



CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

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Donna Shorts, Editor

10th Anniversary Edition

"The Prez Sez"

It is hard to believe that the Cachuma Lake Nature center has been in operation 10 years. It seems not long ago that Neal Taylor was discussing the dream of having a visitor-nature facility at Lake Cachuma. Much water has flowed over the dam (Bradbury that is) since then. There were many organizational traumas, false starts, personality conflicts, accomplishments and many great hardworking people along the way. Watching visitors viewing our efforts in the Nature Center has been rewarding. Talking to the visitors and reading their comments really is an upper for me and others and makes it worth it.

None of this could have happened without all kinds of people. The Cachuma Lake Foundation Board of Directors who have been supportive in funding and overall guidance. The docents and volunteers who perform the interpretative and exhibit work of the Nature Center and assist the Cachuma Park's naturalists with the outside interpretive programs. The Naturalists are involved with the nature center both using it for interpretive resource and furnishing ideas and support to the mission of the center. The staff of the Santa Barbara County Parks also help in many ways such as maintenance and grounds duties.

The visitors include campers, day visitors, school classes, many youth groups and adult organized tours who enjoy the Nature Center and go on naturalist or docent led hikes. Our greatest need is more people to train to be docents and volunteers. My hope is that we can recruit several new docents and volunteers each year. Encourage friends and acquaintances to come and look at the opportunities that can be enjoyed by being involved at the Nature Center and being able to associate with some of the nicest, knowledgeable, and fun people.

George Hughes
Docent President

10th Anniversary Celebration

A 10th-anniversary luncheon was held by the Cachuma Lake Foundation at the Cachuma Lake Nature Center Nov. 1 to thank business agencies and individuals who have contributed to the center and to honor docents and members of the Board of Directors. Contributors to the annual Trout Derby were also recognized.

Judy Johnson, Santa Barbara, was honored for her work as a volunteer on the Board of Directors of the Cachuma Lake Foundation since its creation, almost ten years ago. An award was presented to her by Neal Taylor, Santa Barbara County Naturalist, and Lynda Williams, President of the Board of Directors.

After completing a training program, **Brian Lincoln, Evelyn Putnam, and Ellen Lubic**--all of the Santa Ynez Valley--were made docents of the Cachuma Lake Nature Center and Foundations.

Charlie Jack, recently of Santa Ynez, was selected as Cachuma Lake Nature Center Docent of the Year for his many hours of effort on behalf of the Center. Mr. Jack supervised a redecorating project during last winter which included interior painting, carpeting and floor refinishing. These projects were underwritten with grants from Wood-Claeysen Foundation and the Santa Barbara Foundation.

All Docents of the Cachuma Lake Nature Center who completed more than 100 hours of service during the year 1997-'98, were recognized. Receiving certificates were: for over 100 hours of service: **Donna Shorts** (Buellton), **Becky Deutsch** (Santa Maria) and **Fred Blaser** (Los Alamos); over 200 hours: **Charlie Jack, Brian Lincoln**, (Santa Ynez), **Tommie Miller, Helen Osenga, Connie Howerton** (Santa Barbara); Over 300 hours: **Betty Wimpres** (Los Olivos) and **George Hughes** (Santa Barbara); over 500 hours: **Jim Smith** (Santa Ynez) and **George Smith** (Buellton); over 600 hours: **Linda Taylor**

(Santa Barbara) and **Don Wimpres** (Los Olivos).

Carol Smagala, Santa Barbara, was chairperson of this event; Committee members who planned and organized the celebration were: **Carol Smagala, Barbara Gutmann, Anne Plucy, Marion Schlinger, Linda Taylor, and Evelyn Putnam.** **Marjorie Tayloe** provided harp music.

A beautiful hand-crafted quilt with autumn colors and a nature theme was auctioned off. Squares were made by several docents, Board members, family members and friends, who resided from San Diego to Couer d'Alene, Idaho. The final bid was \$650.00.

Here's How the Docents Spent Their Time at the Nature Center Last Year

Nature Center Duty	509 hours
Gift Shop Management	399.5 hours
Exhibits	1040.5 hours
Interpretive Activities with Groups	424.5 hours
Administration	406 hours
Meetings	272.8 hours
Education	132 hours
Housekeeping	162.5 hours
Building Maintenance	260 hours
Yard Maintenance	143.5 hours
Publicity	147.5 hours
Fund Raising	199 hours
Travel	607 hours
Total Hours	4767 hours

Exhibit Committee Report

Linda Taylor, Exhibit Committee Chairperson

During the course of each year, new exhibits are created as materials, inspiration, and available skills become available. Certain exhibits are of an on-going nature and require regular updating. Repair of existing displays is also a function of this committee. There is not a formally structured Exhibit Committee; a loosely organized group of Docents performs these tasks, according to individual interests and schedules.

Perhaps, the most exciting exhibit to be put into place this year is the young, mounted cougar which was delivered to the Center in June. It has been placed upon a papier mache boulder. At the same time, a branch holding the mounted raccoon was attached to a log tree trunk and placed in the "mural case." This entire project required considerable effort and time to complete.

Funding for additional mounted specimens was granted some years ago. Permits have just been received from the Fish and Game Department and we have been in touch with a taxidermist who has a fawn to mount for us.

In visitors' surveys, mounted animals and birds are the most popular of all our exhibits.

Peg Coleman, local Santa Barbara artist, repainted the Lake/geologic mural for the so-called Dam Room, with a stratification column at the right. (In progress is the collection of rock samples from each formation shown on the mural.)

She also did a simple backdrop for the Grizzly bear skin case, which was fitted with lights and plexiglass window.

To show off a collection of arrowheads donated to the Center by Elva Beattie of the Santa Ynez Valley, a case demonstrating flintknapping was designed and constructed by Jim Smith

Several small drawers were fitted with plexiglass covers and some with lights; small exhibits were designed to fit in each: Shell Bead Money, Chumash Jewelry, Why is This Season Called Fall?, Portrait of a River, What Is a Fossil?

•A display on insects was completed, using large, plastic replicas by Don Wimpres

Two scrapbooks have been assembled with clippings from various newspapers which are available to visitors: (1) Nature in the News, covering current stories about nature,

(2) El Nino, which contains articles predicting this phenomenon, its effects and aftermath.

An extensive effort to brighten and rejuvenate the children's room was undertaken.

Improvements included:

- a set of laminated cards illustrating manual sign language with pictures to convey meaning.
- new child-size chairs.
- new posters.
- repair and repainting of the puppet theatre.
- additional toys.
- a coat rack with added dress up clothes.
- a hand made set of 2-piece wooden puzzles.

Breezeway cases have been sanded, stained, varathaned and their exhibits refurbished.

On-going Exhibit Work:

- Planning and installation of new materials in Marina and Vista Point showcases.
- Collection and filing of resource materials- magazine and newspaper articles and pictures.
- Preparation of text for borrowed exhibits from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.
- Weekly replenishment of the fresh plant exhibit.
- Development of Bird of the Month materials. Upkeep of the aquaria.

Other Center Tasks:

- staining and sealing new chairs for the main room.
- building garage shelves.
- repair of a storm damaged back door.
- sanding and repainting several doors that stick.
- sanding and repainting the Board room bookcase
- hanging pictures in the Board room.

This was the year of painting and refinishing hardwood floors and laying new carpet. From December 1, through January 7, all Docent effort was devoted to packing and moving of exhibits out of the Center and the consequent effort of moving all back into place.

Since Neal Taylor was out much of the latter half of the (fiscal) year, many Docents who usually work on exhibits, devoted their time to interpretive duties to assist the Naturalists' office.

During January, and February, many Docent work day hours were spent on efforts to support the Trout Derby.

This is more than an Exhibit Committee report; however, much of the effort mentioned above falls into no other "formal" category and, therefore, is not reported or recorded otherwise. The same folks do all of the above service. Whether it is trail work or exhibit design, weed whacking or exhibit maintenance, the energy and time come from a core group of workers.

Trail and Garden Development:

Much time and energy was devoted by the same folks who do exhibits to the improvement of the backyard-native plant garden and to the Oak Canyon Nature Trail:

- planning a better nature trail, including figuring grades for wheelchair accessibility and meeting with Foundation members and contractors for estimates.
- improving and maintaining the irrigation system.
- purchasing and installing park benches.
- collecting specimens for the garden.
- providing labels of plants.
- fabricating replacement signs for the trail.
- weeding
- construction of the framework for the first tule hut. (Thatching has been delayed by the rise in Lake level, which has made reeds inaccessible.)

AWARDS

Jennifer Briggs, Director of Parks for Santa Barbara County, presented awards to four of our docents. The recipients were:

George Smith, George Hughes, Don Wimpres and Helen Osenga.

Each of them received a letter of thanks for their extensive assistance with the Naturalists' programs while Neal Taylor was recovering. In addition to the letter of Commendation the Docents also received a gift certificate for Chaucer's Book Store.

Ms. Briggs said that without the many hours of interpretive work done by them, the programs at Cachuma would have had to have been scaled back significantly.

She personally, appreciates the generous offering of time and expertise to further the public's education and appreciation of the valuable natural resources at the Lake. And that the dedication of the docents is evident in the great work at the Center.

Fund Raising Fun

On Thursday evening, October 22nd Barbara Gutmann hosted a fund raiser in her home to benefit the Cachuma Nature Center. The women who attended enjoyed a presentation by Corrine Applebaum of "Weekender Casual Wear" where the fall line of Weekender clothes was shown. These mix and match cotton knits are most practical for women who like comfortable, stylish garments, but dislike ironing and when traveling, dislike packing great number of outfits. None of the women who participated are attached to CNC so the event also served to advertise the work of the Center. The evening was great fun and all of the guests are looking forward to a repeat performance next fall.

MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

January 15-18, 1999

Follow the winter bird migration on the Pacific Flyway to Morro Bay on the Central Coast of California. Plan to attend the MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL, co-sponsored by the Morro Coast Audubon Society featuring over 40 field trips and workshops in addition to natural history programs, a nature art exhibit and vendors. The Festival takes place January 15 to 18, and is headquartered at the beautiful bayside Inn at Morro Bay. This area, always in the top ten during the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, is the winter home for thousands of water birds.

Field trips will include "Big Day", Rarities, Pelagic trips, Birding by Kayak, Gull Identification, Birding by Song and Calls, plus inland van trips to view Sandhill Cranes and a visit to Condor country. Workshops will emphasize skills in bird identification and the featured speaker, Dr. Kevin Padian, a UC Berkeley professor, will address the hot topic of the dinosaur link in the evolution of birds.

For more information :

Visit our web site

<<http://www.morro-bay.netmirds>>

or contact the

Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce,
PO Box 876, Morro Bay, CA 93443,
or by telephone (800)231-0592.