



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For immediate use*

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### **San Diego Natural History Museum Recruits Docents In-depth Docent Training Program Available to the Public**

*San Diego, CA: July 17, 2006*—The San Diego Natural History Museum is now recruiting for Docents—training starts in September. The Docents are a committed group of volunteer naturalists who bring the Museum’s message to school groups and Museum visitors. Each year, the Museum trains a new “class” of Docents through an in-depth training program that includes lectures, field trips, program observation, and practice sessions. This year, the Docent classes are open to all public for \$5 a class (free for Docent trainees). Beginning September 27, all classes will be held at the Museum at 9 AM on Wednesdays.

States Director of Volunteer and Intern Services Janet Morris, “With the opening of *FOSSIL MYSTERIES*, we need Docents more than ever before. Our attendance and membership figures are the highest yet, and we need people who have love for nature, education and San Diego to volunteer!” *FOSSIL MYSTERIES*, which opened July 1, is the Museum’s most comprehensive exhibition ever, featuring the last 75 million years in the Southern California and Baja California, Mexico, region.

The Docent’s training program focuses on the natural world in San Diego and education techniques. Says Carol Telle, Docent training co-chair, “San Diego is an internationally recognized biodiversity hot spot. This comprehensive overview of the county’s natural history will help you rediscover the place where you live through the lenses of geology, paleontology, botany, entomology, herpetology, ornithology, mammalogy, and marine life.” Participants will meet local experts and learn from their firsthand experience.

**Wednesday, September 27:** Welcome and Orientation for Docent Training

**Wednesday, October 4:** Introduction to Natural History and Evolution with Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, Museum Provost and Director of Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias

**Wednesday, October 11:** Geology with Dr. Pat Abbott

**Wednesday, October 18:** Mountain Habitats with Dr. Anne Fege

**Wednesday, October 25:** Chaparral Habitats with Rick Halsey and Bill Howell

**Wednesday, November 1:** Botany with Dr. Jon Rebman, Curator of Botany

**Wednesday, November 8:** Paleontology with Dr. Tom Deméré, Curator of Paleontology and Director of Paleontological Services

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**Wednesday, November 29:** Herpetology with Dr. Brad Hollingsworth, Curator of Herpetology  
**Wednesday, December 6:** Mammals with Scott Tremor, Museum Mammalogist  
**Wednesday, January 3:** Marine Mammals Jim Stone, Deputy Director of Public Programs  
**Wednesday, January 10:** Marine Invertebrates with Liz Paegel, Museum Educator  
**Wednesday, January 24:** Ornithology with Phil Unitt, Curator of Birds and Mammals  
**Wednesday, January 31:** Research Library with Margie Dykens, Library Director  
**Wednesday, February 7:** Weather with Miguel Miller  
**Wednesday, February 14:** Entomology with Dr. Michael Wall, Director of Entomology  
**Wednesday, February 28:** Nocturnal Mammals with Jim Melli, Museum Artist and Exhibit Preparator  
**Wednesday, February 7:** Presentations from the Nature Conservancy and the San Diego River Foundation

The San Diego Natural History Museum is “your nature connection” in beautiful Balboa Park. The Museum is open daily from 10 AM–5 PM, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission includes all exhibitions and films and is \$11 for adults; \$9 for seniors; \$7 for military, youth 13–17, students; \$6 for children 3–12; and always free for members. Phone: 619.232.3821. Website: [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org).

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