



CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 18; Winter 1995 Don Wimpres, Editor

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH:

Jan 4	Wed	8:00 a.m.	Eagle Count
Jan 14	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Feb 11	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Mar 11	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>

ANNUAL EAGLE COUNT:

The annual Cachuma Lake Eagle Count will be conducted on Wednesday, January 4th this year. It's taking place on a Wednesday because the people in charge are unavailable on any weekend that we could have it. Participants will be oriented on procedures and identification on an evening prior to the count. We'll be observing Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Ospreys for four hours at preselected sites around the lake between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining this project should contact George Smith (688-1288) or the Nature Center (688-1545).

If it rains on the 4th, the count will be postponed to the 11th.

ANNUAL FOUNDATION PICNIC:

The annual Cachuma Lake Foundation Picnic was held in October at the Cachuma Lake Nature Center. We had a great Tri-tip and chicken barbeque and time for the CLF Board Members and Docents to socialize a bit. After all of the tummies were filled, Peter Robertson held a short awards ceremony where six new docents were presented their "docent" certificates and badges. Welcome aboard! This was followed by presenting awards to two outstanding docents for the year: Karen Osland for her untiring efforts in getting the archaeological study going to determine the uses to which we can put the back yard of the Nature Center, and to Kathy Badrak for her hours contributed in setting up the computer files and training other docents in the use of the computer. Also, Don Wimpres was named to the Ralph and Maggie Klages Award as the outstanding Docent of the year.

NEW DOCENTS:

Our new Docents who received their credentials in October were:

Linda Andrews - Linda had completed most of her training a year ago, and has been very active in Nature Center projects during the last year. Glad to see her position "formalized."

Karen Harris - Karen is an active outdoor leader and a teacher who is eager to be involved in many of our programs. She is in charge of seeing that the Nature Center is manned on all of the scheduled days.

Billy McCabe - Billy is an amateur astronomer and has contributed to several of our *Astronomy Night* programs. He has his own telescope which is similar to the Nature Center equipment, and has brought it along to "shorten the lines" and let us observe more celestial objects during the programs.

Shelley McCabe - Shelley has joined in several activities at the Center and has taken on the duties of Librarian for our vast natural and cultural history library.

Millie Steele/Nicholas - Millie likes to tend the Nature Center and has spent many a day in this job. Her enthusiasm in describing the wonders of our area have delighted a number of visitors.

Charlie Jack - Charlie has been a big help to some of us old men who have been bearing the brunt of the skilled hard labors around the center. He has worked on a number of the exhibits to improve their appearance, and has been available to clean the boat almost every Wednesday.

EXHIBITS

The exhibits have remained relatively unchanged during the last three months. One new major exhibit was proposed and approved for construction; a 50-gallon aquarium to be located in the rear service porch at the end of the hall. The existing door will be widened to accommodate a large panel closure with an opening to view one side of the tank. Access and servicing will be done by means of existing facilities in the service porch. The aquarium will feature fish and other life found in Cachuma Lake, and will be maintained by Neal Taylor and marine biologist Jennifer Duval. This location was selected for these reasons:

1. Tank could be kept darkened when not "in exhibit" as this will reduce the growth of algae.
2. The illuminated exhibit will be very impressive to anyone entering the hallway, and will provide for easy viewing.
3. Available services (water, drain, and power) and rear access to the exhibit.

GIFT MANUFACTURE:

For several weeks some of the docents met occasionally in Santa's Workshop (Nature Center Docent room) and made gifts for sale in the gift shop. Mrs. Claus (L.T) supervised lots of little elves, including Sleepy and Dopey, in

producing wreaths, yule logs, candle logs, aprons, and little tree ornaments in the shape of houses, barns, baskets, and fish-lure balls.

LPFIA VISIT:

The Los Padres Forest Interpretive Association, which does the "docent" job for our adjoining National Forest, made a recent field trip to the Lake and nature Center. George Smith, who is also a member of the LPFIA along with several other docents, hosted the affair which included a visit to the Nature Center, a nature hike, a picnic lunch, and a boat ride. It is hoped that since many LPFIA members have interests common to our park, we might entice a few of them to become volunteers or docents.

JANUARY DOCENT MEETING:

Peter Robertson, the Chairman of the Cachuma Lake Foundation, was unable to attend the December meeting so we will be looking forward to the January meeting when we hope that he will be able to describe the activities of the Foundation in obtaining funding for the Nature Center. This presentation is expected to increase the Docent understanding of the problems and successes of the Foundation in its quest for funds.

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.

CLEANING CONTRACT:

The Foundation recently engaged a cleaning service to do a monthly cleaning of the Nature Center. They really did a great job on their first visit, and we hope the impression will continue. It was quite a relief to the few docents who had gradually inherited (in addition to their other duties,) the jobs of scrubbing floors, windows, bathrooms, etc.

SOCIETY PAGE:

Neal and Linda Taylor took a ten-day sojourn to France to visit Linda's daughter-in-law's family, along with her son and D-I-L. They were there over Christmas and had plenty of time to enjoy (read "pig out") the Yuletide festivities with their hosts and their friends.