



# CACHUMA FLYER

## CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 14; Winter 1994      Don Wimpress, Editor

### CALENDAR FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH

Jan 8	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Regular Monthly Docent Meeting
Jan 22			Special Educational Training Class "The Upper Santa Ynez River Area" with Jim Blakley.
Feb 12	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Regular Monthly Docent Meeting
Mar 12	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Regular Monthly Docent Meeting

### ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Several Docents were recognized at the Annual Barbeque on October 31st for outstanding contributions to the Nature Center Mission. Linda Taylor and George Smith were the recipients of the "Most Outstanding Docent" rewards for 1993. Linda has done an outstanding job as Exhibits Chairperson, along with many other duties; and George Smith again led by far the number of hours contributed by a Docent.

### GIFT SHOP RELOCATION

The bathroom between the Docent's work room and the Fauna Room has been converted into a kitchenette, and the former large kitchen has been remodelled to become the Gift Shop. The remodelling is nearly completed, and the Gift Shop is expected to be relocated to its new quarters in January.

The planning and much of the labor for this move was done by Docent Don Wimpress with the help of Docents George Hughes, George Smith, Fred Blaser, Jerry Witcher, and Ryan Gordon. Docent Linda Taylor did all of the painting and moving kitchen items to their proper places in the new kitchenette. Of course, Neal Taylor lent a hand now and then as he is almost always present and was easy to snag for a quick bit of help.

## **NEW ACCESS DOOR**

With the old kitchen corridor being closed off by the new Gift Shop, the "keyed" entrance door will soon be moved to the southeast entrance at the Dam Room. This was done to make the "keyed" door more convenient to the alarm system control. The lockbox will be located in this area, so if you can't find it in the old area, look here.

Also, all the keys necessary for the operation of the facility will be located on one key panel. Docents must be aware of this and make certain they know how to get access to these keys before they try to operate the Center after the new Gift Shop is put into operation.

The "public entrance" will continue to be the same as at present so that a single Nature Center Host can monitor the entrance and the Gift Shop.

## **SPECIAL TRAINING CLASS**

A special educational training class was held at Vandenberg AFB on December 18th. Docent Karen Osland, an archeologist working on the base, led the group on a tour of Chumash rock art sites and historical sites. The trip was cut short by rain which started during the lunch stop, so the afternoon was spent visiting the Lompoc Museum.

Our next special training class will be held on Saturday, January 22nd. It will be an all-day affair, driving over paved and dirt roads into the upper Santa Ynez River watershed with renowned back-country historian and naturalist Jim Blakley. We will examine the geography, geology, flora, fauna, geology, cultural history, the dams and water resources development, and any other thing we come across. We hope to get in as far as Little Caliente Hot Springs, and visit Big Caliente Hot Springs, Mono Debris Basin, Pendola Station, Mono Adobe site, and some campgrounds.

For further information be at the January Docent meeting. All Docents, trainees, volunteers, and CLF Board Members are invited on this trip.

## **NATURE CENTER CLEANUP**

On Saturday, October 23rd, several docents showed up to effect a complete cleanup of the Nature Center. The entire interior was dusted, mopped, vacuumed, and scrubbed. Lots of surplus stuff was thrown away to reduce the load in storage areas. Some windows were washed and the shrubbery pruned. During the following week, the Family School students came and finished the window-washing job and raked up all of the leaves in the yard. It all looked great for the Awards Potluck on October 31st. Hope we can keep it that way!

## **HANDICAPPED ACCESS**

Docents Ryan Gordon, George Hughes, and Jerry Witcher, along with some help from the Park Staff, have completed a sloped paved walkway from the parking lot to the entrance sidewalk. Along with a ramp completed recently at the southeast door, this provides easy wheelchair access to our Center.

## **ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAM**

An Elderhostel program, operating out of Solvang, has been visiting the Nature Center each month for the last several months, and will continue to do so for another four months. Docent George Smith has been spearheading these programs which include a slide lecture about the Park and local area, a visit to the Nature Center, and a boat tour of the lake.

## **WREATH MAKING**

Again this year several Docents spent a number of hours making wreaths out of grape vines and natural forest and field products. Over twenty wreaths were constructed and sold this year, at an average price of eighteen dollars each, adding a bit of money to our coffers. Participating Docents, under the leadership of Linda Taylor included Linda Andrews, Beth Badrak, Kathy Badrak, Bobbie Harvey, Olive Saunders, Carol Smagala, and Betty Wimpres.

In addition to the ever-popular wreaths, several candle-log table decorations were made and sold, as were several decorative fireplace logs.

## **EXHIBITS**

A plan and estimate for the aquarium exhibit was made and submitted to the CLF Board of Directors. The cost for a first-class two-tank display with all of the goodies was estimated to be around six-thousand dollars (\$6000). The Board decided that this was too much at this time, so the plans for the exhibit have been shelved for a while.

## **DOCENT TRAINING**

The 1994 Docent Training Classes are expected to start on April 16th so as to graduate a new class in time for the Memorial Day Weekend. It was thought that by having the classes a little later in the season, better springtime weather would induce more candidates to attend. Docents and Board Members should scout their friends and acquaintances to try and induce more people into taking these classes and becoming docents. Last year's classes resulted in twelve new docents, and we need a like amount this year to continue coverage of our increasing visitor activities.

## **PUBLICITY**

There has been a number of articles about Lake Cachuma in various newspapers and magazines during the last three months, and several mentioned the Nature Center and/or its activities. We expect this publicity to continue during the next year as the lake will be full again attracting many campers. Also, a new 45-foot boat, with many conveniences, will be available for the Eagle and Wildlife Cruises. This should attract a little attention!

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

A "SPECIAL THANKS" to all of those Docents who put in the many hours that made our 1993 season so great.

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