

CACHUMA FLYER

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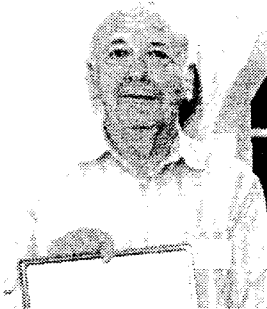
ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT

Carol Smagala and Marion Schlinger, co-chairpersons of the Nature Center Board, presented awards to several docents and volunteers for their outstanding service at the annual recognition party, Sunday, October 22.



Helen Osenga was given the Ralph and Maggie Klages Award for her extensive interpretive work with school children and other groups, maintaining exhibits, scheduling volunteers, and coordinating and leading astronomy programs.

Brian Lincoln received the Docent of the Year award for his ongoing service to the Center, such as assisting in exhibit construction, remodeling the aquarium service room, maintaining the building and grounds, and assisting with outreach programs.



Other docents were recognized for hours volunteered at the Center: George Hughes (64), Bob Runnels (63), Annie Ruano (162), Barbara Gutmann (232), Connie Howerton (161), Becky Deutsch (287), Brian Lincoln (293), Daryl Rutherford (280), Fred Blaser (213), Helen Osenga (272), Tommie Miller (231), Donna Shorts (344), Betty Wimpress (459), Don Wimpress (488), Evelyn Putnam (590), and Linda Taylor (759).



Sally Cappon and Mike Moropoulos of the Santa Barbara News Press were recognized as Friends (Amigos) of the Nature Center for their coverage of Nature Center events, particularly the annual Trout Derby fund raiser and publicity of the Center and its goals.



Docents, l-r: George Hughes, Annie Ruano, Daryl Rutherford, Tommie Miller, Brian Lincoln, Helen Osenga, Evelyn Putnam, Don Wimpress, Betty Wimpress, Barbara Gutmann, and Linda Taylor.

A SPECIAL AWARD



Helen Logan was presented a special award at the awards day by Evelyn Putnam, Docent President, for outstanding service to the Nature Center as a long-standing member of the Cachuma Lake Nature Center Foundation Board of Directors.

Helen, currently vice-president of the Board, has worked intensively to promote the Annual Trout Derby, the Center's major fund-raising event. She has written and distributed publicity for this event over most of Southern California and assists the chairperson of the event with organizational and administrative duties.

As a grant writer, Helen has established contacts with several local donor organizations and has made possible the acquisition of extensive funding to the Center over several years. She serves as liaison between the nonprofit Cachuma Lake Nature Center and the Santa Barbara County Park Department.

Her efforts have resulted in the addition of several volunteers to the Board of Directors. She also participates in a slide-show presentation, promoting the organization and attracting additional volunteers at meetings of local service clubs and other groups.

Her ability to keep volunteers focused on the business to be accomplished is a unique talent she brings to the organization.

A SPECIAL PERSON



Softspoken Betty Wimpless commenced managing the Gift Shop in 1996. Poring over hundreds of catalogs in the last four-and-a-half years, she has painstakingly managed to buy wisely thousands of items. Each of these items had to be coded, catalogued, and individually marked for sale. This surely has been an exercise in tedium!

How to attractively display the items evolved over the years with the addition of special display cases, book racks, and book cases, all of which she carefully thought out and frugally purchased.

The sales transactions are recorded by the many docents who handle visitor purchases. Using one of her special talents, she successfully persuaded husband Don to record these transactions, one by one, into a computer program for later analysis. Based on these analyses we know that, over the period of her management, \$14,100 in profits has been transferred to the Nature Center's major account. What a remarkable success Betty has attained - and without ever raising her voice.

Recently Betty turned over management of the Gift Shop to Tommie Miller, who will be assisted by her sister Annie Ruano and Donna Shorts. Meanwhile, Betty has quietly assumed a number of new tasks for which we are grateful.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN WITH THESE CREATIVE, LAID-BACK FOLKS, JUST DROP IN ANY WEDNESDAY AT ABOUT 10:00 AM. AT THE CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER. BRING A LUNCH.

HOW BIG IS BIG – HOW FAR IS FAR?

At the last regular Docent Meeting (second Saturday of the month), Helen Osenga shared her notes on one of the Astronomy Night sessions during the "Educational Minute."

Earth is 25,000 miles around the middle (Equator). How far is 25,000 miles?

- The U.S. is 2,500 miles across.
- Four to five days hard driving - LA to NY; Don't stop, except to eat and sleep.
- Wrap 10 U.S. distances around the equator
- 40 to 50 days of hard driving to go around Earth

How far is Earth from Sun?

- 93 million miles.
- How long would it take in a 747 flying at 600 mph?
- Seventeen years!

Longer distances are measured by reference to the speed of light - 186,000 miles per second.

- At this rate, light takes 8 minutes to travel from Sun to Earth; the same distance it took our 747 seventeen years to travel. (If Sun turned off, it would take us 8 minutes before we would know it.)

Astronomers measure distances in terms of how long it takes for light to travel that distance. Therefore, a light year is defined as the distance light travels in one year at 186,000 miles per second - about 6 trillion miles.

- A string the length of one light year would wind around Earth's equator 236 million times.

Earth is quite small in terms of the solar system. For instance:

- You could fit 1,000 Earths into Jupiter and 1,000 Jupiters into Sun.
- Therefore, it would take 1 million Earths to fill our Sun.
- As for the largest star we know of, Betelgeuse, 1 million of our Suns would fit inside it.

As the resolving power of modern telescopes increases, we are seeing further back into time!

- For instance, the star Vega is 26 light-years away from us. So, we are seeing it now as it was 26 years ago.

Astronomers are continually striving to see farther, (and hence, farther back into time). Is there a limit to this quest? We can only watch and wait.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

Board Officers

Marion Schlinger, Carol Smagala, Co-Presidents
Helen Logan, Vice-President
Lorraine LaFargue, Lynda Williams, Co-Treasurers
(Linda Taylor, Secretary to the Board)

Docent Officers

Evelyn Putnam, President
Helen Osenga, Vice-President
Becky Deutsch, Treasurer
Barbara Gutmann, Bob Runnels, Co-Secretaries

The Nature Center can be reached at 805-693-0691, or clnatctr@sbceo.org. Evelyn Putnam, editor of the Flyer, can be reached at 805-688-5829 or evputnam@silcom.com.

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ BOX NO. _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check for a donation of \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other ☐

A donation of \$20 entitles you to all of the Nature Center mailings. A \$100 donation entitles to you to all of the mailings, as well as a year-round pass to Cachuma Lake Recreational Area.

Whether or not you decide to make a donation, if you would like to become a Docent or Volunteer, check here ☐.

Mail to: Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc., Cachuma Lake, HC 58, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

The Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation.

Cachuma Lake Nature Center Flyer

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November 2000



CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER
CACHUMA HC-58
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Turkey Mullein (Dove Weed)

Eremocarpus setigerus



Turkey Mullein

As we approach Thanksgiving, we need to think of a plant that is associated with the season - How about "Turkey?" Well, a common native plant around the Santa Ynez Valley at this time of year is the Turkey Mullein.

When you look across ranchland where the cattle have eaten vegetation to the bare dirt, occasionally one sees a low, gray mound of a plant, maybe 8 inches high and up to 36 inches across. The seeds of this plant germinate in the spring and a small plant forms that sends a root down, deep into the soil. When the other spring plants (grasses) die or are eaten away, this plant thrives and grows, thanks to its now-deep roots. Closer

inspection reveals that the gray color comes from the intensely hairy, ovate leaves, about 0.5 to 2 inches long. The entire plant is covered with hairs, some stiff and prickly.

The Turkey Mullein plant is monoecious, i.e., it bears separate male and female flowers. The male flowers are small and are in the lower leaf axils; the female flowers are in the upper leaf axils, essentially at the ends of the branches. The name of the flower *eremocarpus*, comes from the Greek *eremos* (lonely) and *karpos* (fruit), referring to the solitary carpel of the pistillate flower.

The plant is distasteful to cattle, and so it is not eaten, even though there may not be other vegetation available. When mixed in hay and, hence, eaten by cattle, it is poisonous.

However, the rather large seeds are a favorite of larger birds, such as quail, doves, and turkeys; hence, the name Turkey Mullein or Dove Weed.

Don Wiimpress