



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

August-September '08

Bi-Monthly Meetings

September 17—Richard Kauffman, FOSC Board member, will lead a presentation and discussion about the future of Beaconsfield Canyon (between Ascot and Chelton drives in Montclair). Volunteers have been restoring the city-owned canyon, which contains a significant number of native plants, for over a year. This meeting will serve as a vehicle for local residents to provide input and ideas. **Please note:** The meeting will take place at Montera Middle School, 5555 Ascot Drive.

Crew Leader Training & Potluck, Thursday September 4

Crew Leader Potluck and New Crew Leader Training, Thursday September 4 at Dimond Park. Training from 5-6 p.m., potluck from 6-7:30 p.m. If you led a crew during 2007-2008, please come so that we can acknowledge your great work. Would you like to be a crew leader for 2008-2009? Please come to our training for new crew leaders from 6-7 p.m. We will discuss plant identification and removal methods for watershed invaders, as well as how to keep volunteers safe. Bring your grillables and a side dish to share. Contact me with any questions. —Kathren M. Stevenson

Creek to Bay Day, Saturday September 20

It's here, Creek to Bay Day, on Saturday September 20, from 8:45-noon. This is our fall kickoff event and is great for individuals and families (please accompany children under 12 years of age). We will have events at Barry Place, Dimond Park, FOSC's Native Plant Nursery, Shepherd Canyon, and Beaconsfield Canyon. Please contact field@sausalcreek.org or call 387-9744 for information on how to volunteer at one of our restoration sites. Volunteers will receive free t-shirts. Lunch is provided at noon for all volunteers at Dimond Park. —Kathren M. Stevenson

Nursery Propagation Training Sessions, November 2008

Wish you had more knowledge about native plants and how to grow them? Want to know what's growing along your favorite hiking trail? Want to help make our watershed healthier? Join the upcoming Nursery Propagation Training this fall!

FOSC will hold a four-session propagation training for anyone, 14 or older, to learn basic botany, ecology, plant identification, and propagation techniques. To enroll, attendees commit to attend three of four classes and 12 workdays over the next year as

a propagator or crew leader.

The fee for the Propagation Training is on a sliding scale, from free to \$20, and everyone who completes the classes and workdays gets a FOSC t-shirt.

Classes will be held at the JMNP Nursery on Sundays in November, 12-3 p.m. If you would like more info on the class or how you can join, please contact me at 928-6675 or nursery@sausalcreek.org. We look forward to seeing you at the nursery! —Molly Bolt

* SAVE THE DATE: *

Native Plant Sale and Open House at the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery, Sunday October 26

The Friends of Sausal Creek's Native Plant Nursery will be holding a native plant sale and open house on Sunday, October 26, 2008. Come by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to purchase native plants just in time to plant for the winter rains. Between 3-5 p.m. we will celebrate the construction of a new shade house for the plants and unveil plans for continued renovations!

Come learn more about plant propagation at the 11 a.m. workshop, or get some general ideas for garden design at 1:30 p.m. Native plant experts will be available all day with practical ideas for all spaces, to help you pick appropriate plants for your specific planting area. Join in on the raffle for Patagonia clothing, books, and check out the community information tables.

For more information, visit www.sausalcreek.org, or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org, or call 501-3672.



The Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery grows local natives from seeds and cuttings collected in the Sausal Creek watershed and nearby. Our main goal is growing plants for creek restoration projects, school native plant projects, Oakland parks, and similar uses.

Person needed for volunteer graphic design project

We're looking for a graphic designer to help us convert and update the Sausal Creek Gardener's Guide so we can reprint it for distribution! If interested, please contact Sara at 510-501-3672 or coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

HELP SUPPORT OUR NURSERY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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 member meeting Sept. 17, 7-9 p.m. at Montera Middle School (*Please note new venue for this meeting only.*)

Water Quality, Bug, and Bird Monitoring Need You!

The Friends of Sausal Creek is looking to reinvigorate its volunteer monitoring programs. Around since the early days of FOSC, the three programs include water quality, aquatic invertebrates (*or "bugs" that live in the creek, an indicator of water quality*), and birds.

As we near the completion of our hydrologic assessment and consider recent toxic spills into Sausal Creek, we continue to learn about the utility and importance of these programs.

For the water quality monitoring program, we need a new monitoring leader and a revision to our methodology. We seek a new leader to continue the great work of both Mark Lane and Nick Kish, who sampled quarterly and who can help train someone new.

Also, we're ready for new methods. Historically, we sampled for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Now we want to start also sampling for other things that might make a significant difference to improving life in Sausal Creek, including fecal coliform and chloramine.



Our aquatic invertebrate sampling program needs new volunteers. Emma Brown, our stalwart leader, seeks at least three people for her monthly sampling days. In the early years, Emma took samples roughly eight times

per year, but due to a declining number of volunteers, it's down to three to four times. Still excited about the program, Emma writes, "Here's what's really great about your monitoring program: we get out and see what is living IN the stream. It's always a little different due to changes in the season, changes in environment, erosion, spills, tree cover, etc. Everyone is welcome—what we need from you FOSCers is your time!" (*See sausalcreek.org/sausal/nature_pdf/insect_report_9-18-02.pdf for more info about the program's relevance and findings.*)

Lastly, the bird monitoring program has been led for years by FOSC cofounder Mark Rauzon, who is looking for a volunteer to work with him each quarter and a group of volunteers to come

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, call 501-FOSC or email 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.

Bi-Monthly Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of the month.*
- Wednesday 9/17.
(*note different location*)
7pm-9pm at the Montera Middle School, 5555 Ascot Drive.

Board of Directors Meetings

- 2nd Wednesday of the month.*
- Wednesday 8/13, 9/10.
7pm-9pm Montclair Branch Library, 1687 Mountain Blvd.

Saturday Workdays

For info about the nursery, contact Molly Bolt at 928-6675, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the restoration program, contact Kathren M. Stevenson, 388-5676, field@sausalcreek.org. Or go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html.

out as they can. The "right hand gal/guy" could lead the program for Mark sometimes, once s/he is up to speed on where the counts occur in the watershed and what species to look and listen for.

The FOSC staff and Board will continue to seek ways to expand these programs so that collected data can help improve the health of our creek and watershed. Whether interested in a leadership role or to volunteer occasionally, please consider joining one of our monitoring teams. Contact me at coordinator@sausalcreek.org or 501-3672 with questions. Thanks!

— Sara Marcellino

NURSERY NEEDS

Some items we could use include:

- Punch bowls
- Garden hoses 25' or 50'
- Metal bar stools
- Biodegradable cleaners
- Rubber gloves
- Brush cutter

Thanks!

August-September '08 newsletter contributors:

Molly Bolt, Sara Marcellino, Kathren M. Stevenson
Editor: Sara Marcellino. Designer: Joan Bittner