



# MEADOWLARK

## Spring 2026 Newsletter

"The mission of the Natural History Museum Santa Maria is to promote understanding and appreciation of the natural world through regional education, exhibits and experiences for all"

# Earth Day at the museum. April 25, 2026 - 11 to 2pm



## Celebrate Earth Day 2026



### Free Family Fun

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 • 11AM - 2PM**  
 11:00AM Opening Welcome, Presenting the Flag  
 11:30AM Earth Day Conservation Awards Presentation  
 12 - 12:30PM: Mr Biggars Ukulele Band  
 12:30 - 1:30PM **ZOO to YOU** Animal Ambassadors  
 Ongoing: Native Plant Sale  
 Spring Veggie Starts  
 Music, Crafts, Food

2PM: (One hour walk around Historic Santa Maria including artist's map"  
 space limited, reservations requested, \$10 donation)

412 S.McClelland, across from SM Library, 805-614-0806  
[www.smnaturalhistory.org](http://www.smnaturalhistory.org) • [naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com](mailto:naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com)

Sponsored by . . . **Morgan Stanley**



## Dia de la Tierra

**25 DE ABRIL DE 2026**  
**11:00 - 2:00PM**



### Diversión familiar gratis

11:00 AM Bienvenida, presentación de la bandera  
 11:30 AM Entrega de los Premios de Conservación del Dia de la Tierra  
 12:00-12:30 PM Banda de Ukelele del Sr. Biggars  
 12:30-1:30 Programa "Zoológico a su alcance"  
 Animales embajadores.  
 Actividades continuas:  
 Comida y musica, trabajos manuales para niños, pequeñas plantas de verduras, plantas nativas de california.  
 2:00 p.m. Caminata de una hora por la zona histórica de Santa Maria, incluyendo un mapa artistico. Cupo limitado; solicite una reservación.  
 Donativo sugerido: \$10.00.

412 S.McClelland, (enfrente de la biblioteca) 805-614-0806  
[www.smnaturalhistory.org](http://www.smnaturalhistory.org) • [naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com](mailto:naturalhistory412.santamaria@gmail.com)

Patrocinado por . . . **Morgan Stanley**

## Messages from Co-Presidents • Dawn Jackson & David Kisner

Spring is here again, and with it so many wonderful opportunities to connect with nature on the beautiful Central Coast. A visit to the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria is a perfect way to do this, while learning new things about the region.

During our year-long 30th anniversary celebration, we have a lot for the public to enjoy--Nature talks, Earth Day Celebration, evening hours on Fridays for "Downtown Friday" from April through September, partnership events, school tours, newer exhibits, and the wonderful garden, to name a few. Our dedicated group of volunteer docents are ready to welcome you with a free tour, so come on in.

Our board is also working diligently toward goals included in our recent strategic plan, including public outreach, partnerships, and more. If you would like to help in that effort, some ways you can help move the museum forward include: visiting, becoming a member, volunteering, following us on social media, attending events and fundraisers, and sharing our wonderful and unique museum with others.

Life can get busy, with many things competing for our time and attention. However, we hope you take the time to pause for a moment and reconnect with the natural world around you. **It does wonders.** We can't wait to see you at the Museum!



Co-President  
Dawn Jackson



Co-President  
David Kisner

One of the things that always amazed me was how nature is interwoven - a forest is composed of trees, birds, bugs, ferns, and a thousand other organisms. If you remove the trees the ferns get too much sun and die; the birds have less food to eat and move on, and some bugs may persist but many would die out. As I have grown, gained in knowledge, became a father, and integrated into society more, it became apparent to me that the Santa Maria Community is a forest. And within this forest, the Santa Maria Natural History Museum is a small tree striving to become a bigger cornerstone of our community. With some nurturing our museum will grow and support more of the people of our community - giving people a place to relax, learn, explore. Education and collaboration are my key points for expanding our museum's impact on the community - if we work together with our partners and schools to help people understand nature, there will be a greater appreciation for the wonder we are surrounded by on the Central Coast. I am very excited for what this year has in store for us for expanding our partnerships and educational opportunities. Please join us by enjoying nature and visiting our fantastic museum.



On March 11, 2026, NHM sponsored an interesting talk by Dr. Alex Harman from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on "the Art and Science of Insect Collecting" at the Santa Maria Public Library.



David Kisner, Museum Co-President presents Dr. Alex Harman, Nature Talk Speaker, a spider plant and Terrarium gift.

**Garden Committee Chairperson, Nancy Heck**

The California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) is one of our most beloved wildflowers and is the state flower of California. It is native to the Pacific Slope of North America from Western Oregon to Baja California.



**California Poppy - *Eschscholzia californica***

Within this genus and species, there are many varieties - some are naturally-occurring and others are man-made.

### **SOME NATURAL VARIETIES**



Coastal - *maritima*



Parish's - *parishii*



*Mexicana*

### **SOME OF THE MANY MAN-MADE VARIETIES**



'Carmine King'



'Alba'



'Dusky Rose'

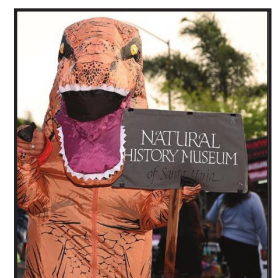


'Red Glow'

**Outgoing BOD  
President  
Virginia Souza  
presents  
"Volunteer  
of the year"  
gift to  
Kathleen Schartz  
at the NHM  
Annual Meeting.**



**Docent  
Randy Cohen  
and school groups  
learning about  
insects**





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 • 11am to 4pm  
 Sunday • 1-3pm  
 NEW Downtown Fridays  
 5:30-7:30 April - September

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dawn Jackson  
 David Kisner  
 Yvette Andrade  
 Esmeralda Mendoza  
 Stephanie Robb  
 Jason Stilwell  
 Tamara Vodehnal

**ADVISORY BOARD**

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



**SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

\*a non-NHMSM collaborative event

\* April 4-15: Pre-order plants from CNPS native plant sale: <https://cnpslo.org/event/spring-2026-native-plant-sale/>

\* April 18: 11-Noon. Pick up native plants purchased from CNPS at NHMSM.

\*April 22, Wednesday afternoon: City of SM Earth Day, Machado Park

\*April 25, Saturday, Dia de los Ninos 11-2 PM at SM Public Library, fun activities for kids.

April 25, Saturday, 11-2 P.M. Annual Earth Day Celebration at The Natural History Museum:  
 Featuring: Earth Day Conservation Awards, Zoo to You, Native Plant Sale, Taco Truck and  
 MORE! Visit the "Our Power: Our Planet" celebration, have fun, and flex your power

\*April 25, 6-7 PM viewing plants and social. 7:30 Guest Speaker: Vandenberg Space Force  
 Base Flora and Fauna. California Native Plant Society Public Invited : UDW Building, 402 S  
 Miller St

Spring/Summer: Member/Volunteers Annual Field Trip: Destination Date TBA

Summer: 250 year anniversary of signing of Declaration of Independence. Stand by for  
 further detail. Natural History focus features: Oak Gall Ink, Velum Paper, Quill Pen and  
 Calligraphy

Summer Science Days with Partners: June July August 2026 Member/Volunteers Annual  
 Field Trip: Destination Date TBA

August 28-30: Bien Nacido Winery week end: 4705 Santa Maria Mesa Road: Plan to visit  
 this winery any day that week-end and NHMSM receives a percentage of your purchasing.  
 Cheers!!

Fall: Nature Talk: Date/Time TBA

October 2, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mark your calendars: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser Nature Art Event:

December: Members appreciation: Holiday Open House

Ongoing free NHM open hours: Wednesday-Sunday and NOW Friday 5:30-7:30 thru Sept.

**Membership Donor Form**

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 SM  
 P.O. Box 5254, Santa Maria, CA 93456  
 OR  
 sign up on our website  
 smnaturalhistory.org*