

SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

1305 EAST CLIFF DRIVE :: SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA : 95062 : TELEPHONE (408) 429-3773



MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER JANUARY-FEBRUARY

1986

FUNGUS FAIR



The 12th Annual Fungus Fair will be held at the Museum on January 10-11-12, Friday through Sunday. This is one of the biggest events of the Museum year, a treat for every member of your family.

More than 300 kinds of fully identified wild mushrooms will be on display, all arranged to look as they grow in the wild. There will again be cooking demonstrations, always a popular feature, with plenty of tasting. Delicious cream of chanterelle soup will be served, depending on the availability of chanterelles, of course.

The Fungus Fair is the brainchild of David Arora, author of Mushrooms Demystified. He approached the Museum twelve years ago with the idea of having a fungus display. The idea grew into the annual Fungus Fair, a very popular Museum event. David supervises every detail of the Fair and writes the creative descriptions of all the mushrooms on display. Writing comes naturally to David, who majored in creative writing and biology at UCSC. His senior thesis was "Mushrooms of the UCSC Campus."

Loyal members of the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz will be busy collecting specimens for the show. They will also be at the Fair to help you identify any mushrooms that you bring in. The Fungus Federation meets at the Museum the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Members go on field trips, reinforce their mushroom identification skills and receive a delightful bi-monthly newsletter called "Duff." New members are always welcome.

A new addition to the Fungus Fair this year will be a fashion show entitled "Fashions for Fungal Foragers," featuring a wide range of costumes suitable for mushroom hunting, ranging from the practical to tongue-in-chic. Photographs will be on display and there will be demonstrations of mushroom dyeing and mushroom paper. T-shirts, books, and mushroom-growing kits will be for sale.

SANTA CRUZ BOOK ARTS EXHIBITION

An interesting exhibition of the work of Santa Cruz fine printers and book artists will open Friday, January 24 at the Museum. No other small city in California has as many fine letterpress printers as Santa Cruz. This exhibit, which extends to March 2, features posters, prints and fine leather book binding of nine artists.

The exhibitors include Samuel Amico of Middle Earth Books; Bob and Judy Bellanger of Owl and Butterfly Press; Polly Fox, paper marbler; Constance Hunter, bookbinder; Tom Killion, Quail Press; Tom Mederos; Felicia Rice, Moving Parts Press; Gene Holtan and Elizabeth Sanchez of Green Gables Press; Peter and Donna Thomas, Good Book Press; Gary Young, Greenhouse Review Press; and Nick Zachreson, Blackwells Press.

All of these printers use the letterpress method, one of the oldest and most exacting kinds of printing, which has been done since the time of Gutenberg and the Mainz Bible of 1465. A reception will be held at the Museum on the evening of Friday, January 24. Each exhibitor will print his or her own page in a catalog of the exhibition which will be offered for sale.

Saturday, February 8, 10 am - 2 pm, Peter Thomas (Good Book Press) will be making paper and printing. Polly Fox will demonstrate paper marbeling.



Nick Zachreson

MUSEUM CLASSES

NOTE ON CLASSES: ALL REGISTRATION TAKES PLACE AT THE BOX OFFICE OF THE CIVIC AUDITORIUM. MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS GET A 10% DISCOUNT. PLEASE USE CLASS NUMBER WHEN REGISTERING.

Beginning Birdwatching. Sun., 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 9 am-12 noon; Wed., 2/5, 7-9:30 pm. \$24. Tom Hawke. #782.

Planning Your Herb Garden. Sat., 2/8, 9:30 am-3 pm. \$12. Eleanor Young. #784.

Local Native Trees and Shrubs. Sat., 2/8, 1:30-4:30 pm. \$5. Tom Hawke. #783.

San Juan Bautista Historical Architecture. Sat., 2/22, 9 am-2 pm. \$10. Edna Kimbro and Micki Ryan. #785.



CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Kids' Clay Class. Sat., 1/25, 10 am-1 pm. Ages 4-7. #780. Sat., 2/22, 10 am-1 pm. Ages 5-8. #786. \$5. Karen Hildebrand.

Printmaking for Kids. Sat., 2/1, 10 am-1 pm. Ages 4-7. \$5. Karen Hildebrand. #781.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Robert Herring: catalog, The Hover Collection of Karuk Baskets, Clarke Memorial Museum, Eureka, California, 1985.

Marie Griffiths: Twelve Days of Santa Cruz, booklet produced at photo workshop conducted at UCSC by Ansel Adams, Beaumont and Nancy Newhall, 1967.

Charles Prentiss: section of carpeting from Palomar Hotel, Santa Cruz, 1930s.

Bette Smith: 14 color photos from 1985 Begonia Festival and sand castle competition in Capitola.

Nutzle: two pen and ink drawings by Nutzle; of historical significance to Museum.

William March: pastel, Pinnacles, 1982 by Nutzle.

Barbara Parrill: crystal punch bowl said to have been used at the wedding of Fred Swanton.

Laird Solso: newspapers, Santa Cruz News, 1916; San Francisco Chronicle, 1936, front page only.

John Bowen: Bullock's Oriole nest.

Lydia Canale: hat decoration, 1890s.

Mildred Ann Smith: sea moss booklet, sea moss placemat, white beaded doily all made by Florence (Chickie) Mills.

VIEW FROM THE BASEMENT

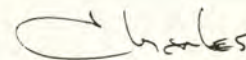
CURATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has been a busy one for the Museum Association Board, the Museum Commission, and the staff. The new computer system, four new part-time staff members, several grant proposals for special exhibits and loan kit programs, completion of the Geology/Fossil permanent exhibits, and reopening of the Museum to the public on Sundays, when added to the maintenance of our active exhibit and docent programs, kept everyone working hard and working together. The feeling of cooperation which exists between Association, Commission and staff has been rewarding to all of us.

One of the central issues which has been before the Association Board and the Commission has been the future growth of the Museum facility. We have completed a wonderful masterplan for the present Museum but two important questions need to be answered before we continue with the project: 1) "Should the Museum be in another location?" and 2) "Should the various museums in the community share facilities to create a greater sense of identity for all?" The Museum Commission has explored the feasibility of several alternative sites during the year and has met with representatives from the Art Museum of Santa Cruz County and the Octagon Museum to discuss the possibility of shared facilities.

Though the search for alternative sites has been unrewarding, the meetings with the other museums have been very positive. There is a feeling of trust and cooperation emerging from these meetings which will benefit all of us, whatever the outcome of the discussions. The decisions about the future of our facility will probably be made this Spring after the feasibility studies for the old County Jail building and the "Beach" areas have been completed. Feel free to convey your thoughts on the issue to me or to the Museum Commission. We will keep you posted as things progress.

Happy New Year,


Charles Prentiss



CASH FOR TRASH

If you take your old newspapers and aluminum to Ecology Action, 1260 17th Ave., please mention the Santa Cruz City Museum. Check with the attendant before you unload your car. They send the Museum Association a check every month depending on the number of pounds we turn in. It adds up. Call 476-8088 for further information.

BENITOITE: A MINERALOGICAL MYSTERY

Many of you probably know that we have an official state flower, the California poppy. Not as well known is that we also have a state mineral (gold), a state rock (serpentinite), and even a state fossil (the sabre-toothed cat). The most recent addition to this list is the mineral benitoite. Earlier this year, the State legislature passed a bill making it the official State gemstone.

This unusual mineral was discovered in 1907 high in the mountains of the New Idria district of San Benito County. The material was first believed to be a volcanic glass and, later, a sapphire. When Professor George Louderback of U.C. Berkeley studied in detail its composition and crystalline structure, however, he found it to be an as yet unnamed mineral species. He christened it "benitoite" after the county of origin.



Benitoite is truly a remarkable mineral. The lovely blue crystals are unique. In mineralogical terms, they are described as hexagonal: ditrigonal bipyramidal. Though crystallographers had predicted such an occurrence in nature, the mineral world had no naturally occurring representative of this crystal class until the discovery of benitoite.

Gem quality benitoite occurs in only one area of the world, and has been collected from only one mine. There it occurs in veins of naturalite which cut through green schist interlayered with serpentine. Perhaps it would be better to say "occured," for this mine was exhausted and another such occurrence has never been found.

In the new geology exhibit at the Museum there is a specimen of benitoite crystals on naturalite with dark-colored crystals of neptunite. A cut benitoite specimen for the exhibit was loaned by Larry Bourdeau.

DOCENTS

NEW DOCENT TRAINING

Mondays, February 3 to April 7, 9 am to 12 noon.

General meetings: January 27, February 24.

MEETINGS AT THE MUSEUM

Public Welcome

Monday, January 13, 7:30 pm.
California Native Plant Society
Program to be announced.

Wednesday, January 15, 7 pm.
Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz
"Uses of Mushrooms in Different Cultures" - Dr. Andrew Weil, Tucson, Arizona.

Thursday, January 16, 7:30 pm.
Santa Cruz Archaeological Society
"Findings at SCR-93, Rigg Street, Santa Cruz" - Larry Bourdeau, consulting archaeologist to City of Santa Cruz.

Wednesday, February 19, 7 pm.
Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz
Program to be announced.

Thursday, February 27, 7:30 pm.
Santa Cruz Bird Club
"Contemporary Falconry" - Kevin McRae, Santa Clara Audubon Society.



BENITOITE SLIDE TALK - FREE

Intrigued by the benitoite article? On Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 pm Mr. Larry Bourdeau will present a slide talk on benitoite. While volunteering at the Museum in 1982, Larry first learned about this mineral. Fascinated, he launched into a remarkable adventure culminating in the establishment of his own benitoite mining claim and a small business cutting the specimens as gems. Larry, a geological and archaeological consultant, will bring specimens he has cut and take us on a tour (through slides) of the original benitoite mine and the old mining town of New Idria.

The mine tailings and placer deposits from which small amounts of benitoite are still obtained are all under claim and strictly off limits to the public. This armchair tour will be a treat.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT IN WATSONVILLE



Works of art and artifacts from the Museum's ethnographic collections will be exhibited at La Manzana in Watsonville from January 13 to March 2, 1986. We will be using the cases in the gallery provided by the Art Museum of Santa Cruz County.

The exhibit will include California Indian baskets, Plains Indian beadwork, Northwest Indian and Eskimo artifacts, Southwest Indian pottery, and materials from the Pacific Islands and Asia. These artifacts are not generally on display at the Museum.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BIG SUCCESS



Congratulations to our membership chairman, volunteer Ruth Antolini, and Association Coordinator Joanne Snyder, for spearheading the recent membership drive that resulted in 200 new members for the Museum Association. A great job! Ruth is delighted to have increased her work load by 25%.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Louise Alderson
Mary Barnett
Linda Barsanti
Catherine Bayer
Richard Beggs
Earl Billings
Margi Bolin
Nicole Boroff
Terry Boyer
Dawn Breese
Rob & Nancy Bremner
Bunnett family
Kathleen Buoye
Mrs. Lynford Bushman
Phil Carpenter family
Steven & Marie Carter
& family
Christina Case-Gabbard

Steve Chambers
Michael Clark family
Drs. Don & Karen Cohen
Ruth Collins
Copy Cat, Inc.
Dorothy Cornell
Irene Crawley
Joan DeNeffe
Julia Drow
Jim Durning family
Allan Dyson
Douglas Fakkema
Michael & Padric Fisher
Jan Fitzpatrick
Carol Foote
Friends of the Watson-
ville Public Library
Cathy & John Gettler

Gillespie family
Mike Gillming
Mrs. Raymond Goodrich
John Gowen
Charles & Mildred Gregory
Andy Grunes
Blanche Gzsanka
Linda Hanson
Mrs. E. M. Harris
Daniel Haut
Dennis Heher
Carol Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hodgson
Rick Hyman
Mr. & Mrs. James
Kathryn Johnson
Roy Johnson, Jr.
Alice Kardon
Charlotte Keesling
Jessica Rukin King
Ken Kittock
Karla Kleinsasser
Michael R. LaBauve
Dryden, Hal & Julie
Levin
B. Z. Lingafelter
Linda Locklin
Mayrebelle Lukins
Evelyn Madsen
Jodi Maestas
Marlene Majewska
Gerry Mandel
Steve Mandel
Joe and Carol Marini
Sally Matheson
Dominic Massaro

Frances McTamane
Paula Mellaid
Julie Messina
John & Lois Moore
Louise Moore
John Mott
Sheila O'Day
Henry Orwitz
Mr. & Mrs. Donald
Osterbrock
Leon & Felicia Papernow
Mimi Petritz
Alzono Raymond
Barbara Reber
Eleni Remde
Alma Bajet Rodriguez
Deborah Rogers
Elizabeth Sadoff
Linda Schauble
Alan Schlenger
Barbara Scott
Peter Scott
Julie & Geoff Scurfield
Rodney Sharp
Maja Smith
Phyllis Strickland &
family
Greg Theriaut
Phyllis Thompson
Celia Von der Muhll
J.H. Wallace
Cheri Ward
Paula Ward
Wanda & Richard Warner
Tom & Constance Williams
D. Wubbin

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