



VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENCE

April - May 2012

VOLUNTEERS... PLEASE NOTE....

There is a new procedure for reporting exhibit and building maintenance issues:

- **Exhibit** maintenance issues should be reported to Security at 841- 2829. They are keeping a log of such reports and will forward your report to the appropriate exhibit person.
- **Building** maintenance issues should be reported to a museum staff member who will then fill out the proper internal work order request to have the problem fixed.

Thank you.

Alicia Borrego-Pierce, Deputy Director

ALSO... DON'T FORGET

RE: Naturalist Center

If there are no Naturalist Center Docents available, the Naturalist Center must be closed and locked. No other volunteers or staff (other than education staff) are allowed to work in the Naturalist Center alone without a Naturalist Center Docent on hand to help.

Thank you.

Museum Education Department

SOLAR ANNULAR ECLIPSE AND TRANSIT OF VENUS

May 20 and June 5

This summer two astronomical "close encounters" will take place - and both are visible in Albuquerque. On May 20, 2012, there is an unusual solar event called an "**annular eclipse**." During an annular eclipse, the moon covers most of the sun's disk leaving a thin ring of light around the edge; and Albuquerque is one of only a few places to see it.

Another solar event will take place just two weeks later on June 5. This event is a **Transit of Venus**; where the planet Venus visibly and slowly moves

across the disk of the sun. *This is the **ONLY** transit of Venus that will take place in the 21st century.* If you miss this, you will never see



it again in your lifetime... and it is also viewed perfectly in Albuquerque.

Traditionally, Transits of Venus occurred when exploration of our own planet was accomplished. During the 1700s and 1800s many ships traveled to viewing sites in order to calculate the distances between Earth, Venus and the Sun...but they also did much of the fundamental exploration of our planet, finding new species and reporting new natural phenomena.

The Museum is part of a coalition of Albuquerque entities such as the Petroglyph National Park, Balloon Museum, UNM, ACVB, and the City of Albuquerque Open Space and Parks and Rec, that is working together to offer activities and information related to these events. The Museum, with the help of its Solar Sunday volunteers, Community Science Connections Program, and TAAS, will offer activities and special viewing opportunities through webcasts and a live feed in the DynaTheater. Activities and information leading up to the events will be offered on May 13, the May Solar Sunday. Family activities, short talks, and a viewing in the comfort of our DynaTheater will be offered during the afternoon and evening of May 20. Family activities and short talks will also be offered in the

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afternoon on June 3, the 1st Sunday in June, at both the museum and the SMNHC. And activities, short talks, and viewing will be offered during the evening of June 5.

Safety, safety, safety is the main issue for both these events. Solar viewing glasses or special pinhole cameras are needed for safe viewing. Plan now to enjoy the wonders of our solar system with viewing opportunities and local educational activities for the entire family.

In Albuquerque, you can watch the eclipse and transit from any location with a view to the western horizon...as long as you use solar viewing glasses! But, if you would like a planned viewing experience, with experienced observers on site and activities for the family, select one of the following sites...

Go to www.ItsATrip.org/ABOSolarEvents for more information.

The following sites are also planning activities, special events, and viewing opportunities in Albuquerque:

Petroglyph National Monument
[http:// www.nps.gov/petr](http://www.nps.gov/petr)

NM Museum of Natural History & Science
<http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org>

Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum www.cabq.gov/balloon

University of New Mexico
<http://panda.unm.edu/pandaweb/observatory/>

Coronado State Monument <http://www.nmmonuments.org/coronado-state-monument>

You can also see:
<http://www.transitofvenus.org/>

A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL LECTURE

The Museum of Natural History and Science is a scientific institution and almost all of our experiences there are scientifically related. But literature art and science occasionally overlap and such intersections can be informative and entertaining.

Tony Hunt, PhD (English), retired professor, poet, and author will instruct and entertain us on May 9, 2012, from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the MPR with a special educational program. As many of you know, Tony and his wife Susan work in the paleontology prep laboratory and are active in FOP. The following is Tony's introduction to his lecture on a "a poet's view of science."

Bud Hodgins, Coordinator, Continuing Educational Committee

UNIVERSE, MULTIVERSE, OR JUST PLAINVERSE: A POETIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD OF SCIENCE

Anthony Hunt, Ph.D.

"There is no science without fancy and no art without fact"

Vladimir Nabokov

A poet's view of science: we'll take a look at selected poems that utilize, or comment upon, various disciplines in the world of Natural History and Science - Biology, Physics, Anthropology, Paleontology, etc. - or, *in fact*, the scientific method.

When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer Walt Whitman

When I heard the learn'd astronomer,
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,
When I was shown the charts and diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them,
When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with much
 applause in the lecture-room,
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,
Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

LIBRARY LINE: REVIEW OF LIBRARY POLICIES

As your new librarian, I thought this is a good time to go over some of the basic policies of the Volunteers' Association Library, located in the Lounge. In this article I will cover circulation and collection policies.

First, the **mission** of the Library is to support volunteers and staff of the Museum by making available a collection of information, mainly books, dealing with the natural history of New Mexico and the surrounding region, and natural and physical sciences pertinent to museum exhibits and activities. The collection is meant to be a lay reader's resource rather than a specialized research collection. The book collection may be supplemented by selected audiovisual materials.

As of January, 2012, the Library has 937 books (titles) and 82 audiovisual items (VHS tapes, DVDs, etc.). Magazines are not kept because there is no space for them and no way to index them.

The basic **circulation** of any book or media item is for three (3) weeks and can be renewed for another three (3) weeks. There is a card in a pocket in the back of the book. Please put the date you are checking out the book and your name, written legibly, on the card. Place the card in the front of the box with the other cards. I will send out overdue notices, once a book has been out for more than eight (8) weeks. One reason is for you to check to make sure you still have the book. If you still need it, just let me know. Another reason might be if the topic is one of current interest and others are waiting to read it. Please be considerate of your fellow volunteers.

Donations are welcome, but should be relevant to the collection, up-to-date, and in good condition. Donated items become the property of the library. Please put your name on a slip of paper with the book, so you can be acknowledged, and if the item is not going to be added to the library, you can be contacted.

You can make **recommendations** by leaving a note in the Book Return box, or by emailing me. The budget for purchasing items is small so please keep this in mind when making recommendations.

The library has a major problem—**SPACE**. It is almost out of shelving room. Currently the way to make room is by removing items from the collection. These are items which are out of date or in poor condition.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Librarian, Mina Jane Grothey at mgrothey@unm.edu

JUNIOR DOCENTS ON THE MOVE

Did you know Junior Docents volunteer during the school year?

Yes, we have 12 Junior Docents that work the second weekend of the month, on Saturdays from 11AM until 2 PM and on Sundays from 12 PM until 3 PM. These students are committed young people. Some have even earned their 150 hours of service amonite pin.

This January, *Madalyn*

Fetrow, Brittany

Griego, Malia Kao,

Drew Wills, and Alaina

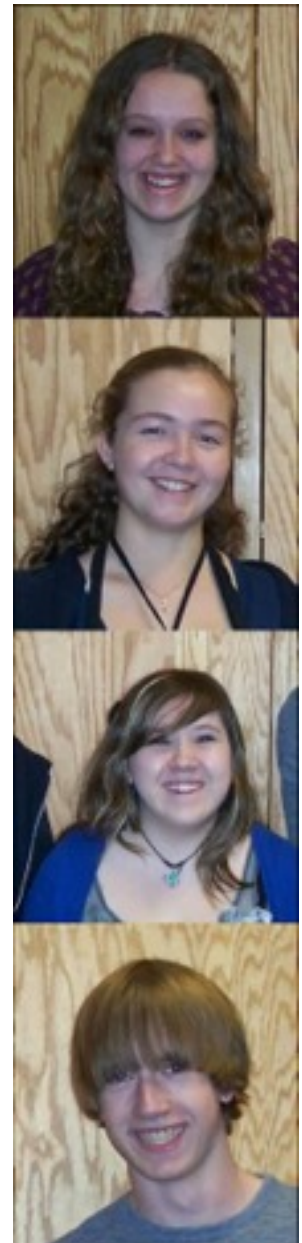
Wiwi achieved the 150

hours of service milestone.

If you work on the weekend with them be sure to congratulate them!

Our school-year Junior Docents have 1-4 summers' worth of experience at the museum. They come from Albuquerque High School, Albuquerque Academy, Desert Willow Family School, LBJ Middle School, Volcano Vista High School, and some are Home-schooled students. They are involved in many activities outside of the classroom, including Civil Air Patrol, show choir, swim team, track & field, soccer, tennis team, orchestra, piano, chess team, Math Counts, Latin Club, MESA, Operation Smile, and Boy Scouts.

After high school, they plan to go to college. They are interested in fields of study including physics, art, geology, paleontology, marine biology, science and fiction writing. Some are undecided about their field of study. New Mexico Tech and the Air Force Academy are schools a couple Junior



Sunday, February 12
Junior Docent Crew
(Top to bottom):
Kaarina Nyman
Alaina Wiwi
Brittany Griego
Drew Wills

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Docents would like to attend, but most are undecided.

Here are a few things the Juniors have to say about the program:

'This is an awesome program. We learn so much about science and people and social skills. I love doing it during the year because I can keep up on my skills and continue to help people. It gives me something to look forward to between all the homework!'

'Often times people don't like to go around reading every single sign about an exhibit, but talking to one of the juniors is a lot easier, and they get the information they want faster. I love getting to help people and learn at the same time.'

'The Junior Docent program is fun and gives you good opportunities to interact with the community in ways that you usually don't.'

It sounds like these teens volunteer for a lot of the same reasons our adult volunteers are in the museum. The Junior Docent program is thankful for the support of Sandia National Laboratories, Lockheed Martin, and PNM.

*Tina Hansen, Naturalist Center
Volunteer, Summer 2011 & School-year
Junior Docent Coordinator*

SUMMER JUNIOR DOCENTS – A NEW PROGRAM

Can You Help?

For the summer of 2012, Carolyn Gregory, Family Programs Educator, will coordinate the Junior Docents. 15 new and 15 returning Junior Docents will learn about rocks and volcanoes, Mars & New Mexico, the Sea Tank and, of course, dinosaurs! We would also like to give these eager students a chance to help out at events such as Solar Sunday and First Sundays at the Museum.

Carolyn is looking for a few adult volunteers who would like to mentor our teenage volunteers AND become a volunteer assistant. Training begins June 5, 2012. The program will run through the end of July. This is a great opportunity to mentor young people and share your gifts. If you have experience, enjoy working with teens, and can give 2-3 days per week during June and July, please contact Carolyn at carolyn.gregory@state.nm.us or 841-2814.

*Carolyn Gregory, Junior Docent Coordinator
Summer 2012*

VOLUNTEERS/DOCENTS

Can You Help?

From May 9 to May 11, 2012, the Rocky Mountain Section of the Geological Society of America will have their annual meeting – and this year, the meeting is in Albuquerque.

Topical sessions and papers will be presented at the Hotel Albuquerque, and on the evening of May 10, a reception for meeting attendees will be held here at the Museum. Our geologist colleagues from all over the western U.S. will be attending this meeting...and coming to see our Museum.

I am asking for some volunteer hosts, fossilworks preparators, and docents to work that evening from 5:30 to 7:30 PM to show off the museum and its exhibits to our professional geologist guests. Please sign up on the sheet in the volunteer lounge if you are interested in doing this.

As an added bonus, you will be able to attend the free lecture held at 7:30-8:30 PM and given by Dr. Robert Smith, the renowned geological authority on the Yellowstone supervolcano.

By the way, LarryC is co-leading a field trip to Mt Taylor. He and I together are co-leading a field trip to the Albuquerque Volcanoes as part of this meeting. If you are interested in attending these field trips (or other sessions of the meeting) check out the website

<http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/rm/2012mtg/>

Thank you.

*Jayne Aubele
Adult Programs Educator*

DAWN OF THE AGE OF MAMMALS

Educational Seminar

Please mark your calendar for April 17 as a reminder to attend our next educational seminar.

The meeting, held in the MPR from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, will feature Tom Williamson PhD speaking about "**Dawn of the Age of Mammals.**" To quote Tom,

The Age of Mammals, the Cenozoic Era, began in the aftermath of a mass extinction (the K-T or K-Pg mass extinction). Throughout most of

the Mesozoic Era, mammals were small and lived in the shadow of the dinosaurs. At the beginning of the Cenozoic, after the extinction of most large animals, mammals flourished and underwent an episode of rapid evolution. This event is often considered one of the best examples of an evolutionary radiation. New Mexico contains one of the best records of the early part of this event.

Also on the program are Bud Hodgin and Dwight Jennison.

Bud will discuss "**zircons**" those amazing tiny crystals that inform geologists of Earth's particle dating as old as four billion years as well as information regarding early Earth crust and ocean formations. (Due to time constraints at our last meeting this talk was deleted and so is presented this time).

There is new information regarding the Deccan trap eruptions, and so Dwight will discuss, "**Did the Deccan Trap eruptions play a role in then end-Cretaceous extinctions.**"

At the conclusion of the program, drinks and snacks will be served.

MUSEUM ADULT AND FAMILY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Centennial Lecture Series

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is proud to present: *The Centennial Lecture Series—100 years of Advances and Significant Discoveries in Natural History and Science in New Mexico*. New Mexico scientists highlight their science and how it has evolved over the past century.

Celebrate Earthquake Awareness Month in April...

A Half-Century of Global Seismology at the Albuquerque Seismological Lab

Lind Gee, Ph.D., Scientist-in-charge, Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory

U.S. Geological Survey

Thursday, April 26 • 7:00– 8:30 PM

The Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory (ASL), one of the US Geological Survey's global seismic observatories, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. The USGS detects and

locates more than 30,000 earthquakes a year, using data from seismic stations around the world.

In this presentation, Dr. Gee will describe the contributions of a half-century of data and observations from ASL and the National Earthquake Information Center for earthquake monitoring.

Lind Gee is the Scientist-in-Charge of the USGS Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory (ASL). She received her Ph.D. from MIT in Geophysics and spent 15 years at UC Berkeley at the Berkeley Seismological Lab. She joined the USGS in 2005. The ASL supports the operation of over 150 seismic stations around the world.

Evening lectures are held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science
1801 Mountain Rd. NW.

\$6 (\$5 members, \$4 students) Volunteers are FREE, please sign the sheet in the Volunteer Lounge.

To Purchase tickets - please purchase in advance online to guarantee your seats, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org or purchase tickets at the door before the talk. Doors open at 6:15 PM.

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us • **call** (505) 841-2861

Centennial Lecture New Mexico's Living Landscapes

Bill Dunmire

Associate in Biology, University of New Mexico.

Thursday, May 24, 2012, 7 – 8:30 PM

New Mexico is third among states of greatest natural diversity, exceeded only by Texas and California. More than nine-tenths of our land remains in native or near-native condition. Ours truly is a "living" landscape, and wonderfully varied.

Join biologist and author Bill Dunmire, as he describes the eco-regions and the National and State Scenic Byways of New Mexico's natural world, from grasslands to deserts to mountains, focusing on landscape features, plants, wildlife, and spectacular geology. The six eco-regions of New Mexico are: *Chihuahuan Desert*, bordering Mexico; *the Great Basin Desert*, spilling over from Nevada, Utah, and Arizona; the Great Plains Grassland, covering the eastern prairies; *the Great Basin Grassland* occupying the middle Rio Grande Valley westward; *the alpine Montane Forests* of the

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Sangre de Cristo, Sandia, and Sacramento mountains; and the Piñon-Juniper Woodlands scattered throughout the mountain bases.

Bill Dunmire served twenty-eight years in the National Park Service, mostly as a park naturalist in parks including Yosemite, Hawaii Volcanoes, Yellowstone, and Isle Royale. He retired as Superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in 1985; then was a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico for seven years. A professional nature photographer, he is author of numerous natural history publications, including award-winning, *Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province and Gardens of New Spain: How Mediterranean Plants and Foods Changed America*. Bill's degrees are in wildlife management and zoology from the University of California, Berkeley; he currently holds the academic title of Associate in Biology at the University of New Mexico.

All evening lectures are held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science
1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 •
(505) 841-2800 Visit: www.nmnaturalhistory.org

6 (\$5 members, \$4 students) Volunteers are FREE, please sign the sheet in the Volunteer Lounge.

To Purchase tickets - please purchase in advance online to guarantee your seats, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org or purchase tickets at the door before the talk. Doors open at 6:15 PM.

Questions: August Wainwright, 505-841-2861
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us

Curator's Coffee

A Café Style Program

Join us for a casual discussion followed by a hands-on experience. Limited to 15 people and includes coffee, light refreshments, and Museum admission.

Wildflowers of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains

Larry Littlefield, Ph.D., Volunteer, NMNHS

Thursday, April 12 • 9:30–11:00 AM

This presentation is for wildflower enthusiasts, hikers, amateur botanists, and everyone interested in the flora of New Mexico's central mountains. Join Larry Littlefield for a discussion of the wildflowers and flowering shrubs that bloom at different times of year, from base to crest, at different elevations in our Sandia, Manzanita, and Manzano Mountains.

Larry Littlefield received his B.S. from Cornell University and M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He was Professor of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University and Oklahoma State University from

1965-2004. His research focused on developmental anatomy of rust fungi and other fungal and viral diseases of plants; conducting research in England, Sweden, Egypt, Pakistan and Peru. He retired to New Mexico in 2005 and is a volunteer of the Museum, working with the Museum's offsite environmental education facility, the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center. He co-authored, with wildflower expert Pearl M. Burns, the book *Wildflowers of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains of Central New Mexico*, published in 2011 by Sandia Plant Books.

\$8 (10% discount for members and volunteers)

Pre-registration required. Limit 15 participants. To guarantee your place, register online, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call: (505) 841-2861

Adult Class

Those Amazing Tyrannosaurs

Tom Williamson Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 18 • 9:00 PM–12:00 noon

With an introduction to the museum's collection of tyrannosaur specimens, this one-session class will tell you everything you have always wanted to know about tyrannosaurs, a group of dinosaurs that includes *Tyrannosaurus rex*. These pop culture icons have become the focus of recent intense scientific scrutiny. Exciting new fossil discoveries, such as the newly named *Bistahieversor* from New Mexico, have made tyrannosaurs one of the best known group of dinosaurs in the fossil record. Based on these new discoveries and new techniques in analysis, paleontologists are learning exciting things about tyrannosaurs.

Dr. Thomas Williamson received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and has been a Curator of Paleontology at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science for over 18 years. He is a vertebrate paleontologist who focuses his research on Cretaceous and Paleogene fossils of the San Juan Basin, northwestern New Mexico. Dr. Williamson has worked with colleagues to name three tyrannosaurs from North America (including *Bistahieversor*).

\$35 (10% discount for members and volunteers)

Pre-registration required. For more information or to guarantee your place in this class, register online, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call (505) 841-2861

First Sundays

Sundays, April 1, May 6

FREE Admission to the Museum for all New Mexico Residents

9:00 AM.–5:00 PM

On the first Sunday of every month, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is FREE to all New Mexico residents. (Bring NM ID or proof of residence. Regular admission fees for DynaTheater and Planetarium shows.)

FREE Admission to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

Gates open for the public • 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Also open to all visitors, on First Sundays, is the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC), the Museum's off-site environmental education facility located in the Sandia Mountains. Attend a special natural history presentation, and experience geocaching, the bird blind, self-guided hikes, picnicking, and solar telescope viewing.

SMNHC Presentations

April 1 – Geology of the Sandia Mountains

May 6 – Family Nature Mapping

No Registration Required. For directions to the center, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Information: www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright
email: NMMNHS@state.nm.us or call: (505) 841-2861

Museum Tours

Guided Tours of the Museum Public Exhibits

Take a fact-filled, fun, guided tour of the Museum exhibits.

**Every Monday
1:30–2:30 PM**

Limit 14 people ages 13 and up.

Free (with Museum Admission)

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call: (505) 841-2861

No registration required. Tours are 45 to an hour in length, and first-come, first served.

Museum Collections Tours

Join us for behind-the-scenes tours of our Bioscience and Geoscience collection areas.

Geoscience Tours

Friday, April 6 and May 19 • 3:00–4:00 PM

See the largest collection of fossils in New Mexico and learn about important fossils collected from across the state. Tours allow participants to see fossils actively being prepared for exhibits and research.

Limit 20 people. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Free (with Museum Admission)

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call: (505) 841-2861

No registration required. Tours are 45 to an hour in length, and first-come, first served

Bioscience Tours

Fridays, April 20 • 3:00–4:00 PM

Bioscience Collections Manager, Patricia Gegick, will conduct a tour of the Museum's biological collections, which includes plants, insects, mammals, mollusks, and birds. Learn the importance of museum collections, how they are used, and how they are preserved and maintained.

Tours are 45-60 minutes in length.

Limit 12 people. No strollers or children under the age of 7. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free (with Museum Admission)

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call: (505) 841-2861

No registration required. Tours are 45 to an hour in length, and first-come, first served.

Special Event

Geological Society of America, Rocky Mountain Section Meeting

Public Lecture

The Yellowstone Supervolcano: Past, Present and Future

By Robert B. Smith, Ph.D.

Distinguished Research Professor and Emeritus Professor of Geophysics; Director, Yellowstone

May 10, 2012, 7:30-8:30 PM

A discussion on the dynamics of the Yellowstone hotspot, volcanic and earthquake system and how it works! This talk will discuss the Yellowstone "hotspot" in a plate tectonic framework, earthquakes and faults, volcanoes and the crustal magma chamber, imaging the Yellowstone mantle plume with seismic and electrical methods, contemporary ups and downs of the Yellowstone caldera from GPS, and probabilities of future eruptions and earthquakes.

This talk is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Section of the Geological Society of America

Dr. Robert B. Smith's primary research interests are in seismic studies of the lithosphere. He has conducted investigations of the Basin and Range Province, Yellowstone hotspot, and the Wasatch fault. He is considered the world's leading expert on the geology and geophysics of the Yellowstone-Teton area. Dr. Smith was integral in forming IRIS and UNAVCO (university consortiums for seismology and geodesy) and served as the first chairperson of the National Science Foundation-funded EarthScope Science and Education Committee (a decade-long research project to study the North American continent). He was the Founding Scientist for the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory and has served on dozens of national science committees. He has won numerous awards throughout his distinguished career and made presentations to the U.S. Congress regarding the Yellowstone hotspot and advancing science in America. He directly supervised 68 graduate students to completion and has published approximately 500 refereed papers, abstracts, and books. He received his B.S. and M.S. from Utah State University and Ph.D. from the University of Utah. He has been a visiting Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University, England. He is currently a Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Utah.

Free - Volunteers sign up on the sheet in the lounge (Note: this talk begins at 7:30pm)

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call: (505) 841-2861

No registration required but there is limited seating. Volunteers sign up on the sheet in the lounge. For the public, there is no charge, but to guarantee your seat, register online, go to www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Dinosaur Century, a Centennial Exhibit

Celebrate New Mexico's 100 years of statehood with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

April 21 - New Mexico's Super Giant

May 19 - Bisti Beast

Free (*Dinosaur Century* is included with Museum Admission)

No registration required.

Questions: August Wainwright
email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us
call: (505) 841-2861

Special Event

Solar Annular Eclipse May 20

The Museum will offer activities and special viewing opportunities through webcasts and a live feed in the DynaTheater. Activities leading up to the events will be offered on May 13. Family activities, short talks, and the viewing will be the afternoon and evening of May 20. Activities and short talks will be offered in the afternoon on June 3, the 1st Sunday in June, at both the museum and the SMNHC. And activities, short talks, and viewing will be offered during the evening of June 5.

Safety, safety, safety is the main issue for both these events. Solar viewing glasses or special pinhole cameras are needed for safe viewing. Plan now to enjoy the wonders of our solar system with viewing opportunities and local educational activities for the entire family.

Go to www.ItsATrip.org/ABQSolarEvents for more information.

Community Science Connections

Museums, Libraries, and Families: Working in partnership to bring fun-filled educational events to the community!

CSC is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and welcomes Rio Rancho Library as a new partner. Look for CSC events at <http://libguides.cabq.gov/CSC> for an exciting 2011-2012 "season of science."

CSC Programs are funded by the *Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)* and managed by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

Solar Sundays

Sundays, April 8, May 13
12:00 Noon–3:00 PM

Solar Sunday is the place to be! This great family event is becoming more popular every month. Don't miss out. Telescopes, sun, and bilingual hands-on activities for the whole family.

On May 13, special activities and short talks will be offered to prepare visitors for the May 20 annular eclipse

Planetarium Presentation at 11:00 AM (regular fee applies)

Free (with Museum admission)

No registration required

Information: www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright

email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us

call: (505) 841-2861

Prehistoric Preschool

Prehistoric Preschool is a Museum program for three to five-year-olds and their adult companions to explore natural history topics in a supportive and fun atmosphere. All activities are child-centered, hands-on, and age appropriate. Classes include two hours of crafts, songs, games, puppet shows, investigating specimens from the Museum's collections, Museum visits, and a fun and healthy snack. There are four classes in each session with classes meeting every other week.

All class participants must be accompanied by an adult. No more than two children may be registered per adult companion and no more than two adult companions may accompany any one child. Permission for attendance by siblings younger than three is made on a case-by-case basis with Early Childhood Educator. Maximum class size is 15 children and their adult companions.

Choose to attend either Thursday, Friday, or Saturday morning classes from 10 AM–noon or Saturday afternoon classes from 1–3 PM

Spring Session 2: Family Nature-Mapping

New Mexico has wonderful territory where wild animals live. When we take hikes in nature, visiting wild animal homes, we may never see who lives there. Learn how to know the animals are there through what they leave behind: their tracks and sign! We will learn about these animal groups and the signs they leave.

Try your Nature Mapping skills in the wild will be offered at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center's First Sunday, May 6th, 2012 (not part of the session 2 programming).

**Bear Claws and Squirrel Chewings:
Mammal Sign**

3/29 3/30 3/31

**Tiny Dots and Squiggly Lines:
Arthropod Markings**

4/12 4/13 4/14

**Roadrunner Toes and Turkey Scat:
Bird Track and Sign**

4/26 4/27 4/28

Herps Do the Tail-Drag:

Marks Reptiles & Amphibians Make

5/10 5/11 5/12

\$90 for the first child, \$81 for the second child in the same family.

Museum members receive a 10% discount.

Preregistration is required. See detailed description of sessions and register for classes at www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Information: www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright

email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us

call: (505) 841-2861

Young Explorers Summer Science Camp 2012

Attention Young Explorers! Experience an adventure with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science this summer! Discover the biology, geology, paleontology, and ecology of our State. Week-long, full-day or half-day camps for children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. Sessions begin July 16, with 3 different camps each week for 3 weeks.

Preregistration is required. Registration begins February 15 online at www.NMnaturalhistory.org

After February 15

Information: www.NMnaturalhistory.org

Questions: August Wainwright

email: programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us

call: (505) 841-2861

April 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
First Sunday	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM				Tour: Geoscience Collections	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Event: Solar Sunday	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM			Curator's Coffee: Wildflowers of the Sandia Mountains		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM	Seminar: Dawn of the Age of Mammals.	Class: Those Amazing Tyrannosaurs		Tour: Bioscience Collections	Centennial Exhibit: New Mexico's Super Giant
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM			Centennial Lecture Series: A Half-Century of Seismology		
29	30					
	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM					

May 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
						Cinco de mayo
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
First Sunday	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM		Lecture: A Poet's View of Science Rocky Mount. Section of Geological Society	Special Event: Yellowstone Lecture Rocky Mount. Section of Geological Society	Rocky Mount. Section of Geological Society	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Event: Solar Sunday	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM					Tour: Geoscience Collections Exhibit: Dinosaur Century – Bisti Beast
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Special Event: Annular Eclipse	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM			Centennial Lecture Series: New Mexico's Living Landscapes		
27	28	29	30	31		
	Monday Tour 1:30–2:30 PM					