



# CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 25

Spring 1997

Donna Shorts, Editor

## New Officers

### Docent Executive Board

President	Charlie Jack
Vice-President	Don Wimpress
Secretary	Barbara Guttman
Treasurer	George Smith

### Cachuma Lake Foundation Board

Chairperson	Lynda Williams
Vice-Chair	Evert Schlinger
Secretary	Judy Johnson
Treasurer	Lorraine LaFargue

### From the CLF Chairperson

I am sure you are aware that I am just getting my feet wet in the Cachuma Lake Foundation and its Board of Directors. I had no idea of stepping into those Chairperson's shoes- that Helen had so ably filled- when I agreed in September to be a member of the Board. I am on a steep learning curve right now as I try to learn the Foundation's' past, get a sense of its future goals, and understand the many facets of the Nature Center and its dedicated Docents.

You may wish to know a bit about me. My schooling includes graduating from Santa Barbara High School (where I met my wonderful husband) through a Masters in Education to a School Psychologist Credential from UCSB. Since then I have had several jobs at once which included: teaching school in Santa Barbara, real estate management, being a Financial Investment Benefit Specialist, along with wife, homemaker, mother of 4, and grandmother of 5. I like to be active in sports, hobbies, and groups.

The Cachuma Lake Nature Center is growing into a wonderful resource for our county. There is something new to see each time one enters the building and I know the docents are planning many other wonderful additions in addition to all of the education and store work they do each week. I will do everything I can to help you in your efforts. I see that as our prime goal.

Al and I want to thank you for inviting us to your March Open House. We thank all of you for making it such a special event for all attendees. Tommy's warm reception and enthusiasm when I called to say we could come certainly helped set our anticipation and mood for the day. Don Wimpress informative tour was greatly appreciated and I especially thank him for the clear answers to my many questions. I have much to learn, so I plan to accept Charlie Jack's suggestion that I try being a docent for a day sometime in the near future. If you find me there, please, take me under your wing and share your knowledge with me. Hopefully, each Board member will have that experience before the year is over.

At present, I vision myself to be a facilitator. I plan to hold the reigns lightly while letting each of you use your talents in such a way that we can happily work together and slowly bring the dreams to reality. With a Board composed of experienced and talented professionals, Neal and Liz leading the education unit, the creativity of the Docents, and the Park Department's support, we can only be successful.

Lynda Williams

## Trout Derby

On May 3 and 4 we will be hosting the Second Annual Cachuma Lake \$25,000 Trout Derby. Fishing starts at the lake at 6am on Saturday May 3rd and continues through noon on Sunday, May 4th. But, the fun (and our work) starts Friday with registration and **Neal Taylor's** instructions for "How to Catch a \$25,000 Trout" at the 7:30 program at the Fireside Theater.

Saturday programs will start at 9:00 a.m. with a children's Tracking Walk with **Karen Harris**. At 10:30 and 1:00 there will be Special Nature Walks. A BBQ will be held at Campsites across from the store from 11:00 a.m. on. Tri-tip sandwiches will cost \$5.50, Tri-tip or Chicken meals will cost \$8.00. At 9:00 pm Don Wimpress will give a presentation at the Astronomy Bowl.

All weekend we will be measuring and recording fish and after the Derby closes on Sunday there will be an Awards Ceremony. First Prize is \$25,000 for the specially tagged fish. Second prize is an Aluminum fishing boat with trailer.

We still need more prizes. Everyone associated with the Nature Center is asked to solicit prizes of cash, gift certificates, and merchandise. Donors will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony and in the literature given out at the Derby. Donors of prizes valued at \$100.00 or more will be invited to go on a VIP Boat Cruise May 10 complete with wine, soft drinks and special hors d'oeuvres. As of April 1st, registrations are ahead of last year.

### For Sale 1967 Wolf Range

36" wide, 4 burners,  
grill 26"x 11 1/2", one oven

Please submit sealed bids by May 15  
beginning at \$300.00, to:

Cachuma Lake Foundation  
HC58  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## \$5,000 Awarded by Wood- Claeyssen Foundation

The Wood-Claeyssen Foundation of Santa Barbara has just awarded our Foundation \$5,000.00 to use primarily in the development of a mounted animal exhibit.

Mounting of a Mountain Lion will be one of the first projects, hopefully, under the new grant. Although application has been made to Department of Fish and Game for a permit to possess the Lion, the actual permit has not yet been received. Recent conversation with the Long Beach office prompted our Exhibit Chairperson, Linda Taylor, to resubmit application, April 4. In addition to this cat, funds will provide for the mounting of a deer, and another small animal.

A plexiglass case to house the recently acquired "standing bear" has been ordered and should be in place by mid-April.

Wood-Claeyssen is headed by Pierre Claeyssen and has supported many organizations in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Helen Logan and Linda Taylor worked together to complete the grant proposal. Members of the Board of the Claeyssen Foundation visited the Center in late February.

### Docents' Bathroom

Docent **Jim Smith** has just completed renovating the Docents' bathroom- a job that has been on the "Wish List" for several years. He removed the bathtub and old flooring and replaced them with new vinyl tile flooring and shelves for storing our housekeeping supplies. He was met by all sorts of unexpected problems (anyone who has renovated an old house can sympathize with that). With a lot of skill and ingenuity and hours of back breaking labor, Jim has provided us with an attractive facility. Thank you, Jim!!!

## NEW EXHIBITS

### **Bruno the Bear Joins Us**

A charming mount of a black bear has been given to the Nature Center by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lum, of Norco, California. The bear, captured in southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island, was probably about five years old. The white or light blaze on its chest is typical coloration. According to Mr., Lum, the young male bear was taken soon after emerging from hibernation. The rubbed areas on the top of its hind feet are not unusual, as bears frequently wear off patches of skin at that time of the year scratching against trees and rocks.

Wendy Lum called the bear "Bruno," which means brownish or bear-like. Currently the bear is displayed behind a temporary barricade in the Main Room of the Center. A plexiglass case to protect it is needed. The Lums have also donated a squirrel taken near Idyllwild, California, which is hung over the doorway to the bird and flower rooms.

Mounted specimens of birds and animals are the exhibits which children most frequently mention as their favorites on questionnaires filled out at the Nature Center.

### **New Showcase Has Spider Exhibit**

A sparkling new showcase built by **Charlie Jack and Fred Blaser** with help from other docents has been completed in the entry hall of the Center. Removing old bookshelves, lining the case with new wood, adding adjustable glass shelves, lighting and a plexiglass front has converted a space that was difficult to use into an attractive, eye-catching exhibit area.

**Neal Taylor** has painstakingly created spiders, using flytying materials, and spider webs to illustrate how a spider builds a web. Webs in three stages of completion show the steps taken by the spider.

### **Buzzer Board**

**Becky Deutsch**, a new Docent trainee, has overhauled the "Buzzer Board" in the so-called Dam Room. Selected photos of local mammals and three statements about each have been mounted in the frames. In order to increase the amount of correct information relayed, Becky set each photo up with two correct answers and one false. With new titles and--soon--easier to see numbers, the game board is much more attractive and more professional looking.

### **Wildflower Guide**

A binder of text and photographs of wildflowers, shrubs and trees of the Cachuma Lake Watershed is on display in the plant room. This project uses text originally prepared by Don Wimpres with the additional information from Linda Taylor and photographs by Linda. With intentions of illustrating local flora in various seasons, the book will be an on-going development for many months ahead. A duplicate book will be retained in the Docent library for educational purposes by the volunteers.

### **Wanted!**

A small bookcase  
(approximately 24" wide)  
for the children's room at the Nature Center  
Need not be in pristine condition,  
but should be sturdy

### **Wanted! Rattlesnake Rattles**

If anyone has a nice rattle that they would like to donate to the Nature Center, one is needed to add interest to a new exhibit on rattlesnakes that should be completed this spring. Please call Linda Taylor, 687-1023, or bring the rattle to the Nature Center and leave it with her name on it.

## Warnings !

Spring is here along with a glorious growth of plants, including **poison oak**. While you enjoy the luxuriant growth of wildflowers this spring, be aware that poison oak is also thriving along all our trails. If you are not completely familiar with this plant, check it out in the plant room of the Center.

Becky Deutsch, a new volunteer at the Center, highly recommends a product called DesOwen, to relieve the swelling and rash of poison oak. Recommended by her dermatologist, this cortisone lotion is available by prescription. After a recent walk in the Park, Becky got poison oak on her face. Beware!

Snakes begin to emerge as the weather warms. Young **rattlesnakes** have a very poisonous bite, just as their elders do. Keep your eyes open. Stay on the trail. Avoid woodpiles and heavily wooded areas in which you cannot see the ground well.

## Alarm System

We have been experiencing some problems with our alarm system, and one of them was that the alarm was not set when it was supposed to be. After consulting with the SAS alarm people, we decided that maybe the alarm was not set properly. After the activate alarm code is punched in, the two "armed status indicator" lights on the left side of the control panel should be blinking, indicating that the control has accepted the input. If they are not blinking, punch in the "arm" command again.

Check your docent handbooks and be certain that your page 4-5.2 has a date later than 2/1/97 to ensure that your copy has the latest information.

## Gift Shop

You are invited to come see some of the new things in the gift shop. We have some lovely hand made baskets made by the mother of one of our active volunteers, some sterling silver jewelry, many new books and note cards.

## Scanner for the Computer

We received a \$646.00 Grant from the Junior League of Santa Barbara for the purchase of a scanner and associated equipment for the computer. The equipment has been purchased and is presently being installed in our computer at the Nature Center.

We will now be able to incorporate pictures into our publications and brochures. An early example, using another person's scanner and program, was the "Cachuma Lake Guide" which has now sold over 1000 copies. Immediate future use will be to combine original art work in Don Wimpress' "Cachuma Lake Flora" with the text for the document. Also, Linda Taylor's book of colored photographs of Cachuma Flora can be assembled in a computer generated volume.

## Wanted, More Powerful Computer

Does anyone have a surplus Mac computer?

Get a tax break

by donating it to the Nature Center!

As we add new peripherals to our system we realize we would love to have more power and space. So, we are adding a 'new to us' computer to our 'wish list.' Our present system is a Mac LC with 100 mb hard disk, 10 mb RAM with a MC68020 processor. If you received a new computer for Xmas or have upgraded and wish to donate your used one to the Center, please call Don Wimpress at 688-2967

## New Address and Phone Number

The new address for the Cachuma Lake Foundation is now:

Cachuma Lake Foundation, Inc.

HC 58

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

The telephone number for the Nature Center Docent area is **696-0691**.

The telephone for the Naturalist's office (Neal and Liz) is still **688-4515**.