

A FULL LAKE AND HELP NEEDED

By Linda Taylor

Cachuma Lake is full to the brim and then some actually! With the Lake surcharge the level is higher than it has ever been in its history. This should be a tremendous Tenth Annual Nature Center Trout Derby on April 9 and 10. Anglers young and old are urged to register prior to March 28 in order to pay the \$30 fee. After the 28th registration goes up to \$35 for adults. Children 10 years and younger may register for \$10. Call (805)693-8381 to request a registration form in the mail or pick one up at Nature Center, your local fishing tackle store or at the Park gate or marina.

Cash prizes of \$5000 will be awarded; however, at the requests of many competitors, the distribution of prize money has been revised from previous years. More cash prizes will be offered with top prize winners receiving less money than in other years and the money more evenly distributed among the other prizes.

Cash will be paid for trout caught in the following categories:

- three highest tag numbers (\$2000, \$550, \$300)
- three longest trout (\$1000, \$500, \$250)
- shortest trout (\$25)
- five children, 10 years and younger, catching the longest trout (\$25 each plus a rod and reel)
- next five children, 10 years and younger, catching the longest trout (rod and reel only)
- oldest angler (\$50) = The Dutch Wilson Award

A new facet has been added to the weekend fun - a silent auction which will be conducted at the Derby Headquarters on Friday, April 8, and at the weigh-in station on Saturday, April 9. All newsletter readers are urged to solicit donations of special items to be auctioned at this event.

Scheduling workers for 2005 Trout Derby is in process and readers are encouraged to lend a hand. Many types of jobs need doing: set up, registration, selling tee shirts, Nature Center duty, kids activities, weigh in station, Derby Headquarters host, silent auction, and clean up. Details on any particular job may be learned from any other experienced Docent or Board member.



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Working at the Derby is a lot of fun. Volunteers may camp in the Apache Pines group camping area in exchange for their labors. This area has water and electricity hook-ups, picnic tables and a covered group eating area with a large barbecue.

On Friday night there is an informal potluck for all volunteers in the camping area. On Saturday night there is the official large pot luck in the recreation hall for all volunteers, whether or not you are camping. Potential workers please contact Linda Taylor at 693-0691.

Other scheduled events for the weekend include a talk by Neal Taylor, former Naturalist, entitled "How to Catch the Winning Fish", Friday night at 7:00 at the Fireside Theater. Wildlife Cruises on the lake on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning - reservations recommended at 686-5050. Kids' arts and crafts activities will be on Saturday afternoon at the Nature Center. And the Nature Center will be open Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday morning. All readers are urged to support the Trout Derby by soliciting prizes from their favorite businesses and by donating cash or prize items themselves. Proceeds from the Derby are the mainstay of the Nature Center annual budget. These funds pay for the day to day operation of the Center and are critical to the success of the Center. All donations are tax deductible.

SEE YOU AT THE DERBY!

NEW FACES IN HIGH PLACES

BY LINDA TAYLOR

March is election month at the Nature Center and both the Board of Directors and the Docent Organization have chosen new leaders. Patricia Martin, a hard working Docent and Board member, has been elected President of the Board of Directors. She has worked as the de-facto Secretary of the Board since June of 2004. This is the fourth year that Patricia has efficiently managed the demanding job of registration for Trout Derby. In addition to the former she has worked as an interpretive Docent for visiting school groups and the Saturday Nature Walks. She writes regularly for the Center newsletter, served as Docent Organization Secretary for two terms, organized and administered the annual FeederWatch Program, and served on numerous committees including goals, policy and special events. Other newly elected Board officers are Vice-President Paul Barrett, Secretary Sandi Witcher and Treasurer Lynda Williams-Terres. Both Paul and Sandi are newer members of the Board and Lynda has served the organization efficiently and beneficially over many years as Treasurer.

Sandi Witcher has been elected President of the Docent Organization. Sandi is married to Jerry Witcher, a long standing member of the Docent Organization. Both Sandi and Jerry have efficiently and fairly managed the weigh-in station for the Trout Derby over the past two years. This can be a tedious Derby assignment, as it requires dealing with more controversies than other jobs. Vice President of the Docent organization is Brian Lincoln, a Docent of long-standing tenure. Secretary is June Pusley. Annie Ruano will continue for a second term in the office of Treasurer. Marian Schlinger, the outgoing President of the Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc. Board, has served longer than any other President in the history of the organization.. She was President or Co-President of the Board since August 2000.

The next scheduled meetings for both the Board and Docent Organization are scheduled for their regular times in May - May 14 for the Docents and May 19 for the Board. No meetings in April will occur so as to devote all our energy to the Trout Derby on April 9 & 10.

EXPO 2005

BY PATRICIA MARTIN

On March 3, 2005 the Cachuma Nature Center participated in the Valley Business and Tourism Expo, a mini trade show sponsored by the Santa Ynez Valley Visitors Association at the Royal Scandinavian Inn in Solvang. Judy Hansen and Patricia Martin set up the display table with a wonderful black bear skin and several artifacts along with brochures and information about the Nature Center, the Trout Derby and the Park activities. From 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Brian Lincoln and Patricia personed the table talking with the many visitors to the Expo and networking with the other exhibitors. The event was an excellent opportunity to connect with some of the museums in the area. Our attendance was time worth spent in making the Nature Center a more visible entity in the Santa Ynez Valley. Also the food was so yummy!!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

BY DICK COFIELL

First I would like to say that this has been a very good year except for the road washout on San Marcos Pass. Hope it will be back in service soon.

Let me say that we did well on the Trout Derby Fundraiser, the July Yard Sale and also the Barbecue Barn Dance. We got new bookcases in the docent room as well as new computer desks. Some exhibits changed and new ones were added. The Kids' Fishing Derby went very well, as did the Kids' Fishing Workshop. It was very well received. So I do want to thank all the Volunteers, Docents and Board Members for all the hard work that each of you so gracefully donated with your time and talents. Would also like to thank our two Naturalists who have kept us up to date on the lake sightings and what is happening in the park. And I do want to thank our Executive Director for help in keeping the Center running smoothly. You all made my job so much easier. For this I thank each and every one of you and know that you will continue giving all your support to the new incoming President.

CLNC Memberships Memberships Beginning 1/17/05

Charlie Jack
Greg Donovan
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Norris
Ruth Pratt
Frank Luran & Mary Ellen Barilotti
Mike and Vivian Pahos
Evelyn Putnam
Don Love
Ron Wilmot

Other Donations Since 1/17/05

Pacific Southwest District
of Optimist International
Annie Ruano
Tommie Miller
Lynda & Al Terres
Neal Taylor
Marilyn & Cleve Whitfield
Shayna Rockwell
Henry Logan
Kim Albright
Pacific Capital Bank
Aja Restaurant
Don and Judy Johnson
Towbes Foundation

HOUSE FLIES

BY DON WIMPRESS

For probably hundreds of years, man has tried to rid himself of these ubiquitous insects. They thrive in the human environment, feeding on garbage, animal excrement, and our food. They are not only pesky, buzzing around our faces, but they also transmit many diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery, and others, because of their feeding habits. Flies are member of the great order of "Arthropoda" which are invertebrate animals with exoskeletons and jointed legs. The largest sub-group in this order is the class "Insecta", which have 3 body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen); six legs; 0, 1, or 2 pairs of wings, 2 antennae, and compound eyes. The Flies have only one pair of wings, the second pair being reduced



HOUSE FLY

to stubs called "halteres" and are thought to aid the fly in balance. Only one pair of wings distinguish them from many similar-looking insects such as bees and wasps which have 2 pairs of wings. Flies are in the order "Diptera" which contains some 80,000 species. This order includes flies, mites and midges, and the House Fly is in the family Muscidae which is the largest family in the order Diptera", and con-

tains over 450 species in just California. Many of these species look very similar to our House Fly and are easily confused. Some species suck blood and have piercing mouth parts (both sexes bite), but the majority, like our House Fly, are incapable of biting and take up nourishment with "sponge"-type mouth parts. This is one of the reasons that they spread diseases so readily; if their food is too solid to sop up, they "throw up" on what they are ready to eat and the enzymes in the regurgitation help soften the prospective food. Unfortunately, this regurgitation often contains harmful bacteria from past food sources. Flies lay eggs in anything that can be a maggot food supply, such as animal excrement. Maggots are headless and legless, and in warm weather can grow very fast (5 days in this stage). Then they go through a pupae stage (5 more days) during which they fully metamorphosed to full-grown flies. If you see a small fly, it is not a "baby", but a full-grown fly of another species. An adult female housefly lives about a month, and the males about 2 weeks. Thus they can have a very short life cycle and multiply rapidly.

DOCENT PROFILE: A SISTER ACT

BY ALISON HUBBARD

It all started with a fly-fishing class. That's where long-time docent and gift shop maven Tommie Miller met Neal Taylor. Neal spoke to Tommie about the Nature Center and Tommie became a volunteer docent in 1997.

Tommie's sister, Annie Ruano, came along with Tommie to help with the Trout Derby for three years and became a volunteer herself in 1999. During those first few years, as now, Tommie and Annie faithfully helped at work meetings with such tasks as cleaning, mailings, and keeping up the Nature in the News and docent activity photo archive albums, as well as covering regular weekend shifts in the Center. In 2000 Tommie volunteered to be responsible for the Nature Center Gift Shop with Annie working as her assistant. Tommie does the ordering and Annie takes care of the accounting. Together they do tasks such as the annual inventory. In addition to her Gift Shop duties, Annie is starting her second year as Treasurer of the Docent organization. Annie and Tommie continue to lend a hand at the annual Trout Derby and were a great help with pricing merchandise for our first Yard Sale in 2003.

What Tommie likes best about being a volunteer are "meeting the people, being outdoors and being at the lake." Tommie is an avid angler, although she doesn't care much for camping. "I like to sleep in a real bed, have a shower at night, stay in a motel."

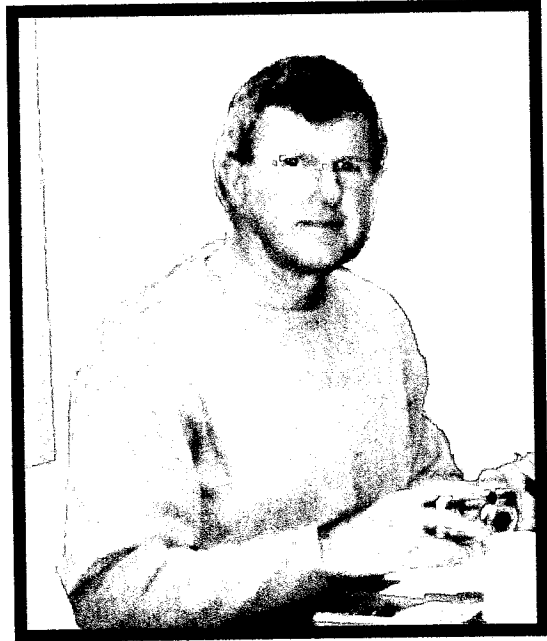
Annie likes meeting the people as well as the book work. She is particularly fond of the "mailing parties" where folding, stuffing, stamping and sealing are the order of the day, and she makes the mailings fun with her subtle but potent sense of humor. Both Annie and Tommie, two of ten siblings, were born and raised in Santa Barbara, where much of their large extended family still resides. Tommie is matriarch of a clan of 10 so far including her three children, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Annie was one of about 50 attendees at a recent Ruano family gathering.

Before returning to Santa Barbara in 1991 Annie helped her husband run their cattle ranch in Petaluma CA for 26 years. Tommie was manager of the footwear department at Jedlica's in Santa Barbara for 28 1/2 years before her retirement in 1996. Annie and Tommie love to travel and have traveled together to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Alaska, and throughout the western United States. Fortunately no matter how far they roam, they always return faithfully to their posts here at the Nature Center where all their hard work is greatly appreciated.

DARYL RUTHERFORD

By Dick Cofiell on behalf of all the docents, board members, naturalists and volunteers.

It was a sad day when I received a phone call from Carolyn Rutherford very early in the morning. She told me the news that Daryl passed away on March 9th 2005. Those of us who knew Daryl know that he was a hard working docent for the Nature Center and always had time for everyone. He loved to work in the shop, building displays, fixing what ever was broken, and always coming up with new ideas to improve things at the center. He had a fantastic sense of humor. Dressed in his fish pajamas and going down to work at the weigh in station at the crack of dawn for the Trout Derby was an especially amusing occasion. It sure did bring a lot of laughs. Daryl also made a lot of slides for the Wentzscope in the main room at the Nature Center. One of the last things Daryl did before leaving for Whidbey Island, where Carolyn and he spent their summers, was to build the Memorial bench around the tree in front of the Nature Center. Last year at the docent's awards celebration the bench was dedicated to our deceased docents. Now his name will be added to the bench. Daryl spent over six years at the Center and enjoyed every minute of it. Daryl was admired by everyone who came in contact with him, and he will be dearly missed by all of us. We all wish he were still with us. Our hearts go out to Carolyn and her family. She helped out at many of the special events. Come and visit often, Carolyn, as you are always welcome and we love you too.



May Daryl now rest in peace.



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