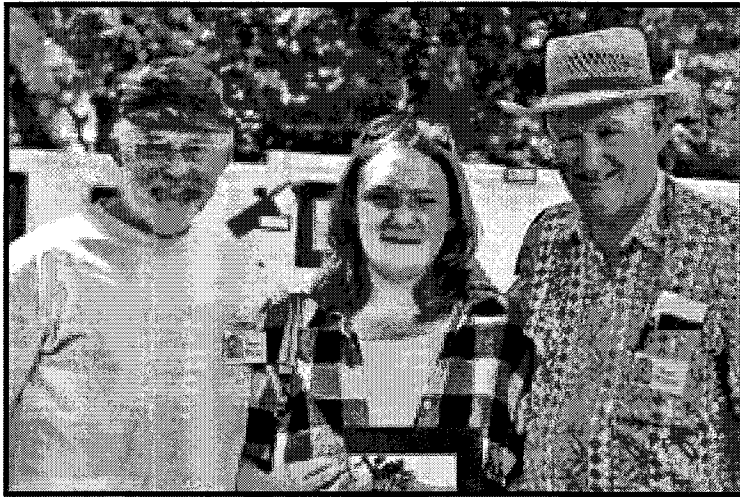


## PHOTO OP VISITORS' CHOICE



• PATRICIA MARTIN

Marissa Thompson, flanked by Dr. Larry Friesen and Docent Roger Millikan won the visitors' choice award at the June 3, Kids' Nature Photo Workshop Exhibition. Approximately forty children participated in the four workshops held earlier this winter and spring. Dr. Friesen provided instruction on basic composition using examples of his stunning nature photographs. Roger Millikan helped to coordinate the workshops and assisted in selecting equipment. The series of events were underwritten by grants from Santa Barbara Foundation, Wood-Claeysens Foundation and Delta Psi Building Company.

## RECENT DONORS

Donors since the last newsletter are:

Debra Herring  
Helen Osenga  
Onorina Perry



**ISSUE 82 JULY / AUGUST 2006**

Editor: Alan Schwartz

## A GOOD TIME NOT CATCHING FISH!

• LINDA TAYLOR

Thirty-six kids and many of their parents participated in the first Kids' Fishing Workshop of the summer on Saturday morning July 22. Beginning with a wonderful computer presentation by Santa Barbara City College biology prof Larry Friesen on life in the Lake—from microorganisms to the angler, kids were given instruction on many aspects of fishing. Special Guest for the day was Greg Compton, author of the book, "Let's Go Fishing," a copy of which was given to each participant. Mike Moropoulos shared his knowledge and experience catching trout. Bruce Vanderhoef demonstrated and gave hands-on practice tying knots. Rigging and fishing for crappie, bluegill and bass was ably taught by Harry DeWitt. Demonstrating and assisting youngsters in casting were Art Olivera, Dick Cofiell, Paul Taylor, Tommie Miller, Neal Taylor, Judy Duncan and Kirby Duncan, using rods and reels donated by the Fred Hall Fishing Tackle Show. Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission underwrites these events; each child goes home with a bag of fishing gear, including a cap and small camera donated by the Fred Hall Show. A second workshop is scheduled for August 19, for children from 7 to 15 years. No pre-registration is required, but enrollment is limited to the first 50 children to arrive. Activities begin at 9:00 a.m. and end between 12:00 and 12:30. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children.

## Focus On Volunteers: Dick And Lois Cofiell

• LINDA TAYLOR

Dick Cofiell came to Cachuma Lake Nature Center with Daryl Rutherford (recently deceased Docent) after taking the Lake Cruise in 2001. Both men's interest was piqued by the exhibits and they agreed they would like to spend time here.

Dick is a critical member of the organization at this point. With a long history of being the "Fix-it-Guy"----Dick brings many skills to his tasks. On any given Wednesday, he can be found fixing failed lighting fixtures, installing locks, building exhibit cases, stands, or accessories for exhibits or special events, assisting with computer tasks, mowing the lawn, and most importantly, helping in any way he can with nearly every special event.

Dick was raised in Whitehall Maryland on a 360 acre family farm where there were cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens, mules, horses, and where corn, wheat, barley, oats were raised. He learned about all things mechanical helping his Grandfather keep farm machinery in running order.

In the late 1940's Dick was stationed in San Diego aboard the Destroyer, the USS Taussig #746. During the Korean War, he went up the Inchon River to evacuate American servicemen, but the worst "war story" he told was riding out a typhoon in the Yellow Sea.

Dick came to Santa Barbara in 1952, where his Mom was employed at Devereaux School. While working at Gowland and Gowland, a company that made Revel toys, he met Lois who was working there on a summer job. They married in 1954. Dick has used his skills for many companies, including Offshore Drilling, Mission Paint and Art, Otts Hardware, Channel Paper Company, Grossman and Sons, and 26 years at Delco .

Dick and Lois have two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They say they have "always camped, "beginning when the kids were toddlers. First in tents, then a tent camper and currently in a 29' Alpenlite Fifth Wheel. Their first camping experiences were at Nojoqui and Refugio, but their most memorable and enjoyable was a four-month trip on which they visited every state except West Virginia. Although they planned the trip beforehand, they said they changed their itinerary often to visit sites praised by other campers whom they met en route. Both of them are birders, becoming interested after retiring and taking classes with Joan Lentz.



Dick is responsible for bringing Bill Hodges and R. Millikan into the Docent organization. Currently, Dick has drafted his good friend Dave Geoffrion to help build a handicapped ramp to the workshop. As so often happens with spouses at the Nature Center, Dick's wife Lois, has become an active volunteer as well. For several years she has helped at various special events-- Trout Derby, the Nature Center Birthday Party, the Y Sale—and has at times donated elbow grease to clean garden. Lois's greatest interest, however, is china painting. Their home is filled with her lovely work, much of which has a nature theme.

Dick says he would like to see more volunteers at the Center and some changes in the exhibits.

## Board Officers

• LINDA TAYLOR

A belated election of officers was held at the July Board meeting. Patricia Martin was re-elected President. Kirby Duncan moved into the position of Vice-president. Sandi Witcher accepted a second term as Secretary, and Paul Barrett was chosen Treasurer, replacing Lynda Williams-Terres who resigned the position in May.



Solvang Lutheran Home Residents  
Enjoy a Cruise on Lake Cachuma

## Current Summer Evening Sky

• HELEN OSENGA

August is the time of the annual Persied meteor shower. The shower should peak the early morning hours of August 12th and 13th. One problem this year, other than possible clouds or fog, will be the bright waning gibbous moon which will wash out some of the shower.

The planet, Jupiter, is still the brightest object (other than the moon) in the current evening sky. It is found in the southwest sky, slowly moving toward the western horizon as the weeks go by. Vega, the brightest star of the Summer Triangle, is almost directly overhead in the early evening. Vega is part of the constellation Lyra, the harp, which is made up of a small parallelogram shape of stars coming off to the southeast of Vega. Below Vega in the northeastern sky is Deneb, another point of our Summer Triangle.

Deneb is part of the constellation known as the Northern Cross or Cygnus, the swan. In the current evening sky the Cross is lying on its side with Deneb being the top of the top of the Cross. Three more stars, trailing off to the southwest make up the rest of the upright part of the Cross. The cross piece of the Cross comes off the second star from Deneb, one star out to the east and one to the west. To find Cygnus, the swan; start at Deneb which is the tail of the swan (the word deneb actually means tail) and move toward the southwest along the the upright part of the "Cross" through the body, long neck and head of the swan. Go back to the second star from Deneb and find the cross piece of the "Cross". Go out two stars on each side and you have the wings of the swan. If you are lucky to be viewing from a dark place, you should be able to see that the "Swan" is flying in the middle of the Milky Way.

Altair is the third point of the Summer Triangle. You will find it toward the southeast from Vega and Deneb. Altair is part of the constellation Aquila, the eagle. The eagle is not an easy constellation to explain or find, at least for me. Just know that it is there around Altair.

To get a Guided Tour of the current evening sky, show up for an Astronomy Night at Cachuma Lake. Astronomy Nights are scheduled for Saturday August 5 & 26, September 2 and possibly October 7. The night starts with a slide presentation by Chuck McPartlin at 8:00 PM in the Fireside Theater followed at 9:00 PM by telescope viewing and Guided Sky Tour at Dakota Plains. Plan to join us on one of these nights for an astronomically good time.

## SUNday at the Lake

• HELEN OSENGA

The June 11th Quarterly Meeting for all volunteers, board members, family and friends - SUNday at the Lake - was a huge success. The theme for the day was an old friend our local star, the Sun. Chuck McPartlin, local astronomy club member and Nature Center volunteer, presented a slide program about the Sun. Then, just in time, the clouds cleared for a telescopic viewing of our friend, El Sol.

Judy Duncan won the door prize, a Suncatcher window ornament from our Nature Center Gift Shop. The Silent Auction brought almost \$400. into the Cachuma Lake Nature Center coffers. Table decorations included members of the sunflower family and the attendees were asked to help identify the specimens before supper was served. The meal, masterfully prepared by Chef Helen, began with Sun Chips and sunflower seeds and ended with strawberry shortcake. And a good time was had by all!

## Abundance Of Birds

• PATRICIA MARTIN

For the past several years and this year the Cachuma Lake Nature Center has been participating in the annual FeederWatch Project sponsored by Cornell lab of Ornithology from November through April. End of the Season News Notes from Cornell Lab states that "more than 59,000 checklists have been submitted...from across the US and Canada. The total number of birds counted stands at more than 3.5 million...." for the 2005-2006 season. The feeders and immediate area outside the mirrored window in the bird room of the Nature Center were watched on two consecutive days during each predetermined count period. We counted every other week from November 16 to April 5. Thanks to the diligence of naturalists Liz Mason and Halli Pedersen, and volunteers Linda Taylor and Helen Osenga the Nature Center was able to report its sightings to the project.

Of the birds commonly seen regularly were Brown-headed Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Great-tailed Grackles, Band-tailed Pigeons, White-crowned Sparrows, House Sparrows, House Finches, Mourning Doves, Anna's Hummingbirds, Western Scrub-Jays, Oak Titmouses (or is it Titmice?). Occasionally sighted were Brewer's Blackbirds, Dark-eyed Junco, European Starlings, Lesser Goldfinches, Acorn Woodpeckers, There were fewer sightings of Golden-crowned Sparrows, American Crows, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Spotted Towhees. During the entire count period only one Cooper's Hawk and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet were sighted. Although there are many more species of birds in the Park and immediate area the above birds represent those who come to the feeders provided by the Nature Center. If you are personally interested in being a FeederWatcher next season check out the website at <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw>. Individuals as well as groups are welcome to join in the count. Happy Birding!

## **M is for.....**

By Susan Ham

**MONEY!** Money that will help the Nature Center provide programs and projects for the next year. The annual garage/rummage sale surpassed our goal of \$2000, doubled the previous sale high, with a whopping total of \$3,358.11\* at the July 1, event at the Center.

Organized by the 4 M's ("Musketeers") Helen Osenga--**MANPOWER**, Susan Ham--**MERCHANDISE**, Dick Cofiell-- **MOVER** and Linda Taylor-- **MONEY**, the sale was a huge success.

But with all of the organizing, the sale wouldn't have happened without the many **MERCHANDISE** donors of great, and sometimes unusual, stuff to sell, **MOVERS** who carried it out from the garage and set it up, cleaned up, loaned much needed shade umbrellas, trucks, and strong backs and arms, and the **MANPOWER** of the day which included 33 volunteers (see names below) including Bob Runnels and Fred Blaser who hosted the Center for an extra large crowd that day.

Many Volunteers worked a 10 hour day under the stress of long lines of people, hundreds of questions, the need to keep a watchful eye on the treasures for sale.

When Dick Cofiell dropped the yellow rope to let the crowd in at 9:00 a.m, he said that the rope had not hit the ground before the sprint was on. Shoppers jumped the tape like Olympic high hurdlers. He said he felt like he was in the California land rush!

And always there is the M for **MOTIVATION**, or education in the appreciation of nature and our wonderful Cachuma area. Sandy Witcher, while busy cashiering, was overheard explaining to a young boy so fascinated by the big bear.."And do you know how fast a bear can run?"

Center Volunteers never lose an educational **MOMENT**. Support for the natural environment and **MOTHER** Earth, comes one small convert at a time.

\*This figure will rise when income is included from additional items for sale on e-bay.

All involved in this one day event are heroes and appreciated for their dedication, expertise, commitment, and cordial comraderie. What a team!  
The Team consisted of

Susan Ham

Dick Cofiell

Lois Cofiell

Brian Lincoln

Dave Geofrion

Sondra Geofrion

Mike Buck

Marilyn Whitfield

Eileen Aylesworth

Tommie Miller

Bruce Vanderhoef

Linda Taylor

Neal Taylor

Helen Osenga

Annie Ruano

Carol Smagala

Roger Millikan

Patricia Martin

Dianne Barr

Van Barr

Paul Barrett

Halli Pedersen

Sandi Witcher

Jerry Witcherr

Kirby Duncan

Judy Duncan

Gary Gingerich

Richard Lindley

Stephanie Smagala

Lubella Levi

Marilyn Macy

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

Naturalist - Liz Mason Gaspar  
Assistant Naturalist - Halli Pedersen  
**Cachuma Lake Nature Center**  
Cachuma Lake-HC 59  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 693-0691  
clnatctr@sbceo.org  
Executive Director- Linda Taylor

**Board of Directors**

President - Patricia J. Martin  
Vice President - Kirby Duncan  
Secretary - Sandi Witcher  
Treasurer - Paul Barrett  
Directors -

Carol Smagala  
Neal Taylor

**Docent Officers**

President - Sandi Witcher  
Vice President - Brian Lincoln  
Secretary - June Pusley  
Treasurer - Bob Runnels

Coming Events

August 19 Kids' Fishing Workshop

**Guided Nature Walk** Sat & Sun 10:00 – 11:30 am  
**Junior Rangers** Sat 1:00-2:00 pm

**Lake Cruises**

Fri 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Sat 10 am – noon & 3:00-5:00 pm  
Sun 10:00am – 12 noon

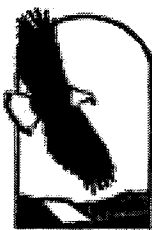
**Nature Center & Gift Shop**

Tues, Thurs, Fri 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm  
Wed, Sat, 10:00 am. – 4:00 pm  
Sun, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Fireside Theater Evening Programs** 8:00 pm

|     |        |                    |
|-----|--------|--------------------|
| Sat | Aug 12 | Fire Safety Fun    |
| Sat | Aug 19 | Fire Safety Fun    |
| Sat | Aug 26 | Astronomy Night    |
| Fri | Sept 1 | Mountain Lion Talk |
| Sat | Sept 2 | Astronomy Night    |

For more details about the above programs and special events see "Calendar of Events" at [www.cachuma.com](http://www.cachuma.com)



**CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER, INC.**  
**HC 59**  
**SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105**