



Friends of Sausal Creek

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

August-September '09

Bi-Monthly Meeting

September 16—Please join us for a presentation by a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Division on watersheds, ecosystem health, and water quality issues.

CTBD Crew Leader Meetings & Potlucks

Calling all crew leaders...If you would like to volunteer as a crew leader (even if you haven't lead before), we are planning two sessions to prepare leaders for Creek-to-Bay Day. We will discuss plant identification and removal methods for watershed invaders, as well as how to keep volunteers safe.

- Tuesday, August 25, 5:30pm-6:45pm in Dimond Park – potluck dinner to follow
- Saturday, August 29, 9:45am-11am in Dimond Park – potluck lunch to follow

Please RSVP to Megan at field@sausalcreek.org or (510) 985-1699.

Farewell, Molly!

After a brief return, Molly Bolt has decided to leave the position of Nursery Manager to be a full time mom. We will miss Molly's energy, knowledge, and kindness, and truly appreciate all of her contributions at our nursery over the past two years.



"Thanks so much for all the beautiful hikes and workdays in the canyon. We'll be back in the fall to say hello. Best, Molly and little Rowan."

As we look to fill this position soon, please contact coordinator@sausalcreek.org if you or someone you know might be interested in managing the nursery.

SAVE THE DATE:

Native Plant Sale and Open House at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery, Saturday October 17

Our Fall Plant Sale will be held at the JMNPN on Saturday, October 17, from 10am to 3pm. Come by to purchase native plants just in time to plant for the winter rains. 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. To volunteer email coordinator@sausalcreek.org, or call (510) 501-3672.

Creek-to-Bay Day—Saturday, September 19

Mark your calendars for Creek-to-Bay Day on Saturday, September 19! We are looking for volunteers and crew leaders to join us for this annual fall event that is vital to our restoration efforts each year. We will be working in Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon to remove invasive species, spread mulch, clean up the creek, and prepare for planting season in the months to follow. We will meet at the Scout Hut at 8:45am to sign-in, grab tools, and enjoy some coffee and bagels. Be prepared to stay for a picnic-style lunch following the event at noon. Please contact Megan at field@sausalcreek.org for more information, or to RSVP for groups of six or more.

In addition to the Dimond Park location, other FOSC sites throughout the watershed will be hosting events on this day. These sites include Barry Place, Beaconsfield Canyon, Bridgeview, and Wood Park. Details about some of these sites can be found on the event calendar at www.sausalcreek.org.

—Megan Hess

Pallid Manzanita Update

Great news! The Oakland Wildfire Prevention District has approved funding for the recommended tree thinning at Chabot Space and Science Center (CSSC). This will improve the habitat of the pallid manzanitas growing on the Chabot campus and significantly reduce the fire danger to the Science Center/Observatory. As outlined in the completed tree survey, dead and dying material and dangerous trees will be removed, as well as non-native invasive trees such as eucalyptus and Monterey pine. Healthy native species, including redwoods, madrones, oaks, and bays, will be trimmed as necessary and preserved. The current plan is to conduct removal during October 2009. We look forward to supporting CSSC in preserving these pallids, and to coordinating with CSSC on pallid manzanita environmental education. —Kimra McAfee

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. With a minimum donation of \$25 to FOSC, you are eligible for a year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine at the discounted rate of \$17.95. Note that this subscription rate is not a tax-deductible contribution.

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I have enclosed an additional \$17.95 for one year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine.

Friends of Sausal Creek

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www.sausalcreek.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our member meeting (Sept. 16, 7-9pm), Creek-to-Bay Day (Sept. 19), and the Plant Sale (Oct. 17). Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

Adopt-A-Site, Adopt-A-Community

My first memory of working at Sausal Creek was when I was about five and my parents took me to a Friends of Sausal Creek work party on Earth Day. My assignment was to save oak tree seedlings. I remember the feeling perfectly as I crouched in the soil and cleared small weeds and leaves from around the struggling oak trees, making fairy ring circles around each one, protecting them from harm. I was so proud of my accomplishment, as small and simple as it may have been. For years after that, each time I walked down past my little grove of oaks, I would either point it out to whomever I was with or run over and check how they were doing. I felt so connected to that little patch of earth.

That is what FOSC is all about to me: making connections with my neighborhood, other volunteers, and to the land beneath



my feet. After a friend and I adopted a site in the park, as freshmen in high school, this connection continued to grow. We started out slowly, spending a few hours a month pulling out the mounds of Cape ivy, non-native blackberry, and Algerian ivy that carpeted the area. Our workdays became our time to catch up with each other's busy lives—our outdoor therapy session. Our semi-monthly time at the park not only brought us closer to each other, but also to our neighborhood and larger community. I cannot tell you how many dog walkers and curious passersby asked us what we were doing, two teenage girls dragging armfuls of plants out of a park in the middle of the afternoon. We saw many of them at the next FOSC work day, with their kids, spouse, or friend, inspired by the idea of giving back to the park that they use and enjoy every day.

My connection to the actual plants themselves came slowly, creeping up on me without my notice. Since we started by clearing almost the whole area of most of its plants (a rather sobering display of the invasiveness of the many non-natives), I was more in awe of my own power to reduce what looked to me like a thriving green plot of land into a mound of dirt. It wasn't until Katherine Stevenson, who worked with FOSC, began to teach us how to identify plants that my whole perspective of

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 9/16
7pm-9pm at the Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month

Note: There will be no Board

Meeting in August.

- Wednesday 9/9.
7pm-9pm Park Blvd.
Presbyterian Church,
4101 Park Blvd.
All welcome!

Upcoming Volunteer Events

For info about the nursery, contact Megan Hess at 985-1669, nursery@sausalcreek.org. For the restoration program, contact Megan Hess at 985-1669, field@sausalcreek.org.

Bird Monitoring

*Quarterly, turn at Sequoia Arena,
first lot, Joaquin Miller Park.*

- Saturday, 10/10, 8am-noon.
Call Mark Rauzon to confirm,
531-3887.

plants began to change and open up. I began to notice Cape ivy and Algerian ivy all around me—in backyards, other parks, and trails. Not only was I noticing the highly invasive plants all around the city, but my hands were twitching to pull them out!

The powerful part of all this was not how swiftly invasives can reduce the biodiversity of an area, but how much I could do to help. Through adopting a site with FOSC, I have been able to transform a small plot of the park from an area dominated by only three non-native plants into a thriving, diverse community of natives. I have noticed how many more butterflies and bugs are in the area, happily enjoying the many plants. Seeing the ecosystem rebuilding itself around me taught me how, with just a pair of gloves and persistence, I had the power to positively change my community.

So I challenge everyone to pick up a pair of gloves, dig in the dirt a little, and adopt a part of the park. You may be surprised what you may find in the process.

—Lauren Woodfill

August-September '09 newsletter contributors:

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