



# The Mariposa



Summer 2005

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS' OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Summer 2005

## **PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT**

San Luis Obispo County Parks and Recreation Commission has completed its review of the Public Review Draft PRE. Parks staff and our consultant will now incorporate commission and public comments into the Public Hearing Draft PRE, and the environmental document will be initiated and finalized. County Parks is looking forward to the PRE adoption by San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors in the summer of 2006.

## **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**

Though not strictly a Parks issue, three additional Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) were purchased by Risk Management and will be mounted in the first floor public space, fourth floor Board of Supervisors office in the new Government Center, and across from Public Works "Help Desk" in the old courthouse.



Training requirements accompany these units, and we are currently preparing staff to meet these requirements. The AEDs will be mounted on the walls

in alarmed boxes so staff members will know they must call 9-911 if the alarm goes off. The manner in which they are mounted will deter theft as well. Once staff training is completed, the AEDs will be located at the proposed locations.

### **San Luis Obispo County Parks & Recreation Commission**

The San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at the SLO Veteran's Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo

Public comment begins at 6:00 p.m.  
For a meeting agenda go online to [www.slocountyparks.org](http://www.slocountyparks.org) and click on "Parks Commission."

## **VOLUNTEER TRAIL PATROL PROGRAM**

County Parks continues to develop and recruit for volunteer opportunities and by doing so has initiated the Volunteer Trail Patrol Program. This new program will allow trail users to inspect and make minor repairs to our trail system. A new and expanded Adopt-A-Park agreement, as well as involvement with community service groups, has resulted in over 50,000 hours in volunteer support last fiscal year. Managing these volunteers will continue to be a challenge and may require additional staff support.

## **MUTT-MITT STATIONS**

County Parks is investigating the purchase of Mutt-Mitt stations for more of our facilities in an effort to comply with Storm Water Runoff Regulations and reduce the amount of pet waste contributing to the waters of the State. Installation includes not only parks but selected trails and beach access ways as well.

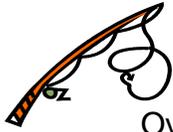


### **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS' MISSION STATEMENT**

Ensure diversified opportunities for recreation and personal enrichment of the County's residents and visitors while protecting it's natural, cultural and historical resources.



## LOPEZ LAKE - 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REEL 'EM IN TROUT DERBY



The Friends of Lopez Lake hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Reel 'Em In Trout Derby on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Over 330 participants were out in force at this year's derby with the top three prizes for tagged fish being caught by local youth. The second place winner was five years old! The highest tagged trout winner received \$3,000. Participants enjoyed a great Santa Maria Style BBQ prepared by the Santa Maria Valley Sportsman Association while over \$8,000 in cash and prizes were given away. Money raised is used for future fishing tournaments, free fishing clinics for youth, and other family-oriented programs at Lopez Lake. Mark your calendar for next year's event scheduled for May 6 & 7, 2006.

**LOPEZ LAKE OFFERS "OUTDOOR DISCOVERIES"** Gear up for a summer full of interpretive education and fun at Lopez Lake Recreation Area. Park Ranger, Kristin Brewster, has planned a variety of interpretive activities suitable for all ages. From the Native drums of the "Ancient Echoes" program to the mysteries of "Bats: True Masters of the Night." Visitors will be sure to come away with a better understanding of the outdoor world around us.

Guest presentations include the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Santa Barbara Astronomy Group and the California Department of Forestry, and don't miss a special guest appearance from Smokey Bear!

### LOPEZ LAKE FAMILY STYLE FACILITIES

Restoration of the restroom at Lopez Lake that burned down in January of 2003 has finally been completed. The new family style restroom and showers are a big hit with camping families.

**LOPEZ LAKE RESERVATIONS.....805-781-2381**  
**MARINA STORE.....805-489-1006**  
**MUSTANG WATER SLIDES.....805-489-8898**

## LOPEZ LAKE ACTIVITIES

### AUGUST 2005

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Guided Hike: Edible Plants, 10 a.m.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Campfire Show: Bats, True Masters of the Night 8 p.m.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Guided Hikes: Geology Walk 10 a.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Campfire Show: Mt. Lion Foundation 8:15 p.m.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Guided Hike: Riparian Habitat 10 a.m.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Kids Fishing Clinic 9 a.m – 1 p.m.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Campfire Show: Ancient Echoes 8:15 p.m.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Guided Hike: Birds 10 a.m.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Campfire Show: Astronomy 8:15 p.m.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Guided Hike: Ecosystem of an Oak 10 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER 2005

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Campfire Show: Smokey Bear 8:15 p.m.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Kids Fishing Clinic: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Family Day at Lopez Lake: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## MUSTANG WATERSLIDES OFFERS A NEW ATTRACTION



**The "STAMPEE"**

ARE YOU READY FOR A WILD AND THRILLING RIDE YOU WON'T SOON FORGET? IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE MUSTANG WATER SLIDES. THE "STAMPEE" IS THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE WATER PARK, AND YOU CAN BET, IT'S A GUARANTEED WAY TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT.

## ON-GOING SUMMER PROGRAMS

### LOPEZ LAKE (805) 788-2381

**RANGER HIKES** - Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.  
Rangers lead you on a one-hour hike through the back-country. No sign-up needed.

**CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS** - Every Saturday night starting at 8:15 p.m. at the Nature Center.

**BOAT TOURS** - Every Saturday, 9am -11am. Two hour pontoon boat tour of Lopez Lake. Tour tickets \$5/adults, \$2.50/youth. Advance ticket purchase is required.

**KID'S FREE FISHING CLINICS** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm. Youth taught fishing safety, setting up a pole & tackle box, types of fish in the lake, and casting.

### SANTA MARGARITA LAKE (805) 788-2415

**CAMPFIRE PROGRAM** – Sat, Sept. 4th, dusk.

**KID'S FREE FISHING CLINIC** - Saturday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 1pm. Youth taught fishing safety, setting up a pole & tackle box, types of fish in the lake, and casting.

\$6 per vehicle day-use fee is required to enter each lake facility.



## NIPOMO COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN

The Nipomo Community Park Master Plan environmental document should be available for public review in August or September 2005. In the fall or early winter of 2005, Parks will be taking the environmental document back to the Nipomo Community Advisory Council for input. This document reviews potential environmental impacts associated with newly proposed recreation at Nipomo Community Park to include items such as a community center, new ball fields, trails, and a skate park.

## NIPOMO MESA MEADOWS LANDSCAPING

County Parks has been working with Nipomo Native Gardens and the California Conservation Corps to provide landscape improvements to a 20-acre natural area in Nipomo. This area, known as Mesa Meadows, circles a single-family subdivision and includes approximately a one-mile long public class I bicycle/pedestrian path and equestrian trail corridor. This project will serve as a link and enhancement of the adjacent Nipomo Community Park.

## CYPRESS RIDGE TRAIL

Near record winter rains eroded the horse trail portion of the Cypress Ridge Trail around the perimeter of the Cypress Ridge residential development and golf course. Poor design and construction in conjunction with heavy winter storms left the trail badly eroded, unsafe, and unusable. Current budget constraints have made it nearly impossible for County Parks to address issues with this facility, and it was necessary for



the trail to be closed and maintenance deferred. County Parks pursued a partnership with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to make the necessary repairs. Water flow and drainage were the primary areas of concern. County Parks Staff and the CCC identified areas where rainwater should be diverted. Water bars were added and some extended to redirect the water flow away from the trail. New trail tread material was trucked in so the trail could be brought back to grade. The work was completed in March just before several large storms. Staff evaluated the engineered drainage areas, and we are pleased to report the trail repair was a success with no noticeable erosion. Staff can now refer to this upgrade as a working model for future trail repairs. The trail is now open for hiking, biking, and equestrian activities. County Parks encourages anyone interested in these activities to check out the trail and share any personal experiences with us.

## **NEW WATER MISTING AT HEILMANN REGIONAL PARK GROUP AREA**

The summer months can be quite warm in the North County. To help beat the heat, County Parks has installed a "misting" water system at the Blue Oak Group Day Use Area. The misters come on for a few seconds giving Blue Oak visitors a reprieve from the heat. County Parks is looking into adding more of these misters to other group day use areas in the North County.

## **HEILMANN REGIONAL PARK HOSTS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Girl Scout Troop #314 sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Disc Golf Tournament at the Oaks Disc Golf Course located in Heilmann Regional Park on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The troop, with help from the SLO Throwers and Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) officials, organized this amateur only sanctioned event. There were 42 participants, and this year the event raised \$922. Event funds will be used to add alternate pin locations, print maps, and scorecards for the disc golf course.



## **COUNTY PARKS' FIRST SKATE PARK OPENS SOON!**

Local skateboarders anxiously await the opening of the new skate park in Los Osos Community Park. Construction of the skate park is scheduled to be complete on August 19, 2005. The new skate park is 17,000 square feet; the largest in the county. It will provide an area for those people just learning to skate in addition to a nine feet deep, advanced pool for the more experienced skaters. *Stop by and check it out!*



## **NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT SANTA MARGARITA COMMUNITY PARK**

"There's a new Sheriff in town" or at least that's what kids are saying as they play on the new playground at Santa Margarita Community Park. The newly-designed structure reflects the historical heritage of Old Town Santa Margarita and displays creative input and support from local residents and area ranchers whose families have lived in the community for generations. Adorning the playground structures are 52 area brands belonging to these families.



Many families attended the dedication ceremony, and it was especially meaningful to longtime Santa Margarita residents Herb Brazzi, Barney Duvencek and Vern and Dorri Stewart. They were members of a local civic organization that purchased the land more than 30 years ago and constructed the community's only park, which is now owned and operated by the county.

Ninety percent of the structure is made with recycled material and the safety surface is made of recycled rubber. Design features include a wagon wheel climber, stagecoach with slide, crawl tubes and multiple climbing walls.

## **BOB JONES BIKE TRAIL PATHWAY ADDITION**

Environmental review is starting for a one-quarter mile addition to the Bob Jones Pathway. Currently, this public path ends near the Avila sewer plant creating an inadequate crossing into the Avila community. The new Class 1 bicycle path will be removed from motor vehicle traffic and will connect the San Miguel Street/Avila Beach Drive intersection to Avila Park. The new path will be east of Avila Beach Drive, and a traffic signal is planned at First Street/Avila Beach Drive. It is anticipated this section will be open to the public in the summer of 2006.

## **BY BOAT AND FOOT – CHALLENGE TOUR OF SANTA MARGARITA LAKE**

On June 5th, 88 pairs of racers assembled at Santa Margarita Lake for the 2005 Central Coast Adventure Challenge. Kayaking, cross-country travel and mountain biking were involved in what proved to be a rugged two to four hour challenge.

Racers were ready at 8:00 a.m. to receive their race map showing a 2-mile kayak, a kayak challenge midway to a 12-mile mountain bike ride, and a very steep ridge to run along for five miles.

Teams of two per boat left Vaca Flats and headed east through windy channels to Sapwi Camp. After a portage over the hill and back, the racers mounted their bikes for a traverse through rough terrain and big climb to Rocky Point with a return, downhill journey back to White Oak. For the final transition, participants ran up a severely steep ridge which eventually led back to the finish line at White Oak.

Racers and fans gathered at the exposition. Friendly vendors allowed sampling of an eclectic mixture of foods, drinks, racing items, and much more. Youthful music harmonized in the background. Barbeque, free Jamba Juice, awards and raffle prizes were all part of the closing reception and certainly a challenging adventure.

### **PONTOON BOAT RENTAL NOW AVAILABLE!**

Santa Margarita Lake Marina concessionaire, Don Lopez, has purchased a pontoon boat that will be available for rentals beginning Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. This Sweetwater Godfrey, high end pontoon boat measures 23' and has a canopy top with sun deck. The new boat will accommodate up to 12 people. Contact the Santa Margarita Lake Marina for rental price information at 805-438-1522.



**Summer 2005**

## **TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**



Would you like to plant a tree for a special occasion or in honor of a loved one? San Luis Obispo Parks Open Space & Trails Foundation (SLOPOST) has applications available online at [www.slopost.org](http://www.slopost.org) or for more information contact Stacey King at 805-781-5930.

## **LIONS CLUB SUPPORT COUNTY PARKS AQUATICS PROGRAMS**

“Thanks” again goes to local Lions Clubs for their continued support of the County Parks Aquatics Programs. The Cayucos Lions Club has purchased recreational swim passes for the youth of Cayucos. The Templeton Lions Club is sponsoring free recreational swim for youth while the San Miguel and Shandon Valley Lions Clubs are sponsoring both youth and adults for free recreational swim. The San Miguel Lions Club is also sponsoring Level I and II swim lessons for youth from San Miguel.

## **COUNTY PARKS EXPERIENCES MAJOR TURNOVER IN STAFF**

At County Parks, there is a saying: “Expect change and prepare for it.” A time of major staffing change has arrived, and even with our best efforts, it has been difficult to prepare for the loss of 100 years of professional work experience. County Parks is working fast and furious to fill vacancies for one Ranger Specialist, two Ranger III’s, two Ranger II’s, and a Senior Gate Attendant.

Our thanks for dedicated years of service and a fond farewell to: Bob Hamm, Ranger III; Larry Koznek, Ranger Specialist; Larry Richards, Ranger II; Gail Pederson, Park Operations Coordinator; Mike Krause, Greenskeeper.

**[www.SLOCountyParks.org](http://www.SLOCountyParks.org)**

## **DAIRY CREEK GOLF COURSE - A CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY**

Dairy Creek Golf Course has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Russ Krok, Golf Course Supervisor, led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Dairy Creek Golf Course is the 33<sup>rd</sup> course in California and the 530<sup>th</sup> in the world to receive the honor.



Shawn Williams, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon cooperative Sanctuary Programs, explained that to reach certification a course must demonstrate they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas to include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. He commended Dairy Creek Golf Course for showing such strong commitment to an environmental program and for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property.

The Audubon cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to golf courses to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individuals and businesses. You can contact Audubon International at (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via Internet at [acss@audubonintl.org](mailto:acss@audubonintl.org) or visit their website at [www.audubonintl.org](http://www.audubonintl.org).

## **CALL FOR INFORMATION ON EXCELLENT GOLF PACKAGES AT OUR GOLF COURSES**

Morro Bay and Dairy Creek: (805) 782-6070  
Chalk Mountain: (805) 466-8848

## **THANK YOU CAYUCOS LIONESS CLUB!**

A special "Thank You" goes to the Cayucos Lioness Club for their continued support. They have again sponsored youth from Cayucos for swim lessons at Hardie Pool and the Cayucos Beach Junior Lifeguard Program. The Lioness Club has also donated \$1,000 to be used for the purchase of new rescue equipment for Cayucos Beach and the Junior Lifeguard Program.

## **STATE PARKS GRANT FUNDING HELPS COUNTY PARKS**

Grant funds for management of State park facilities will allow Cayucos Beach to see a new lifeguard office and an expanded and remodeled viewing deck at the Cayucos Veteran's Hall. The total for both projects is approximately \$38,000, and half of the funding for the deck came from a County fund established to retrofit facilities to meet ADA guidelines.



The new, larger lifeguard office will replace the old lifeguard station located south of the pier and will provide a central location for lifeguard staff to coordinate beach operations and the Junior Lifeguard Program. This project is planned for completion in August 2005.

A new deck will soon be constructed on the west side of the Cayucos Veteran's Hall and connect the north/south decks on the west side of the building. The grade of the south deck adjacent to the pier will be lowered, and decking material will be replaced. These improvements will provide access from the pier to the north side of the building, and this project should be completed in the Fall 2005.

## AQUATICS PROGRAM



We are winding down the summer swim program as schools begin to return to school. All pools will remain open on the weekends until Labor Day Monday. Weekday Recreational Swim schedules will vary depending on when kids go back to school. For more information on your local pool schedule contact our Head Lifeguards or Aquatics Staff at the following locations:

**Hardie Pool in Cayucos (805) 995-1435**  
**Shamel Pool in Cambria (805) 927-4447**  
**Santa Margarita Lake (805) 788-2402**  
**Templeton Pool (805) 434-3596**  
**San Miguel Pool (805) 467-3010**  
**Shandon (C.W. Clarke) Pool (805) 239-1577**

## CAYUCOS BEACH JR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

We have had great success with this year's schedule of Junior Lifeguards. We made a few adjustments to the time of our sessions. Instead of a morning and afternoon session, we combined the two and now have one time from 9am – 2pm. We also increased the number of youth who could participate from 20 to a maximum of 40 per session. This change has given our instructors more time to concentrate on physical training, first aid and rescues. It also gives our guest speakers more time for demonstrations and answering questions. A big "THANK YOU" to the following people who help make our program a success:

<b>Chief Eric Endersby</b>	<b>Morro Bay Harbor Patrol</b>
<b>Tim Tregoning</b>	<b>U.S. Coast Guard</b>
<b>Capt. Steve Bitto</b>	<b>N. Coast Ocean Rescue</b>
<b>Capt. Howard Sanford</b>	<b>Cayucos Fire Dept.</b>
<b>Tom Moylan</b>	<b>Cal Poly Marine Science</b>

We also want to send out a special "Thank You" to Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Department Junior Lifeguard Program. During our sessions, we switch beach locations with their program. The Morro Bay Junior Lifeguard Program has 28 BZ Rescue Boards which are an important part of the training program. These boards come in various sizes and are used to train our Junior Lifeguards on the skills and techniques of performing ocean rescues. It is our hope that funding will soon be available to purchase several of these boards for the Cayucos Beach Junior Lifeguard Program.

### 2005 JUNIOR LIFEGUARD SPONSORS:

**Cayucos Lioness Club**  
**Cayucos Chamber of Commerce**  
**Good Clean Fun**  
**Cayucos Surf Company**



If you are interested in joining our sponsorship of the Cayucos Beach Junior Lifeguard or other aquatic programs, please contact Stacey King, Park Operations Coordinator at (805) 781-5930

## ALL COUNTY PARKS SWIMMING POOLS WILL BE OPEN UNTIL LABOR DAY MONDAY, SEPT 5<sup>TH</sup>

For a complete schedule of all our pools and locations go online to [www.slocountyparks.org](http://www.slocountyparks.org) and click on "Swim."

**ALL POOLS CLOSED ON MONDAYS FOR MAINTENANCE**





## From the Manager's Desk . . . . .

As I write this note, we are in the midst of yet another beautiful Central Coast summer. If you're too hot in the interior, you can head for the coast to cool off. Tired of the marine layer and wearing a sweater in July...then head over the grade to the north county. We've certainly got it all here in San Luis Obispo County. Part of that great package is a Parks system as varied as the weather. You can take a peaceful stroll along the beach in Cambria or work up a sweat hiking to the top of Bishop's Peak (but the panoramic views are worth every step!). Cool off at the Mustang Water Slides, camp with the family at Santa Margarita Lake, and learn to swim at San Miguel Pool. The choices go on and on. Thanks to the insight of our Board of Supervisors, your County Parks will have enough funding to maintain the Parks system in a safe and sustainable manner. During budget hearings in June, the Board opted to supplement funding for Parks to help catch up for years of growth that saw very little new maintenance funding. Beginning this summer, we'll be able to resume pruning trees, paving parking lots, repairing trails and much more. As this county grows and our Parks system struggles to keep up, funding will continue to be challenge. However, thanks to the Board's actions, you'll find your parks safer and better able to serve your outdoor recreation needs. Get out there and enjoy the results.

*Pete Jenny, Parks Manager*

Pete Jenny..... Parks Manager	Shaun Cooper.....Park Planner III
Ernie Del Rio..... Superintendent, Operations	Stacey King.....Park Operations Coordinator
Denis Philbin..... Superintendent, Maintenance	Anna Diaz.....Park Reservations
Ray Festa..... Golf Course Superintendent	Chuck Lowe.....Supervising Park Ranger
Tom Massey..... Morro Bay Golf Course	Mark Wagner.....Supervising Park Ranger
Russ Krok..... Dairy Creek Golf Course	Ken Klis.....Supervising Park Ranger
Jan DiLeo..... Senior Park Planner	Don Melin.....Supervising Park Ranger



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS**  
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