



CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 20 Summer 1995 Don Wimpres, Editor

CALENDAR FOR JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER:

Jul 8	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Jul 20	Thur	6:30 p.m.	"Looking-Forward" meeting and dessert.
Aug 12	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Sep 9	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>

SPECIAL MEETING WITH COFFEE AND DESSERT:

At 6:30 p.m. on July 20th there will be a special meeting at the Nature Center to discuss future goals for the Nature Center and how best to accomplish these goals. A letter pertaining to this event has been sent to all Docents, Volunteers, and CLF Directors, so be sure to mark this on your calendar and be with us.

Coffee and dessert will be served.

NEW ASSISTANT NATURALIST:

Jennifer Duval, who has been with us the past two years, has resigned because it's tough to be working weekends when her husband is off. We will miss her happy face in our midst. Our best wishes go with her as she embarks on a new stage in her life.

Liz Mason will start in July as the new Assistant Naturalist. She comes to us with a long line of credits and experiences which include a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from UCSB, employment as an interpretive naturalist for the Forest Service in the Columbia River Gorge, as well as being with the Department of Biological Sciences at UCSB, the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, and American Veterinary Publications. She has experience in setting up displays and should be a real asset to our organization. Welcome aboard, Liz!

FOUNDATION AND DOCENT OFFICERS:

The Foundation Board of Directors saw some major changes this spring with several new assignments:

Peter Robertson, who has been the Foundation Chairman since its inception, has retired from both the Office and the Board. Peter has led us through many problems during our formative years, and we certainly appreciate his long-enduring efforts. We wish him the best during his "retirement."

Noreen Pond has vacated the Treasurer's position which she has held for so long and has done such a tremendous job. She, however, is sticking around to fulfil another, and hopefully less demanding, position.

These are the new Officers for the Foundation:

Chairman	David Saunders
Vice-chair	Helen Logan
Treasurer	Kim Allbright
Recording Secretary	Judy Johnson
Corresponding Secretary	Noreen Pond

In the meantime the Docents also elected Officers for the coming year:

President	George Smith
Vice President (co-)	Linda Taylor & Connie Howerton
Treasurer	Olive Saunders
Secretary	Bob Runnels

Major committee heads include

Gift Shop	George Hughes
Exhibits	Linda Taylor
Publicity	Connie Howerton

PAGE FOUNDATION GRANT:

This last quarter showed the near completion of all of the exhibits funded by the Page Foundation grant. Those completed during the quarter included the following which will be described in more detail in the "Exhibits" section of the *Flyer*.

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

(The drawers have been purchased and installed, but the artifacts are not yet installed.)

DOCENT TRAINING:

No docent training classes were held this spring for several reasons. It is anticipated that our open house of June 25th might have generated some interest in the Center, and we expect to have some docent training classes during the summer.

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

The first aquarium exhibit has been completed and is now the happy home for several fish including Large-mouth Bass, Small-mouth Bass, and Bluegill.

A second aquarium, identical in size to the first one, has been obtained and will be installed during the next quarter. It will be mounted in a pre-arranged space above the existing aquarium. This unit will contain chilled water at approximately 55 degrees Fahrenheit and will display cold-water fish such as trout.

A third, larger aquarium has been donated and will be put into use at some later date.

The two small doorways, one on either side of the larger doorway to the Fauna Room, have been converted into display cases by installing glass shelves and acrylic covers. One of these now displays our collection of smaller animal skulls, and the other will house various items.

A set of drawers has been installed into an area next to the fireplace in the Chumash History Room. These drawers will contain replica artifacts and other objects that may be handled by the visitor.

The electrical quiz board has been completed and set up in the Dam Room. There are ten pictures on display, each with three statements; one of which is true. The object of the display is to select the correct answer by pressing the appropriate button. A correct answer results in a green light; but a wrong answer produces a red light and a loud buzzer. This display has proven to be very popular as is evidenced by the large number of "buzzes" that are heard throughout the day. The board is constructed so that the pictures, statements, and sequences can be easily changed.

ACCESS ROAD REWORK:

Access road rework has not yet been completed, although for all practical purposes, it is done. They still have to paint the stripes and do a little minor grading.

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.

OPEN HOUSE:

Our Open House on Sunday, June 25th, got a lot of publicity in the local papers and the event certainly put the Nature Center on the map and brought the attention of a lot of local people to what we are accomplishing here. We had over 215 visitors touring the Center that afternoon.

DOCENT PARTY:

On the Friday afternoon following the Open House we had a Docent evening picnic party at the Nature to socialize and discuss the effects of the Open House. We got in a lot of socializing, but fell a little short on the discussions about the Open House.

NATURE CENTER BACKYARD:

Thanks to a new Volunteer, Dale Findley, the yard around the Nature Center looks better than ever. Dale pruned the shrubery, raked all the leaves, and hoed out all of the weeds from the entire fenced-in area. This took several days, but it really looks great.

THE COMPUTER:

We have been without a computer for a few weeks because of various problems which have now been fixed. We hope to have several Docents become familiar with its operation this summer under the tutelage of Docent Shelley McCabe.

NEEDED

We are looking for a donation of a refrigeration system for the 2nd aquarium. A suitable system is commonly used to cool the water in drinking fountains to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. If anyone has one, or knows of a source for one, which might be donated, please call Neal Taylor at 688-4515.