



The Flyer

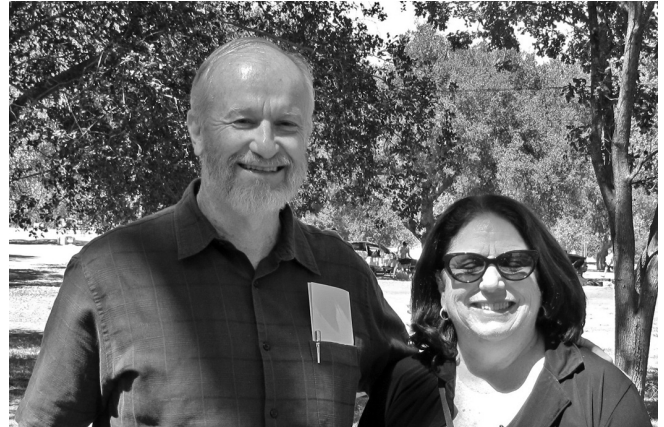


Newsletter of the Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake

September 2012

www.clnaturecenter.org

Issue 108



Left: Dr. John Johnson speaks. Right: with Kathleen Conti, Director of Museum Programs, Research and Resources for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

What the Historic Record Tells Us

by Julia Wilkerson

The August 26th *Food for Thought* presentation was attended by 48 visitors who crowded into the Nature Center to hear Dr. John Johnson's informative, enlightening, and enjoyable lecture *What the Historic Record Tells Us*.

Dr. Johnson has been Curator of Anthropology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for over 26 years. He has researched the tribal customs and DNA of the Chumash of the Santa Ynez Valley. This group of Chumash have a distinctive gene not found in other tribes. Pictures of the valley, now covered by waters of the lake, showed the three rivers that converged here. Rising ocean levels, land slides, and erosion have hidden much of the record. However, tests show that the Chumash have inhabited this area for about 5,000 to 3,000 years ago.

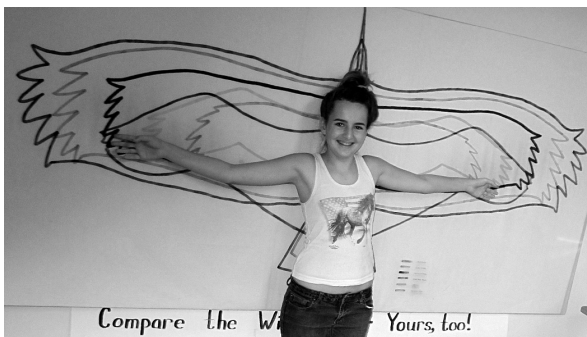
There was a social time before and after the meeting. As with all Nature Center events, many volunteers and camp hosts cooperated to make the occasion a success. Special thanks go to Joann Ganapes for organizing this series of talks.



New on the Board of Directors...

Charles Faulding has recently been named to the Board of Directors of the Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake. Charles is a native of Santa Barbara and a fly fishing student of Neal Taylor. Following graduation from Bishop Garcia Diego High School he received an AA Degree in Business Administration from SB City College and later a BS Degree in Business Administration from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. Since then Charles has held a variety of positions in the local banking industry and is a long-term employee of Santa Barbara Bank & Trust. He has also been an active volunteer representing the bank with the United Way Campaign, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Heart Walk, and the Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Association. In addition he has served as a youth football coach. Welcome Charles Faulding!

What is your Wingspan?



Hooked on Books Sets New Record

by Susan Ham

The Saturday sales at Hooked on Books finished the fiscal year (July 31) with a new record high of \$6657 profit for the NTNC. Part of the reason for this large increase was the fact that almost all the "leftovers" from the yard sale were eventually put out on sale days and sold. In addition, we had two more sales than usually held.

The start of the new fiscal year (August 1-September 1 so far) has been slow as there have been fewer campers during this period than in the past. One explanation may be that schools are starting so much earlier than the traditional after Labor Day that most of us remember. However, we have still made over \$1500, a healthy start for the year.

Thank you to all who continue to donate books and related items to the sale. We are in serious need now of small rummage items (costume jewelry, knick-knacks, craft items, playing cards, games like Scrabble, Candyland, etc, hats, small camping/kitchen items, and small toys) which can be delivered any time you are visiting the Nature Center. Without our donors, this fund-raiser for the NTNC would not happen.

Thank you also to the book crew that spent Saturdays in over 100 degree heat greeting people and introducing them to the books and the Nature Center. These dedicated folks include Diana Hawkins, Shirley McLellan, Gil Graves, Dick and Lois Colfiell, Shayna Rockwell, Pat Donato, Lubella Levi, and Bruce Vanderhoef. Jacque Fondren, our children's book expert, re-organized all the kids/ youth/ teen books and will return in September to tackle the latest donations. June Pusley has brought as many as 20 boxes of books each month from the Orcutt Library which gives her their overflow. We thank you all.

Who Made That Footprint?

Can you identify which of our local wild animals these footprints belong to?

Some hints are given below.
The answers are on the next page.

HINTS: the animal:

#1 is fleet of foot.

#2 is big and burly.

#3 is sly.

#4 needs a deodorant.

#5 howls at the moon.

#6 digs holes in the ground.

#7 raids your campsite for food.

#8 is a wild feline.

#9 is one scary cat.

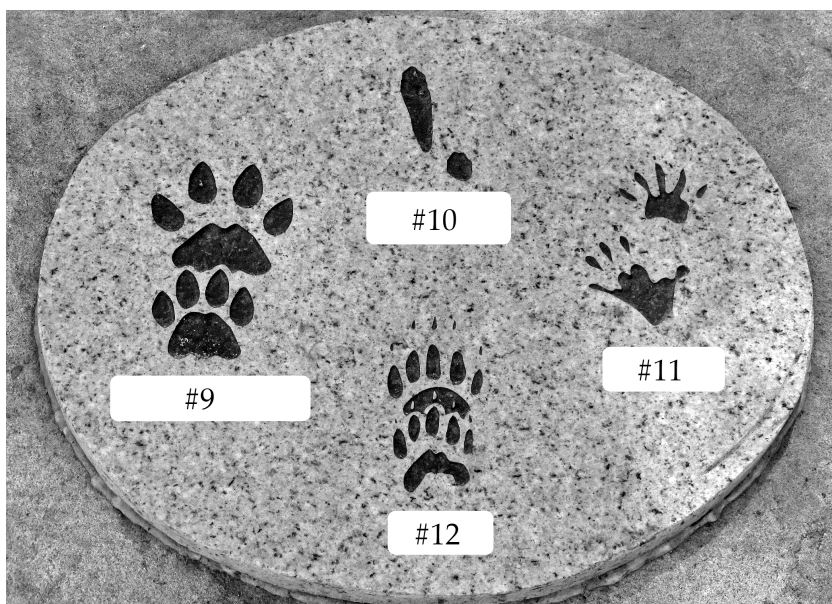
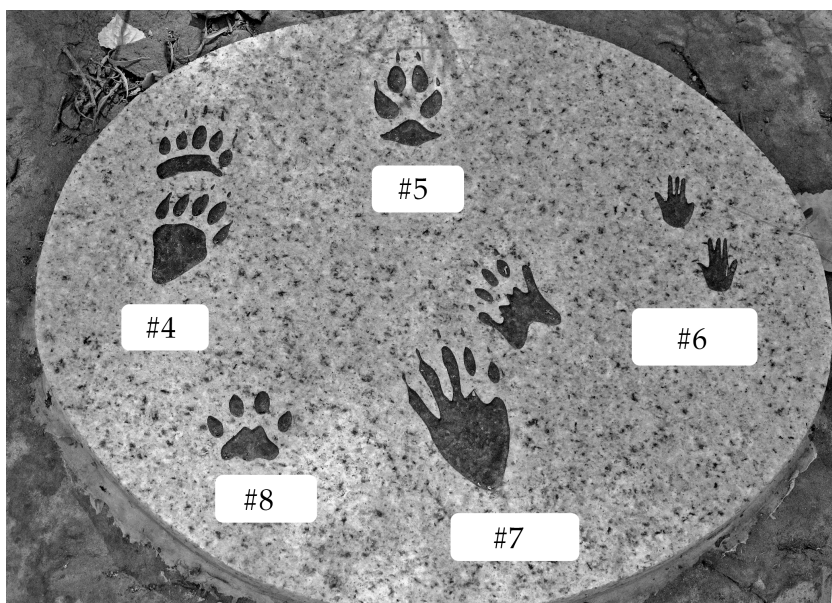
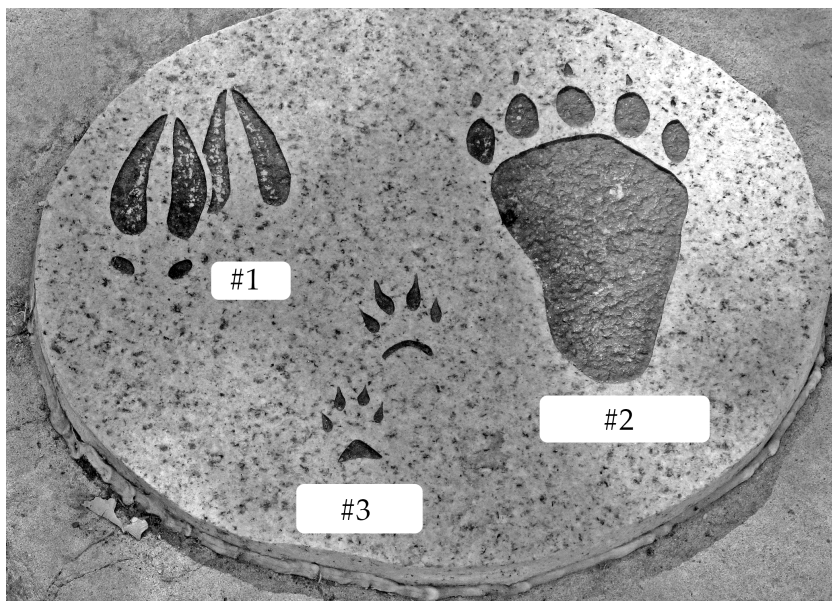
#10 hops about.

#11 plays dead sometimes.

#12 is like someone who won't leave you alone.

Next time you come to the Nature Center, look for the footprint display along the path in our back garden.

Susan Ham is the docent who is largely responsible for this exhibit made and donated by the Santa Barbara Momument Company.



Footprint Answers

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| #1 Deer | #2 Black bear | #3 Red fox |
| #4 Skunk | #5 Coyote | #6 Ground squirrel |
| #7 Raccoon | #8 Bobcat | |
| #9 Mountain lion | #10 Cottontail rabbit | |
| #11 Opossum | #12 Badger | |
-

NTNC "Stars" Honored

Chuck McPartlin, Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit (SBAU) Outreach Coordinator, has been honored with the Las Cumbres Amateur Outreach Award for 2012. This is an international award that honors one astronomer each year for outstanding education to children and the public.

Chuck and his wife Pat have been mainstays at the Neal Taylor Nature Center for many years. Along with a team of other astronomers they present the very popular "star parties" or astronomy night at the Cachuma Lake Fireside Theater where they explain the wonders of the night sky, stars and planets and even have telescopes for the participants to get a close-up look.

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific is the largest general astronomy society in the world. The award was presented at their annual National Convention and Training Symposium on August 7 in Tucson, Arizona. The Santa Barbara chapter (SBAU) has 150 members and was named Astronomy Magazine's number one outreach club in the nation in 2011. Chuck is described as the heart, soul and backbone of the SBAU. He also serves on the NTNC Advisory Board.

Everyone at the Neal Taylor Nature Center and the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department's Cachuma Lake are exceedingly proud of Chuck for this much deserved honor. Congratulations and thank you to Chuck, Pat, and their team for the outstanding programs they continue to bring to the Fireside Theater to thrill and educate park visitors.



Creepy Creatures are Back!

On Saturday, October 20th, lots of creatures will be creeping back to the Neal Taylor Nature Center to surprise and enchant children and adults alike. As in past years, the Nature Center will be host to snakes, spiders, bats, owls and other friends from nature. Interpreters will be on hand to answer questions about these fascinating creatures. In addition a witch will serve treats, and Todd, the balloon man, will be back with his wonderful creations. There will be much more to delight and inform you. Don't miss the fun, scheduled from 11 am to 1 pm. Admission is free with the \$10 park entrance fee

Kids Learn Birds

by Liz Gaspar, Park Naturalist

Thirteen kids worked together to identify 40 birds at Cachuma Lake in the June annual workshop, *Kids Learn Birds*. Over two days, we discovered birds on the nature trail and lake. We had stunning views of the secretive Nuttall's Woodpecker and a Hooded Oriole. On the lake, a hoarse-sounding Caspian Tern surprised us as much as the uncommon and graceful-faced Lark Sparrow. This class animates kids' awareness of the bird life around us. Families contact us from years past and report birds they identified at home feeders. Birding can bring life-long enrichment and lead to citizen science. Join us next June!

Cachuma Lake Report

Lake Level: The elevation of the lake when full is 760 feet above sea level, with a capacity of 217,852 acre-feet. The current elevation, now in early September, is 735.64 feet, or 147,262 acre-feet of water, which is 68% capacity. We don't hear much in the news locally about drought, but we could all do more to become water-wise in our homes and gardens.

Trout Plants: Cachuma Lake Recreation Area is gearing up for fish plants this winter; plants will begin in November and occur monthly through April, when the county will plant 4500 lbs of Nebraska Tailwalkers in early April, and 9,000 lbs for the annual Trout Derby. The great news this year is that our primary supplier, Calaveras Trout out of Merced, has started to raise triploid trout, which can grow to trophy size. Triploid trout are also sterile, so they will not mix with native steelhead in the river and "water down" their gene pool. The whole season trout plant schedule has not been finalized. For updated info, see: www.cachuma.com.

From the Executive Director

As we prepare to embark on a new season, it is a time to reflect on all we have accomplished over the summer.

The Nature Center through the creativity and hard work of its volunteers and the generosity of its members and donors continues to bring a wide scope of engaging programs to the public. This May the Nature Center hosted the popular and educational Saving Wildlife event to a large audience of kids and parents. In June and July volunteers led fishing workshops for adults and kids with huge success. Our Food For Thought series welcomed John Johnson, Curator of Anthropology from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in August. And earlier in September Cynthia Long, a local children's book author read from her book and did a signing with a portion of the proceeds going to the Nature Center. It has been a full and exciting summer with the Center teeming with kids, campers and their families.

This has also been the season for getting the Nature Center building back in shape! Don Damstetter and Neil O'Connell spent many hours preparing the building for new gutters, downspouts and exterior paint! Thanks to the perseverance of camp host Gail Stenger and the generosity of many local businesses – we now have most of the paint and supplies needed to take this next step – thank you all.

Dick Cofiell and Gil Graves just completed building a new and sturdier puppet theater for all the kids that visit

the Nature Center and love this interactive exhibit. We are now looking for an artist to paint scenes from nature to complete this rewarding project.

On the fund raising side of things – Susan Ham and Bruce Vanderhoef along with their book sale team of Diana Hawkins, Shirley McLellan, Pat Donato, Shayna Rockwell, Lois Cofiell and Gil Graves surpassed all of their previous sales records. This year they came close to selling \$7000 worth of books and treasures to help fund the Nature Center. What a team!

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of so many, the Nature Center continues to be a place for kids, families, friends and campers to come and discover the beauty of the Santa Ynez watershed. Thank you and we hope to see you and your families at the Nature Center this fall.

Julie

Recent Donations and Memberships

Cash Donations:

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
William and Marguerite Graham
Lowell and Shirley McLellan
Cynthia Long

Memberships:

Patron:

Sandy and Heloise Power

Sustaining:

Chuck and Pat McPartlin

Associate:

Paul and Virginia Barrett
Dick and Lois Cofiell
Peter Dullea
Brian Lincoln
Donald and Joyce Love

Family:

Richard Kern

Individual:

Kim Albright
George P. Smith

Non-Cash Donations:

Inge Dohring
Peter Dullea
Lucy Egger
Harrison Hardware
John Johnson
Joan Lentz
Roger Millikan
Nicole Neal
Judith Pancake
June Pusley
Nancy States
Stuart Wilson

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Exec. Director – Julie McDonald
julie@clnaturecenter.org

Board of Directors

President - Barbara Gutmann
Vice President - Kirby Duncan
Sec./Treas. - Lowell McLellan
Director - Dave Hale
Director - Sandi Witcher
Director - Carol Smagala
Director – John Henigin
Director – Charles Faulding

S. B. County Park

Naturalist Office

(805) 688-4515

Park Naturalist - Liz M. Gaspar

Weekly Events

Guided Nature Walk

Sat. 10:00 - 11:30 am
Meet at the Nature Center

Junior Rangers

Sat. 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Meet at the Nature Center

Nature Center

Mon closed
Tue – Sat 10 am to 4 pm
Sun 10 am to 2 pm

Wildlife Cruises

Fri 3 to 5 pm
Sat 10 am to noon & 3 to 5 pm
Sun 10 to noon

Reservations are recommended
Call (805) 686-5050 weekdays,
or (805) 686-5055 on week-ends

Coming Special Events

Creepy Creatures

Sat. Oct. 20, 11 am to 1 pm
At the Nature Center
See article on page 2.

Recognition Event

Oct. 14th
At the Nature Center

Book Sales

Sat. Oct. 20, 10 am to 2 pm
Fri. Nov. 23, 10 am to 2 pm
At the Nature Center

Trout Derby

April 20 and 21
Save the dates!

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