

NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

naturalist

July/August 10

THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Age of Mammals: A New Take
on a 65-Million-Year-Old Story

Photo by Elon Schoenholz

Member Morning



Saturday, August 28; 8 am – 10 am

Enjoy a member-only summer morning at the Natural History Museum before we open to the public!

Visit our brand new exhibition, *Age of Mammals*, and check out the *What On Earth?* installation displayed in our newly restored historic rotunda.

Bid farewell to over 40 butterfly and moth species before they flutter away for good. *Pavilion of Wings* is open through September 6! Plus, enjoy special performances, crafts and fun for the whole family!



Photo by Karen Knauer



SCHOLARSHARE
college savings plan

CALIFORNIA'S 529 PLAN

Celebrate College Savings Month with our Dino Lab sponsor, **ScholarShare**, California's 529 college savings plan, and receive a free gift while supplies last.

Receive a coupon for a 25% discount at the newly expanded Museum Store for you and your friend when they sign up for a membership!

Please RSVP by e-mail at rsvp@nhm.org. For more information, please call 213.763.3426.

NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

THE 1913 BUILDING: WHERE OUR PAST MEETS OUR FUTURE

Dear Friend,

The first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles, the Natural History Museum's 1913 Building, opens again to the public this month. Included in the National Register of Historic Places, the 1913 Building is an historic treasure in its own right. Yet its role in our transformation — what is going on inside this beautiful edifice at this moment, and as we look forward — is most significant. Within, the Museum's staff of experts has combined its world-class research with innovations in exhibition design and technology to create fascinating, informative, thoroughly modern visitor experiences in the new permanent exhibition, *Age of Mammals*.

Age of Mammals tells the epic tale of the evolution of mammals as they were influenced by continental shift and climate change. In creating the exhibit, our curators sought to include local specimens, including many fossils from the La Brea Tar Pits, piecing together a global history with elements from our own regional heritage. The lovingly renovated and updated 1913 Building's north gallery, with its airy spaciousness and bright natural light, provides the ideal space to showcase this unique exhibit.

Guests will now enter the 1913 Building's rotunda through the *Fin Whale Passage*. On the ground level of the rotunda, the tug of curiosity guides young and old through *What on Earth?* an interactive investigation of some of the less familiar, but most curious, objects from the Museum's collections. Upstairs, history, art, and science converge to inform *Life Through the Ages: Revisiting the Paintings of Charles R. Knight*. This installation revisits Knight's iconic mid-20th century paintings, with interpretations from Museum scientists who note how the knowledge from which Knight created his brilliant works differs from our current understanding of paleontology.

That current understanding is evolving right here within these nearly 100-year-old walls, as our researchers continue a long tradition of studying our collections in order to further piece together the story of our natural and cultural worlds. As the new exhibitions and installations reveal, what we know about the planet has undergone seismic shifts since the Museum first opened its doors to the public. How we're able to convey that knowledge and make it fun and accessible has also evolved. We want to take our visitors beyond just the visual awe of specimens; we want to inspire tomorrow's scientists with an exploration of how we know what we know. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Jane G. Pisano
President and Director

THE NAEGELE'S GIANT JAGUAR



Diane Naegele fell in love with a man of passion. Her late husband Richard, a Chicago stockbroker for 25 years, was infatuated with the movies. But unlike a lot of people who flirt with other careers from afar, Rick pursued it. At the age of 45, he left the Windy City for Los Angeles, and enrolled in film school at USC.

Diane hadn't agreed to move west yet, and was set to start a new marketing position in Chicago. A phone call changed her path: Rick detailed her first job at his new film company, RJN Productions, if she so desired it. He was producing a film that starred emerging Canadian crooner Michael Bublé. Diane's job would be to get the singer situated in Los Angeles. She packed her bags.

Rick produced three movies, but after he passed away in 2005, the company was shuttered. "I had no husband, no friends and no job. So, I started to put my life back together," Diane said.

She met Museum Trustee Sarah Jensen on a plane, and they became fast friends.

Sarah introduced her to the Barlow Respiratory Hospital, the board of which Diane is now the vice president. Then she invited Diane to work with her on the Museum's fundraising gala — the 2009 Dino Ball. "She told me I was doing so much, I might as well become a co-chair," Diane laughed. "Sarah is good at enrolling people, at matching people and needs and concepts together."

The Dino Ball was just the beginning. Diane went on to become a member of the Museum's Board of Trustees and now sits on several of its committees, including the 2013 Task Force, which advises the communications, advancement, and membership and partnership goals surrounding the Museum's 100th anniversary.

"I just became fascinated by the Museum," she said. "The more I learned, the more I realized what a service it was providing in educating Los Angeles about nature and culture. And of course, it's a building project and I'm an architecture junkie. To be involved with something that's going to be standing up for a century, that's an honor."

On a walkthrough of the renovated 1913 Building, Diane saw specimens being prepared for *Age of Mammals*. She keyed into a big fossil cat from the La Brea Tar Pits. The creature had long been known as an American lion but was recently determined by the Museum's own Dr. John Harris to be a giant jaguar. Because of that, the animal needed a new name. Naegele had just made a significant gift to the NHM Next Campaign, so the Museum was looking for a way to honor her family. Naegele's giant jaguar was the result.

"I wanted a way to memorialize my dear late husband," Diane said. "Because it was a cat, all the pieces just fell into place. Rick was madly in love with his cat, Petey. And when he was a little boy living in Cincinnati, he would leave the door of his bedroom open at night in case there were little animals out there that needed a home."

Destined now for *Age of Mammals*, Naegele's giant jaguar has a name, and a home.

—Kristin Friedrich

If you'd like to name a new species or sponsor a specimen in one of our new exhibits, contact Tom Jacobson, Senior Vice President of Advancement, at (213) 763-3306 or tjacobso@nhm.org.

What On Earth?

Exhibit Engages in a Playful Dialogue of Discovery

Visitors to the newly re-opened Haaga Family Rotunda might very well exclaim, "What on Earth?" when they first see the out-of-the-ordinary specimens and objects now on view on the ground floor. *What on Earth?* not coincidentally, is the title of this fun new installation.

This isn't a typical museum viewing experience; it's more of a playful dialogue. Is that purple bush-like thing "animal, vegetable, or mineral?" "What was this feather for?" "What does this strange thing do?" As visitors will see, in science, discovering an answer often leads to more questions.

The enigmatic specimens and objects in *What on Earth?* are mounted in state-of-the-art glass cases—climate-controlled and earthquake-proof—designed and fabricated specifically for the rotunda. They allow visitors a close-up look at the beautifully lit and seemingly floating objects inside.



Step around the cases and you'll find the answer to the question posed on the front side — and more questions.

—Elon Schoenholz



Is this animal, vegetable, or mineral?

Life Through the Ages

REVISITING THE PAINTINGS OF CHARLES R. KNIGHT

American painter Charles Robert Knight (1874-1953) created some of the most influential scenes of extinct life on Earth. Though his paintings were imaginative and beautiful, they were also based in science. He consulted paleontologists and studied living animals, and was able to bring fossil finds to dynamic life — and accessible to the public — through his illustrations.

But what Knight knew in the middle of the 20th century is quite different from what we now know.

The new installation *Life Through the Ages: Revisiting the Paintings of Charles R. Knight* looks at his art in light of current understanding. Knight painted a number of "Life Through the Ages" series in his career. The series that the Museum owns and that will be partially shown in this installation was painted from 1944 through 1946, and was the artist's last.



"Woolly Mammoth," oil on canvas, by Charles Knight.

Hanging in the Haaga Family Rotunda's upper level, the paintings show colorful imagery of a Brontosaurus, Woolly Mammoth, Pteranodon and Stegosaurus, among others.

The vast range of temporal environments and animals begins with an Early Cambrian scene dating back approximately 520 million years and reaches to our recent past with a dodo family that lived a little more than 300 years ago.

Instead of standard labels on the text panels, seven Natural History Museum scientists analyze and comment on the works. The text from the Museum's experts gives insight and perspective to these wonderful paintings that simply wasn't available to Knight in his time.

"New finds and technological innovations have advanced our understanding of how extinct creatures stood, moved, and behaved," Dr. Margaret Hardin, Division Chief, Anthropology and History, said. "Science moves on, and new insights emerge."

—Elon Schoenholz



WELCOME TO THE AGE OF MAMMALS

Visitors can get unusually close looks at all the exhibition's specimens, including this Sumatran tiger. Photo by Karen Knauer

It's not a typical natural history exhibition. Inside, sunlight streams in through arched windows and an enormous skylight, fossil mounts are posed as if they're in motion. An extinct horse rears skyward on hind legs. A saber-toothed cat seems to run and roar. Ancient marine mammals swim through the air overhead. As the light changes throughout the day, even the shadows of the fossils move — the hall is alive.

In its design and its curation, *Age of Mammals* is about layers, transparency, and how the old meets the new. The animals are both extinct and modern, and visitors get much closer to them than in typical fossil exhibits. Multimedia touch screen kiosks and postmodern exhibit techniques unfold in a gallery built almost 100 years ago.

Age of Mammals tells a story of evolution that spans 65 million years, but its theme can be distilled into just six little words: Continents move. Climates change. Mammals evolve. They're six very loaded words, however. "It's the first permanent museum exhibit to trace mammal evolution — from the

extinction of large dinosaurs to the rise of humans — within the context of epochal changes in the Earth's geology and climate," said Dr. John Harris, lead curator for the exhibition. "We believe this new way of telling our story is not only exciting, but it also provides a powerful message. It puts climate change and human impact on our environment into the context of long term geological and evolutionary processes."

The Specimen Stars

The exhibit team had two missions: to showcase the Museum's extraordinary collection of mammal specimens, and then to go a step further — to explore the science behind these specimens. According to the team's shorthand: The exhibition would consist of the "wow" and the "how."

Let's talk about the "wows" first. Many of the *Age of Mammals* specimens have never been displayed. The centerpiece of the exhibition, the Simi Valley Mastodon, is an example. This creature stomped around Southern California 20,000 years

ago, but the specimen wasn't found until 2001, when construction workers discovered it while building a new tract of homes.

There is another specimen, the paleoparadoxiid, which has never been shown, and is also brand new to science. Here's what we know: The strange creature lived on the California coastline approximately 10 to 12 million years ago; it belongs to a totally extinct order of mammals, desmostylians; and desmostylians were herbivorous, four-legged, and related to elephants, sea cows, and manatees. Our scientists will continue to study it long after *Age of Mammals* opens.

NHM diehards might spot the handful of specimens that have been on display before, although they come to new life in the exhibition. Our paleontologists joke that the old Cenozoic Hall looked like a parking lot for skeletons because the fossil poses seemed so static. They faced the same way; their arrangement meant they even started to look the same.

The breadth and outrageous diversity of mammals is clear now. There's a bizarre-looking brontothere ("thunder-beast") that a lot of us would figure to be a dinosaur. It's actually a big, lumbering herbivore — and a mammal. A horse, an extinct Harlan's ground sloth, a saber-toothed cat, and a giant jaguar were excavated from the La Brea Tar Pits. There's an ancient sperm whale species hanging from the ceiling that no museum has ever articulated before; it was found by our paleontologists at the Sharktooth Hill bone bed in Kern County.

A Homegrown Show

Many museums have to buy the specimens that fill their shows. *Age of Mammals* highlights specimens from the Museum's own collections. Sometimes they were prepared at one of our off-site storage facilities (where big specimens occasionally reside

before exhibition). Mostly, though, they were prepared onsite, in the NHM's Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, or the Page Museum's Fishbowl Lab, where the preparators are in full view of the public.

As visitors learn as they explore the exhibition's multimedia kiosks, it can be painstaking work. In the Fishbowl Lab, the asphalt from the tar pits has to be dissolved with solvent, and small or fragile pieces are cleaned in ultrasonic tanks, where high frequency sound waves help remove asphaltic sediment from the specimens.

For the non-La Brea specimens, the preparation difficulty depends on what matrix surrounds the fossils. Sometimes it's very soft chalky rock; sometimes it's rock that's as tough as concrete. For specimens encased in hard rock, the lab staff use miniature jack hammers to slowly remove rock without damaging the specimens. A single specimen in very hard matrix can take months or even years to fully prepare.

The Exhibition Story

It's not just the specimens that are difficult to prepare. Conveying the themes of *Age of Mammals* is admittedly complicated too. The text panels give the big picture, but how do you convey the basics of plate tectonics to a grade school visitor? And for an older visitor, what's the most engaging way to deliver content that reveals the science behind the specimens — the "how" component?

For younger visitors, Museum educators worked with the Glendale-based Cinnabar, a museum exhibit design and fabrication firm, to create seven mechanical displays. The charge was to appeal to visitors with learning levels at eighth grade and below. "Science is typically difficult to convey. We solved that by coming up with one message for each interactive," said Cinnabar's Jeannie Lomma.

In the mezzanine "Understanding Environments" section, there's a module called "How Old Is It?" Kids move a knob over faux strata like that of the Mojave Desert's Red Rock Canyon fossil site. The concept is: The deeper a fossil is, the older it is. In another module called "You're a Mammal Too," visitors look at themselves in a mirror and slide over graphics, representing traits that make us mammals (hair, teeth, sweat glands that make us turn pink). They're simple and fun, but the mechanical displays communicate the concepts at the core of the exhibition.

Through the Paleontology Rabbit Hole

For older visitors, there are dynamic multimedia consoles. Here, our guests can jump through the figurative paleontology rabbit hole: They can explore the specimens themselves (bone structure, and what the bones tell us about the animal). But they can also dive into the incredible science that surrounds the discovery, excavation, identification, and research.

The interactive kiosk that's found near the paleoparadoxiid lets our visitors "uncover" the creature's bones on an animated touch screen, study each bone, then put them back together — just like our Museum paleontologists.

Our diorama halls are iconic, and they're not going anywhere. But in addition to providing these snapshots, these habitats at one moment in time, the Museum is newly focused on telling a more complicated, "big picture" story of mammal life. We want to tell our visitors what we know about mammal evolution and why we know it.

"What this exhibition is, basically, is a postmodern diorama," said Simon Adlam, Director of Exhibit Production, Museum Project. "It's democratic, it's for everyone, and it's never been done before."

—Kristin Friedrich



L.A.'S CULTURAL HERITAGE RESIDES IN THE MUSEUM'S 1913 BUILDING

The Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art under construction in 1912, from the perspective of a pre-Rose Garden Exposition Park.

Los Angeles has not been kind to its great buildings. From Irving Gill's Dodge House to Stiles Clements' Richfield Tower, architecturally at least, we've built our future by razing our past. So the Beaux Arts grandeur of the Natural History Museum's domed 1913 Building is an exceptional sight in this city today.

"The building itself is tangible history," said Linda Dishman, executive director of the Los Angeles Conservancy. "It tells an important part of our story, the Los Angeles of the early 20th century, the aspirations of a young modern city striving to be great."

Los Angeles in the early 20th century may have been in the process of becoming the world-class city it is today. But it had a long way to go.

What's now Exposition Park was then called Agricultural Park. And it was no place to bring the family. Gambling and prostitution were among the area's more popular draws.

Then William M. Bowen, an attorney and adjunct professor of law at nearby USC, spearheaded an effort to clean the park up. The State, County and City joined in a cooperative effort to transform the park into a culture and recreation

center for the city. The Museum — called the Museum of History, Science, and Art at its inception — became the focus of that collaboration.

Bowen's passion wasn't the only catalyst. The business community and boosters were seeking a way to improve the image of the City of Angels in preparation for the boom in commerce they expected to come from the Panama Canal, which was near completion. A new museum fit the bill perfectly.

Also, a handful of major U.S. cities at the time were undergoing what became known as the City Beautiful Movement. The movement sought to create beautiful public spaces as a means of establishing civic order and a harmonious urban environment, as cities grew and social and economic stratification increased.

Beaux Arts was the popular architectural style of the City Beautiful Movement, emphasizing neoclassical elements and an aesthetic of order, dignity and harmony. Not coincidentally, Beaux Arts is the dominant style that architects Frank D. Hudson and William A. O. Munsell incorporated into the museum.

"The Museum itself was the cornerstone of a new place to represent L.A.'s future," said Dr. William Estrada, NHM's curator of California and American History and chair of the History Division.

When it opened to the public on November 6, 1913, the gala ceremony was part of a larger two-day celebration surrounding the epochal opening of the Los Angeles Aqueduct the day before. "Water sustains life. Culture sustains us, too," said Dr. Estrada.

To the east of the Rose Garden lies what is now named the Wallis Annenberg Building for Science Learning and Innovation, built in 1912 to serve as a California National Guard Armory.

To the Rose Garden's south is the California Science Center. Here, only the elaborate facade remains of what was originally the State Exposition Building.

While the Science Center only retains its original facade and the Annenberg Building has recently undergone significant interior modifications, the Natural History Museum's first home remains, for the most part, intact.

After the Museum opened, its collections quickly outgrew its space. In 1963, the Art Department relocated to its own

museum in Hancock Park (the Los Angeles County Museum of Art). At that time, the Exposition Park facility became the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Additional buildings and new galleries were added through the decades.

In 2006, the 1913 Building was closed to the public, and a three-and-a-half-year renovation and restoration ensued. It was seismically strengthened, and beautifully restored in all its architectural details — many now visible for the first time in decades. The Haaga Family Rotunda's stained glass was restored (see "Judson Studios" story, page 12); the Age of Mammals hall is now illuminated with brilliant natural light.

Behind the scenes, the Building has been updated with modern electrical work and media connectivity. It was also seismically strengthened with an innovative technique that left the exterior masonry completely intact.

"We didn't just update the building's systems and reinforce its structure. In a very real way, we enhanced the Museum's mission and reinforced its history," said Don Webb, president of Cordell Corporation, whose firm managed the renovation. "Drawing this contrast between a truly historic architectural icon and the contemporary presentation of exceptional exhibits seems completely natural."

—Elon Schoenholz



L.A. County Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas heads upward to partake in the unveiling of the 1913 Building's recreated eagle.

Photo by Ryan Miller/Capture Imaging

things to do at the museums



AGE OF MAMMALS MEMBERS PREVIEW EVENTS

Our Members are invited to experience the Museum's latest exhibition, *Age of Mammals* (see feature on page 6), before it opens to the public. Beginning July 7 and continuing through the weekend, Members at all levels will have the opportunity to join us in a series of festive events celebrating the opening of this exhibit in the stunningly renovated and newly re-opened 1913 Building.

FELLOWS COCKTAIL PREVIEW WITH THE CURATORS

Wednesday, July 7
Enjoy cocktails and be the first to experience the new exhibition. This event is for members at the Adventurer level and higher.

MEMBER PREVIEW DAYS

Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10

On Friday and Saturday, Members will have exclusive access to *Age of Mammals* and the rotunda installations (see page 5), before Sunday's public opening.

VIP MEMBER EVENINGS

For grownups only
Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10

MEMBER EVENING

For the whole family
Saturday, July 10; 6 pm
Get ready for a rockin' celebration for the whole family. Enjoy a mammal dance party with a live DJ spinning tracks that will get you moving and grooving. Don't forget to take your commemorative photo at our photo booth.

Age of Mammals and the rotunda installations open to the public July 11. For more info regarding all Member events visit www.nhm.org/site/join-us/membership/member-events.

PAVILION OF WINGS

Open through September 6
Enter a world of free-flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed on the Museum's South Lawn. Discover how these creatures interact with each other and the plants they visit, and maybe one will take the time to interact with you! *Separate admission ticketing applies; members are always free.* *Pavilion of Wings is open seven days a week, 10 am to 5 pm.*

ADVENTURES IN NATURE

July 5 to August 27
Adventures in Nature is a day camp offered every summer for children from kindergarten through eighth grade. Enroll your children in our hands-on classes and they will learn through active encounters that spark their natural curiosity and creativity. AIN meets at both the Natural History Museum and the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. All classes are full day, from 9 am to 3 pm. To view classes and register visit www.nhm.org/register. For more information call (213) 763-ED4U (3348) or e-mail educate@nhm.org.

B-MOVIES AND BAD SCIENCE

For all shows in the series discussion begins at 7:30 pm followed by the movie at 8 pm.

Saturday, July 17

Natural History Museum
Exposition Park South Lawn
It Came from Beneath the Sea (1955)

Saturday, July 24

Natural History Museum
Exposition Park South Lawn
The Killer Shrews (1959)

Sunday, August 1

Natural History Museum
Exposition Park South Lawn
Gamera the Invincible (1966)

Sunday, August 15

Natural History Museum
Exposition Park South Lawn
Gorilla at Large (1954)

Sunday, August 29

Page Museum at La Brea Tar Pits
Hancock Park Lawn
Caveman (1981)

Bring your picnic blanket and cozy up to watch a movie either on the Natural History Museum's South Lawn or in Hancock Park outside of the Page Museum. Arrive early for a lighthearted discussion with our own science

experts, as we introduce the day's featured movie to see if there's any common ground between science fact and science fiction. For more info visit www.nhm.org/site/activities-programs/bmovies-bad-science, or call (213) 763-ED4U (3348).

CRITTER CLUB:

ROACH APPRECIATION DAY!

Saturday, July 10; 10 am and 11 am
Let's romp with roaches! Come learn all about these creeping creatures. We'll meet live bugs and discover that they're not gross — they actually help us. We're crawling with fun!

FROM SKITTERING TO SCOOTING!

Saturday, Aug. 14; 10 am and 11 am
Snakes with legs? Lizards that slither? Our slinking skinks and squirming snakes will show you that life above, and below, ground is not as different as you'd think! Slither, slide, walk or wiggle on by!

For 3- to 5-year-olds and a participating adult. Free with paid Museum admission. No reservations required, but class sizes are limited. Events are available on

a first-come, first-served basis. Check in at the *Dueling Dinosaurs* just inside the main entrance. For more info visit www.nhm.org/site/activities-programs/critter-club, call (213) 763-ED4U (3348), or e-mail educate@nhm.org.

CURATOR'S CUPBOARD: WHAT ON EARTH?

Saturday, July 31 and Saturday, August 21; 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
This summer our Curator's Cupboards are inspired by the *What on Earth?* installation in the Haaga Family Rotunda. This exhibit will showcase some of the strangest and most fascinating specimens and objects from the Museum's collection. Meet the

curators who contributed to the exhibit and see what other curious items they'll have on display! Free with general Museum admission. For more info visit www.nhm.org/site/activities-programs/curatorial-cupboard, call (213) 763-3471, or e-mail bburrows@nhm.org.



SCAVENGER'S SAFARI:

THE WACKY WORLD OF WORMS

Saturday, July 31, 11 am
Polychaetes Curator, Dr. Kirk Fitzhugh, will show off specimens from one of the world's largest collections of sea worms. Besides their fascinating appearances, these creatures reveal

important information about the nature of marine environments and the health of the sea.

LEAPING LIZARDS

Saturday, August 28, 10 am
Go behind the scenes of the Herpetology Department with Collections Manager, Nefti Camacho, and learn about the reptiles and amphibians in the Museum's collection. Nefti will showcase different species from all over the world, including ones you can find in your own backyard, such as alligator lizards and legless lizards.

Scavenger's Safaris are free with Patron level membership (\$185 annually). To RSVP, call (213) 763-3316. For more info visit www.nhm.org/site/join-us/membership/levels-benefits/patron-family.

SILENTS UNDER THE STARS

Saturday, August 14, 6 pm
Experience the reel West with an evening at the William S. Hart Park and Museum. Enjoy a Western-style dinner and Bill Hart silent film with a backdrop of the scenic hills of Hart Park. Ticket reservations are required and include dinner, movie, tour of the Hart Collection, and a unique old-time silent auction! Please call (661) 254-4584 for ticket reservations or for more information. Tickets are \$50 per person.



MEMBER MORNING

Saturday, August 28
8 am to 10 am

Enjoy a member-only summer morning at the Natural History Museum before we open to the public! Visit our brand-new exhibition *Age of Mammals* and check out the *What on Earth?* installation in the newly restored rotunda of our 1913 Building. Plus, bid farewell to more than 40 butterfly and moth species before they flutter away for good—*Pavilion of Wings* is open through September 6. Attendees of the Endless Summer Member Morning will receive a free gift while supplies last; special performances, crafts and fun for the whole family! Please RSVP by e-mail at rsvp@nhm.org. For more information, call (213) 763-3426. (continued on pg. 12)

JULY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	Free Tuesday 6 With support from our Corporate Partners	AOM Members Preview 7	8	AOM Members Preview 9	Critter Club 10 AOM Members Preview
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 B Movies and Bad Science
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 B Movies and Bad Science
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Curator's Cupboard Scavenger's Safari

AUGUST 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 B Movies and Bad Science	2	Free Tuesday 3 With support from our Corporate Partners	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	Critter Club 14 Silents Under the Stars
15 B Movies and Bad Science	16	17	18	19	20	21 Curator's Cupboard
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Member Morning Scavenger's Safari
29 B Movies and Bad Science	30	31	LOCATION KEY ■ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM ■ HART PARK AND MUSEUM ■ PAGE MUSEUM ■ EVENT OCCURS OFFSITE <small>MUSEUM PROVIDES PARKING AT NORMAL RATES IN NEARBY LOT.</small>			



Weekend programs at the Natural History Museum are supported by a major grant from Farmers Insurance Group.

Natural History Museum 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007 www.nhm.org (213) 763-DINO
The Page Museum 5801 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036 www.tarpits.org (323) 934-PAGE
The Hart Museum 24151 Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA 91321 www.hartmuseum.org (661) 254-4584

(calendar continued from pg. 11)

ONGOING AT NHM Monday and Tuesday

- 2 pm: **Gallery Exploration Tour**
Join a Gallery Interpreter for this in-depth exploration of the Museum's galleries. Meet at the Dueling Dinos, Level 1
- 2 pm: **Story Time**
Join us for an interactive story time for children. Discovery Center
- 3 pm: **LIVE Animal Presentation**
Discovery Center

Wednesday through Friday

- 10 am: **Hop, Slither and Stalk**
Move and think like an animal in this interactive presentation created for children 3-8. North American Mammal Hall, Level 2
- 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm: **Dinosaur Encounters**
Get closer to dinosaurs than you ever thought possible! North American Mammal Hall, Level 2
- 2 pm: **Gallery Exploration Tour**
Join a Gallery Interpreter for this in-depth exploration of the Museum's galleries. Meet at the Dueling Dinos, Level 1
- 2 pm: **Story Time**
Join us for an interactive story time for children. Discovery Center
- 3 pm: **LIVE Animal Presentation**
Discovery Center

Saturday and Sunday

- 11 am: **LIVE Animal Presentation**
Meet our amazing, living animals to learn where they come from, what they eat, and more! Discovery Center
 - 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm: **Dinosaur Encounters**
Get closer to dinosaurs than you ever thought possible! North American Mammal Hall, Level 2
 - 12 pm: **Story Time**
Join us for an interactive story time for children. Discovery Center
 - 2 pm: **Gallery Exploration Tour**
Join a Gallery Interpreter for this in-depth exploration of the Museum's galleries. Meet at the Dueling Dinos, Level 1
 - 3 pm: **LIVE Animal Presentation**
Discovery Center
- Dinosaur Encounters is supported in part by the Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation.*

ONGOING AT THE PAGE MUSEUM Park Tour

Daily as staff permits: 1 pm
Page Museum Lobby

Gallery Adventure Tour

Daily as staff permits: 2:15 pm
Page Museum Admission Desk

ONGOING AT THE HART MUSEUM Museum Tour

Wednesday-Friday: 10 am-12:30 pm (every half hour)
Weekends: 11 am-3:30 pm (every half hour)

JUDSON STUDIOS:

Family Tradition Made, and Maintains, Rotunda Masterpiece

Stand in the 1913 Building's ornate Haaga Family Rotunda for a just a moment, and you're likely to find your gaze lifting reflexively up to the spectacular stained glass dome 53 feet up above the floor. This magnificent work of art was designed and created by Walter Horace Judson when the Museum first took its place in Exposition Park nearly 100 years ago.

The skylight's design combines influences from the English Craftsman Movement with American opalescent glass, incorporating both traditional shield forms and organic forms in an astounding array of colors. Experiencing the daylight shining through the translucent art can be uplifting, inspiring. It is an architectural highlight within one of the city's most impressive historic buildings.

Walter Horace Judson's father, William Lees Judson, was an accomplished plein air painter whose art was exhibited in the Museum in its earliest days. William Lees Judson founded USC's School of Fine Arts, as well as the Judson Studios, the artisanal stained glass company that not only made the skylight in the rotunda, but has also been responsible for its cleaning and restorations over the years.

In 1991, Bill Judson oversaw a major restoration, which received a preservation award from the Los Angeles Conservancy.

The family company, with its ongoing tradition of old-world craftsmanship, has made cultural and artistic contributions nationally, but particularly here in Southern California. The Judson Studios building in Highland Park is listed as an L.A. Cultural-Historic Monument.

Now David Judson, Bill Judson's brother and great-grandson of the skylight's designer, currently heads Judson Studios, representing the fifth generation in the family business, established in 1897. Recently, David Judson supervised a thorough cleaning, miscellaneous repairs, and increased seismic retrofitting of the skylight in the rotunda.

And his personal relationship with the Natural History Museum goes back, too. He recalls visiting the Museum as a child: "My parents took our family to the Museum fairly regularly. I don't remember when I first saw the rotunda, but I remember it being one of my favorite rooms. There was a certain grandness to it that you don't really know how to identify when you're a child, but you can feel it."

—Elon Schoenholz



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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



3- to 5-year-olds



Photo by Karen Knauer

Run as fast as you can!

How fast can you run? Faster than your parents? Faster than a bike? Faster than a car on the freeway? A cheetah can run faster than all of these things because of its slender body, long strides, and a huge tail that helps it balance. **Run as fast as you can and feel what it's like to be a cheetah!**



It's okay to be slow, too! Just ask a desert tortoise – it saves its energy by moving slowly – very slowly!

Visit the Discovery Center to meet a live desert tortoise, and see if you can **move even slower** than he does.

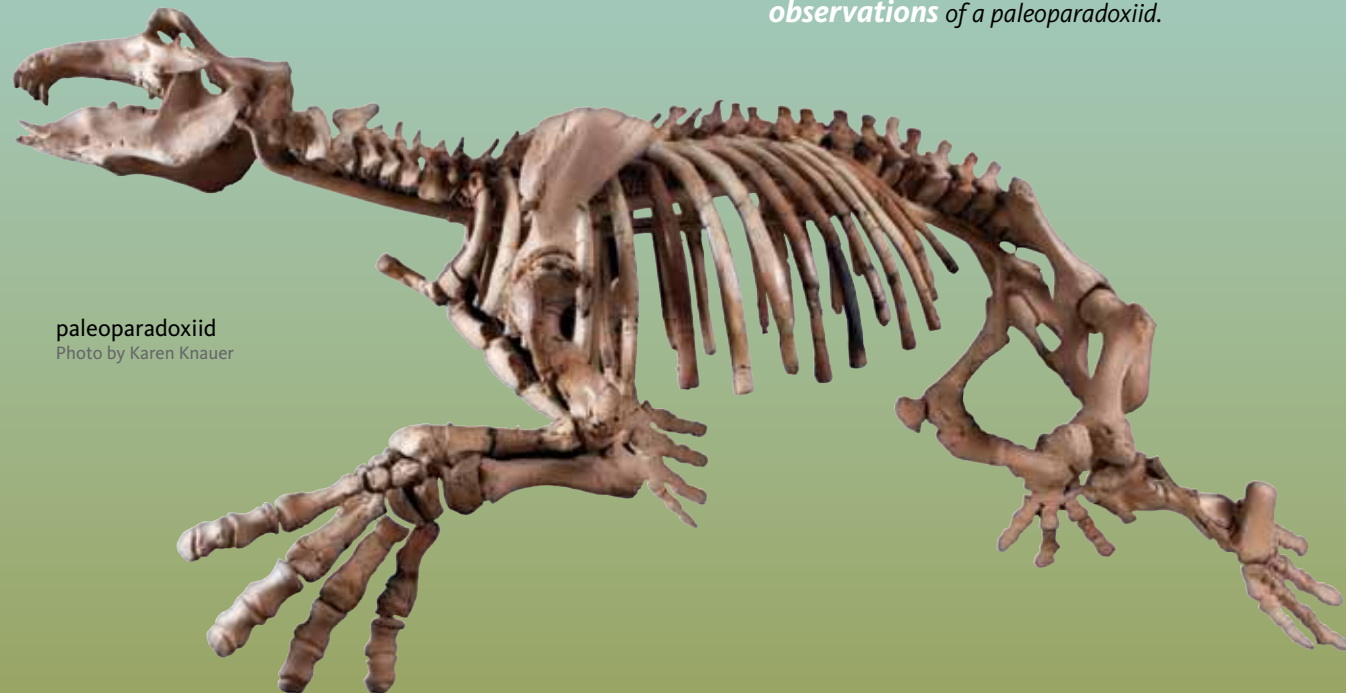


6- to 9-year-olds

Ancient Mysteries

Everyone knows the Natural History Museum has a lot of stuff – everything from dinosaur bones to diamonds, and sea stars to salamanders. But did you also know that scientists work here and are discovering new things every day? You can be a scientist, too, just by asking questions and making observations.

Visit the Age of Mammals and make even **more observations** of a paleoparadoxiid.



paleoparadoxiid
Photo by Karen Knauer

What is it?

Observations: Looking at all of the evidence leads us to believe that paleoparadoxiid is an ancient relative of the manatees that live today.

Unlike modern marine mammals, though, it didn't use a tail to propel itself through the water, and it also had to leave the oceans to find fresh water to drink and maybe even find food.



modern manatee
Photo by Jim Reid, USFWS

Where did it live?

Observations: First, **look at its feet!** Paleoparadoxiid had four flippers to help propel it through the water. It may have looked kind of like a hippopotamus when it swam.

Look for other clues, too – shark tooth bites have been found in paleoparadoxiid's bones, which is another reason why we think it lived at least some of its life in the (sometimes dangerous) oceans.



What did it eat?

Observations: **Look at its teeth!** They are pretty flat, which means paleoparadoxiid was an herbivore, or plant-eater.

Scientists think it might have eaten both marine plants (ones that grew in the ocean) and plants that grew in fresh, non-salty water.

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July/August 2010



**B-MOVIES
AND
BAD SCIENCE**

This summer, we're proud to bring back B-Movies and Bad Science!

Bring your picnic basket and blanket and enjoy the summer nights! Join a lively, lighthearted discussion with our science experts as we pick apart the featured movie to see if there's any common ground between science fact and science fiction. Then sit back, relax and enjoy an outdoor film.

Saturday July 17	It Came from Beneath the Sea (1955) NHM
Saturday, July 24	The Killer Shrews (1959) NHM
Sunday, August 1	Gorilla at Large (1954) NHM
Sunday, August 15	Gamera the Invincible (1965) NHM
Sunday, August 29	Caveman (1981) Page Museum

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Movie is free • Bring picnic dinner and drinks • Parking in Lot 3 (\$10)
Discussion at 7:30 pm with an NHM curator before the movie screening at 8 pm
For more info call 213.763.ED4U (3348) or visit us at www.nhm.org/bmovies