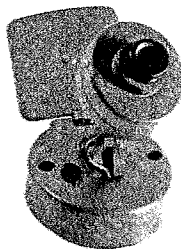




#59 September - October 2002

FEATURED THIS ISSUE:



**DIS 'N DAT:
BAD GUYS
LOOK OUT!**

**POTLUCK
MAGNIFICO!!**



**CROP CIRCLES AND
SIMILAR MYSTERIES**

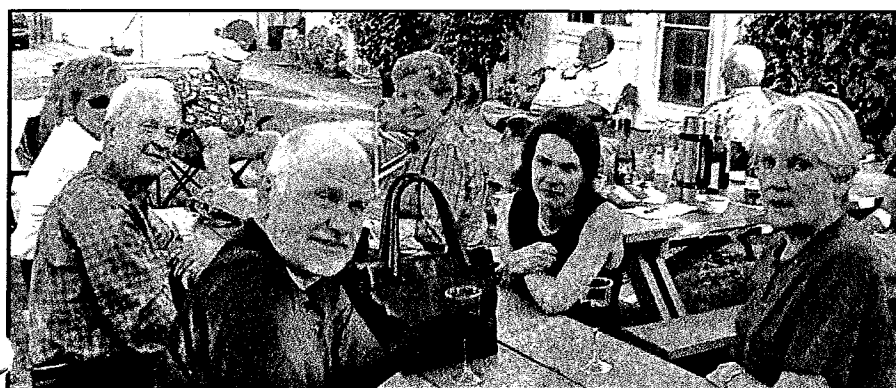


STARS

AND MORE!



**WORTH TWO
BUCKS ?**



UNORGANIZED POTLUCK

On August 17, the Cachuma Nature Center Docents gathered at the picnic benches to share a great abundance of delicious food. It's always amazing that, with absolutely no plan-

ning or organization of any kind, just the right mix of food - snacks, main dishes, salads, desserts, and beverages - seem to materialize, and in quantities far greater than necessary. So it was this time too. It was a very comfortable night to have an outdoor event, so everybody seemed to have a good time. It was Astronomy night also, so after dinner, most of us trooped over to the Fireside Theatre for a great talk by Chuck McPartlin and then groped our way through the darkness, avoiding falling on our faces, to the telescope setup.



A boy gets perhaps his first chance to look at the stars through a quality telescope, again aided by Chuck.



DIS 'N DAT FROM DON WIMPRESS

NEW SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

Alan Schwartz, one of our new docents, has donated and installed a surveillance system in the Nature Center. There are cameras in the Chumash Room and the Dam Room so that almost all areas, including both entrance doors, can be monitored from any of three stations located in the Docent's Room, the Gift Shop, and Linda's Office. This installation will be a great asset for people working alone in the Nature Center as one can see what is going on throughout the center from anyone of these work areas.

A NEW SHOPSMITH

Linda Williams-Terres has donated a "Shopsmith" machine to our workshop. A "Shopsmith" is a machine that combines many woodshop tools as attachments to a lathe-like chassis. Included in the attachments are a wood-turning lathe, a circular saw, a band saw, a reciprocating saw, a drill press, a jointer, a belt sander, and a disk sander. It's a complete workshop in one combination! This will be a most valuable asset to our exhibit-making docents. *GOSH, DON, HERE'S A MACHINE THAT WILL CUT OFF MY LEGS AND ARMS SIMULTANEOUSLY; THAT IS REAL POWER! - ED.*

MONTAÑA de ORO FIELD TRIP

Six Docents and our two naturalists made an all-day excursion to Montaña de Oro State Park and the newly-revised Morro Bay Museum. We were met at Montaña de Oro by Morro Bay Museum Docent Jack Yates. First we visited a native plant garden constructed partly in boxes, and partly in the natural brush environment. They had a problem similar to ours in that the garden is on a restricted site and they solved this by building the boxes above ground level. A drip watering system supplies both the boxes and the plants in the natural environment. The plants are identified and some with additional description. This was followed by a walk along the ocean bluffs where we learned about the human history and the geology of the area. Also so saw a few birds and plants. We then visited their little ranch house visitor's center; much smaller than ours, but along the same "low key" approach. We ate lunch at the nearby picnic area, and then traveled to the Morro Bay Museum to see its newly installed, highly controversial, exhibits. With multimillion dollar financing they have completely rebuilt the museum with professionally-designed and constructed "interactive" exhibits. After the museum visit, we took a short walk around a nearby sand spit to view the various shore birds in the lagoon.

ANNUAL FALL RECOGNITION PARTY

On October 20, Docents, Members of the Board of Directors and guests will gather for the Annual Fall Recognition party at the Nature Center. At that time awards will be made to individuals in the organization who have contributed in an outstanding way.

Docent Of The Year is an annual award given to the Docent who has demonstrated significant effort on behalf of the Nature Center during the preceding fiscal year; this award is based on service, not on numbers of hours worked.

The Ralph And Maggie Klages Award may be given for extraordinary accomplishment, usually over a period of time, to further the goals of the Nature Center. This is not necessarily an annual award.

The Director's Award may be given to a Director in recognition for significant effort toward achieving the goals of the Nature Center; this also is not necessarily given annually.

Other awards may be given to community people, or to other volunteers who are not Docents or Members of the Board.

Previous Winners are:

The Klages Award: 1991, Ralph Klages; 1994, Don Wimpress; 1997, Linda Taylor; 2000, Helen Osenga; 2001, Evelyn Putnam.

Docent of the Year: 1991, Don Wimpress; 1993, George Smith and Linda Taylor; 1994, Kathy Badrak and Karen Osland; 1995, George Hughes; 1996, Connie Howerton; 1997, Jim Smith and Betty Wimpress; 1998, Charlie Jack; 1999, Evelyn Putnam; 2000, Brian Lincoln; 2001, Tommie Miller.

The Director's Award: 1999, Helen Logan.

Carol Smagala is in charge of the party planning and organization; it will be catered again by Tiffany and Craig Lingham from the Marina Snack Bar.

MONTAÑA de ORO TRIP

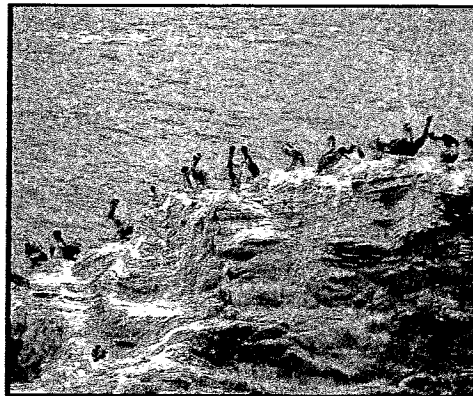


DOCENTS OR NOT- IF YOU SAW A CROWD LIKE THIS IN L.A. YOU'D CALL 911

ALAS, POOR YORICK (FROM HAMLET)



LIZ EXAMINES A SKULL



LOTS OF BIRDS!

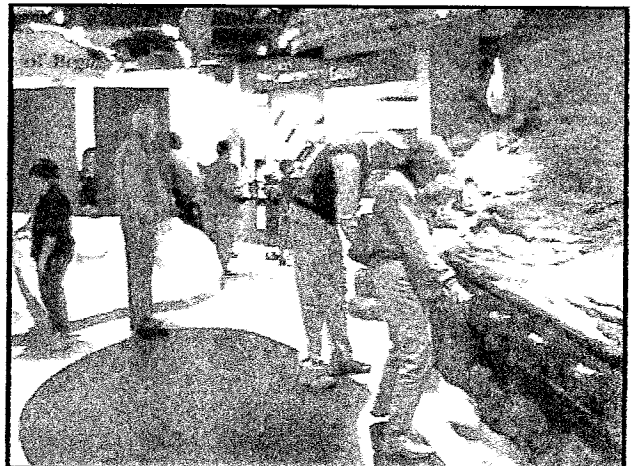
On August 22, a group of Cachuma Lake docents traveled to the Montaña de Oro State Park to see their Visitors Center and to enjoy an in-depth tour given by Jack Yates. We also saw the native plant garden, and walked along the ocean cliffs. The Center, as with Cachuma Lake, is located in the smallish original Ranch House. We had a private tour of their exhibits, some of which might be applicable to our Center. The Native Plant garden was quite interesting, with many of the plants blooming. The Garden is maintained by the docents; it looked well tended. Our group enjoyed a picnic lunch at the picnic area next to the Center. The weather was quite pleasant; however, walking along the cliffs clothed in 300 weight polyester tended to cause some perspiration. An attempt to remove the fleece jacket resulted in a wind chill level of minus 20°, or so it felt.



NOT KNOWING IT'S ILLEGAL, BETTY GATHERS SOME CHOICE ROCKS TO TAKE HOME. ANYONE KNOW HOW TO BAKE A CAKE WITH A FILE INSIDE?

We then moved on to Morro Bay State Park for a change of pace. There was a sense of shock when we entered the new Museum in Morro Bay. A magnificent structure, but so full of moving, computerized, loud, and almost overpowering exhibits. Our group seemed to use the word "arcade" a lot. Comments: "It was fun and illuminating; but I wish we had the money that was sunk into the Morro Bay Museum—even 25% of it." "There was too much stuff in too small a space." "The exhibits were too noisy." "The action features did not lend to the learning experience." "The money would have been better spent hiring a couple of folks to accompany kids and control or direct their interactions with the exhibits."

AN ARCADE, OR THE MORRO BAY VISITORS CENTER?



WORLD BEATS A PATH ...

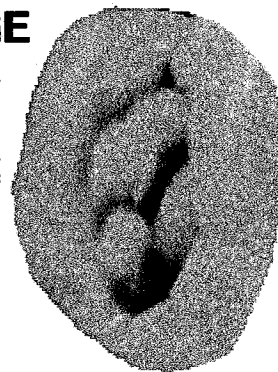
...to the door of a quality operation. Recently Linda met with approximately ten docents from Pismo Beach Nature Center. The visit was arranged by one of our former docents George Smith with the purpose of learning more about exhibits. Their concerns regard design and construction of exhibits; the "who and how" of that process. They have a very small center, only one room, at present and work closely with a nearby library where students visit to hear stories and then come to the Center for correlating exhibits.

WANTED: YOUR RED BRICKS!

With hopes of receiving grant money to improve our patios, we are on the hunt for bricks that folks have stacked at home from some by-gone project. Please call 693-0691

MYSTERIOUS IMAGE

It is very intimidating to see docents and naturalists demonstrate their knowledge of flora and fauna with ease in front of us new recruits. Well guys and gals, so Naaah, Naaah, Naaah, let's see if you can determine what this is!



THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE, BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY USEFUL HINTS:

- The image may be microscopic in size.
- This thing is involved in Crop Circles.
- Many, many mammals can exhibit this but not whales nor Nubian goats.
- It can be found in a limited amount of colors.
- It is seldom seen in the context of the image above.
- Contact with it may sometimes be fatal.

**ANSWER
WILL BE
IN NEXT
ISSUE**

**Editor's
Corner**

NOTE: THIS IS A
"FAMILY" PUBLICATION; ALL
IMAGES ARE "G" RATED



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