
IT'S DERBY TIME AGAIN!

BY LINDA TAYLOR

Keeping the Nature Center doors open is the purpose of the Trout Derby; this simple fact is reiterated here to motivate all readers to offer support to this event.

The Ninth Annual Derby is scheduled for April 24, and 25. Almost 3,000 registration forms have been mailed to the database composed of prior years' participants. Flyers have been sent to more than 200 businesses, schools, government agencies, churches, and clubs with requests that the literature be posted or distributed among members, employees, students, etc.

Docents and Board members will operate a booth at the Ventura Fred Hall Fishing Tackle Show, to distribute registration forms and to register entrants at that event April 18, through 22. The booth space has been donated to the Nature Center by the Show owners free of charge. This is a new opportunity for publicizing the Derby.

All Docents and members of the Board are encouraged to solicit merchandise prizes, monetary donations, and gift certificates from businesses which they patronize. To make the event a successful, memorable one, a cache of exciting prizes is important. Anglers must go away from the event with the sense that many people won and that they want to return again next year. Dissemination of flyers and registration forms within each reader's neighborhood is also a means by which the Derby can be supported by all. To obtain forms and flyers call Linda Taylor at 693-0691.

Once again the following prizes will be offered: **\$3000** for the trout with the highest tag number; **\$2000** for the longest trout; **\$100** for the second longest trout; **\$100** for the first trout caught by a male (prize sponsored by *Figueroa Farms*); **\$100** for the first trout caught by a female (prize sponsored by *Figueroa Farms*); **\$50** for the trout caught by the oldest entrant; **\$25** per trout for the five longest trout caught by children 10 years old or younger (prizes sponsored by Neal Taylor); **\$25** for the shortest trout.

Registration fees are \$25 for adults prior to April 12; after that date the fee increases to \$30. Individuals who register at the Ventura Fred Hall Fishing Show April 15-18, will be given the early rate of \$25. Children ten years old and younger may register for \$10.

Major Donors (donors of \$500 or more)--to this date--are The Alan Schwartz Trust, Western Hoegee, The Schlinger Foundation, B. J.'s Towing, Inc. and the Chumash Band of Mission Indians.

In addition to soliciting donations, many opportunities to help exist, including working at the weigh-in station at the marina, registering anglers on Friday and Saturday, directing traffic, supervising children's activities on Saturday, decorating for, and cleaning up after the Saturday night pot-luck, and at the award program on Sunday afternoon. Potential volunteers should contact Helen Osenga at 964-0419 immediately

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The Trout Derby is organized by a committee including Chairperson: Community Volunteer Henry Logan; Registration (the most involved job of all): Docent Patricia Martin; Weigh Station: Docent Sandi Witcher (who has developed a comprehensive procedure for this sub-committee); Award Program: Community Volunteer Ron Wilmot (with able help from his wife, Sandy); Parking: Director Kirby Duncan; Pot-luck organization: Director Lynda Williams-Terres; Hot-line, Docent Annie Ruano; Children's Activities: Community Volunteer Susan Ham and Docent Jackie Fondren with help from Naturalists Liz Mason and Halli Prior; Fred Hall Show: Director Neal Taylor; and Scheduling Docent Helen Osenga. Executive Director Linda Taylor is coordinating press releases, paid advertising, and flyers.



Dutch Wilson, Winning Fisherman at Age 94

MR. DOCENT: DON WIMPRESS

BY LINDA TAYLOR

As of fifteen years in the Docent Organization Don Wimpress is an individual who holds a lasting vision of the organization and is a strong leader in helping the group fulfill the mission of the Nature Center. After seeing an ad in the newspaper inviting local folks to become Docents, Don attended his first training session in 1988.

With a lifelong interest in the outdoors, Don brings a great deal of knowledge of local plants and geology to the the Nature Center. He retired with his wife Betty to the Santa Ynez valley in 1980, and became a member of the Los Padres Interpretive Association, leading hikes and assisting with organizational matters until the demise of that group.

As a child Don built a museum in his backyard where he displayed specimens collected in his neighborhood and on camping and hiking trips with his friends and family. Don was born in Riverside, California, and attended Glendale Junior College where he majored in forestry; however, the aerospace industry nabbed him. During his first college years he worked at Cal Tech on experimental rocket propellants, the first job in long career in this industry

He rocketed into marriage with Betty after a quick four month courtship and was inducted into the Army Infantry. After OCS he was shipped to Germany, arriving just as the war ended. He was transferred then to the Quartermaster Corps from which he was discharged as a First Lieutenant in 1946.

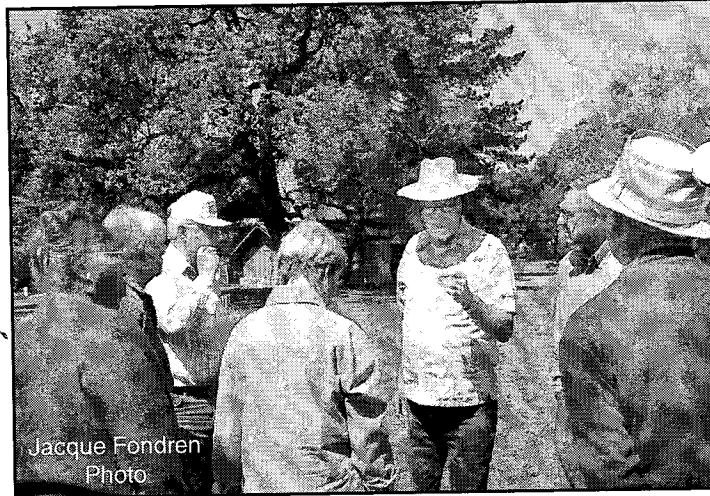
After the service he worked for the government in Inyokern as an explosives processing technician for two years before returning to Cal Berkeley for a BS degree in mechanical engineering. Degree in hand he moved back to the L. A. Basin to work at AiResearch in aerospace manufacturing for thirty years.

During these years he maintained his interest in the outdoors, camping, motorcycling, and sailing. Usually with a trailer, his favorite place to camp was offroad in the Mojave. He has sailed in a Cal 20 to all the offshore islands of California and Baja except San Nicolas Island.

Finally after retiring, he was able to pursue his interest in nature. His contributions to the Nature Center are many. He was the primary writer and editor, with small contributions from other Docents, of the Guide To Cachuma Lake, which now sells for \$4.00 in the gift shop. A comprehensive field guide, Cachuma Flora, includes line drawings, descriptions and locations of trees, shrubs, annuals, and other plants of the Park. The Guide to the Oak Canyon Nature Trail is also a product of his writing and editing. Many Docents have profited from his nature walks at Cachuma, which have given them the opportunity to learn the local plants by common and Latin names.

Don was the lead worker in converting the old ranch house kitchen into the present gift shop and building the kitchenette.

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DON WIMPRESS LEADING A NATURE WALK

ATTN. MUSHROOMS 'N FRIENDS

Recently an amazing fungus ("mushroom") has grown in the workshop at the Nature Center. Reaching a height of approximately 6 foot and a diameter of approximately ten inches, it caused a stir of interest among the Docents.

Consequently a Docent Training Lecture has been scheduled featuring fungus expert Bob Cummings, Santa Barbara City College Professor, for April 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Nature Center. The public is invited to attend.

To give direction to the speaker, individuals are requested to submit questions to Liz Mason or to Linda Taylor in advance regarding their interests/concerns in the field of fungi. Also, people attending the lecture may bring specimens in a box or paper bag for Dr. Cummings to examine and identify

BRING YOUR "SIGNIFICANT
OTHER" MUSHROOM



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Most recently he has served as Docent treasurer for the past three years. He has worked long and hard on developing the backyard as a native plant garden, on the docent training and recruitment committee, and on the exhibit committee. His favorite exhibit is the fresh plant display for which he designed and built the stands now in use, but he believes that "it is too much work." The birding window was his idea and he installed the mirrored glass in it.

In regard to the future of the Nature Center, he would like to see an audio/visual center built, which in his opinion would enable the organization to offer more services on an on-going basis.

SAGE

BY DON WIMPRESS

"Sage" is a name commonly given to any bushy plant growing in dry regions. Many people speak of the "sage" bushes in the desert; particularly the aromatic ones. However, most of these are not true sages, although many are classed as "sagebrush." The name "sage" is more specifically reserved for a member of the genus *Salvia* in the Mint (*Lamiaceae*) Family. Most of the sagebrushes are in the genus *Artemisia* in the Sunflower Family; far different from the Mint Family.

There are some eight species of sage listed by Cliff Smith for the Santa Barbara region, and five of these grow here in Cachuma Lake County Park. The most common of these is Purple Sage (*Salvia leucophylla*) which is predominant on the drier slopes on the north side of the lake, and less common on the dry terraces on the south side. There are several specimens along the Oak Canyon Nature Trail.

Probably the second most common of the bush-like sages is White Sage (*Salvia apiana*) which can be found on the Nature Trail or in the Overflow Area. Its leaves were commonly burned by the Chumash during their ceremonies. A great bee-plant, it provides much of the sage honey produced in Southern California. It is unusual, for a member of the Mint Family, with its round, rather than square, stems, and flowers that are not arranged in whirls along the stalk. The third bush-like sage in the area is Black Sage (*S. mellifera*) which is found occasionally in the park although there are specimens along the Nature Trail. This shrub is much more common as one travels southward into Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

The largest herbaceous-type sage we have is Hummingbird Sage (*S. spathacea*) which is fairly common in the shaded areas under the oaks or larger shrubs. It has large spikes of purple flowers which can be identified even when driving by. We have a patch of an unusual variety, which has yellow flowers, on the Nature Trail. Both Jepson and Munz, prominent California botanists, call this plant "Pitcher Sage." However, we have another plant (described later) by that name, and *S. spathacea* is mostly known as "Hummingbird Sage" in this area.

The smallest of our local sages is Chia Sage (*S. columbariae*) which is normally only about one foot tall. In some areas it is extremely profuse and the easy to pick flower heads are filled with nutritious little seeds that were highly-prized by the Chumash as a food source. This plant is uncommon in the park area, but can be found on the dry flats in the overflow area.

Two more sage species in the park area are a native hybrid of White and Purple species which is found near the beginning of the Sweetwater Trail. The second is a non-native shrub planted near the park entrance, and is, I believe, Mexican Sage (*S. leucantha*).

Another shrub with the common name of Pitcher Sage (*Lepechinia calycina*) is in the Mint Family, but is not a real sage. It is found only occasionally in the park, particularly on the dry terraces along the Sweetwater Trail.

The only "sagebrush" in the park is Coastal Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) which has a strong sagey smell and is common in dry chaparral areas. It is in the same genus as the Mugwort (*A. douglasiana*).



Black Sage

NEW OFFICERS

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors March 18, the following slate of new officers was elected. Marion Schlinger, President, for an unprecedented third term. Vice-President, Kirby Duncan; Secretary, Greg Donovan; and Lynda Williams-Terres Treasurer.

Docents also elected new officers at their March 13, meeting: Dick Cofiell, President; Alan Schwartz, Vice-President; Jacque Fondren, Secretary; Annie Ruano, Treasurer. It should be noted that all these officers are new to their positions in the Docent Organization.

At their respective meetings this month, both Docents and the Board of Directors approved policies for each organization. This is a milestone for the Nature Center. Neither group has had a comprehensive, organized, officially adopted body of policies since the founding of the Center.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

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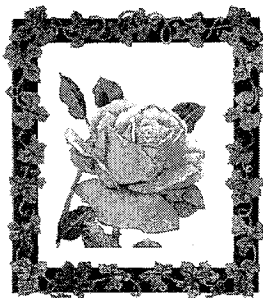
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LOSS TO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Veneranda ("Vennie") Ramirez, wife of Danny Ramirez, member of the Nature Center Board of Directors, passed away on February 15, of cancer. Nature Center volunteers will remember her smiling face and helping hands at last summer's Birthday Party for the Center.

A life long resident of Santa Barbara, she and Danny were married for 57 years. She is survived by Danny, two daughters, one son, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Vennie worked as a hairdresser for many years and was active in the Sister City Organization, Women's Auxiliary Group, and the Santa Barbara Christian Women's Club.



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NINTH ANNUAL TROUT DERBY APRIL 24, 25, 26!



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