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**Short film features one man’s work to clean up his local creek**

Joel Goldes, a 55-year-old Oak Park (Los Angeles County) resident who makes daily trips to clean up nearby Lindero Creek, never expected to be the subject of a documentary film. When his brother visited and filmed Joel with an iPhone, they both thought the resulting film would be only for family and friends.

“Joel’s initiative is inspiring, and I wanted to share it with other people,” said Dan Goldes, 57, a San Francisco-based filmmaker. The 5-minute documentary, *Keeper of the Creek*, screens at the San Francisco Green Film Festival on Friday, September 27.

Since 2012, Joel has collected more than 200 bags of garbage from the creek, everything from hypodermic needles and bongs to soccer balls, school IDs, and the ubiquitous plastic water bottles. He has even pulled eight rusty shopping carts from the water. “Everything ends up here,” Joel said.

In 2017, Joel added a new task to his daily creek routine: trapping and removing invasive crayfish. Since then, he has eliminated more than 40,000 of them. Until the program was discontinued recently, Joel worked with the Mountains Restoration Trust, providing the crayfish to the organization to use as food in rehabilitating injured raccoons.

“This creek is a precious resource,” Joel said. “Most people walk past and never realize how many plants and animals rely on it. Over the years, it’s become badly polluted, and I hope I can help it become a clean, healthy place again.”

*Keeper of the Creek* is Dan Goldes’ fourth short film. His latest film, *5 Blocks*, also screens at this year’s San Francisco Green Film Festival. The film, which was eight years in the making, documents the efforts to revitalize San Francisco’s central Market Street, a neighborhood undergoing its most dramatic change in 50 years.

Tickets for *Keeper of the Creek* are available at [www.greenfilmfest.org](http://www.greenfilmfest.org/). The film screens at the Little Roxie Theatre, **3125 16th Street, San Francisco.** To watch a trailer for the film, visit <https://www.keeperofthecreek.com/>.

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Note to editors: a screener of Keeper of the Creek is available to media only at <https://vimeo.com/353925555> (password: joel2018). Joel and Dan are available for interviews, and digital stills are available to accompany articles.