call Mark Lane to confirm, 219-8036.

#### Outdoor Education Docents

*Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9am-noon*

- Work with Oakland students doing restoration/propagation in the Sausal Creek watershed. Preschedule with Sue Morgan at [jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpnpnenviroed@yahoo.com) or 531-6293.

Once again, Sausal Creek is in fair condition. There is certainly room for improvement, but we are hopeful that this part of the channel will mature into a lively habitat. Perhaps this spring's sample will include a number of other members of the EPT. Please stay tuned—a full report of our findings with data tables will be available soon on our website.

—Emma Brown

*Interested in collecting insects at Sausal Creek by joining the Aquatic Insect Sampling team? Contact Emma Brown (see Activity Calendar). For more information about water quality monitoring, check out the archived issues of Volunteer Monitor, a newsletter published by the EPA, at [epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer](http://epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer).*

#### June-July'05 newsletter contributors:

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