

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CLNC TROUT DERBY

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend the Eleventh Annual Cachuma Lake Nature Center Trout Derby, April 22 and 23. Registration forms will be mailed the week of February 22, to individuals who have participated in at least one derby in the last five years. Fees remain the same as last year: early registration \$30; after April 3, \$35. Children 10 years and younger \$10. For additional Derby information call (805) 693-8381.

Top prizes are \$2,000 to the person who catches the trout with the highest tag number and \$1,000 to the person who catches the longest trout. A total of \$5,000 in prize money will be awarded in various categories. Since the Derby is the major fundraiser for the Nature Center, providing day-to-day operating expenses, all readers are encouraged to donate either cash for prizes, or merchandise to be auctioned in a silent auction or given away as prizes. Volunteers are also needed to work at the derby on that weekend, including Friday, April 21. Call Linda Taylor 693-0691 if you wish to volunteer.

Volunteers are reminded of the policy, "Current Nature Center volunteers, Trout Derby volunteers, Cachuma Lake employees, Cachuma Lake concessionaires/employees and their immediate families may not participate in the Trout Derby or Silent Auction." - L.T.

GRANTS GALORE

The Nature Center has been the happy recipient of several significant grants this fall and winter, besides the substantial ones for the garden. The Wood-Claeysens Foundation has given \$2,000 to support "The Kids' Nature Photo Op Workshops", a project to which the Santa Barbara Foundation gave \$1,000 earlier in the fall. This funding will support a series of four workshops for local children ages seven to fourteen years to learn use of digital cameras and photo techniques which will be offered. The Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission has granted \$1200-\$1600 for summer Kids' Fishing Workshops.

An enormous thank you to all of these fine organizations for their generosity to, and confidence in Cachuma Lake Nature Center. - L.T.



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Alan Schwartz, Editor

OUR GARDEN IS BECOMING A REALTY

A garden filled with native plants has been a goal of the Nature Center since our doors first opened. Finally, this goal is becoming a probability instead of a possibility. With the grant of \$8,825 from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians to underwrite the costs of walkways and areas for visitors to meet with naturalists and docents, added to a grant from The Valley Foundation of \$5,500 for back yard irrigation and a front yard sprinkler system, the garden project is moving forward. Bee Rock limestone dust from the quarry across Highway #154 from the Park will be used on paths and gathering areas in a method similar to decomposed granite walks. Since the limestone is a local product it seems suited to use it in the project. The so-called "gathering areas" are wide areas adjacent to the walks to provide a space for visitors on a guided walk to stop and listen to the docent/naturalist. Research is beginning on sources for plants that are native to this watershed. In Santa Barbara are nurseries which gather seeds from the watershed and propagate species specific to this area. For more than a year all donations made at the door of the Nature Center have been devoted to the "Garden Pot," a fund to help finance purchase and installation of plants.

Since the doors of the Nature Center opened volunteers have made many attempts to cultivate natives. A few specimens have survived, but many have perished because of lack of experienced gardeners to maintain the yard. Prior to submitting applications for grants, the Board of Directors discussed cost of on-going maintenance of the yard and at that time committed to providing \$250.00 per month for paid maintenance. - L.T.

STAR CLUSTERS THE PLEIADES AND THE HYADES

Star clusters are groups of stars that were formed together about the same time. The older, larger, farther away and more compact looking are called globular clusters. Usually younger, smaller, closer to us and not compact looking are the open clusters. In our current evening sky, residing in Taurus the bull, are two open star clusters visible to the unaided eye; the Pleiades and the Hyades.

The bull is easy to find near the famous constellation Orion the hunter. Orion is in the middle of the southern sky around 8 PM during February. Look for the bull's face, the "on its side" V shaped Hyades cluster, to the upper right of Orion's left shoulder, the bright star Bellatrix. The yellow star Aldebaran is shining brightly as the eye of the bull.

The Pleiades, also known as the seven sisters, are a more compact cluster higher in the sky and a little to the right of the Hyades. With the unaided eye you can easily see six sisters. Looking at this breathtaking sight with binoculars, you can see that the Pleiades consists of many more than seven stars.

Note: Some information for the above article was taken from the web site: starryskies.com. It's a great site for information on the 88 constellations and other celestial topics.

- H. O.



KIDS' NATURE PHOTO OP SERIES

Cachuma Lake Nature Center is planning an exciting new program. A series of Kids' Nature Photo Op Workshops are scheduled to begin on Saturday, February 11, to introduce children and their parents to the Nature Center, to teach children the use of digital cameras and basic photography techniques, and to increase their appreciation of the beauty in nature are the goals of these workshops.

Twenty children may enroll in one of each of the following workshops February 11, March 4, April 1, and May 6. A pre-paid registration fee of \$1 is required. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or another adult. Children seven to fourteen years may enroll.

Children and parents will be given basic instruction on camera usage, photographic techniques: composition and lighting. Adult volunteers skilled in photography and familiar with Cachuma Lake County Park will assist with choosing photographic subjects and camera usage in the field. Other volunteers will assist with printing a photograph, burning a disc of other photos for the child to take home.

- L.T.

-OPENING VALUES

Inventory of the Gift shop was completed on January 4, and includes the new items purchased this year. We have received many compliments on items carried in the Gift Shop. Come in and shop to support the Nature Center

RECENT NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

Susan Ham
Al & Lynda Williams-Terres
Patricia Martin
Jacqueline Huth
Zelda Hughes
Paul Roark
Mike Moropoulos
Sharon Trotter
Maggie Klages
Philip and Barbara Brown

Cecia & Milt Hess
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation
Carol Smagala
Jerry and Helen Haines
Ruth Pratt
Tom and Colby Kline
JoAnne Treloar
Linda & Neal Taylor
Don Love
Dave & Olice Saunders

Helen Brown
Paul & Virginia Barrett
Alison Hubbard
Robert & Nancy Hubbell
Tom & Donna Cooper
Van and Diane Barr
Evert Schlinger
Barbara Hamm
Kirby & Judy Duncan
Liz Mason Gaspar

BIRDSEED DONORS

Santa Barbara resident Nancy States, and Thousand Oaks resident Joe Beck are significant donors to the Nature Center in a very unique way. Every few weeks they each bring a large sack of birdseed to be used in our feeders.

Nancy's life has included birding since childhood. When she asked her mom what bird it was in their garden (an American Robin), her mom gave her her first bird book. When she was married her husband worked at Cornell University which operates the famous Ornithological Laboratory (in Sapsucker Woods). She became involved with birding walks sponsored by the Lab. She and her husband lived in the country and were located on the Eastern flyway---all of which contributed to her birding interest and knowledge.

In 1979, they relocated to Santa Barbara and Nancy immediately enrolled in an Adult Education Bird Class taught by the now famous Paul Lehman. Eventually a group of birders from that class began birding as a group twice a week and continue to do so at the present. Nancy has recently organized a trip, planning hotel rooms, flights, cars, etc., for them all to the Sacramento area.

Birding trips abroad include New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. She participates annually in the Santa Barbara Christmas bird count. Joe Beck is a birder who has participated in the spring migratory bird count on the Lake and in the winter eagle counts. He has viewed Bald Eagles on several lakes in southern California and began coming to Cachuma in 1990 to go on the Eagle Cruise, which now he believes he has done fifty to sixty times! He talked to Liz on the phone last spring about coming to the Center to see birds through the birding window and was told we were out of seed, at which point he brought his first bag.

He has numerous photos of California Condors that he has taken at an undisclosed place in the San Gabriel Mountains and can boast of seeing condors in the wild at Mt. Pinos in 1982, prior to the beginning of the captive breeding program. Joe is an engineer at Parks Optical Company which manufactures telescopes and imports binoculars in Simi Valley.

- L.T.

NANCY HUBBELL JOINS CLNC BOARD

Nancy Hubbell has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc. She joins this group after spending much time at Cachuma Lake throughout her life, beginning as a child, camping with her parents and returning numerous times to take the Lake Cruise after moving to the Santa Ynez Valley. After becoming acquainted with the Nature Center by bringing her nephews to visit, she says, "I want the children of Santa Barbara County to enjoy this Nature Center."

After working as a speech and hearing specialist in South Lake Tahoe, and for the Santa Barbara County Education Office she retired after 21 years with the County Office, working as a Special Education Coordinator for the last 18 years.

A resident of the Santa Ynez Valley, she is married to school administrator Robert Hubbell, who is an avid woodworker in his spare time. Nancy goes to the local YMCA daily and is a voracious reader. Nancy is welcomed by Board President Patricia Martin, who complimented Ms. Hubbell for her "good ideas and refreshing input to the Board."

- L.T.



Nancy Hubbell

YARD SALE DONATIONS

Donations are now being accepted for the CLNC yard sale scheduled for July 1, at the Center. All manner of goods will be accepted, except used shoes. Clothing donations should be in good condition and clean. Large pieces of furniture are not suitable for this event. Of particular interest are camping equipment or outdoor sports equipment. Children's clothing and toys are in great demand. Arrangements can be made for pick up if needed. Call 693-0691.

- L.T.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

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(805) 693-0691
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Executive Director - Linda Taylor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Patricia J. Martin
Vice-President - Paul Barrett
Secretary - Sandi Witcher
Treasurer - Lynda Williams-Terres

DIRECTORS

Kirby Duncan
Nancy Hubbell
Carol Smagala
Neal Taylor

DOCENT OFFICERS

President - Sandi Witcher
Vice-President - Brian Lincoln
Secretary - June Pusley
Treasurer - Anne Ruano

S.B. COUNTY PARK NATURALIST OFFICE

(805) 688-4515
Park Naturalist - Liz Mason Gaspar
Assistant Naturalist - Halli Pedersen

SATURDAYS

Guided Nature Walk - 10 am to 11:30 am
Junior Ranger - 12:30 - 1:30 pm

NATURE CENTER & GIFT SHOP**FALL / WINTER HOURS**

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm
Wednesday, Saturday - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm



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