



# CACHUMA FLYER

## CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue number 3; Summer, 1989

### DOCENT MEETING JULY 5

A lengthy agenda was discussed at the Docent meeting July 5, at the Nature Center. Among issues affecting members of the group was the selection of a "uniform" to be worn when a docent is meeting the public. A tailored, khaki-colored shirt with long or short sleeves was chosen to be worn with long pants, walking shorts, or skirts. No specific brand of shirt was designated. Eventually Docent and Lake patches will be added, when available.

Funds were allocated to purchase a filing cabinet and a Croix lettering machine to make signs and explanatory materials for the Nature Center. In order to determine and clarify areas of responsibility for conducting the activities of the organization, each committee chairman has been asked to write a description of the duties of his or her committee and bring it to the next meeting on August 2.

Concern and frustration were expressed by docents who participated in "Flight Into Spring" events at the Lake, that no accounting was yet available on gross and net income, and remaining inventory for the sale of shirts, posters, and visors. Persons who had responsibility for various phases of the day's activities were asked to write a summary of their efforts that day with suggestions for improvement and send it to Betty Dawson who will maintain a file for future reference.

Interest was expressed in developing, painting and equipping a room to be used as a docent workroom-lounge-study. Prior to the start of this project it was suggested that Dean Dawson, Chair of Exhibits Committee, develop a tentative plan for the usage of the entire facility.

A committee consisting of Connie Howerton, George Hughes, Neal Taylor, and Maggie Klages was appointed to develop guidelines for meeting the public on behalf of the docent group.

### A NOTE TO FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Although this publication is primarily intended to inform docents of Nature Center activities, for the present time it will be sent to Foundation Members and to Board Members to update each of you, regarding progress of the organization. Suggestions for future issues are welcome from all readers. Publication is planned for quarterly distribution at this time.

### CACHUMA LAKE FOUNDATION

Maggie Klages was elected chairperson of the Cachuma Lake Foundation Board of Directors at their initial meeting held at the Nature Center, July 13. Frank Laurant and Bob Pike, Santa Barbara County Counsel, informally co-chaired the meeting which was attended by the following new members: Judy Johnson, Bobbie Hedge, Bob Fermin, Noreen Pond, Tom Lingham, Susan Ham, Suzanne Polansky, and Maggie Klages. Noreen Pond was elected vice-chair person; Judy Johnson, secretary; Bob Fermin, treasurer.

Background of the ranch house building, purpose of organization and its relationship to the County Parks Department and to the docent organization, roles of each officer, by-laws, and questions of liability were among subjects of discussion. Next meeting of the group will be held August 31, at 2:00 at the Nature Center.

### RESIDENT OWL FAMILY

A treat is currently available for even the most casual bird watcher in a small grove of redwood trees in the Eldorado area of the Park. As many as seven barn owls which are common to grasslands, farms and suburbs, have been sighted during daytime hours. This bird with an endearing heart-shaped face, pale, buff-colored underparts and tan to light rust-colored back, nests in buildings, cliffs and tree holes. Although these birds are widespread across the country, they were "Blue Listed" by the National Audubon Society from 1972 to 1981, indicating significantly declining local populations or declining range.

They feed on small rodents which are swallowed whole. Since they do not digest bones and fur of their prey, they regurgitate a pellet formed with fur outside and bones within, for each rodent. Pellets found below the roost at Cachuma are about 2½ inches long. Barn owls hiss or screech. (R.T. Peterson calls it a "snore.")

Irregular leading edges to their primary wing feathers, disrupting the stream of air over the wing surface, muffles flight sound and enables owls to fly silently after their prey. Its facial frame of feathers, asymmetrical ear structure, increased number of auditory neurons, and broad space between the ears contribute to the owl's keen hearing which, studies show, is the sense the owl relies upon to hunt in the dark.

### GATHERING TRIP

Docents Dean and Betty Dawson, and Jessica Moody accompanied Karen Osland on a trip to gather raw materials for making artifacts to Rose Valley, north of Ojai off Highway 33, on July 9.

Indian hemp which was the main fiber plant used by Native Americans was cut to make string or cordage for nets, fishlines, necklaces and countless other uses. The material is worked dry and the fiber is in the outer bark which must be removed from the stem of the plant, according to Karen.

Juncus, or Indian Rush, was also gathered. A four to five foot tall, wiry, brown-tipped plant, it is the primary basket plant used in this area. It is split while still green and coiled until dry or ready to use. It is soaked for about twenty minutes before weaving and may be split into strips of varied widths. Karen conducted the docent training class on Native American crafts.

## RALPH AND MAGGIE KLAGES

Note: To acquaint us with one another as individuals, a profile of various group members will be included periodically.

The docents with the longest history of association with Cachuma Lake are Ralph and Maggie Klages. In 1986, they met Neal Taylor who presented his fly-casting and gab show for a gathering of a Bavarian folk dance group to which the Klages' belonged—she, as a dancer and he, as an accordionist. Subsequently, the three of them met frequently and coincidentally at the Longhorn, and so began a close friendship.

Ralph who had much boating experience on his own sailboat, began to substitute for Neal on the excursion boat and, with Maggie, to pinch-hit for Neal at the Fireside Theatre programs and nature hikes during 1987. When the first docent class was organized in early 1987, they were among the first to "enlist."

Both Klages' are southern California natives and have lived in the Santa Ynez Valley since 1980. Ralph, however, continued to practice ophthalmology in Glendale during the week and to teach at USC as Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology until retiring in 1986.

Maggie has an interest and skill in photography which stem from a prior, twenty year career with the F.B.I. where she worked as a photographer and photo lab supervisor.

Before coming to the Valley, Maggie, with Ralph's assistance on weekends, built and operated the Krausemeier Haus Guest Lodge and Stables at Big Bear for seventeen years. They have a long-standing interest in collecting the seeds and propagating native plants. Their present home on Edison Road, designed and built by Maggie also, is located on five acres which are landscaped totally with natives that they have raised. Ralph, an accomplished amateur botanist, can name most plants in the Park by both their Latin and common name and give interesting facts and historical uses of many.

Maggie's primary interest as a docent is in archeology and anthropology as related to the Chumash. This couple has spent literally hundreds of hours working in the Nature Center and presenting interpretive programs. It is doubtful that there is any aspect of the development of the Nature Center or of docent programs in which they have not been involved.

When questioned about her new role as chairperson of the Cachuma Lake Foundation Board, Maggie said, "I hope the Board can get the preliminary "paper work" done so that we can move on with the goals of the organization."

## CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

Third and fourth grade students of the Santa Ynez Valley Family School have published an eight-page newspaper titled The Junior Pathfinder, for children visiting Cachuma Lake. Containing stories written by the students on animals, birds, fish, plant life, Native Americans, as well as student-produced puzzles and art work, the paper is "a California environmental newspaper," according to Sandy Hanes, instructor and advisor. Other advisors are Rachelle Norton, Karen Jensen, and Stephanie Swartz.

PARTICIPATION IN SUMMER INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

All docents are encouraged to participate in summer interpretive programs presented weekly at the park. Volunteer opportunities are

\_\_\_\_\_ Wed. night: Welcome campers; introduced and run a film at the outdoor theatre. (Films have been ordered for the entire summer; a brief synopsis of each is posted at the Nature Center.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs. night: Assist with the set up of a telescope and explain to campers what is seen through it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday night: Welcome campers; show an appropriate slide show of your own or one prepared by Neal or arrange for, and introduce a guest speaker at the outdoor amphitheatre.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sat.: Welcome campers and show a slide show with your narration at the outdoor theatre.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sat.: Conduct or assist with a nature hike.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sat.: Assist with narration on the Lake tour.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sun.: Assist with narration on the Lake tour.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: Do you have an idea of something you'd like to do that isn't listed here? Please mention it and a date you'd like to do it. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sat. or Sun.: Open and conduct a narrated tour through the Nature Center.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you are interested in participating in a CPR class; one will be held when sufficient people indicate interest.

Fireside Theatre and Film themes are Fire Prevention and Conservation (July) and Native Americans (August).

If you would like to try out your skills at any of these events, please check the event and write in the best date for you. If you have already signed up for specific dates at the Nature Center, you need not do it again.

Mail this sheet to Neal Taylor, Star Route, Cachuma Lake, Santa Barbara, 93105.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_