



The Flyer



Newsletter of the Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake

July 2015

www.clnaturecenter.org

Issue 117



20th Annual NEW Fish Derby “Catches” On!

This was a year of change for the Neal Taylor Nature Center annual fish derby. For the first time, derby prizes were awarded for all of the different species of fish found in Cachuma Lake. What had been a Trout Derby has now become the Fish Derby and there was overwhelming enthusiasm for the change from the derby participants. The fish derby was a great success with over \$33,000 raised to support the Nature Center. This year's derby raised the third highest amount ever achieved in the history of the derby.

The weather was absolutely perfect for the two day derby. Over 400 participants arrived to cast their line and try their luck at winning one of the over \$5,000 in cash prizes and many merchandise prizes up for grabs. There were 6,000 lbs. of trout stocked just prior to the derby and there were some very large trout caught by the participants. The winning fish in the trout category weighed in at near 10 pounds!

Alfresco Picnic was set up near the weigh station to serve breakfast and lunch for the hungry fishermen, onlookers, and derby volunteers. A special thanks goes to **John Walker** and **Kathleen Sinclair** for making the wonderful food of Alfresco Picnic available to the eager crowd!

More than 50 kids spent Saturday afternoon participating in the exciting creative arts activities on the lawn of the Nature Center. The Nature Center activities have always been a favorite of the kids and parents alike. Volunteers also welcomed the many visitors to the Nature Center that weekend.

Before the awards ceremony began on Sunday, there was a tribute to **Charles Alva**, whose incredible generosity helps make the past and present derbies such a success. The heartfelt thanks from the crowd towards Charlie was something to see. Everyone cheered wildly to tell Charlie just how much he is appreciated. Thank you, Charlie, for everything you do for the Nature Center every day!

It was fun to watch the winners of the derby come to the stage and claim their cash and merchandise prizes. The smile on the faces of everyone was a sure sign that the fish derby was another amazing success for the Nature Center and the community. Thank you to all the contestants, volunteers, and generous donors for your part in making the fish derby something very special and a wonderful event that everyone looks forward to every year!



Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

Charles Alva



Knight Broadcasting, Inc.

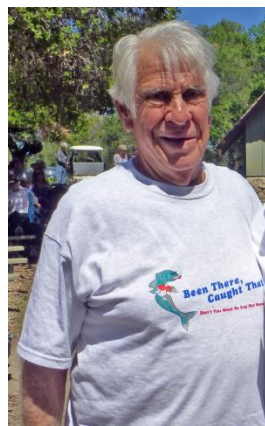
"Where Service is a Family Tradition."



Julia Wilkerson



Father and son fishing team



Charlie Alva

Merchandise Donations

About Faces Salon – Denise
 About Faces Salon – Debbie
 AJ Spurs
 Alfresco Picnic Catering
 American Host Restaurant
 Beachside Bar & Café
 Been There, Caught That
 Bennet's Educational
 Materials
 Biltmore Hotel
 Calaveras Trout Farm, Inc.
 Caribbean Coffee Company
 Channel City Lumber
 Clavo Cellars
 Cody's Cafe
 Charlotte Corrente
 Fred Hall Show
 Kimberly's Wigs
 Farmer Boy Restaurant
 Pat Franklin
 Pete Friedrichksen
 Gino's Pizza
 Goleta Coffee Company
 Goleta Valley Athletic Club
 Goleta Valley Paint
 Grey Wolf Cellars
 Nicole Grossman
 Jim & Barbara Gutmann
 Hook, Line & Sinker
 International House of
 Pancakes
 Jedlicka's Saddlery
 Jesse's Shoe Repair
 Ann Kelleher
 Brian Lincoln
 Luce's Salon
 Patco Jewelers
 Lundy's Landing
 Massage Envy
 Tomista Miller
 Monarch Dunes Golf Course
 Mother Hubbard's
 Restaurant
 Mountain Air Sports
 Nardonne's La Famiglia
 Pizzeria
 Pacific Books
 Patco Jewelers
 PCPA Theaterfest
 PePe's Mexican Restaurant
 Performance Fitness
 Petrini's Restaurant
 Prestige Car Wash
 Rio Vista Chevrolet
 River Course at The Alisal

River Oaks Golf Course
 Rocky Mtn. Chocolate
 Factory
 Annie Ruano
 Sambo's Restaurant
 Santa Barbara Sailing
 Center
 Kim Schmitz
 Sculptera Winery
 Sea Landing
 Singer's Big & Tall
 South Coast Deli
 Spectrum Athletic Club
 Standing Sun Winery
 The Links Course
 Trader Joe's – Goleta
 Trader Joe's – Santa
 Barbara
 Tri-Valley Trophies
 Union Bank
 Vons-Goleta
 West Marine
 Western Outdoor News
 Zodo's Bowling & Beyond



Donations

Charles Alva in memory of
 Vera Ralston Alva & Kirby
 Keith Duncan
 Robert Aguiniga Jr.
 Gus Ballas
 Helen Brown
 Chumash Indians
 Foundation
 Dick & Lois Cofiell
 Community West Bank
 Irene Drennan
 Kirby & Judy Duncan
 Gilbert A Echevarria
 Federal Drug Company
 Liz Gaspar
 Gil Graves
 Barbara & Jim Gutmann
 Ron Hill
 Neil Holliday
 Larry Hornberger
 Virgil Ipac
 Jerry Kessler
 Seybert Kinsell
 Tony Knust
 Jesse Macias
 Steven Macias
 MarBorg Industries
 Sebastian Marlow
 Virginia Markel
 Charles Martin
 Charlotte Martinez in
 memory of Joe Martinez
 Shon Mattly
 Lowell & Shirley McLellan
 Tommie Miller
 Fernando Moreira
 Yolanda Lara-Moreno
 John O'Neill
 Bradford Reller
 Chet Roberts
 Rocky Mountain Recreation
 Co.
 Elias Rodriguez
 Annie Ruano
 Bob Runnels
 S. B. Community Services
 Dept.
 Gary Schmitt
 State Farm Insurance
 Richard W Temple
 Coy Vance
 Julia Wilkerson
 Marilyn Whitfield
 Wilson Printing
 Sandi & Jerry Witcher

Thank You

2015 Fish Derby Volunteers

Hilde Bender
Rudi Bender
Rosey Bishop
Shirley Brown
Mike Buck
Tim Burmood
Rhonda Callahan
Dick Cofiell
Lois Cofiell
Pat Donato
Mike Donohoe
Carolyn Dougherty
John Dougherty
Kylee Dougherty
Irene Drennan
Judy Duncan
Charles Faulding
Dee Faulding
Bill Faulding
Alisa Follett

Liz Gaspar
Gil Graves
Barbara Gutmann
Barbara Hale
Dave Hale
Susan Ham
Diana Hawkins
John Henigin
Debbie Higgins
Suzanne Isbell
George Jones
Rita Kern
Jerry Kessler
Julie Malinoff
Bill Malinoff
Jeffrey McDonald
Julie McDonald
Lowell McLellan
Shirley McLellan
Tomasita Miller

Roger Millikan
Eric Neal
Nicole Neal
Linda Phipps
Ann Potts
Randy Potts
Sharon Price
Shayna Rockwell
John Rose
Barbara Rose
Ross
Bob Runnels
Mike Sanchez
Carol Smagala
Miki Snyder
Bruce Vanderhoef
Julia Wilkerson
Jerry Witcher
Sandi Witcher



Ross volunteering at the weigh-in station



Volunteers: Bob Runnels, Tommie Miller (Photo: Julie McDonald)

Kids Fishing Workshop 2015 Article

By Jerry Kessler

"Hi my name is Katherine, I am 8-years old. One time I was fishing with my dad and his friend and my friend on a boat. After a while of catching crappie, I caught a big cat fish. We didn't measure it but it was pretty big! It was my most biggest fish ever!!!"

"Hi, my name is Jeff -Age 7. I went fishing with my dad in the summer. We went in a boat on a lake. We started the motor and got to a clear spot with no weeds. I put a worm on my hook, cast out my hook, and then a largemouth bass took my hook. I reeled him in all by myself, and then we released him. It was a good day."



A kids fishing workshop in session

Katherine and **Jeff's** story tells us of the fun and excitement that kids experience when fishing. Every kid should experience the thrill of casting their line and reeling in a prize catch, no matter how big or small! The Neal Taylor Nature Center is helping kids take their first steps to becoming avid outdoor enthusiasts and learning the basics of fishing. Kids who attend the workshop will have local expert fishermen teach them topics such as fishing tackle, different lures and baits, fish species identification, knot tying, casting techniques, and much more!

The Nature Center is very dedicated to making sure that kids have an opportunity to experience many different aspects of being outdoors. Fishing is one of those outdoor activities that can involve some skill and some luck, some joy and some challenges, some quiet time and some fast action. Fishing always involves the beauty and peacefulness of the outdoors. The volunteer instructors of the Kids Fishing Workshop will make sure each one of the kids have a great experience learning about fishing. What these kids learn can be that spark that starts them on a lifetime of knowing the joy of fishing, like Katherine and Jeff.

The Kids Fishing Workshop will happen on Saturday, July 18th, from 8:45 am to 12:00 pm. The workshop is free for all kids 7-15 years of age and will be held at the Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake. There is a \$10 fee (per car) to enter the park. Register early to guarantee a spot! Call Julie at 805-693-0691 or send an e-mail to Julie@clnaturecenter.org to register.

What's New at the

Neal Taylor Nature Center Gift Shop

By Nicole Neal

Summer is here and with it comes a great time to stop by the Nature Center's Gift Shop during your visit to the lake to check out the new Nature Center apparel and artwork. The latest t-shirts and hats sport newly designed logos, styles, and colors. Come on by and check them out!

The Nature Center Gift Shop has also recently partnered with local artist **Kim Douglas** to sell her wonderful and unique photographic prints. Kim's Fine Art Pieces are hand-crafted from one of her original photographs on rare infrared film which she then places on reclaimed wood. The prints include scenes of Cachuma Lake and local flowers. Every piece is meticulously made with extreme care and no two pieces will ever be the same.



One of the new hats (Photo: Julie McDonald)

Social Media

By Ian Martyn

The Neal Taylor Nature Center would like to present its recently updated Facebook and Twitter accounts. As we enter a world full of mobile devices and social media, Facebook and Twitter provide the Nature Center and its Fish Derby a way to interact with you on a more interactive level. These accounts will let you find out up-to-date information regarding the Nature Center and its various events. In addition, you can get answers to your questions about the Nature Center through these dynamic avenues of communication. We invite you to visit our Facebook and Twitter accounts today!

 <http://www.facebook.com/NTNatureCenter>

 @nealtaylornc

Upcoming “Food for Thought”

By Ian Martyn



Native plant garden, saving water (Photo: Ian Martyn)

The Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake cordially invites you to its “Food for Thought” Speakers Series on September 20, 2015. This lecture will feature guest speakers **Madeline Ward**, Acting Water Conservation Coordinator for the City of Santa Barbara, and **Tyrone LaFay**, Water Conservation Specialist for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency. They will speak about the water supplies countywide and the impacts of historic and current droughts. They will discuss the various water sources in Santa Barbara County and how they are utilized to mitigate water shortages in droughts. In addition, they will present ways in which you can conserve water not only for the present but for the future as well.

The lecture begins at 2 pm on Sunday, September 20, 2015. There will be a Q&A session after the lecture followed by a meet and greet during which refreshments will be served. The talk is included in the price of admission to Lake Cachuma, \$10. For more information, please e-mail Julie McDonald at Julie@clnaturecenter.org.



Cachuma Lake running out of water (Photo: J.C. Corliss)

Food For Thought Series

By Bob Runnels



Cessna Plane used in cloud seeding

The topic of the latest Food For Thought lecture series was “Cloud Seeding” featuring guest speaker **Dennis Gibbs**, Senior Hydrologist for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency. Dennis is an accomplished speaker with considerable knowledge and experience concerning cloud seeding. His talk was accompanied with video charts.

The theory of cloud seeding is that moisture needs condensation nuclei (like dust or other debris) around which it can form water drops thus producing rain. By manually dispersing condensation nuclei via cloud seeding techniques, water droplet formation can be increased resulting in greater rainfall amounts in the area. The first experiments of cloud seeding began in 1967 using dry ice crystals. Santa Barbara County began its cloud seeding program in 1981 using non-toxic silver iodine crystals. The target areas are the Twitchell, Juncal, Gibraltar, and Cachuma reservoirs and their watersheds. It has enhanced our total precipitation by 10-15%. Some believe that were it not for this program, Lake Cachuma would be dry by now.

Cloud seeding is done from November to April about 15 to 20 times per year. Seeding is accomplished by airplane and four self-contained ground stations. Cloud seeding is not done over our cities and towns. If the National Weather Service issues a flood warning, the cloud seeding stops immediately to prevent too much rain being produced in that area. In California, other cloud seeding programs are in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties. Other states such as Texas and Oklahoma have cloud seeding programs. Other countries such as India and Bangladesh also have cloud seeding programs.



Beautiful Cachuma Lake

The discussion turned to factors that affect our climate. California can experience dramatic changes in climate caused by an El Niño or La Niña, which are the occasional warming or cooling of the water in the equatorial Western Pacific. A strong El Niño sometimes produces heavy rain in California but there is no guarantee. Lately, California has had a wet fall, dry winter, and wet spring. We are currently in a “dry period” and not a drought. A drought can last 20 years. This is evident from examining the rings of trees. Another weather factor is the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). The PDO encompasses a pattern of wind, ocean current, and temperature variations that can significantly affect our climate (including rain production) in this part of the world. PDOs occur in the Northern Pacific Ocean and seem to have 25 year swings.

Approximately 30 people thoroughly enjoyed the Food For Thought lecture on Cloud Seeding as well as the punch and cookies. We want to thank Dennis Gibbs for being our guest and providing such an insightful and interesting presentation.

Cachuma Lake

By Jerry Kessler

With the continuing dry conditions in the Santa Barbara County area, many are curious as to how this has affected Cachuma Lake in general. As expected, the water level of the lake has dropped considerably. The lake level is at approximately 27% of capacity which is about 68 feet lower than full capacity. Despite a lower lake depth level, the actual surface area of the lake is still quite large at over 50% of normal. The lake has been much lower before, such as in 1991 when the lake was at 15% capacity. A strong storm system filled the lake up to 50% within three days. This could happen again at any time. The ups

and down of the lake levels has been a cycle that has occurred at the lake since it was built in the 1950's.

Even though the current level of the lake is down, the fun recreational activities of the lake remain unchanged. The fishermen are reporting that fishing is good, particularly smallmouth bass and crappie, which are finishing spawning. Catfishing remains good and the carp bow hunters report excellent fishing. Largemouth bass and trout fishing is a little slower but some nice sized fish (several 7 lb. trout) are being caught. The folks that operate the marina boat rental and tackle/bait shop are ready to outfit you with one of their 20 pontoon boats and 54 fishing boats for rent and fishing gear for a fun day on the water. Kayaks are ready for rent for fun paddling alone or with friends.

Wildlife watching around the lake has been very good. With the dry conditions in the local area, the animals are coming from all around to drink. Deer are routinely spotted on the nature cruise. There are two bald eagles that maintain residence at the lake year round as well as several ospreys. Bobcats and coyotes are being spotted at Jackrabbit Flats quite often. Cachuma Lake remains a prime location for bird watching.



Cachuma Lake at sunrise (Photo: Miki Schneider)

One of the camp hosts you will likely meet at the marina is **Miki Schneider** and her dog, **Annie**. Annie is a six year old Tea Cup Yorkie that Miki rescued and they have been best buddies ever since. Miki has been a camp host working at the boat launch ramp for six seasons. She grew up in the Santa Barbara and Goleta area and has camped at Cachuma Lake all her life. Miki has been very helpful to the Nature Center. She lends help in planning the annual fish derby, operating the boat launch during the fish derby, and she is particularly helpful in the collecting and identification of the plants used in our plant room at the Nature Center. Miki says that launching boats is still going as normal at the lower level boat launch.

Stop by the launch ramp in the morning on the weekends and say hello to Miki and Annie.

As you can see, good things are happening at the lake. Best of all is a visit to the Nature Center in the big white ranch house behind the lake General Store. Ample parking is behind the store, so come on in! Enthusiastic volunteers will talk and teach about interesting subjects. Learn about amazing Chumash fishing techniques, antlers vs. horns, right and left feathers, whales found on mountains, investigate skulls and bones, and much more!

Saving Wildlife Program

By Barbara Guttman



Steve Mehren showing off a reptile

On May 16, 2015, for the sixth year in a row, **Steve Mehren** of Saving Wildlife International of Malibu, CA presented an awesome program. He introduced the audience of over 100 people seated on the lawn and benches outside the Neal Taylor Nature Center to ten of his residents. Most of these animals, including one Kookaburra bird from Australia, he related to similar species in our area. Throughout the hour-long program, Steve interjected valuable and pertinent environmental information including wildlife facts. His animals charmed children and adults alike.

The consistent, careful use of water was high on his list of major concerns for not only wildlife but humans too. He also stated that all of the animals of the world are "in trouble."

Many are illegally poached for various body parts while some are hunted and killed for sport. Others are being threatened as their natural habitat diminishes due to human encroachment, forest clearing, and other taking of their land. He also said that people often adopt wild animals and then are

overwhelmed with their care and feeding requirements. His advice is to not adopt wild animals. Leave the wild in the wild!

Steve and his rescue animals are excellent ambassadors for protecting nature's wildlife and Mother Earth herself. They enlightened the audience and gave all attending much food for thought.

Welcoming Julie and Bill Malinoff



Julie Malinoff with a game she created

Julie and Bill Malinoff are the latest additions to the Nature Center family. As hosts for the Nature Center, they have become the ambassadors for the Nature Center with the campers at Cachuma Lake and the local community. Bill is a retired attorney and Julie is a retired elementary school teacher. They originally resided in Houston, TX and are currently traveling the country in their beautiful motorhome. Julie and Bill have formed a team that spreads the word about Nature Center activities and inviting visitors. Julie has been busy creating several fun educational games for visitors to the Nature Center. She has created an interesting bird identification game and an especially fun "Jeopardy" type game with local nature and outdoors related topics. The Nature Center is lucky to have these two dedicated hosts and their contributions to the Nature Center will be lasting as visitors will enjoy the games Julie and Bill created for many years to come.

There are many birds that make their home in the area around Lake Cachuma. Test your knowledge of some of these birds by filling in the names of the birds using the clues on the left. A letter has been provided in each one to help you get started. There is one line for each missing letter.

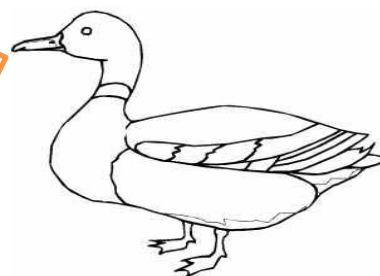


Birds of Lake Cachuma



- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Large, slender bluish bird with long legs | _____ H _____ |
| 2. Has a red crown and feeds on acorns | A _____ |
| 3. Makes a cooing sound and feeds on the ground | _____ D _____ |
| 4. Large hawk that hovers over water before diving for fish | _____ Y _____ |
| 5. Small metallic green bird with a needle-like bill | _____ ' H _____ |
| 6. Plump bird with blue chest, black face and forward curving plume | C _____ |
| 7. Large dark bird with a white head and tail | _____ E _____ |
| 8. Male duck with a green head, white collar and chestnut breast | _____ D _____ |
| 9. Long-necked slender-billed bird that lives near lakes | W _____ |
| 10. Blue bird with a white throat and long bill and tail | _____ J _____ |
| 11. Males are glossy black with a bright red shoulder patch | ____ - W _____ |
| 12. No feathers on its red head and it looks for dead animals (carrion) to eat | _____ V _____ |

answers on the next page!



Birds of Lake Cachuma Answer Sheet

1. Great Blue Heron
2. Acorn Woodpecker
3. Mourning Dove
4. Osprey
5. Anna's Hummingbird
6. California Quail
7. Bald Eagle
8. Mallard
9. Western Grebe
10. Scrub Jay
11. Red-Winged Blackbird
12. Turkey Vulture

Neal Taylor Nature Center
at Cachuma Lake
2265 Highway 154
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
SANTA BARBARA, CA
PERMIT NO.1165

Label Here

Or Current Resident

**Neal Taylor Nature Center
at Cachuma Lake**
2265 Highway 154
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 693-0691

Nature Center & Gift Shop Hours

Mon closed
Tue-Sat 10 am to 4 pm
Sun 10 am to 2 pm

Exec. Director – Julie McDonald
julie@clnaturecenter.org

Board of Directors

President - Barbara Gutmann
Sec./Treas. - Lowell McLellan
Director – David Hamilton
Director - Sandi Witcher
Director - John Henigin
Director - Charles Faulding
Director – Julia Wilkerson

S. B. County Park Naturalist Office
(805) 688-4515

Park Naturalist - Liz Gaspar
lgaspar@sbparks.org
Seasonal Naturalist - Rosey Bishop

Coming Special Events

2016 Annual Fish Derby
Sat. April 16 & Sun. April 17

Kids Fishing Workshop & Book Sale
Sat. July 18th 8:45 am – noon
(Free with registration)

Book Sales
Also Every Sat. Jun. 27 – Sept. 5th
10 am – 2 pm

Food for Thought
Sun. September 20th 2 – 4 pm
(Free with registration)

Nature Center Jeopardy
Check website for times

<http://www.clnaturecenter.org/>

Facebook: NTNatureCenter

Twitter: @nealtaylornc

***Cachuma Lake Recreation
Area Nature Events***

Guided Nature Walk - free
Saturday, 10 am – 11:30 am
Meet at Nature Center

Junior Rangers - (\$2 per child)
Sat. 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Meet at Nature Center

Wildlife Cruises (Mar. – Oct.)
Fri. 3 pm – 5 pm
Sat. 10 am – 12 n & 3 pm – 5 pm
Sun. 10 am – noon

*fees: Adults \$15, kids \$7- Sorry no kids under 4
Reservations are recommended
Call 805-568-2460 weekdays, or
805-686-5055 on weekends

This newsletter is published four times a
year. Comments are welcome: e-mail to