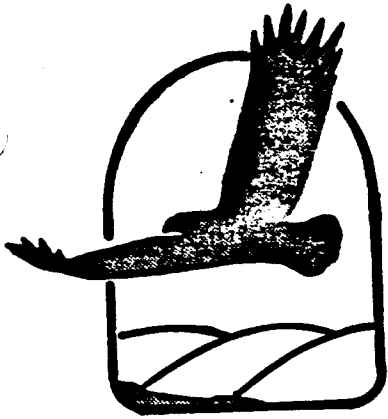


11/92



CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

New Docent Class to be Recruited, Trained

The 1993 Docent training classes will begin with an orientation meeting in January. During this meeting the goals of the CLF and the Docents will be explained and prospective docents will be given a brief history of the development of the Nature Center. They will learn of the many exciting projects and exhibits they can help create.

A new format to be used this year consists of formal training of four to six successive classes and continuing education throughout the year of four to six classes will be offered.

Formal training classes which will begin in February, will cover the Nature Center, the exhibits, and Cachuma Lake County Park in depth. After completing this training docent trainees will be able to give tours of both the Nature Center and the Park, answering common questions a visitor might have about exhibits and natural and cultural history of the area. For example, new docents will be able to identify at least ten common plants found in the park, five common animals, five common birds (or at least those birds which come to the feeder), and five fish. They will know the location of nature trails, approximately how long it takes to walk them, the difficulty of the hike, and what might be seen along the trail.

The continuing classes will be on individual topics such as Chumash culture, geology, plants, and local history. Content of these classes will not be general, but will be specific to the Cachuma Lake area.

To be certified as a docent, the trainee must take all of the formal training classes and complete a project. To remain certified the docent must volunteer fifty hours a year to the Nature Center and attend at least two of the continued education classes a year. All current docents are encouraged to attend both the formal classes and the on going classes.

Juanita Centeno, Friend of the Nature Center

Juanita Centeno, a Chumash Indian of the Santa Ynez Valley, was a significant participant during the first years of the development of the Nature Center. She passed away in August of leukemia. Juanita was highly respected as a craftswoman who replicated baskets and other artifacts of her ancestors, as an archeologist, and as a leader of the Chumash people in this area. As a teacher of Chumash skills and traditions she was well-known throughout California.

During the early months of the Docent organization Juanita was active in the group. She loaned or donated many items which she had created, several of these continue to be on view in the Center. She and her close friend Jose Castillo performed in traditional Indian regalia at our Fireside Theater and were present to greet visitors to the Nature Center the first day it opened to the public.

News Flash from CLF President Peter Robertson

The Board of Supervisors for the County of Santa Barbara approved the Preliminary Master Plan of the Nature Center which was adopted by the CLF Board of Directors on May 21, 1992. An original "colorized" copy of the Master Plan is located at the Center for public review and comment. Photocopies of the document are also available upon request.

The Santa Barbara Foundation awarded \$5,000 to the CLF to be used toward the purchase of a photocopy machine, scanner and modem for the Nature Center.

At the time of this writing the CLF membership drive has reaped over \$500 from new members. Charter memberships include a complimentary copy of the Cachuma Lake Nature Guide. This is a limited offer.

The CLF has a new video monitor and video cassette recorder thanks to the Junior League of Santa Barbara.

In July of '92 we began our first annual membership drive. A warm welcome to the following new members:

Kim and Edward Albright
Elizabeth Chamberlin
Henry M. Grennan
Bobbie and Harry Hedge
Bruce and Olga Howard
Constance L. Howerton

Judy and Don Johnson
P. Chalmers Lamberton
Michael and Vivian Pahos
Noreen and Don Pond
Glen Todd
David Wappler

Autumn Leaves

One of the most beloved events of the natural calendar year is the changing colors of leaves and their fall each autumn. But why do these phenomena occur? A shorter period of daylight and in some areas, decreased availability of water cause a decrease in the production of a hormone-like substance, auxin. When the level of auxin is low in a plant, a layer of thin-walled cells called the abscission layer forms at the base of the petiole or leaf stem. These cells disintegrate rapidly and the leaf is held only tenuously to the stem by vascular cells. Wind, or frost in colder climates, is enough stress to break this attachment and the leaves fall.

Loss of the leaf's green color occurs when chlorophyll ceases to be produced and underlying yellow and orange pigments dominate. Red pigmentation, anthocyanin, usually is caused by cold weather. In areas such as ours where leaves often only turn brown and are slow to fall, no abscission layer has formed.

Wanted: small end tables, coffee tables, books cases to use as temporary display surfaces. If you have either you would loan or donate, please call Linda Taylor, 687-1023.

Spotlight on the Docents: Linda Taylor

Linda Taylor first became interested in the formation of a docent organization in 1987; however, weekday classes prohibited her from attending the first training series. She was present on that special day in 1988; however, when the Nature Center opened for the first time.

When Linda began Docent membership as part of the second training class, she re-established her friendship with Neal Taylor, with whom she had worked as a 4-H leader during the 1960's. In June, 1989, they were married at the Fireside Theater and held their wedding reception on the back lawn of the present Nature Center.

Linda has worked as the secretary of the docent organization and is the current chair of the Exhibit Committee. She has edited the Newsletter since the beginning of its publication.

As a long-time birder, camper, back-packer with an interest in geology and botany, Linda finds the Nature Center an exciting place to be. "I love developing displays for the Center--even small and simple ones--that explain some natural phenomenon to an individual who will go away saying, "Gee, I never knew that before!"

In June Linda, a native of southern California, retired from the Santa Barbara County Schools after teaching severely handicapped children for 21 years. She and Neal live in Santa Barbara, but have a mobile home at Cachuma for weekend use. She has a daughter who is a professor of Religious Studies at Hollins College in Virginia; and a son who is a businessman in Menlo Park, California.

Recently an informal poll was taken of visitors to the Nature Center. Results indicate that the majority of visitors have a positive attitude toward the Center. Their preference in exhibits is for the birds and animals, particularly the mounted bear and golden eagle. When asked what they would like to see added, live reptiles and additional Indian exhibits were most frequently requested. Other suggestions included exhibits about condors and mountain lions.

Calendar for Upcoming Weeks

- October 31, 9:00 a.m. work day (exhibit boards, miscellaneous repairs)
- November 4, 6:00 p.m. exhibit committee meeting
- November 12, 9:00 a.m. executive board meeting
2:00 p.m. Cachuma Lake Foundation Board meeting
- November 14, 9:00 a.m. regular montly docent meeting;
with wreath making after meeting.
- November 15, workshop for replicating artifacts