



CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 19: Spring 1995 Don Wimpres, Editor

CALENDAR FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE:

Apr 8	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Apr 20	Thu	4:00 p.m.	Paper-making Crafts Evening
May 13	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Jun 10	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>

MARCH DOCENT MEETING:

The March Docent Meeting, which was to include the election of officers, was cancelled because of the heavy rains and the closure of Highway 154. All this rainy weather and road closures have reduced the attendance in the park and the Nature Center has been rather inactive during March.

APRIL DOCENT MEETING:

Election of Officers for the coming year will be held at this meeting. Also planning for the big Easter week activities.

EAGLE COUNT:

The annual eagle count was held on January 21st this year and we did a little better than last year. Last year we only counted four Osprey, one adult Bald Eagle, and one immature Bald Eagle. There was a lot of disturbance around the lake with the bass tournament happening the same day.

This year the count was four Adult Bald Eagles, ten immature Bald Eagles, one immature Golden Eagle, one other eagle of unknown parentage, and twenty-eight Ospreys.

PAGE FOUNDATION GRANT:

The Page Foundation made a grant of \$2000 to the Cachuma Lake Foundation for educational projects for children. The Docent Exhibit Committee and the Foundation Board of Directors reviewed a number of projects and those listed

below were approved to be implemented. Each will be described in more detail in the "Exhibits" section of the *Flyer* as they are designed and constructed.

1. A 100-gallon aquarium exhibit.
2. A Plexiglas cover for the Chumash Village exhibit.
3. Improvements in the bird bath and feeder, including installing one-way glass in the observation windows.
4. An electric display board with self-correcting questions and answers about natural history at Cachuma Lake Park.
5. A map of the lake area with sliding overlays depicting various times in history or other features.
6. A chest of drawers with artifacts that can be handled by the visitors.

DOCENT TRAINING:

Karen Osland will be in charge of docent training in 1995. The classes will be held during the summer this year as Karen will not be available during the usual spring training period. Prospective docents or volunteers may start working with the Nature Center at any time on a "volunteer" basis and spend time working with the Docents and learning about the Nature Center.

EXHIBITS

Several additions have been made to the exhibits during the last three months:

1. A mounted Canada Goose was donated and has been added to the large case in the fauna room. Opening the large plexiglas case to rearrange the exhibit to accommodate the new large bird was quite an undertaking, but was carried out by Linda Taylor, George Hughes, Neal Taylor, Charlie Jack, Fred Blaser, and Don Wimpres.

A plexiglas cover was made for the Chumash Village exhibit and has been installed. This will protect this delicate exhibit from the busy hands of inquisitive children and save the docents a lot of time in dusting the intricate objects.

Work has commenced on the new aquarium exhibit; the first step being to remove the pantograph from the west laundry room and relocating it in a new room constructed in the garage. A 100-gallon aquarium was donated by Docent Jerry Witcher, and Neal Taylor is going to outfit it with miscellaneous equipment and fish. The doorway between the hall and the laundry room has been widened to about 5 feet and closed with panelling with an opening for the aquarium. It is situated so that another 100-gallon unit can be added just above so we'll eventually have two displays. This exhibit should be completed during April.

A new bird bath has been constructed and a new feeder platform is in the works. Also, the glass in the windows that look out upon these features is being changed to one-way glass so the presence of viewers will not disturb the birds.

Other Page-funded exhibits will be described as they are constructed.

ACCESS ROAD REWORK:

Just before the rains came the access road to the Nature Center, and the paved parking space in front of the garage, was dug up and regraded for new paving. Then the rains came! Work has been at a standstill for several weeks waiting for it to dry out. This has had some adverse effect on the access to the Nature Center during this time period. Hopefully, it will be completed soon.

NATURE CENTER WORK DAYS:

It has become a custom to have a general work day each Wednesday between about 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Linda Taylor, as exhibit chairperson, has been generally in charge of these sessions and providing the motivation. A number of worthwhile projects, and many little ones, have been completed during these periods. If you have time, and feel so inclined, join us for these work/socializing sessions. However, best to check with Linda each week to be sure that one is scheduled.

CRAFT SESSIONS:

On Thursday, April 20th, a craft session is scheduled to learn the art of paper-making, and to make fancy paper to sell in the Gift Shop. Attendees should bring dish pans, tissue paper (all colors), egg cartons, and an old blender if you have one.

Also, bring a brown bag dinner and this will be a social evening.

A sewing evening is planned for some later date which will be announced later. This will also be a brown-bag dinner session starting at around 4:00 p.m.

NEEDED! AN AQUARIUM

A second aquarium is needed to complete our new exhibit on the fish of the Lake. The area that has been remodeled to hold the tanks will take an additional 100 gallon tank, measuring 60 inches in width X 24 inches in height. If you or anyone you know has such a tank that is not in use and would like to donate it, please call Linda Taylor at 687-1023 or Neal Taylor at 688-4515.