

CACHUMA FLYER

ISSUE NUMBER 50

MARCH/APRIL 2001

LOOKING UP

WITH HELEN OSENGA



The spring sky is less brilliant than the winter sky, but in April we still have a bit of winter sky left to ponder in the early evening. It is a good time to study some of those bright stars of Orion, Big Dog, Little Dog, Gemini, Auriga and Taurus and note their color. The right shoulder of Orion is the super red giant star Betelgeuse. Compare it to the eye of Taurus the Bull, which is the red giant star Aldebaran, the bright red giant star Capella in Auriga and the red giant star Pollux of Gemini the Twins (the head on the left side).

Now compare these red giant stars to the pale aquamarine blues of Rigel, the left knee (or foot if you wish) of Orion. The brightest star in this bunch is of course Sirius of the Big Dog and it is a blue-white main sequence star. The yellowish star Procyon of the Little Dog is also a main sequence star. Being on the main sequence means that these stars are not giants or dwarfs. The color of a star denotes its temperature. Blue-white stars are the hottest and red stars are the coolest, still not cold by any means.

The three stars that make up Orion's belt are blue-white main sequence stars close to 40,000 degrees centigrade while the red giant stars mentioned above are in the 3,000 to 6,000 degree centigrade range. Red stars are dying stars and blue-white stars are young hot stars.

The spring sky is dominated by Leo the Lion and the Big Dipper. Both high and bright in the sky. Using the pointer stars of the Big Dipper, the two in the bottom of the bowl, you can find Polaris, the north star. Follow the pointer stars

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RESCUE ON TEEPEE ISLAND

Recently, a concerned visitor, Paul Abbott, reported seeing an injured goose on Teepee Island. The crippled domestic goose had fishing line wrapped around its leg, which was severely swollen. Wildlife Care Network of Santa Barbara was notified and volunteer Lorna Murroughs answered the call. Lorna and part staff members were unable to catch the goose, which was frightened and suffering.

Fortunately, two fishermen, Ray Angel and Paul Lopez, were kind and patient enough to capture the goose the following day and to help park staff transfer it to a ventilated box.



Ray Angel and Paul Lopez

Lorna returned and transported it to a veterinarian. Currently the goose is being treated with antibiotics and will soon be returned with an expected full recovery.

Unfortunately, other animals at Cachuma Lake may not be so lucky. Visitors are encouraged to deposit unused fishing line and litter into the trash and recycling receptacles found throughout the park.

In addition to rescuing the goose, Ray and Paul collected yards of fishing line strewn along the banks of Teepee Island. I hope others will follow their example of responsible fishing and do their best to keep Cachuma Lake safe and beautiful for all to enjoy. *Halli Prior, Asst. Naturalist*

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toward the open side of the bowl and go about five times the distance between these stars and you will come to the north star which is the end of the handle of the Little Dipper, not as easy to see as the Big Dipper, since most of its stars are not very bright. Use those pointer stars to find Leo by taking them the other direction until you come to a backward question mark (sometimes called "The Sickle") in the sky. That is the front part of Leo the Lion with the bright blue-white main sequence star, Regulus, as the dot of the backward question mark. To the east of this is the triangle of stars that form the hindquarters and tail of the lion.

Between "The Sickle" of Leo and Gemini the Twins is the faint constellation Cancer the Crab. If you can see it, it looks like an inverted letter Y. Right in the middle of the crab is the Beehive cluster of stars. It is a great sight in binoculars, so even if you can't see the crab, look for the cluster in that area of the sky. The planets Jupiter and Saturn are still visible in the early evening between Taurus and the Pleiades until they will disappear below the horizon by the end of April.

Coming soon into the evening sky will be Mars. More about Mars in the Summer Sky article.

The Gift Shop at the Nature Center now has Star and Planet Locators for sale at \$3.00. These are easy to use and come with directions and lots of other information right on the Locator. You can also access sky charts on the web at www.skypub.com (click on Monthly Sky Charts-Northern Hemisphere.)

ZOO-TO-YOU

The increasingly popular Zoo-To-You presentations of wildlife is coming to the CLNC on **May 5** at the Nature Center. There will be two performances; one at 11:00 a.m., the other at 1:30 p.m. For the second year, Hall•Hurley•Deutsch, architects of Santa Maria, will sponsor the event. This year a bear will be the featured attraction.

Come for a relaxing and entertaining family outing and an Ice Cream Social between performances at Cachuma! Take the time to enjoy the new and enhanced exhibits and the beauty of the lake and its surroundings.

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DOCENT TRAINING CLASS

On February 17th, I conducted a Docent Training Class for six prospective docents and longtime CLNC Board member, Carol Smagala. The trainees were Dick Cofiell, Tim Matthews, Patricia Martin, Marilyn Whitfield, Cathy Vasek, and Jim King. After the training session, each trainee must complete a Nature Center project before their name is submitted to the Board for nomination as a Docent. Dick Cofiell and Jim King have essentially completed such a project by mapping out and placing identification labels on all the electrical circuits and outlet in the Nature Center and garage. This is a great assistance when there is a circuit overload and the correct circuit breaker must be identified; some are in the garage and some in the Gift Shop.

These new trainees bring with them talents that we can put to good use. Dick and Jim have already demonstrated "building maintenance" talents as one of their several skills. Dick is quite a birder and joins with our other Docent birders. Tim is an all-round naturalist and is expected to assist us in presenting nature walks and doing trail maintenance. Jim is interested in astronomy and may assist in our summer Astronomy program. Marilyn has already attended several meetings and Wednesday work days, helping with whatever comes up. Patricia has expressed an interest in exhibit preparation, Nature Center duty, and administrative tasks. Cathy Vasek brings with her much knowledge of the natural history of the area, and we hope she finds a continuing interest there.

Eight others have indicated they would like to become Docents, but could not attend this training session. Another will be held later. *Don Wimpers*

MEMORIALS

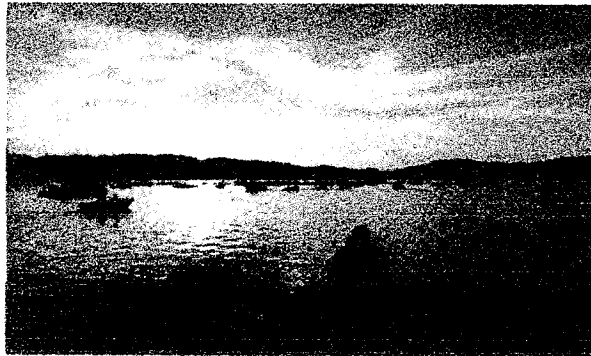
This issue was especially difficult to produce for your editor. The passing of two of the most valuable persons in CLNC history within two weeks is difficult to accommodate. However, their spirit lives on! If you would like to contribute to the CLNC as a remembrance, we will faithfully commit your funds to an expansion and extension of our commitment to our goals.

Evelyn Putnam
March/April 2001

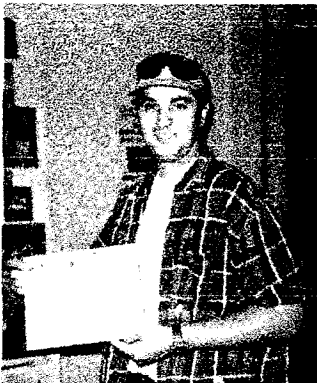
6th ANNUAL CACHUMA LAKE TROUT DERBY

Isn't it great when a plan comes together!! A combination of hard work and good luck made this the best ever Trout Derby fundraiser. One-thousand fifty-six anglers registered for the event. The weather was dry and mild (it could have been a little warmer on Sunday), fishing was good (especially for the youngsters, who captured most of the prizes), and on-site registration and launching and recovery went smoothly.

All of this doesn't just happen. Application to reserve the Derby weekend was made last July, and the Trout Derby Committee started serious planning last October. All told, the Committee, comprised of Evelyn Putnam, Neal and Linda Taylor, Lynda Williams, Lorainne LaFarge, Marion Schlinger, Ron Wilmot, Jerry Martin, Paul Roark, and Carol Smagala, held seven meetings before the day arrived.



And when the day arrived, the flare went off as dawn broke and the flotilla of boats swooshed out of the marina.



Jose Velazquez, Jr. of Santa Ynez was the 1000th entrant. With glee, the registration workers waived his fee.

Neal sprinkled his usual fairy dust on all the anglers - especially the kids - at the weigh-in station. Several volunteers spent the better part of a day and a half there. I can't recall all of their names, but I remember Fred Blaser looking pretty tired on Sunday.



Ron Wilmot, Emcee extraordinaire, gave out the prizes. His extensive planning and attention to detail made the Awards Ceremony move quickly and with good humor. Co-presidents Carol Smagala and Marion Schlinger were on the ball to locate the right prizes at the right time.

PRIZES AND PRIZES AND PRIZES

It wasn't in the plan, but the outcome demonstrated that the youngsters certainly know how to fish for the big bucks.



The \$3000 prize for the trout with the highest tag number went to Matthew Moore, Goleta, 15 yrs old.



James Young of Thousand Oaks was the happy winner of the Weldon Hobbs prize of \$200 for the longest trout caught by an entrant of all five previous Derbies.



\$2000 went to the Kyle Shute, Santa Maria for catching the longest trout. Kyle is 10 yrs old.



As usual, Dutch Wilson of Santa Ynez was the oldest entrant to catch a trout. It wasn't very big, but your editor can attest to the fact that it tasted very good! Dutch, by his own reckoning was 91 yrs. , 4 mos. and 8 days when he nailed the winner.



The second longest trout was caught by Beverly Christian, Thousand Oaks.



The five longest trout caught by children under 12 years of age each received \$25: Kyle Shute, Santa Maria; Thomas Gomes, Santa Ynez, Heather Stornetta, Santa Maria,, Cole Birchard, Solvang, and Micheal McClellan, Santa Ynez.

IN MEMORIAM



Helen Ryan Logan
1935 - 2001

Cachuma Lake Nature Center lost one of its most devoted and energetic workers on March 20. Helen Logan passed away after fighting cancer for a long period of time. Helen's vitality and focus are what made her a critical part of this organization. Keeping others "on task", speaking as fast as humanly possible to speed along all efforts, and always doing what she committed to do are the things by which we will remember her.

Specifically, Helen coordinated grant writing efforts for the Center, by maintaining contacts with local Foundations, keeping tabs on the requirements by each, assisting with obtaining bids, and lending editorial support. Her labors for the Trout Derby included handling publicity for the event single-handedly for the last few years and assisting her husband Henry in his role as chairperson. She worked with the Board finance committee to invest the Foundation's money wisely, acted as liaison with the Park Department, and was instrumental in adding new members to the Board of Directors.

The Center was the setting for a reception following a memorial service for Helen on March 24th.



Constance Elizabeth Howerton
1921 - 2001

Connie was, literally, the CLNC's first Docent. Linda Taylor met her when the Nature Center was just an idea. From that time almost 13 years ago, Connie exhibited an on-going devotion to our mission at the Nature Center, through thick and thin. Time and again she accepted the role of Docent President and liaison to the Board of Directors, ably and congenially carrying on both tasks. Of late, even though not in good health, she faithfully hosted the Gift Shop Saturday afternoons. She will be sorely missed.

At 18, Connie earned her private pilot's license and entered the Civilian Flying Corps. After obtaining a degree in economics from MacMurray College, she entered the service as a WASP (Women's Air Force Service Pilot).

Her lifelong career in social work culminated when she retired as a supervisor in the Santa Barbara County Children's Protective Service Division.

Volunteering was central to her life, such as serving as a volunteer for the Aero-Medicos physician's medical service to Mexico, for the Dog Adoption Welfare Group (DAWG), and her service to the CLNC.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

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Marion Schlinger, Carol Smagala, Co-Presidents
Lorraine LaFargue, Vice-President
Lynda Williams, Treasurer
Paul Roark, Corresponding Secretary
(Linda Taylor, Secretary to the Board)

Docent Officers

Helen Osenga, President
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Don Wimpres, Treasurer
Evelyn Putnam, Secretary

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PLANT OF THE MONTH TROUT PLANT

The most important plant around Cachuma Lake at this time of the year is the Trout Plant. It can be seen at other times of the year, but in the late spring it is at its best with the CLNC Trout Derby Trout Plant. The plant includes some very large fish and lots of tagged fish that make the catcher eligible for prizes in the thousands of dollars.

When the Trout Plant is about to appear, one or more tank trucks approach the park. The cormorants around the lake recognize them as a source of fish and hurriedly make their way to the planting site. Park personnel also hurry to the site to fight off the hungry birds so the fish aren't gobbled up as fast as they come out of the pipe. Motorboats, sticks, and stones are directed at the cormorants to chase them away, but they still get their share of fish from a little further away. How do the cormorants recognize the trout plant truck as it travels on highway 154?

The Derby Trout Plant this year was supplied by Calaveras Trout Farms, Inc. of Snelling, California. Sometimes the fish come from hatcheries as far away as Idaho. This year there were two trout plants totaling 8000 pounds of fish. Most of these fish were around two pounds. However, some much larger fish were planted. There were 300 tagged fish, some weighing three to four pounds.

The fish were planted about one day before the Derby and arrive plenty hungry. They are acclimated to the water temperature that occurs in the top ten feet of Lake Cachuma so many of them can be caught from the shore. The results of the 6th Annual Trout Derby are covered in this Flyer. Next year the fruits of the Trout Derby Plants will be ready for plucking the weekend of April 13th and 14th.

Don W impress

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