

August 27 San Bernardino National Forest Hosts Birthday Bash

August 27, 2005 – Big Bear Lake, California - The [San Bernardino National Forest](#) and the [Big Bear Discovery Center](#) hosted a Centennial concert by the Fiddlin' Foresters on Saturday evening, August 27. The event recognized the contributions of 100 years of the Forest Service and of the partnership between the Forest and the Big Bear Discovery Center.

A large crowd gathered to hear a program of music, story telling and conservation messages. Local jazz pianist **Mike Cross** provided a lively musical program of songs and stories with a message. The Fiddlin' Foresters presented conservation messages through music, songs, stories, and humor.



A young dancer helps the Fiddlin' Foresters entertain the large crowd at the beautiful Big Bear Discovery Center Amphitheater.

The Big Bear Discovery Center helps visitors understand the relationships between the natural environment and human interaction. Thousands of visitors each week participate in self-guided walks, guided activities and evening programs. The Visitor Center is staffed with naturalists who provide the Big Bear Lake visitors with important knowledge about the area.

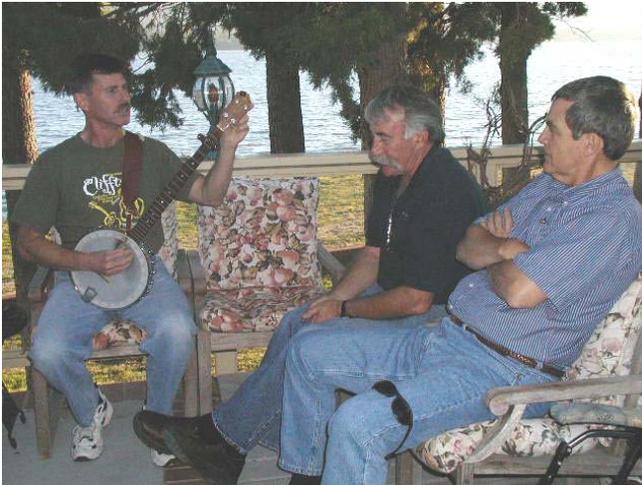
“This is a world class facility,” said **Lynn Young**. “San Bernardino Forest Supervisor **Gene Zimmerman** and **Denis Thomas** and **Sarah Miggins** of the Discovery Center staff should be very proud of what they can offer to visitors. You can tell it has taken great vision and very hard work by many people to pull this off. This is a great partnership that benefits people and the land.”



High in the mountains above San Bernardino, Big Bear Lake is an oasis for thousands of valley residents and recreationists.

The Fiddlin' Foresters were fortunate to be hosted by **Bill and Patty Maxwell** and their family at their beautiful mountain retreat on the shore of Big Bear Lake. Bill is the brother of banjoist **Jim Maxwell**. It was the first time that Jim's family got to see a Fiddlin' Foresters' program.

"I was very proud for my family, especially my Mom, to see how the Fiddlin' Foresters provide memorable conservation messages in an entertaining way," said **Jim Maxwell**. "It's a little hard to explain what we do, but it's very clear when you see our program."



The Fiddlin' Foresters relax on the shore of Big Bear Lake before their performance at the Discovery Center.