



NEWS FROM AROUND THE MUSEUM

A Walk Through Time: Exhibit reinstallation complete! By Sarah Louise Hamblin

After a year of dedicated work by HSU professor and museum curator Richard Paselk and wife Gail Paselk, the Walk Through Time exhibit renovations have been completed. With the final installation of the archway at the entrance of the exhibit on January 14, 2012, it is estimated that over 850 hours were dedicated by the Paselks to the renovations of 11 exhibit cases.

Renovations included aesthetic changes, such as recovering display boxes and backdrops, remounting labels, and mounting artistic interpretations of the time periods. However, more importantly are the descriptive paragraphs in each case that describe major changes during that period. Rich describes the amount of time he committed to the text in the cases: "...[for] the most extreme case of the Cambrian I slogged through a 600 page monograph (On the Origin of Phyla), read parts of books ... and spent much time on various web sites detailing current interpretations of the Cambrian explosion - of course this is hard to see in the three paragraphs or so that I wrote up!" The global tectonic maps and custom timelines in the upper corners of the cases were also personalized for the exhibit.

The eye for detail and consistency throughout each exhibit is amazing. The fabric used on the backdrops of the cases are color-coded to correspond to the personalized timelines, additionally the labels in the Echinoderm case (also in the Walk Through Time exhibit) coordinate with the color coded timeline to inform the viewer what period each specimen is from. Lastly in some cases the covered display boxes and platforms relate to the plant or animal's habitat (e.g., green conveys land and blue water).

When walking through the exhibit one may wonder why the Precambrian case appears so different from the other cases. There is a logical explanation. Rich addresses this further: "The Precambrian includes about 95% of the age of the Earth, and, depending on who you listen to, about 85% of the time life has existed on Earth... but in the last 100 million years of this 3700 million year span life was almost entirely single celled bacteria, and protists. Not until the Cambrian do we see hard-part remains from multicellular animals...[and] oxygen rise to near modern levels." Thus the Precambrian exhibit case



The new display case redesigned by Gail and Rich Paselk

is set apart from the others due to this important difference. However the periods that follow are equally as important. This includes, the Cambrian explosion, Ordovician radiation, the spread of plant life in the Silurian, and the Devonian transition. As well as the Permian extinction, the Triassic recovery, the continental breakup during the Jurassic, and the mass extinction during the Cretaceous.

With the renovations of the exhibit completed, the museum staff will also updates the web page to reflect these changes. Visit our website (www.humboldt.edu/natmus/exhibits) to view museum exhibits online including the Walk Through Time exhibit.

With the completion of the Walk Through Time exhibit, Rich is looking forward to the 2012 spring semester. He will be teaching a class offered through HSU OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) entitled "Fossils and the Evolution of Life Through Time." The class will be held at the Natural History Museum, using the Walk Through Time exhibit as the primary resource. For more information about this course visit: www.humboldt.edu/olli.

A special thank you goes out to Richard and Gail Paselk for the hard work and dedication to the Natural History Museum. Stop by to see this beautifully renovated exhibit and take a walk through time.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



The mission of the Humboldt State University Natural History Museum, through its collections, exhibits, and programs, is to provide a learning laboratory for HSU students and to inspire in North Coast residents and visitors of all ages an understanding and appreciation of the dynamic natural world

Staff

Julie Van Sickle - Interim Manager
 Jennifer Ortega - Education Coordinator
 Allison Poklemba - Outreach
 Rich Paselk - Curator

Student Assistants

Evette Amezcua
 Suzanna Fonseca
 Sarah Hamblin
 Kyle Handziak
 Ashley Ortiz

Humboldt Science and Mathematics Center

Jeffrey White – Director

College of Natural Resources and Science

Steve Smith – Dean

WWW.HUMBOLDT.EDU/NATMUS
(707) 826-4479

SPRING 2012 CALENDAR

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Feb 2012	29	1 Mar	2	3
6	7	8	9 Arts! Arcata	10
13 Free Admission	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24 Amphibian - Reptile Discovery Day
27	28	29 Wolf Day! 	30	31
3	4	5	6	7
10 Free Admission	11 Look Closer, Make Connections Days	12 Tuesday April 10 – Friday April 13 10:30-12:30	13 Arts! Arcata	14
17	18	19	20  Earth Day	21 Anthropology Day
24	25	26	27	28
1 May	2	3	4	5 Chemistry & Physics Day 
8 Free Admission	9	10	11 Arts! Arcata	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
Summer Programs begin June 25th				

WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE UPDATES

“THANK YOU” TO HSU STUDENT ASSISTANTS AND INTERNS AT THE NHM

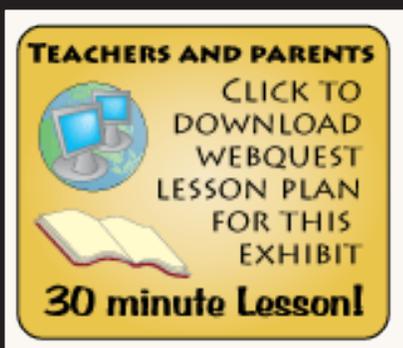
We would like to extend a very big “thank you” to all of the HSU students who contribute their time and effort to the Natural History Museum. First an extra special thank you to our student assistants who have been with us from the time we re-opened and continue to work at the NHM: Suzanna Fonseca, Kyle Handziak, Ashley Ortiz, Sarah Hamblin (graduated spring 2011 and has continued with the NHM) and Evette Amezcua (joined us summer 2011) as well as Kellen Korcheck, Michelle Forrington, and Sasha Hansen who have each been student assistants for a period of time since our re-opening. These students are the ones who greet visitors as they arrive, answer questions, serve as cashiers at the NHM store, do inventory along with numerous other special projects.

HSU students from all majors who are interested in exploring education are invited to attend an orientation and apply for a NHM Education Internship. Those students who are selected are trained by NHM Education Coordinator Jennifer Ortega and then work with her to develop and facilitate programs that are aligned to the California Content Standards for groups of school children visiting the NHM. In addition, these students help lead science education ac-

tivities at local community events. Jamie Larrabee, Jennifer Humphreys, Melissa Donner (2 semesters), Sasha Hansen (2 semesters), Michelle Forrington, Philip Anderson, Elena George, Kirsten Reddy, Naomi Marshall (2 semesters), Naomi Jasper, Cailin Jarrell, Christina Funches, Jocelyn Keranen, Sabrina Navarro, Sarah Wickman (2 semesters), Tia Meyer, Marc Davis, Kathryn Finnigan, Laura Emmerson, Rose Bonduant (2 semesters), thank you for your work with the well over 1000 students we’ve had participate in NHM school programs.

Vianey Garcia, Caroline Ganzberger, Jennifer Kerwin, Elizabeth Johnson, students from the HSU Museum Studies Certificate Program have also been or are currently doing internships at the NHM. The Museum Studies Interns assist with the design of new exhibits, creating flyers, brochures, and posters, help host art evenings, and work on a variety of special projects. Kristina Schulze, an Anthropology major, worked to update and improve the Prehistoric People Teaching Box as part of a student project. As part of a student project she developed four activities using the resources in the box and, in addition, aligned the activities with the Environmental & Education Initiative Curriculum for 6th grade. The work of all of these students through internships and student assistant positions play a critical role in the success of the NHM.

MUSEUM WEBQUESTS: A PRE- OR POST-VISIT



Current webquests include:

- Redwood Forest
- Plant Evolution
- Life Through Time
- Prehistoric Mammals of the Cenozoic

In addition to new and updated exhibits in the museum itself, we have been improving access to these resources on our website. By opening the resources at www.humboldt.edu/natmus visitors can explore five of our exhibits online. Four of those are now accompanied by a webquest. Defined by webquest.org, a webquest is an inquiry oriented lesson format in which most or all of the information that learners work with comes from the world wide web. In the case of the NHM webquests, all information can be found within our virtual exhibits.

The webquests have been created using a variety of sources including students from *SCI 431: The Nature and Practice of Science for Elementary Education*. Future teachers in this class were challenged to create webquests that compliment the online exhibits and some of these creations are now being used to assist virtual museum visitors on their pre- or post-visit journey.

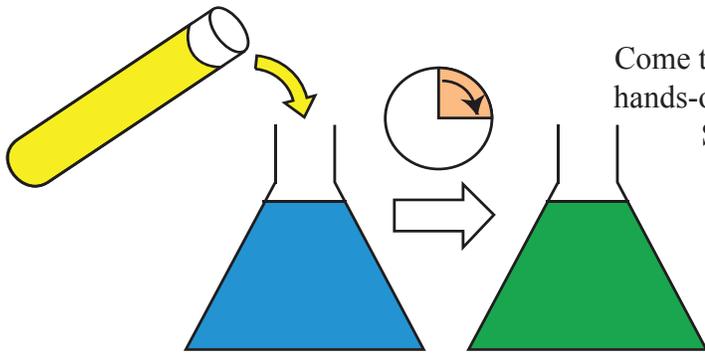
Take a webquest today before or after your museum visit.

Chemistry and Physics Day*

Saturday, May 5th from 11:00-3:00

Come to the NHM to explore chemistry and physics through hands-on activities and demonstrations created by Humboldt State Liberal Studies Elementary Education Students!

**Free admission to this event!*



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES

Wolves in California and Across the West

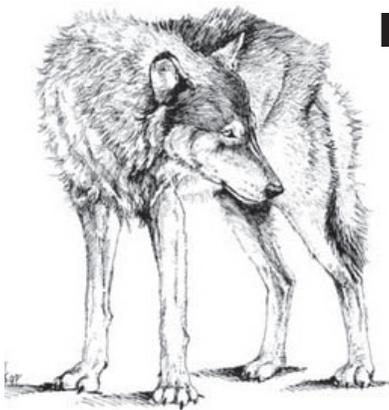
Kids Explore - What's Up With Wolves?*

Thurs., March 29th from 4-5 p.m. @ the HSU Natural History Museum

Amaroq Weiss from the California Wolf Center will present a lively, informative talk about one of North America's most intriguing animals – the wolf! Learn about wolf behavior and biology, from pup to top predator! How do wolves communicate? What do they eat? What's their family life like? Where do wolves exist in North America and what has been their history leading up to today? You'll learn all this and more. Aimed for children from first to eighth grade, but enjoyable for all age groups.

**standard admission for this event*

California Wolf Center
Education, Conservation & Research



Lecture Series - Lonesome Wolf: The Life and Times of OR-7

Thurs., March 29th from 7-8 p.m. On The HSU campus ~ SCI-B 135

Charismatic and controversial, the gray wolf has been the subject of ongoing political battles and intensive recovery efforts in the United States. Playing out against a backdrop of wolfish romance, policy and intrigue, what is this animal all about? Steep yourself in an evening of wolf history, biology, behavior, ecology and politics with Amaroq Weiss of the California Wolf Center, as she discusses milestones in wolf conservation and some of this country's most famous wolves, including California's latest resident, wolf OR-7.

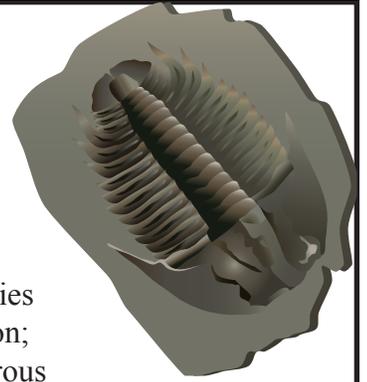
Amaroq Weiss is the Northern California Representative for the California Wolf Center. A biologist and former attorney, Amaroq has worked in wolf conservation for 15 years. Starting as a volunteer at the California Wolf Center, she was then hired by Defenders of Wildlife and worked as their western regional director of species conservation, overseeing wolf conservation policy development and fieldwork in the northern Rockies, Alaska and the Pacific west. Amaroq was part of the citizen advisory committee that helped the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife develop its state wolf plan, and for the last four years has worked as an independent consultant and advisor with several wolf conservation organizations. Amaroq loves giving wolf presentations, and aims to provide audience members with new insights about this top-level predator.

Fossils & the Evolution of Life Through Time*

Wed., March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25 May 2 from 6-8 p.m.

Look at the origins and evolution of life from the beginnings of the Earth to recent times, through viewing the Natural History Museum's recently updated "A Walk Through Time" exhibits.

Come and explore the Precambrian; the Cambrian Explosion (the origins and development of animal body plans); Paleozoic marine animal diversity and ecologies (Ordovician-Permian); extinctions and diversification; the Great Permian Extinction; the diversification of land plants (Silurian origins, Devonian Explosion, carboniferous dominance; land animal origins and ecology); the Mesozoic recovery (the age of reptiles); and finally the age of mammals, including humans. **This course offered through OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) visit www.humboldt.edu/olli.*



NHM EVENTS



Anthropology Day*

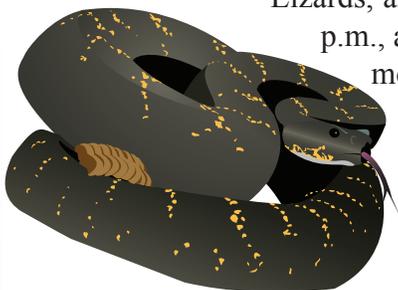
Saturday, April 21st, 11:00a.m.-3p.m.

Join us at the museum for a FREE ADMISSION DAY focused on family science. Activities will include hands-on entertainment for the whole family led by the students from the Anthropology Club at Humboldt State University.

**Free admission to this event!*

Amphibian and Reptile Discovery Day*

Saturday, March 24th, 10:00-4:00



Lizards, and salamanders, and snakes, oh my! On Saturday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., amphibians and reptiles will take over the HSU Natural History Museum! View more than 40 species of living amphibians and reptiles from our local area and around the world. Short talks, classes, crafts and other hands-on activities will be going on all day. Amphibian and Reptile Discovery Day is brought to you by the HSU herpetology class, California Reptorium, and the Humboldt County Herpetological Society, in partnership with the Natural History Museum.

**Free admission to this event!*

NHM INSTITUTE

Science, Media and Communication Institute, May 21-25, 2012

The Natural History Museum and the Redwood Science Project are offering a one week intensive institute focused on developing advanced communication skills about the sciences. Assessment of audiences and protocols for the evaluation of materials will be included. This year's theme is ocean sciences. Invited participants include graduates in the sciences, outreach directors for public agencies, and scientists. Others are welcome space permitting. Three units of course credit are available. HSU Faculty Instructors are Jeffrey White, Sean Craig, and Julie Van Sickle. Funded by the National Science Foundation. Check the NHM or RSP Website for further details.

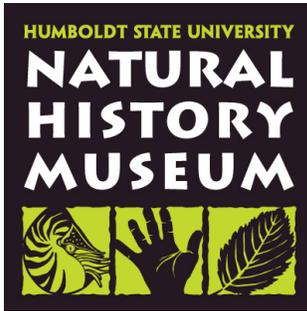




WE NEED YOUR HELP - SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF A MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP!

One of the many benefits of a membership - The ASTC Passport Program

By purchasing a membership at the Family Level or above you will be entitled to free admission to museums across California (like the Exploratorium in San Francisco or Turtle Bay in Redding) and across the Country (like Science Works in Ashland, Oregon or The National Museum of Science and Industry in London, England!). That's right, for a yearly membership to our local Humboldt State Museum, you can not only get in free here whenever you like, but select museums across the country as well. Pass the secret along and visit our web site for more information and a list of participating museums across the world where you are also a member.



Natural History Museum MEMBERSHIP FORM

Get free admission for you and your family into over 270 other nature and science museums when you join the museum!

All memberships include 10% off Museum Store purchases, 10% off programs, and invitations to member events. Memberships at the Family level and greater benefit from the Association of Science and Technology Center's Passport Program. For a list of participating museums across the country and around the world, visit our website.

Annual Memberships:

- Individual \$35
- Student/Senior \$25
- Family \$60 | Includes Passport Program and Family Discount
- Associate \$100 | Includes Family benefits plus License Plate Cover
- Supporting \$250 | Includes Associate benefits plus T-Shirt
- Sustaining \$500 | Includes Sustaining benefits plus Nautilus Pin
- Benefactor \$1000 | Includes Benefactor benefits plus special recognition
- Business Sponsorship | Please contact museum

Date _____

New Renew Gift

* If this is a gift please include your name & address on back of form.

Membership Type _____ Total amount enclosed _____

ADDITIONAL TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION \$ _____

Name _____

Print full names and birthdates of children under 18:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Day _____ Eve _____ Cell _____

Email _____

If paying by credit card please provide the following:

Circle one: VISA Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit security code _____

Signature _____

NEWS ABOUT OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM BY JENNIFER ORTEGA

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE MUSEUM...

- The museum's dedicated team of eight education interns developed three activities (Wildlife Investigators, Rings of our Lives and the Living Tree) for College of the Redwoods Science Night.
- Look Closer, Make Connections Days are educational days at the museum with fun, hands-on activities for the whole family to enjoy. These events will occur on certain holidays and school breaks.
- The Natural History Museum, Friends of the Arcata Marsh, and Humboldt State University Environmental Education majors collaborated to present a program on Wetland Education. The program was designed to meet 5th grade Science Standards. The program included a 55-minute pre-trip classroom presentation and a 2-hour field trip at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Three different schools and a total of 85 fifth graders participated in the program.
- Two more Teaching Boxes (fossils and prehistoric people) are available for educators to check out and use as a supplement to class curriculum.
- This spring, education interns will be developing monthly preschool programs with various themes. Look for preschool programs to be offered starting Fall 2012.

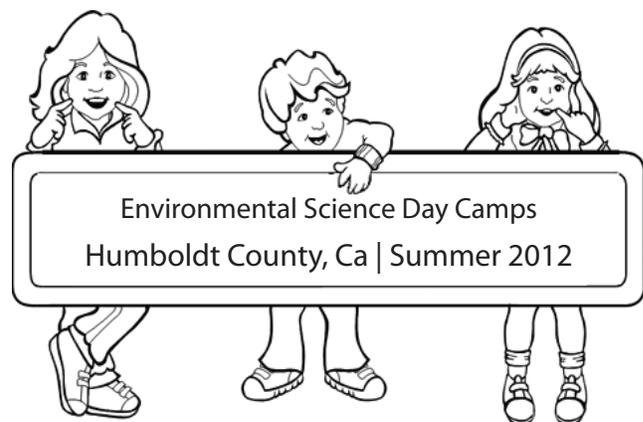
SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM

REGISTRATION BEGINS IN MAY, CAMPS BEGIN JUNE 25TH.

This summer the museum plans to offer 15 day camp programs including both part day and full day camps.

- The museum based part day camps -- for ages 4-5 are offered 10am-noon and for ages 6-9 camp times are 1-4pm. Each museum based camp will include at least one field trip excursion. Possible camp titles include Birds, Beaks & Beyond, Science Explorers, Redwood Rangers, and Nature Detectives.
- The Natural History Museum and Center Activities full day camps -- These two weeks of camps will be full-day camps, half NHM led and half led by Center Activities staff. Campers can look forward to many exciting activities including flat-water kayaking, canoeing, surfing and sailing. The museum staff will teach placed based environmental education throughout the week. For ages 10 and older camp times are 8:30am-5:00pm, possible camp titles are Headwater to Ocean and Trekking & Tracking.

Coming in May will be more information about summer youth programs along with registration details. Summer programs will begin June 25th.

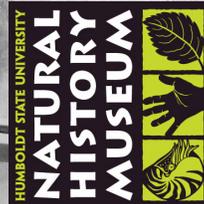


EARTH SCIENCE DAY AND CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS DAY, GREAT SUCCESSES

In November the Natural History Museum had its first ever Earth Science Day developed and hosted by students in the Geoscience major with the guidance of Dr. Susan Cashman. Visitors learned about minerals, soils, asteroids & meteors, plate tectonics, and tsunamis.

Another successful Chemistry & Physics Day took place in December hosted by HSU Liberal Studies Elementary Education majors with the guidance of Drs. Richard Stepp, Ralph Martinez, and Mary Wheatley. Community members in attendance learned about chemistry & physics through hands-on activities and demonstrations.

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER



In this Issue:

- Life Through Time
- Webquests
- Upcoming Events
- Summer Activities
- Speaker Series



LOOK CLOSER
MAKE CONNECTIONS

Humboldt State University
Natural History Museum
1315 G Street
Arcata, California 95521
(707) 826-4479
www.humboldt.edu/natmus

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 78
ARCATA, CA 95521

