



Winter 2009

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## Dear Volunteer,

Happy holidays! May your holidays be filled with fun, family, friends, and feasting. At this time of year it's time to focus on giving thanks for what is important in our lives. I can't think of anything (or anyone) more important in the life of the Museum than you. Thank you for your continued support in helping us meet our mission of inspiring in all a respect for nature and the environment.

A big part of this season is Balboa Park December Nights, Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5. We are gearing up once again. It's the biggest party of the year in Balboa Park and you don't want to miss out. There are several ways to contribute (especially baking cookies for the Covey sale) so read on for more details.

Janet

## Shannon's Corner

Hi Volunteers! Our Exhibits crew has once again wowed us with their magic. Don't miss **DARWIN:Evolution|Revolution**.

Join the 20+ volunteers interested in helping us with school groups inside the exhibition. We have created three fun games for our visitors: *Beanie Safari* explains how natural selection can change a population over time. *Survivor* demonstrates adaptation by creating an imaginary animal and then changing its environment to test its ability to meet the challenge. *Bird Beaks* explains how different styles of beaks may have evolved based on different food sources and environments.

If you'd like to help in the exhibition contact me ([ssafino@sdnhm.org](mailto:ssafino@sdnhm.org)). I'd love to show you the ropes.

Happy Holidays to all volunteers; we hope to see you at the Museum soon!



Shannon

## Upcoming Events

Volunteers are now covered by the Museum's Workers Compensation. Should you be injured while performing your volunteer duties, the Museum's insurance carrier will cover your medical expense. Contact Janet Morris (jmorris@sdnhm.org) for additional details.

Tuesday, December 1

6:30 PM

[Sustainable Agriculture: A Necessary Transition](#)

Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater

Friday, December 4

December Nights

Saturday, December 5

5–9 PM

Thursday, December 12

6:30–9 PM

Museum Whaler New Class Graduation

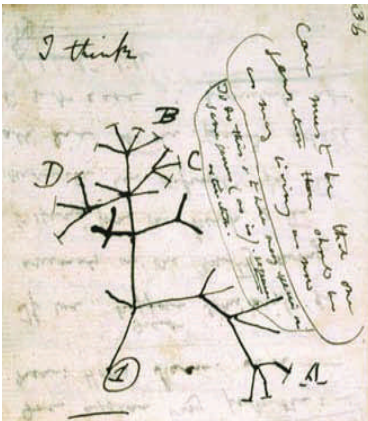
Parker/French Learning Labs

Tuesday, December 15

6:30–8:30 PM

[Tree of Life: Perceptions of the History of Life Before and After Darwin](#)

Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater



Saturday, January 9

Noon-2 PM

Canyoneer New Class Graduation

Parker/French Learning Labs

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

6:30–8:30 PM

[Eating Greener: The Ecology of Food](#)

Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater

## Covey Grants for 2009



Due to the generous support of Covey members, the Covey made contributions to several departments and projects at the San Diego Natural History Museum. A special thanks to Ray-Etta Morrell and her Covey bridge group.

**Fossil Preparation/ Palenontology:** Luxo Wave ESD Magnifying Lamps

**Botany:** Toughbook handheld computer with GPS unit

**Birds and Mammals:** Remotely tripped cameras, Magellan handheld GPS unit, Bat Detector, Mist Nets

**Nature to You Loan Program:** UV-light-blocking fabric for specimen cases

## December Nights

Did you know that in 1978 the San Diego Natural History Museum Covey started the tradition of Christmas on the Prado (now called December Nights)? Each year thousands of San Diegans descend on Balboa Park for the biggest party of the holiday season. Join us this year on Friday, December 4, and/or Saturday, December 5.

How you can help...

Show off those baking skills and help the Covey. This is a longstanding tradition among the Covey. All proceeds come back to the Museum.

Help the Canyoneers bag mistletoe! Friday and/or Saturday beginning at noon. No special talent required but you'll receive special treatment. All proceeds come back to the Museum.

## French Market Soup is Here—Hurry!

Covey board member Barbara Ellis, describes the history, beginning 25 years ago, of the famous *French Market Soup* sold each year to benefit Covey/ The San Diego Natural History Museum.

The tradition of the Covey French Market Soup began in 1985 with Myrt Gordon. After experimenting with beans and spices, Myrt made her first batch of delicious hearty soup using as many different dried beans as she could find and a special secret blend of spices.

In 2000 Myrt moved to Port Townsend, Washington, to be near her daughter and entrusted the recipe to Barbara Ellis. Barbara makes the soup only in the fall, to take advantage of Christmas gift giving opportunities, and sells every bag she makes by early November (115 bags in 2008). This year's soup contains 15 different kinds of beans. The prices are still a bargain: \$4.00 for one, \$7.00 for two, and \$10.00 for three bags. Most regular customers purchase in volume; three or six bags, and some purchase a dozen bags every year to give as gifts. (Thank you, Shirley Busch!)

## Volunteer Hours

Don't forget to log those volunteer hours. Remember, by logging your hours you are helping the San Diego Natural History Museum with every grant request. You make a difference. If you don't know your timesheet id please contact [volunteers@sdnhm.org](mailto:volunteers@sdnhm.org).

Total reported hours from July 1, 2009 to December 2009 is 11,767. This compares to 14,549 last year during the same time period.

### From Charles Darwin's Autobiography:

"One day, on tearing off some old bark, I saw two rare beetles, and seized one in each hand. Then I saw a third and new kind, which I could not bear to lose, so I popped the one which I held in my right hand into my mouth. Alas! it ejected some intensely acrid fluid, which burnt my tongue so that I was forced to spit the beetle out, which was lost, as was the third one."

## *Spotlight on our Volunteers*

### **Uli Burgin receives the 2009 Star Award**

Each year the performing arts and museum communities honor special volunteers who have contributed numerous hours to over 60 organizations throughout the area. This year, the San Diego Natural History Museum nominated Uli Burgin.

A native of Switzerland, Uli obtained her Ph.D. in zoology at the University of Basel, specializing in the color patterns of *Nudibranchs*, small marine mollusks. Uli moved to San Diego with her husband in 1962 and sought opportunities to expand her knowledge of the natural world first at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (where she published a paper on a *Nudibranch*), and through classes and trips sponsored by local nature groups. She joined the Canyoneers in 1990 and in 2005 she became one of the first Museum Whalers excited to return to her first love—the ocean. She is now training coordinator and one of the instructors for new Museum Whaler volunteers.

When asked her favorite thing about volunteering, Uli put it beautifully, “I have always been interested in learning more about all aspects of the natural world. I can do this on my own, and probably would, but being a part of a group of like-minded people like the Museum Whalers and Canyoneers, and sharing what we learn gives me purpose and motivation to do what I love.”



### **Lorraine Sundberg receives the Friends of Balboa Park Millennium Award**

Lorraine Sundberg, SDNHM Docent since 2001, was honored by the Mingei International Museum at the Ninth Annual Friends of Balboa Park Luncheon. She began her volunteering career in San Diego 50 years ago and what a career it has been! In addition to the Mingei and SDNHM, Lorraine has contributed to the San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Man, the Committee of 100, San Diego Shakespeare Festival, the Balboa Park Summer Festival, and the San Diego Maritime Museum.



A native of San Diego, Lorraine was a single mother who raised three boys, the joy of her life. She started her volunteering in scouting programs when they were young and later obtained her masters degree in special education. She worked the primary and secondary levels as she followed her sons through their school careers.

She was recently featured in the *Natural History* magazine for her part in creating a coloring book for the *Fossil Mysteries* exhibition. The Coloring Book (featuring art by Chris Waters, Docent since 2003 and writing by Elizabeth Smith, Docent since 2004 and current Docent President) was envisioned by Lorraine to provide a creative experience that tells the tale of the prehistory of the San Diego area.

Congratulations to these outstanding volunteers!