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.

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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