



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE MUSEUM

### "Life Through Time" gets a face-lift from local artists



*The new display case redesigned by Gail and Rich Paselk*

Who knew so much work went into designing and maintaining exhibits at museums? It turns out that the quality of our exhibits is due, in large part, to our dedicated volunteers, including community members and Humboldt State University faculty and students. Two key volunteers, over the past 15 years, are Gail and Rich Paselk. Rich, a chemistry professor, and his wife Gail have donated hundreds of charitable hours doing everything from sewing banners that served as early event advertisements (before the internet and even facebook!) to crafting and creating Museum exhibits.

Recently, Rich and Gail have been meticulously re-designing each of the cases in the "Life Through Time" exhibit. Over the past year, they have sacrificed hundreds of square feet in their house to dust off fossils from our extensive collection, lay new fabric over the display boxes, update

text for each geologic period. Gail also discovered she was an artist while working on exhibits some years ago. She has been painting visual re-creations of the flora and fauna for each Epoch that are now hanging in the cases. We would like to graciously thank them for their hard work and invite you to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Other "Life Through Time" contributing artists - by Suzanna Fonseca

**Artist on the Rise:** As our regular visitors know, much of the art in the museum has been created by local artist. Currently we are featuring puzzles made by Paula Levine and watercolors by Lauren Lester. However, have you ever noticed that local artists have also created images in our displays? In addition to community members like Gail Paselk, some artists can also be found working at the front counter of the Natural History Museum.

Sarah Hamblin is a recent graduate from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and three minors; studio art, multicultural queer studies, and women's studies. Sarah has recently finished an artistic piece for the Mississippian display that will, "aim to capture the simple-bodied sea life present in the 'crinoids' meadows' of that era." The piece was created using "colored pencil and graphite, with some crayon accents."

When asked, "What got you into art?" Sarah relished in the response by saying, "I took a lower division art class to satisfy the GE requirement and became inspired. The class focused on basic drawing techniques. I shocked myself with the artwork I was able to create and interpret with my mind and hand. Thereafter I knew I needed to continue my artistic expression with the skills that were cultivated by my instructors."

The Natural History Museum would also like to acknowledge our previous employee Kellan M. Korcheck and her partner Micha Royce for their artistic contributions to the museum. Many of you have most likely seen their work as you enter the museum. Kellan designed the WELCOME sign with intricate and detailed sketches of plant, sea, air and land life. She and her partner are currently working on a painting to be placed in the Neogene case.



*"Mississippian Meadow" by Sarah Hamblin*

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 Handyzack  
 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**

## FALL 2011 CALENDAR

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Sep 2011	28	29	30	1 Oct
4	5	6	7	8
11 Free Admission	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21  Science Night	22
25	26	27 Art Night 	28	29
1 Nov	2	3	4	5
8 Free Admission	9	10	11 Arts! Arcata	12 Earth Science Day 
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24 Holiday 	25	26 Christmas tree sale begins
29	30 Mushroom Talk 	1 Dec	2	3 Mushroom Walk 
6	7	8	9 Arts! Arcata	10 Chemistry & Physics Day
13 Free Admission	14	15 Conifer Talk 	16	17
20	21	22	23	24 Holiday 
27	28	29	30	31

## FROM JEFFREY WHITE DIRECTOR - HUMBOLDT SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS CENTER



It has been quite a year since the reopening of the Natural History Museum a year ago! Thanks to the efforts and support of many—including students, faculty, community members, and the University—we have a thriving museum. Our education programs are in full swing and we also have new and upgraded exhibits. This is a remarkable achievement given the current budget climate and increasing operational requirements.

Several individuals have played pivotal roles in making the museum a success this past year. No one has done more to deserve our gratitude than Julie Van Sickle, our interim manager. She has managed a new ten-person staff, streamlined accounting processes, facilitated program and exhibit development, and contributed immensely to fund-raising. Please give Julie a big “thank you” if you see her.

Thank you to Richard and Gail Paselk! They have continued volunteer work at the museum including upgrades to the “Life Through Time” exhibit. Gail’s artistic work and Rich’s curatorial contributions are on display for all to enjoy. Also, thank you to Steve Smith of the College of Natural Resources and Sciences and his entire staff. The advocacy and support of all these contributors have made a huge impact on the current successes.

Many others deserve recognition, especially those who created and managed the museum over the past two decades. We invite you all to come by to say hello and enjoy our new exhibits and offerings. And of course, we hope you renew your membership and bring new members to the Natural History Museum. We depend on all of you to keep our museum vibrant and strong.

## FALL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FAIR - GREAT SUCCESS!

On September 21 the Natural History Museum was filled to the brim with representatives from over twenty Humboldt County organizations and agencies that offer environmental education resources for teachers. This lively afternoon fair was a chance for teachers to learn about the myriad of field trip opportunities, in-class presentations, and other local resources available to help build the environmental literacy of their students while supporting academic goals. With Humboldt Wildlife Care Center’s rehabilitated owls, Friends of the Dunes’ dry touch tank, BLM’s orienteering tools, and a wide variety of other program samples, the event was informative for teachers and fun for their tag-a-long family members. Many thanks to all who participated!



To learn more about regional environmental education resources visit [www.creec.org/region1](http://www.creec.org/region1).

## Earth Science Day\*

November 12th from 11:00-3:00

Join us at the NHM for activities and demonstrations by Humboldt State Geoscience majors that model earth science phenomena including plate tectonics, soil identification, astronomy, mineralogy and tsunamis!

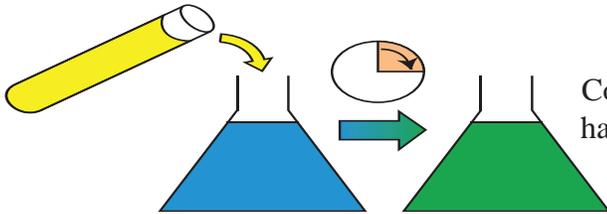


## Chemistry and Physics Day\*

December 10th 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 these events!*



## All hail the NEW queen! by Suzanna Fonseca

Earlier in August our first beloved Queen of the new hive said her last farewells and departed. When the queen left the hive she did so with half of her loyal subjects. This is known as a swarm and they leave in order to find a new home. When the Queen left she left the hive in the care of a new queen bee. Our new Queen has assumed her position as leader and is now working diligently in the hive.

How does a hive get a new queen? Is our new queen simply the 'chosen one' or was she born as royalty so to speak? It turns out all bees are born exactly the same and for the first few days each are given food called "Royal Jelly."

The nurse bees, which always surround the queen, are the only ones

who can make royal jelly. The nurse bees do this by mixing some chemicals with pollen, nectar, or honey and excreting it from their head, kind of like brain juice! This mixture is milky and is used to literally make a queen bee. After a few days of feeding most larva are no longer fed the royal jelly, however those that continue to eat it develop differently. Some may increase in size and change from sterile female worker bees ultimately into a fully reproductive queen bees.

It takes about 16 days for a larva to become a queen bee and after that time the first queen bee to emerge from the honey comb sets out and kills the other growing queen bees. The fittest queen does this in order to prevent confusion. If worker bees are directed by chemical released by the queen and if more than one queen is around the hive would be confused. However, if a queen fails to fulfill her duties within the first few days of her reign the workers will force her out of the hive and create a new batch of queen bees.

However, there is no need to fret since our new queen has been fulfilling her duties head on and is now officially the queen bee.



*Can you find the queen?*

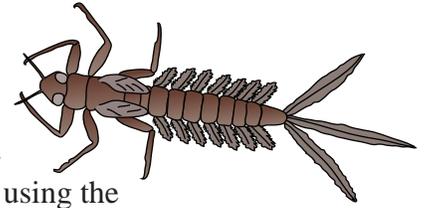


*Suzanna Fonseca with the hive*

## Art Night at the Museum\*

Thursday 10/27, 6:30-8:30pm

Spend an evening drawing or painting rarely seen, beautiful and bizarre museum specimens and get into the Halloween spirit. We will bring out collections of insects, skulls, fossils and more for you to examine and interpret using the artistic medium of your choice. You are welcome to participate in a mini art show at the conclusion of the evening to share our works of art. Basic drawing and painting supplies will be provided for those who do not bring their own.



## NHM SPEAKER SERIES

### Common Mushrooms of Humboldt County\*

November 30th 7:00-9:00pm

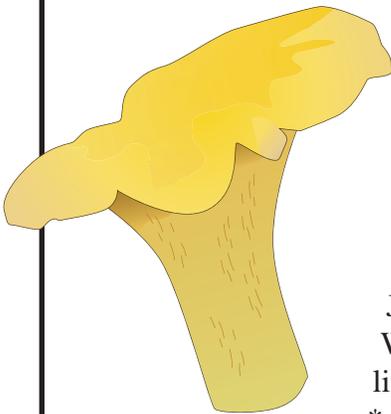
Join us for a night at the museum with Joann Olson, president of the Humboldt Bay Mycology Society, and Virginia Waters as they introduce us to the biology, ecology and identification of the fabulous fungi found in Humboldt County in the rainy season.

### Saturday Mushroom Walk

December 3 - 9:30am-12:30pm

Join Joann and Virginia for a walk in Trinidad for a hands-on compliment to their Wednesday talk. Please sign up at the museum for this event because the walk is limited to twenty participants.

\*please register for both events (must attend talk to go on walk!)

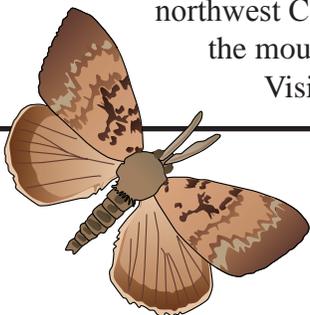


### Christmas Trees of the Klamath Mountains\*

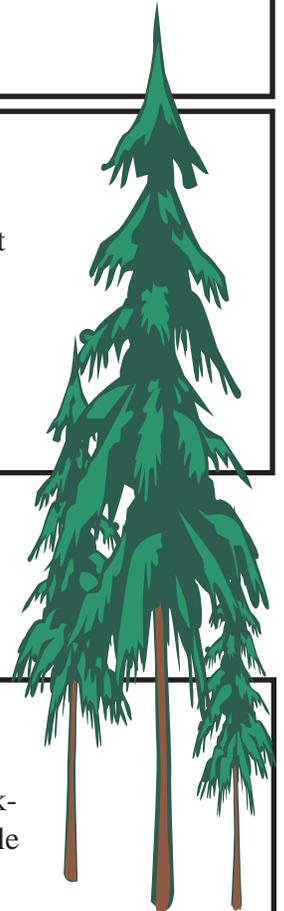
December 15th, 7pm

Join science teacher and conifer lover Michael Kauffmann for an evening exploring what exactly a conifer is and why they have traditionally been used for celebrating the holidays. We will also get a glimpse of the amazing diversity of conifers in northwest California when Michael takes us for a virtual field trip into the mountains to see some Christmas trees in their native habitats.

Visit his website [www.conifercountry.com](http://www.conifercountry.com) for more.



*\*Standard Museum admission applies and children are encouraged to attend with adult supervision.*



### Christmas Trees sale

Begins November 26th!

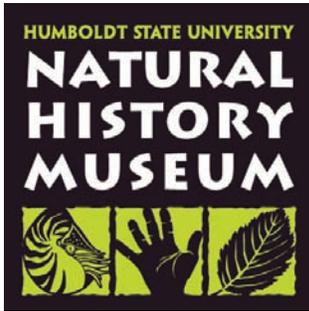
The HSU Forestry Club will be selling noble fir trees in the Natural History Museum parking lot beginning Saturday, November 26th. Holiday ornaments and gifts will be for sale in the Museum gift shop. Come show your support as you prepare of the holidays!



# 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:

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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 PROGRAMS BY JENNIFER ORTEGA

It was exciting at the museum during the summer youth programs and when summer camps came to the museum on a field trip day. A big thank you to our amazing instructors and teaching assistants ----Patti Johnson, Elena George, Sasha Hansen, Kirsten Reddy, Naomi Marshall, Alyssa Guerrero, and Shaelyn Thomas. Without these dedicated educators there would have been no summer youth programs.

New this summer was a partnership between Center Activities Youth Rock Climbing Camp at the HSU Student Recreation Center and the Natural History Museum's Redwood Rangers. Campers had the opportunity to create a full day program by participating in a half day of rock climbing and half day of hiking in the redwoods. Redwood Rangers was an experience-based camp where campers hiked in the redwood forest behind campus. Campers gained an understanding of the interconnectedness of the forest organisms including our role as humans.

The two weeks of space camp Space Rocks and To the Stars & Beyond were extremely popular. The big highlights were launching rockets and the invitation to the Fickle Hill Telescope. Watch the Museum web site for future opportunities like telescope viewing of the night sky!

Wondering about Wildlife and Nature Detectives were the last two weeks of camp. Campers used their keen senses to observe wildlife. Thank you Humboldt Wildlife Care Center for bringing educational birds to the museum. With these observations they quickly realized the variety of wildlife and the unique adaptations some animals have for survival. Campers took field trips to Redwood Park and the Arcata Marsh.

So far we have taught over 1000 students at the museum since the reopening!

## SCHOOL VISITS TO THE MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum offers a wide variety of school programs for preschool through twelve grade students. Program topics include animal structures, animal skulls, fossils, rocks and minerals, Redwood ecology, plate tectonics, mammals through time, wetlands, extinction and geologic time, and carbon impacts. The California Department of Education, Education in the Environment curriculum is also incorporated into the school visit programs.



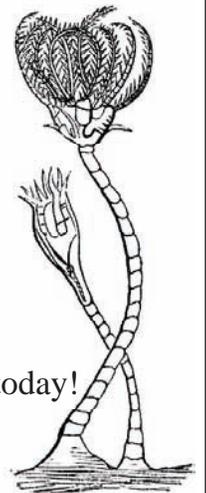
School visit programs are led by Museum Education Interns under the mentorship of Jennifer Ortega. The Museum Education Interns are HSU students from a variety of majors who are interested in education.

For more information on our school visit programs or to sign up, visit the education page of our website or contact Jennifer Ortega at [Jennifer.Ortega@humboldt.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Ortega@humboldt.edu).

## Nature Notes: CRINOIDS by Sarah Hamblin

Mid Cambrian (450 million years ago) - Present

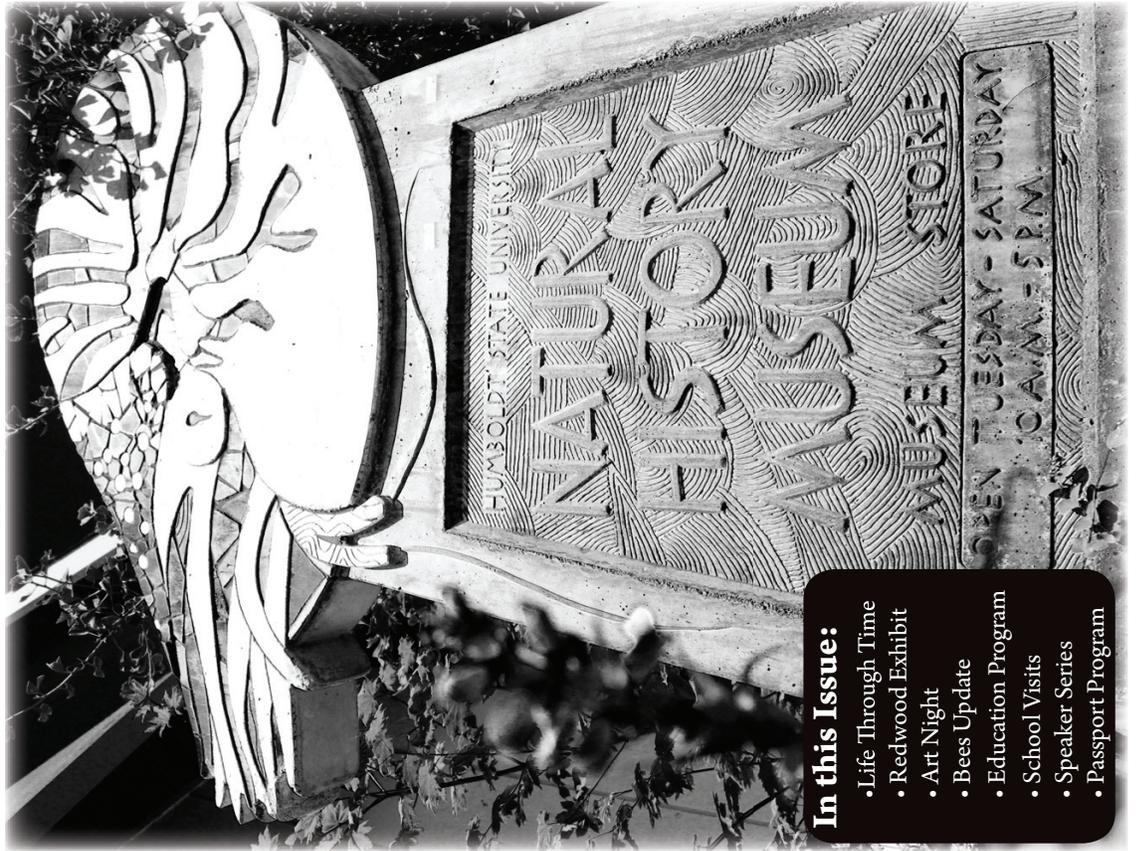
- Size: Small – Large, 20 meters long
- A type of Echinoderm, a marine animal
- Most are attached to the sea floor with long stalks
- Food gathering arms are usually branched and sway in ocean currents to gather food
- “Feathers” on branches appear during Mesozoic era (250 million years ago)
- This ancient creature is has survived 450 million years and can still be seen in oceans today!



# FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER



LOOK CLOSER  
MAKE CONNECTIONS



**In this Issue:**

- Life Through Time
- Redwood Exhibit
- Art Night
- Bees Update
- Education Program
- School Visits
- Speaker Series
- Passport Program



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

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