

KID'S FISHING WORKSHOP

BY LINDA TAYLOR

July 23, and August 20, free workshops to teach children about fishing will be presented at the Nature Center by Neal Taylor, member of the Board of Directors and life-long fly fishing teacher. Children between the ages of 7 and 15 years will be taught to tie knots, to cast, and to rig for crappie, bluegill, and catfish; the best situations in which to catch them will also be presented by a group of experienced anglers.

Pre-registration is required. Call the Nature Center at (805) 693-0691, e-mail at CLNATCTR@SBCEO.ORG, or register in person at the Nature Center before July 22, or before August 19, for either workshop. Workshops will last from 9:00 until 12:30 and each will be limited to 50 children. A gift bag of fishing supplies will be available for each child. Parents are urged to accompany younger children.

Volunteers teaching skills at these events are outdoor writer Mike Moropoulos, Nick Buckler, Dick Cofiell, Kirby and Judy Duncan, Jack Engel, Tommie Miller, and Bruce Van der Hoef.

A per car parking fee will be charged at the entrance to the Park.

SUCCESSFUL YARD SALE

BY LINDA TAYLOR

More than \$1,500 was raised at the annual July Yard Sale at the Nature Center. Held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. the sale drew dozens of campers and shoppers from nearby communities. During the final half hour, shoppers were given grocery bags and urged to fill them for \$1.00. As always, children's clothing and toys and sporting goods were the most sought after items. Very little merchandise was left over. Since donations of clothing were not solicited, a large quantity of household items were sold, including much Christmas merchandise.

The following volunteers helped during the sale: Fred Blaser, Dick and Lois Cofiell, Jackie Fondren, Brian Lincoln, Patricia and Jerry Martin, Tommie Miller, Annie Ruano, Neal and Linda Taylor, Don Wimpress, Jerry and Sandi Witcher, Paul Barrett, Kirby and Judy Duncan, Lynda and Al Terres. Van Bort, campground host, was an indispensable assistant to Linda Taylor, chair of the event, during the week prior to the sale.

Net profit for the yard sale held on Labor Day weekend, 2003, was \$1,794; net profit for the sale July fourth weekend, 2004, was \$1,392.



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Alan Schwartz, Editor

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

By HELEN OSENGA

Every summer Cachuma Lake Naturalists, the Nature Center and the Astronomical Unit, the local astronomy club, sponsor Astronomy Nights at the lake. These events start at 8:00 PM in the Fireside Amphitheater with a slide show presentation by Chuck McPartlin, a member of the club currently serving as their president. After the slides, observing the night sky through several telescopes brought by members of the club begins about 9:00 PM at the Dakota Plains area. Also offered is a tour of the sky pointing out planets, constellations and other astrological wonders.

The Astronomical Unit is sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and participates in numerous outreach programs throughout the year for schools, campgrounds, youth groups, clubs, etc. These fun events at Cachuma Lake, attended by an average of 100 people each night, are open to anyone who wants to attend. There is no charge for campers or those who have a pass. Others will be charged the \$6.00 day use fee for entrance to the park.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT REMAINING DATES THIS SUMMER

July 23 - Saturday

August 5 - Friday

August 20 - Saturday

September 3 - Saturday

September 17 - Saturday

HANDLING WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES

BY SANDY GRASSO-BOYD

On my very first day helping out at the Nature Center, I was confronted with two wildlife "emergencies"; one involved a tiny baby ground squirrel and the other, an injured acorn woodpecker. As I found out, the Nature Center is not equipped to handle injured or abandoned animals, I thought I'd take my cue from these incidents to write this article on what I learned on how we as volunteers can handle these kinds of emergencies when they occur.

THE BABY SQUIRREL INCIDENT

Arriving at the center early before anyone had arrived, I was met by two well-intentioned young men, one of who held in his gloved hand a tiny baby California ground squirrel who had not yet opened its eyes. My initial reaction was to suggest they put it back where they had found it and maybe its mother would retrieve her baby. They protested vigorously, saying they had picked it up after observing that none of the other squirrels would have anything to do with it. They didn't want to take it back. In the Center, I found a big old bird's nest and put it deep in a pail and set the poor little guy inside and covered the pail with an aluminum plate. How's that for improvising! The little guy snuggled down in the center and seemed at last to be comfortable. Later that day the Wildlife Center picked him up from our gate.

THE ACORN WOODPECKER INCIDENT

Later that same day, another concerned young man arrived, holding a struggling acorn woodpecker in his hand. "He was walking around in circles and looked like something was wrong - maybe he flew into something." The young man insisted on not putting her back (less red on head- female) where he had found her. On examining the bird more closely, I saw that it definitely had a problem on one side of its body. I put her into a box with some grass, punched holes in the lid, taped the lid to the box, and the animal quieted down. The young man volunteered to take her to the Santa Barbara Wildlife Center that day.

I checked in at the Wildlife center the next day and learned that the bird had a head trauma of some kind and was resting quietly. Most importantly I learned that what I had done instinctively to quiet the animals was to follow four important instructions on handling an injured animal before taking it to people who specialize in wild animal care.

1. Put it in a dark place.
2. Keep it warm (with a towel, foliage, etc).
3. Keep it quiet.
4. Do not attempt to feed.

However if the animal is not injured, the best thing to leave the animal where you found it. Had I known, I should have found out where the boys had found the baby squirrel and returned it. It is a myth that a parent will not touch its baby if human hands have touched it. This is especially true for birds because they do not have a good sense of smell, if any. Parents have a strong instinct to nurse. Try to put baby back in its nest. If nest is destroyed, build a new one with a container like a Cool Whip® carton. Punch holes in its bottom, add nesting materials and parents will return if you leave the baby in nest and stay a good distance away. They will not come if you stay too close.

If you find a baby bird with fluffy feathers that is wandering around on the ground, it may be trying out its wings - before taking off. Leave it alone and, again, watch from a distance. Certain animals like does will hide their babies while they forage. If you find the baby, leave the area and Mom will return. On the other hand, if injured, or if you are sure it has been abandoned, follow the four instructions above.

The phone number for the Wildlife Network in the Lake Cachuma area is 966-9005. While their center is in Santa Barbara, they have volunteers who live in the area that will pick up the injured animal or be able to instruct you on specific handling or feeding, if necessary, until they are able to come. Here are three volunteers and their specific expertise:

Birds and little mammals: CC Wellman
688-8735
cell 448-7138

Birds of prey: Trace Ubanks
688-4089
cell 325-1513

Deer: Julia Disieno
896-1859

Other Wildlife Care Centers outside the LC area:

San Luis Obispo Pacific Wildlife: 543-9453

Ventura: 498 -2794

GRAY WOLF • *CANIS LUPUS*

BY JERRY WITCHER

The gray wolf is the largest member of the canid family. It can reach up to 6 feet in length and stands up to 38 inches high at the shoulder. The average weight is 70 – 100 pounds. The gray wolf's coat appears in many shades of gray. Wolves are known to live up to 13 years. The gray wolf lives in packs which are sized from 4 to 12 members. Each pack has Alpha pair which are the leaders of the pack. Each pack has its own area to live and hunt, marked by their scent. A pack's territory can cover between 42 to 100 square miles. Wolves are highly social and breed only once a year.

The gray wolf is a carnivore, and cannot survive without killing other animals for food. It is an act of survival. Even under ideal conditions, hunting for the gray wolf is difficult; the gray wolf is successful on only one of ten kill attempts. Wolves prey on moose, deer, elk, caribou, bison, beaver, rabbits and mice. They generally prey on weak, infirm, young or old animals. Like many other carnivores, wolves test their prey. A moose that stands and fights will often persuade the pack to seek easier prey. Gray wolves once inhabited most of the Northern Hemisphere. By the early part of this century, man had almost exterminated the wolf from the lower 48 states. Currently, their range is restricted to parts of North America and small areas of Europe. The gray wolf occupies less than 5% of their original range. As settlement increased, the belief that livestock was endangered by wolf populations also increased. Consequently, the frequency of hunting the gray wolf exploded and the populations were nearly eradicated.

The recovery of the wolf is becoming an impressive conservation success story. Successful recovery plans have been developed throughout the country. These plans evaluate the populations to determine distribution, abundance and status. Reintroduction programs, such as the Yellowstone National Park wolf project has focused on re-establishing a viable wolf population ecosystem. The program celebrated its 10 year anniversary in January 2005. Currently, there are 850 wolves in 93 different breeding packs. Wolves play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling natural prey populations and removing weak individuals. The return of the only species known to be missing from the world's first national park for the past half-century has been a milestone in ecological restoration.

Manager of the gift shop, Tommie Miller, and other volunteers are going to the L. A. Gift Show on July 24, to shop for new items for the gift shop. If you have ideas regarding types of things that should be added to the inventory, please call Tommie before that date at 569-1707. What do you buy when you travel? Mugs? Magnets? Jewelry? Christmas ornaments? Locally produced items? Please respond to Tommie.

TRELOAR BARN OWL ARRIVAL

BY LINDA TAYLOR

The Barn Owl which is to be dedicated to local resident Denny Treloar has arrived at the Nature Center from the taxidermist, Darius Moustouffi of Claremont.

Denny Treloar spent much of his life on a ranch on nearby Paradise Road. He passed away in March 2004. One of his great interests in life was children and he volunteered untold hours as a 4-H leader, with his church's youth groups, with his own children and their friends, besides teaching in the Goleta Union School District.

The Center has a Great Horned Owl which children have been permitted to "pet." This bird is now bald. Funds were raised from Denny's friends for the taxidermy of a Barn Owl specimen. Along with the female owl, her nest made of housing insulation and eggs will be exhibited on a stand made by Van Barr, the Center's current camp host

The Barn Owl, Tyto (Greek for owl) alba (Latin for white), nests in cavities in trees and barns. This owl chose the attic of a local house under construction. Unfortunately, the bird was shut in the building at night and flew against the windows. Many months later the nest was found by an electrician working in the attic.

Coincidentally, homeowner Shawn Addison, Denny Treloar, and the donors of the taxidermy funds, Dave and Bonnie Frasier, Elaine Gray, and Ed and Jonee Grat were all 4-H members or leaders together many years ago in Goleta.

On August 27, a reception to dedicate the owl will be held at the Center.



SINCE THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER:

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DON'T MISS THE KID'S FISHING WORKSHOP ON JULY 23 AND AUGUST 20!