



# The Neal Taylor Nature Center *at Cachuma Lake*





**Warmest Greetings,**

As we gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving season, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible community that makes our work possible. **We are deeply grateful** for supporters like you, whose commitment to environmental education has been the foundation of every program, exhibit, and magical moment we've been able to create.

**“Went to the bat show in the evening & scavenger hunt during the day. This place was great & the staff phenomenal!!” Grace Gonzales**

For close to 38 years, your support and generosity have helped to create moments like these for more than 45,000 children, families, and visitors annually.

**In 2025**, we expanded our "Going Batty" program to three times a week, bringing knowledge and appreciation of bats and ecology to over 6,000 attendees! We also launched brand-new watershed exhibits, joined the Santa Barbara Creek Week program, and continued beloved programs and activities such as our visiting school groups, themed scavenger hunts, engaging exhibits, Creepy Creatures, Food for Thought lectures, Project Feeder Watch, and more!

**We need you now more than ever.** We strive to update exhibits, programs and community outreach and your gift will help to ensure this continues.

**Please donate online** using the below link to make your tax-deductible gift.

**DONATE**

**Your gift today** helps to foster curiosity and make connections to nature accessible to all! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Edward Grand  
President



Julie Anne McDonald  
Executive Director

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## **BECOME A MEMBER, GET EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS!**

A great way to support us is to **become a member**. Enjoy benefits such as discounts in our gift shop, invitation to a lake cruise, an annual day-use pass to Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach and more. Learn more at [www.clnaturecenter.org/membership-levels-benefits/](http://www.clnaturecenter.org/membership-levels-benefits/)

**We are endlessly grateful for your involvement at the Nature Center. We look forward to growing with you in the years to come!**

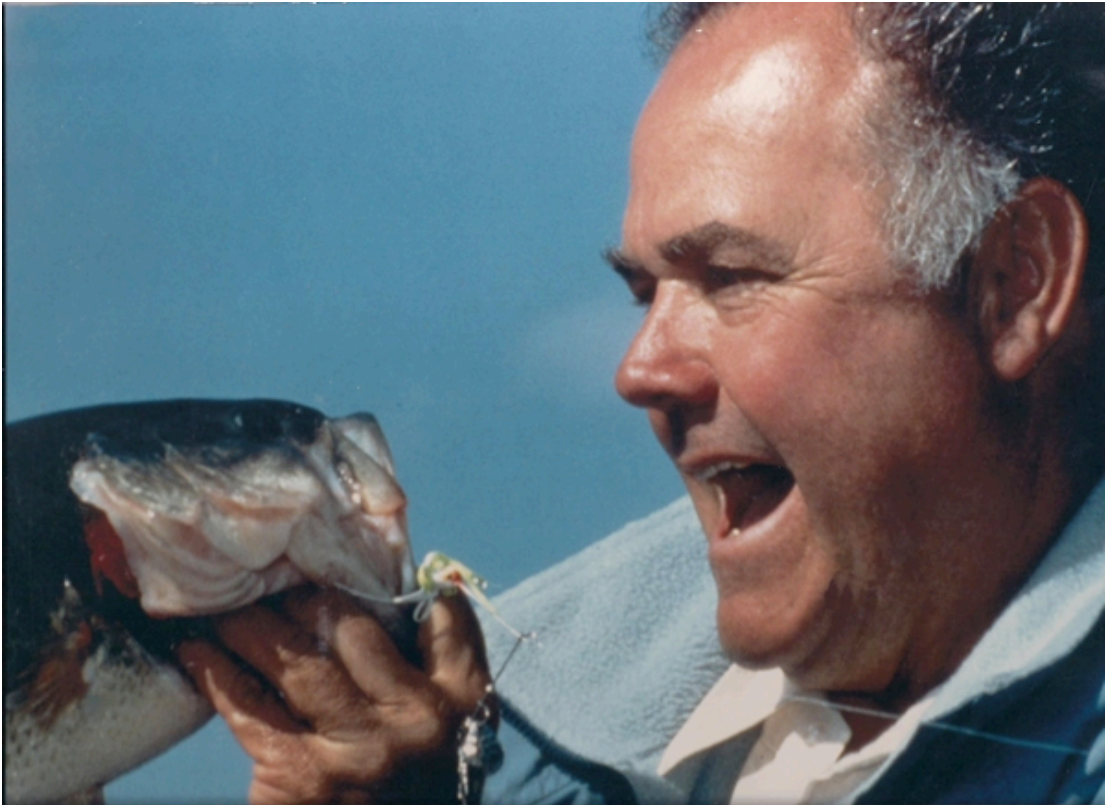
## **BECOME A MEMBER**

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## TALES OF NEAL TAYLOR, PART II: A CHARISMATIC MAN



Some people leave a mark on everyone they meet—a warmth that lingers long after the conversation ends, a smile that children remember years later, a story that sticks with you forever.

Neal Taylor, our founder, was one of those extraordinary individuals whose gift for connection transformed strangers into friends, and made the nature center a more welcoming place for thousands of visitors.

This beautiful tribute, originally published in 2011, was written by Neal's wife Linda Taylor and reminds us of the lasting impact one person's passion and generosity can have on a community.

[Read more>](#)

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## **BIRDWATCHING SPOTLIGHT:** **INTERVIEW WITH PROJECT FEEDERWATCH** **VOLUNTEER CHRIS FARRO**



In this interview, two-year Project FeederWatch volunteer Chris Farro—our primary observer who tracks bird sightings for Cornell Lab—shares her keen observations, discusses attracting different species, and reflects on why birdwatching matters for conservation. [Read more >](#)

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## **GOING BATTY IN 2025:** **A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON WRAPS UP**



As the weather cools down and evenings turn crisp enough for sweaters, our bats are feeling the chill too. Without their own cozy knits to keep them warm, they're heading south for the season.

[Read more >](#)



## GET INVOLVED



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