

CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 22; Winter 1996 Don Wimpress, Editor

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH:

Jan 7	Sun	8:45 a.m.	Geology Hike (LPIA)
Jan 11	Thu	9:00 a.m.	Docent Flower Identification Class
Jan 13	Sat	8:00 a.m.	Annual Eagle Count
Jan 13	Sat	1:00 p.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Jan 24 5	Thu	All day	Morro Bay Museum Field Trip
Feb 10	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Mar 9	Sat	10:00 a.m.	<u>Regular Monthly Docent Meeting</u>
Apr 26-27	Sat-Sun		TROUT DERBY!

LOOKING AHEAD

GEOLOGY HIKE:

The Los Padres Forest Interpretive Association (LPIA) is sponsoring a geology trip to a place of extreme geologic interest; a black smoker. This is the remnant of a hot-water spring that was once at the bottom of the ocean. The walk will be led by Helmet Ehrenspeck, a noted local geologist.

The group will meet at the park in Los Olivos (by the flagpole) at 8:45 a.m. to arrange car-pooling up the Figueroa Mountain Road to the various sites that will be visited. Bring a lunch and drinking water as the trip should last until about 3 p.m. There will be some walking involved; the longest approximately one-half mile round trip.

Call Don Wimpress at 688-2967 for further information.

FLORA CLASS:

It is the intent of the Docent Organization to conduct various classes or field trips from time to time to further educate the Docents in the natural and cultural histories of the Cachuma area. The first of these for the 1996 year will be a plant identification class.

Don Wimpress will be conducting a series of classes to familiarize Docents and other interested parties in learning to identify wild plants by using dichotomous keys. The first class will be on Thursday, January 11th, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the Nature Center. Classes will consist of instruction, lab work, and field work. Please contact Don if you wish to attend so he can tell you what to bring to the first class.

Classes will be open to outsiders for a small fee per class. This fee will be refunded if the student continues with our program and puts in at least 50 hours of volunteer time during 1996. Classes are free to Docents, CLF Board Members, and Volunteers as of December 31, 1995.

EAGLE COUNT:

Each year about this time there is a National Eagle Count during which time all over the country people get out and count the number of Bald Eagles and some other birds. At Cachuma Lake we observe and count the Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Ospreys. We observe between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. We need a number of people to help with this, and one doesn't have to be a knowledgeable bird watcher as we divide in groups, each of which may have only one experienced birder plus two or three "spotters" who don't need to identify what they see. If you'd like to join us in this activity, show up at the Nature at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday January 13th, for instruction and assignment. Bring warm clothing and a lunch.

JANUARY DOCENT MEETING:

The regular January Docent Meeting falls on the same day as the Annual National Eagle Count. This activity requires the help of several of our Docents so they would not be able to attend the meeting if it were held at the usual 10 a.m. Therefore, the meeting time has been rescheduled to 1:00 p.m. so all the Docents and volunteers can help with the eagle count, eat lunch together, and then have the meeting. In this meeting we will elect our Docent Officers for the coming year.

MORRO BAY FIELD TRIP:

On Thursday, January 25th, there will be a field trip to the Morro Bay Natural History Museum in the Morro Bay State Park. The object will be to learn something of the natural history of the area, and to study the operations of the museum and its docent program. It will be an all-day trip. Persons wishing to attend should contact Don Wimpress for details.

TROUT DERBY:

This next year the principle CLF fund raiser for the Nature Center will be a Trout Derby sponsored jointly with the Parks Department, and with numerous donors and co-sponsors. The date is Saturday and Sunday, April 26th and 27th. This is going to be a major event and we will need all of the help we can get. If you are not already collared, and are able to help out that weekend, please contact one of the following:

Kim Albright

Trout Derby Chairperson

733-1421

Dave Saunders	CLF Board President	688-8095
Neal Taylor	Park Naturalist	688-4515

LOOKING BACK

AWARDS POTLUCK:

George Hughes, a founding member of the organization, President from 1988 to 1990, and who has provided continuing leadership and scientific information, was named outstanding Docent of the Year.

The "Backbone Award," for consistent giving of their time and efforts for the betterment of the Nature Center, was awarded to Fred Blaser, Connie Howerton, George Hughes, Charlie Jack, Karen Osland, Bob Runnels, Olive Saunders, George Smith, Linda Taylor, and Don Wimpress.

The awards were presented during the annual awards picnic by Dave Saunders, Chairman of the Cachuma Lake Foundation.

DOCENT TRAINING:

Seven people underwent the new training program this fall and have now become Docents:

- B.R. Gunn
- Nancy Henderson
- Josh Kovacs
- Stella Kovas
- Beverly Mick
- Donna Shorts
- Betty Wimpress

Handwritten note:
 Great! -
 ask re assignments

Another person, Lorraine Lafargue, has signed up for training. We are looking forward to working with these new Docents during the coming year.

If anyone knows of someone interested in working at the Nature Center, please have them or you get in touch with Don Wimpress. Most of our Docents have been recruited thru direct contact with existing members.

OTHER NEWS

OAK CANYON NATURE TRAIL:

The Oak Canyon Nature Trail, a half-mile loop starting and ending at the Nature Center, has deteriorated a bit over the last couple of years. Trail maintenance is needed, signs need replacement, and the self-guiding brochure is out of date. George Smith, our retiring Docent President, has volunteered to lead in rehabilitating and maintaining this asset to our programs. George will be looking to other Docents to assist him in this work. Our Nature Trail is one of our most popular assets, being traveled by hundreds of visitors each year.

SPECIAL:

Docent Karen Harris is in charge of a group of Santa Ynez High School students who have been coming to the Nature Center one day a week since October 1st to do light maintenance work both inside and outside. This gives the students an opportunity to practice job skills in a realistic setting. Karen is the Teacher's Assistant to Kit Myers. The students work about an hour each visit and take a few minutes to have lunch and see the exhibits in the Center.

LIBRARY:

Docent Rachel Kimbrough has taken over the job of organizing our library. Finally, after many years, our books are organized by topic with a check-out system. Avail yourself of these books to learn more about our area. If you have books that you no longer use of scientific or historical pertinence to the Cachuma area, we would be delighted if you would donate them to our library.

In regards to books, our gift shop has added used books to its stock. We already have some great books for sale CHEAP.

PERTINENT PICTURES PHOR PRESENTATIONS:

As the year ends, please save any calendars with pictures of birds, animals, or flowers of the local area. They are most useful in exhibit preparation.

Another source of pictures and articles are many of the nature-related magazines. If you have any surplus ones, we'd like to have the items. We especially appreciate it if the articles are "edited" out of the periodical and placed in the box on top of the file cabinet in the Docent's work room. Please write the name and date of the publication on edited articles.

Also, Linda could use a few large flat boxes, such as a Christmas suit box, for storing mounted pictures, posters, etc.

* * * * *

December, 1995

Dear Friends,

We appreciate deeply the kind thoughts and donations that have gone into the selection and purchase of a memorial for Neal's son, Donn Taylor, who passed away in August. Don and Betty Wimpres have chosen a beautiful bird bath-sundial combination that will be situated on a large rock in the Nature Center yard. This attractive and appropriate addition will remind us in a lovely way of Donn and of all our caring friends at Cachuma Lake.

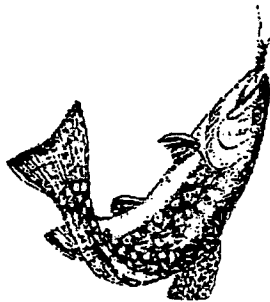
Sincerely,

Neal and Linda Taylor

**\$25,000 TROUT FISHING DERBY
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

Lake Cachuma - April 27th and 28th, 1996

Catch the tagged fish bearing the winning number and win the \$25,000 Grand Prize!



MAIL EARLY!

Print or type name

Entrant's signature

Street address (please print)

City, State, Zip

Area code, Telephone number

Mail this form with your tax deductible registration fee of \$20.00 (make checks payable to Cachuma Lake Foundation, Inc.), postmarked by April 23rd to:

Cachuma Lake Foundation, Inc.
2955 Chandler Drive
Lompoc, CA 93436

Your official entry ID and details concerning the awarding of prizes will be mailed to you. If your entry is late, your ID will be held at Cachuma Lake Derby Headquarters.

* Entries are not transferable or refundable. *

ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS MAY BE COPIED.

BOAT RENTALS: 805 688 4040

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