



MEADOWLARK

Fall 2024 Equinox Newsletter

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

412 South McClelland, P O Box 5254, Santa Maria, CA 93456

Coming Soon, Save the Date, October 5, 2024

California Native Plants for Santa Maria
Plantas Nativas de California para Santa Maria
Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 10:00AM
Sabado, 5 de Octubre, 2024 a las 10:00AM
Santa Maria Public Library
Biblioteca de Santa Maria
421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, CA 93454

The California Native Plant Society-SLO will be offering a bilingual presentation about gardening with native plants at the City of Santa Maria Public Library. The presentation will talk about California native plants well suited to Santa Maria and other coastal portions of the County. Bill Waycott and Zach Tanner with CNPS-SLO will discuss how to select, grow, and use these native plants in your garden. They will also talk about some of the wonderful native plants local to the area. The presentation will include a photo tour of featured plants, A list of recommended plants for the garden, and a question-and-answer period at the end. Free to all and no reservation is required. Spanish translation will also be provided for any native Spanish speakers. We hope to see you there.



California Native Plants for Santa Maria

A bilingual presentation about gardening with native plants by Bill Waycott and Zach Tanner of the California Native Plant Society - SLO. Bill Waycott is the owner of Nipomo Native Seeds and past president of the Society. Zach Tanner is a Landscape Architect, Garden Designer and Co-Chair of the Society's Education Committee.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024 AT 10:00 AM
SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
421 S. MCCLELLAND ST, SANTA MARIA, CA 93454

Contact: The Natural History Museum - (805) 614-0806
email - naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com



Bill
Waycott



Zach
Tanner



Santa Maria
Public Library



Santa Maria
California

After you get inspired to garden and grow natives, purchase your native plants at the fall native plant sale. The San Luis Obispo chapter of the California Plant Society will hold their fall plant sale on Saturday, November 2nd...A few weeks before the sale, their website will feature descriptions of the plants that will also be available at the sale and offer pre-ordering. Browsing and purchase of plants will also be available at the sale. Check the CNPS-SLO website <https://cnpslo.org> in late September for details on the fall plant sale.

We also have a downloadable SLO County Native Landscape Planting Guide at our website <https://cnpslo.org/resources/growing-natives/> that is especially helpful with five easy garden projects and steps to get your yard ready for a native garden. More resources for designing and maintaining native gardens are at <https://cnpslo.org/resources/growing-natives/>.

THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

Won't you consider a generous donation today? The Natural History Museum has been a necessary community resource for over 25 years.

We thank our community partner Santa Maria City Recreation and Parks Department for their long term partnership and we thank Museum members, volunteers and donors for making this possible! As the NHM transitions to a longer term sustainable model, it must include hearty support from corporations, foundations and community readers like YOU!

We invite those who value education in natural science to join, donate and/or volunteer by contacting the museum. You can email to indicate your volunteer interest. To donate go to smnaturalhistory.org--Once there click on (a) support, (b) amount (c) donate (d) choose pay-pal or use your debit/credit card. Sincerely, Virginia Souza, Founder & Board President



Kids awed by the Monarch collection & the Span of Time



"I saw butterfly specimens for the first time". Mao.

"I really loved the vibrant orange color of the CA poppies because

I never saw these plants in Japan". Cocami

Tours of the Museum

In pursuit of one of the museum goals we have conducted 4 tours recently. Two were in the spring before school got out from St.Mary's School & Adam School. This summer the Boys & Girls Club of Lompoc asked to return since they liked last year's visit. We were asked to lead a most unusual tour for the CHI (Cultural Homestay International) of 28 kids from Okinawa, Japan. Some didn't speak English, but our docent Brennan used his phone and did some translation for them. Here are some of their comments:

Seeking New Docents



Hancock Bow Wow, NHM Board President and AHC Docent Noemi assisted by Bulldog Butch.



The Chamber Hispanic mixer at the Mall with NHM T-Rex, Noemi Bravo-Guzman & Evelyn Ramiez.



Our docent Kelsie, leaving for UCLA after 2 1/2 years and 100+ shifts.

The departure of Hancock docents Kelsie and Christina leaves us in need of new docents to replace them on Saturdays. Our search led us to the Hancock BowWOW and the Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Mixer. If interested in volunteering or know someone who is, applications are available at the museum from Wed-Sat. 11am to 4pm. Judy Garrett, Docent Chair

THE BIRDS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



As we head into fall, the Central Coast will witness numerous migrant birds heading for Mexico, Central and South America, or even the Antarctic. The Central Coast will also be the wintering site for numerous species of birds who are avoiding the harsh winter weather in the northern latitudes or the central region of the United States and Canada. We will also keep our “resident” bird species who have figured out how wonderful an area the Central Coast is day in and day out throughout the entire year.

Regardless of how silly the migrant birds are, they and our resident birds could all use your assistance making their lives safer. The two most straight forward areas of assistance is to either create habitat for them – areas where they can feed and rest in safety – and/or reduce the chances of them getting hurt in our yards.

Creating habitat can be as simple as leaving a pile of dead shrubbery in the back corner of the yard that creates a place where a sparrow or wren can hide from a predator. Planting native plants that produce seeds or fruits that are of interest to birds. Buckwheats (from the genus *Eriogonum*) are hardy plants that come in a variety of colors and sizes that are attractive to many birds. Hummingbirds will enjoy long tubular red flowers such as Island Snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*; native to the Channel Islands), California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) or Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*).

To create a safer place for wildlife can include placing bird feeders in an area where the neighborhood cats can not ambush the birds easily. Better yet, if you build a “catio” – an enclosed patio for your cat – where your cat can enjoy the outdoors without being truly outside. This will help protect your cat from the

dangers of the outdoors such as cars, other cats, or coyotes and will protect the smaller critters from your cat . . .

Everyone wins!

David Kisner, NHM Nature Consultant

NHM Docent Field Trip, August 9, 2024



Getting ready to go. Our guide, County Ranger, Dominic. We have arrived!

The Fall Equinox greets us on Sunday September 22nd. Santa Maria as well as the entire Northern hemisphere will put Summer 2024 in the rear-view mirror. This summer our museum docents & volunteers enjoyed a wonderfully fun and informative field trip to the magnificent Guadalupe Dunes & beach. We fortunately had two very knowledgeable county rangers (Dominic and Tina) to guide us on our adventure. Ranger Dominic shuttled many of our staff from the parking lot up the beach to the wetlands on a little beach tractor. Once at the wetlands we could see up close the end of the Santa Maria river and how the river, along with the ever persistent winds create a very dynamic landscape constantly shifting the dunes by expanding and shrinking the wetlands. An ecosystem exists for a wide variety of native plants, birds, and other wildlife in this relatively pristine habitat where the river meets the ocean. After our outing the Guadalupe Cafe hosted a delicious patio lunch for our staff. An exciting day was had by all.

John Bortugno, NHM Docent



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FACEBOOK;
The Natural History Museum of
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Please Like Us
INSTAGRAM:
santamarianaturalhistorymuseum
OR santamarianhm
OPEN:
Regular hours:
Wed-Sat 11:00am - 4:00pm

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**THANK
YOU!**

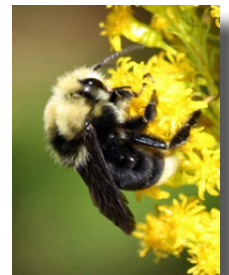
**RICK SKILLEN
&
JANE BAXTER**

FREE ADMISSION

GULL
"Come see what just flew in"

September in the NHM Garden - Featured Plant - California Goldenrod

California Goldenrod, *Solidago velutina* ssp. *California*, is one of our native perennial. Its masses of yellow flowers attract birds and pollinating insects. It is one of the few natives that bloom in late summer and fall. It is very drought-tolerant and prefers sun or partial shade. It spreads by root-stocks so it needs a lot of room to expand. If space is limited, it may have to be divided every 2 -3 years. Goldenrod looks a lot like ragweed and often gets blamed for the allergy symptoms ragweed is notorious for. Ragweed pollen is light and easily carried by the wind. But goldenrod pollen is heavy and sticky to facilitate insect pollination. It is much less likely to be airborne, so you'd have to be in very close contact with it to trigger an allergic reaction.



The Chumash used a decoction of goldenrod to treat coughs and colds and as a wash or powder for sores and wounds.

Nancy Heck, NHM Garden Chair

N H M M E M B E R S H I P

Please 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.

_____Hummingbird	\$25
_____California Quail	\$50
_____Meadowlark	\$100
_____Great Horned Owl	\$250
_____Golden Eagle	\$500
_____Red-Tailed Hawk	\$1,000
_____California Condor	\$2,000

And speaking of membership. . .

Dear members, we thank you for your continued support. We presently have 62 members. These are suggested categories, so don't feel constrained by them--feel free to contribute whatever you can afford.

Judy Garrett, NHM Membership Chair