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WATERSHED LOOKOUT MAY 2023



Photo: Three's Company by Sue Griffin

Dear acwForum stakeholders, partners and friends,

Wow! The State of the Alameda Creek Watershed Conference hosted fantastic presentations, fun networking, the photo contest people's choice award - all supported by generous sponsors! Thank you to everyone who participated. We aim to improve each conference experience, so if you attended and have not filled out the [short evaluation](#), please take a moment to do so now.

If you missed the conference, the presenters have generously allowed the acwForum to post the presentations on the [acwForum website](#) for the next few months.

The last conference news item to share is an announcement of the photo contest winners below!

As we move toward summer, we will be taking a break from sending Watershed Lookout e-news for a couple months. That being said, if you have news or events you would like shared out - we are happy to do so. Please email those to [Allison Rodacker](#).

A reminder to reference the free gardening webinars and read about some exciting steelhead news below!

Thank you again to our conference host:

The Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Thank you again to our conference sponsors:

Alameda County Water District
Swaim Biological Consulting
WRA Environmental Consultants
The City of Fremont
Ecological Concerns Incorporated
Environmental Science Associates
Horizon Water and Environment a Montrose Environmental Group Company.

EVENTS

May Free Gardening Webinar Spring Pest Management

If you missed this free webinar on Thursday, May 11th, you may view recordings of previous organic gardening webinars on the Clean Water Program [YouTube channel](#). To learn about less-toxic alternatives to fight pests in your home and garden, [click here](#).

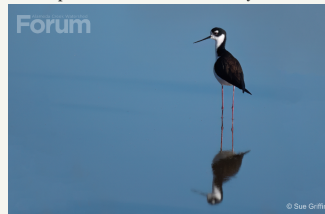
CONTEST WINNERS ARE...

Thank you to everyone who took time exploring the Alameda Creek Watershed for your beautiful photo submissions! In this year's contest, we received a total of 31 photos that captured the diverse terrain, wildlife, and flora of the watershed in stunning fashion. After deliberation from our judges, our voting panel ultimately narrowed the submissions down to 3 winners.

First place is "Three's Company" by Sue Griffin.
People's Choice is "Three's Company" by Sue Griffin



Second place is "He Wades Alone" by Sue Griffin.



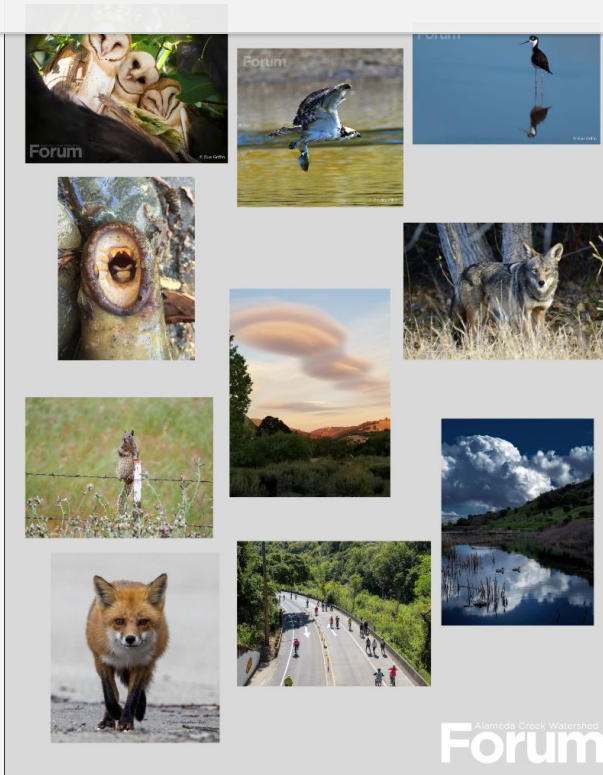
Third place is "Fish Supper" by Christine Wilson.



Congratulations to the winners of this year's acwForum photo contest and a big thank you to the photo contest sponsor, Horizon Water and Environment, a Montrose Environmental Group company! Winners will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and be announced in the acwForum May e-news, posted on websites, social media and news outlets.

In addition to our three winners, 10 photos were selected by our judges to be displayed at the State of the Alameda Creek Watershed Conference, hosted by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, on Thursday, May 4th. After receiving votes from the conference attendees, the winner of this year's "People's Choice" was "Three's Company" by Sue Griffin!

We would like to acknowledge the photos displayed at the conference below (left to right and top to bottom): "Three's Company" (Sue Griffin), "Fish Supper" (Christine Wilson), "He Wades Alone" (Sue Griffin), "Pacific Lamprey Oral Disc" (Randall Renn), "Cloud Invasion" (Robert Stear), "Close Encounter" (Christine Wilson), "Squirrel on Watch" (Carlos Sempere), "Pair of Mallards in Reflection" (Paul Kessinger), "Out of My Way, My Cubs Are Calling" (Lisa Tarte) and "Niles Cyclists" (Carlos Sempere).



STEELHEAD GET BOOST IN ALAMEDA CREEK THANKS TO RESTORATION EFFORTS

Fremont, Calif. – In a milestone for the re-establishment of a viable steelhead run in the Alameda Creek watershed, high-tech fish monitoring by two local water agencies tagged, detected and documented a juvenile trout this past week, migrating downstream from the upper watershed through lower Alameda Creek toward San Francisco Bay.

For the first time in over 50 years, steelhead, salmon and other anadromous fishes can migrate from the Bay upstream to reach spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Alameda Creek watershed, thanks to the Alameda County Water District and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's new fish passage facilities in both the lower creek in Fremont and upper creek in Sunol Regional Wilderness. Within the first two months of the lower ladder's operation, upstream migrating adult Chinook Salmon and Pacific Lamprey were observed using the new structure to bypass a former barrier known as the BART Weir, with adult steelhead expected to use these ladders as well.



For over 20 years, ACWD, SFPUC, and the Alameda Creek Alliance have been working collaboratively with other stakeholders to address migration barriers and enhance stream flows to allow steelhead to access inland spawning habitat, spawn, and rear in the upper watershed. In October, SFPUC biologists tagged juvenile trout in the upper watershed using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) technology. This week, one of those tagged fish was detected 15 miles downstream by specialized antennae located in ACWD's fish ladder in lower Alameda Creek.

To read the entire press release, click [HERE](#).

Share your watershed news by emailing allison.rodacker@acwd.org, today!

Alameda Creek Watershed
Forum

Click on the logo to view events and past newsletters.

The acwForum's mission is to protect and enhance water-related beneficial uses and resources in the Alameda Creek Watershed in order to create a healthy and sustainable watershed for the community. The acwForum will promote collaboration and the sharing of information among all stakeholders.

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