

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Field Notes

ISSUE 3 VOLUME 6 AUG 2015



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NIGHTS attheNAT
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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

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Cover Image: Cover image: Bones from a humpback whale recovered from Point Loma.

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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Dear Museum Members and Friends,

This begins my 25th anniversary and final year with the San Diego Natural History Museum. When I first considered taking this position, my friends in the museum field warned me that this would be the end of my career—little did they or I know how right they would be! Though the early years were what you might call “rocky,” thanks to the hard work and dedication of a terrific staff, strong leadership by the board, and the support and generosity of our members, donors, and the San Diego community, the road has smoothed considerably.

Our early dreams of a new building which would be home to exhibitions that tell the story of our research in this extraordinary region have been realized. Not quite a year ago, we dedicated the Dennis and Carol Wilson Hall of Biodiversity, home to *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*, the complement to *Fossil Mysteries*. Together, these two permanent exhibitions tell the story of our region, from geologic past through the biological super-diversity of today.

In early summer 2016 we will dedicate yet another permanent exhibition, *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People: A History of Citizen Science*, in the Eleanor and Jerome Navarra Library Special Collections Gallery. *Extraordinary Ideas* will highlight the tremendous contributions that citizen scientists have made to our understanding of the natural world. It is an inspiring story and will be the next step in dissolving the walls between our research and the public we serve.

In between will be a year of milestones and celebrations. We close out the Museum’s 140th anniversary at the October Annual Members’ Meeting. Come early spring, the Fossil Ball gala will be a sendoff for my transition. As the Museum’s Chief Fossil, this is a fitting theme.

Throughout the year we will keep you apprised of the executive search process and together we will welcome a new president & CEO of the San Diego Natural History Museum on July 1, 2016, who I hope will lead this beloved institution for another successful 25 years.

When I began planning my retirement from the Museum, it felt like it was eons away—now it is less than a year! But what a year this will be—and what a wonderful capstone to my career. I thank you for your stalwart support and dedication to this wonderful Museum and look forward to seeing you all during the coming year.

Warmly,



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





Curator of Paleontology Tom Deméré flenses a Bryde's whale.

EVOLUTIONARY LESSONS FROM STRANDED WHALES

Thomas A. Deméré, Ph.D.

Department of Paleontology

On February 12, a 30-foot subadult humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) washed ashore at the tip of Point Loma. Scientists from NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) in La Jolla contacted the Museum to ask if we were interested in recovering the skeleton. Over the next nine weeks staff scientists and citizen scientists from the Museum's departments of Paleontology and Birds and Mammals, together with staffers from SWFSC, the San Diego Zoo, and Cabrillo National Monument worked on the rocky beach (tides and work schedules permitting) flensing the carcass and consolidating skeletal parts above the high tide line. Also helping out were flocks of scavenging sea gulls and lone pelicans, the sun and surf, and omnipresent bacterial decomposers.

Over this period some bones ended up clean enough to haul up the cliff using ropes and pure muscle. However, the rest of the skeleton including the skull—measuring almost 6 feet long and weighing close to 250 pounds—remained on the beach as a major logistical challenge. The challenge was solved on April 14 when a Coast Guard Sector San Diego MH-60

Jayhawk helicopter and crew came to the rescue and airlifted the skull off the beach as part of a training exercise. Other whale parts were manhandled up the cliff using the many helpful hands of the assembled crowd, which turned out for the media event. The skeleton was then transported to an inland site for temporary burial and dermestid beetle processing, and a final round of maceration. Eventually, the skeleton will be brought back to the Museum and catalogued into the research collections of the Department of Birds and Mammals.

It turns out this is not the first time in recent years that Museum scientists have worked with stranded baleen whales. Just last December, the carcass of a 15-foot Bryde's whale calf (*Balaenoptera edeni*) was found floating in San Diego Bay, and last October the body of a 23-foot female humpback whale was found stranded on the beach at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. In both cases, the Museum was again contacted by SWFSC and staff scientists from the departments of Paleontology and Birds and Mammals responded. Additionally, in January 2012 a 13-foot gray whale calf



(*Eschrichtius robustus*) washed ashore on the beach at Moss Landing near Monterey, California. However, this time the Museum, working in collaboration with scientists and students in the Department of Biology at San Diego State University (SDSU), was only able to obtain the whale's frozen head.

So, why is the Museum interested in these specimens? Obviously, the death of an animal as majestic as a humpback whale or gray whale is a sad event. However, as Museum scientists interested in documenting the natural biodiversity of our region and in increasing our understanding of the evolutionary and ecological history of that biodiversity, we view such events as learning opportunities. In the case of the Bryde's whale calf, we were given a rare opportunity to study and sample a specimen of this uncommon species of baleen whale. The skeleton of this whale has now been completely cleaned and recently catalogued into the Museum's research collections as perhaps the only complete skeleton of a Bryde's whale from California coastal waters.

In the case of the gray whale, the Museum/SDSU team conducted a detailed series of muscle-by-muscle dissections and carried out additional

analyses, including CT imaging and histological sampling. The research results of this work were published in April of this year in a special issue of the journal *The Anatomical Record*. Separate technical articles in this special gray whale issue focused on the structure and distribution of facial hairs (*vibrissae*), the gross anatomy and musculature of the tongue, the musculature and functional anatomy of the lower jaw joint, the pattern and anatomy of palate vascularization, and the structure and comparative anatomy of baleen.

The amazing thing about publication of this basic anatomical work is that it had never been done before for gray whales, in spite of the fact that gray whales have been known to science for hundreds of years. Stepping back and placing the knowledge gained from this work in an evolutionary context reinforces our understanding that organisms (including whales) carry within their bodies evidence of their evolutionary history—the retention of facial hairs in fully aquatic mammals, the retention of deciduous teeth in fetal baleen whales, the retention of vestigial pelvic bones, and the co-opting of arteries and veins originally associated with teeth to a new role supplying blood to the baleen plates.



Top left: Bryde's whale found floating in San Diego Bay.
Above: The U.S. Coast Guard airlifts a humpback whale skull from the beach near the Cabrillo National Monument.

FEATURED FOSSIL

From the Museum's research collection



The best paleontological discoveries are not always made in the field. Actually, new fossils are often found in the laboratory.

Recently, while splitting slabs of siltstone containing fossil plants in the lab, our preparators discovered a partial fossilized skeleton of an ancient crocodile. The specimen included the bony armor that ran along the back of the animal, portions of the front limb and foot, lumbar and tail vertebrae, and ribs, making it the most complete fossil crocodile known from San Diego. Previous discoveries in the region are restricted to only isolated teeth and bony armor.

This animal is believed to belong to the genus *Borealosuchus*, which is distantly related to modern crocodiles and alligators. The specimen, along with a rich assemblage of fossilized leaves, was discovered in 46-million-year-old sedimentary rock that was unearthed during development of a new phase of the Black Mountain Ranch neighborhood here in San Diego.

This specimen will eventually be studied by researchers and might be used to improve our understanding of this animal's biology and evolutionary relationship with other North American crocodylians. Additionally, this find tells us the geographic range of this taxon is larger than previously documented. Every discovery like this is one piece of a bigger evolutionary picture, giving us a better understanding of the Eocene environment in San Diego more than 46 million years ago.

Bony armor, tail vertebrae, and foot of a Borealosuchus found in Black Mountain Ranch.



A Love Affair with the Art of Nature

In 1908, Ellen Browning Scripps commissioned Albert Valentien, a noted artist who had worked for Rookwood pottery, to create a painted atlas of the wildflowers of California. Miss Scripps' original vision was to publish the collection of these paintings. Over the next ten years, Mr. Valentien traveled the length and breadth of California, collecting specimens and transforming them through watercolor and gouache into exquisite scientific illustrations. Valentien's 1,094 paintings are noteworthy for many reasons, but in the words of the director of the Museum's Research Library, Margaret "Margi" Dykens, "far beyond just being accurate renderings of each species, they are

amazingly organic and capture the living essence of the plant." In 1933, following Miss Scripps' passing, the Museum received the full collection through her estate.

Fast forward to the 1990s, and a docent class is touring the library as part of their extensive training program. As with every library tour, Margi diligently brought out a few of the Valentiens as indicative of the rare and wonderful collections housed in the Museum's library special collections. At that time, financial restrictions found the collection languishing in an off-gassing wood cabinet, bereft of any conservation measures.

"Science is a conversation carried forward by curiosity, art, language, imagination, and the drive to look closely and ask questions. And anyone with these tools can contribute." Erica Kelly, Exhibit Developer

The only positive result of their storage was that they had been left essentially undisturbed for more than 60 years.

After Margi described the history of the Valentien collection to the docent class, one of the students asked why these amazing works of art and science were not on display for the public. Margi explained the financial requirements to get the paintings evaluated by a conservator, stabilized, and photographed, all of which would have to happen before any of the paintings could safely be displayed. The docent-in-training replied, "I think my husband and I can help with this." Next thing, Eleanor and Jerry Navarra had generously provided the necessary funding to protect, preserve, and pave the way for the exhibition of the Valentien Collection.

These initial critical steps led to additional support from the Navarras and a partnership with The Irvine Museum to develop a traveling exhibition of the Valentiens in 2004. This was paired with the publication of a history of the collection and a catalogue for the exhibition. *Plant Portraits: the California Legacy of A.R. Valentien* premiered here at the Museum and traveled to 10 institutions over five years.

Jerry, who was then owner, president and CEO of Jerome's Furniture and is now chairman of the board, was keen to create products featuring the Valentiens, the sale of which would benefit the Museum. That led to seed funding to develop a suite of products available through our Museum store. Meanwhile, Eleanor Navarra had joined the Museum board, advancing to serve as Chair from 2006 to 2009. Today, Jerry has assumed Eleanor's seat on the Museum's board.

It was at a board meeting when the idea of opening the Museum's library for better public access was first discussed. President and CEO Mick Hager, on the way back from a Leadership Circle trip to the Huntington Library's exhibition on the history of science, thought to himself, "we can do that—we have abundant and incredible examples of the history of science in our own library collections." With that, the seed for the library renovation and expansion was sown along with its inspiration, the permanent exhibition *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People: A History of Citizen Science*. Within a year, the Navarras, moved by the description and goals for the exhibition, came forward with the lead gift to the library project. In early summer 2016, the Museum will proudly dedicate the Eleanor and Jerome Navarra Library Special Collections Gallery, home to *Extraordinary Ideas*, which will feature a permanent Valentien gallery.



Opposite: Staff members examine rare books for use in the exhibition. Above: Lemon Lily painting by A.R. Valentien.

The Hidden World of the Maritime Maya

By Dominique Rissolo, Ph.D.

Maya civilization was among the greatest of the ancient New World. Their culture endured the span of Mesoamerican history – witnessing the rise and fall of Teotihuacan and surviving the expansion of the later Aztec Empire.

The Maya, emerging as early as the 9th century BC, never constituted an empire themselves. Rather, the Maya area – encompassing southeastern Mexico, all of Guatemala and Belize, and portions of Honduras and El Salvador – can be best characterized as a diverse political, social, and economic landscape once dominated by semi-independent polities. Divine kings ruled over civic-ceremonial centers and their peripheries, like those of famous Tikal and Copan, as well as presided over the complex shifting alliances that engaged and divided the world around them. What provided cohesion for this constantly reconfigured mosaic? Maya peoples, across time and space, were essentially bound together



Above: Tulum is among the most iconic Maya coastal sites. Right: Dominique Rissolo doing field work at an ancient Maya coastal site in Quintana Roo. Opposite: Watercolor rendering by Ann Axtell Morris of a mural from the Temple of the Warriors at Chichen Itza.



by a pervasive and persistent shared ideology and a unique set of cultural traditions. Their ingenuity and contributions to human knowledge are legendary, and include true writing, place value-numeration, mathematics, astronomy, and calendrics. Many of these developments matured and flourished during the Classic Period.

The “collapse” of the Classic Period Maya of the southern lowlands is fixed in the popular imagination as the end of Maya civilization, but nothing could be further from truth. At the beginning of the 10th century AD, the majestic cities of Yucatan, to the north, rose to power and ushered in a new Maya era. This was a time of great internationalization across Mesoamerica – a development related to the rise of maritime commerce and interaction.

Who were these ancient Maya seafarers? It is believed that long-distance coastal trade was initially dominated by the so-called Putun Maya of the Gulf lowlands. Archaeologist J. Eric S. Thompson once referred to these shrewd and intrepid merchants as “the Phoenicians of the New World.” Throughout the Terminal and Post-Classic Maya periods, precious goods and commodities – including jade, pottery, cotton, obsidian, cacao, and salt – made their way along a coastline stretching from modern Veracruz to Honduras. The vessel of choice was the dugout canoe. These were not humble watercraft, but massive affairs. On Columbus’ fourth voyage, in 1502, his son describes a canoe measuring eight feet wide and 50 feet long, propelled by 25 paddlers and carrying both passengers and cargo.

Interestingly, the ancient Maya were not drawn to the sea in quite the same way that other Pre-Columbian peoples were. Their civilization was fueled by agriculture, and the more productive lands were found well inland. These areas also offered better protection from frequent hurricanes that would ravage the coast. Hence, the massive

Maya centers of renown are located not along what we perceive as idyllic stretches of beach, but rather deep in the interior. It was not until certain social and economic push and pull factors emerged that Maya peoples turned their attention to the sea.

Although the latter part of Maya civilization was supported, in part, by maritime trade, not a single complete and well-preserved ocean-going canoe has been found. Post-Classic Maya iconography provides hints as to what these vessels may have looked like, but perhaps one lies undisturbed beneath the mud of some ancient harbor, waiting to be discovered. Fortunately for archaeologists, the maritime Maya left behind coastal port centers, rich with exotic goods from across Mesoamerica. It is here, at once bustling and now abandoned outposts shrouded in mangrove, that the stories of these great traders will be told.

Dominique Rissolo serves as archaeologist and special projects coordinator for the Center of Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture, and Archaeology (CISA3) at the University of California, San Diego. He has been studying Maya ritual cave use as well as ancient maritime trade and interaction along the Yucatan coast for more than 20 years, and his work has been featured in National Geographic. Don’t miss his NATtalk on September 23 (see calendar for details).

A version of this article appears on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website.





Whalers Celebrate 10 Years at Sea

The word went out in the spring of 2005 about a new volunteer opportunity to educate the public about the migrating gray whale. Twenty-five eager volunteers gathered at the inaugural meeting. Two training sessions later, they were on board Hornblower Cruises and Events whale watching cruises. That fall, 75 additional volunteers were trained. Ten years later, the group of volunteers now known as Whalers is going strong.

The Whalers carry on a long tradition of whale watching in southern California. The first trips led by Ray Gilmore, an employee of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and a research associate of the San Diego Natural History Museum, were offered to the public in 1959. Gilmore was one of the foremost authorities on the gray whale, studying their migratory patterns and documenting their shrinking numbers. He saw the whale watching excursions as an opportunity to educate the public about the gray whale's plight. Many of those whale watchers came away inspired to become activists in protecting the whales. In 1994, the gray whale was removed from the Endangered Species List.

Today, 64 active Whalers staff two seasons of whale watching cruises each year: from mid-December through April to view gray whales,

and June through September to see blue whales. Every cruise is different and the Whalers never know exactly what they will see, which adds to the excitement. In recent years, fin whales, humpbacks, minke whales, false killer whales, and even pilot whales have been spotted off the coast of San Diego. And there are always dolphins—Pacific white-sided, common, bottlenose, and even orcas.

The Whaler training, now eight sessions long, has evolved as the diversity of sightings has changed. Today's training includes talks by marine mammal scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Whaler Stephanie Dart is particularly impressed with the training, saying, "The speakers in the educational component of the Whaler program are at the top of the marine mammal field. We are exposed to current research that sometimes hasn't even been published yet. The opportunity to hear from these scientists is extraordinary."

Don't miss the gray whale skull and more background on Ray Gilmore's involvement in the whale watching program in *Coast to Cactus in Southern California*. If you are interested in joining our merry crew, call Janet Morris at 619.255.0245.

Making Gifts of Stock

Why would you want to make a gift to the Museum using stock (appreciated securities) rather than simply writing a check or using your credit card for an online donation?

If you own stock and choose to make a gift to the Museum using that stock, you'll receive two major tax benefits as well as our gratitude for your gift:

- 1) You will be exempt from paying capital gains taxes on any increase in value – taxes you would need to pay if you had sold the securities outright, rather than gifting them.
- 2) You are entitled to a federal income tax deduction based on the current fair market value of the securities, regardless of their original cost.

As stock prices increase, so will the taxes you owe on the long-term capital gain. But, when you donate publicly traded stock you've owned for

more than one year, the above benefits apply and save you money. The income tax deduction for long-term capital gain property is limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income in the year you make the gift, but your excess deduction is deductible for up to an additional five years.

A longtime Museum member who makes gifts to our Research Library in memory of friends and to commemorate special events also gives a separate stock gift annually to each of her several major philanthropic interests. She says, "It makes a lot of sense for my financial situation, and a gift of stock is easily handled between my brokerage firm and the Museum's broker. It's all very simple!"

Contact Donna Raub at draub@sdnhm.org or 619.255.0314 to discuss your philanthropic goals and interests. Your tax or legal adviser can also provide you with additional information.



LIVE OAKS SOCIETY

Joining the San Diego Natural History Museum's Live Oaks Society is simple. Please contact:

Donna Raub, Director of Planned Giving
619.255.0314 or 619.255.0233
draub@sdnhm.org
sdnhm.planmylegacy.org

Live Oaks Society Membership

We are Museum members, donors, volunteers and friends who invite you to join us, as members of the Live Oaks Society. We have made commitments of future gifts from our estates, enabling the Museum to make a difference in stewarding our region's natural environment. We have chosen this to be part of our legacy that will benefit our community and our region.

Won't you join us?

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Eowyn Bates to the position of vice president of institutional advancement. Eowyn has been with the Museum for 10 years, serving first as director of annual fund and membership and advancing to the senior director of development position, which she held for the past six years. Eowyn's development career spans a total of 17 years. She is a dedicated amateur naturalist and a wonderful advocate for the Museum.

With Eowyn's promotion, current vice president Ann Laddon will move into a new role as director of special projects. The successful completion of the recent \$16M Special Projects Campaign, which includes *Coast to Cactus* along with the library project and accompanying exhibition *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People*, will allow Ann to focus on a 25th anniversary campaign for the Museum's Chief Fossil, Mick Hager, who will retire June 30, 2016. Mick's 25-year tenure has transformed the Museum, and Ann will be guiding a campaign directed at a permanent legacy in his honor.

Katrice Lee will step into the senior director of development position. Prior to joining the Museum's team in 2014, Katrice worked for UCSD, expanding

the corporate and foundation fundraising program for the Jacobs School of Engineering where she also served as a founding member of the school's Diversity Advisory Council. In that role, Katrice spearheaded a campaign to raise money from corporations and foundations to provide campus resources for the school's underrepresented students. Katrice's 11 years of experience in development and her passion for the Museum's mission make her the ideal candidate for this promotion.

It is exciting to promote from within and speaks to the talent that the Museum attracts and retains. We invite you to contact Eowyn, Katrice, and Ann with any questions.

Eowyn Bates, 619.255.0172,
ebates@sdnhm.org

Katrice Lee, 619.255.0249,
klee@sdnhm.org

Ann Laddon, 619.255.0212,
aladdon@sdnhm.org



Institutional Advancement team members, front row: Donna Raub, Ann Laddon, Jaclyn Sewell, Rebecca Handelsman, Katie Amarillas. Back row: Robert Reed, Katrice Lee, April Tellez, Emily Shin, Eowyn Bates, Chena Popper.

MEMBER NEWS

Save the Date for our 141st Annual Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, October 14 and celebrate National Fossil Day™! Our Annual Meeting is the one chance a year where members like you are invited to go behind the scenes at the Museum. Roam our labs, offices, and classrooms, and come face-to-face not only with our collections, but our researchers and curators too! Keep an eye out for your official invitation coming in the mail soon!

Going on a Trip?

Visit another museum for FREE with your NAT membership! Did you know Family and Grandparent level members can take advantage of the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Travel Passport Program? This program gives you free or discounted admission to more than 250 science and technology centers around the world, from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County to The Field Museum in Chicago. All you'll need upon arrival is your current membership card with the preprinted ASTC logo. Participating ASTC institutions must be more than 90 miles from the Museum and more than 90 miles from your residence. Learn more about the ASTC Travel Passport Program and the list of participating institutions at astc.org/passport.



THE JAMES R. COLCLOUGH PALEONTOLOGY ENDOWMENT

Among the Museum's approximately 700 volunteers, the names of the Covey, Docents, Canyoneers, and Whalers are known to almost all Museum members and our friends in the community. Many school children know our Docents and our education staff members. Hundreds of people every year enjoy Canyoneer hikes throughout the county, or take a Hornblower cruise to thrill at being out on the open ocean with sea birds and dolphins, catching sight of whales—humpback, gray, or blue!

Less well known are our many volunteers in the research departments of Birds and Mammals, Botany, Entomology, Herpetology, Paleontology, and the Research Library. We sometimes take guests on what we call "behind the scenes" tours, where the approximately 280 volunteers in these areas truly work behind the scenes.

Jim Colclough (1927–2014) was one of our most stalwart, longtime volunteers; he worked in the Paleontology prep lab every Thursday for more than 25 years. Jim set up a plan to make a large contribution to Paleontology. Through a gift outlined in his Will, the bulk of his estate has now established the James R. Colclough Paleontology Endowment.

In 2003, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* interviewed Jim for an article about the Museum's volunteer "work-force." A mechanical engineer who retired from Solar Turbines in 1987, Jim had no formal training in science. "I've always been interested in astronomy and nature... but not particularly paleontology," he said. "I wasn't looking for anything to do when I retired, but my (former) wife read about husbands becoming couch potatoes. She volunteered both of us to the Paleontology Department. She dropped out, but I've kept going ever since."

Jim continued volunteering in Paleontology, almost always working on whale fossils, using a combination of dental instruments, knife blades, toothbrushes, compressed air tools and abrasives. He removed the matrix—the hardened sediment in which these bones are often embedded. He grew to love the work, saying "It's like a giant 3D jigsaw puzzle, with no picture on the box."

While we would all prefer to see Jim still sitting in the Paleo lab working away to uncover and reconstruct an important fossil "find," we can be happy that he fulfilled a wish that developed slowly over 25 years of volunteering. He wanted to benefit the Museum's Department of Paleontology in its ongoing work, and we respect and honor him for his thoughtfulness and generosity.



Jim Colclough prepares fossils in the Paleontology lab.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Thank you for participating in the annual board election in May. We're delighted to welcome three new board members for their first three-year term and two board members for a second three-year term. In addition, another 18 members are currently serving on the board.

Jeff Block, <i>Past Chair</i> General Manager, KGT Channel 10	John DeBeer VP, Chicken of the Sea	Dennis Morgan Attorney
Austin Blue Co-Founder & President, Spectrum Aeronautical and SciFly	Tom Fleming SAIC	Jerome Navarra Jerome's Furniture
Terri Buchanan, <i>Treasurer</i> UC San Diego (Retired)	Karen Garsson Former Vice President, Corporate Responsibility at SAIC	Rand Newman Senior Counsel (Retired), Hewlett-Packard Company
Anne Bullard Community Volunteer	Tom Hazard Partner, R.E. Hazard Contracting Company	Tom Oberbauer, <i>Secretary</i> Biological Consultant, AECOM
Anita Busquets, <i>Vice Chair</i> President and COO, NCE Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Allison Henderson, <i>Chair</i> Community Volunteer	Demi Rogozienski Community Volunteer
Mary Dawe Attorney – California Court of Appeal	Georganne Hocitor Community Volunteer, Teacher (Retired)	Jessica Dee Rohm President and CEO, Rohm Global
Paul Dayton, Ph.D. Professor of Oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD	Kathy Kim Anderson Kim and Associates	Melvin Spiese Major General, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
	Diana Lindsay Sunbelt Publications	Mary Yang, Ph.D. Scientist

FROM OUR FOLLOWERS

Favorite NATmoments on social media



Twitter:
@SDNHM



@MejiaGuerrero: @SDNHM exelente el fin de semana en la exposicion #CoastToCactus toda la familia.

@SanDiegoMag:
Must-sees on
stage, on screen &
in the gallery from
@TheOldGlobe
@NorthCoastRep
@SanDiegoSymph
@MingeiMuseum
@SDNHM:
sdmag.us/3sk



@MISSV_27: Second grade field trip. Thank you @SDNHM. Beautiful workshop and museum. Cost-friendly education programs.



Facebook:
San Diego Natural History Museum

"We had a lot of fun (as always!). Thanks for the extra learning activities today!"
-Amy Ritz

Instagram: @SDNHM



@lookwhostraveling:
Learning about #waterducts
at the #SanDiego
#NaturalHistoryMuseum
in #BalboaPark

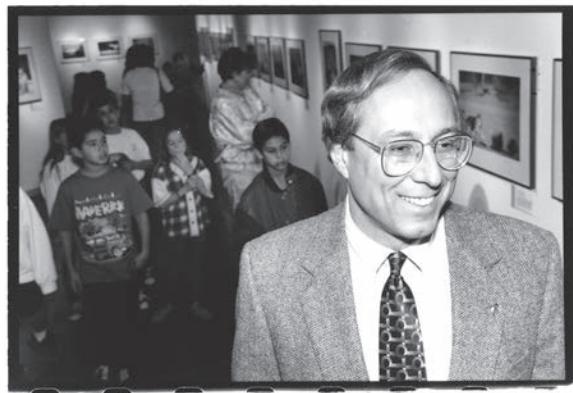


"It (Maya) opens in June and looks like another winner from what I've seen!"
-Tom Luhnow

"What a great video -never knew!"
- Balboa Park Online Collaborative
(Re: Mitch the Rattlesnake Extraordinaire video)

PAGES FROM THE PAST

In the June 1991 issue of the Museum's Field Notes, the announcement was made that Michael "Mick" W. Hager had been chosen as the new director for the San Diego Natural History Museum. At that point in our history, the institution was not in good financial health and had been languishing for several years, and Mick definitely had his work cut out for him. Mick was quoted as saying, "I am very much looking forward to joining the team and helping to craft the strategy that will take this museum into the twenty-first century in a new and exciting and relevant way." In June 2015, we can safely say that Mick has indeed achieved that goal!



UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS. FREE FOR MEMBERS!



Ordover
the ordover gallery



WHALES GIANTS OF THE DEEP

March 19–September 6, 2016

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

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MAYA

HIDDEN WORLDS REVEALED

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REDISCOVER
A LOST
CIVILIZATION

“Fun and engaging. Brings the many advancements of the ancient Maya to life for visitors of all ages.”

—Dr. Dominique Rissolo, local Maya expert

Through January 3