



# field notes

ISSUE 2 / VOLUME 7 / JUNE 2016

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



# FREE FOR MEMBERS!

A community's struggle to reclaim their lost treasure

*A Reef Reborn*  
3D

From the creators of *Ocean Oasis*

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.

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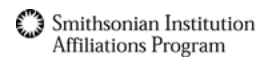
**Cover Image**  
One of the first published illustrations of a rattlesnake from *Historia Naturae, Maxime Perigrinae* by Joannis Nieremberg (1635). This rare book, which will be on display in our new exhibition opening August 20, is considered the first comprehensive natural history book of the New World.

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](mailto: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 Friends,

Our Museum was founded as the San Diego Society of Natural History in 1874 by a small group of naturalists interested in the natural world that surrounded their frontier town of about 3,000 residents. They satisfied their curiosity by collecting specimens, studying them, and giving presentations about their research to interested members of the society. Members were mostly amateur naturalists like our founders Daniel Cleveland, an attorney interested in ferns and sages, and Oliver Sanford, a railroad surveyor interested in beetles. Popular opinion of the day was that anyone could contribute to science through careful observation, collecting specimens, and writing about their discoveries.

The Museum is now 142 years old and we have 7.5 million research specimens in our collection, mostly from our region of southern California and Baja California. Over the past 25 years, our research scientists have published nearly 1,500 articles, books, and reports documenting the natural history of our region. The Atlas projects underway at the Museum—Bird, Mammal, Plant, and Reptile—will serve to provide baseline data about the animals and plants of our region, and are critical in documenting change brought on by climate change, habitat loss, or fires. These projects have all involved citizen scientists who collected specimens and data, and would not have been possible without them.

This summer, we will be celebrating the role of citizen scientists in the newly renovated Eleanor and Jerome Navarra Special Collections Gallery with an exhibition titled *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People: A History of Citizen Science*. Also this summer, the Canyoneers will publish their new book titled *Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors*. This book was written by Museum-trained naturalists with assistance from our curators. Projects supported by citizen



scientists have always been an important part of the Museum. In the not so distant future, our collections data will be available online, leading to field guides on the plants and animals of our region based on our research collections. The general public will continue to play a critical role by adding to the data.

In my last letter to you as president and CEO of the San Diego Natural History Museum, I am pleased and proud to report that our Museum and our scientific research has never been more relevant to the people of our region. I believe our future is very bright. I will miss these communications and am honored to have served the Museum for 25 years.

Warmly,

Michael W. Hager, Ph.D.  
President and CEO  
San Diego Natural History Museum



## A Griffin Rises on the New Library Space

By Margi Dykens

Have you noticed something new on the Museum's mezzanine above the third floor? Early in the planning for the new library exhibition, the decision was made to create a triangular architectural element called a pediment over the entry doors. The idea was to pay homage to the classical pediment, from the original 1933 design, over the south entrance of the Museum. It would also help to draw visitors up to the third floor library, an area not previously open to the public. Lead Exhibit Designer Michael Field suggested that the new pediment's triangular shape be represented with an open book, facing downward. From this early idea, the concept grew and morphed as the exhibits team brainstormed various configurations. Finally a consensus was reached to add the image of a griffin, which came from one of our rare books.

Exhibit artists Jim Melli and Brian Gibson moved from rough sketches, to small models, to ever-increasing sized models as the brainstorming sessions progressed. The end product was decided upon: a book with pages slightly curved, with the large griffin in the center, mounted on two horizontally stacked narrow books. At this point, Malama Composites, a San Diego company that manufactures the bio-foam used to carve the pediment, delivered a generous stock of green foam sheets, and work began in earnest in the Museum fabrication shop. Soon there was a fine green powder-like material all over the shop floor as Jim and Brian cut and shaped the sheets.

This foam is a "green" product, both literally and figuratively, manufactured from plant material with zero emissions. Jim and Brian used their detailed scale drawings to begin to carve out the general shape and aspect of the pediment. They spent a month carving and refining the sculpture of the pediment and griffin. As days went by, the griffin gained more realistic details such as finely finished

feathers on the wings and carefully sculpted claws on the feet. Visitors to the shop marveled at the artistic skill displayed in this creation.

We decided the phrase "Historia Naturalis," which is Latin for "natural history," would be chiseled into the book pages since that sums up the content of all the holdings in the Research Library and is also the actual title for many of the books from the Rare Book Room. Many of our books from the 1500s and 1600s were in Latin since that was the language of scholars at the time. On the spine of one of the books on which the griffin stands is a bit more text: San Diego Society of Natural History, 1874. This celebrates the incorporation of the parent organization of the Museum in that year and commemorates the long legacy of our institution.

Finally the day came when the carving of the entire object was finished. Next Brian and Jim applied a special epoxy resin to make the surface harder and more durable. Then they applied a base color of tan and dry-brushed on a lighter beige. Wherever there were low spots they retained the darker color, heightening the effect of depth and dimensionality. Finally, a dark pigment mixed with water was spritzed over the entire sculpture, resulting in a randomly mottled surface, creating the effect of an old sculpture made of stone.

The final version of the pediment was delivered to the Atrium on February 22. Major donors to the library exhibition project had the opportunity to be photographed in the Atrium standing next to the pediment the next evening at the "topping-off" celebration in the

*Facing page: The griffin that guards the entrance to the renovated Research Library was inspired by an illustration from a rare book that will be featured in the exhibition. The pediment and griffin were created in-house by the Museum's talented exhibits team.*



library construction area. On February 24, we began the elaborate procedure of lifting the pediment into place, three stories above the Atrium floor. Although the sculpture was not particularly heavy, given its large size it was still a challenge to lift it successfully into its final home.

Now that installation is complete, people have commented that the pediment looks as if it has always been there. In fact, it has become hard to remember what that bare spot looked

like before! We are so proud of the fact that our own staff not only designed this object, but carried out all the fabrication in house. It stands as a testament to the talent and creativity that comes to the surface when we work collaboratively and each person contributes their own ideas and talents to a group effort such as this.

On August 20, 2016 we look forward to opening the newly remodeled library space with its beautiful new entrance.

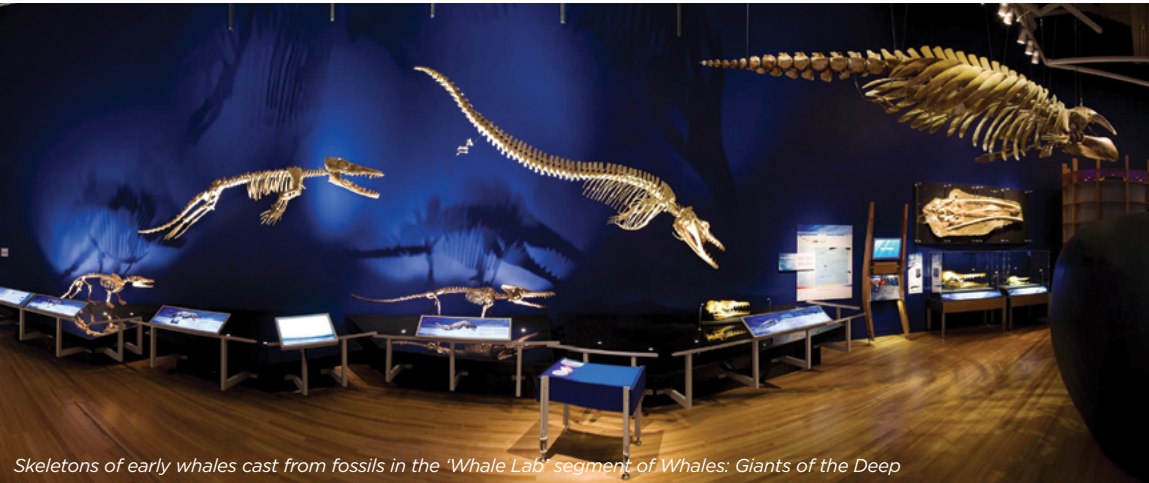
FROM THE COLLECTION



The image of the griffin which has been used in the creation of the pediment over the entryway to the new library exhibition is from a series called *Historia Naturalis* by John Jonstonus, published in Frankfort in 1650. This series resides in our Rare Book Room and was donated by Laurence Klauber in 1967 from his personal library. It served as the foremost animal encyclopedia of its time, with volumes on birds, insects, reptiles, fishes, and quadrupeds. It featured many detailed engravings of common animals such as horses, dogs, cows, and mice, alongside such mythical animals as

the phoenix, the griffin, dragons, and many types of unicorns. The illustrations of animals like elephants, zebras, and giraffes, which were completely exotic to Europeans at that time, probably seemed equally far-fetched in some ways. Jonstonus, a well-known scholar and physician, was educated in Poland and England but originally of Scottish ancestry. He received two medical degrees, one from Cambridge and one from Leiden, as well as a Ph.D. for his dissertation on fevers. As was typical of scholarly works of the time, Jonstonus wrote his four-volume series entirely in Latin.

Griffins have been depicted from ancient times, whether in Greece, Persia, or Egypt. With the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion, griffins were believed to be the king of beasts of both the sky and the earth, and were often featured on European coats-of-arms and heraldry. One explanation of how such mythical animals entered people’s imagination might be that in areas of the world where many fossils were naturally found intermingled, such as tar pits, the remaining fossilized bones became mixed together, thus leading people to reconstruct one imaginary animal from several sources.



Skeletons of early whales cast from fossils in the ‘Whale Lab’ segment of *Whales: Giants of the Deep*

# Dive Deeper into the World of Whales

By Tom Deméré, Ph.D.

The current exhibition at the Museum, *Whales: Giants of the Deep*, provides a wonderful opportunity for visitors to learn about the biology of whales, conservation efforts to protect whales, and the intimate relationship between whales and native peoples of the South Pacific. The exhibition also explores the fascinating story of the evolutionary history of the earliest “walking whales” and the transition from land to sea that occurred over a 10 million year period, beginning 52 million years ago. Cast skeletons of these transitional whales are beautifully displayed in the exhibition. They clearly illustrate the stepwise reduction and eventual loss of hind limbs and the acquisition of obvious aquatic adaptations like a fish-shaped body, paddle-like forelimbs, shortened neck region, elongated lumbar region, and relocation of the “blowhole” from the tip of the snout to a position above the eyes.

This invasion of the sea by the terrestrial ancestors of whales occurred only about 13 million years after the mass extinctions at the end of the Cretaceous Period 66 million years ago. This is

also when the last of the non-avian dinosaurs became extinct on land and the last of the giant Mesozoic marine reptiles (mosasaurs and plesiosaurs) became extinct in the seas. The ecological niches left open by these terrestrial and marine extinctions were first filled on land by an explosive radiation of new species of mammals and then in the sea. Included in this diversity of land mammals were the earliest members of groups we recognize today as artiodactyls (even-toed ungulates like camels, pigs, deer, oxen, and hippos) and perissodactyls (odd-toed ungulates like horses, tapirs, and rhinos).

If a field biologist could travel back in time 52 million years to the area we now know as northern India and Pakistan, she would find a variety of vaguely familiar hoofed mammals occupying a range of ecological niches. She might be puzzled to observe some small, deer-like artiodactyls hunting and wading in shallow coastal lagoons and think this behavior odd for a hoofed mammal. Returning to this area a mere 5 million years later, the biologist wouldn’t





Visitors can learn more about whales in many exhibitions at theNAT, including Fossil Mysteries.

find the same animals, but if she ventured offshore she might be lucky to observe pods of strange-looking aquatic mammals with paddle-like fore- and hind-limbs feeding on fish using multi-cusped triangular teeth and propelling themselves with up and down strokes of their tails and back feet. After another 5 million years, the biologist would find fully aquatic animals with tiny, vestigial hind-limbs and broad, horizontal tail flukes feeding on shoals of schooling fish.

Although at this point in time (40 million years ago), the transition from land to sea had been completed, the ancestors of living toothed and baleen whales had not yet evolved. The story of the evolution and diversification of echolocating toothed whales (Odontoceti) and bulk, filter-feeding baleen whales (Mysticeti), unfolded on a more global stage and is, in part, preserved in sedimentary rocks found along the West Coast of North America from Cabo San Lucas to Vancouver Island.

In San Diego County, marine sandstones exposed in the sea cliffs of Pacific Beach, in the gullies of Mission Hills and Encanto, and in the canyons of Chula Vista, serve as an archive containing the fossil remains of an amazing variety of 4- to 2-million-year-old whales. A selection of these fossils is on permanent

display in *Fossil Mysteries*, including three different species of extinct baleen whales from Chula Vista as well as remains of two types of extinct porpoises and an extinct river dolphin.

Many more whale fossils are housed in the research collections of the Museum and include fossils representing new species of sperm whale, beluga whale, bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin, fin whale, right whale, gray whale, and several types of archaic baleen whales. The scientific study of this treasure trove of fossil whales is an ongoing emphasis of the Museum's Department of Paleontology.

When you visit theNAT to see *Whales*, don't miss related exhibits in other galleries. Check out *Water: A California Story* to see a modern fin whale skull—the impressive size will paint a picture of its 80-foot long, 80-ton body. Visit *Fossil Mysteries* to view the skull of an extinct fin whale that lived 3.5 million years ago, which was collected from the Chula Vista area. And in *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*, learn about gray whales and the role the Museum played in bringing attention to their shrinking numbers.

## We're Hitting the Road—and the Trails—with Support from Subaru

We've always known Subaru makes terrific vehicles, and now they're making a terrific partner to the Museum. Subaru of America is one of our newest corporate supporters. We're thrilled to announce their sponsorship of two important Museum offerings: the 2016-2017 Canyoneers hiking season and our upcoming book, *Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors*, which will be available for pre-sale next month.

"Subaru has always been an advocate for initiatives related to the environment," said Eric Park, zone retail marketing manager at Subaru of America. "With our Subaru Love Promise, we have made a lasting commitment to support nonprofit organizations dedicated to the environment

and the communities where we live and work. We have partnerships with organizations such as the National Park Foundation, and working with theNAT is a way to showcase this support on a local level."


Subaru's sponsorship of the Canyoneers book and upcoming hiking season will underwrite in part the Museum's costs associated with presenting this book to the public, as well as expenses related to the upcoming Canyoneers hiking season. While the hikes we offer are free to the public and made possible by volunteer naturalists, the Museum designs and prints the official brochure and markets the hikes weekly throughout the season. Thanks to Subaru, we will be able to connect

more people with nature in a meaningful way.

"The book and the Canyoneers program empower and inspire people to get out and explore, and that's a cause with which our drivers can connect" said Park. "TheNAT is a leader in nature education, and we're thrilled to be part of that story."

But Subaru's not stopping there. The company is also providing theNAT with the use of a 2016 Subaru Forester 2.5i. Our scientists travel to job sites around the county and our education staff visit schools to teach nature education. Our new wheels will help get us to these locations in style.


To learn more about Subaru's environmental initiatives, please visit [subaru.com/environment](http://subaru.com/environment).



## Hit the trails with a (virtual) Canyoneer.

**Next month, pre-order the new hiking guide developed by our very own Canyoneers.**

Beginning July 15, *Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors* will be available for pre-sale in the Museum store and at [sdnat.org/shop](http://sdnat.org/shop). The 600+ page book will retail for \$29.95.

Proud Partner:  **SUBARU**  
Confidence in Motion





### Welcome, Judy Gradwohl!

We're delighted to announce that after a rigorous search process, we have hired a new president and CEO. Judy Gradwohl comes to us with 30 years of experience with the Smithsonian Institution, where she has held the position of MacMillan Associate Director of Education and Public Engagement at the National Museum of American History since 2004.

A native Californian, Judy grew up hiking and camping throughout the state. Both her undergraduate and graduate degrees are in Zoology from UC Berkeley, where she trained as a tropical biologist and had her first introduction to museum work.

Judy has held various leadership positions within the Smithsonian Institution. In 1985, she started at the

National Zoo focusing on animal behavioral research, education, and exhibits, and then went on to establish the Smithsonian's Office of Environmental Awareness where she curated large traveling exhibitions and raised major funding toward operations and projects. Judy developed the Smithsonian's first exhibition website, after which she joined the National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian's third largest museum. There, she supervised the development of the museum's web presence and, in 2004, became part of the senior leadership team, assuming her most recent role.

"TheNAT is a gem—it has superb staff and collections and is the best possible visitor center for the natural world in San Diego County and Baja," said Judy. "This role is a perfect fit, as it brings together my work in field biology, environmental conservation, digital outreach, education, and museum management at the Smithsonian. It also represents a homecoming of sorts; not only am I returning to southern California, but getting back to natural history where my career began. I am delighted and honored to join such a respected institution."

Judy replaces Dr. Michael "Mick" Hager, who will retire

June 30 after 25 years at the helm of the 142-year-old institution. Mick will remain deeply involved in Balboa Park and on the boards of other nonprofits with which he is involved.

Judy's experience is a great match for the next phase of growth for theNAT. While

**"I can think of no one better to lead this beloved museum."**

**—Dr. Mick Hager**

Mick has focused on building infrastructure and unifying our research and programs under our mission, Judy can expand upon these accomplishments and extend our engagement beyond the walls of the Museum.

"I can think of no one better to lead this beloved museum," said Hager. "I have always felt that the next leader for the Museum would need to focus on dissolving our walls and getting our research out into the public. Her skills are exactly what is needed to move our shared vision for the Museum forward as a leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Judy will assume her new role at the Museum on July 1. We're excited to welcome her back to California.

## Q&A with Filmmaker Soames Summerhays



Soames Summerhays is a British-born oceanic adventurer who has produced and directed several award-winning films. We discussed with Summerhays how he first got into oceanography, the challenges he's faced while filming, and his new groundbreaking film *A Reef Reborn 3D*.

**Q: How and when did you become interested in film? Why our oceans?**

A: I have always been interested in nature. While spearfishing in the Mediterranean during my teen years, I realized the negative effects we were imposing on its inhabitants. It was at that moment I began to travel across the sea documenting our ecosystem. Eventually, I had an opportunity to work on the film *The Great Barrier Reef*, which led me to oceanography.

**Q: Of all the places in the world to film, why Cabo Pulmo?**

I came across this incredible story when Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, the director of the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States, informed me there had been an astounding 463% increase in biomass at Cabo Pulmo. This powerful story about a community responsible for its recovery perfectly illustrated what can be accomplished when a goal is shared amongst many. After visiting Cabo Pulmo, I was entranced by its beauty, and knew it was a story that had to be told.

**Q: What was theNAT's involvement in this film?**

A: Ever since 1996 when I first pitched my idea for creating *Ocean Oasis*, the Museum staff members were on board. Mick Hager actually became the primary executive producer who supported me. Now, more than 20 years later, theNAT once again has supported my passion and served as a fiscal sponsor in order to bring *A Reef Reborn 3D* to life.

**Q: You're trained as a biologist and have led many expeditions. Can you tell us more?**

A: My formal studies during university were quite a long time ago, and while I do stay up to date on recent literature about the ecosystem, my numerous travels gave me the insight I needed to begin my journey toward filming. By actually living at the Galapagos Islands, I witnessed the islands' coastal ecosystems deteriorate to an unrecognizable state. Each time I travel to a new part of the world I discover how there is a commonality to the struggles that these ecosystems face.

**Q: What was the biggest obstacle in creating this film?**

A: Your idea is only a dream until you can find people who believe in what you're trying to accomplish. Even then, nature only provides you with limited windows of opportunity to capture its beauty. We faced discolored waters, aggressive winds, and two different El Niños during both years of our recording process. I wasn't able to get all the shots I had hoped, but ultimately you have to draw a line and focus on telling the story.

Visit [sdnat.org/blog](http://sdnat.org/blog) to read the full interview with Summerhays. *A Reef Reborn 3D* plays daily in the Museum's giant screen theater.



Balboa Park After Dark

This summer, Balboa Park comes alive after 5. From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend (Friday, May 27 through Friday, September 2), theNAT will stay open until 8 PM on Friday nights. We hope to see visitors who might not be able to visit during the day or on weekends. All exhibitions will be open, including our limited engagement *Whales: Giants of the Deep*.

What's more, other museums in the Park are doing the same thing. Enjoy extended hours at 10 participating museums as well as food trucks and entertainment throughout the Park on select dates. Make Balboa Park your Friday night destination this summer. Visit [sdnat.org/afterdark](http://sdnat.org/afterdark) for more information.

Up Next

Don't miss these compelling exhibitions coming to the Museum this summer and fall.

*Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People: A History of Citizen Science*

Opening August 20, 2016

This new, permanent exhibition revolves around the history—and the future—of citizen science. Rare books, works of art, photographs, maps, and historical documents from our Research Library will be displayed alongside plant and animal specimens and brought to life through multimedia, hands-on interactives, and touchable models.

*The Last Hurrah: The Photography of Abe Ordovery*

September 3-December 11, 2016

Abe Ordovery has brought many of the world's finest nature photographers to theNAT and given opportunities for talented local photographers to show their work. In *The Last Hurrah*, the final exhibition Abe is curating for the Museum before his retirement, he brings us a major solo exhibition of his own work over the last 20 years.

*Animals: Machines in Motion*

October 8, 2016-January 1, 2017

From the inside out, every living thing is a machine built to survive, move, and discover. Now you can try your hand at "flying," feel how hard a giraffe's heart works to pump blood, and investigate the other marvels of natural engineering.

One Membership, 250 Institutions

Going on a trip? Use your NAT membership to visit more than 250 institutions!

All Museum members at the Family and Grandparent levels and above are a part of the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Reciprocal program, giving you free or discounted admission to more than 250 science and technology centers around the world. Visit organizations such as the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, The Brooklyn Children's Museum, California Science Center, and more, for free with your NAT membership. Exclusions and limitations apply. For more information, visit [astc.org/passport](http://astc.org/passport).

Supporting our Mission

Thanks to many dedicated supporters, donors, board members, staff, volunteers, and community leaders, theNAT has grown exponentially over the past quarter-century. When Dr. Hager joined the Museum as president and CEO in 1991, we had an annual operating budget of \$2.1 million, \$3 million endowment, 40 employees, 120,000 annual visitors, and 4,000 member households. With the help of committed patrons over the years, we've focused our mission on southern and Baja California; this allowed us to take a balanced approach to research, education, and exhibitions, expand our building, and offer our community a more in-depth, well-rounded experience. Now the Museum has an annual

operating budget of \$11 million, \$16 million endowment, 120 full-time employees, 7.5 million specimens, 400,000 annual visitors, 750 active volunteers, and 7,500 member households.

The commitment and generosity of our Museum family supports our mission by making our research, education programs, and exhibitions accessible for the entire San Diego community. And thanks to committed supporters like you, together we can make lasting impacts in our region's environment and inspire every visitor to our Museum. The next time you're making a donation, remember that you are the one helping our Museum grow and deliver our mission. Please consider making your next donation online at [sdnat.org/support/donate](http://sdnat.org/support/donate).





25 for 25 Legacy Initiative

In the February issue of *Field Notes* we announced that Mick and Denise Hager (pictured below) had joined the Live Oaks Society through their commitment of a future gift from their estate. And, in March we launched an initiative tied to Live Oaks, recognizing Mick's 25 years of service as the Museum's president and CEO. Called the 25 for 25 Estate Initiative, the goal is to attract 25 new planned gifts to the Museum to honor Mick's 25 years. We can already see results. Nine Museum friends have now told us about the estate plans they are making in recognition of Mick's leadership and the example he and Denise have set.

Another couple who are Live Oaks members gave a strong endorsement of the Museum's goal to increase the group's membership, stating "When we shared that we had included the Museum in our will and trust, naming it as a beneficiary after our family and our church, we were welcomed into a special group of Museum friends, the Live Oaks Society. We enjoy their bi-annual events and invitations to special activities at the Museum very much, and even more important, we know we are helping a cause we believe in and supporting an institution that reflects our values."

Here's the essence of the program: By the one year anniversary of Mick's retirement on June 30, 2017, we want to have welcomed 25 new members to the Museum's Live Oaks Society. We will hold a special event, planned around Mick's availability in his busy retirement schedule, inviting everyone who commits to this initiative by naming the Museum in their estate plan. We will be eager to say a personal "thank you," and so will Mick!

To consider whether participating is of interest to you, you should consult with an attorney or financial advisor to discuss your personal financial situation. In addition, you may request a copy of the Museum's Case for Planned Giving by contacting Donna Raub, director of planned giving, at draub@sdnhm.org or 619.255.0314. Thank you for giving the 25 for 25 Estate Initiative every consideration in your future estate planning.



Honoring Donna Sefton

On January 20, 2016, Mick Hager welcomed Harley Sefton and members of the J. W. Sefton Foundation Board for a ceremony unveiling a special plaque honoring Donna Knox Sefton. Donna was generous to many causes throughout her life, including the Museum, but it was through her estate that Donna made her most extraordinary gift: she directed that the Museum's long-term debt be paid off and any excess funds placed in the permanent endowment. The plaque reads: *Generous and humble benefactor 1927-2014* and features an original bas-relief sculpture of a roadrunner, one of her favorite birds.

Honoring 25 Years of Service

In addition to Mick Hager, two other 25-year staff members will depart or recently departed the Museum for well-deserved retirements.



Evelyn Jackson

After 25 years of extraordinarily dedicated service to the Museum, Evelyn Jackson retired on December 31, 2015. Evelyn was the fourth floor receptionist for more than 10 years, and before that worked in the store and Visitor Services (many guests remember her easy smile and warm welcome from the days when she served as a receptionist at the west entrance, before the building expansion). Every day Evie put the needs of the visitors, the staff, and volunteers ahead of everything else. She never hesitated to help, to offer a kind word, or to simply do the right thing. While her sweet and helpful presence is greatly missed at theNAT, Evie is now spending her time with family and continues to be involved in the Museum's volunteer group, the Covey.



Doretta Winkelman

When she retires July 1, Binational Education Director Doretta Winkelman will leave behind a body of work (20+ curricula and training programs) in the United States and Mexico that will speak volumes (of course, bilingually!) for years to come. After college, Doretta joined the Peace Corps and served two years in Venezuela where she became fluent in Spanish and taught elementary and high school. While earning a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Environmental Education, she and two partners co-founded the Daedalus Alliance for Environmental Education Foundation (DAEE). In 1997, DAEE merged into the San Diego Natural History Museum to create the Museum's first trans-border education

program to advance its binational mission. As director, she co-developed and managed PROBEA (Bio-regional Environmental Education Project) and the Smart Schools program, a green schools model involving the entire school community in long-term, result-based projects. During the 25-year period, 246 workshops were facilitated which trained 5,175 teachers (who in turn reach more than 223,000 students) in environmental education best practices.

Doretta is proudest of the binational team she's created and the network of relationships and collaborations with their Mexican partners and the impact that together they've made with teachers, students and communities throughout the Peninsula.

We're going green!

Beginning with the September issue, *Field Notes* will be available online only. Please contact Emily Shin at [eshin@sdnhm.org](mailto:eshin@sdnhm.org) or 619.255.0275 to ensure we have your email on file so you don't miss the latest news and events at theNAT.



Fossil Ball Honors Our Fearless Leader and Chief Fossil

On April 2, nearly 300 special friends and guests celebrated “Chief Fossil” Mick Hager’s 25 years of service at the San Diego Natural History Museum’s annual Fossil Ball gala. Cabana boys greeted guests, who took advantage of a beautiful evening for an outdoor photo op and enjoyed fresh oysters and signature drinks like the “Hagerita” and the “Mick Mule.” Guests dined on a delicious meal from Wild Thyme Catering, raised their paddles for a live auction, enjoyed a tribute video in honor of Mick, and danced to the Tijuana Dogs.

Gala chairs Anne Bullard, Susan Evanco, Allison Henderson, Pam Palisoul, Demi Rogozienski, and Jessica Rohm helped make this evening a grand success. We exceeded our fundraising goal, for which our thanks and gratitude go out to everyone who supported this event.



Facing page, clockwise from top left: Denise and Mick Hager; Rosemary and Kevin Kelley; Carol and Dennis Wilson, Jon Rebman; Barbara and Gene Villagrana, Evelyn Jackson; Christy Walton; Tombi and Roberto Arjona; Chris Patek and Kimberly Harbert. Claudia and Jim Prescott (center). This page, clockwise from top left: Denise and Mick Hager; John DeBeer, Phil Unitt, Mona Baumgartel; Marilee and Peter Kovacs; Steve McDonald, Courtney Coyle, Mick Hager; Judy and Daniel Muñoz, Don Raub, Bill Kuni, Mary Yang; Anne Bullard, Jessica Rohm, Mick Hager, Susan Evanco, Demi Rogozienski .



The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on Thursday, April 28 with over 300 in attendance. Dr. Mick Hager was the featured speaker with a talk on his 25-year history with the Museum. Two volunteers were honored for their 25 years of service: Barbara Ellis, Covey member and maker of the famous Covey soup mix sold each year as a fundraiser and Brian Swanson, Canyoneer who specializes in owl walks. Many other volunteers, listed below, were recognized for 25, 20, 15, 10, and five years of service.

**25 Years of Service**

Barbara Ellis, Covey  
Brian Swanson, Canyoneer

**20 Years of Service**

Barbara Kanzius, Docent  
Enrique Medina, Canyoneer  
Douglas Nolff, Canyoneer  
Linda Pardy, Canyoneer  
Carol Wilson, Docent

**15 Years of Service**

Betty Ball, Docent  
Janet Peyton, Canyoneer  
Eric Ross, Canyoneer  
David Saville, Docent  
Lorraine Sundberg, Docent

**10 Years of Service**

Mary Kay Borchard, Canyoneer  
Chris Brennen, Parabotanist  
Janet Domnitz, Botany  
Charlene Glacy, Parabotanist  
Carrie Huckell, Docent  
John LaGrange, Parabotanist  
Kathleen Mauro, Parabotanist  
Andrew Mauro, Parabotanist  
Janet Merritt, Botany  
Judy Peacock, Whaler  
Merrilyn Pope, Canyoneer  
Thuy Ta, Canyoneer  
James Ward, Docent  
Charles Wolfinger, Parabotanist

**5 Years of Service**

Anita Busquets, Board of Directors  
Kristen Churchill, Docent  
Paul Dayton, Board of Directors  
Tom Fleming, Board of Directors  
Donald Fosket, Canyoneer  
Pamela Garcia, Whaler  
Rochelle Gaudette, Canyoneer  
Tom Hazard, Board of Directors  
Pauline Jimenez, Canyoneer  
Alan King, Canyoneer  
Steve Lawrence, Exhibits  
Glenda Maxwell, Whaler  
Raelene Paulus, Whaler  
Michael Sixtus, Whaler  
Ann Sixtus, Whaler  
Michael Stewart, Whaler  
Aaron Streeter, Entomology  
Mary Yang, Board of Directors



Betty Ball, Lorraine Sundberg, David Saville, and Janet Peyton featured here with Mick Hager, were among many dedicated volunteers who were recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



With my retirement on June 30 rapidly approaching, I've given some thought to my first days at the San Diego Natural History

Museum 25 years ago beginning in July of 1991. Being the ninth director in the previous 13 years was somewhat sobering as was the warning of Museum colleagues around the country that taking this job would be the end of my career. Little did they or I know that they would be correct—just 25 years later.

Before I arrived in San Diego, Judge Robert Coates sent me a book that had an inscription that read, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29-18. Upon my arrival at the Museum, it was clear to me that the Board and staff did not have a clear mission and vision in mind and that led to much of the dysfunction of the Museum at that point in its 117 year history.

I arrived in San Diego about three months before Denise was able to join me so I literally worked all day, every day, to try to understand the Museum in preparation for a year-long, in-depth strategic planning effort. I thought a good place to start was to read the minutes of previous Board meetings and I read them all from 1874 to 1991. In doing so, it became apparent to me that the strength of our research and collections was from our region. I believe the most important strategic initiative we have embraced was to focus our mission on southern California and Baja California.

Our original building in Balboa Park was built in 1933 and very little had been done to improve it by 1991. When I started, there was no heat, no air conditioning, no hot water, and no fire or burglary security. It was pretty audacious to add a new building to our 1991-92 Strategic Plan, but we did and we built it!

In my first week on the job, I was horrified to discover that our expenses the year before were much greater than our income and we had very little in financial reserves left. When I asked the staff what our next exhibit would be, I found out that nothing was planned. With that I called an emergency meeting of the Board and asked to use our reserve funds to book a three year schedule of traveling exhibitions. Those generated much needed revenue and each one brought in a whole new audience. Since 1991, we have had over 95 exhibitions and that schedule continues to the present.



Those early days were extremely difficult, so on the way home every night, I sang my heart out to a Jimmy Buffet song. The words were, "If I had to quit tonight, I'd never know if I was wrong or right. That's just what you get, you gotta go the distance if you're gonna fight a good fight." Well, it's been a great fight! Thank you for the opportunity.

— Mick Hager



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