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EXTREME WEATHER SERIES OPENS WITH GARY GRIGGS’ “PERILS IN PARADISE” AT LONDON NELSON

SERIES OF EVENTS FROM SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY EXAMINES RECENT STORMS, HISTORY OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY’S CLIMATE FUTURE

SANTA CRUZ, CA — FEBRUARY 23, 2023 — The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History will present a series of events to reflect on recent storms, learn about the history of natural disasters in Santa Cruz County, and consider our climate future.

The new year brought several weeks of unrelenting extreme weather to the Santa Cruz area, resulting in floods, landslides, tree falls, and coastal erosion. These storms led to road closures, damage to hundreds of homes, injuries, power outages, and have had extreme impacts on popular attractions like West Cliff Drive, the Capitola Wharf, and the Seacliff Pier. The upcoming series [Extreme Weather](#) will present opportunities to learn about these events while considering their historic context.

The series opens with [Perils in Paradise](#) on Thursday, March 2, 2023, 6-8 p.m. at London Nelson Community Center featuring Dr. Gary Griggs, Distinguished Professor of Earth & Planetary Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz, as keynote speaker. The presentation will explore the historical and geologic context of the perils we endure to live in paradise, followed by “lightning talks” from experts turning attention to the future of this landscape, the implications of climate change, and community actions to address these challenges.

Other panelists for *Perils in Paradise* include Dr. Tiffany Wise-West, Climate Action Program Manager for the City of Santa Cruz, and Dr. Nate Mantua, climate scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Office. The panel will be moderated by Felicia B. Van Stolk, Executive Director at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

“Our community has a long history of coming together in response to natural disasters, understanding that historical context alongside science-based projections for the future can be empowering and even inspiring,” says Van Stolk.

Following the March 2 event at London Nelson, the Museum will offer a free Extreme Weather Resource Fair Saturday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community members are invited to explore resources and ask questions of experts from [City of Santa Cruz Climate Action](#)

[Program, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, California Native Plant Society, Santa Cruz County Chapter](#), and other local organizations.

Learn more about the event series:

<https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/march-2023-extreme-weather-events/>

About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's mission is *connecting people with nature and science to inspire stewardship of the natural world*. The Museum was first established with the personal collection of local naturalist and lighthouse keeper Laura Hecox. Founded in 1904, becoming an independent nonprofit in 2009, it has a proud history as the first public museum in Santa Cruz. The Museum is located in Tyrrell Park, bordered by its Garden Learning Center featuring native plants and grasses, and a life-size gray whale model greeting the public. The historical collection, public programs, and location make this institution a cherished landmark located across from the entrance to Seabright State Beach. Learn more about the Museum at santacruzmuseum.org.

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