

CACHUMA FLYER

ISSUE NUMBER 35

NOVEMBER 1999

ANNUAL NATURE CENTER CELEBRATION - 31 OCTOBER

Board Member Carol Smagala coordinated this gala event - and Carol knows how to throw a party! Board members, docents, and guests gathered on the lawn of the old ranch house that is now the Cachuma Lake Nature Center to recognize its volunteers and to celebrate another successful year of operation.

Naturally, Halloween was the theme, and the tables were beautifully decorated with small manikins and candy corn. Costumes were "suggested," but only a few complied. Notable among them was angelic Don Wimpress, complete with silver halo and wings, Ev and Marion Schlinger as Spiderman and Spiderwoman (Tarantula-woman, I should say), and Cat-In-The-Hat Barbara Gutmann. Even a Viking with long blond braids joined us in the guise of Jeanette Richardson, a friend of Jane Paulson.

After chips and dips (the bean dip was outstanding), a chicken lunch was served, complete with chili bean soup and all the trimmings. The luncheon was ably catered by the Marina's Lakeside Grill. Homemade pumpkin pie topped off the repast.

During the program, recognition was given to the following docents for their contributions of over the number of volunteer hours shown:

50 hours:

Ellen Lubic
Bob Runnels
Daryl Rutherford

NOV. 13th SEMINAR ON THE SECRETS OF OAK GROWTH — "FROM LITTLE ACORNS MIGHTY OAK TREES GROW -- IF THEY DO IT RIGHT!"

Solvang resident and former university professor, Richard Sage, will address members and friends of the CLNC on Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. in the Recreation Hall at Cachuma Lake Recreational Area. Mr. Sage will present his thesis on "*Strategies that oak seedlings use to survive*" and supporting evidence from his recent experiments.

Sage is a former biology professor at the Univ. of Missouri and currently is an adjunct professor with the UCSB Biology Department, helping with research on oak growth for UCSB at the Sedgwick Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley. His research centers on comparing the root growth of Eastern and European oak varieties with that of several California species including Valley, Live, Canyon, Coast Live, and Black Oak species.

He constructed 13 narrow, very deep, boxes and planted seeds of each type in commercial potting soil to ensure a uniform growing medium. All were watered identically, as if under ideal conditions. When the sides of the boxes were opened, it was observed that most of the Western oak varieties had sent down roots an astounding 4 feet. Above ground, the Western varieties had sent up a 3 or 4-inch seedling. Eastern and European oaks, by contrast, had grown about half as far into the soil. However, they were significantly more lush above ground.

Currently he is analyzing his data and writing a paper on his work for publication.

(see next page)

100 hours

Fred Blaser
Tommie Miller
Barbara Gutmann

200 hours

Helen Osenga
Donna Shorts
Becky Deutsch

300 hours

George Hughes
Brian Lincoln
George Smith

400 hours

Jim Smith
Connie Howerton

500 hours

Betty Wimpres

600 hours

Evelyn Putnam

700 hours!

Linda Taylor
Don Wimpres

The total number of hours volunteered was 6,741, including Board member hours, equivalent to nearly 3-1/2 person-years.

Santa Ynez resident Evelyn Putnam was given the "Docent of the Year" award with an engraved plaque to commemorate the event. She was honored for her outstanding work as registration chairperson of the Nature Center's annual Trout Derby fund-raiser, for serving as the President of the Docent organization, and for various brochures and documents she had produced.

Ms. Annie Ruano was welcomed into the organization as a new docent who had already contributed many hours of volunteer time. Last, but not least, Dale Findley of Solvang was named "Nature Center Energizer Bunny" for his many years of devoted service.

Needless to say, a good time was had by all.



HELEN OSENGA'S WHOLE-WHEAT BANANA NUT BREAD

Helen served this delicious bread at a recent Docent Meeting and was kind enough to share the recipe. It was devoured in a hurry.

1/2 cup honey	1/2 cup wheat germ
3 tbsp. oil	2 tsp. baking powder
3 large ripe bananas	1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla	1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tbsp. grated lemon rind	1/2 tsp. allspice
2 well-beaten eggs	1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup raisins	
1-1/2 cups whole-wheat flour	

Cream honey and oil, and stir in bananas, vanilla, lemon rind and eggs. Combine all the rest of the ingredients and stir in only until just mixed. Bake in 5 x 9 inch bread pan in 325 degree oven for 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until golden brown and toothpick comes out clean when inserted in center. Note: You can decrease honey to make it less sweet, but, if you do, you will need to increase the amount of oil.



INFLUENCE OF NATURE ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

For the Educational Minute at the October Docent Meeting, Linda Taylor reviewed two books on the effect of elements of nature on the development of worldwide cultures.

The first was authored by Brian Fagan, professor of Anthropology at UCSB. [Fagan, Brian. *Famines and Emperors*. 1999. Basis Books: NY, NY.] who discusses the relationship between climatic events through time – from 9,000 BC until the present — and the rise and fall of governments and cultures.

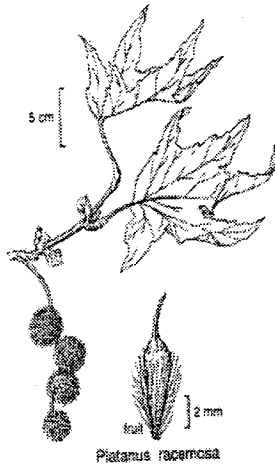
The second book is by Jared Diamond [Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. W.W Norton: NY, NY.] who develops the thesis that certain natural attributes of the land gave advantages to peoples in Eurasia that permitted them to advance more rapidly in Mesopotamia than, say, in MesoAmerica.

If you would like to borrow either of these books, contact Linda at 687-0123.

WESTERN SYCAMORE

Also known as **California Sycamore**

Platanus racemosa



A tree of stream beds and canyons below 2,000 feet, the Sycamore is found in Cachuma Lake Recreation Area along Tequepis Creek near the overflow camping area.

Although its leaves are shaped similarly to those of the Big Leaf Maple, the Sycamore's palmate leaves are larger,

located alternately along the branches, and their undersides are hairy. (A maple's leaves are opposite; the undersides not hairy.) Leaves turn gold or brown in the fall and drop from the tree. Seeds are borne in a golf-ball sized fruit.

Some *Platanus* subspecies are cultivated as ornamentals and for their wood. Sycamores are also known by the names Plane Tree and Buttonwood, "Aliso" and "Alamar" in Spanish, and as "Kohsho" to the Chumash Indians.

The original rafters of the Santa Barbara mission and presidio were made of Sycamore, but have since been replaced with pine.

Don't miss Dick Sage's seminar on "*Strategies Oak Seedlings Use to Survive.*" This Saturday, 13 October, 1:00 p.m. at the Rec Hall at Cachuma Lake Recreational Area.



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