



Santa Maria, California “Where Natural History Comes to Life”

# MEADOWLARK

## The Fall Equinox 2021 Newsletter

Our Mission is to inspire and educate our community through regional collections and to promote the discovery and appreciation of the natural world.

# Save the Date, Sunday October 3, 2021, 11-2 at The Natural History Museum Grand Re-Opening



Located off the California Coast near Santa Barbara, the Northern Channel Islands – San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Anacapa – are under the protection of the Channel Islands National Park and The Nature Conservancy. The surrounding waters make up the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

- ◆ Created by volcanic and tectonic forces, the Islands have been separated from the mainland for millions of years and thus have unique (endemic) plants and animals. Because the Islands and Santa Maria share similar climate, we're able to grow some of those plants here at the Museum.
- ◆ Examples of plants endemic to the Channel Islands are the Ironwoods, Island Monkeyflower, Red-flowered Buckwheat, St. Catherine's Lace, and Northern Island Morning Glory.
- ◆ Some of the animals found only on the Channel Islands are the Island Spotted Skunk, Island Scrub-Jay, Island Deer Mouse, and the Island Fox (with each island having its own subspecies of deer mouse and fox).
- ◆ The Islands were the homelands for indigenous peoples for 13,000 years until the Europeans arrived in the early 19th century. Despite their removal and the hardships they endured, the Chumash and other tribal people have persisted and remain connected to the Islands.

### Use your smart phone to learn more...



Channel Islands National Park  
<https://www.nps.gov/chis/index.htm>



The Nature Conservancy (Island Restoration Project)  
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/santa-cruz-island-california/>



Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary  
<https://channelislands.noaa.gov/>



Chumash Heritage  
<https://channelislands.noaa.gov/maritime/chumash.html>



Fun Fact – Island foxes are small! Just 1/2 the size of a house cat (4 lbs.), this little fox is the islands' top terrestrial predator.

\*Exhibit made possible by a grant from the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resources Enhancement Fund\*

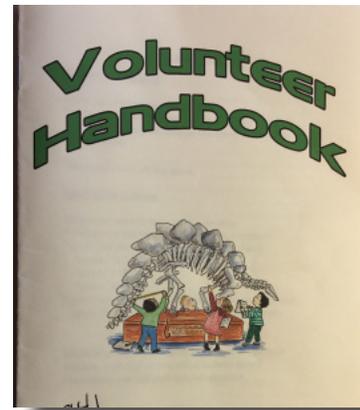
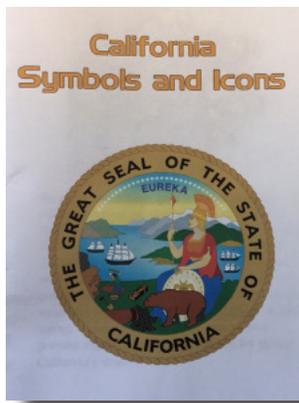
## First Phase of 4-part exhibit enhancement Grant funded by C.R.E.F.

### Schedule for our Grand Re-opening,

### MASKING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE UPHELD!

- **11:00 am,** WELCOME to the Channel Islands Garden, by Judy Garrett, President
- **11 to 12 noon, Oasis Ukulele Band**  
Ongoing tours of the Native Garden, Chumash Garden, Pollinator Garden, and new Channel Islands Garden.
- **11:30 - 12 noon,** Kiwanis BBQ, (free samples of veggie burgers and veggie hot dogs).

- **12:30 pm,** guided one hour walking tour of historic downtown Santa Maria with the BVB Historical Walk map (donation).
- **Continuous until 2pm,** Library Book Mobile, Arts and Crafts sale, Lemonade and bake sale. Bees, goats, chickens, composting, Winter garden plants, Recycling info.  
**Free crafts for kids.**



**Dave Siminski** moved to Santa Maria in 1979 when he began teaching Social Studies and Religion at St. Joseph High School. During his 26 years at St. Joe's, he held the positions of teacher, Activities Director, Vice Principal, and Acting Principal.

When Dave retired from teaching in 2005, he joined the Natural History Museum. As a museum docent, Dave has preserved many activities of the museum through his photography, and has assisted with other activities, including keeping attendance records and helping with various maintenance tasks. With his background in California history, Dave has been able to further our knowledge of the museum with two useful booklets. Dave is retired from the museum now because of other duties but we are all hoping he will return someday.

**Two new apps for your smart phone.** This was a recent editorial in the New York Times about a fantastic new birding app from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it's updated version of the **Merlin Bird ID** app. Other bird song apps are accurate only half the time and though this new version does not claim to be 100%, it comes very close. Simply set your phone down outside and wait for the magic to happen. Choose "sound ID" and hit the microphone button. Watch as the app scrolls through numerous choices when it hears a bird song and finally comes up with the ID. Simply amazing! Now those tiny birds which are so clever at hiding but have big voices can be "seen" in all their glory on your phone.....leading, maybe to your actually spotting them sometimes in the bush! Good luck!

Another new app (for helping people explore the outside world), that David Kisner, our Nature Consultant has found very useful is the **iNaturalist** app. Take a photo and ask what it is and **iNaturalist** will give you a list of suggestions. David has used this program repeatedly for insects and non-native plants, and has found the program very effective. The one catch is that it is based on getting a half decent photograph. While visiting the Natural History Museum, David was interested in a group of "bees" flying into and out of burrows in the sand. Not being a skilled entomologist, he snapped the photo on the right and asked **iNaturalist** what he was seeing. **iNaturalist** informed him that he had now met his very first American sand wasp (*Bembix americana*). Based on the maps generated by other citizen scientists, there are only three observations in Santa Barbara County but this wasp is documented from the east to west coast, south into central Mexico and into central Canada.

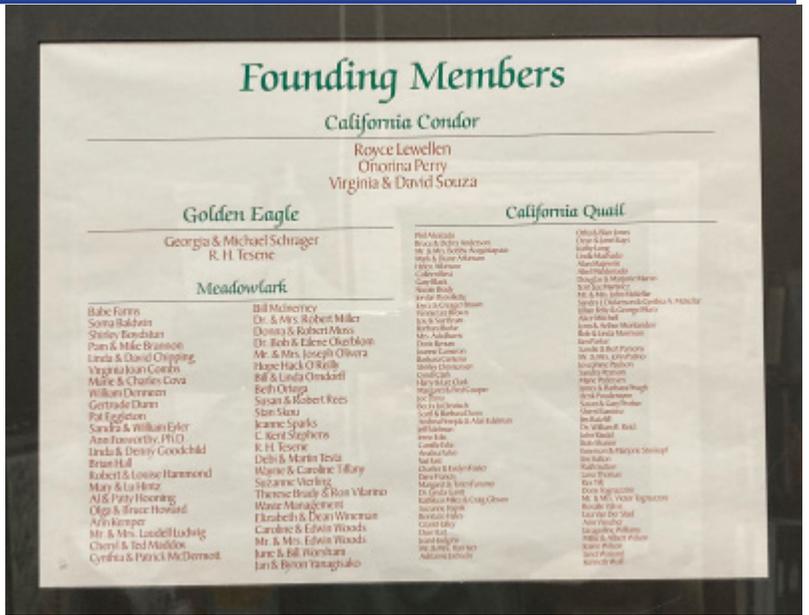


For those of you with kids or grandkids that are into Pokemon, **iNaturalist** can be used as a game to try and "catch them all". Take a hike and see how many new plants and animals you can find. **iNaturalist** is not perfect on identifying everything - weird varieties of ornamental plants are a potential weakness as are any poor photos - but David was truly amazed with how powerful a tool this app really is. Now all of you can have a useful tool to help discover the wonders in our own backyards, neighborhood parks, and the surrounding wilderness.

- David Kisner, NHM Nature Consultant

# The Natural History Museum is 25 years Strong!

**From the inception in 1996 of the idea for getting children of Santa Maria acquainted with nature to the acquisition of the historical building at 412 South McClelland Street in 1999, 130 people joined as FOUNDING MEMBERS. I was looking at their names on the wall of the office and realized about 20 are still active members! Others have moved, passed away or have forgotten us.**



Still, since then we have added 44 active members to those from long ago. (See our present membership listing below). These members have stepped up to be board members, garden and education committee members, community advisors and our docents who keep the museum open for visitors. Of course we would like to add more docents so we can keep the museum open more hours. Anyone interested in people and nature can sign up for a 2.5 hour shift per week. Please ask your friends and bring them for a visit. Long time docent Dave Siminski wrote a volunteer training book (see page two) and an experienced docent will help you learn about the exhibits.

We honor and appreciate all our members, long time and new, and welcome anyone who would like to join us. It should be a goal of ours to get to at least 100 members in the next year. Come out on Sunday, October 3rd from 11-2 at our Grand Re-opening and join or renew if you possibly can do that.

Check out our list of activities for that day. Hope to see you there! - Judy Garrett, NHM President

**PS...Please bring your loose change, we have a big jug and we are beginning a "Million Penny Project" to raise \$\$ for the museum. Thank You!**

**JANUARY-JULY**  
*Spring 2021 dues are paid*

- C. Acquistapace
- B. Centeno
- P. Chandler
- S. Curry
- B. Deutsch
- J. Garrett
- J. Glines
- J. Mackey
- S. McGill
- C. Ochoa
- K. Ransome
- K. Schartz
- K. Sharum
- B. Steveson
- J. Walsh
- R. Furnberg
- E. Jones
- C. Lara
- E. Wineman
- K. Wolf
- C. Magee
- B. Johnston
- G. Prober
- N. Heck
- L. Dias
- C. Thacker
- V. Souza

**AUGUST-DECEMBER**  
**Fall 2021 Dues are Due**

- S. Boydston 10/20
- L. Chipping 9/20
- H. Cole 9/20
- M. Cooper 6/20
- M. Gade 9/20
- A. Garrett 10/20
- S. Hajnik 6/20
- K. Miles/Gibson 11/20
- L. Hancock 10/20
- M. Housel 11/20
- A. Lawrence 9/20
- M. Lewis 8/20
- D. Lyons 11/20
- P. McCalip 11/20
- L. McCollister 9/20
- M. Nanning 7/20
- A. Patino 9/20
- A. Paulsey 9/20
- F. Pratt 10/20
- K. Ramsden 11/20
- C. Reid 9/20
- M. Staunton 11/20
- G. Schrage 11/20
- A. Shower 11/20
- L. Snodgrass 11/20
- J. Stilwell 12/20
- K. Thiessen 6/20
- E. Woods 10/20
- H. Zacarias 11/20

**Membership Donor Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

___ Hummingbird. . . . .	\$25 Individual
___ *California Quail. . . . .	\$50 Family
___ *Meadowlark. . . . .	\$100
___ *Great Horned Owl. . . . .	\$250
___ *Golden Eagle. . . . .	\$500
___ *Red-Tailed Hawk. . . . .	\$1,000
___ *California Condor. . . . .	\$2,000

\*These membership categories include family members.



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 (across from Santa Maria  
 Library)

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 naturalhistory412.santamaria@  
 gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**  
 www.smnaturalhistory.org

**FACEBOOK;**  
 The Natural History Museum of  
 Santa Maria  
 Please Like Us

**OPEN:**  
 Regular hours:  
 Wed-Sat 11:00am - 4:00pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Judy Garrett, President
- Virginia Souza, Secretary
- Nancy Heck, Treasurer
- David Kisner,  
Nature Consultant
- Annie Lawrence,  
Graphic Artist

**ADVISORY BOARD**

- Sarah Cameron
- Jim Glines
- Mary Housel
- Conrad Stephens
- Jason Stilwell
- Hilda Zacarias



# GRAND RE-OPENING

## SUNDAY, OCT. 3, 2021 • 11-2PM

- ♦ **FOOD:** KIWANIS BBQ  
 LEMONADE & DESSERT FOR SALE  
 FREE SAMPLES OF VEGGIE BURGERS & HOT DOGS
- ♦ **ENTERTAINMENT:** THE OASIS  
 UKELELE BAND  
**FREE**
- ♦ **CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN**
- ♦ **DECORATIVE ART:** FOR SALE  
 ARTISTS: ANNIE LAWRENCE & MARY LOU JOHNSON

- ♦ **CHANNEL ISLANDS:**  
 NEW OUTSIDE ♦ 1ST OF 4-PART GRANT  
 TO BE FUNDED BY C.R.E.F.
- ♦ **TOURS:** OUTSIDE GARDENS  
 CHANNEL ISLANDS, CHUMASH, POLLINATOR,  
 SM HISTORICAL WALK
- ♦ **LIVE ANIMALS**
- ♦ **SANTA MARIA LIBRARY**

**BOOK MOBILE**

