

2016 VOL. 3, NO. 1

# SBnature Journal

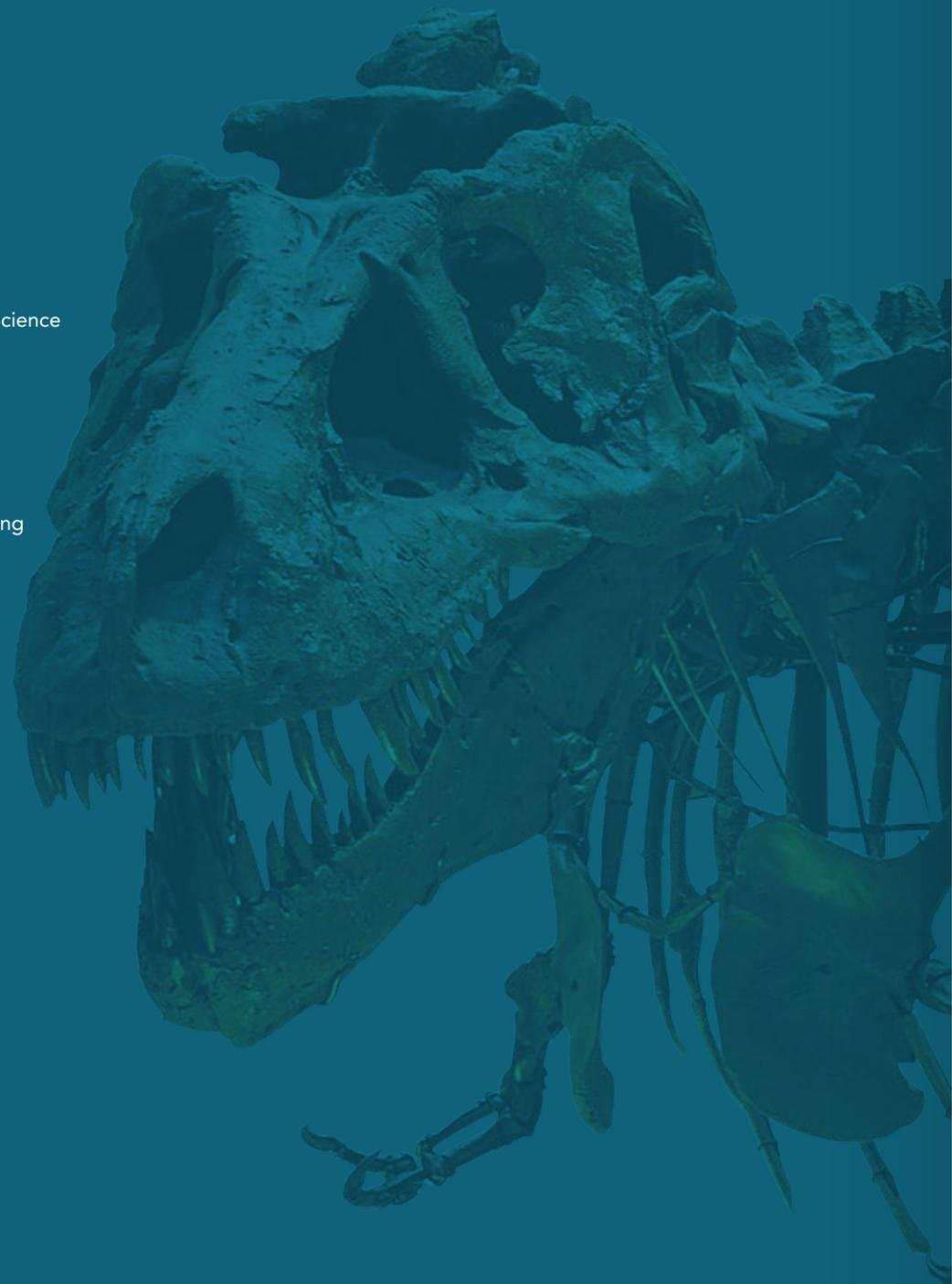
SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



SBnature Journal  
2016 VOL. 3, NO. 1

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Hello and thank you to everyone who has helped make the Museum's centennial year such a wonderful success. Quite simply, we are having our best year ever!

Our summer shows, *Butterflies Alive!* and *A T. rex Named SUE*, brought in a record number of visitors. And the Sea Center is reporting the strongest attendance in its history as well, thanks to the completion of *Intertidal Wonders*, our new tide pool touch tanks and the new Shark Cove.

This year, we are once again offered incredible science rich nature and engagement educational programs to 20,000 school children. Our summer camps at both the Museum and Sea Center were full and many of the camps even had waiting lists. It was gratifying to hear the laughter of children all summer as they explored our Backyard. It was a powerful reminder of what summer should be – long sunny days spent being outside and discovering the small wonders of nature.

We have celebrated our centennial year with numerous centennial themed events, programs, and exhibits. Our goal was to reintroduce the Museum to the community, to thank the community who built this extraordinary institution over ten decades, and to thank each of you who continue to sustain it.

What we do at the Museum and Sea Center is more critical now than ever before. We have a special opportunity and a serious obligation to inspire love for, and concern about, the health of our region and our planet. We believe that every day, visitors have experiences here that strengthen their commitment to protecting and preserving this beautiful and fragile planet.

Without you, we could not continue on.

We are already looking forward to 2017, when we will begin the first phase of work to restore and revitalize our historic campus. The year ahead will not be without its logistical challenges but the Museum will remain open and we will be launching exciting exhibits throughout the year and unveiling several engaging new programs. Additional changes are coming to the Sea Center as well. You won't want to miss your regular visits to both sites.

I look forward to sharing the success of 2017 with you.

Thank you.

Luke J. Sweetland  
President & CEO



Located just beyond the Old Mission  
2559 Puesta del Sol  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
805.682.4711  
Open Daily 10:00 AM–5:00 PM



Located on the historic Stearns Wharf  
211 Stearns Wharf  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805.962.2526  
Open Daily 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

# Our biggest year ever

**Turning 100 is BIG...** Never did we think it would also be our BIGGEST year in a number of other ways. For the very first time we were voted Best Museum in the Independent's "Best of Santa Barbara Readers' Poll"; a highly esteemed and significant recognition in our community. Attendance records were surpassed at both the Museum and the Sea Center and Membership numbers are at an all-time high.

We hosted the biggest, most complete T. rex ever discovered in our very own auditorium and fulfilled every dino-lovers' dream.

*Butterflies Alive!* shattered pavilion visit numbers from 2012 and 2014 and remained a fan favorite. Our annual Wine Festival sold out, kids camps sold out, and the Museum store sold more than ever. Our annual Mission Creek Gala was literally out of this world with an appearance from the whole solar system- what's bigger than that?

And our visitors and long-time members shared thousands of stories, well wishes, and favorite memories about the Museum in honor of our birthday.

In 2016, we ate cake, clinked champagne glasses, and now we toast to more BIG things for the coming years!



**3,000**  
Visitors at the  
Museum over  
Labor Day Weekend

**2,044**  
Visitors at the  
Sea Center on  
World Oceans Day

**10,000+**  
Facebook Followers

**69,992**  
Butterfly Pavilion  
Visits

**6,200+**  
Members

**3,500+**  
"Share Your Story"  
submissions

# Visionary Women



Francis Etta Ackerman Dawson

BY TERRI SHERIDAN, LIBRARIAN

Once upon a time there was a man called Leo, more formally William Leon Dawson, and he had an insatiable desire to collect eggs and study the antics of birds. In 1910 Leo relocated to Mission Canyon to write a treatise on California birds, all the while continuing to collect eggs from around the world. As his egg collection grew townsfolk and travelers stopped by to marvel at this scientific resource and Leo would invite them in for tea and orate about his exploits in the field.



Caroline Hazard

One evening in 1915, as Leo's wife **Etta (Francis Etta Ackerman Dawson)**<sup>(1)</sup> was clearing teacups and washing out the teapot, she mentioned to Leo that with so many visitors coming, perhaps he should open a museum. On January 31, 1916 the Museum of Comparative Oology was incorporated with the signature of secretary Etta A. Dawson, alongside 15 trustees and the Museum's Director William Leon Dawson. Etta was the first of the Museum's visionary females.



Mary Hazard

Two more women, with an eye toward the future, led the Museum to its present location and expanded mission. In 1922 **Caroline Hazard**<sup>(2)</sup> donated a tract of family land at the base of "Mission Hill" for a new campus. Her sister-in-law, **Mary P.B. Hazard**<sup>(3)</sup> hired architect Floyd Brewster to design and build the new Museum using funds she donated. The sisters' legacy as trustees included advancing the Museum to all disciplines of natural history and developing liaisons with the Santa Barbara art community. As a result, the halls were filled with a diversity of specimens and beautiful diorama art painted by important western artists.



Lilia Tuckerman

Among these artists was **Lilia Tuckerman**<sup>(4)</sup>. An esteemed member of the California Art Club, Lilia painted a background for the Museum's elk diorama in 1928 and another for coyote a decade later. In addition to artistic talent, Lilia was internationally recognized for teaching, writing, and translating Braille.



Dorothy Irma Cooke

**Dorothy Irma Cooke**<sup>(5)</sup> started volunteering at the Museum in 1931 to boost her own knowledge of local plants and animals. Her keen interest in natural history and passion for children led to the founding of the Education Department and the Museum's 85-year history of outdoor teaching.

In 1935 **Katherine Harvey**<sup>(6)</sup>, heiress to the Fred Harvey railway fortune, joined the Museum's board. Learning of cultural riches on the offshore islands, Katherine funded Museum archaeologist Phil Orr's excavations on Santa Rosa Island. Her patronage led Orr to Arlington Springs Man and the future discovery of North America's oldest human remains.



Katherine Harvey

It was 1985 when interior designer and antique natural history print collector, **Peggy Maximus**<sup>(7)</sup> began eyeing a Museum storage closet. Her first step was to fund that space's conversion into a small gallery. Peggy's dream was to endow a large dedicated space for changing exhibitions of the art she loved, which she fulfilled with the Maximus Wing. Today more than a dozen women uphold the tradition of guiding the Museum's future through philanthropy, stewardship, management, and well, vision.



Peggy Maximus

# Honoring our Past and Embracing the Future



BY FRANK HEIN, DIRECTOR OF EXHIBITS

There is no question that the exhibits at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History are loved. They represent some of the best diorama art and taxidermy on the west coast, if not the world. Collectively, our exhibits are a precious jewel in the Santa Barbara cultural crown.

But what to do with a venerable exhibit like the Mammal Hall when your Grizzly bear has faded, your Tule elk snouts have cracked, and the redwood paneling in your halls has dried and stained over time? We think the answer is to give the place some much needed love.

Imagine a Mammal Hall where the redwood paneling looks as good as when it was new, oiled and gorgeous. Imagine animal pelts that are rich and lustrous. Imagine animal eyes that gleam and lighting that brings our dioramas to life. What you're imagining is what we're aiming for.

Our ability to light and enhance these dioramas has changed dramatically over the years and we're excited about the possibilities. Our understanding of nature has also changed over the years and we're excited by the chance to share new stories.

As it is with the Mammal Hall, so it is with our Bird Habitat Hall and we're looking forward to making that space fresh, too, while honoring its history and incredible dioramas.

Cartwright Hall is the hall where we want to try something a little newer. Yes, we're planning on keeping and updating the dioramas to their original splendor but it's a big room that we think is ready to tell the Santa Barbara story. Santa Barbara feels special because it IS special, and that specialness begins with our nature. We have an amazing Mediterranean climate, we have rich and diverse wildlife, but we also have tectonic plates and fires, wet years and dry years, and even islands! We have stories to tell.

Add to this a new Butterfly Pavilion that will be home to butterflies and more, and a stroller and ADA accessible Backyard nature play area complete with a new creek, and an updated clubhouse and you get a sense of why we're excited about what's next.

# A Legacy of Travels and Science

BY KRISTA FAHY, HEAD OF VERTEBRATE  
ZOOLOGY AND ASSOCIATE CURATOR

Just up the road at 729 Mission Canyon was a small, private museum. One man's attempt at showcasing the wares and treasures collected over the years. Dean Hobbs Blanchard, of the family that founded the Limoneira orchards in Santa Paula, hoped to one day open a museum showcasing his beloved objects and stories for all to enjoy. He visited our Museum often, befriending curator Egmont Rett and relying on his taxidermy skills, as well as commissioning custom specimen cabinets from our in-house carpenter. Decades later, his collections have come to roost at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

His daily journals, spanning 70 years, detail a life of travel, adventure and science. Dean led a life worthy of a novel; in fact, several of his travels were published as books. While traveling to Ethiopia, Madagascar, Afghanistan, India, Mexico, and Ecuador, Dean amassed a collection of bird mounts, study skins and eggs that, through careful analysis, provide a glimpse back in time to those regions' environmental conditions and habitats. When Dean passed away in 1999, his widow Audrey gifted the Museum his research collection of 2,500 bird and mammal specimens, 1,600 butterflies, books, journals, and ethnographic material. Located in Palm Springs, their house remained a museum in itself, filled with dozens of taxidermied bird vignettes and artifacts. Upon Audrey's passing this spring, the full gift of their natural history treasures was completed and now lives in the Museum's collections. Many of these taxidermied mounts will be installed in permanent exhibit spaces like the *Curiosity Lab* as well as for the nature lending collection.

The Museum is exceedingly grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hobbs Blanchard for the gift of this magnificent collection. It is due to the efforts of such generous benefactors that the Museum is able to continue to build our research collections.



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# Museum Life

- 1 Santa Barbara Wine Festival
- 2 Members' Party
- 3 Poets-in-Residence
- 4 *Butterflies Alive!*
- 5 Centennial Celebration
- 6 *Jellies & Friends*
- 7 *A T. rex Named SUE*
- 8 Independent Centennial Article: Staff Feature

MARCH 4  
2016

# BIG BANG BIRTHDAY BASH

This past March, the Museum celebrated its centennial year at the annual Mission Creek Gala. Chair Emily Jones along with her extraordinary committee created a night to remember. The Big Bang Birthday Bash was a unique, once-in-a-lifetime fundraiser, raising more than \$500,000 for nature education programs for schoolchildren.

- 1 Tableau sponsor Venesa Faciane
- 2 Gala Chair and Trustee Emily Jones with her husband Blake
- 3 Sponsors Janet and John McCann
- 4 Museum Trustee and sponsor Carolyn Chandler with her table guests
- 5 Hiroko Benko and Board Chair Bobbie Kinnear
- 6 The beautiful and unique décor created by I.D.O. EVENTS, INC.



# Centennial Campaign

BY CAROLINE GRANGE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Centennial Campaign, led by Campaign Chair Palmer Jackson, Jr., has raised \$9.5 million. A donor has offered a 1:2, \$5 million challenge match and will donate \$5 million when we raise an additional \$10 million. The Campaign Cabinet of volunteers has already raised \$6 million toward the match, and once the remaining \$4 million is raised, Phase I of the campaign will be fully funded.

Phase I of the Centennial Project includes building a permanent Butterfly Pavilion, improving the exhibits in the Mammal and Bird Habitat Halls, and creating a new Santa Barbara Gallery in the current Cartwright Interactions Hall. Other Phase I elements include: improving the entrance of the Museum from the parking lot to the front door, improving the Museum's Backyard, and beautification of the entire campus.

Exhibit Director Frank Hein and his team recently hired design firm Gallagher & Associates to help with the exhibit planning. The team is now working to align and integrate our exhibit design process with the overall Master Plan. Comprehensive diorama assessments have been completed and schematic design is underway. An element of the project is improving the Museum signage and lighting. Recently, the campus-wide signage plan and lighting package were all given design approval by the Historic Landmarks Commission.

If you have any questions about the Centennial Campaign, Project, or Celebration please give Museum President & CEO Luke Swetland a call. Also, don't hesitate to share with your friends what is happening at your Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History! It will take the entire community to reach our goals.



# Membership Milestone

BY LEANA ORSUA, MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

It's safe to say the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has had a stellar centennial year. With two blockbuster exhibits and a backyard of every child's dreams, this summer we have also surpassed a longtime goal of reaching 6,000 members; the most in the Museum's history.

There wasn't any sort of contest or countdown showing visitors that the membership target number was approaching, but when it was finally reached, a plan to surprise that specific family with something special was set in motion.

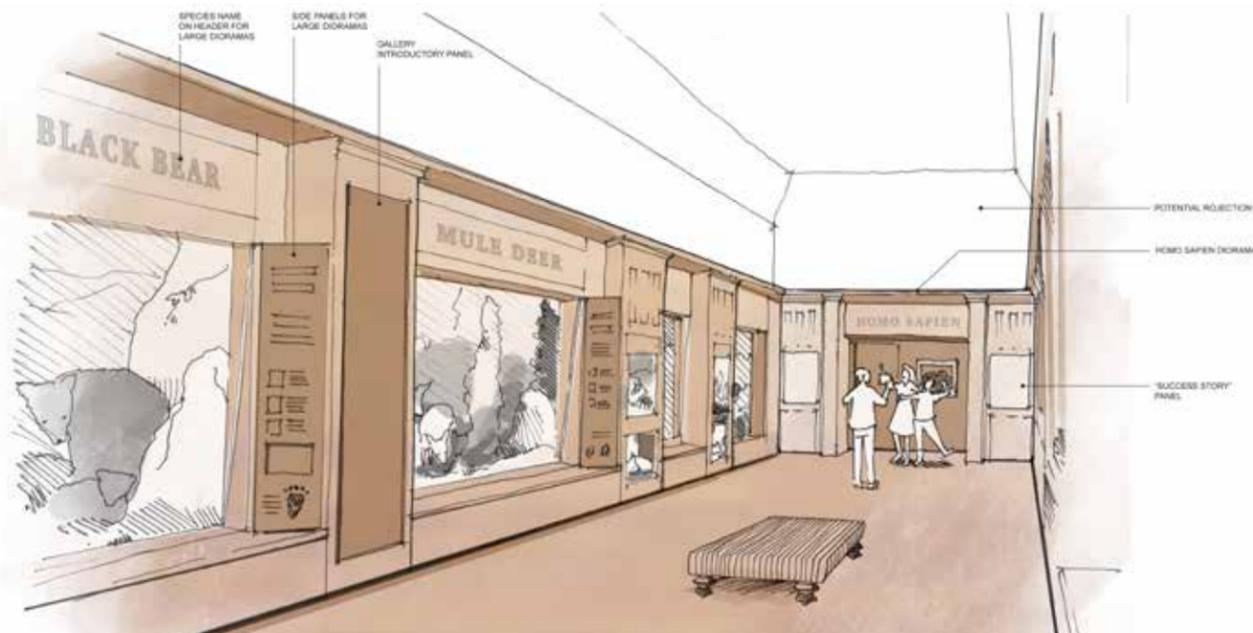
A gift basket of goodies was presented to the unknowing Flores family of Carpinteria which included a five year membership to the Museum and Sea Center.

*"We feel very honored to be the 6000<sup>th</sup> Member of this amazing Museum. This is the perfect gift for our growing family, which we will be able to enjoy for many years to come," said Kelli Flores.*

The Flores family consists of parents Omar and Kelli, their 2 year old daughter, and newborn son.

To see this happen during the Museum's centennial year is a culmination of our commitment to providing the community with new and exciting programming and exhibits from the natural world. Reaching record membership numbers, especially during a centennial year, is something to celebrate. Members are the bedrock of continuing support and return visitation and are always the Museum's biggest fans and best advocates.

MAMMAL HALL CONCEPTUAL DRAWING



The Mammal Hall is generously sponsored by the Anderson family. Naming opportunities are still available. Visit [sbnature.org](http://sbnature.org) for more information.

# Explorations!

## Leadership Circles of Giving Travel Log

BY DIANE DEVINE, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

April 3, 2016 – Heading to the Carrizo Plain!

Fifteen members of the Leadership Circles of Giving load the bus after a hearty breakfast at the Buckhorn Café. We're joined by the Museum's Curator of Anthropology Dr. John Johnson, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology Paul Collins, Museum President & CEO Luke J. Swetland, and Geologist John Powell.

I have never been to the Carrizo, but am excited to see the area often referred to as "California's Serengeti". As we approach the Plain, we stop for a quick review of the area's geology and the location and impact of the San Andreas Fault. Later in the day we even visit an area where you can actually see the fault itself, with rock on one side of the fault that has slid horizontally past rock on the other side.

The Carrizo is an amazing place. At 250,000 acres, Paul Collins tell us that it is California's largest single native grassland and supports one of the largest concentrations of endangered and threatened wildlife species in California. During the day we spot a beautiful kit fox, tule elk, pronghorn antelope – animals that look like they belong in Africa, a variety of birds, a rattlesnake, and learn all about the endangered kangaroo rat and its habitat. Paul Collins is a wealth of knowledge.

The Carrizo Plain contains hundreds of significant cultural sites as well. John Johnson led the way as we visited both Shelby Rocks and Painted Rock archeological sites. The Native American Indian rock art at these sites may be as old as 1,000 years, and they are not only beautiful, but this experience leaves you with a feeling of wonder as these areas are surrounded by an aura of mystery.

We were treated to a fantastic lunch during the day, and headed home with full hearts and minds – and a glass of wine! What a fantastic opportunity to visit such an incredible landscape and at a time of the Carrizo wildflower bloom! Even more incredible was the opportunity to spend time in the field one-on-one with our amazing Museum curators. What a fantastic day!

"Explorations", the Leadership Circle's field trip program, is just one of the many benefits of membership in the Leadership Circles of Giving. Members of this group play a critical role in sustaining the Museum, providing resources that support our education programming, research, collections, and the operating budget.

Contact [ddevine@sbnature2.org](mailto:ddevine@sbnature2.org) for more information.



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*SBnature Journal is a publication of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. As a Member benefit, issues provide a look at the Museum's exhibits, collections, research, and events. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is a private, non-profit, charitable organization. Our mission is to inspire a thirst for discovery and a passion for the natural world.*

For information about how to support the Museum, call Caroline Grange at 805-682-4711 ext. 109 or [cgrange@sbnature2.org](mailto:cgrange@sbnature2.org).



[sbnature.org](http://sbnature.org)



# FOLK & TRIBAL ARTS MARKETPLACE

FRIDAY-SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 2-4, 2016

Friday ~ 10:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Saturday and Sunday ~ 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

3 DAY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

## SAVE THE DATE

**Leadership Circles of Giving  
Dinner & Legacy Award  
Presentation**

Thursday, January 19, 2017

**Mission Creek Gala**

Saturday, May 13, 2017

**Members' Party &  
Bugs... Outside the Box Preview**

Friday, May 26, 2017

**Santa Barbara  
Wine & Food Festival™**

Saturday, June 24, 2017

[www.sbnature.org/calendar](http://www.sbnature.org/calendar)