



#60 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2002

FEATURED THIS ISSUE:



**RECOGNITION PARTY
FULL COVERAGE!**

PHOTOS!

MORE!



DOCENTS AT WORK

**LIKE, I'M A COOL
MOON, DUDE**



**MYSTERIOUS
OBJECT
BOMBS BADLY**



ANNUAL RECOGNITION PARTY



HELEN OSENGA

Helen Osenga, was honored as Docent of the Year for exceptional service at the Annual Recognition Party, October 20. As a Docent, Helen guides groups of school children on nature walks, is instrumental in organizing astronomy night programs for campers and other visitors, is hostess in the Nature Center on numerous Sundays throughout the year, manages the children's activities during Trout Derby weekend, and is currently serving as chairperson of the Docent training committee. Recently Helen has assumed the job of bookkeeper for the Nature Center Gift Shop and has taken on the job of reporting Feederwatch results to Cornell. She devoted 486 volunteer hours to the Nature Center between August 1, 2001, and July 31, 2002. Helen joined the Nature Center Docents in April, 1997, and served as Docent President in 2001. She was awarded the Ralph and Maggie Klages Award for on-going service in 2000.

Carol Smagala was honored for long service as a member of the Board of Directors. She has been a member of the Board for over nine years, chairing the prize committee for the Trout Derby for many of those years. The Annual Recognition Party has often been organized by her. Through her contacts with the Santa Barbara business community, she has been able to acquire various goods and services for the Center at reduced rates or free of charge. Her attendance at Docent meetings and social affairs has made her a familiar, friendly face to many volunteers.

NOT PICTURED: Martin Villegas, until recently the head of maintenance at Cachuma Lake, was given an award of appreciation for his on-going support and assistance to the Nature Center. Ron Wilmot was recognized for his service during Trout Derby. Although he is neither a Docent nor a member of the Board of Directors, he has acted as emcee at the Derby prize program for several years. He and his wife Sandy organize, package, and display the prizes on the weekend of the Derby.



CAROL SMAGALA

ANNUAL RECOGNITION PARTY IN PICTURES



LEFT: Don and Betty Wimpres volunteered almost 1,000 hours between them; Don put in nearly 550 hours himself.

Helen Osenga had the second most hours with almost 500; Linda Taylor volunteered over 400 hours.

Anniè Ruano, Brian Lincoln, Dick Coffiell, Donna Shorts, Patricia Martin, and Tommie Miller each gave more than 300 hours.

Barbara Gutmann, Bill Hodges, Daryl Rutherford, and Fred Blaser clocked in at more than 200 hours each. Jackie Fondren and Marilyn Whitfield put in more than 100 hours. Several other docents put in fewer than 100 hours. All together, including almost 400 hours given by Board members, 5,933 hours were given by volunteers to the Nature Center.

Marion Schlinger, President of the CLNC Board of Directors, awarded the Certificates of Recognition



ABOVE: Jim Phelps, who drives from Thousand Oaks, was given an "Amigos" award for his reliable assistance in writing and printing Trout Derby forms and programs and in managing membership enrollment.



MANY THANKS TO
LINDA TAYLOR
FOR PREPARING
THIS NARRATIVE



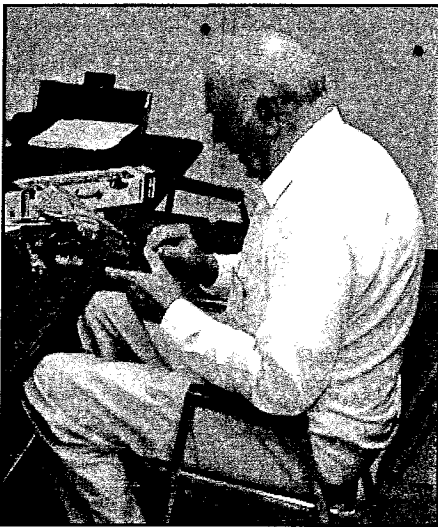


**MORE PHOTOS
ON BACK PAGE**



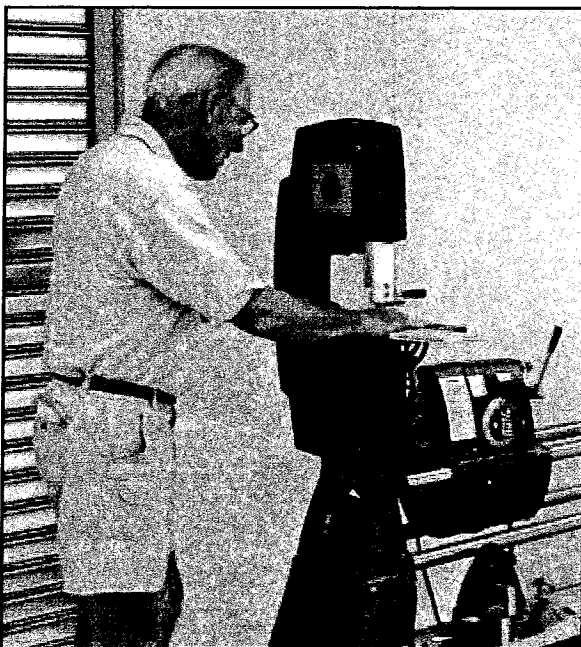
OUR DOCENTS AT WORK

One might think that docents sit about at the Center, sipping coffee and discussing world policies. Not So! The Nature Center is housed in an old farmhouse which exhibits the problems old buildings can generate. Things get damaged, the visiting public often leave exhibits a little worse for wear, and the local animal population can manage to curl up and nap inside crawl spaces. Another continuing need is keeping the large flocks of hungry birds cared for. I have witnessed what might be titled "A poor man's Berlin Airlift" with docents carrying big bags of bird food on their backs out to the feeders. Sometimes it might seem every bird in California might be enjoying a free meal, without having to hear a sermon. The birders among us are truly devoted to these flocks, so what do I know? No 'dissin birds allowed. (I won't even bring up the subject of squirrels.) Everybody belly up to the seed containers! Oh, hummingbirds seem to drink like sailors on shore leave.



BRIAN WORKS WITH SURGEON SKILLS

Hummingbirds have a high metabolism and must find a steady supply of nectar. Marilyn is often seen washing feeders and refilling them - a constant need. One can't ignore keeping the feeders clean lest vile bacteria take over. And hummingbirds and their friends seem to take out any frustrations on the feeders also. Brian Lincoln took up the task of assembling a new feeder. Easy, you say. Well, just have a look at the amount of assembly directions just for a plastic bottle and a few ports. The weather and crush of the many birds and animals requires a lot of attention, and our docents are truly up to the job. (The pay could be better, though.)



WATCH YOUR FINGERS, BILL

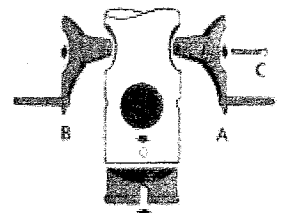
Some of the guys have worked like beavers to fabricate some really nice exhibit showcases. It must have been a real cost savings for such beautiful cases. I say three cheers for their fine work. Also, we must thank Lynda Williams-Terres for the gift of the Shopsmith multi-tool; it is proving to be a real help. At left, Bill is sawing some frame strips on the Shopsmith band saw. A few nice gifts can make a difference; There must be some folks out there who have modern tools, Mac computers, or even red bricks that could be spared and which would be deeply appreciated by our volunteers.

Note: The uninformed opinions presented on this page are merely the rantings of a new docent who hasn't a clue about how the Center operates. - THE EDITOR



BILL HODGES PUTTIES UP AN AGING WINDOW. CALL IT A FORM OF PLASTIC SURGERY FOR WOOD.

TO ASSEMBLE Carefully remove feeder from box. Take out the ports and screws by removing the base piece (leave filler cap screwed on until all parts are attached). First install all feeder ports. See diagram below. Install ports by taking one port (A) — with a hole completely through its center and placing a second port (B) — with hole only partially through its center and joining them two by using screw (C). DO NOT overtighten for bottom port & base see instructions below diagram. When all ports have been attached, remove filler cap and then loosen each port 2 to 3 turns of their attaching screws. Place the hanging bail into position by gently pressing apart the top of the tube sections and slide the bail into position. Once the bail is in place, retighten the port screws being sure not to overtighten. Fill the feeder with your favorite seed, replace the cap and hang your feeder.



Attach Base by centering its U-Slot under the port hole as shown on the diagram above. Then press the base into the tube. Place bottom ports (not shown) into position and secure with the attaching screw provided.

IT REALLY TAKES A "BRIAN" SURGEON OR AT LEAST A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO PUT TOGETHER A BIRD FEEDER.

TREADING LIGHTLY WITH TARANTULAS

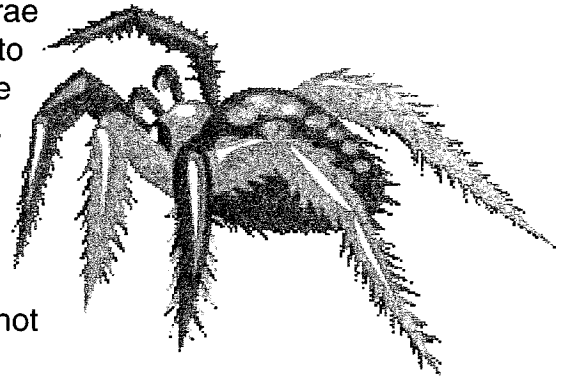
By Marion Schlinger (President of Cachuma Lake Nature Center Board and Entomologist)

Well, it is that time of year again here in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley when the wine grapes are being harvested and the tarantulas are roaming the countryside. And roam they do, continually, from late August until early November depending on the year. The tarantulas you see, out and about, are all mature males who are now in search of a mate. Their obsession to find the female(s) keeps them on the move. During this time they are not interested in feeding and live off their stored fat body for energy. Mature male tarantulas can be identified by the hook on the underside of the front leg tibia and by the fact that the tip segment of the pedipalp(s) is swollen and somewhat bulbous looking. Also a good bet is the tarantulas you see are most likely males (so you don't have to get up close and personal to identify them), since females remain in their burrows most of their lives. These mature males roaming about, will die in 3 to 6 months, whether they have passed on their genes for the next generation or not. Upon finding a female's burrow, the male tarantula will tap the lightly silked top edge of the burrow to entice the female out. With any luck the female will be receptive and a successful mating will take place.

Both male and female tarantulas mature at approximately ten years of age. As immatures, the male and female tarantulas are practically indistinguishable. Spiders (and tarantulas) undergo very little metamorphosis during development and merely molt their exoskeleton as they grow to maturity. Because of the longevity of the female tarantulas, they may live up to 25 or so years, the females do molt occasionally as adults. Molting replaces the urticating (irritating) hairs on the top surface of the abdomen. These lightly barbed hairs are kicked or brushed off with the hind legs into the face or nose of a potential predator like a skunk or fox. These hairs cause the animal to sneeze and paw at its nose while the tarantula walks off on its business, unscathed. Males that you find may have a significant bald patch on the top of their abdomen due to their encounters with predators (including humans) during their exposure in their above ground search for females. If you disturb one that you find, it will probably demonstrate this kicking off of the hairs for you.

The actual species name of our tarantula is *Aphonopelma eutylenum* which is in the family Theraphosidae. As with all members of the order Araneida (Spiders), our tarantulas have two main body regions. The cephalothorax is a combined head and thorax area to which the four pairs of legs are attached. Tarantulas have poor eyesight due to having a cluster of small, simple eyes near the top, front edge of this structure. The abdomen is the other body region and has two spinnerets at the end. Tarantulas do produce a little silk and silk parts of their burrows and sometime you will see the male touching the tip of the spinneret to the ground and leaving a faint silk thread trail.

A further interesting fact is our tarantulas belong in a suborder of spiders called Orthognatha, a term that reflects the fact that their chelicerae (jaws) move up and down in a vertical plane. In fact, in order to capture prey, the tarantula has to rear up and come down on the beetle, cricket or similar ground dwelling insect to bite its prey. (The majority of spiders we normally see in the garden or shrubs belong to a different subfamily who's jaws operate by moving laterally from side to side.) And as far as tarantulas being poisonous, fear not. A bite would be more like getting stung by a bee or wasp. There are poisonous tarantula species, but this is not considered to be one of them.



So step aside, and "Make Way for Tarantulas"!



Checking out the craft booths at the Day In The Country event in Los Olivos you'd come across one of our Board members, namely Mike Magrill. It seems that Mike is in his garage constantly, making all kinds of wood products from toy cars up to sophisticated creations. It was a nice day at the event. Mike's sales? Well, ...um....

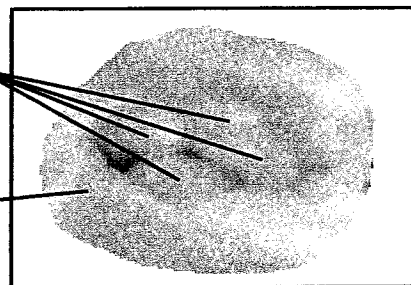
NOT ALL BOMBS FELL ON IRAQ!

Do you remember in the previous newsletter the call to guess the identity of a MYSTERY OBJECT? Well, that simple idea turned out to be a bomb rivaling such disasters such as the Edsel or the movie Water World. It seemed to be a good idea, but no one, that is, Nobody, Nada, ZZZEERRRRO! persons showed absolutely ANY interest at all! It is a personal blow to me: from becoming an Entertainment Mogul to a laughing stock is most embarrassing! I suppose I will become the first person inducted into The Docent Hall of Shame!

Anyway, not that it matters, but the MYSTERY OBJECT is just the four fingers on my left hand gripped and squeezed by my right hand (if you look carefully, you can make out my fingernails - I told you the image was G-rated!) Finger Squeezing contests shoulda, coulda, been a contender, perhaps becoming another Trout Derby. Oh, well.

**LEFT HAND
FINGERS**

**RIGHT HAND
CLENCHED FIST**



LATEST BEST WISHES:

DON WIMPRESS

GET WELL!

- Cachuma Dccents

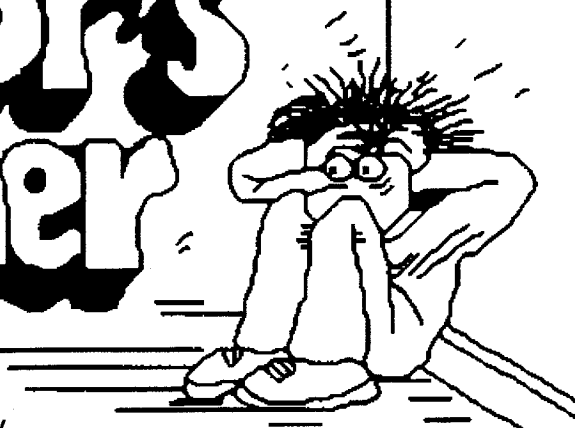
**ANNIE'S
BULLETIN
BOARD**

A Good Deed was done by the following who went out and picked up trash along the Lake shore. We're in hopes others will join them the next time.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Linda Taylor | NATURALISTS: |
| • Fred Blaser | • Liz Mason |
| • Tommie Miller | • Halli Prior |
| • Maralyn Whitfield | |

**VISIT THE NATURE CENTER GIFT
SHOP FOR YOUR STOCKING
STUFFERS. THERE'S A SALE ON
CHUMASH ART ROCK T-SHIRTS.
CHECK OVER OUR NEW ITEMS!**

Editor's Corner



IMPORTANT NOTICE

The "Zoo To You" program needs a sponsor. The cost of the presentation is \$500 (a group could also be a sponsor by several people sharing the cost.) In anticipation of your generosity, Saturday, May 3, 2003 has been reserved with the Jasksons for this rewarding program.

FULL MOON NAMES

by Helen Osenga

Most of us are familiar with the term Harvest Moon and possibly Hunter's Moon for the full moons of September and October, but do we know the names of the other full moons of the year? I thought that it might be fun to find out what they are called. Well, what should have been a simple search on the internet turned out to be real wild ride. After going through about 50 sites of the hundreds that are available, it became clear that there is no real consensus on this subject. Here in North America we use the Native American names for these full moons and the names varied from tribe to tribe. Following is a list of the most commonly used full moon names for each month, along with some alternative names.

JANUARY - Wolf Moon (Old Moon, Moon After Yule)

- In the middle of winter the hungry wolf packs would howl around the Indian villages.

FEBRUARY - Snow Moon (Hunger Moon, Wolf Moon)

- This is the time of the heaviest snow fall.

MARCH - Worm Moon (Crow Moon, Sugar Moon, Crust Moon)

- As the weather begins to warm up, the earthworm casts appear and the Robins begin to fly in.

APRIL - Pink Moon (Planter's Moon, Sprouting Grass Moon, Fish Moon)

- The name comes from the earliest of widespread flowers of spring, the wild ground phlox.

MAY - Flower Moon (Corn Planting Moon, Milk Moon)

- This is the time of abundant wildflowers everywhere in North America.

JUNE - Strawberry Moon (Flower Moon, Rose Moon, Hot Moon)

- This moon might also be known as the Short Moon, because it is on display for only about nine hours a night in the continental United States.

JULY - Buck Moon (Hay Moon, Thunder Moon)

- This is the month when most male deer begin to put out their antlers.

AUGUST - Sturgeon Moon (Red Moon, Green Corn Moon)

- The fishing tribes of the Great Lakes area easily caught the large sturgeon fish during this time of year.

SEPTEMBER - Harvest Moon (Comanche Moon, Corn Moon)

- The Harvest Moon is the full moon that occurs closest to the autumnal equinox (about Sept. 22) so in some years it happens in October. When this happens, the September full moon can be called Fruit Full Moon or Barley Full Moon.

OCTOBER - Hunter's Moon (Comanche Moon, Travel Moon, Dying Grass Moon)

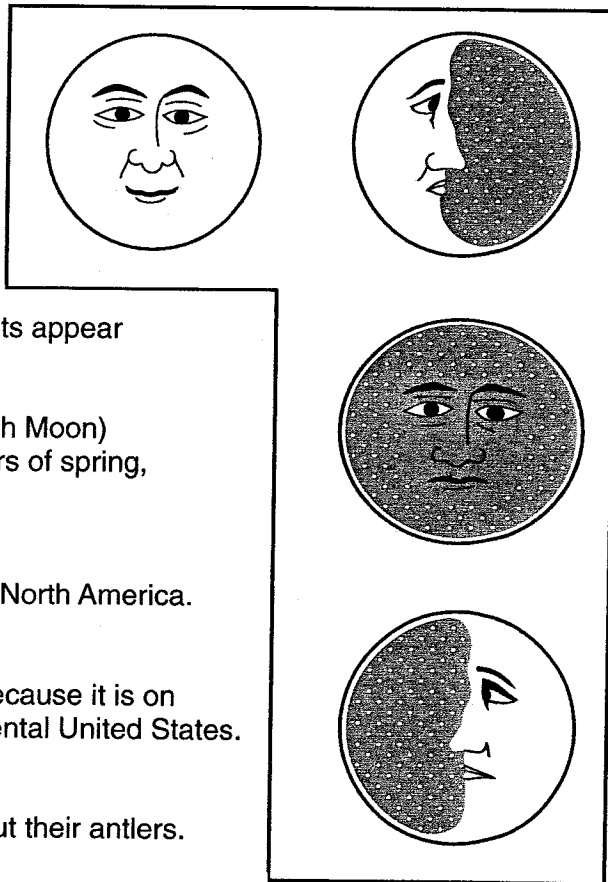
- The first full moon after the Harvest Moon is the Hunter's Moon. Now that the harvest is over and the leaves are falling, it is the time to hunt game.

NOVEMBER - Beaver Moon (Frost Moon)

- This is the time when beavers are actively preparing for winter and when there is still time to set traps before the water freezes.

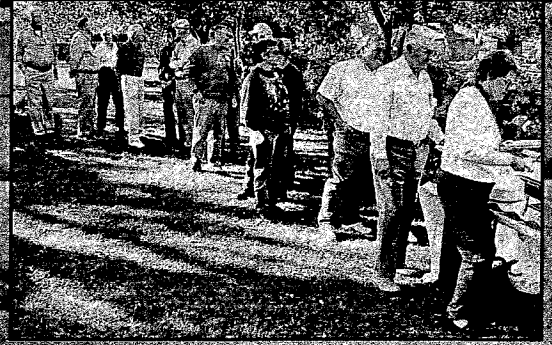
DECEMBER - Cold Moon (Long Nights Moon)

- During this month winter cold starts to tighten its grip. It is also sometimes known as Moon before Yule.



Okay, so what about a Blue Moon? In the past it had several other meanings, but in recent times it has come to mean the second full moon in any calendar month.

ANNUAL RECOGNITION PARTY PHOTOS, CONT'D.



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