

Friends of Sausal Creek

Promoting Watershed Protection

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

SEPTEMBER 2002

Wednesday, September 18 Monthly Meeting

At August's meeting, Elliott Smith described the county grant-funded photodocumentary project he is working on (see article), Michael Thilgen gave an overview of our restoration projects and the newly formed restoration committee, Sue Morgan spoke about the educational program at the nursery, and we learned about Mark Lane and Nick Kish's water quality monitoring efforts. This month we will hear more reports from the field, introduce our new field coordinator, finish planning projects for Creek to Bay Day, and discuss October's Creektoberfest. Hope to see you there.

Share Your Talents on Creek to Bay Day

First the white shoes go to the back of the closet, the next thing you know it's Creek to Bay Day. Oakland's version of Coastal Cleanup Day, Creek to Bay Day—Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m.—will attract enthusiastic volunteers to creeks citywide, including to two locations along Sausal Creek. The following project list is provided to help you pick the place to share your talents.

Meet at the **Dimond Rec Center** (3860 Hanly Road) if you want to: weed and water along the creek or in Dimond Park; cut down or haul acacia resprouts; collect seeds; pick up trash in Dimond Canyon; or participate in the Barry Place Litter Clean Up.

Meet at the **Joaquin Miller Park Nursery** (3594 Sanborn Drive next to the Woodminster Amphitheater) to: help grade and lay down shade cloth on the sunny growing grounds; transplant baby plants; tidy up the nursery; haul stumps and spread mulch to create "learning circles;" weed the native flower garden; remove non-native acacia and eucalyptus; or plant and irrigate a willow windbreak.

Please accompany children under 12 years of age. If you have questions about this event, call (510) 501-FOSC or send an email to coordinator@sausalcreek.org. For more information about Creek to Bay Day including other locations, go to the City of Oakland's Watershed Improvement Program website at www.oaklandpw.com/creeks/news.htm.

Smith in a Photo Finish

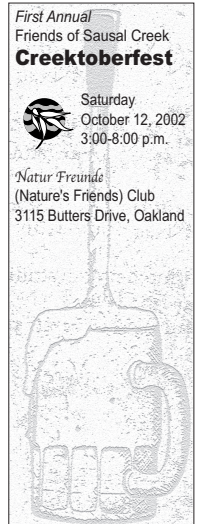
FOSC volunteer Elliott Smith applied for and received a grant for the Friends of Sausal Creek from the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. The grant will allow photographer Smith to document our restoration work in the creek and canyon. The grant term runs from September 1, 2002-August 31, 2003, and the \$1,888.25 it provides will pay for film, processing, a software program for slide archival, rental of a 600mm lens for one week to photograph birds and nests in the canyon, slide sleeves and labels.

Elliott will photograph our monitoring teams and work days, as well as the native plant propagation and children's education programs at the nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. Eight locations in Dimond Canyon will be photographed quarterly (at or near equinox and solstice) to show plant growth progression. The photographs will be used for slide presentations at public meetings, website enhancements, and will be provided on CD with grant proposals. Thanks to Elliott for undertaking this helpful project that will greatly improve FOSC's outreach activities.

Tickets Now on Sale for Creektoberfest

Please join the Friends in celebrating our first annual "Creektoberfest," Saturday, October 12, 3:00-8:00 p.m., at the lovely Natur Freunde (Nature's Friends) Club in the heart of Butters Canyon, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland. Enjoy live music and outdoor dancing, beer and bratwurst, and support FOSC's efforts to preserve and restore Sausal Creek. A "Best Friends" award ceremony will be held to recognize our special contributors.

Advance tickets are \$25 (children under 14, \$5). Advance sale ends October 4; prices thereafter are \$30 advance, children \$10. Admission includes dinner and one drink. Order tickets using the form provided below, or get your tickets at the Creek to Bay Day event in Dimond Park. Call (510) 501-FOSC or send an email to coordinator@sausalcreek.org for more info.



FOSC Endorses Oakland Ballot Measure DD

The FOSC board of directors voted in August to endorse Measure DD, the **Oakland Trust for Clean Water, Safe Parks**. One of 33 bond measures that will appear on the November ballot, Measure DD focuses on improvements to Lake Merritt and the Oakland Estuary and also would provide funds for cleanup and restoration of Oakland's creeks. Measure DD's vision is to "create a 19 mile stretch of public trails that will lead from Jack London Square to San Leandro Bay helping Oakland's waterfront rival the waterfronts of Seattle and Portland." Funds will pay for much-needed structural improvements to the Lake, including the replacement and/or removal of culverts, the expansion and creation of parks, and upgrades to boat, bike and walking facilities. Combined with acquisition of tidal wetlands, these projects will improve the ecosystem of Lake Merritt, the oldest wildlife sanctuary in continental North America, and, as it is often eloquently said, "Oakland's crown jewel."

Funds from the passage of the bond—to be assessed at \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed value on both commercial and residential properties—would likely enable the Friends to realize many of the ideas set forth in our mission. As the Oakland creek with the greatest proportion of non-culverted area, it's potential greenway stretching from the hills to the bay, and a vital community organization already working on its preservation (that's us!), Sausal would be a prime candidate for investment and restoration if the bond passes. A two-thirds vote of Oakland residents is required to pass the measure. It is important to get the word out, particularly because of the great number of measures crowding the ballot this year. The Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks campaign kick-off event is being held September 14, 10:00-11:00 a.m., at Local 250, S.E.I.U., 560 20th Street to recruit volunteers to, among other things, post and distribute yard signs. To volunteer, make a contribution, or for more information, contact Leslie Ottaviano, Measure DD Campaign Organizer/Coordinator by email (lottaviano@yahoo.com), phone (873-8787, ext. 111), or voice mail (444-0545). Website: www.humanconnection.com/content/oakland.

Creektoberfest Ticket Order Form

Ticket Charge Calculator

Please calculate your ticket charges based on mailing date as described. Extra donations to support the work of the Friends of Sausal Creek are welcome. Thanks for your support and see you in Creektober!

Adult: \$25 mailed on or before 10/4/02
\$30 mailed after 10/4/02

Child (14 & under): \$5 mailed on or before 10/4/02
\$10 mailed after 10/4/02

Mailing date: _____

of adult tickets: _____ x \$25/\$30 = _____
of child tickets: _____ x \$5/\$10 = _____

TOTAL = _____

Mail this form with check made payable to "Friends of Sausal Creek" to:
Friends of Sausal Creek, P.O. Box 2737, Oakland, CA 94602.

Mail my Creektoberfest ticket(s) to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

The Friends of Sausal Creek is a 501(c)3 non-profit tax-exempt organization. Thanks for your support!

Friends of Sausal Creek

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



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To receive this newsletter in .pdf format instead, send an email to webmaster@sausalcreek.org

Announcing FOSC's first annual Creektoberfest! See inside for details ...

Please attend our monthly meeting, Wednesday, September 18, 7:00pm, at the Dimond Library. Newsletter printed on recycled paper. Thanks for recycling!

Be a Joiner

Can't make it to meetings or work days? Join a committee or working group. Following is a list of committees that focus on different areas of FOSC's interest. For more info, send an email to the address listed, or call 501-FOSC. Committees typically meet infrequently and have work that can be tailored to your skills, interest and available time.

Board Development • Linda Morse, vicepres@sausalcreek.org
Fundraising • James Hafner, funds@sausalcreek.org
Restoration • Charlotte Bell, secretary@sausalcreek.org
Risk Management • Sally Kilburg, president@sausalcreek.org
Nursery Construction • Sally Kilburg, president@sausalcreek.org
Mapping Group • Tim Reed, maps@sausalcreek.org
Nursery Enviro Ed • Sue Morgan, class@sausalcreek.org

Friend of the Month, Monica Stafford

In the middle of this last rainy season, the Friends were deep into the planting of Dimond Canyon, and the construction of the plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park, and every weekend was activity-filled. A little astonished at the scale of the work we had begun, we decided to hire someone to manage the nursery and coordinate field projects. That someone was Monica Stafford, who had spent several years managing the Presidio native plant nursery in San Francisco.

With quiet confidence, Monica stepped into the intense activity of the canyon planting project, demonstrating her ability to lead groups in productive workdays. As the dry season brought an end to field planting for the year, Monica turned her attention to the nursery. She set up an "office" on the site, complete with communication board, planting records, lists of current projects, and propagation plans for the future. She organized our supplies of nursery materials, and brought order to our collection of local native seeds. And she welcomed many volunteers to our work parties, leading by example, freely sharing her understanding and enjoyment of the nursery craft.

This month Monica enters graduate school at U.C. Berkeley to continue her study of ecological restoration. Though she has resigned from the manager position, she will continue to work with us on our nursery and restoration programs, and she remains a valued member of the board. Many thanks, Monica, for your excellent and continuing contributions to the Friends.

—Michael Thilgen

A Creekside Moment

A fox squirrel slips down to the creek to lap some water, butterflies of all stripes flit in the sunny corridor. Suddenly the rattle of a Belted Kingfisher breaks the silence. The female bird is eyeing the 8 inch trout in the El Centro pool. My inquisitiveness disturbs the bird but she circles back after I pass. Later the trout is not visible in the pool but more than likely evaded this new visitor to the streamside willows.

—Mark Rauzon

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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.

Monthly Meetings

~5th Wednesday of the month~

• Wednesday 9/18, 10/16, 11/20, etc.
7pm-9pm; Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

~2nd Wednesday of the month~

• Wednesday 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, etc.
7pm-9pm, at the Chabot Space &
Science Center (through the end of
the year). Everyone welcome.

Plant Propagation

~Saturdays~

1:30-4:00pm. Meet at the Joaquin
Miller Park Nursery.

Seed Collecting

~alternating Fridays~

• Friday 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, etc.
10am-noonish. Call first to confirm
and for location.

Dimond Canyon Field Work

~Saturdays~

COMING SOON! These work days
will recommence soon. Call
for details.

Oyster Monitoring with Save the Bay

~1st Saturday of the month~

• Saturday 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, etc.
9am-noon; meet at the Fruitvale
Bridge.

Bird Monitoring

~2nd Saturday of the month~

• Saturday 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, etc.
For time, location, and other details:
Sally Kilburg, 482-5331, or
president@sausalcreek.org.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

~5th Sunday of the month~

• Sunday 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, etc.
9:30am-noon; info: Emma Brown,
527-2507 or
lightbrown@onemain.com.

Water Quality Monitoring

~1st Saturday of the month~

• Saturday 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, etc.
9am-noon; info: Mark Lane, 219-
8036. Meet at the Fruitvale Bridge.

September newsletter contributors:

Charlotte Bell, Mark Rauzon,
Elliott Smith, Jennifer Stanley, Michael Thilgen

Welcome to FOSC's New Board of Directors

The times they are a-changing. At FOSC's August 14 board meeting, new officers and members were elected. Though longtime FOSC leaders Sam Cohen, Anne Hayes, Martha Lowe and Stuart Richardson have stepped down leaving large boots to fill, friends with faces both familiar and fresh, have stepped up to the plate.

Introducing FOSC's new board:

President • Sally Kilburg, president@sausalcreek.org
Vice President • Linda Morse, vicepres@sausalcreek.org
Secretary • Charlotte Bell, secretary@sausalcreek.org
Treasurer (Acting) • Eleanor Dunn, treasurer@sausalcreek.org
Members • James Hafner, Ralph Kanz, Mark Lane, Mark Rauzon, Monica Stafford, Michael Thilgen

The Friends are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland, with additional support from the San Francisco Foundation and the Conservation Fund/Kodak Greenways.