

SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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



MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER
JULY - AUGUST 1987

GIANT SHARK TOOTH

Of the many fossil discoveries made through the years in the Santa Cruz Mountains, few have drawn as much publicity as the giant shark tooth found by Greg Seals of Ben Lomond in 1975. The eight-year-old boy found the fossil in a sand hill near his home, but at first did not know what it was. When he found it, the fossil was completely encased by a sandstone concretion. After part of the concretion broke off, a local high school teacher saw it and recognized what was inside. The find would have been newsworthy any year, but this was the summer the movie Jaws was released, spewing forth a wave of sharkmania. The find quickly made newspaper headlines.

The tooth is extraordinary in size, measuring 6 inches long from base to tip. The chestnut brown enamel glistens with a dull sheen, highlighting the delicate serrations along its edge. Well preserved shark teeth of this size are quite rare and are highly sought after by fossil collectors.

The 10 to 12 million-year-old fossil is from Carcharodon megalodon, an extinct relative of the modern great white shark. Its species name, megalodon, comes from the Greek, meaning large tooth. Fossil evidence shows it to have been nearly world-wide in distribution during the Miocene. It may even have survived as late as the Pliocene Epoch, which began 5 million years ago.

Much has been written about its probable size, often with exaggeration. The facts, however, still reveal a fish of amazing proportions. The most reliable estimates place the beast at 43 feet long, tipping the scales at 14 tons. For comparison, modern great whites reach about 20 feet long and seldom have teeth longer than 2 inches. Its Miocene relative was so large it could swallow a marine mammal as big as a horse. Locally, its teeth have been found in association with fossil sea lion, walrus, and sea cow remains. Direct evidence of its feeding habits has come from a locality near Bakersfield where marine mammal bones bearing shark tooth bite marks have been unearthed.

The Museum is most fortunate to have this tooth on long-term loan. It will be placed on exhibit beginning August 1.

DISCOVER NEARY LAGOON



It is an unexpected pleasure to discover Neary Lagoon Park only a mile from downtown Santa Cruz off of California Ave. at Bay Street. At this peaceful park and wildlife refuge a visitor can play tennis, bring young children to a delightful playground, have a picnic or barbeque and observe plants, birds and other animals.

Thanks to the Santa Cruz City Museum and grant funds obtained by the City Parks and Recreation Department, there will soon be new interpretive displays at the refuge to help visitors understand the history and ecology of the area. Under the direction of John Anderson, Museum Assistant, five educational panels are being produced by Frank Perry. At the entrance there will be a double display. One part will be a brief introduction to Neary Lagoon with a map to orient visitors. The other will be historical, including a photo from the late 1870s of farmer James Neary, and aerial photos of 1906 and 1972 to compare to the present lagoon.

A path down wooden stairs leads to the floating boardwalk into the freshwater lagoon, bringing visitors close to the many resident and migratory birds. More than two hundred bird species have been recorded here. To aid in bird identification, there will be two large panels on the rails of the boardwalk. Pictured in color will be the most common species (continued on back page)



Pat Smith

MUSEUM CLASSES

Register at Parks and Recreation office in Civic Auditorium, Monday-Friday, 9 am-6 pm. Call 429-3663 for further information. Adult classes are for age 15 and up. 10% DISCOUNT FOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

#706 Drawing for Adults. Tue., 7/7, 14, 21, 28, 7-9 pm. \$20, material fee \$5. Gypsy Ray.

#707 All About Banana Slugs. Wed., 7/8, 7:30-9:30 pm. \$3. Alice Harper.

#709 Make a Woven Berry Basket. Sat., 7/11, 1-4:30 pm. \$8.75, material fee \$5. Lorna Pollock.

#711 Pine Needle Basketry. Sun., 7/12, 9:30 am-3:30 pm. \$15, material fee \$10. Lorna Pollock.

Monterey Path of History Adobe Tour.

#712 Sun., 7/12, 10 am-3 pm.

#720 Wed., 7/22, 10 am-3 pm.

\$10, material fee \$1. Don Hirschaut.

Underwater Kelp Forest Ecology/Pt. Lobos Walk.

#714 Thu., 7/16, 7-9:30 pm & Sat., 7/18, 10 am-3 pm.

#724 Mon., 8/3, 7-9:30 pm & Wed., 8/5, 10 am-3 pm.

\$15. Don Hirschaut.

#717 Japanese Bookmaking Class. Sat., 7/18, 1-6 pm. \$16, material fee \$8. Gypsy Ray.

#719 The World of Honeybees - a Guided Tour. Tue., 7/21, 7-10 pm. \$3. Jim Meyer.

#721 Make a Ribbed Appalachian Gathering Basket. Sat., 7/25, 9:30 am-3:30 pm. \$15, material fee \$10. Lorna Pollock.

#723 Gifts from the Garden. Sat., 8/1, 9:30 am-3 pm. \$14, material fee \$3. Eleanor Young.

Ano Nuevo Natural History Walk. Age 16 & up.

#726 Sat., 8/8, 10 am-3 pm.

#729 Wed., 8/12, 10 am-3 pm.

\$10, parking fee \$2. Don Hirschaut.



Pat Smith, 1952

#731 Storytelling Workshop. Mon., 8/17, 10 am-1 pm. \$6, material fee \$.50. Simone Mortan.

#732 Invitation to Astronomy. Sat., 7/25, 6:30-10:30 pm. \$8. Joe Jordan.

CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

#708 **Preschool Nature, Crafts and Science. Ages 3-K. Sat., 9-11am, 7/11,18,25. \$14, material fee \$6. Maria Wright.

#710 Make a Woven Berry Basket. Ages 9-15. Sat., 7/11, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. \$6.50, material fee \$5. Lorna Pollock.



#713 **Preschool Nature Rovers: Slippery Rocks and Sea Stars. Ages 3-5. Wed., 7/15, 9-11 am. \$4. Simone Mortan.

All About Honeybees and Hives for Kids.

#715 Ages 5-7. Sat., 7/18, 10:45 am-noon. \$3.

#716 Ages 8-12. Sat., 7/18, 9 am-10:45 am. \$4.

Jim Meyer.

#718 Painting Class for Children. Ages 7-12. Sun., 7/19,26, 1-4 pm. \$13, material fee \$5. Gypsy Ray.

#722 **Preschool Nature Rovers: Redwood Forest Creek Walk. Ages 3-5. Wed., 7/29, 10 am-12 noon. \$4. Simone Mortan.

#725 **Natural Moves for Preschoolers. Ages 3-K. Thu., 8/6,13,20,27, 9-10 am. \$6. Maria Wright.

#727 Kids Indian Food and Fun Fair. Ages 6-11. Sat., 8/8,15,22, 9 am-noon. \$20, material fee \$5. Maria Wright.



#728 **Preschool Nature Rovers: Dragonflies and Dipnets. Ages 3-K. Wed., 8/12, 10 am-noon. \$4. Simone Mortan.

#730 **Preschool American Indian Cooking. Ages 3-K. Sat., 8/29, 9 am-noon. \$7, material fee \$3. Maria Wright.

****Only children pay fee but adult *must* accompany each child.**

Cows at the Octagon

An exhibit about about the history of the dairy industry in Santa Cruz County and surrounding areas will be at the Santa Cruz Historical Museum (the Octagon) from July 18 through September 18. Anyone with photos, artifacts or memories of dairying in this area please contact Nikki Silva at the Santa Cruz County Historical Museum, 425-2540, very soon.

The exhibit will feature historical photographs of dairy farms which were once active such as Wilder Ranch, Moo Cow Dairy, Green Oaks Ranch, Elkhorn Dairy, Scaroni Ranch and many others. The display will also include tools and dairying equipment; early butter wrappers, milk bottles and other packaging materials; and antique toys and kitchenware relating to the dairy theme.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

"THE CHINESE IN THE MONTEREY BAY REGION" exhibit opens on Wednesday, July 1 at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, 165 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove. There will be a reception between 4-6 pm. A special feature will be a Lecture/History Walk with Sandy Lydon, "The Chinese in Monterey," on Saturday, July 18, 1-4 pm starting at the Hopkins Marine Station. The exhibit will close on August 2.



Carol Query

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY: Everyone from old-timers to young fry turned out to help celebrate the Association's tenth birthday on June 7. It was a very festive occasion.

WALK-A-THON: Twenty-nine walkers raised \$1566 for the Museum. Many thanks to all walkers, sponsors and others who helped make this a successful event.

Walkers were: Joy Grant; Pat Hurley; Mary Ellen Irons; Nicholas Jansons; Roger Kern; John Lane; Amelia Leslie; Cordi Likes; Lydia Parker; Bob and Joshua Patterson; John and Vicki Pearse; Sue, David, and Emilie Powell; Jim Price; Madeline Silber; Pat and Kirk Smith; Merrit Taylor; Lu Trundle; Joanne and Tom Snyder; Margaret Whaley; Judy, Alan and Paul Ziegler; and Margaret Ziminicki.

SURFING MUSEUM: The Surfing Museum at Lighthouse Point has become a very popular attraction. It will be open every day this summer from noon to 5 pm. Surfers often act as hosts on weekends. The Surfing Museum Advisory Committee would like to add a free standing flagpole, an outdoor compass in the ground, and a wooden sign. If you can help with any of these items, call Dee Bush at 425-1746.

THE CASE OF THE CLOSET DOOR: So far no one has provided any information about the closet door mentioned in the May-June Newsletter, the door with pressed sea moss behind a glass panel. Please come forward with your clues.

TRAVELER'S ALERT: The Riverside Municipal Museum has extended the exceptional exhibit of "Native American Basketry of Central California" until December. There is a catalog in our Docent Library if you are interested. One of our Museum's two Ohlone baskets is on loan to this exhibit.

MOVING? Please remember to notify the Museum if you change your address. 10 % of our members move every year and it is expensive and time consuming to track them down.

MEETINGS AT THE MUSEUM

Public Welcome

Monday, July 13, 7:30 pm.

Santa Cruz Bird Club

"Bring Your Own Slides" night. For details call 423-CNPS or Carol Query at 475-9653.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Harry Mayo: 9 photos of Lighthouse area, Seabright beach and surf rescue squad.

Johnny Rice: photo of himself (age 12) next to surfboard.

Sam and Bessie Chin: Chinese artifacts and work tools from Chinn farm, Salinas.

William Webber: fossil sea cow scapula from Santa Margarita formation.

TRIBUTE FUND

Dorothy C Thigpen: For the Surfing Museum in memory of her son, Thomas C. Ostrander, who loved to surf Steamer Lane.

NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Anderson

Dell Williams, Inc.

Beverly Dyc

Katherine Franger

Carol Fuller

Beth & Casey Jonquil

Pamela Keith

Florence Lee

Jennifer Lefler-Kahn

Wilma Lyon

Steven Miller

Kevin & Carolyn O'Donnell

Barbara Veiner

Earl Wear

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Williams

DOCENTS

New Officers:

President: Edie Kuhr

Vice Pres.: Barbara Lincoln

Secretary: Margaret Shakespeare

Treasurer: Carla Winter

Scheduler: Gunnela Berger

DOCENT TRAINING is for you if you are interested in the natural environment and history of Santa Cruz and want to learn how to share your knowledge with groups who come to the Museum. Training classes under the leadership of John Lane will start in September. Call him at the Museum (429-3773) for further information.

Instead of holding summer meetings this year, the docents will be taking field trips: behind the scenes at Long Marine Lab on Monday, July 20, and Rancho del Oso on Monday, August 17. If you are a prospective docent, please join them.

NEARY LAGOON (continued)

of birds, male and female, and in some cases both breeding and non-breeding plumage will be shown.

Along the asphalt path there are two overlooks and at these points there will be more displays. The first one will explain the common plants of the lagoon such as tule, cattails and willows. The other overlook panel will depict the energy cycle or food chain of the lagoon and the delicate balance of lagoon ecology. The fine art work is being done by Anne Alexander and Dielle Lee, both trained in the scientific illustration classes at U.C. Santa Cruz.

A twelve page brochure about the history and natural history of the lagoon, researched by Frank Perry with photographs by Alexander Lowry, will be ready in early August and will be available at the Museum and at the City Parks and Recreation offices.

The Museum team working on the Neary Lagoon displays needs to solve tricky problems such as finding long-lasting paints, making the artwork vandal resistant, and researching every fact. The final results will be ready by early September. But, in the meantime, familiarize yourself with this lovely park, a place for people and wildlife to share.



Pat Smith

Dielle Lee and Anne Alexander, scientific illustrators, discuss art work for Neary Lagoon displays.

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Doug Petersen	President	462-1278
Bette Smith	Vice Pres.	476-5272
Tom McCarthy	Treasurer	476-2526
Sue Powell	Secretary	425-1890

ASSOCIATION COORDINATOR

Joanne Snyder	429-3773
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1305 EAST CLIFF DRIVE
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
408-429-3773

Museum Hours:
Tue.-Sat.: 10 am-5 pm
Sun.: noon-5 pm

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Dielle Lee

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