

## Trout Arrives at Camp with Fishy Story

Thursday, 21 June 2012 15:05

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*By Jim Knowles*

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The Tiny Tots at the Chabot Park Day Camp landed a trout this week and they didn't even have to cast a hook into the water.

The trout walked right up and sat down with them in the shade of the trees at the park on the banks of San Leandro Creek. The trout introduced herself to the group.

“I’m Suzy O’Mykiss, boys and girls,” said the talking fish.

The name comes from the type of rainbow trout discovered in San Leandro Creek in 1855 by the founder of the California Academy of Sciences William Gibbons—its scientific name being *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*, a subspecies of the rainbow trout.

The trout that came to camp this week wanted to teach the kids about the creek, which starts way up in the hills and includes Upper San Leandro Reservoir and Lake Chabot. The trout said she stays in touch with her relatives upstream by using her shell phone.

Suzy O’Mykiss, who’s real name is Susan Levenson, is the Watershed Awareness Coordinator for the City of San Leandro.

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So her job is teaching about the creek, which is one of the few natural creeks in the East Bay that runs its natural course without being confined to a concrete channel.

Levenson said City Councilman Michael Gregory suggested teaching about San Leandro Creek at the camp, since the stream runs through Chabot Park, the city park at the upper end of Estudillo Avenue.

The creek flows all the way through San Leandro and enters the bay at Arrowhead Marsh. And this is what the trout wanted the kids to learn, because everything in the vicinity of the creek that winds up on the ground, eventually flows downstream into the bay.

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What if the trout could talk? What if the trout could tell us about the creek? They would be the best storytellers in the world. They would tell us about the creek and the fish that live in it. They would tell us about the people who live on the creek and the things they do. They would tell us about the beauty of the creek and the joy of fishing. They would tell us about the love of the creek and the pride of the people who live on it. They would tell us about the history of the creek and the future of it. They would tell us about the secrets of the creek and the mysteries of it. They would tell us about the magic of the creek and the wonder of it. They would tell us about the spirit of the creek and the soul of it. They would tell us about the heart of the creek and the mind of it. They would tell us about the love of the creek and the life of it. They would tell us about the beauty of the creek and the joy of it. They would tell us about the love of the creek and the pride of the people who live on it. They would tell us about the history of the creek and the future of it. They would tell us about the secrets of the creek and the mysteries of it. They would tell us about the magic of the creek and the wonder of it. They would tell us about the spirit of the creek and the soul of it. They would tell us about the heart of the creek and the mind of it. They would tell us about the love of the creek and the life of it. They would tell us about the beauty of the creek and the joy of it.