

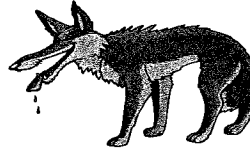


#63 MAY / JUNE 2003

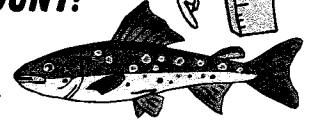
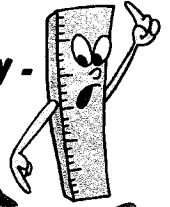
FEATURED THIS ISSUE:



**YOUR CAT
MISSING?**



**TROUT DERBY -
SIZE DOES
COUNT!**



**POSSUMS LIVING
UNDER YOUR PORCH?**



Over 900 anglers entered this Eighth Annual Derby sponsored by the Center, which ran from 6:00 a.m. Saturday, until noon on Sunday. Both boat and shore fishing were productive. The weather was cooperative which made for a pleasant weekend.

Elena Calles of Santa Barbara (right), with a prize of \$3,000. for catching this weekend's Cachuma Lake Na-flated night crawler Thomas Hartin longest trout which measured 22 3/8

Sixteen-year old Danny Martin of for \$100.00 plus a guided float trip Brock's Fly Shop of Bishop. His at 4.62 pounds.

Once again Dutch Wilson of Santa he can still have fun by winning nament to catch a trout. For a trout caught in the tournament,



Arroyo Grande resident Todd Bright won \$200.00 sponsored by Pitts and Bachman Realty. Twenty-five dollars was awarded to Jim Gentry of Huntington Beach for the shortest trout registered (7 3/16 inches). Seventeen-year old Matthew Moore of Goleta brought in the first tagged trout caught by a man. Young Santa Barbaran Lauren Alcorn, ten years old, also won \$100. for the first tagged trout caught by a woman. Twelve prizes of cash, fishing equipment, and annual Santa Barbara County Park passes were awarded to ten youngsters ten years old or younger who registered the longest trout in the children's category: James Maldonado Jr., age 10, Mission Hills: 17 7/8 inches and 15 9/15 inches and Christopher Marmiani, age 8, Reseda: 17 inches and 15 3/4 inches; each registered two winning fish in the children's category. Other winners were:

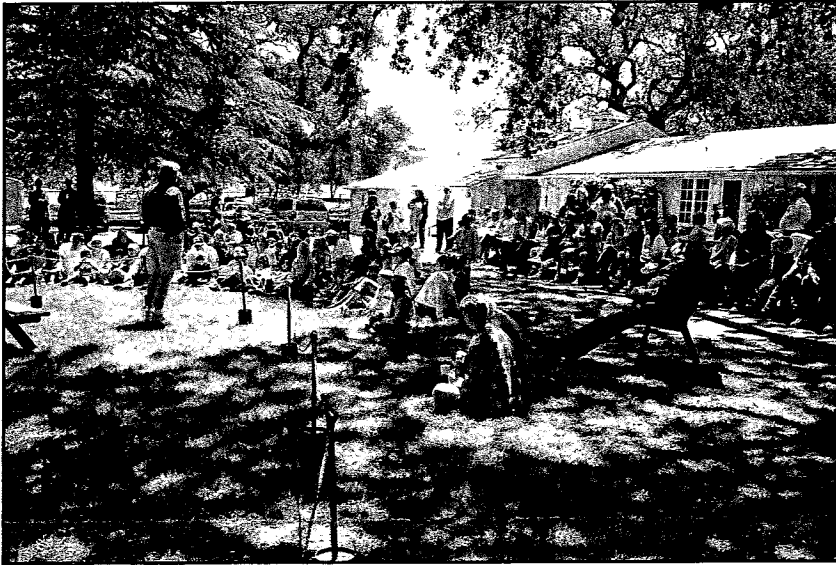
Gabriel Warkentin, age 8, Solvang: 19 inches.
Tanner Holder, age 8, Bakersfield: 17 3/8 inches.s
Kaitlyn Rickman, age 5, Santa Ynez: 16 3/8 inches.
Kayla Toneman, age 10, Santa Clarita: 15 7/8 inches.

Bryce Hutchison, age 5, Los Olivos, 17 1/8 inches
Frankie Hollon, age 8, Northridge: 17 inches.
Isaak Velasquez, age 6, Santa Barbara: 16 1/4inches.
Wyatt Garley, age 10, Los Olivos, 15 3/4 inches.

Major donors to the derby included Mid-State Bank, B.J.'s Towing, Santa Barbara Bank and Trust, The Schlinger Foundation, Buena Vista Care Center. Western Hoegee Corporation, The Chumash Band of Mission Indians. Henry Logan, Santa Ynez, chaired the Derby. More than forty volunteers from Santa Barbara County operated the contest.

ZOO-TO-YOU SHOWS OFF CRITTERS

There were some familiar faces appearing at the Zoo-To-You shows under the oaks at the Nature Center. Returning from last year were Bob the alligator, Pockets the opossum, Crockett the raccoon, and Cody the mountain lion. Aspen the bald eagle couldn't come this year because of Newcastle Disease restrictions. His replacements were two snakes, a king snake and a gopher snake. For each performance a child was chosen and invited to help out by holding Louie the king snake and showing him to the audience. David and Anita Jackson, founders of the Zoo-To-You program gave an entertaining and informative presentation which made the program very interesting for kids of all ages. The weather was almost perfect, and a crowd of maybe 300 was present at the two shows. Ice cream cones and cups plus root beer floats were sold by the volunteers after the shows. Thanks for all the workers who carried tables, set up parking cones, and did other necessary chores. And wouldn't you know, the very first customer tried to pay with a \$20 bill. Mad scramble for change! Nice program -we're glad we underwrote the visit.



A nice crowd gathered for the first of two shows



Pockets gets some loving

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

!! RUMMAGE SALE !!

Labor Day weekend Nature Center fund raiser

Please donate your used/unwanted items:

- Camping gear
- Fishing gear
- Hiking gear
- Travel gear
- Adult & kids' games
- Sports equipment & yard games
- Books, puzzles
- CDs, videos, audio tapes
- Christmas/holiday decorations
- Kitchen/household items
- Small appliances
- etc.

Only new/nearly new clean clothing, on hangers, covered with dry cleaning bags, clearly marked with size and boys/girls/men/women

No LARGE items

If you wish any unsold item returned to you, please mark it clearly with your name and phone number

CALL 693-0691 Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
to arrange for bring-in

Classy Coffee



All CLNC Docents and Directors are invited to attend a Classy Coffee on Saturday, June 28, at 10:30 a.m. at the Nature Center. All who attend must invite a potential volunteer to come to this occasion as well. Each CLNC affiliate should consider extending invitations to friends, neighbors, colleagues and family members who might be interested in volunteering time at the Center. Help is needed in many areas: interpretive work, hosting the Nature Center, computer tasks, writing, exhibit development, outreach and others. Please contact Barbara Gutmann or Linda Taylor with names and addresses for invitations. Both men and women are encouraged to participate. Neal Taylor will give a fly-casting demonstration during the course of the morning.

invitations to friends, neighbors, colleagues and family members who might be interested in volunteering time at the Center. Help is needed in many areas: interpretive work, hosting the Nature Center, computer tasks, writing, exhibit development, outreach and others. Please contact Barbara Gutmann or Linda Taylor with names and addresses for invitations. Both men and women are encouraged to participate. Neal Taylor will give a fly-casting demonstration during the course of the morning.

WILY COYOTE

By Jacque Fondren

There is a good reason we've heard the coyote labeled "wily". It's the same reason the coyote figure occurs in so many folktales as the "trickster"; the coyote is intelligent and extremely adaptable. His intelligence can be seen as he teams up with his mate to run a relay against a young deer. The two will take turns, outlasting the deer as it is run to the point of exhaustion, making it easy prey. The coyote has been known to plan and execute an ambush of unsuspecting prey through diversion. These tactics are used when the need to work together for larger game is necessary. Forming packs is not unusual in the northern winters when food is scarce and they need numbers to take down larger game. In warmer climates where small game is abundant and easy to catch, most coyotes forage alone or in pairs. Coyotes occasionally form hunting partnerships with American badgers. The coyote uses its highly developed senses to locate burrowing rodents, then stands back while the badger digs them out with its powerful claws. The two animals then share the spoils.

Their amazing adaptability can be seen in the variety of their diet. Although classified as carnivores, the coyote is a survivor and can become an omnivore, eating nuts, grasses and berries and insects when necessary. They much prefer meat, however, and typically eat rodents and rabbits. While it is true coyotes have been caught feeding on the carcass of domestic livestock, they are carrion eaters. But who is to say how or what initially killed the sheep or calf? A coyote will find the carcass of an animal and feed upon it. Because of the versatility of his diet, the coyote can flourish when his food source is threatened.

Another example of the coyote's versatility is seen in its adaptability to new environments. At one time, the coyote's range was primarily in central and southwestern part of the United States and Mexico, but now his range extends from Alaska to Costa Rica. Coyotes are native to California and inhabitants of Santa Barbara County. Seldom seen because they are nocturnal and elusive, the coyote can leave footprints that are sometimes revealed in the early morning dampness. A coyote's tracks are identified when the front paw of four toes is slightly larger and toenails are visible. Most of the time, a visitor will spot this cousin of the wolf by his yellow eyes, and bushy, black-tipped tail. He's the approximate size of a German Shepherd and can be characteristically seen walking in a straight line with his tail down and pausing briefly to glance over his shoulder as he flees.

Foes of the coyote include the black bear, wolves, mountain lions, and humans. Mountain lions have been known to knock out a small coyote pup with their paws. The major threat to the coyote is man. Approximately 300,000 coyotes are killed annually by ranchers who suspect the coyote as the culprit in the loss of livestock. Only 50% -70% of the coyotes live to adulthood.



mountain lions and even the Golden Eagle. Golden Eagles use their talons, killing it on impact. But the major threat to the coyote is man. Countless others are poisoned or trapped in their loss of livestock. Disease and parasites are also

Coyotes mate for life and are protective parents. Mating in early spring and giving birth two months later, both parents share equally in the responsibility of raising their offspring. In preparation for their birth, the parents can create a den from a tree hollow, a hole between rocks, or in a tunnel previously belonging to a skunk or fox. Most commonly, a den will be burrowed in soil along the banks of a stream. For the first ten days of life the newborn pups are without sight and are constantly under the watchful eyes of the protective parents. Partially digested food is regurgitated by the parents and offered to the pups until they eventually learn to eat voles and other rodents. Then in the fall, the offspring leave the den and parents to claim their own territory. If the food supply is abundant, pups may stay to form packs, which are typically made up of the parents, last year's offspring and the new pups. While a typical litter size is six, litters have been documented to be as large as 19. Survival instinct comes into play when their numbers become threatened. The wily coyote will reproduce twice as fast to replenish its numbers and ensure its place in the world.

CAROL CHRISTENSEN SMAGALA
BROKER/REALTOR®

Pitts & Bachmann
REALTORS

IN THE TRADITION OF SANTA BARBARA

1436 STATE STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93101
carolsmagala@aol.com

BUS. 805/963-1391
RES. 805/687-4183
FAX. 805/966-3622
Voice Mail 805/961-2602



There's a new look to the newsletter this month. The cost of printing almost doubled to nearly \$100 last time; the printer maintains that previous charges were a "mistake". We'll try to cut costs by using thinner paper and fewer pages. Changing the typeface to Times results in more words in less space while, hopefully, improving readability. Less nonsense means great space savings too. One way to help on costs is to get revenue from business ads, a common practice in most newsletters. Carol Smagala has placed the first ad to get things going. What are your thoughts on this idea? Would you put an ad in the newsletter? Let us know. (Hey, if we get enough ads, maybe the newsletter editor can draw a salary!) Ha!

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS