



# CACHUMA FLYER

## CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 16; Summer 1994      Don Wimpres, Editor

### CALENDAR FOR JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER:

Jul 9	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Aug 13	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Sep 3-5	Sat thru Mon		Big Labor Day Day Weekend
Sep 10	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>

### NEW WILDLIFE/EAGLE CRUISE SHIP:

The new county-purchased boat, the "*OSPREY*", has arrived and is in service for the wildlife and eagle boat tours on the lake. It accomodates fifty passengers in padded swivel seats; 25 of which are under a roof that can provide protection from the sun or rain. The other 25 seats are on open decks fore and aft. Twenty-five pairs of binoculars are provided to the passengers (25 more pairs are on order) so they can readily observe the wildlife discussed. A public address system, with two wireless microphones, is being installed.

The *Osprey* is a triple-pontoon boat 48 feet in length and with a 14-foot beam. It weighs 8000 pounds and is stable enough that all 50 passengers can be on one side without capsizing. It is powered by a 150 hp V-6 Mercury outboard and can cruise at 18 knots. The hull has been specially designed so as to leave very little wake, even at high speeds, so that passage of the boat will not disturb fishermen or the shoreline. The draft is only 18 inches so that the boat can enter shallow channels and come close to the shoreline. The specifications for the boat were made by Neal Taylor and others so as to get a boat that was ideally suited for its intended use on Cachuma Lake.

The boat is entered over the bow, and is easily handicaped accessible; the seating locations on the foredeck being adaptable for securing wheelchairs and tables. Windowed curtains are being ordered to enclose the 25-foot covered area during the winter when wind and rain might otherwise cause discomfort. A large locker is located in the stern for storage of the binoculars and other equipment.

Public Wildlife Tours on the boat are arranged through the County Office in Santa Barbara at (805) 568-2460. The cost of the 2-hour tour is \$10 per person.

Docents are encouraged to make arrangements with Neal Taylor for a ride on this boat during one of the regular tours. (Call the Nature Center between 7:30-9:30, Wednesday thru Sunday.)

## DOCENT TRAINING

The Spring Docent Training Class had eight prospective docents. Only one of these has completed all of the requirements; the other seven still have either a make-up class to complete, or their projects to finish. However, none have dropped out. As soon as the make-ups and projects completed, their names will be submitted to the CLF Board for certification as "Docents."

One of the rather special features of the docent training was a class conducted by Bruce Jones, the Bureau of Reclamation Dam Tender, on the hydrology of the Santa Ynez River and the functions of the dam and the accompanying water distribution systems. This was followed by a visit to the dam and a description/demonstration of some of the facilities.

The training program is being defined and documented so that individual people can undergo training during the year to fulfill the requirements to become docents. This will enable us to accept volunteers at any time they are ready to start serving.

Anyone interested in becoming a docent should contact -

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

## EXHIBITS

There were no major changes in the exhibits during the last three months, but there were many minor changes in location and subject matter. All during the summer we exhibited examples of 40 species of wild plants in our flora exhibit. This has been cut down to 20 for the winter months.

The biggest exhibit change during the last quarter was a new exhibit, consisting of material from existing exhibits and a new map of the area, depicting the location and history of the stage routes thru the area. It also includes other historical information such as Fremont's journey thru the area in 1846, and early cattle-raising activities.

A life-size plywood model of a cougar, along with descriptive material, has been put on display. This is expected to be followed by similar displays of other animals of the area. This should provide visitors with a good idea of the actual sizes of some of the animals of the area.

In our experience at the Nature Center we have found out that many visitors are not familiar with Poison Oak, and undoubtedly, many happy weekend visitor becomes extremely unhappy the following Monday or Tuesday as they break out with a Poison Oak rash. We usually have a Poison Oak sample in the Center, and recently a separate exhibit. Last week we enlarged this exhibit and moved it to a prominent place in the entry hall where every Nature Center visitor should get to see it. We have also produced a one-page description of the plant and its effects in an effort to further educate the public and to enhance their overall enjoyment of the Park.

At the suggestion of Bruce Jones, the Bureau of Reclamation Dam Tender, Linda Taylor prepared an exhibit that was placed in an existing glass-covered display board at the Dam Vista site. This will draw the attention of many tourists, who stop to view the dam, to our Nature Center.

#### NEW JOB ASSIGNMENTS:

On Sunday evening, July 3rd, the Docents had a little get-together to sip wine or Pepsis and eat a few chips. During this jovial meeting President George Smith led a discussion on getting people involved in specific duties required at the Nature Center; many of which have fallen by default upon him or Linda Taylor. The following people volunteered to accept these duties:

Docent Scheduling	Karen Harris
Exhibits	Linda Taylor
Gift Shop	Beth Badrak
Treasurer	Kathy Badrak
Treasurer Trainee	George Smith
Social Functions	???
Outdoor maintenance	Ryan Gordon
Housekeeping supplies	Betty Wimpres
Docent Training (Basic)	Don Wimpres
Docent Training (Advanced)	Karen Osland
Cachuma Flyer	Don Wimpres
Publicity	Connie Howerton
Librarian	???
Historian	Connie Howerton

The positions of librarian and social functions have not yet been filled.

#### NATURE CENTER GROUNDS:

The UCLA Archaeological Field Class (Spring, 1994) has completed the field work at the Nature Center. Some follow up work, such as mapping, will continue through July. The Bureau of Reclamation (BR) requires that a report be filed with the BR within six months of the completion of field work. This report is also necessary for the Environmental Assessment required by Santa Barbara County. Before the report can be written and submitted, all of the cultural material recovered from the site must be identified, counted, and verified. This information is then entered into the computer for cataloging. The cultural material itself must be properly prepared for curation

at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. It will take a minimum of 2-4 months to complete this work. This work will be done by Dr. Colten and volunteers. Dr. Colten, head of the Spring Field Class, also hopes to publish some of the findings from the excavation in a professional journal.

#### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST:**

On Sunday morning, May 29th, the CLF Board with the help of the Docents, hosted a pancake breakfast at the Park Recreation Hall to raise money for the Foundation. Approximately 150 people were served pancakes, orange juice, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, and coffee, tea, or milk. In addition there was a lottery and a bake sale. The organizers were a little optimistic on how many people would be served, and there was a surplus of food, most of which was sold in bulk at the end of the day. The event grossed \$818.04 with \$481.56 in expenses. This gave a profit of \$333.48, plus \$57.50 we received in donations, which gave us a total profit for the day of \$393.98. Also, the event brought the Nature Center to the attention of many visitors and the resultant increase in traffic enhanced the Gift Shop sales.

Cachuma Lake Nature Center  
Star Route  
Highway 154  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-9711