



The Splash

General Meeting:

Tuesday, March 13
San Leandro Main Library
300 Estudillo Ave.

Fall/Winter 2017-'18

Upcoming Events

General Meeting

- March 13 6:30-8:00 PM
San Leandro Main Library

Creek Cleanups

- Watch for dates in the San Leandro Times

They just are. Nature is one of those beautiful and undeniable realities that isn't affected by our feelings, just our actions. Which brings me to the topic of the article; trout. In San Leandro Creek, we could use more of them. That's a fact.

Enjoy the article, *Susan*

"We're living amid an artificial reality, persuaded to believe it's real by Astroturf engineered to look like grassroots." — [Sharyl Attkisson](#)

This Issue:

Facing Facts

Political times being what they are, I thought this article, an excerpt that I adapted to suit our audience, from Trout Unlimited's *Trout* magazine (Christopher Camuto, Fall 2017) was particularly apropos. It discusses facts. Facts are not *beliefs* that can be accepted or rejected because one doesn't *like* them. Fake news perhaps, but science – never! Facts are a collection of data in which belief is not necessary; scientific facts aren't opinions we can agree or disagree with because of our political beliefs.

(Continued in next column)

Fish connect us to the facts of nature, giving us tight lines to the truth.

A wild trout is as fine a fact as we could want, each fish we see distinct as a newly minted coin, a triumph both of the long evolution of a species and the survival of an individual over its lifetime. Our world is organized around the presence or absence of trout, the discovery of where they should be and where they are left. Rivers with trout populations are reassuring facts - inevitable, original, governed by gravity and geology, their

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Officers and Board of Directors:

*Michael Gregory President; Dave Owen Vice President, Jan Woycheshin Secretary, Melanie Courchaine Treasurer, Claudia Taurean Membership Coordinator, Maureen Forney Member at Large
Susan Levenson, Watershed Awareness Coordinator/Newsletter Editor*

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 105(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of citizens, students, and businesses dedicated to improving community understanding and awareness of San Leandro Creek and its watershed.

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waters laced with the strictness of chemistry and the canniness of biology. Some rivers hold trout, some don't, the first thing we learn in school, do they have sufficient habitat? No habitat, no trout. Facts that matter.

“Lies sound like facts to those who've been conditioned to mis-recognize the truth.” — [DaShanne Stokes](#)

Selfish in our interest and jealous of our time, we learn what stretches of rivers are better than others. Parsing river worlds, we learn what habitability is, how the fact of a trout leads to other facts, indeed depends on other facts. A certain purl of shaded water over rock and under log, gravel free of sediment, uncanny hiding places, insects struggling at the surface, shucks glued to bush branches. All facts that speak to the life of trout, the truths to which they connect. Casting a wider view, rivers become watersheds; our minds broadening across undisturbed, forested slopes that filter water across the tangled roots of oak, realm of deer and salamander, of fungi, moss and log rot, all of which support whether we have fish or not. All part of a complex factuality that can be ignored but will not, in the long run be denied. We learn the habits of the trout and if we want them, adjust our own, giving ourselves over to the facts of what a trout is, what a river is, a watershed. All “how to” is about what works, and what works is rooted in the facts of nature, some of them observable by any intelligent person, others ferreted out of hiding by science. The fragility and rarity of which we have come to understand because we have come to understand nature as we pursued the reality of trout and rivers, habitat and watersheds. Old song.

There is no fake news in nature. We know that in our bones. The facts will have their way with us. In the larger world, the facts will have their way also: An iceberg the size of Delaware calves off the Larsen Ice Shelf in Antarctica. The fabled Northwest Passage opens an arctic path for tankers and cruise ships. Tundra thaws, permafrost no longer permanent. Greenland greens. Droughts and floods express themselves well beyond historical parameters. Closer to our interests, TROUT reported in a recent issue that the habitat of Gila, Apache and Rio Grande cutthroats “have been devastated by the impacts of climate change”. And (Continued on pg. 3)

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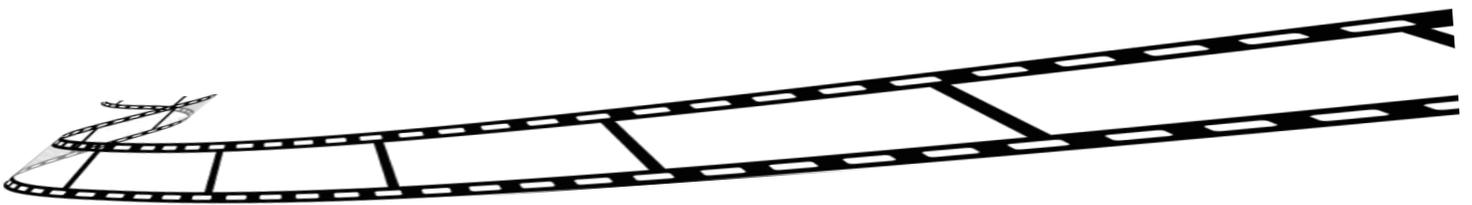
All trout habitat—all those facts they depend on—is in play during the uncontrolled, open-ended experiment of climate change, the environmental cost of the fossil-fuel-burning Industrial Age.

"The politics of the land", our old friend Henry Thoreau noted, "are never very cheering". We should be at a point in history when environmental issues are approached as problems related to the common good and not left to the mercy of bad-faith political haggling driven by factions and ideologies. That is the cultural growth we thought we had put in motion in the 1960s and 1970s. Why can't we use scientific knowledge to our benefit? But half a century later we are at the mercy of thoughtless deregulation of environmental protections, delisting of protected species, defunding of important initiatives and -most pernicious- systemic institutionalization of science denial.

Even the poll reported on in TROUT in a recent issue was oddly worded in a telling way: "Do you believe climate change is real?" One can be aware of science or not, understand how science works or not, accept or trust its data and conclusions in each case, but the theories and findings of science are not a matter of *belief*. Science produces knowledge, knowledge subject to verification, correction and re-evaluation with the acquisition of new data, the revision of assumptions and shifts in paradigms, Belief, which has its own uses, doesn't meet those exacting standards, doesn't get us to the factual truth of that is happening in our world. We don't know everything, but we know what knowledge is, what the facts are as surely as we know what a trout stream is. And we know our resource is at risk, whether that resource is a trout stream or this planet. Climate change has clarified our historical moment. The misrepresentation and denial of science for political purposes is as great a threat to the future as climate change itself.

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"Conventional wisdom must be simple, convenient, comfortable and comforting - though not necessarily true."

— [Steven D. Levitt](#)



**Congratulations to all of our participants in the
1st Annual San Leandro Creek Video Contest!**

Our 2017 Creek Video Contest Winners are:

- ◇ Sawyer and Lila DePonte—Honorable Mention
The Principled Academy
- ◇ Mrs Weidner's 2nd Grade Class –3rd place &
\$50.00 Roosevelt School
- ◇ Leonardo Lopez—2nd place & \$75.00
SLAM San Leandro High School
- ◇ Juan Montgomery—1st place & \$100.00
SLAM San Leandro High School

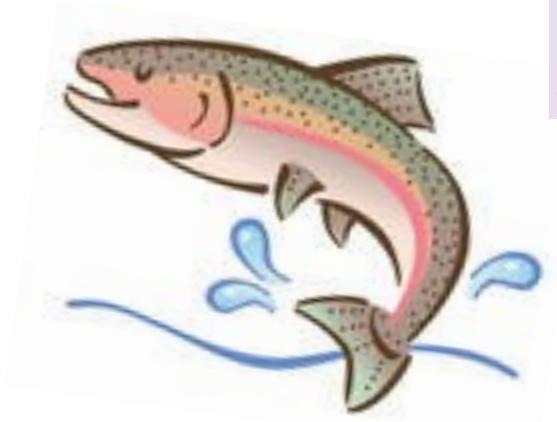
FSLC would like to give special thanks to SLED and
their over the top help and collaboration on this
project.

Thanks also to our always supportive City
Council Members.

We also thank the SLAM program at San
Leandro High School, & members of the
community.



We're on the web:
www.fslc.org



The **San Leandro Creek Watershed Awareness Program** is a comprehensive watershed education program funded by Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District, with additional support from the City of San Leandro, implemented by Friends of San Leandro Creek. Thank you to the following for your continued support: Alameda County Public Works, The City of San Leandro, Robert and Lois C. Braddock Charitable Foundation, and FSLC Members and Volunteers like you.

Friends of San Leandro Creek Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member/renew my membership in the following category: (Please circle one)

- Student \$ 1
- Individual \$5
- Family \$15
- Non-Profit \$25
- Business \$100

Make checks and please remit to:

Friends of San Leandro Creek
C/O RHSD
835 E. 14th St.
San Leandro, CA 94577

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 501(c) (3) not for profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I have a special skill or interest in: _____

Only Rain Down The Storm Drain!

