

Field Notes

ISSUE 2 VOLUME 3 MAY 2012



SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Pages from the Past

Charles Harbison was Curator of Entomology from 1942 to 1969 and a wonderful ambassador for the Museum. He was particularly good with children. In April 1968 he received a call from first graders at the John G. Marvin Elementary School in Allied Gardens, who passed the telephone around from one student to the next in order to ask "Harbie" lots of questions about ants. This telephone program was developed as part of a plan to allow students to contact professional scientists and specialists in San Diego who might not be able to visit schools in person. In June, those same first-graders were told that they could choose any place in San Diego to go on their bus field trip for the year, and their very first choice was to visit Harbie at the Natural History Museum. This photo records that visit in June 1968. For more information about Harbie and his legacy, see the Museum history pages at sdnhm.org/about-us/our-museum/history/harbison/.



Field Notes is published three times a year by the San Diego Natural History Museum.

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Photographers: Sarah Albert, Dr. Jon Rebman, Delle Willett

Cover image: Alexandra Coyle-McDonald, Nicholas Alcorn, and Isabella Alcorn enjoying the new *Camp-o-Saurus*.

The Membership Department can be reached Monday–Friday, 9 AM–5 PM for assistance with change of address, replacement cards, renewing or upgrading your membership, and any other questions. Contact 619.255.0275 or membership@sdnhm.org.

San Diego Natural History Museum Mission: *To interpret the natural world through research, education and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California; and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment.*

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CURATOR'S CORNER

NOTES FROM THE BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER OF THE CALIFORNIAS

Research Library

Volunteer book conservator Melissa Behar has been working in the library to repair and conserve some of our books from the Rare Book room, including this one published in 1842. In this photo, she has carefully removed old green mending tape, which has damaged the book cover and rendered the book unusable. She has disassembled all the book parts and will use special solvents to remove the glue residue left from the tape. She will make additional repairs to restore the book to usefulness.



To learn more about how to make a contribution to the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias, please contact Eowyn Bates at 619.255.0172 or ebates@sdnhm.org.

Paleontology

Pat Sena, Field Paleontologist, is collecting fossil marine invertebrates from the 4 million year old Arroyo Diablo Formation. Pat is participating in a paleontological resource survey of the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area in southwestern Imperial County.



Zooarchaeology

This left distal tibiotarsus (lower leg bone) from a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) was recovered from archaeological excavations at the San Diego Presidio, the first European settlement in western North America. Found at a depth of 132–138 cm, this specimen is one of 21 domestic and wild avian species identified from the site. Co-directors Susan Arter and Aharon Sasson analyze specimens such as these in the San Diego Zooarchaeology Lab at the Museum.





CAMP-O-SAURUS

Who can resist dinosaurs? Certainly not visitors to the San Diego Natural History Museum! Recently, a newly formed group of staff members, calling themselves the “A-Team,” developed a plan to turn the Sefton Atrium into a destination where families can relax, have fun, and create a memorable experience together.

The team quickly decided that dinosaurs should be the focus. They wanted to design a place that had the interactive “audience” appeal of American Idol, and would be as comfortable and familiar as a Starbucks. The Dinosaur Café provides the coffee and the Camp-o-Saurus, which opened on March 25, provides the fun!

The mural in the Cretaceous area of *Fossil Mysteries*, painted by paleo-artist William Stout, became the A-Team’s inspiration. Stout created a panorama of a duck-billed dinosaur nesting ground in one corner of the mural, mirroring the life-size female *Lambeosaurus* who guards her nest in the exhibition. Imagine if you could crawl into the dinosaur nests. Now, it’s possible!

A section of the Sefton Atrium, near the Dinosaur Café, was transformed into a “dinosaur campsite” complete with climb-inside dinosaur nests, tents, a plush campfire pit, nature-themed rugs to define the space, books and puzzles, and the

pièce de résistance—Dinosaur Mountain, an elaborate 3D model designed and executed by Jim Melli, Exhibits Designer. Filled with plastic dinosaurs, Dinosaur Mountain even features a glimpse into a Jacques Cousteau-like prehistoric sea, complete with a mosasaur, corals, and ammonites. The previous dinosaur play area created for the *Fossil Hunters* exhibition a few years ago was very popular with the youngsters—some would even take home one of the dinosaurs, leaving another toy in its place in the interest of sharing. The new, vastly improved mountain will no doubt be even more popular.

The A-Team met several times to flesh out the details. Departments represented were Education (Lauren Marino), Development (Shannon Safino), Membership (Alexandra Vekich), Visitor Services (Elizabeth Sayles), Research Library (Margi Dykens), Volunteers (Janet Morris), and Exhibits (Michael Field).

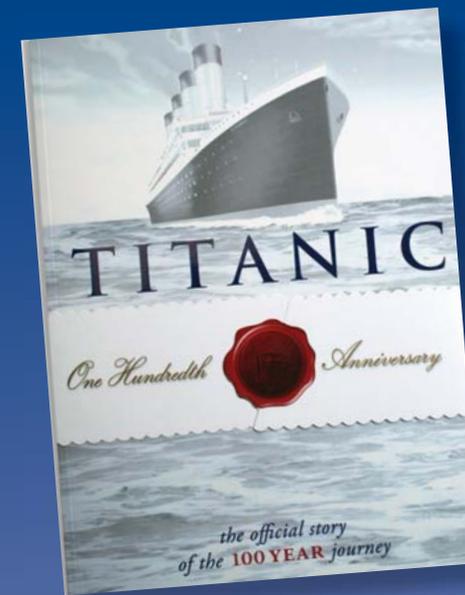
The fundraising far exceeded expectations, with over 160 people contributing to Camp-o-Saurus.

Field was the creative mind behind the concept of the play area, and he also came up with concrete suggestions of materials to use in the fabrication. Vekich, Safino, and the rest of the Development Department reached out to donors and Museum staff to raise the necessary funds. The fundraising far exceeded expectations, with over 160 people contributing to Camp-o-Saurus—it took a village to build this campsite! The staff joined the fun with a contest to name the new area. Several names rose to the top— Camp Dino-mite, Dino Nook, Paleo Playland, and Dino Spot—but Camp-o-Saurus garnered the most votes, capturing the dinosaur theme while including the camp experience. Camp-o-Saurus offers an assortment of dinosaur-related activities for all ages but the target audience is the busy preschooler, because the A-Team felt that the parents, guardians, and grandparents of preschoolers could really

use a break. The grownups can kick back, have a cup of coffee, a pastry, or one of the Café's delicious new lunch wraps and let the kids play to their hearts' content—grabbing a book and crawling into one of the tents, climbing in the dinosaur nest and out again and in again, interacting with the play dinosaurs on the mountain, or putting together one of the wooden dinosaur puzzles. When it's time to

head home, visitors can extend the experience by purchasing dinosaurs, puzzles and books in the Alex and Elizabeth Wise Museum Store.

Camp-o-Saurus opened on March 25 during the Museum's Fossil Days celebration. So, come on in and bring the kids. We are counting on it being a memorable experience for you and your family!



Stop by the Alex and Elizabeth Wise Museum Store and see what's new!

Members receive 10% off store purchases.

FLYING MONSTERS 3D

WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



OPENS JUNE 1, 2012

The Downing 3D Experience in the Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater is sponsored by John and Tracy Downing, the Downing Family Foundation, the Eleanor and Jerry Navarra Family, Jerome's Furniture, and Stephen Cohen, President, Private Asset Management, Inc.



Baja California Plant Field Guide

THIRD EDITION

"...there are very few seminal books of Baja that have become a 'must have' of any person visiting the region with any interest in its natural history. The *Baja California Plant Field Guide* is certainly one of them. I, for one, have exhausted the use of Scotch tape to keep my old copy together!"

— Richard Cudney, Ph.D., Program Officer, David & Lucile Packard Foundation;
Member of San Diego Natural History Museum's Binational Advisory Board

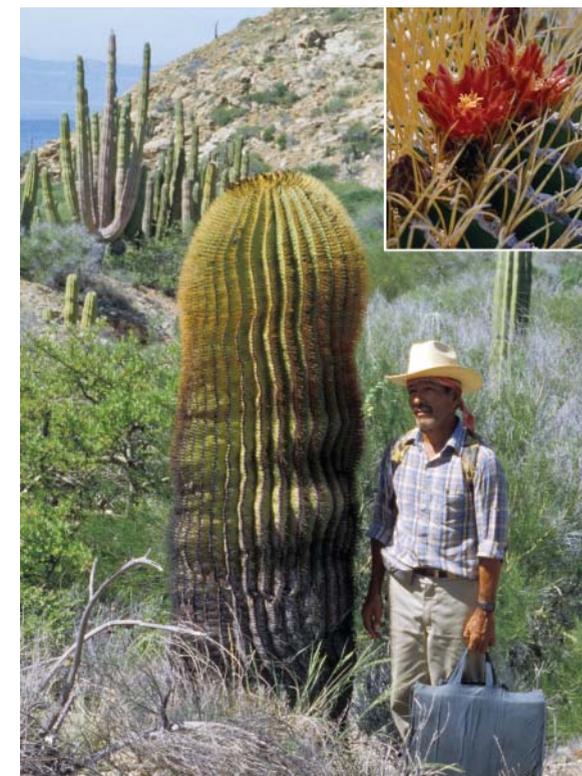
The eagerly awaited third edition of the *Baja California Plant Field Guide* will arrive by summer 2012, to the delight of this region's naturalists, from the academic to the lay person. The Guide will be essential for all who appreciate this corner of the world and want to keep up to date on the plants, as well as the geography, geology, and species diversity of its varied areas, i.e., the California (Mediterranean) region, Sonoran desert region, and the tropical Cape region.

Norman Roberts self-published the first plant field guide for Baja California in 1975 with co-author Jeanette Coyle, and a second edition by Norm followed in 1989. In 2006, he asked Jon Rebman, Ph.D., the Mary & Dallas Clark Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum, as well as a personal friend, to help with the 3rd edition. Though Roberts' dream of completing and publishing the third edition was not fulfilled before his passing, Rebman and the Museum forged ahead. We feel privileged that we can honor Roberts' memory with this remarkable book.

Roberts' daughter, Laurie Roberts, has written a short essay that appears early in the book, describing her father's love of Baja California. She mentions how this passion had an impact on the direction the San Diego Natural History Museum was to take, following the arrival 20 years ago of Michael W. Hager, Ph.D., as President & CEO.

Hager and Rebman have worked to bring the book to fruition, and secured funding for its publication from the Walton Family Foundation and Christy Walton, who together offered a challenge grant to support its printing costs. Interest in this project was so strong that their grant was matched by funds from 26 individuals together with five foundations and business

entities. The money raised covers printing, marketing, and distribution costs for the book. The Museum is co-publishing the new Guide with Sunbelt Publications and we will produce 10,000 copies, with proceeds from book sales designated to allow Rebman to complete botanical research on 15+ new plant species discovered while conducting floristic work in Baja California.



Opposite: Flower, stems, and fruits of Galloping Cactus or Pitaya Agria (*Stenocereus gummosus*) Cactaceae. This large cactus species has tasty edible, large red fruits and grows almost exclusively in Baja California. Above: Miguel Dominguez of La Paz standing next to a Giant Barrel Cactus or Biznaga (*Ferocactus diguetii* var. *diguetii*) Cactaceae on Santa Catalina Island with inset flower photo. This species is the giant of all barrel cacti with massive stems reaching 4 m tall and nearly 1 m in diameter and is endemic to only a few islands in the southern part of the Gulf of California.

About the Book

Those familiar with the earlier editions will appreciate that the new edition is greatly expanded. The 3rd edition Guide includes completely new introductory chapters on climate, endemics, conservation and invasive plants, phytogeographic regions, and vegetation as well as new maps of the peninsula. Over 240 new plants have been added to this edition with a total of more than 700 plants described in some detail. Nearly all plants will be represented with new photos, including close-up inset images, new descriptions, as well as new natural history and ethnobotanical information.

A wide range of vegetation types is found in the two states of Baja California (Baja California and Baja California Sur) due to its varied topography, geology, and weather regimes. In fact, the two states actually encompass three generalized climate regions, a northwestern Mediterranean region, a desert region throughout most of the area, and a southern tropical region. This peninsula and its adjacent islands support a wealth of species diversity in many different plant families. Recent estimates are that the flora probably includes more than 4,000 plant taxa with a rate of endemism nearing 30%.

The new edition of the *Baja California Plant Field Guide* discusses or describes over 715 different plants in more than 350 genera in 111 families. It would have been impossible to address all of the plant species in this region, but the authors discuss the overall diversity of the selected plant families and genera preceding each species section in introductory paragraphs. The arrangement of the plants, the increased use of photography, the alphabetical listing of families, and, within each family, the alphabetical listing of genera and species, should aid users in

finding particular plants and relevant topics. Two specialized maps near the beginning of the book, one for geography, and one for ecoregions, will also prove helpful. The geographic map shows place names and major roads mentioned in the book. The ecoregions map shows the broad vegetation zones of the peninsula. At least one photograph is attached to each ecoregion's broad description.

Those who placed advance orders for the new *Baja California Plant Field Guide* will receive their copies first. The Guide will also be available for purchase this summer, both online and at the Alex and Elizabeth Wise Museum Store.



Flowers and leaves of Baja California Nightshade or Mariola (*Solanum hindsianum*) Solanaceae with inset fruit photo. This common and showy shrub is found throughout most of the Baja California region and a tea made from this plant is sometimes used to treat stomach trouble.

Corporate Profiles

Cox Communications/Cox Kids Foundation through the San Diego Foundation Supporting Science Learning

We would like to thank the Cox Kids Foundation for a first-time gift to the Museum Access Fund, which enables more than 6,000 disadvantaged students each year to participate in the Museum's hands-on science learning programs at no cost to them or their Title-I schools. Learning through the lens of science is fun when students are using real scientific equipment and natural specimens, but it's also important for increased creativity, logic development, communication skills and reading readiness. Teachers tell us our science programs inspire their students to learn, and help them score better on tests! Thank you, Cox Kids Foundation!

San Diego Gas & Electric Environmental Champions Award supports Parobotanists of the San Diego County Plant Atlas

We are grateful for a grant from San Diego Gas & Electric that will help the Museum complete plant surveys throughout the county with the help of parobotanists, who are specially trained community volunteers. San Diego County is in an internationally recognized hotspot of biological diversity, and has the greatest documented floristic diversity of any county in the contiguous U.S., with more than 2,314 species present!

Even so, this diversity has not been fully documented, leaving land managers with a limited amount of scientific data, along with growing responsibilities for conservation and informed decision-making as our county land is developed. Thanks to San Diego Gas & Electric, data collected by the parobotanists will aid environmental management. This grant will also help the Museum complete the *San Diego County Plant Atlas* and publish results online for the public (sdplantatlas.org, and [Facebook/San Diego Natural History Museum Botany Department](https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoNaturalHistoryMuseumBotany)).

Samuel & Katherine French Fund: Two Decades of Support!

(The Maurice J. Masserini Charitable Trust and the Samuel H. French, III & Katherine Weaver French Fund, managed jointly by Wells Fargo Philanthropic Services)

We wish to thank the Masserini Trust and French Fund for nearly 20 years of support as important contributors to the Museum, including our major building expansion, exhibitions, and programs of the Environmental Science Education Center, such as the Museum Access Fund, the Nature To You loan library, and the Ms. Frizzle science learning program for children. Thank You!



YOU ARE HERE: HOME » SUPPORT » GIFT PLANNING

Gift Planning - Live Oaks Society

Educate. Conserve. Inspire. Be a Part of the Museum's Future.

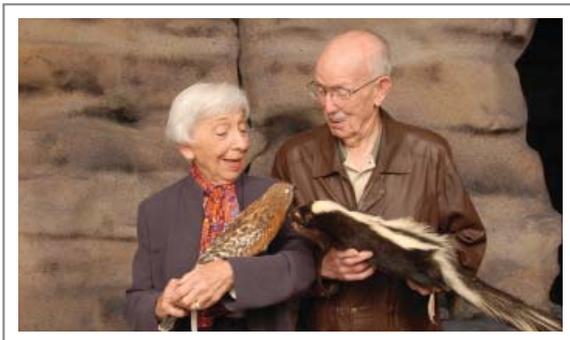
Gift Planning

- Live Oaks Society
- Ways to Give
- What to Give
- Estate Planning
- Plan by Age
- Resources
- For Professional Advisors

The next time you sit down at your computer, check out the Museum's newly designed website at www.sdnhm.org. While browsing the site for information on our exhibitions, Canyoneer hikes, whale-watching day trips, and the like, please follow links to "support," then "gift planning" to reach the Live Oaks pages. The planned giving ideas may interest you.

Estate gifts have been a mainstay of Museum support for many years, and now you can find a wealth of information right at your fingertips to consider whether you might benefit from making a future gift via a bequest, a gift of a life insurance policy, or a current gift, through real estate or via our pooled income fund.

With a few clicks, you can plug in your numbers and compare scenarios. You can examine different ways to give, and later call your attorney, financial adviser, or one of us here at the Museum, when YOU feel the time is right.



Contact Information

Donna H. Raub,
Director of Planned Giving
at draub@sdnhm.org or
619.255.0314

Ann Laddon,
Vice President,
Institutional Advancement
at aladdon@sdnhm.org or
619.255.0212

Planning Tools

- Build Your Gift
- Compare Gifts
- Quiz Yourself
- Gift Illustrator

You, your family, AND the Museum might ALL benefit from the creative methods of giving that are known to our Live Oaks Society members. Give it a try!

Next Steps

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[4 Major Benefits of Naming Us in Your Will](#)
1340 also liked this article

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Not Your One-Size-Fits-All Docent Group!

by Rosemary Kelley, Docent President

Where can you enjoy the company of an atomic scientist, a mystery writer, a world-class wheelchair athlete, a blue-ribbon knitter, a meteor expert, and assorted globe trotters?

Meet the Docents! We're 65 volunteers of varied backgrounds, each one a trained naturalist dedicated to providing dynamic leadership in natural history and environmental education to all the people of the San Diego region.

Docents lead school and adult groups on Museum tours, and take the Museum-on-Wheels programs to schools and adult groups around the county. In the face of changes in school financing, as well as societal and volunteer demographics, the Docents have expanded beyond their traditional classroom programs. This year we've added a Pre-K Outreach for 3, 4, and 5 year-olds which, like all our programs,

meets California State Education Standards. We are supported and encouraged in all these efforts by the Museum Education staff.

Come join the Docent team by contacting the Volunteer Department at volunteer@sdnhm.org, or stop by our office in the Education Department. The coffee is hot and the welcome is warm!



Fossil Ball

The Fossil Ball was held on March 31, 2012 to celebrate the finale of a milestone anniversary year ~ our President and CEO, Dr. Michael "Mick" Hager's 20th anniversary at the Museum.

Two-hundred fifty guests enjoyed a fossil-themed evening, honoring our self-described Chief Fossil, with Miocene Margaritas, Cretaceous Cosmos and a *T. rex* Roast to cap off the celebration. Guests "rocked out" to the Tijuana Dogs. The event was led by TriChairaTops Eleanor Navarra, Susan Evanco, and Pam Palisoul.

We would like to extend our special thanks to:

Honorary Chairs

Donna K. Sefton; Harley K. Sefton; Christy Walton; Dale Hollis Clark and Nita and Henk van der Werff in memory of Mary and Dallas Clark

Honorary Committee

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20th Anniversary

Recognition Gift Donors

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Enrique Coppel Luken
Gastón Luken

Holiday Parties ATtheNAT

Have you been tasked with planning your company's holiday party this year and you have no idea where to go, what to do, or what your theme should be?

Let the special event staff at the San Diego Natural Museum lend a hand!

Venue selection is one of the first steps in planning any event—especially one where you have

to impress your boss AND your coworkers. This year's holiday party is sure to be no exception.

Since you're already familiar with the San Diego Natural History Museum, you know that we are a unique and unforgettable venue and therefore perfect for celebrating the 2012 holiday season with understated elegance, all while enjoying the beauty of art, science, and nature. There's your theme right there—natural history!

Whether you're planning a sit-down dinner for 100 in the Sefton Atrium, a reception of holiday cheer for 250 people in *Fossil Mysteries*, or a full Museum buy-out for 1,400 people with live entertainment and buffet stations on every floor, the San Diego Natural Museum can make your holiday party a rousing success.

Contact the Events Department at 619.255.0316—December dates are still available!



MUSEUM NEWS

Spring Has Sprung! Join us at These Upcoming Family Events

ATtheNAT Family Days:

Monday, May 28; 11 AM to 3 PM—Birds of a Feather

Saturday, June 23, 11 AM to 3 PM—Hooray! For Herpetology
Family Days are always free for members and free with paid general admission.

Nature and Me Storytime:

Thursday, May 10;
10:15 AM—Plants

Thursday, June 14;
10:15 AM—Horses
Open to all ages; recommended for ages 1–5 with an adult.

Wacky Science Sundays with Ms. Frizzle™

May 6, 13, 20, and 27; 12:15 PM and 2:15 PM—Rainforest/Chocolate

June 3, 10, 17, and 24;
12:15 PM and 2:15 PM—Bees
SCHOLASTIC, THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS, MS. FRIZZLE, and logos are trademarks of Scholastic Inc. 2003 ©. All rights reserved.

Summer Camp 2012

Summer is just around the corner and soon it will be time to dig for fossils, discover sea monsters, and walk in the shoes of a Museum scientist! Beginning the week of June 11 and running through the week of August 20, the San Diego Natural History Museum will be abuzz with the activity of young naturalists.

The summer sessions are designed to inspire and encourage children to have fun while learning about science and nature. Camp favorites like *Digging for Dinosaurs*, and *Rock On!* are back on the roster. This year, we are excited to introduce new camps such as *Backyard Wonders* and *Animal Extremes!*

We proudly welcome back for a second summer our all Spanish-language camp for first and second graders and we will add a new session for third through fifth graders as well.

This summer will also see the new one-time only, *Camp Titanic!* Created to accompany *Titanic: the Artifact Exhibition*, the new camp will allow third through fifth graders to uncover the past as they learn about history, science, geography, and

technology through stories and lessons of the *R.M.S Titanic*.
(Note: In all activities related to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, the San Diego Natural History Museum wishes to remember and honor those whose lives were lost due to the Titanic's tragic sinking 100 years ago.)

Museum members receive a discount on summer camps. Registration is easy and available by phone at 619.255.0210 or online: sdnhm.org/education/family-fun/summer-camp.

Whether it is dinosaurs, insects, or animal mysteries, the Education Department and its instructors are excited to share the wonders of the natural world.

Don't forget, summer camp at theNAT is where it's at!

Be one of the first to see *The Horse*

Join us for the members-only West Coast premiere of *The Horse*. This beautiful exhibition explores the evolution, nature, and history of horses and the impact they've made on human civilizations for millennia.

Members-only opening
Friday, June 1, 2012
6:30–9 PM

RSVP by May 16
619.255.0308
www.sdnhm.org/rsvp

Your Passport to Science Adventure

Traveling this summer? While on vacation, sample some of the world's most exciting science centers through the ASTC Passport Program. Museum members at the Kate Sessions Circle (\$175) and above receive free or discounted admission to over 250 science centers around the world through this exciting program. Contact Alexandra Vekich at avekich@sdnhm.org or 619.255.0275 to learn more.

Natural Partners

Natural Partners are corporate supporters of the Museum who give \$1,250 or more in cash, product support or facility usage each year. We are proud to be associated with these organizations and are appreciative of their generosity to all Museum programs.

Thank you to our new and renewing Natural Partners from the period of December 1, 2011–February 29, 2012.

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The WineSellar and Brasserie*

*denotes gift-in-kind

We're Greening Our Voting!

This year, the annual board election ballot will be sent electronically. To update your email address or request a hard copy of the ballot, please call 619.255.0275. Ballots will also be available at the Visitor Services desks and in the Membership office at the Museum. Sending the ballot electronically will save the Museum about \$4,000 in postage, printing, and staff costs, as well as help further reduce our carbon footprint.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on April 25, 2012. The theme this year was "We'd Be Sunk Without You." Volunteers who have served over 300 hours in 2011 or who were celebrating anniversary milestones are recognized below. Thank you for your commitment and support!

40 Years of Service

Harry and Shirley Koons (Covey)

35 Years of Service

Dorothy Hester (Covey)
Ellen Smothers (Covey)

25 Years of Service

Paula Knoll (Canyonier)
Ruth Malin (Docent)
Carole Ziegler (Covey)

20 Years of Service

Ramona Court (Administration)
Ellen Shively (Docent)
Mary Toomey (Botany)

15 Years of Service

Maureen Abare-Laudy (Canyonier)
Michael Dietz (Canyonier)
Marty Jacobson (Botany)
Frank Jessie (Canyonier)
John Keethler (Docent)
Donna Staley (Canyonier)
Susan Stiver (Canyonier)

10 Years of Service

Judy Alvarez (Canyonier)
Bill d'Ablaing (Docent/Whaler)
Joan Dowd (Canyonier)
Cara Furio (Canyonier)
Don Jacobs (Docent)
Anita Musser (Docent)
Gloria Sonnabaum (Covey)
George Varga (Canyonier)

5 Years of Service

Doris Allsup (Museum Whaler)
Pam Barratt (Docent)
Susan Cellitti (Canyonier)
Kimberly Cwynar (Museum Whaler)
Sheila Dawson (Canyonier)
Lois Day (Volunteer Department)

Annette Frank (Covey)
Peter Kovacs (Board of Directors)
Rolf Milocco (Paleontology)
Emilia Moore-Bradler (Museum Whaler)
Sheila Moss (Museum Whaler)
Lori Myers (Paleontology)
Lynda Osborn (Docent)
Robert Proulx (Board of Directors)
Elinor Weissman (Docent)

Over 300 Hours Contributed in 2011

Mark Ardagna (Docent)
Olive Ball (Botany)
Bill Barbour (Exhibit Interpreter)
Joe Barth (Parabotanist)
Uli Burgin (Museum Whaler)
Mary Jo Churchwell (Parabotanist)
Jim Colclough (Paleontology)
Dani Coles (Birds & Mammals)
Jenny Cornell (Botany)
Diane Cullins (Museum Whaler)
Jan Domnitz (Paleontology)
Pat DonVito (Paleontology)
Larry Hendrickson (Parabotanist)
Rosemary Kelley (Docent)
Judy Lawrence (Museum Whaler)
Alan Marshall (Canyonier)
Victoria Marshall (Botany)
Robert McCurdy (Docent)
Rolf Milocco (Paleontology)
Martha Minter (Paleontology)
Beverly Pecunia (Botany/Paleontology)
Reed Pierce (Research Library)
Judith Soriano (Research Library)
Carol Telle (Docent)
Annette Winner (Botany)

EXHIBITION NEWS

Opening Soon

The Horse

The Horse explores early interactions between horses and humans. The exhibition shows how horses have, over time, influenced civilization including major changes in warfare, trade, transportation, agriculture, sports, and many other facets of human life. Never before seen on the West Coast, it is free for Museum members. Opening June 1, *The Horse* showcases spectacular fossils, models, dioramas, and cultural objects from around the world.

Vavra's Vision: Equine Images

"Though *Equus* has fired the imaginations of painters from the prehistoric hunter-artists of Altamira to Leonardo da Vinci, Velazquez, Goya and Picasso, still in the history of photography no cameraman has recorded the horse with such excitement and personal style as has Robert Vavra. His photographs are works of art; they are interpretations of the horse as perceptive as those done by Stubbs and Remington." These words were written by bestselling author James A. Michener in 1977. Though three decades have passed, Robert Vavra is today still universally recognized as the world's

premier photographer of equines. The exhibition, *Vavra's Vision: Equine Images*, which opens June 1, will showcase some of the photographs in the book of the same name. The images are of irresistible appeal to anyone who loves horses or simply appreciates the finest of photography.



Robert Vavra



Flying Thunder by Robert Vavra

Now Open

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

Titanic docked in San Diego for the first time; have you seen it? Don't miss this incredible opportunity to see over 200 artifacts recovered from the Ship's wreck site 2.5 miles below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, 175 of which have never been seen on the West Coast. Museum members get a discount on tickets, so visit www.sdnhm.org for details. Also, groups of 10 or more are invited to take advantage of special group rates. Call 877.797.9466 for more details on adult and school group reservations.

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THE HORSE

How nature's most majestic
creature has shaped our world

OPENS JUNE 1, 2012

FREE FOR MEMBERS

The San Diego exhibition is sponsored by the Del Mar Racetrack; Blenheim EquiSports; Del Mar National Horse Show; The WWW Foundation; The Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

The Horse is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, United Arab Emirates; the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau-Ottawa; The Field Museum, Chicago; and the San Diego Natural History Museum.