

Upcoming Events at the Nature Center

Kids Fishing Workshop	July 31
Monthly Docent Meeting	July 10; August 14
Monthly Board Meeting	July 15; August 19
Docent Recognition Party	August 8
Raptor Presentation by Morgan Ball	August 21
Final Kids' Fishing Workshop	September 4 (tentative)



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Kids' Fishing Workshop

BY LINDA TAYLOR

Approximately 55 children between the ages of 3 and 16 participated in the first Kids' Fishing Workshop June 26, on the lawn at the Nature Center. Children were shown rigging for trout, bluegill, crappie, and large and small mouth bass. Judy and Director Kirby Duncan taught how to tie an "improved clinch knot", using a special board for the purpose created by Docent Daryl Rutherford.

Casting which was one of the more challenging skills for the young fisherfolk, was taught by Director Neal Taylor who organized the event. Tangled lines and casts that ended up behind the young anglers were a frequent occurrence! More adult help is needed for the next workshop, scheduled for July 31.

Mike Moropoulos, outdoor writer, lent his many years of expertise to the trout rigging and technique table. Director Weldon Hobbs and Rutherford teamed up at the crappie and bluegill table; Docent President Dick Cofiell held down the bass table on his own. Neal's long time business associate helped with casting.

This event was free to all (after the Park entry fee was paid). Rods and reels for use during the workshop were donated by the Fred Hall show, along with a cap, a 35mm camera, and a "De-liar" for each child. (A "De-Liar" is a small device that weighs and measures a fish.)

Readers with skill in fishing techniques are encouraged to volunteer at this successful event. Please call Neal at 687-1023 to offer help.



**More Photos
On Back Page**



Morgan Ball To Speak

By Halli Pedersen

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 21. Wildlife biologist and falconer Morgan Ball will give a presentation with live raptors on the Cachuma Lake Nature Center lawn. Morgan has volunteered his time on several occasions to entertain and educate visitors at Cachuma Lake. In August 2003, Morgan came to the lake as a special guest speaker for our summer Fireside Program. He brought a live falcon and an owl as well as several mounted specimens of raptors and their prey from the UC Santa Barbara Museum of Systematics and Ecology. Morgan has a fantastic sense of humor, which was especially enjoyed by the children in the audience. In March 2004, Morgan was the featured guest on the Discovery Cruise, a fundraiser sponsored by Santa Barbara County Parks Naturalists and the Cachuma Lake Nature Center to fund the upcoming Discovery Book for elementary school visitors. The fundraiser was a success. Morgan impressed the attendees with helpful bird identification tips and a wealth of information concerning the migratory birds that visit Cachuma Lake. Morgan and his fiancé Gina have also participated in several bird counts at the lake, including the Eagle Count and Spring Migration Count. This presentation is part of a series of lectures intended to educate Park visitors and Nature Center volunteers and to raise awareness about the Nature Center.

New Acquisitions

By Linda Taylor

Recently the Nature Center has been given three new mounted specimens. One is a Bufflehead, a duck frequently seen on the Lake during the winter months, which was originally from the Sacramento Delta. The mount was given by Ms Marjorie Nielsen of Encino, California, who is a repeat visitor to the Center. She said she wanted the duck, which had been shot by her father, to have a good home and she liked our Nature Center. The Bufflehead has been placed in the display case with other birds.

A Mountain Lion and a Bobcat were donated by Santa Barbara City College, which needed the space, which these animals occupied, for other uses. A permanent location has not been determined for these large cats.

Our New Web Site

<http://homepage.mac.com/cachumaflyer/Menu3.html>

It's not real fancy, but it's simple and easily maintained (no computer geeks needed). Most of the information is still to be entered, but upcoming activities listings are current. Your suggestions will be valued, but please note the site is "under construction".

Project FeederWatch

By Patricia Martin

For the past several years the Nature Center has participated in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's FeederWatch program. For a period from late November to late March/early April volunteers (naturalists - Halli Pedersen and Liz Mason and docents - Helen Osenga, Bob Runnels, Linda Taylor, Patricia Martin, Dick Cofell, Daryl Rutherford and Jacque Fondren) observed and counted the birds through the one way glass in the bird room and made counts based on specific rules established by the lab.

The 2003-2004 FeederWatch count brought twenty two of the same species of birds seen in 2002-2003. They are California Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Scrub Jay, American Crow, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow. This season (2003-04) we saw four birds not seen last year - Nuttall's Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee and a Red-shouldered Hawk.

When comparing the 2002-03 report with the 2003-04 report there were larger quantities of birds counted at one time at the feeders in 2003/04. Some explanation for the differences may be due to some species migrating more slowly from one year to the next. However there seem to more species whose numbers are consistent on a yearly basis and most of the same species return from year to year. And then there are always the few surprises which delight all of the faithful Watchers.

Speaking of feeding birds....A recent news release from the California Department of Fish and Game warns that outdoor birdfeeders or birdbaths could harbor a deadly parasite that is responsible for killing thousands of Mourning Doves, Band-tailed Pigeons, and other wild birds. Outbreaks of trichomoniasis has already caused mortality in many of California's Mourning Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon populations. Trichomoniasis is a protozoan that causes mortality in doves and other gregarious species. The disease is highly contagious and is easily spread from birds using the same feeding or watering area. To help control the disease the California Department of Fish and Game is suggesting that residents clean their birdfeeders and baths daily, or remove them for the remainder of the summer to help stop the spread of the disease. To decontaminate feeders use a 10% solution of household bleach in water, preferably cleaned just prior to adding new food. Instead of using bird feeder is suggested that small amounts of feed be spread over a large area in the sun. On the same note it is also suggested to vary the location where the seed is spread to discourage a concentration of birds feeding at one site.



RUNWAY MODEL NEAL TAYLOR
SHOWS RUMMAGE PLAIDS ARE "IN"

Tax Deductions

Special Thanks to all individuals who donated goods or help during the Yard Sale.

If donors would like a form for tax purposes, please call Linda Taylor at 693-0691 and a donation slip will be mailed. Cachuma Lake Nature Center is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation.

Spreading The Word

Information about the Nature Center and the natural history of the area has been put on display at the Goleta Library, where it will be available for public view until July 31.

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Yard Sale Success

By Linda Taylor

The net profit for the Nature Center Yard Sale, July 3, was \$1,386. Although less than last year's sale, the income is a nice boost to the coming year's budget. Advertised from 9:00 until 3:00, the event continued until approximately 4:00. During the last hour, customers were given grocery bags for \$1.00 to fill with as much merchandise as the bag would contain. This sales technique eliminated many items which Nature Center volunteers would have had to dispose of after the sale.

At 1:00 Neal Taylor and Jerry Witcher circulated through the Park in the Gem car with the P.A. system, announcing reduced prices. A suggestion for next year would be to send them out at 9:00 a.m. announcing the sale. Approximately sixteen people worked during the sale. In contrast to last year's sale, little work was done prior to the sale day. The greatest need for help was during the 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. opening time to set out tables, put items on display, and price them.

Sale chairperson Linda Taylor said that it would be difficult to determine the type of items which were most in demand, although children's clothing and books and toys, which were in short supply, went quickly. Literally hundreds of books were donated; those which were not sold were taken to the Los Olivos Episcopal church for its fall book sale. Other leftovers will be dispersed among thrift stores in the area. Bedding will be given to the homeless shelter in Santa Barbara.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

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PHOTOS BY ALAN SCHWARTZ



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