



Santa Maria, California
"Where Natural History comes to Life"

MEADOWLARK

The Spring Equinox 2024 Newsletter

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



COME OUT & ENJOY EARTH DAY AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

EARTH DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

12 NOON - 3 PM. FREE EVENT

412 SO MCCLELLAND (ACROSS FROM LIBRARY)

Our Santa Maria River Watershed

- **Free Family Fun**
 - Food
 - Music
- **Spring Garden Demo**
 - Native Plant Sale
 - Succulent Sale
- **Veggie Garden starts**
 - Crafts for Kids

•AND▶▶ZOO TO YOU



SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

EL MUSEO DE HISTORIA NATURAL

DÍA DE LA TIERRA

DOMINGO, 21 ABRIL, 2024

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

412 SO MCCLELLAND (ENFRENTA DE LA BIBLIOTECA)

Nuestra Cuenca Del Río De Santa Maria

- **Diversión familiar gratuita**
 - Alimento
 - Música
- **Demostración de jardinería de primavera**
- **Venta de plantas nativas**
 - Venta de suculentas
 - Comienzos de vegetales para su huerto
- **Manualidades para niños**

y ▶ZOO TO YOU

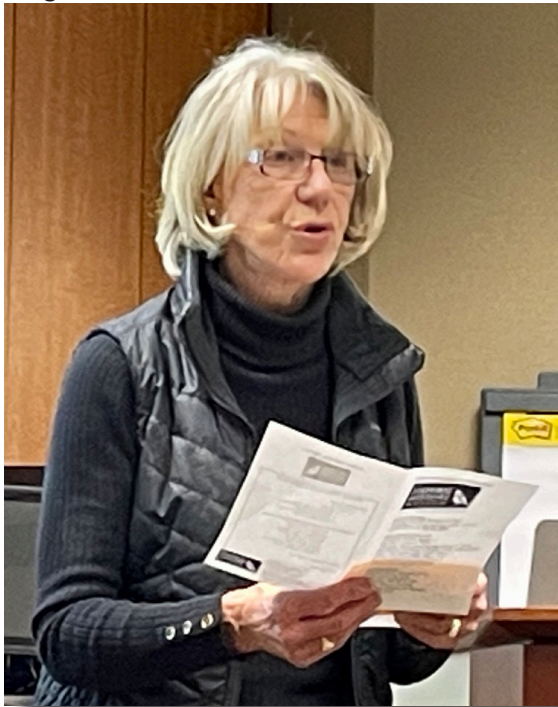


Big Thank You to Our Sponsors

• City of SM Rec & Parks • Home Depot • 5 Star Rain Gutters • Mc Donalds •
Fund for Santa Barbara • Community Bank of Santa Maria • City of SM Utilities Department •
Santa Maria Times • Plantel • Evening Kiwanis Club • Rotary Club of Santa Maria •

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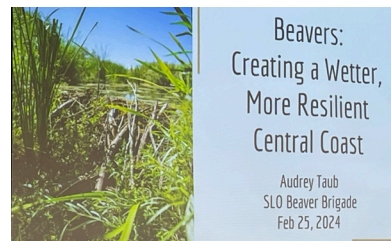
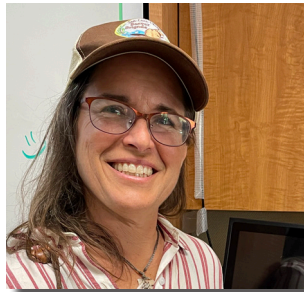
SPRING IS HERE!

Equinox is a shifting date and signifies the beginning of Spring. Having the rains back two years in a row has been glorious for the most part. The beautiful white cumulus clouds in the blue sky above greening hills have been welcome sights. The Natural History Museum is all about **“watershed”** as we conclude installing a grant from **Santa Barbara County Resource Coastal Enhancement Fund**. We hope you have all had the chance to come and see the renewed focus on water in the grounds and inside the Museum building. **Earth Day** young visitors will be able to assemble a **Watershed Discovery Nature Journal** to explore and investigate the watershed related features outside in the native garden and also

indoors. The Santa Maria Utilities Department will offer water conservation tips and tools, museum garden demonstrations will feature how to use all those discarded egg shells as a plant growth enhancer and simple composting techniques. What can we each do to further conserve water this coming year? How about planting some native plants? Come on down and donate a dollar for 4 veggie starts and start a great veggie garden.

Zoo to You will guarantee a wild affair! Hope to see you there.

Audrey Taub
Executive Director
SLO Beaver Brigade



Several of our members were so interested in **Audrey Taub's** talk at our Annual Meeting in February that they went to the Beaver Brigade in SLO on March 23, 2024. They learned much about what is being done locally to increase the presence of beavers on the Central Coast.



Please visit the Museum to see the taxidermied Beaver in our watershed exhibit and pick up a free booklet with interesting facts about Beavers.



This is our garden educational curriculum bulletin board recently installed in the back yard of the Museum. It encourages visitors and students to explore our garden and find the plants or insects featured in the 12 monthly lessons.

Items posted on this board are (a) a map with reference numbers for the various gardens, (b) the March lesson with plants cross-referenced to the map, (c) a list of the monthly lesson topics, and (d) our native garden mission statement. It is one of the projects associated with the C.R.E.F. Grant.

BRENNAN SIMPSON

one of our regular docents

was presented the

SMNHM Volunteer

of the Year 2023 Award

at the Annual Meeting in February.



Brennan is very dedicated to making the museum an informative place to visit.

We thank all of our docents for volunteering. If you are at least 18 or retired and want to meet people interested in Nature, please consider attending the Museum's next monthly pizza docent meeting this Friday, March 30th at 1:00 PM. You can email the Museum for an appointment at naturalhistory412santamaria@gmail.com

Please clip and become a member of Santa Maria Natural History Museum.

Help us to support the activities and growth of the biggest/littlest museum on the Central Coast.

Name_____
Address_____
City, State, Zip_____
Phone_____
E-mail_____

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

Please make checks payable to the Natural History Museum and return this form to us at P.O. Box 5254, Santa Maria, CA. 93456
Or better yet, come by and visit us.



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P O Box 5254
Santa Maria, CA 93456
(across from Santa Maria Library)
PHONE: (805) 614-0806
EMAIL:
naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com
WEBSITE:
www.smnaturalhistory.org
FACEBOOK;
The Natural History Museum of Santa Maria
Please Like Us
INSTAGRAM:
santamarianaturalhistorymuseum
OR santamarianhm
OPEN:
Regular hours:
Wed-Sat 11:00am - 4:00pm

FREE ADMISSION



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APRIL 13TH
9am-5pm

TRAILPALOOZA
TRAILRUN • MTB RACE • LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL

5, 10, 15 mile trail runs
Short track MTB
Giant Trance X 29 Bike Raffle
\$2800 value!

A community event to support local trails
For Race Registration/General admission, visit **SMVOS.ORG**

Main Street
CYCLES

GIANT

stabilitystudio
fitness. community. stability.

David Kisner, the Santa Maria Natural History Museum's Nature Consultant, will be hosting an educational table at the

TRAILPALOOZA

for kids of all ages. He will be sharing information about plants and animals found in our area.

Come out and enjoy our southern foothills and see a beautiful area that is rarely open to the public.