



Friends of Sausal Creek

promoting watershed awareness

This newsletter is edited by Govind Acharya and Charlotte Bell. For comments or changes to mailing address, call (510) 339-8168.

September 2001
<http://www.aoinstitute.org/sausal/>

Creek-To-Bay Day, September 15!!!

From headwaters to mouth of creek: Volunteers needed at multiple Friends of Sausal Creek work sites on Creek-to-Bay Day.

Creek-to-Bay Day will be held on Saturday September 15, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. In an effort to increase awareness and appreciation for Sausal Creek throughout the watershed, the Friends will have work activities at 4 locations, unlike previous years when FoSC met only at 1 site. Volunteers are needed for all sites.

1. **Sausal Creek at Fruitvale Bridge Park** (west end of Fruitvale Ave. at the drawbridge) From this location, the mouth of Sausal Creek, members of the Save the Bay/Friends of Sausal Creek Oyster Monitoring team will canoe to Arrowhead Marsh, at the mouth of San Leandro Creek. After monitoring for oysters and water quality the team will collect trash from the Oakland Estuary while passing the mouths of 5 other Oakland creeks. Space in the canoes will be limited to FoSC and/or Save the Bay members who have previously attended at least 1 oyster monitoring session, and who pre-register with team leaders, Charlotte Bell (FoSC) or Marilyn Latta (Save the Bay). Litter picks and garbage bags will be available for volunteers who don't make it into the canoes to pick up litter along the shore. This site is not recommended for families with young children.
2. **Sausal Creek at Dimond Park** (Dimond Recreation Center, 3860 Hanly Rd.) Anne Hayes (FoSC) will lead weeding and other maintenance activities in the Sausal Creek Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Adult volunteers are preferred for the weeding activities. Litter picks and garbage bags will be available for trash pickup in Dimond Park, an activity that families with children could participate in. John Bowers (FoSC) will lead a team of 8 to 10 volunteers (limited to older teens and adults) down to East 27/Barry Place for litter pickup in the creek along that stretch.
3. **Sausal Creek (Palo Seco Branch) at Joaquin Miller Park** (Park in Joaquin Miller Community Center Parking Lot, off Joaquin Miller Road on Sanborne Drive) Michael Thilgen (FoSC) will lead plant propagation activities at the Native Plant Nursery. Martin Mataresse (City of Oakland) will lead a redwood grove preservation project along the Palos Colorados Trail in Palo Seco Canyon. Litter picks and garbage bags will also be available for folks who would like to hike the trails. Groups large and small are requested to come to this site as Martin's project needs many many hands. Folks who have not yet seen our new nursery, would like to learn about local native plants, or desire a relaxed social project will enjoy Michael's project. Families with children will enjoy exploring this park while volunteering.
4. **Sausal Creek (Scout Branch) just below Chabot Space and Science Center** (park in the Chabot Space and Science Center lot). Greg Zaharoff (Chabot Space and Science Center), Mark Rauzon (FoSC), and Ralph Kanz (FoSC) will lead a pallid manzanita preservation project along the West Ridge Trail. The manzanitas are threatened by non-native Scotch broom and other exotic shrubs and trees. Teens and adults who want to work hard while learning about locally rare plants will enjoy this project.

Also, **Nicolo De Luca, Assistant to Councilmember Dick Spees, will be grilling up food from 12 to 1:30p at the Joaquin Miller Nursery.** For more information on these activities of the Friends of Sausal Creek, or to volunteer, contact Stuart Richardson at (510) 912-7792.

Treasurer Needed for Friends of Sausal Creek

The treasurer will play an important role in the development of the group this year, the Friends' first as a nonprofit. The treasurer is the organization's Chief Financial Officer. He or she will provide oversight in the keeping of organization's books, ensure that monthly financial statements are generated, and present the statements at monthly meetings of the board and quarterly meetings of the general membership. The treasurer will disburse all checks greater than \$50, and work with the group's bookkeeper to make sure that appropriate procedures are being followed in the day-to-day handling of the organization's funds

Previous experience is not a prerequisite, just an interest in the financial management of a small nonprofit and a willingness to learn. For more information, call Anne Hayes at 237-0663 or email her at hayesanne@mindspring.com. -Anne Hayes

Subscribe to FoSC's listserve! To add yourself: Send a message to Istproc@envirolink.org with SUBSCRIBE FOSSC <your name> as the only thing in the body.



Joaquin Miller Day also September 15



The Friends of Oakland Park and Recreation celebrate their 20th Anniversary this September 15 at Joaquin Miller Park! Soccer and little league clinics start out the activities. Walking tours and interpretations of the monuments built by Joaquin Miller in the hills near Woodminter Amphitheater highlight many distinct communities in our city. A reception and performances in Woodminter closes the day with special featured presentations developed by the Oakland Recreation Center.

The Friends of Sausal Creek will have the nursery open during the event for everyone to check out throughout the day!

Some of the other activities at this event include:

- Rex Burns and Rotary Nature Center, at the Funeral Pyre, 10:30am
- Puppet show at the Theater at noon
- Alameda County Historical Society, at the Abbey From, 10:30am
- Other really fun events!!!! -Govind Acharya

YOUR HELP NEEDED IN FINAL PUSH FOR DIMOND CANYON RESTORATION PLANTS

The Friends of Sausal Creek are in desperate need of help at our new native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park every Saturday from 9:00 to Noon for the next two months. 20,000 native creekside plants required to revegetate the Dimond Canyon Restoration Project going on right now. We especially need gardeners and folks knowledgeable about plant propagation to lead untrained volunteer groups, but everyone who shows up will be put to work. For all you folks that have been meaning to come out lately, but haven't, we really need your help now.

To get directions to the Nursery, or to volunteer to be trained as a group leader, call Mark Rauzon at 510 531-3837. Also let us know if you have any ideas for how we can get additional help from landscaper/gardening groups, horticultural societies, and other creek or community groups. It is always helpful to have a contact name and phone number. Thanks for all your good hard work. With everyone's help, we will get this exciting project done right and on schedule! -Sally Kilburg



Oyster Monitoring is Going Strong

Twelve oyster shell necklaces were hung off the Fruitvale Bridge on June 28 in hopes of providing habitat for young native oysters (*Ostrea lurida*) to settle. Since then volunteers from FoSC have been checking to see if any *Ostrea lurida* have made their home on these shells. Well, so far we haven't found any *Ostrea lurida*, but surprising us all, we've found over twenty species of marine life thriving on the habitat we've provided. Marilyn Latta, from Save the Bay who is coordinating the Oyster Monitoring Program with funds from a National Partnership between NOAA Fisheries Community-Based Restoration Program and Restore America's Estuaries, couldn't believe the amount of life that has settled on the necklaces in just two months. And, Mike McGowan, an Adjunct Professor from SF State Univ. who has been helping us identify the creatures found on the necklaces, commented " We know that the oysters are here, but are not sure why there aren't more of them. The number of organisms settling on the necklaces suggests that one limiting factor for the Oysters might be a lack of hard surfaces for them to settle on."

Want to see these necklaces for yourself? Come and monitor with us every first and third Monday of the month at 9:00am. -Charlotte Bell

Thank You Interns!!!

From July 2 to August 28, 6 interns - Anwar, Vinh, Charles, Davis, Benedict, and Christian - assisted with the construction of the native plant nursery, providing a combined 1,200 hours of service. The students were placed with FoSC through the Oakland Unified School District's Oaklandworks school-to-career training program. FoSC's Stu Richardson served as their site supervisor. Michael Thilgen also worked frequently with them. Oakland High Teacher, and FoSC member, Katie Noonan worked with Stu to get the students placed at the nursery. Katie's colleague Tracy Hunter oversaw the students, as well as Environmental Academy students placed at a dozen other sites.

While the guys worked hard - they were involved in every phase of the construction from placing the posts and hanging the joists to digging the trenches and gluing-up the irrigation system - they also had fun. Early on, the guys created the game of trashball, similar to basketball or soccer in scoring, but utilizing trash pickers and a tennisball someone found in the dirt. Later, they had lifting contests to see who could propell, in one motion, the most fully loaded boxes of debris up and over the rim of the dumpster. During the Oaklandworks Banquet, Friday August 31 at the Oakland Marriot, the guys confessed to drinking half of Stu's lemonade every day, then refilling the bottles with water.

Thanks guys for a wonderful Summer. -Stu Richardson

The Friends of Sausal Creek are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland. Additional support is provided by the San Francisco Foundation. For more information, call Stuart Richardson at (510) 912-7792 (day) or (510) 864-7175 (eve) or email at sausalcreekprojects@att.net.



Friends of Sausal Creek
P.O. Box 2737
Oakland, CA 94602

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Monthly Meetings

- Wednesday, September 19
- Wednesday, October 17
- Wednesday, November 21 7:00p - 9:00pm, Dimond Library-3565 Fruitvale Avenue

Bird Monitoring

- Saturday, September 8
- Saturday, October 13
- Saturday, November 10 7:30a - 9:30a., in two locations. For more information, call Martha Lowe at 530-7923 or Dolores Siegenthaler at 482-9311.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Sunday, September 23
- Sunday, October 21
- Sunday, November 18 9:30a - 12:00p. Locations will vary and those interested should call Emma at (510) 527-2507 or send e-mail to lightbrown@onemail.com for more information.

Oyster Monitoring

- Saturday, September 15
- Saturday, October 6
- Saturday, October 20 9:00a - 12:00p. at the foot of the Fruitvale Bridge connecting Oakland with Alameda. For more information, contact Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168.

Book Club

October 5, 7:30p- Discussion of part 5 of *Nature's Economy* by Donald Worster. For location, call Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168. .



**Please attend the next monthly meeting—
Wednesday, Septmeber 19, 7:00 p.m., at the Dimond Library.**