

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Field Notes

ISSUE 3 VOLUME 5 AUG 2014



**THE DISCOVERY
OF
KING TUT**



**HIS TOMB ▲ HIS TREASURES
THE BREATHTAKING RECREATION**

OPENING OCTOBER 11, 2014

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SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

PREMIER
EXPERIENCES

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exhibitions

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

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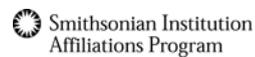
Cover Image: The golden mask of King Tutankhamun
from the exhibition *The Discovery of King Tut*

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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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Dear Museum Members and Friends,

It's my pleasure to provide an introduction to the August issue of *Field Notes*, which in essence "kicks off" our 140th anniversary year. Inside you will find in-depth articles on recent research activities, including a story on the Gray Vireo featuring the work of Lori Hargrove, and a proud moment for one of our dedicated Paleontology staff, Richard Cerruti. We've said it before and we'll say it again: "Research is the engine of all we do," and these articles serve to highlight the extraordinary work done here at the Museum every day for the last 140 years and at least that many more to come.

The countdown to *Coast to Cactus in Southern California* has begun: mark your calendars for our opening on Saturday, January 17, 2015! This issue provides the third installment on the development, fabrication, and installation of a major permanent exhibition, the first since *Fossil Mysteries*. *Coast to Cactus* will bring to life the diverse habitats and ecosystems of our region and serve as the complement to the geologic and paleontological history covered in *Fossil Mysteries*. Together, these two exhibitions will give every Museum visitor—from students to tourists—a full

understanding of why San Diego is one of only 25 global biodiversity hot spots; why we have the greatest biodiversity in North America; why we have the greatest number of endangered species; and most importantly, why every single one of us should care.

Our traveling exhibitions serve to provide all San Diegans with the opportunity to see things that otherwise would not come to our community and to help fund our mission-related activities. Opening October 11, *The Discovery of King Tut* will amaze you. I saw this exhibition in Germany two years ago and I'm pleased that we are the only West Coast venue that will host it. Immersive recreations of the tomb as found by Howard Carter have been disassembled into their individual parts. Each of the artifacts has been painstakingly recreated by Egyptian craftsmen using techniques thousands of years old. Simply put: it is stunning.

All of these activities would not be possible without your dedicated membership, support, and commitment. It's the time of year when our volunteer program is recruiting and new trainings are being scheduled. I hope that if you are interested, you will check out the information on page 18 and contact our Volunteer office.

As we enter our 140th year, I am humbled by and proud of the commitment of our Museum community. Thank you again for your support of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Hager, Ph.D.
President and CEO

The Gray Vireo

Disappearing Even from Rugged Wilderness

By Lori Hargrove, Postdoctoral Researcher, and Philip Unitt,
the Dennis and Carol Wilson Endowed Chair of Ornithology



One key finding of the Museum's centennial resurvey of the San Jacinto Mountains is that the Gray Vireo, one of California's more obscure birds, is on the verge of disappearing from our state.

Though Frank Stephens, our Museum's first director, discovered the Gray Vireo in Campo in 1876, it was not until Joseph Grinnell and Harry Swarth explored the San Jacinto Mountains in 1908 that the species' habits and chaparral habitat were truly understood. Grinnell and Swarth estimated its population density in that area at 16 pairs per square mile over 30 square miles, for a rough total of 960 birds.

A century later, in spite of intensive search of proper habitat, we have found only two territorial males in the same area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Cleveland National Forest responded to our sounding the alarm through our progress reports on the resurvey, and we were awarded funding to investigate the status of the Gray Vireo and reasons for its decline in southern California.

We infer that brood parasitism of its nests by the Brown-headed Cowbird initiated the Gray Vireo's population collapse, as the decline coincided with the cowbird's population explosion. Brood parasitism is a strategy whereby some species of birds, such as cowbirds, lay their eggs in other birds' nests, and the host birds often raise the cowbird chicks instead of their own.

But what are the important factors now? Currently, San Diego County supports the largest known population of the Gray Vireo in California, and we have a good idea of its distribution because of our work from 1997 to 2001 for the *San Diego County Bird Atlas*.

In 2012, we found that distribution already further

reduced, especially in northern San Diego County. We found 95 nests, checked them at intervals, and deployed video cameras on 30. The rate of nest failure was extremely high: only 17 nests fledged any young, and the probability of success was only 9 percent, insufficient to sustain the population. Of the 77 failed nests, 10 were parasitized by cowbirds. In each case, the vireos abandoned the nest soon after the cowbird laid eggs in it. Of the 30 video-recorded nests, only seven were successful. Three nests were parasitized and the remaining nests were destroyed by predators, primarily Western Scrub-Jays, or in two cases, a bobcat and a gray fox.

Over the past 25 years, the closely related Least Bell's Vireo has enjoyed a renaissance because of conservation of riparian woodland and trapping of cowbirds. But the leading role of the scrub-jay in depressing the Gray Vireo's nest success will make its recovery a greater challenge. To see a full report on this study, visit <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/documents/DocViewer>.



Upper left: Gray Vireo nestling being banded. Upper Right: Nest with two cowbird eggs and one vireo egg, all punctured. Lower: Gray Vireo on nest.



A Strange, New Fossil Porpoise from San Diego County

Approximately 3.5 million years ago during the Pliocene Epoch, a broad marine embayment covered the area that today comprises the coastal portions of southwestern San Diego County and northwestern Baja California from Pacific Beach south to Rosarito Beach and from Coronado east to La Mesa. The sandstone and siltstone strata that accumulated in this ancestral San Diego Bay preserved the fossilized remains of a surprisingly diverse assemblage of marine organisms that includes foraminifers, bryozoans,

brachiopods, clams, snails, crabs, barnacles, sea urchins, sand dollars, and sea stars, as well as sharks, rays, bony fish, sea birds, fur seals, walruses, sea cows, and cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises).

Nearly all of the fossil invertebrates and the majority of fish belong to species still living in the region. This is not the case, however, for many of the fossil marine mammals. The giant sea cow *Hydrodamalis cuetae*, for instance, is

extinct and no other large marine herbivore has evolved to take its place. Similarly, the southern walrus *Valenictus chulavistensis*, which once fed on a rich benthic diet of mollusks, is also extinct, as is the small-bodied river dolphin *Parapontoporia sternbergi*.

In March 2014, fossil skulls, jaws, vertebrae, and limb bones of a new, extinct porpoise from the ancestral San Diego Bay (found by Field Paleontologist Richard Cerruti in 1990) were described in the journal *Current Biology* by paleontologists from the San Diego Natural History Museum, Yale University, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the University of Otago, New Zealand.

This new species, *Semirostrum cerutti*, was about the size of a harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), but was like no living or extinct porpoise. The lower jaw extended well beyond the tip of the rostrum, giving this little toothed whale an extreme underbite.

Just how this unusual jaw configuration functioned is difficult to understand, since there are no living cetaceans with such an underbite. In fact, we have to look outside the Class Mammalia to find an animal that even remotely resembles the Pliocene porpoise.

As it turns out, the black skimmer bird, *Rynchops niger*, also has a distinct underbite that is employed to capture prey that the seabird encounters while flying low over the water with its long lower jaw skimming the surface. An extensive arrangement of nerves on the surface of the lower jaw allows the skimmer to sense prey, even in low-light conditions. Internal bony canals and grooves as revealed in CT scans of the lower jaw of the fossil porpoise suggest a similar heightened sensory

system that allowed *Semirostrum* to probe the soft sea floor sediments for small organisms.

Although we will never know for sure how this Pliocene porpoise fed, it clearly was a specialist feeder in comparison to living toothed whales and serves as an example of how “bushy” the extinction-pruned porpoise family tree once was.



Richard Cerutti has been a central figure in San Diego County paleontology for over 35 years and has worked as a field paleontologist for the Museum since 1990. Richard is a truly gifted and experienced “finder of fossils.” Over the years, he has discovered and excavated thousands of specimens ranging from baleen whale bones in Mission Hills to mastodon tusks in National City and from camel skulls in Chula Vista to shark teeth near Ocotillo. Richard also discovered and prepared the skull and lower jaws of the new Pliocene porpoise described here, and it is only fitting that this new species be named after him—*Semirostrum cerutti*. The well-preserved skull of *Semirostrum cerutti* is on permanent display at the Museum in the Pliocene gallery of *Fossil Mysteries*.



Coast to Cactus: Bringing Fire into Focus

In this third installment of a three-part series about Coast to Cactus in Southern California, learn about fire's effect on the ecosystem

As any local can attest, fires are a part of life here in San Diego. This year, the wildfires came four months earlier than usual and scorched more than 27,000 acres of land. Chaparral, one of the most common habitats of the region and also one of the most misunderstood, is fuel for fire. Previous records indicate that the natural chaparral fire cycle is 50-75 years. However, due to numerous environmental

factors over the past 100 years, the cycle has shifted to only 10-20 years. Scientists are in the process of determining the exact reasoning behind this as it has a significant impact on the plants and animals of the region.

A key exhibition component within *Coast to Cactus in Southern California* will serve as an immersive experience that invites people to step inside

the life cycle of this ubiquitous California plant community that covers much of San Diego's hillsides, and describes how it is affected by wildfire.

"Chaparral is one of our primary ecosystems, and fire has shaped that ecosystem, which is why we are including it in the exhibition," explained Exhibit Developer Erica Kelly. "The chaparral experience invites visitors to learn about

how chaparral plants are actually adapted for—and even require—periodic fires, and how animals return as the plant community regenerates."

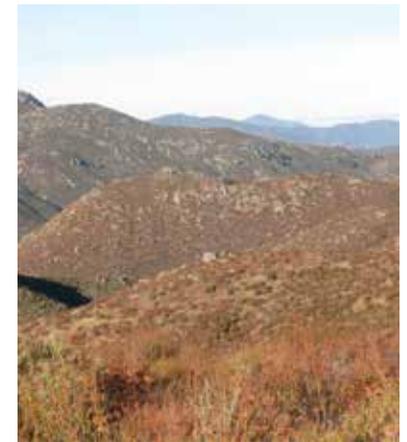
A visitor entering the chaparral wildfire experience steps inside a virtual storybook in-the-round, encountering the story of the chaparral's growth, burn, and regeneration in four chapters. The visual narrative starts with a long, dry summer where, after years without a fire, the shrubs

have grown tall. Then, smoke hangs in the air and flames lick the darkening sky. Birds take flight, and some animals flee while others find safety in rock crevices and in underground burrows. Above ground, plants burn. But below ground, they survive to regrow.

After the burn, the blackened ground lies exposed to sun and scavengers, and animals emerge from hiding to look for food. With no tall shrubs

to block the sun, the ground is open for new plants to grow. Fire Poppies bloom, some of the first plants to flower after a fire.

The following spring, rain has fallen and life is renewed in the chaparral. Wildflowers carpet the hillsides after winter's rains, and manzanita and chamise regrow from underground parts called burls that survive a fire. Birds forage for seeds and feast on insects while newly hatched



Opposite page: Three of the four panels being fabricated for the chaparral wildfire experience. This page: The exhibit within Coast to Cactus tells the story of a chaparral wildfire burn cycle, from pre-burn on a dry day (upper right) to immediately post-burn (lower right) to approximately the year after the fire, with California poppies in bloom (above).

spiders parachute in on threads of silk.

Together, in just a few square feet, the chapters tell a story that spans hundreds of thousands of acres and takes decades to unfold.

“There is a ‘land of the giants’ aspect to this experience,” explained Brian Gibson, exhibit artist for *Coast to Cactus*. “Due to the scale of the sculptures and painting, visitors will feel they have shrunk down in

size—this will give them the chance to explore chaparral plants and animals up close and even pretend to seek refuge as a fire ‘burns’ overhead.”

The chaparral wildfire experience is just one component of *Coast to Cactus* that takes big-picture concepts and drills into them on a micro level, allowing visitors to learn more about these habitats they see every day and often overlook. It’s also a prime

example of how the research done by our scientists—in this case, numerous pre-and post-wildfire studies—informs and shapes an exhibition that is developed for the public.

The Museum’s scientists and researchers, along with the Exhibits team, hope *Coast to Cactus in Southern California* helps create enthusiasm for exploring our local habitats and inspires people to go out and learn firsthand about our region.

SAVE THE DATE

Coast to Cactus in Southern California, a new 8,000-square-foot core exhibition, will open to the public on Saturday, January 17, 2015!

Stay tuned for more information about the member preview and related opening events.

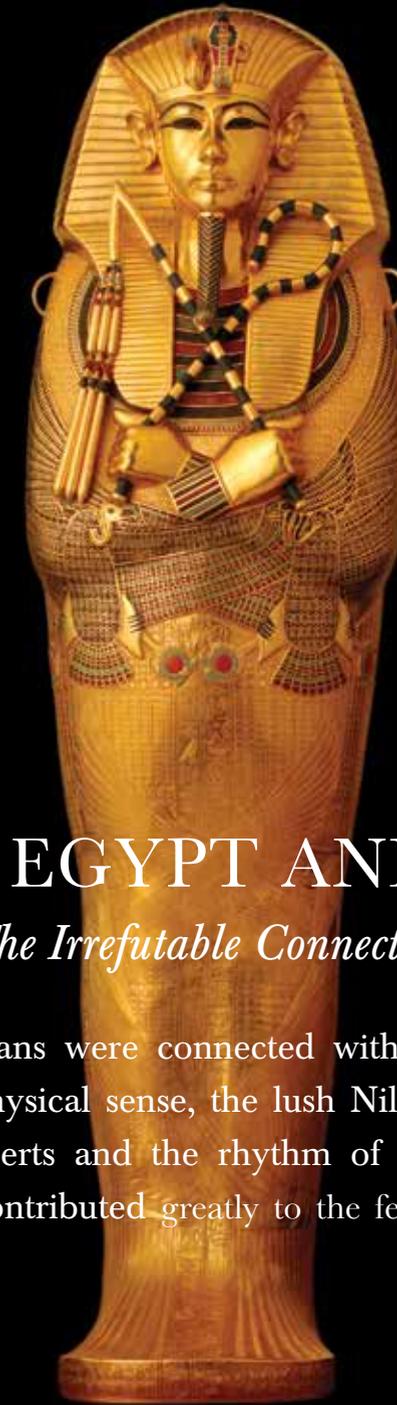
sdnat.org/coasttocactus



COAST TO CACTUS
IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Exhibit Designer Jim Melli collaborates with fabricators to achieve an aesthetically pleasing and scientifically accurate exhibit.



ANCIENT EGYPT AND NATURE

The Irrefutable Connection

Ancient Egyptians were connected with nature in many ways. In the physical sense, the lush Nile Valley between two hostile deserts and the rhythm of the Nile with its annual flood contributed greatly to the fertility of the land.

Metaphorically speaking, countless murals in royal palaces and tombs depicted landscapes, gardens, and an array of animals and plants, indicating the natural world was revered by ancient Egyptians.

Hieroglyphic characters explain the natural living environment of Egypt during the time of the pharaohs. When analyzed, Egyptologists notice that many of these hieroglyphs have been taken from nature, such as the sun, flora, fauna, and peoples of the region.

The gods of Egypt ultimately sprang from an intensive observation of the natural environment. Many objects from the tomb of King Tutankhamun link directly to this close bond with nature. *The Discovery of King Tut*, opening at the San Diego Natural History Museum on October 11, gives visitors a wide-reaching insight into this world. The back of the famous golden throne of the King, for example, is decorated with a lush papyrus plant. This is a reference to the mythical birth of the god Horus in the swamps of the Nile Delta. Horus is a sky god associated with Egyptian kingship who takes the form of a falcon.

Ancient Egyptians believed in resurrection after death.

An illustrative example of this renewal of life is seen in the god Osiris. He is depicted as a human-shaped mummy on the north wall of the burial chamber of King Tutankhamun. What is striking is his dark green skin color. Many theorists believe his green skin tone refers to flora that can regenerate in mysterious ways within nature's lifecycles.

The sun god Ra, much like the sky god Horus, takes the form of a falcon. To achieve immortality, the King intended to transform into Ra; thus winged sun discs—a symbol of this god—are found at the entrances of the gilded shrines that encased the sarcophagi



A replica of the falcon necklace encased in the sarcophagi and mummy of King Tutankhamun.

and mummy of Tutankhamun. Jewelry, such as a necklace in the form of falcon wings, was discovered among the objects in the bandages of the King's mummy.

A particularly intimate bond between the ancient Egyptians and nature is revealed in the King's cosmetic vessels, which were joyously crafted after natural archetypes.

An ibex vessel was used for storing precious anointing oils. A scene is depicted on a cylindrical vessel in which a lion tears at a bull. A further reclining lion adorns the lid. The inscription on its body bears the name of Tutankhamun.



Visitors of the European tour of *The Discovery of King Tut* marveling at wall paintings featured in the exhibition (left). An Anubis statue replica gives visitors an appreciation of the intricate detail that went into creating Egyptian art (above).

And then there are precious metals. Scientists today consider gold to be one of the most precious and valuable metals on the planet. For ancient Egyptians, it was much more than that. Due to its radiant glow, gold was thought to have the ability to light the underworld, explaining why so many objects from Tutankhamun's burial treasure were coated in gold leaf.

As you can see, ancient Egyptians considered both the natural and supernatural worlds to be of utmost importance in their beliefs and culture.

The Discovery of King Tut recreates the moment of Howard Carter's remarkable finding of the lost tomb of Tutankhamun. Utilizing more than 1,000 reproductions of the treasures discovered in the undisturbed tomb, the exhibition provides an unparalleled presentation not only of Carter's experience of entering the burial chamber for the first time, but also of 18th dynasty Egyptian history. The objects, beautifully and scientifically reproduced by leading Egyptian artisans, provide the opportunity to experience the splendor of King Tutankhamun's tomb without

compromising the fragile originals, most of which are no longer permitted to be toured.

Be sure to mark your calendar for October 11 for the West Coast debut of this unique exhibition which the *International Business Times* claims "breaks new ground in the presentation of cultural history, in general and with ancient Egypt in particular." For more information and to purchase advance tickets, visit www.sdnat.org/kingtut.

Source: Dr. Wolfgang Wettengel, Scientific Director for *The Discovery of King Tut*.

MEMBER NEWS

Save the Date for our 140th Annual Meeting

Join us on Thursday, October 30 and kick off the Museum's 140th anniversary. Our Annual Meeting is the one night a year where members like you are invited to go behind the scenes at the Museum. Join us for a night of family fun, starting with a presentation on the history of the Museum and learn how this fascinating institution was

started by a group of amateur scientists in 1874. Following the presentation, we will open the doors to our offices, classrooms, and labs so you can meet our researchers, explore our collections, and see a preview of our newest exhibition in the making—*Coast to Cactus in Southern California*—opening January 17, 2015.

Keep an eye out for your official invitation coming soon in the mail!

Give the Gift of Membership

Share all that you love about theNAT with your friends and family by purchasing someone you love a Museum membership. Give a full year of Museum memories and all the benefits that membership has to offer. Museum memberships come in a special package and make a great gift any time of the year—birthdays, holidays, and even gifts for new teachers! Call 619.255.0359 to purchase one today.

Make a Big Difference with Just a Little Effort

All Museum supporters and individual members make a difference in the Museum's operations today and in the future.

Rosemary Kelley, a Museum docent, answered the question "what would you like for your 70th birthday?" a little differently. She suggested friends could make a donation to the Museum in her honor. Many of them were happy to do this, and quite a number of \$70 gifts came to the Museum in her honor, for which we are very grateful!

Another often overlooked

way to benefit the Museum is to designate the San Diego Natural History Museum as beneficiary of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed. If your family's requirements have changed and they no longer need this security, you may be able to make a substantial gift to the Museum at a relatively low cost. You can designate a percentage of the policy's benefit if that is more comfortable, and it is also revocable at any time.

Two very significant gifts to the Museum in recent years are from generous donors who designated the Museum to receive their home, in both cases their mortgage-free principal residence. While there

are ways to use real estate as a charitable contribution during your lifetime, the simplicity of making a future gift through your estate, in a will or trust, is often overlooked.

Knowing that you can make a meaningful contribution that may not otherwise be possible during your lifetime is one of the benefits of thinking outside the box when it comes to making a difference for the Museum.

For more information on different ways to make a significant gift to the Museum, please contact Director of Planned Giving Donna Raub at 619.255.0314 or draub@sdnhm.org.



Members enjoy the many activities featured at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Live Oaks Society Membership

We are Museum Members, Volunteers, Docents, Canyoneers, Covey, and Visitors who invite you to join us as members of the Live Oaks Society. We have made commitments of future gifts from our estates to enable the San Diego Natural History Museum to make a difference as a steward of our region's natural environment. We have chosen this to be part of our legacy that will benefit our children and our children's children.

Won't you join us?

Contact Donna Raub at 619.255.0314



LIVE OAKS SOCIETY

Thank You to our Natural Partners

Join our Natural Partners and support school children through the Museum Access Fund. The Museum Access Fund enables teachers from disadvantaged schools to bring their students to the Museum, or to have Museum programs brought to their school, all at no cost.

Visit www.sdnat.org/corporatemembership for more details or call 619.255.0359.

Natural Partners 2013-2014

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Emerald (\$50,000–99,999)
ABC 10 and Azteca San Diego 15*
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Ruby (\$25,000–49,999)
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San Diego Gas & Electric

Sapphire (\$10,000–24,999)
CerasoliStafford Media Management LLC*
Clear Channel Media + Entertainment*
Lusardi Construction
Local Media San Diego*
QUALCOMM Foundation
ResMed Foundation
Sony Electronics Inc.
Wells Fargo

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The Abbey Catering & Event Design Company*
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Authentic Flavors Fine Catering & Events*
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Broadcast Company of the Americas
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Cavignac & Associates
Continental Catering, Inc.*
CRG Beverage Company*
Crown Point Catering*
Culinary Concepts*
Festivities Catering and Special Events*
The French Gourmet*
KFMB Stations*
Lindblad Expeditions*
Mission Federal Credit Union Community Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
The Ordover Gallery
Peartrees Catering*
The Prado at Balboa Park*
Rancho La Puerta*
San Diego Magazine
Stone Brewing Co.*
Toast Catering*
UCSD Alumni
VWR Charitable Foundation
The Wild Thyme Company*

Tourmaline (\$2,500–4,999)
AQCS Environmental*
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Event Technology Services*
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Giant Photo Service*
H.G. Fenton Company
Imaging Healthcare Specialists
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Obalon Therapeutics
Pacific Event Productions*
Raphael’s Party Rentals*
Rancho Las Cruces*
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

Amber (\$1,250–2,499)
3E Wines*
Ace Parking Management, Inc.*
American Hospital Association
American Rose Theatre*
Ben Aguirre Photography*
Bob Ross Photography*
Classic Party Rentals*
Level UP Entertainment*
Liberty Mutual
REI*
San Diego Association of Geologists
San Diego Center for Vision Care
Select Mailing Service, Inc.*
Storm International Florist*

*denotes Gift-in-Kind

Board of Directors Election

Thank you for participating in the annual board election in May. We’re delighted to welcome four new board members for a three-year term and six board members for a second three-year term. In addition, another 14 members are currently serving on the board.

Jeff Block, *Chair*
General Manager, KGTV
Channel 10

Austin Blue
Co-Founder & President,
Spectrum Aeronautical and
SciFly

Terri Buchanan
UC San Diego

Anita Busquets
President and COO, NCE
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Virginia Crockett, *Past Chair*
Senior Director, Strategic
University Relations,
QUALCOMM

Walter J. Davis, *Vice Chair*
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Retired)

Mary Dawe
Attorney – California Courts of
Appeal

Paul Dayton, Ph.D.
Professor of Oceanography,
Scripps Institution of
Oceanography, UCSD

John Downing
Executive Director, Downing
Family Foundation

Tom Fleming
SAIC

Karen Garsson
Former Vice President,
Corporate Responsibility at SAIC

Tom Hazard
Partner, R.E. Hazard Contracting
Company

Allison Henderson, *Secretary*
Community Volunteer

Georganne Hctor
Community Volunteer, Teacher
(Retired)

Jeffrey Kent
Kent’s Bromeliads

Diana Lindsay
Sunbelt Publications

Steven McDonald
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Dennis Morgan
Attorney

Jerome Navarra, *Treasurer*
Jerome’s Furniture

Tom Oberbauer
Biological Consultant, AECOM

Pam Palisoul
The Palisoul Company

Demi Rogozienski
Community Volunteer

Jessica Dee Rohm
President and CEO, Rohm
Global

Mary Yang, Ph.D.
Scientist

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Nature Needs You!

There are many reasons to volunteer and many opportunities in San Diego to do so, but the San Diego Natural History Museum not only offers a chance to make a contribution but also to immerse yourself in nature and learn from leading experts about natural history and our environment.

As a Canyoneer, you lead guided nature walks in the wild places of San Diego County that most people do not see. As a Docent, you work with our live animals, use

interpretative carts, and deliver programs to school groups from pre-K to high school. Training for both opportunities is superb. Museum curators share their expertise on the biodiversity of the region. In the 10-session Canyoneer training, a particular emphasis is placed on botany, birds, and trail tales. The Docent class is a college-level course in natural history and covers everything from evolution to climate in its mid-September through March classes, held on Wednesdays.

If human history is more your taste, consider engaging the public in *The Discovery of*

King Tut, opening October 11. Volunteer ambassadors greet and direct visitors and provide that extra customer service that makes people smile. Training will be held in September.

If a behind-the-scenes job is more your style, as a science volunteer you can help maintain our vast collections of specimens in a variety of areas, including: Botany, Entomology, Herpetology, Birds & Mammals, Paleontology, and the Research Library. Training is on-the-job.

If you are interested, call 619.255.0245 or apply online at www.sdnat.org/volunteer.



Canyoneers lead free nature walks throughout the county.



Carol Telle, Museum docent

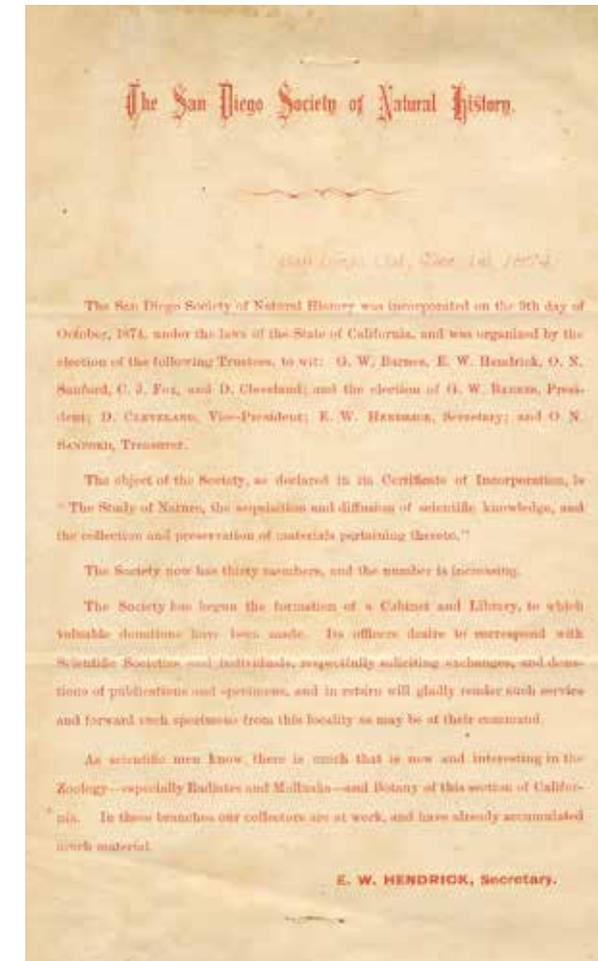
PAGES FROM THE PAST

As can be seen from the accompanying image, the San Diego Society of Natural History, the parent organization of the San Diego Natural History Museum, was formally incorporated on October 9, 1874. San Diego was still a dusty, sparsely inhabited town but already a compelling magnet for people like Daniel Cleveland and O. N. Sanford, avid students of the vast local biodiversity that they uncovered around them every day. Eagerly seeking out new plants and animals, they wanted an organization where they could share discoveries and learn more about this unique environment. Not merely engaged in hobbies but in truly passionate avocations, our founders spent time discussing or collecting specimens after time spent at their “day jobs,” whether as attorneys or railroad engineers, bankers or teachers.

On October 9, 2014, we celebrate our 140th Anniversary. In the announcement of its incorporation, the Society

statement, since at last count we are at 8,800 members!

A lot has changed in 140 years, but some things remain the same. Our Museum members and research scientists remain committed to learning more about our extraordinarily diverse area and sharing recent scientific discoveries with one another and the world at large. Imagine Daniel Cleveland or O. N. Sanford strolling through our upcoming exhibition entitled *Coast to Cactus in Southern California* which debuts in 2015; how they would have marveled at our displays about plants at Torrey Pines or the desert at night. Our long, continuous institutional history is one in which we all take pride, and our intentions remain



proudly stated that it now “has thirty members, and the number is increasing.” In 2014 we still agree with this

that the San Diego Natural History Museum will be a vital place for at least another century to come!

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
P.O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

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A photograph of an ancient Egyptian mummy lying in a wooden sarcophagus. The mummy is wrapped in yellowish-brown linen, with its head resting on a pillow. The sarcophagus is made of dark wood and is set against a dark red background.

A MYSTERY 3,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

MUMMIES 3D

Secrets of the Pharaohs

OPENS SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

THE DOWNING 3D EXPERIENCE IN THE CHARMAINE AND MAURICE KAPLAN THEATER

theNAT
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM