



CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 15; Spring 1994 Don Wimpres, Editor

CALENDAR FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE

Apr 9	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Apr 16	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Docent Training Class #1
Apr 23	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Docent Training Class #2
Apr 30	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Docent Training Class #3
May 7	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Docent Training Class #4
May 14	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u> Natural History Museum Visit
May 14-15	Sat & Sun		Trout Fishing Derby
May 21	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Docent Training Class #5
May 28-30	Sat thru Mon		Big Memorial Day Weekend
Jun 11	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>

DOCENT TRAINING

The 1994 Docent Training Classes are scheduled to start on April 16th in order to graduate a new class in time for the Memorial Day Weekend. It is believed that having the classes a little later in the season, better springtime weather would induce more candidates to attend. Docents and Board Members should talk to their friends and acquaintances to recruit more people into taking these classes and becoming docents. Last year's classes resulted in twelve new docents, and we need a like amount this year to continue coverage of increasing visitor activities.

Anyone interested in becoming a Docent should contact -

Don Wimpres 688-2967,
George Smith 688-1288, or
Linda Taylor 687-1023

TROUT FISHING DERBY AND MUSEUM DAY

This weekend event, sponsored by the Museum League as a benefit for the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, is expected to bring a large number of visitors to the Park. There will be a number of people from the Museum, as well as well as an expected heavy load of park visitors, visiting the Nature Center. We are planning several special presentations to cover this event.

EXHIBITS

There have been a number of minor changes in the exhibits and a couple of new ones added in our constant effort to improve our presentations to the visitor. Our old Gift Shop area is now being remodeled into an attractive entry hall that will give the visitor a good "first impression" of the facility. Linda Taylor has constructed a birds' eggs exhibit which is currently located in the entry hall. We are planning a couple of spectacular exhibits for this entrance area. The free handout brochures, the visitor register, and the donation box are now located here.

OAK CANYON NATURE TRAIL

Five Docents spent a day clearing brush (including poison oak) from the Nature Trail as it was not reworked last year and was quite overgrown. Water culverts were installed in two places to reduce damage from rain runoff. Some of the number posts were relocated and the trail brochure was revised to reflect these changes. It is hoped that a trail crew will be able to come in this year and rework the trail tread as it is in need of some repair.

SPECIAL TRAINING CLASSES

In January a group of Docents were led by Jim Blakley on a day-long tour of the upper Santa Ynez watershed. Several stops were made along East Camino Cielo Drive where we could look into the upper watershed as Jim described the geography, history, geology, and plant life of the region. As some of the Docents had never been in this area, it was a good introduction to much of the area covered by our charter. We went on to visit the mouth of the tunnel that carries water from Jamison Lake to Montecito. Further on we visited Pendola Ranger Station and the remains of the old Pendola Ranch headquarters adobe. We visited the Mono Debris Basin and learned about the efforts to control silting in the Gibraltar Reservoir. The trip ended at Little Caliente Hot Springs where several pairs of tired feet were soaked.

GIFT SHOP RELOCATION

We are now in our new Gift Shop - and what an inviting, open, pleasant place it is! Now we have to replenish our stocks to take advantage of all that display area, and get ready for the money to roll in.

FACILITIES CONSOLIDATION

A few minor moves were made to separate the area of Docent functions and the Naturalists' Office area. The tool room was moved from east of the Naturalists' office to a closet in the Docent's work room. This eliminates the former necessity of having to travel thru the naturalist's office every time someone needed a tool. Next, we moved the presentation equipment (telescope, projectors, etc.) from the closet off the Fauna Room to the former Tool Closet. This puts the equipment right next to the Naturalists' Office where they can have better access. Thirdly, we moved the inactive exhibit storage from a closet in the Docents' Room to the closet off the Fauna Room. These changes should make the operations much more efficient.

One move is still in the works: the remodelling of the Naturalists' Office. This will let our two naturalists take advantage of space vacated by microwave oven and some unused equipment. The north door to their area will be made functional for easy access to their offices independent of the rest of the building.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

At last we have the asbestos removed from the the ducting beneath the floor. This will be followed by repair of the heating and cooling systems. Hopefully, we will have air conditioning next summer.

The garage area has been cleaned up and what a difference! It had become the dusty storage area for everything that anyone thought might be of value for later exhibit construction. Now that our exhibits are mostly constructed, we have been able to weed out a lot of junk. It is now a presentable storage area for some of our larger inactive display items, and an accessible carpentry workshop.

The bothersome sewer problem have been eliminated by a thorough cleanout of the sewer system. Now, if we can keep the birds and squirrels from filling the vents with acorns, we may be OK.

A survey of most of the electrical circuits was completed and an interim report written.

All-in-all, the facility is in pretty good shape for the coming summer.

PUBLICITY

We have had a lot of nice publicity during the last three months as articles about the Nature Center have appeared in at least four of the local newspapers. Santa Barbara News Press, the Valley News, the Lompoc News, and the Santa Maria Times all carried articles. The largest and most impressive article, which included several several pictures, was in the Santa Maria Times.