



*"Where Natural History Comes to Life."*

# MEADOWLARK

FALL 2009

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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### MISSION

*"To establish an environment for the interpretation of the natural world available for all who wish to experience it. To provide education, exhibits, and the opportunity for research in the Santa Maria Valley which will inspire a respect for nature and the environment"*

## The Natural History Museum of Santa Maria

### Special Points of Interest:

- *Steelhead in the Santa Maria River*
- *"Ellie the Camel"*
- *Join the Natural History Museum today!*

## STEELHEAD IN THE SANTA MARIA RIVER



SECONDARY STORY HEADLINE STRINGER OF STEELHEAD TROUT FROM THE SISQUOC RIVER 1916.  
COURTESY SANTA MARIA HISTORY MUSEUM

A free, public presentation will provide an overview of the federally endangered southern steelhead trout and highlight efforts to restore this magnificent, iconic species to our local watersheds. The presentation will provide regional overviews of efforts to characterize, prioritize, and highlight recent recovery efforts for steelhead trout with a focus on watersheds adjacent to the venue where the presentations will occur. In coordination with the Santa Maria Natural History Museum, this presentation will focus on the Santa Maria and Sisquoc River Watersheds. Matt



"Steelhead Trout"

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Stoecker - Stoecker Ecological, Mauricio Gomez - South Coast Habitat Restoration, and invited special guest presenters will share the natural history of the Steelhead Trout in our local rivers and their ecological importance on **October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Minerva Club; West Boone at Lincoln Street in Santa Maria.** Matt Stoecker is the lead biologist for Stoecker Ecological and has been conducting studies of the Steelhead Trout in Southern California made possible by a grant from Patagonia. **Refreshments include wine from Lucas & Lewellen, call 805-614-0806 for details.**

## MEADOWLARK



# Southern Steelhead Revival Series

*Matt Stoecker - Stoecker Ecological,  
Mauricio Gomez - South Coast Habitat Restoration, and  
invited special guest presenters.*

This free, public presentation series will provide an overview of the of federally endangered southern steelhead trout and highlight efforts to restore this magnificent, iconic species to our local watersheds. The presentations will provide regional overviews of efforts to characterize, prioritize and highlight recent recovery efforts for steelhead trout with a focus on watersheds adjacent to the venue where the presentations will occur. The presentations will be as follows:

September 24, 7:00 pm. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

*This presentation will focus on Santa Barbara and Montecito area watersheds. With guests George Johnson of the City of Santa Barbara and Brian Trautwein with the Environmental Defense Center to discuss specific restoration projects being designed for lower Mission Creek.*

September 26, 6:30 pm. Carpinteria State Beach

*This presentation will focus on Carpinteria Valley Watersheds and will highlight the four recently completed steelhead projects.*

October 24, 5:30 pm. Minerva Club; W. Boone at Lincoln Street, Santa Maria CA.

*In coordination with the Santa Maria Natural History Museum, this presentation will focus on the Santa Maria and Sisquoc River Watersheds.*

November 4, 3:00 pm. Patagonia Inc., Grand Room, Ventura CA.

*This presentation will focus on the Ventura and Santa Clara River Watersheds.*

November 19, 7:30 pm. Solvang Library, 1745 Mission Drive.

*In coordination with the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society, this presentation will focus on the Santa Ynez River Watershed.*

November 7, 3:30 pm. Arroyo Hondo Preserve – Gaviota Coast.

*In coordination with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, this presentation will focus on the Gaviota Coast (Jalama to Goleta) Watersheds.*

*For additional information and specifics on upcoming events please contact:*

*Matt Stoecker [matt@stoeckerecological.com](mailto:matt@stoeckerecological.com) or Mauricio Gomez [mgomez@schabttatrestoration.org](mailto:mgomez@schabttatrestoration.org).*

**funded by**



## DOCENT CORNER



*Photo and Story By John Fuhring*

On June 9 of this year, the docents of the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria were treated to a visit to the excellent Natural History Museum located in beautiful Mission Canyon in Santa Barbara. We departed Santa Maria around 10 AM and drove south through Los Alamos Valley with Gato Ridge to our left and the Purisima Hills to our right until we crossed the watershed north of highway 154 and into the Santa Ynez Valley. Continuing south we entered the gap in the Santa Ynez Mountains and came out near the famous Gaviota Pass. It was the perfect day for a drive and a visit because the outside temperatures were perfect and the visibility and air quality was excellent allowing us to enjoy the scenery along highway 101. We arrived at about 11:30 AM at the beautiful boulder strewn Rocky Nook Park north of the

Old Spanish Mission where the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum is located. Since it was lunch time, we unpacked the wonderful lunch that Virginia Souza had put together for us and enjoyed a pleasant meal right there in the park. Lunch over, we walked the short distance to the entrance to the museum while noticing the fine old buildings and other structures that make up the museum complex.

We checked in the visitor's entrance and had a view of their well stocked gift shop and book store. Once inside the museum proper, we visited the many rooms in each of the several buildings containing mounted specimens and other exhibits. Most of the specimens are beautifully and elaborately housed in really excellent dioramas showing animals in their natural settings. The greater Santa Barbara region has every conceivable habitat with the exception of desert, tropical & temperate rain forests and tundra. The museum had all local habitats and creatures represented in at least one exhibit. I should mention that local habitats are not the only ones exhibited here, but a few others you would expect to see up in the Sierras or up in the Rocky Mountains. There was so much to see and admire that I

did not have time to be disappointed, but looking back, I think I would have liked to have seen more fossils of our extinct mega fauna although they did have a good section on the local geology and the geologic history of the area.

As mentioned, there are several buildings that make up the Santa Barbara Museum complex and most of the exhibits are housed in glass enclosed dioramas that are environmentally controlled. The specimens are protected from the effects of dust and especially the damaging effects of UV light from the outside.

The museum also has a planetarium which we were not able to see and a large theater/lecture hall for public presentations of all kinds. In addition, the Santa Barbara has several offices and what looks like laboratories and research areas. Altogether, the Santa Barbara museum complex is a very impressive example of what a community can create and make available for the entertainment and education of their citizens.

We arranged to end our visit and to meet at the van at 3:00 PM for our ride back to Santa Maria, arriving home about 4:00 PM.

### Join Today!

We cordially invite you to become a new or renewing member of the Natural History Museum, to help support its programs for the benefit of the Santa Maria Valley Community.

Please send your tax deductible membership check to:

The Natural History Museum  
P.O. Box 5254  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Visit our website:  
[www.naturalhistorysantamaria.com](http://www.naturalhistorysantamaria.com)

Thank you!

### \_\_\_ Individual Membership \$25

#### Family Memberships:

___ California Quail \$50	___ Meadowlark \$100
___ Great Horned Owl \$250	___ Golden Eagle \$500
___ Red-Tailed Hawk \$1,000	___ California Condor \$2,000

#### MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to receive The Meadowlark Newsletter by e-mail to save paper

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL FOR SPECIAL EVENT COMMUNICATIONS \_\_\_\_\_



*"Where Natural History Comes to Life"*



## THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF SANTA MARIA

Primary Business Address

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Santa Maria, CA 93456

Phone: 805-614-0806

E-mail: [naturalhistory.santamaria@verizon.net](mailto:naturalhistory.santamaria@verizon.net)

Mailing Address:



*Thank you for your support to the Natural History Museum of Santa Maria!*

*Museum Hours:  
Wed-Sat 11a- 4p  
Sundays 1p - 4p  
Free Admission*

## TEACHER'S BLACKBOARD

*Certificated teachers lead the Natural History Museum tours, call 614-0806 At no cost!*

### LIVE! AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

**1st Saturday of every  
month 12 noon to  
2:00 PM !**



#### **December 5th: "Bats"**

Melinda Alvarado our local "Bat Lady" will bring her very interesting creatures out for a visit. Ms. Alvarado insists keeping a distance from the little creatures, but her program is very interesting and viewing is always a big hit with young and old alike.



#### **November 7th: "Ellie the Camel"**

Yes a real live camel! "this lady loves people" says Jerry Williams its owner and handler. He will bring the camel to the museum for visitor fascination!

### **OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM**

**DOCENTS 2 ½ HOUR  
SHIFTS DURING BUSINESS  
HOURS**

**JOIN THE HAPPY CREW!**

**WANTED: VOLUNTEER  
CURATOR TO CATALOG  
MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**

**WELCOME TO ALL NEW  
VOLUNTEERS AND NEW  
BOARD MEMBERS!**

The Natural History  
Museum of Santa Maria  
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