



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

# MEADOWLARK

*The Spring 2025 Newsletter*

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



## EARTH DAY

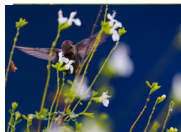
**APRIL 26, 2025,  
11:00-2:00 PM**

412 S. MCCLELLAND, SANTA MARIA  
ACROSS FROM THE LIBRARY

### PROTECT POLLINATORS



NHM Art Contest  
Winner,  
Miles Reasner  
Nipomo New Tech  
High School



### FREE FAMILY FUN !

- EARTH DAY CONSERVATION AWARDS
- MUSIC AND FOOD
- KIDS CRAFTS
- VEGGIE STARTS
- NATIVE PLANTS

### FREE FAMILY FUN !



## DIA DE LA TIERRA

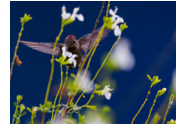
**26 DE ABRIL DE 2025  
11:00 - 2:00 PM**

412 S. MCCLELLAND, SANTA MARIA  
enfrente de la biblioteca

### PROTEJA LOS POLINIZADORES



Ganador del concurso  
de arte de NHM,  
Miles Reasner,  
Nipomo New  
Tech High School.



### DIVERSION FAMILIAR GRATIS!

- premios de conservacion de la naturaleza
- comida y musica
- trabajos manuales para ninos
- pequenas plantas vegetales
- plantas nativas

### DIVERSION FAMILIAR GRATIS!

## Happy Springtime!

The Museum is receiving a Spring Cleaning in preparation for hundreds of guests on the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Earth Day at the Museum! NHM board and volunteers are excited to feature an Earth Day theme of "Our Pollinators". Where would we be without bees, birds, butterflies and bats? Do you know which foods depend on pollinators? You can find out April 26<sup>th</sup>! You will leave the event re-energized to plant a veggie garden or convert your lawn to natives! Guaranteed!

Mark your calendars to be at the NHM Saturday April 26, 11-2 P.M. The Museum will present Earth Day Conservation awards at NOON. Come out for the fun and to congratulate YOUR local heroes.

Please note: NHM is NOW OPEN ON SUNDAYS. Noon-2 or later if we are busy. Thanks to some new bi-lingual volunteers, Abby, Claudia and Gabbi.

Hope to see you soon,

Virginia Souza, President, NHM Board of Directors

## New Board Members . . .



*Tamara Vodehnal was born in Nebraska but raised & educated in Colorado before moving to LA for her career in human resources. She graduated from Barnes Business College in Denver. She has worked for many businesses and firms in LA. Her last experience in the city was as Director, Partner Technology for Paytech Inc. Tamara's community service has always been a key part of her life and now as a member of Rotary International & Minerva Club. When she is not serving or working Tamara enjoys cooking, yoga & nature walks.*



*Scott Christian has worked for the City of Santa Maria since 2015. He is the Urban Forester in charge of street tree development & maintenance of over 26,000 trees. He is the Special Districts Supervisor in charge of all public street landscaping, development and maintenance. Scott has a BS from Cal Poly in Horticulture. Besides municipal work, he has done landscape installation specializing in water conservation, native & Mediterranean plants.*



*Yvette Valadez Andrade is originally from LA, but has lived in Santa Maria for 40 years. She has worked here in many capacities from social work to administrative assistant at Allan Hancock College. She has served on many other boards and is excited to help the board develop it's school programs.*



**Annie Lawrence was presented the Volunteer of the Year award at the Museum Annual Meeting. "Well deserved Annie".**



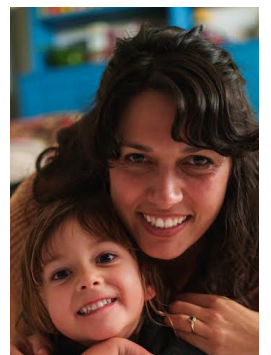
**Judy Garrett was presented President Emeritus Award named in her honor for service above and beyond at the Museum Annual meeting in February 2025.**

## New Docents . . .

*Lisa Herrera moved around a lot growing up, all over California but also New Hampshire. She considers the Central Coast her home and has been living in Santa Maria for about 12 years. She is a Senior Biologist for an environmental consulting firm. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, all kinds of crafting, and keeping her eyes out for bumble bees.*



*Amanda Corcoran was raised on the Central Coast and has strong values around living in harmony with nature. She often brings her young daughter Esme to her volunteer work at the NHM in the hope that the love of nature will be passed down to the next generation. Amanda's favorite part of the NHM is the community that it creates.*





# The Valley Carpenter Bee



This is a male Valley Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa sonorina*) similar to the one who was spotted in the Museum's Manzanitas recently. This is new for us. Have you ever seen one?

Carpenter bees are among the largest bees - up to 1" in length. They are called 'carpenter' bees because they excavate tunnels in wood to create nesting cavities for their young. They are found primarily in the southwestern part of the United States.



Male Valley Carpenter Bees are golden and fuzzy with green eyes. Females are black and shiny. Like most native bees, females are not aggressive, and will normally sting only when provoked, while males do not have stingers and tend to avoid humans. For that reason, and because they are busy with mating and territory duties, it is rare to see a male.

## Membership Donor Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hummingbird. . . . .       | \$25    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Quail. . . . .  | \$50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowlark. . . . .        | \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl. . . . .  | \$250   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle. . . . .      | \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-Tailed Hawk. . . . .   | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Condor. . . . . | \$2,000 |

Please make checks payable to:  
The Natural History Museum SM  
P.O. Box 5254, Santa Maria, CA 93456  
OR  
sign up on our website  
[smnaturalhistory.org](http://smnaturalhistory.org)



## NHM Education Report:

Over 100 students used the nature journal approach to grade appropriate tours in Feb/March. February featured private school 3<sup>rd</sup> graders using a higher level of exploration.

March tour for preschool children featured a small scavenger hunt model nature journal worn around each student's neck by a yarn necklace so it was not lost in the process. A good time was had by all

..... even the volunteers!



412 South McClelland  
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  
also **Sunday noon -2pm**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virginia Souza  
David Kisner  
Dawn Jackson  
Yvette Andrade  
Suzanne Hajnik  
Tamara Vodehnal  
Scott Christian

#### ADVISORY BOARD

Cathy Glenn  
Judy Garrett  
Laura Henderson  
Annie Lawrence  
Conrad Stevens  
Jason Stilwell  
Laurie Tamura  
Heather Weare

**Free Admission**

## Spring & Summer Events

April 19th California Native Plant Society SLO Native Plant Sales. If you preorder plants on line, you can pick them up at NHM in Santa Maria from 11-12. See the NPS website for details. <https://cnpsslo.org/>

April 22nd City of SM Earth Day Event: Free Family Fun. Machado Plaza 105 N. Lincoln. Noon-3 P.M.

April 26th Saturday, Santa Maria Public Library, Dia des los Ninos event in Library Plaza, 11-2 P.M. 415 S. McClelland Free Fun for the family.

April 26th Saturday, Earth Day at the NH Museum: Theme: "Importance of Pollinators!" 11-2 P.M. 412 S. McClelland, across from Library Plaza. Crafts for Kids, Music, free veggie starter plants, native plants, green gardening education, pollinator education.

Early summer TBA birding field trip to Oso Flaco Dunes with David Kisner and partnering with Dune Center: \$10. Donation non members; Free to NHM Museum members and CNPS members.

June 21st Saturday: **Nature Talk:** topic : "Reaping Rewards of Replacing Your Lawn". Speakers: CNPS: California Native Plant Society: Santa Maria Public Library; Shepard Hall, 3-4 P.M. \$5. Donation for non members. Free to Museum members.

July TBA: Two Summer Science Day Camps

#### Protect and Support Pollinators:

- Plant a native garden. Plant only "native milkweed. . .Narrow Leafed Milkweed".
- Do NOT plant milkweed within a few miles of the ocean.
- Provide other flowers for adult butterflies.
- Provide water stations in your garden with shallow dishes refreshed daily.
- Contain your domestic cats! Create "catios" instead of patios" exclusively for your cats or keep them inside, please! (Idea from Board Member David Kisner).
- All about Monarchs: what they need and how we can help.  
<https://youtu.be/IZuER583wGY>
- For more ideas on helping our Pollinators, Come to Earth Day, Saturday April 26, 2025 • 11-2PM