

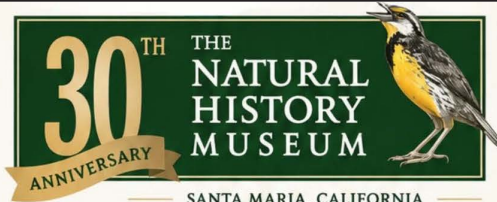


SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

MEADOWLARK

Summer 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"



SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

You are invited to celebrate our 30 year anniversary

Come sip and support at Bien Nacido Winery



**3503 Rancho Tepusquet Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454**



SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 | 11 AM - 4 PM

Wine tasting, food and ice cream trucks, nature talk by NHM Co-President and Naturalist, David Kisner, music by Jon Milsap 11:00 - 2:30 PM



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026 | 11 AM - 4 PM

Wine tasting, food and ice cream trucks, music by Jon Milsap 11:00 - 2:30 PM



**Morgan
Stanley**

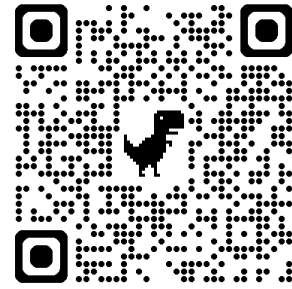
15% of sales will be
donated to NHMSM



Thank you for supporting local nature & our community!



We are excited about what is coming soon. . .



Artists • Scan this to get a full packet of how to enter and how this could be beneficial to you and loads of FUN!



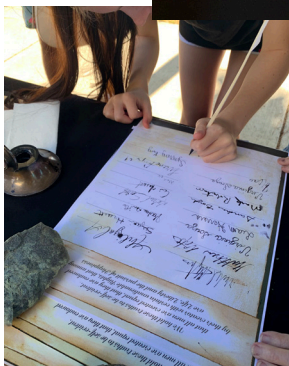
This year has been a flurry of activity at the museum. Extended hours for Downtown Fridays and Sunday afternoons as well as spring events, partnerships, tours and summer camp opened more opportunities for the community to learn about the natural world through our efforts. Our 30th anniversary year will continue full speed ahead with fall fundraiser opportunities and more events on the horizon, including a nature inspired art show held at the public library. We hope you will join us at these events, and continue to share the news of all we have to offer at the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria.

Dawn Jackson, Co President

July 3, 2026, Downtown Fridays at the museum.



Nancy (Abigail Adams) handing out the US Constitution.
Annie with the oak gall ink and quill pen for signing.
Brendan ringing the Liberty Bell!



Visitors took signing the Declaration of Independence seriously!



The Pratt family are direct descendants of the Declaration signers!





This Spring and Summer have been great for creating new partnerships and strengthening existing one with the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria. Our education community becomes stronger with more “trees” in our forest – interlocking canopies help weather uncertain times and protect the understory plants and animals from harsh weather.

As a child my first love of “ecology” was the food web – light from the sun feeding plants that were eaten by herbivores and omnivores. The carnivores and more aggressive omnivores would hunt or find prey and all the plants and animals would eventually die and be “recycled” by the decomposers as food for the plants. These food webs are easy to envision but amazingly complex when examined in detail; these webs change from season to season, year to year, and can even include fire, floods, and the cycling of water and various gasses - too much for most anyone to fully grasp.

In the last 30 years of working as biologist in California, I have seen seven live American badgers (Taxidea taxus) or el tejón. Badgers are small in size (only about 15 pounds fully grown) but mighty in attitude – known for standing up to people and even bears. They hunt gophers, ground squirrels, mice and even insects – which puts them on the second rung of the food web eating herbivores. My first badger was on December 2023 west of Santa Maria, then another in October in 2025 near Nojoqui. This year in the Santa Maria area, I have seen five including two sub-adults. This shows that our food chain is still healthy if we can support these feisty predators.

David Kisner, Co President

Nancy’s Garden Notes

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RAGWEED AND GOLDENROD



People often confuse the two plants because they are in the same plant family; are both native to much of North America; grow in similar areas, bloom in late summer; and have spiky flowers. These are some of the differences:

Nancy Heck, Garden Chair

RAGWEED	GOLDENROD
Inconspicuous green flowers	Bright yellow flowers
Generally shorter than Goldenrod	Generally taller than Ragweed
Annual plant	Perennial plant
Primarily wind-pollinated	Insect-pollinated
Somewhat beneficial to pollinators	Very beneficial to many pollinators
Far more allergenic than Goldenrod. Responsible for up to 90% of seasonal pollen-induced allergies.	Less allergenic than Ragweed. Its large, sticky pollen never becomes airborne. It is picked up by insects when they visit.



The preferred plant at NHM is Goldenrod; and that is what you’ll find in our gardens.

NHM
Fabulous
Volunteers

Tied
for 1st place
Best
Museum



Summer Science Days in July



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Library)
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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

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SUMMER/AUTUMN CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 29, 30th: **Bien Nacido Winery.** Address. Celebrate NHMSM 30th Anniversary with a public gathering and live music (Saturday, 29th) and David Kisner Nature Talks ("Tools for the Naturalist: Cool apps for your phone) 29th AND 30th. Time Certain for the talk on Sunday is: 1 P.M.

September 12: California Native Plant Society Annual Meeting honoring NHMSM. SLO

September 13: Mexican Independence Day Celebration on McClelland Street. Food trucks and music and a program will be presented. NHMSM will be open with Spanish speaking/and English volunteers! Join us for some great cultural exchange!

September 19: Farm Day in Santa Maria: Visit NHMSM at the Reiter location on Morning-side Drive, 10-3 P.M.

October 3rd: Grand Opening of **"Inspired by Nature"** Fine Art Exhibition at Shepard Hall Gallery inside our partner, Santa Maria Public Library! Free.

October 3rd: Artists Reception: Short program regarding NHMSM 30th Anniversary, Honoree John Cody, sculptor from Santa Ynez, live piano curated music by local well known musician Joe Payne. Meet the local artists who produced the exhibition's fine art and NHMSM site local artists. View samples of fine crafts from NHMSM local contributing artists as well. Refreshments. Free.

October 3-November 2nd: "Inspired by Nature" Fine Art Exhibition. Curated nature inspired music in gallery which changes each week. KCBX partner. Shepard Hall schedule will be posted daily on NHMSM social media as schedule will not be same daily due to space multi use.

Look for weekly art demos and talks during the run of "Inspired by Nature" at Museum site and in Library plaza in civic center.

November 1: Closing Artist's Reception: Cash awards to artists presentation, Peoples Choice Award announcement, refreshments. Prize winners announced. 30th Anniversary Cake cutting.

Holiday Open House: TBA

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

websitemnaturalhistory.org