

IMPORTANT DATES

December 17, 6:00 PM, Christmas Party

November 13, 3:00 PM, Docent Recruitment and Training Committee

November 20, 6:00 PM, Trout Derby Meeting

November 22, 10:00 AM, Barn Dance Evaluation Meeting



BARN DANCE/BARBECUE FUND-RAISER

BY LINDA TAYLOR

A barn dance and barbecue were held by the Nature Center Docents and Board of Directors on October 18, at the recreation hall at Cachuma Lake. As a fund-raising event--and as a genuine good time--the event was termed successful by the organizing committee. More than \$2,700.00 were raised to augment the coffers of the CLNC which have been diminished by lower Trout Derby proceeds and loss of some grant monies.

The rec hall was brightly decorated with fall leaves, scarecrows, pumpkins, bales of hay and other fall touches. Food was served on the lawn outside the hall where tiny twinkling lights lit the area and hurricane lamps, candles, red table cloths and bandanas decked the tables. During the pre-dinner social hour, the local trio, the Floyd County Boys, played--their donated time and talents arranged for by Board member Danny Ramirez. Square Dance Caller Don Varner taught basic square dance steps and called simple dances in which everyone could participate. Hope Smith cued line dancing, with instruction as well. Both experienced dancers and beginners seemed to have a wonderful time.

A "Country Store" offered for sale donated handmade goods from many sources, including Judy Duncan, Stephanie Smagala, Lynda Williams-Terres, Neal Taylor, Sandi Witcher, and others. Profit from the store was \$484.00 (included in the above "grand total"). Ranger Trainee Darla Colbry won \$140.00 in a 50/50 drawing. Wine, beer and softdrinks were available to purchase.

Docent Dick Cofiell, chairperson of the event, says, "thank you to all who helped to make this event such a great suc-

cess. It was a lot of work for those who helped, but well worth it..." He said he had heard many favorable comments regarding the decorations done by Barbara Gutmann, Lois Cofiell, and Rose Hodges, and the food prepared by Dennis Daniel, Bill Hodges, and Jerry Martin. "Many more people helped with the set up, selling tickets, dispensing drinks, etc. Thank you again, one and all." A significant factor in the success of the event was the great assistance given by several Docent spouses: Jerry Martin, Rose Hodges, Lois Cofiell, and the husband of Director Lynda Williams-Terres, Al Terres. Dick Cofiell and Bill Hodges each sold numerous tickets to square dance club and German Club members. Thanks also to Ed Ando in Buellton who provided the corn stalks used in the decorations.

Since the dance was planned on very short notice, many members of the organization were away on long-planned trips and were unable to help during the event itself, thus shifting the load to a smaller group of people than usually help on such occasions.



Alan Schwartz Photo

Lois, Linda and Barbara Staff the Country Store

DOCENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2002-2003

BY LINDA TAYLOR

Nature Center Docents and others were honored by the Board of Directors on October 5, 2003, with a barbecue prepared by Director Dennis Daniel in the private picnic area belonging to the marina concession.

Barbara Gutmann and Dick Cofiell were singled out for outstanding service as Docents of the Year at this annual event.

This year Barbara has worked on a committee in a year-long project of revising Docent Policies. Repeatedly she has acquired numerous donations of merchandise, cash, and gift certificates from local merchants and businesses for Trout Derby prizes. Her organizational ability helped to ensure presentation of Zoo-to-You again this past spring. She has planned or helped to plan various social events: the Christmas Party, the Docent Recognition event, the Trout Derby pot luck, and volunteer recruitment coffee hours, as well as a fund-raiser fashion party in her own home. In years past she has also been President and secretary of the Docent Organization. She also takes her turn regularly in hosting the Nature Center on weekends.

Dick Cofiell began his work at the Center helping to build exhibits and doing maintenance tasks on the building; however, he has more recently fallen into leadership roles as vice-president of the Docent Organization, frequently filling in to chair meetings in the absence of the president. Beginning early this summer Dick has worked very hard as chairperson of the first Barn Dance/Barbecue. Dick has kept projects going in the Center and workshop including computer tasks and hands-on wood working. He also takes his turn at hosting the Center and on performing Trout Derby assignments.

Two special awards were presented. The Santa Ynez Valley News was spotlighted for its consistent coverage of Nature Center Events. The gratitude of the Nature Center Organization was expressed to Susan Hamm for her on-going organization and leadership with special children's activities during Trout Derby and the Nature Center's Fifteenth Birthday Party this summer.

A unique award was presented to Docent Fred Blaser for the many years he has served as the time keeper of volunteer hours. The award was an old-fashioned dinner bell, which he is expected to ring at noon sharp on work days at the Center, calling volunteers to lunch from wherever they may be on the grounds of the Nature Center. Fred was away for the annual recognition event; his award was presented on October 26.

President of the Board, Marion Schlinger, was honored by the Docent Organization for her five years of service to the Nature Center. She has been Board President for two years, Co-president for one prior year, and has served extensively on the Board Policy committee, the Docent Recruitment and Training committee, and the Trout Derby committee.

For the first time, Docents were given pins to recognize ongoing commitment and loyalty in the number of years of service they have given to the Center (in 5 year increments). They were as follows: Don Wimpess and Linda Taylor, fifteen years; Fred Blaser, 10 years; Betty Wimpess, Jerry Witcher, Barbara Gutmann, Tommie Miller, Helen Osenga, and Brian Lincoln, 5 years.

As usual certificates were given for hours worked during the year: Alan Schwartz, newsletter editor, devoted 519 hours primarily on the newsletter and computer tasks. (*I have no life! - Ed.*) Helen Osenga, Don Wimpess, Linda Taylor, and Barbara Gutmann each volunteered over 400 hours.

More than 300 hours were served by Brian Lincoln, Patricia Martin, Annie Ruano, Bill Hodges, Fred Blaser, and Dick Cofiell.

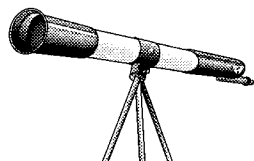
Betty Wimpess, Marilyn Whitfield, Daryl Rutherford, and Tommie Miller devoted more than 200 hours to the Center.



CLNC Board President Marion Schlinger is flanked by Co- Docents of the Year, left, Dick Cofiell, right, Barbara Gutmann

LOOKING UP

BY HELEN OSENGA



During the last half of November, Mars shines brightly high in the southern sky. It sets around 1:30 AM as it loses another third of its brightness. We have several other planets that we can look for as Mars is beginning to dim from its early summer brightness.

Saturn will be rising in the east around 8:00 PM with Orion to its right in the sky. Jupiter rises much later about 1:00 AM, and at dawn it shines as the brightest object in the southwest sky.

Venus is just beginning to make its appearance in the early evening sky. It will be low in the southwest at twilight and sets before dark. In December Venus will be visible higher in the sky each night. Venus was once thought to be two separate bodies which we still commonly refer to as the morning star and evening star. Venus is sometimes called Earth's sister planet as it is similar in size, mass, density and volume; however it turns out that Venus is nothing like Earth. It has no oceans, has an atmosphere composed of carbon dioxide with clouds of sulfuric acid and a surface pressure 92 times that of earth's. If that is not enough to make you think twice about making a visit, Venus has a surface temperature of 900 degrees F, hot enough to melt lead. This is due to a greenhouse effect. As sunlight heats the surface of the planet, heat is trapped by the dense atmosphere making Venus hotter than Mercury which is closer to the sun.

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Lynda Williams
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6596 Camino Venturoso
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1436 STATE STREET
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WARNING TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE
We, the spirits of 37,753 WRONG
answers inside this tomb curse
any who try to remove this cover!

One of the oldest and most popular of the Center's exhibits is known as the Mammal Board; wildlife photos are accompanied by a choice of three numbered pushbuttons that are keyed to statements about the pictured subject. There are two correct answers; pushing the corresponding buttons yields a green CORRECT light. One pushbutton is FALSE; choosing that answer results in a red light. Don Wimpres is remembered as developing and building the display many years ago. Time takes a toll on any exhibit that is frequented by eager children; there was a major redo done some time past, but that too has faded. There are many repeat visitors who remember the answers; there was a need for another upgrade. Jacque Fondren took on the job of choosing new wildlife photos and organizing their placement; Alan Schwartz scanned, optimized and printed the photos, and the docent workforce will open the case and replace the images. Mindful of the Mummies Curse that felled so many of past tomb explorers, we hope that those docents who ignore the curse will not meet a mysterious demise. There are a lot of WRONG answer spirits lurking within this box!

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

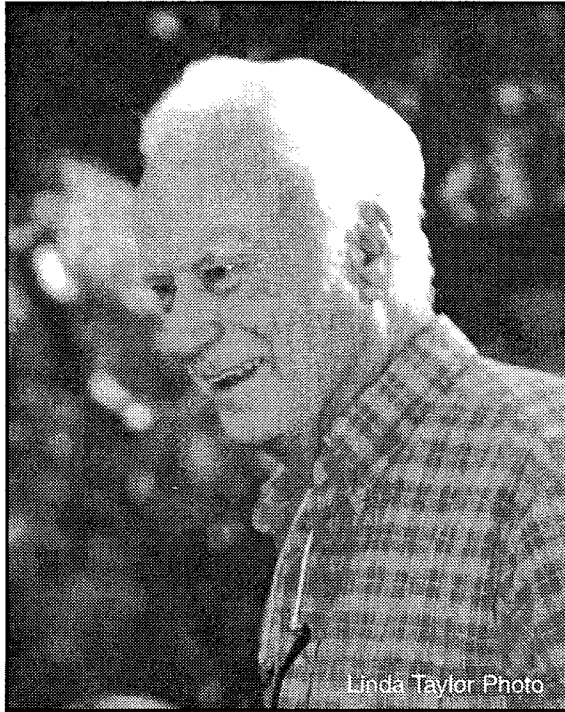
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Paul Roark • Greg Donovan • Neal Taylor
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DOCENT ORGANIZATION

President	Bill Hodges
Vice-President	Dick Cofield
Secretary	Patricia Martin
Treasurer	Don Wimpres
Newsletter Editor	Alan Schwartz
Executive Director	Linda Taylor

DON WIMPRESS



Don received a 15-year pin

FIVE YEAR PIN RECIPIENTS



CLNC Board President Marion Schlinger and pin recipients (from left) Barbara Gutmann, Jerry Witcher, Brian Lincoln, Betty Wimpress, Tommie Miller (Not shown: Helen Osenga)



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