



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

MEADOWLARK

The Summer Update 2025 Newsletter

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

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

SESLOC
Day in the Park

Presented By: **HONDA**
Santa Maria

Sunday August 17th from Noon to 4pm
Waller Park

Food Trucks Live music by Different Strings
Party Factory and Home Depot Kid Zone
Beer and Wine Garden by 805

805 Car Show - 250 Vehicles

CCB Coastal Community Builders
KIA SANTA MARIA
TOYOTA SANTA MARIA
805
FUEGO 97.1 FM
LABUENA 105.1 FM
Central Coast Community Energy CLEAN ENERGY. LOCAL CONTROL.
ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE CHANGING the ODDS
Utilities Department CITY OF SANTA MARIA
KSBY
Kiwanis

OCTOBER CHAMBER MIXER

Get **WILD** with YOUR
Natural History Museum

October 16, 2025 • 5-7 p.m.
THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
412 South McClelland Street, Santa Maria
in the Native Garden and Grounds

Meet Some Wild Animals!

✓ GREAT FOOD & BEVERAGES!
✓ GREAT NETWORKING!
✓ PRIZES GALORE!

Grand Prize \$500 Value • 30 Gift Cards and In-Kind Prizes

Music by Jay Turner, MC
SUNNY 102.5 COUNTRY FM

SANTA MARIA RIVER GIFT BASKET SPONSORS
• Emerald Media • Graphics LTD • Noon Rotary
• Cool Hand Luke's • Trader Joe's • Land Trust • Swiss Chalet
• Shaws • Santa Maria Valley Historical Society
• Cups and Crumbs • Office Depot • Smith Alarms
• Arrow Camera • Santa Maria Times • Gavins Books
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• Santa Maria Animal Hospital • J's Tires • Babé Farms

FOOD SPONSORS • Chef Ricks • Oliveto • Naughty Oak • PICO
• McDonalds • Clementine Carter • Costa de Oro • Spencer's Market
• Fatte's • Natural Café • Maya • Albertsons • Woody's Meats
• Michoacan Tradicional Ice Cream Shop • Gina's Piece of Cake

Kicking off the Museum's
30th ANNIVERSARY
with a **ROAR!**

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
Email: naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com
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P.O. Box 5254, Santa Maria CA 93456



Look closely at these photos taken in the museum's back garden. We feel so blessed to have more monarch butterfly caterpillars this year than ever before - 27 plus at any given time! If you want monarchs in your yard, plant native Narrow Leaf Milkweed, not the tropical milkweed that is sold in most nurseries. Tropical milkweed can harm monarchs by disrupting their migration and overwintering behavior and can exacerbate the spread of the OE parasite. We will have Narrow Leaf Milkweed seeds available soon for a small donation.



***Message from
the President
Summer 2025***



Dear Friends,

We hope you have been enjoying the wonderful central coast summer weather!

Hot off the press, a survey is being sent to you as the Museum board prepares for a September retreat for Strategic Planning. Please fill the short survey and return at your earliest! Chances to win ice cream certificates from Tradicional Michochan Ice Cream Shop are very good.

Summer activity has been busy and sometimes challenging especially with an Oak moth infestation! Board member and arborist, Scott Christian has studied the issue and assures the board and volunteers that the trees will survive and moths will depart. All the visitors and volunteers love the Monarch caterpillars which appeared in the Native Garden but did not feel fond of the literally millions of little black oak moth caterpillars that dropped on clothing and into hair and stuck to the building. Of course, the Museum did not use pesticide in spite of the problem. We are told that there is a "green" bacteria that may be used if the problem returns and is caught early. Mother Nature!

Luckily the oak caterpillars had mostly gone into pupa form by the time the 2025 NHM Summer Science Camp convened. Advisory board member, Laura Henderson had prepared the enthusiastic group of volunteers with her seasoned teaching guidance along with some great ideas from retired teacher, Penny Joaquin. Randy Cohen, one of the 2025 Earth Day Conservation award winners joined the team with his crickets and cockroaches, and we were off and running. Students had enjoyed learning so much in the thriving native garden, using their nature journals and magnifying glasses on the numerous insects in the garden and asking a million questions. Planning for an extended program is on for next year! Each volunteer added greatly to this activity! Jenni, Anelieze, Brennan, Amanda, Kira and Randy, THANK YOU!

Inside the building long time volunteer and former board President, Gary Prober is finishing up with a revamping of the Linnean System and Insect Exhibit. Alex Harmon, the Invertebrate Zoology Director of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has given invaluable assistance with this project.

Board member and naturalist David Kisner continues to link TNHM with collaborators as he offers a very important workshop in collaboration with the Land Trust and also partnering with Open Space: on Nature Apps 101. August 12, 7-8:30 P.M. David will show attendees how to load and use several nature apps onto phones. Hands on learning at it's best. Join us for this free workshop in the Museum Native Garden.

Finally, Ed Carcarey , a new advisory board member, has lit a fire under myself and board member Yvette Andrade to help create a very special Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer on October 16, Thursday from 5-7 P.M. It will be a "wild" night! Come on over!

Signing off for now most sincerely, Virginia

New Board and Advisory Members



Esmeralda Mendoza is an experienced business owner, nonprofit leader, and lifelong community advocate proudly born and raised in Santa Maria. She is the founder and owner of Restoration Masters LLC, a company specializing in 24/7 emergency services including water, fire, mold, and damage restoration.

Ed Carcarey is an entrepreneur and speaker specializing in the subject of understanding your Purpose & Passion by serving your community. After serving in the Air Force for 8 years, he became an entrepreneur and has since owned and operated many different businesses. Currently, he is involved with local events, radio and TV stations along with a digital company in Santa Maria.



Jonathan Malindine, cultural anthropologist and NAGPRA Officer at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, has an abiding passion for preserving and strengthening Native American culture, sovereignty, and self-determination. As a NOAA Scholar, Graduate Research Fellow of the National Science Foundation, federal Tribal Affairs intern, and now NAGPRA Officer, he has developed meaningful and collaborative relationships with Native American Tribes across the United States.

Eric Snelling is a Senior Principal Environmental Planner with Stantec Consulting Services in Santa Maria, CA. Eric has a B.S. in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly, SLO, and a Master's degree in Water Resources Management from Fresno State. Eric also is an adjunct professor at Cal Poly, where he teaches an undergraduate course in environmental impact assessment within the Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences Department.



NHM Annual Volunteer Field Trip - 2025 - The new Chumash Museum



NHM Nature Talk: Removing Your Lawn



NHM Summer Science Camp



Jenni Little showing wind sock craft



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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
Esmeralda Mendoza
Tamara Vodehnal
Scott Christian

ADVISORY BOARD

Ed Carcarey
Cathy Glenn
Judy Garrett
Laura Henderson
Annie Lawrence
Jonathan Malindine
Eric Sneling
Conrad Stevens
Jason Stilwell
Laurie Tamura
Heather Weare



Free Admission

Summer/Fall Events for your Calendar

August 9 Saturday: 10 A.M.-3 P.M. NHM Volunteer Field Trip to new Chumash Museum

August 12 Tuesday: 7-8:30 P.M. in Museum Native Garden: Naturalist David Kisner will lead a workshop on "Nature Apps 101", installing and using nature apps. Learn by doing in this free workshop at the Museum.

August 17 Sunday: Noon- 4 P.M. Day in the Park: On a lovely summer day bring the family out to enjoy SB County Historic Waller Park. NHM will have an active table area with Corn Hole competition and Spinning Wheel for prizes and natural history fun!

September 8 and 13th: Museum Strategic Planning sessions for Board of Directors.

Kicking off the NHM 30th Anniversary Year!! October Chamber Mixer! 5-7 P.M.

October 16 Thursday: 5-7 P.M. Go Wild! With NHM at Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Museum in the Native Garden and Museum building. Wild animals!, Food, beverages, prizes galore including a \$500 Value Grand Prize, Music and EMCEE Celebrity Sunny Country Jay Turner!!

Membership Donor Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, zip _____

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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 SM
P.O. Box 5254, Santa Maria, CA 93456
OR

sign up on our website
smnaturalhistory.org