

TRACKS

A Publication of the Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends

September–November

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The Many Moods of the Back Bay

The Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends are very excited about an innovative festival of art that the Southern California Plein Air Painters Association (SOCALPAPA) will be holding at Upper Newport Bay from September 21 to September 28 in collaboration with the Naturalists and Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks.

Eighty artists have committed to paint “The Many Moods of the Back Bay” between Sunday and Friday

of that week. On Friday evening a juried art exhibition and dinner reception will be held at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center. The paintings will be judged by Jean Stern, Executive Director of the Irvine Museum and noted author and lecturer on California plein air painting. Tickets for this gala are \$95 per person. Proceeds will benefit the

Naturalists. On Saturday and Sunday there will be a free exhibition for the public at the Interpretive Center at which the paintings of the Back Bay will be sold. The Naturalists will receive 30% of the receipts.

Margaret Jamison (“Maggie” to all her friends), founder and past president of SOCALPAPA, has been coming to the Bay for the past six years. “I always find it a tremendous challenge to capture the spirit of the Bay,” she says. “Each vantage point displays a different personality, and the mood changes with the season, the time of day and the weather.” Maggie has produced a dozen or more paintings of the Bay, as well as many sketches and studies. Like most plein air artists she tries to complete the painting in one sitting, making minor adjustments to color when she returns to her studio to account for the different way the finished painting will appear in indoor light. “If I

returned the next day, I would be painting a different painting,” explains Maggie.

Her enthusiasm for the Bay is shared by many of her fellow painters who come here year round to capture the beauty of the Bay with their brush strokes. They all feel the Bay has been such an inspiration to them and were so moved by Maggie’s suggestion of the paint-out as a way to give something back to the Bay, that they quickly volunteered to make the event happen. “The catalyst for all of this was actually Frank Robinson,” explains Maggie. “County Ranger Grace Yick put me in touch with Frank. I talked to him and was inspired by him to present the idea to both our membership and the Naturalists. It was his infectious excitement that I was able to convey to everyone.”

The plein air movement began in France in the late 1800’s. Plein air is French for “open air.” Artists paint outdoor scenes in natural light, painting from a direct perception of nature. The particular quality of the light along our coast is unique. The early 1900’s brought many artists to Southern California. Famous American Post-impressionists such as Edgar Payne, Guy Rose, William Wendt, Alson Clark, Donna Shuster and Franz Bischoff, were captivated by the area. Fine examples of these artists’ works are easily viewed at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, LACMA in Los Angeles and the Irvine Museum in Irvine.

In his book *Carlson’s Guide to Landscape Painting* the celebrated landscape painter and teacher John F. Carlson states: “Nature, to the thoughtful, will always remain a vast and delightful storehouse, the fountain of inspiration. Nature is forever providing for the artist untabulated surprises; it is for these that he is to be envied. It is the artist’s privilege and prerogative to capture these miracles and to transmute them into expressive form.”

Plein air artists interpret nature for their audience. “What will make this paint-out so interesting is that all the artists will be giving their interpretation of the same subject during the same week. They will need to work quickly and capture what the Bay presents them and what emotion the Bay evokes in them then and there,” Maggie notes. The 80 artists have different styles and techniques. Some paint photo-realistically, others focus on texture or light. Each will cause the audience to see the Bay differently and hopefully gain a greater appreciation of both art and nature.

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Dear Friends:

BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

How you ask? Simply by shopping! Buy groceries using your club card at Vons/Pavilions and support a restoration project. Make purchases at Zany Brains and support an educational program. Use your credit card at Coco's, Office Max, Big 5, Eddie Bauer, Claim Jumper, Payless and numerous others and they will all make a donation of a percentage of your purchase to the Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends. This could mean thousands of dollars to us for our mission of restoration, education and preservation of the Bay — and at no cost to you except your time to register.



How do you register you ask? I have just done it and it is simple. If you have a computer with Internet Service, go to

www.escrip.com

and follow these steps:

- Click on **Sign Up** near the center of the page
- Enter our group number — 3459661
- Click **Search**
- Newport Bay Naturalists will appear. Select this and click **Next**
- Enter your name and address (No other fields need to be entered unless you choose to do so.) Click **Next**
- Enter your grocery store club cards and click **Next**
- Enter credit cards you would use when making purchases and click **Next**
- If you have a Chevron card, enter it here and click **Next**



You are now finished entering. You will see all of your entries and have a chance to verify and edit them. Then simply by clicking **Confirm** you are on your way to supporting our organization.

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Also, may I assure you that the monthly statement I receive gives no details of your purchases — just a monthly amount spent and the amount deposited directly into the Naturalists' Bank Account. Different merchants contribute different percentages (some up to 20%). Just think about how much your grocery bill may be in one year, and a percentage of that could go directly into preservation of our fragile estuarine ecosystem at no cost to you. Won't you please register now?

Donna Carroll, NBNF Treasurer

Moods of the Bay *(continued)*

SOCALPAPA is also very interested in encouraging children to develop an appreciation of both art and nature. As part of the lead up to the paint-out a children's Summer Arts Program is being conducted at the Interpretive Center, and SOCALPAPA is working with local school teachers to encourage students to come and paint the Bay the week of September 21. The best of the students' work in each age group will be displayed in a Children's Art Room at the Interpretive Center on Saturday and Sunday.

There are a limited number of tickets still available for the Gala. If you would like an invitation, please call (949) 923-2269. There will be no ticket sales at the door. The Gala is from 6:00 to 9:00 PM on Friday, September 26. The Fine Art Exhibition and Sale will take place from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, September 27 and from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 28. 30% of all sales will go to the Naturalists. All are welcome. For additional information please visit www.socalpapa.com or www.newportbay.org, or call (949) 923-2269.

Roger Mallett, Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends

Clean the Bay Day

Our 14th Annual Clean Up Day is Saturday, September 20, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please join us in removing trash from in and around the Bay. Come to the Clean Up Headquarters and Main Registration Point at the Interpretive Center, 2301 University Drive, on the corner of Irvine Avenue and University Drive in Newport Beach. Shuttle service is provided to other areas of the Bay. Volunteers receive free refreshments. Individuals, families and groups are all welcome. Wear old clothes and shoes. For more information and group assignments, call Candice McIntyre at (949) 923-2295.



Upper Newport Bay Calendar of Events

September–November 2003

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Steward Days — Every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

Green thumbs welcome! Encourage the Bay's unique genetics to move-in at our restoration sites by collecting seeds & propagating plants. Meet on Shellmaker Island at the Exotic Hut. For information call (949) 640-0286. Location Code: MSC

Canoe the Back Bay — Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.

Join a trained naturalist for a guided 2-hour canoe tour of the Back Bay. Fee is \$10 per person. For reservations call (949) 923-2269. No tours Oct. 18, Nov. 15 or Nov. 29. Location Code: MSC

Kayak Tours — Every Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join a trained naturalist for a guided kayak tour of the Back Bay. Meet at the Newport Dunes Resort. Fee is \$20 per person. NBNF members pay \$10. For reservations call (949) 729-1150 (weekends only) or (800) 585-0747. Location Code: NDR

Monthly Naturalist Meeting — Thursday, Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Join the Naturalists for a presentation by Orange County Water District on the importance of groundwater replenishment in the Los Angeles Basin. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and presentation at 7:00 p.m. Free. For information call (949) 923-2269. Location code: MIC

Native Plant Propagation Workshop — Saturday, Sept. 6

This half-day training includes a walk through Big Canyon to collect seeds for propagation and revegetation, followed by hands-on seed sowing in the nursery. Reservations required. Call (949) 640-0286. Location Code: MSC

Walking Tour — Saturday, Sept. 6; Oct. 4; Nov. 1, 9:00 a.m.

Join a trained Naturalist for a 2-hour walk along the bay. Bring binoculars and sun protection. Free. No reservations needed. For information call (949) 923-2269. Location Code: MSC

Basic Bugs — Saturday, Sept. 6, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Let "Dr. Sue, The Bug Lady" share part of her zoo with you! Learn the basics about bug bodies. See and touch different kinds of live insects and study their bodies. Understand how they do different jobs that help them survive. Make your own artistic insect and edible insect snack! Ages 5 and up. \$10 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Toddler Time "Sneaky Snakes" — Wednesday, Sept. 17, 9:00 or 10:30 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger for this parent and child educational playtime with a snake theme. \$5 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Electric Boat Tour of the Bay — Saturday, Sept. 13; Oct. 11; Nov. 8, 11:00 a.m.

Join a Naturalist on a 2 hour guided tour of the bay on our comfortable electric pontoon boat. Fee is \$10 per person. For reservations call (949) 923-2269. Location Code: MSC

Marine Life Inventory — Saturday, Sept. 27; Oct. 25; Nov. 22, 8:15–11:30 a.m.

High school and college students will participate in a variety of marine life monitoring programs in Newport Bay. For reservations call (949) 642-5031. \$10 starting Oct. 25. Location Code: MSC

Evening Marsh Prowl — Saturday, Sept. 27; Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Join a Naturalist on a guided tour of the bay at dusk on our electric pontoon boat. Use spotlights and binoculars to search for owls and other night creatures. Fee is \$15. For reservations call (949) 923-2269. Location Code: MSC

Shark Camp at the Bay — Saturday, Sept. 27; Oct. 25 Sorry SOLD OUT.

Learn about the lives of sharks and rays while eating dinner around the campfire. Then help catch, tag and release them right off our dock. Fee is \$18. Call the Boy Scout Sea Base at (949) 642-5031 for information and reservations. Location Code: MSC

Twilight Canoe Tour/Barbecue — Saturday, Sept. 27; Oct. 25 Sorry SOLD OUT

Join Naturalists and the Sea Scouts for a beautiful tour of the Reserve and dinner around the campfire at Shellmaker Island afterwards. Fee is \$18. Call the Boy Scout Sea Base at (949) 642-5031 for information and reservations. Location Code: MSC

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Fishing for Science — Friday, Sept. 26; Oct. 24 Sorry SOLD OUT.

Fish for rays, sharks and fish off our dock after a barbeque dinner and a quick preparatory lesson. Fee \$15 per person. For information and registration contact the Sea Base at (949) 642-5031. Location code: MSC

Train for a Day, Be a Volunteer — Saturday, Oct. 4, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Be a part of this dynamic estuary! Learn about the habitats and wildlife of the bay. Participate in habitat restoration and special events. Assist with canoe, kayak, walking, and school tours. Help us greet and educate visitors at the Interpretive Center and Marine Studies Center. For information and to reserve a space call (949) 923-2295. Location code: MIC

Astronomy Night — Saturday, Oct. 4, 8:00–10:00 p.m.

Join members of the Orange County Astronomers for an inspirational tour of the night sky. Open to all ages and includes observation with telescopes. Suggested donation of \$2. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Toddler Time "All About Birds" — Wednesday, Oct. 8, 10:00–10:45 a.m.

Join us for this parent and child playtime with a bird theme. Ages 3 to 4 year olds. \$5 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Friends of Newport Bay Walking Tour — Saturday, Oct. 11; Nov. 8

Walk along the Back Bay listening to Naturalists and visit Interpretive Stations featuring specialists addressing different natural history topics. Tours leave every 15 minutes between 9:00 and 10:15 a.m. Free. No reservations required. For information call (949) 923-2269. Location code: EB

Toddler Time "Batty Bats!" — Wednesday, Oct. 15, 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger for this parent and child educational play time with a Bat theme. \$5 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Amazing Arachnids/Spectacular Spiders — Sunday, Oct. 19, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Learn the facts behind "The Very Busy Spider" story. "Dr. Sue, The Bug Lady" will delight you with different amazing arachnids — spectacular spiders and their super scorpion relatives — LIVE and up close. Make a marvelous model and put together and eat the most delicious spider snack you've ever eaten! Ages 5 and up, \$10 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Roots Restoration Teamwork — Saturday, Oct. 25; Nov. 29, 9:00 a.m.

Restore the Bay by replacing invasive non-native plants with coastal sage scrub and salt marsh communities. Meet at the Interpretive Center parking lot. Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call (949) 640-0286 for more information. Note that there is no September Roots Day. Please come help on Clean Up Day. Location code: MIC

Night Hike — Saturday, Oct. 25; Nov. 15, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

When the sun goes down another world of wildlife becomes active at night. Come and join us for a night hike and learn about the wonders darkness brings to our nature preserve. This is a family program best suited for ages 6 and up. \$5.00 per person. Program can be cancelled due to rainy weather. Remember to dress warmly for the evening chill. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Zoomobile: Magnificent Mammals — Saturday, Nov. 8, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

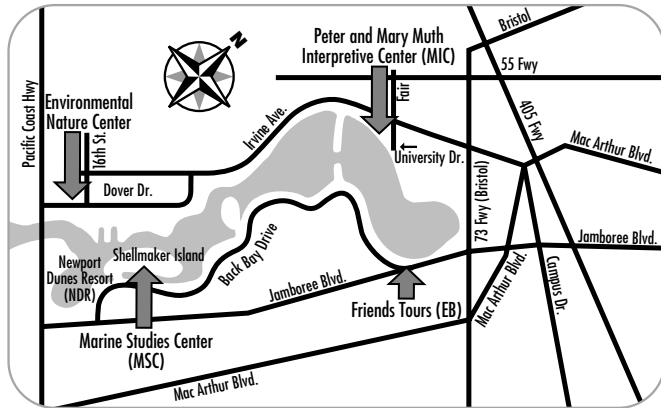
What do mammals and pieces of a jigsaw puzzle have in common? By examining skulls, skeletons, skins, and live animals, you'll see that every kind of mammal is different yet they all fit together. See and feel the difference between different kinds of mammals, some from your own neighborhood! Ages 5 and up, \$10 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

The Games People Played — Sunday, Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Come join a Ranger as we explore the games Native American children of the Back Bay might have played. Learn how the Tongva (Gabrielino) taught their children important life skills through games and play. Make authentic toys to take home. Ages 5 and up. \$5 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC

Toddler Time "Let's Play Opossum" — Wednesday, Nov 19, 10:00–10:45 a.m.

Learn all about mother opossum and her babies in our story time and activities all about opossums. Best suited for 3 and 4 year olds. \$5 per child. Call (949) 923-2295 to register. Location code: MIC



◀ LOCATION KEY

Interpretive Center (MIC)
 Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center
 2301 University Drive
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

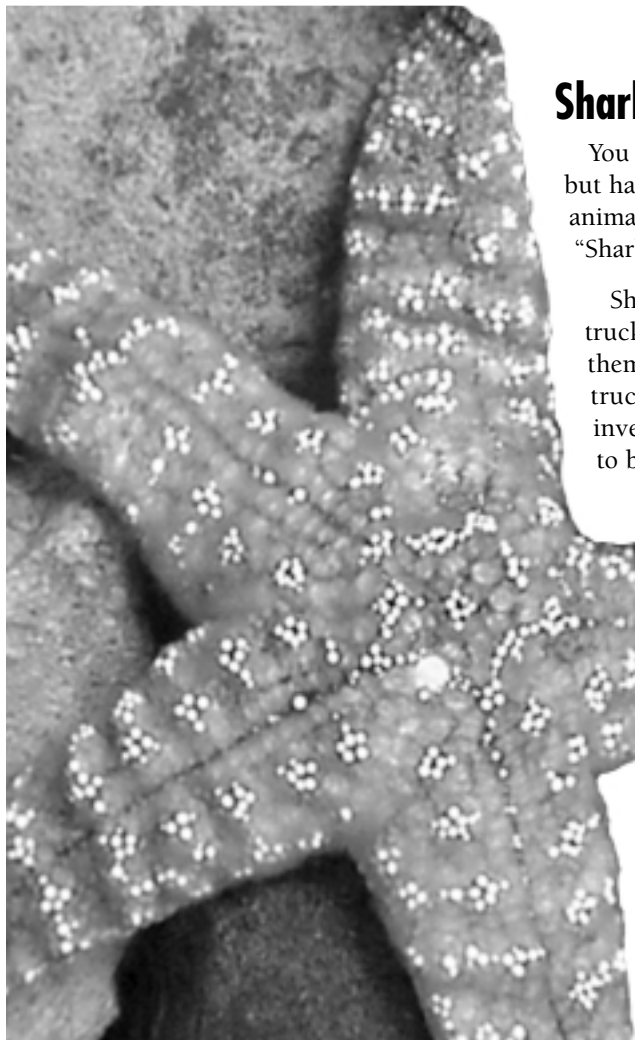
Marine Studies Center (MSC)
 600 Shellmaker
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

WEB SITES

Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends: www.newportbay.org
 Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center:
www.ocparks.com/unbic www.newportbay.org
 Department of Fish & Game: www.dfg.ca.gov
 Environmental Nature Center (ENC): www.ENCcenter.org
 County of Orange: www.ocparks.com/uppernewportbay/
 California Coastal Commission: www.coastal.ca.gov

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Sharks, Sea Hares and Sea Stars on the Road!

You would be amazed by the number of children that live within thirty miles of the beach, but have never been there. Children that are under the impression that sea stars are not living animals and that all sharks are dangerous to them. Well with a new outreach truck called the "Sharkmobile," the California Department of Fish and Game would like to help change that.

Sharkmobile is a stake-side truck that has been adapted to be able to hold aquariums in the truck bed. One large tank behind the driver's cab will hold sharks and other fish, allowing them room to swim. Two custom tables have been constructed to fit along each side of the truck bed. Each table contains three tubs that will enable children to touch a variety of invertebrates. A chiller and pump keep the tanks aerated and cold enough for these animals to be able to survive a day out on the town!

We will have several different types of sharks including gray smooth hound, leopard and horn sharks on the truck for children to look at. The children will be learning that the skeletons of sharks and some other fish are made of cartilage and not bone. Cartilage is the material that gives structure to the outer parts of the human ear. In addition common misconceptions about sharks will be discussed.

The touch tubs will be filled with animals, such as sea stars and sea hares, from all types of habitats including rocky shore, sandy beach and of course Upper Newport Bay. This will also enable children to learn the differences between habitats and why animals choose the homes they do.

With funding for school field trips decreasing and a basic need for hands on activities in the classroom, Sharkmobile is sure to be a great hit!

Sarah James, Science Educator