



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Starting promptly at 9:30 am

At the **National Hispanic Cultural Center**

Grand Hall, Pete V. Domenici Education Center

**(Directions provided upon RSVP, which is required, so we have a count for catering)**

For the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, volunteers and docents who work the requested 40 hours or more a year are invited. RSVP to Doug Simon <[doug.simon@state.nm.us](mailto:doug.simon@state.nm.us)>

Many thanks for the support and hours you have contributed to the Museum's mission and programs—over the last 30 years!

*Due to the upcoming retirement of Doug Simon, Volunteer Coordinator, this will replace the Holiday party. Your NMMNH Volunteer Association will host a Spring party instead. Details to be announced.*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

The next Continuing Education Seminar will be held:

**DATE:** November 24, 2015

**WHERE:** MPR

**TIME:** 10:30 am to 12 NOON

**SPEAKER:** Tom Suazo

**TOPIC:** Godzilla Shark (*The Mona Lisa of sharks?*)

Our own **Tom Suazo**, will be talking about the Godzilla shark found in the Manzanos in May of 2013.

Come hear the latest on this wonderful discovery!

In addition, there will be brief talks on other topics and snacks.

Mark your calendar with dates of forthcoming 2016 Seminars:

January 5, February 16

March 29, April 15

*Mina Jane Grothey, Moderator for the November Seminar*

[mgrothey@unm.edu](mailto:mgrothey@unm.edu)

## TABLET PROBLEMS

The tablets in the lounge are experiencing a couple of anomalies. The first is a non-threatening separation between the screen and the backing. It is suspected that this is due to heating while charging. SO, WE MUST PLACE THEM VERTICALLY IN THE CUBBY HOLES, instead of one atop the other.

The second anomaly: a personal identical tablet is displaying anomalous low battery warnings with small use. Booting the device removes this. (Simultaneously press the power and low volume buttons for 15 seconds.)

Feedback to

[d.r.jennison@gmail.com](mailto:d.r.jennison@gmail.com)

**FRIENDS OF PALEONTOLOGY** (7PM in NMMNH&S Multi-purpose Room)

**November 16** - Our speaker will be Jayne Aubele, who will be talking on Geology of New Mexico.

**December 21** - Our December potluck will feature a tour of the collections by Amanda Cantrell, Collections Manager.

-Lannois Neely

## FIRST LANDSCAPE WORK DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

On the morning of Saturday, 3 October, a dedicated crew of volunteers and staff worked together to improve some of the landscaping around the Museum. It was a cool morning and we were eventually chased away by the rain, but we achieved a lot in two and a half hours.



Volunteers: Eli Chavez & Anahi Hernandez, Nance Crow, Mary Voelz, Larry Littlefield, Rick Buss, Pauline Ho, John McDonnell. Staff: Doug Simon, Patti Gegick, Ayesha Burdett

We focused on one area outside the Exhibit Design Studio that was overrun by Virginia Creeper and other weeds. Volunteers brought their skills and knowledge, as well as their energy and tools. We pulled all of the weeds that we could, and removed other debris and trash. The amount of vegetation removed was quite remarkable (we managed to fill the dumpster!).



Before!

The area now looks much cleaner – and looks like a museum should look.

Many volunteers recognize that the area around the Museum has seen better days. Unfortunately, the Museum has not had a groundskeeper in about three years. We have been working with a landscape contractor for general landscape maintenance, and I have been working with outside volunteer groups on special projects in *A Walk Through New Mexico* for the past couple of years. These volunteers always leave with a greater appreciation of the exhibit, feeling excited that they have been able to contribute to the Museum. It's always fun to work in the exhibit, but there are other areas that need our attention and focused effort. I appreciate the effort by all of the work crew and



After!

hope that we can make this a monthly event, targeting new areas around the Museum each time. While progress can sometimes be slow, I truly believe that we can collectively make a difference and be proud of our landscape. After all, it is the first thing (and last thing) that is seen by all of our visitors.

If you have any questions, ideas or constructive criticism – please let me know!

-Ayesha Burdett, Curator of Bioscience,  
[ayasha.Burdett@state.nm.us](mailto:ayasha.Burdett@state.nm.us)

Dear Friends,

Ayesha Burdett and Patti Gegick, of the NMMNH Bioscience team would like support at another Landscape Day, Saturday, November 7th, at 9:00am. Bring tools, gloves, a hat and water, and meet outside of the Museum by Spike. You are welcome to sign for hours credit.

**Please sign up in the Lounge** if you can.

We got a lot done on the last Landscaping Day and left feeling happy about everyone who came to help out. I have to give two trainings at NHCC that day, but let me know if you can come so I can leave a list with Ayesha.

**-Doug Simon**

Shared Resources Volunteer Coordinator

## KIWANIS LEARNING GARDEN TABLE SANDING PROJECT

The 11-year-old+ tables in the Kiwanis Learning Garden (KLG) got a makeover this past spring and summer, thanks to many volunteers. Here's a rundown on who donated their time to give us 10 beautifully-sanded and stained tables.



Beginning in March, we had the expert advice of **Bert Gearhart**, who recommended taking the tables apart and planing each board in the Fab Shop. He and **Mike Pierce** planed one of the table seats. Mike then reported a few days later

that the boards were too warped to continue planing. Thank you, Bert!

Sunday, April 19, Museum Volunteers **Elena and Joe Gallegos, Erik and John Osmon, and La Verne Botello** completed the sanding and staining of four tables in under one and a half hours. They worked well as a team and were ready for more, with La Verne saying the remaining nine tables could be finished in no time. Two weeks later, Museum Volunteer **Joshua Plevin** gave part of his Friday afternoon to begin sanding a table. He promised to be back after returning from a trip overseas. Thank you, Elena, Joe, Erik, John, La Verne, and Joshua!



The summer with its heat, busy camp schedule, and Nat Geo Birds of Paradise tear-down meant postponing the work until Sunday, August 31. Six more tables were completed by a different group of volunteers at the Museum, **the KLG Family Stewardship Collaborative (KLG FSC)**. This is the group that oversees the planning and planting of the garden all the months of the year.

The **Edmonds, Hopkins, Menendez, Sabogal, and Yaeger families along with their children** hustled the sanders and brushes while the **rest of the KLG FSC families and Kiwanis Club of ABQ (KCA)** volunteers weeded and watered on this busy Sunday workday in the garden. Thank you, KLG FSC Families!

CONTINUES

Invaluable staff support for this effort came from *Doug Simon, Dan Secrist, Rachel Veracka, Cirrelda Snider-Bryan, and Mike Pierce*. Thanks to all!



Other projects completed by the KLG FSC and KCA volunteers this year include: Bat House by all the KLG FSC (with help from *Joey Martinez and Pedro Toledo*), Tickle Path by *Julia Edmonds and her family* and the FSC, Shade Fabric on the Pergolas by *CC and KCA*, Worm Farm Shade Structure by *Jenna Sabogal and sons*, sandbox cover by CC, Collection Shelves by *Yaeger Family* and CC, Chalk board by CC and *Janet Hevey*, Bird Blind by CC, *Christine Gonzales, Grace Mayer, Austin Anderson*.

Next time you are in the east parking lot, stop and take a break in the Kiwanis Learning Garden, and appreciate the smoothness of the beautiful, sturdy tables originally built by Museum carpenter *Joe Carter* over 11 years ago. By sanding and staining every two years, we will keep them useful for another decade—you can count on it!

-Cirrelda/CC Snider-Bryan  
Kiwanis Learning Garden Coordinator

## Museum Adult and Family Educational Programs

### NOVEMBER

#### November 1 • First Sunday

Literacy event

#### November 6 • Adult Class

Creative Wire: Minerals and Jewelry

#### November 7 • STARTUP Studio

Simple Circuits

#### November 17 • lecture

What's Up with U

#### November 19 • Curator's Coffee

Legendary Lizards

#### November 21 • STARTUP Studio

Electronic Textiles

#### November 23 • Space Science

Lunar Monday

### DECEMBER

#### December 5 • STARTUP Studio

Holiday Cards

#### December 6 • First Sunday

#### December 8 • Lecture

Humans and Resources

#### December 9 • Adult Class

Wire Tree

#### December 21 • Space Science

Lunar Monday



## LECTURES

### What's Up with U? Abandoned Mine Wastes in Native American Lands

**José M. Cerrato, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico (UNM)

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 • 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Many abandoned uranium (U) mine waste sites remain in the Western U.S. More than 500 sites are located in Native American lands. Adequate remediation of these sites represents at least a multimillion dollar federal investment. It is necessary to understand the chemical and physical characteristics of these abandoned mine wastes for adequate management. Join Dr. Cerrato as he discusses this critical problem and his research on abandoned mine wastes in Native American communities in central-western New Mexico and northeastern Arizona.

**Dr. José M. Cerrato** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at UNM. Dr. Cerrato's research interest is related to processes at the interface of water and energy that affect the cycle of metals in the environment. He leads the *E-H<sub>2</sub>O Research Group* which applies spectroscopy, microscopy, and aqueous chemistry tools for the study of complex environmental interactions. He is also a professional guitar player. He earned a BSc in Civil Engineering (National University of Honduras), M.S. in Environmental Engineering, and PhD in Civil Engineering (Virginia Tech), and was a postdoctoral researcher at Washington University in St. Louis.

*This Lecture is co-sponsored by EPSCoR which is partnering with the NMMNHS to bring researchers and their work to the public.*

Held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science  
1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 • (505)  
841-2800. Visit: [www.nmnaturalhistory.org](http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org)

\$6 (\$5 members, \$4 students) Museum Volunteers are FREE but there is limited seating. Please sign up on the sheet in the volunteer lounge. Only 20 seats will be held.

Purchase in advance online to guarantee your seats, go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org) or purchase tickets at the admissions desk the night of the event. Doors open at 6:15 pm.

### HUMANS + RESOURCES = PROBLEMS

**Janie Chermak, Ph.D. Professor and Chair  
Department of Economics, UNM**

Tuesday, December 8 • 7-8:30 pm

Everything humans do can impact the natural environment, and some impacts have long-lasting consequences. For example, the exploitation of natural resources not only depletes the resource, but processes associated with the exploitation, such as mine waste or water contamination, can permanently alter the system.

Historically, energy policy has been developed without considering the impact on water and climate policy may not consider the impact on energy. Solutions to these complex problems require policy that considers tradeoffs between systems and is acceptable to society. Dr. Chermak will discuss her research on some of the interactions between systems and the impact of people's taste and preferences with a focus on NM's energy and water sectors, and how the state's attitudes about energy development may impact policy.

**Dr. Janie Chermak** is an applied micro economist who specializes in natural resource economics. She is a Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department at the University of New Mexico. She is also an associated faculty member of the Water Resources Program at UNM and is affiliated faculty at the University of Colorado. Her research focuses on the energy and water nexus and consumer response to scarcity. She earned her BA in geology from Western State College and MSc and PhD in Mineral Economics from the Colorado School of Mines.

*This Lecture is co-sponsored by EPSCoR which is partnering with the NMMNHS to bring researchers and their work to the public.*

Held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 • (505) 841-2800

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## CURATOR'S COFFEE

### A Café Style Program

Join us for a casual discussion. Limited to 15 people and includes coffee, light refreshments, and Museum admission

## Legendary Lizards

**Jerry Tuttle, Museum Naturalist Center Consultant and Volunteer**

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

Come see and hear about America's most legendary lizard - the Gila Monster and its south American cousin the Mexican Beaded Lizard. Hear why they call them living fossils, the American Indian traditions and beliefs, the history and truths behind their legend, and medicinal uses of their venom. Meet a Gila Monster face-to-face.

**Jerry Tuttle** is a NM State Game and Fish designated "Qualified Expert" and former Public Information Officer for the City of Albuquerque's Animal Services. He works with the Museum Naturalist Center and its animals and is the founder of Zoo Crew Kids of Character. He invites all to visit [www.zoocrewkids.blogspot.com](http://www.zoocrewkids.blogspot.com)

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

**Pre-registration required. Limit 15 participants.** To guarantee your place, register online, go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

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

## ADULT CLASSES

### Creative Wire: Minerals and Jewelry

**Friday, November 6 • 9:00-noon**

**Camille Argeanas, artist**  
**Jayne Aubele, geologist**

Learn a few fun things about New Mexico's minerals and then create your own handcrafted wire jewelry for yourself or as gifts for the upcoming winter holidays. This class is geared for adults and older children, ages 12 and above. No prior experience required. If you have taken this class previously, expand your skills, and take home more finished jewelry.

The class fee includes all materials.

**Camille Argeanas**, a native New Mexican, is a nationally known artist who has transformed the use of wire to create jewelry.

**Jayne Aubele** is a Adult Programs Educator/Geologist at the Museum. Over the years, she has taught adult classes in all aspects of geology.

**\$45** (10% member and Museum volunteer discount)

**Pre-registration required.** For more information or to guarantee your place in this class, register online, go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

### Tree of Life - Wire Sculpture

**Camille Argeanas, artist**  
**Jayne Aubele, geologist**

**Wednesday, December 9 • 9:00-noon**

Learn about ore metals that are used to make wire, such as gold, silver, iron, and copper, and their important history as part of New Mexico's mining heritage. Then learn a few fun things about some of New Mexico's minerals from a geologist's perspective. Do you know the difference between silver and sterling silver? What does 14K gold actually mean? Did you know that the very first "gold rush" in North America took place here in NM?

Then bring out your creative side by creating a sculpted tree out of bailing wire with small gem minerals for leaves. With easy, step-by-step instruction you'll leave the class with a prized accomplishment you will want to show everyone. This class is geared for adults and older children, ages 12 and above. No prior experience required.

The class fee includes all materials. You are encouraged to bring a favorite fist-sized rock or mineral specimen to use as a base for your tree.

**Camille Argeanas**, a native New Mexican, is a nationally known wire artist. She has taught regularly at the UNM's Division of Continuing Education for over twenty years.

**Jayne Aubele** is a Adult Programs Educator/ Geologist at the Museum. Over the years, she has taught adult classes in all aspects of geology.

**Pre-registration required.** For more information or to guarantee your place in this class, register online, go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

**\$45** (10% member and Museum volunteer discount)  
email: programs@[NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs@NMMNHS@state.nm.us)

### ::: **STARTUP Studio Workshops** :::

For families (children age 6 and up), students, and adults

Workshops are held in the Highlands Classroom at the Museum

**Instructor: Allie Burquist, New Mexico Highlands University Americorps Intern**

#### **Introduction to Simple Circuits: Toothbrush Robots, MakeyMakey, & littleBits**

**Saturday November 7 • 1 - 4 pm**

Build your own toothbrush robot, banana piano, or electronic invention through simple circuits.

### **Electronic Textiles**

**Saturday, November 21 • 1 - 4 pm**

Create personalized sewable circuits. No previous sewing experience needed!

### **Interactive Holiday Cards & Luminarias**

**Saturday December 5 • 1 - 4 pm**

Create interactive cards through paper circuits and your own light-up electronic luminarias for a fun new twist on a traditional holiday activity.

**Allie Burquist** is a Cultural Technology AmeriCorps intern focusing on using art in STEM programming at the museum. She is a New Mexico Highlands University graduate of the Media Arts and Technology Program.

**\$15** (Members, 10% discount) **for each class**

**Pre-registration required.** Go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org)

Questions: Contact August Wainwright at [programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us](mailto:programs.NMMNHS@state.nm.us) or call 505-841-2861

## **MUSEUM TOURS**

### **Museum Exhibit Tours**

**Mondays • 1:30 - 2:30 pm**

Take a docent-led, fact-filled, fun, guided tour of the Museum exhibits. Limited to 14 participants ages 13 and up. Meet in the Atrium at the stadium seating.

Free (with Museum Admission)

No registration required. First-come, first-served.

## PREHISTORIC PRESCHOOL

### Fall Sessions

Prehistoric Preschool is a Museum program for 3- to 5- 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.

All class participants must be accompanied by an adult. No more than two children per adult companion, and no more than two adults per child. Permission for attendance by siblings younger than 3 is made on a case-by-case basis with Early Childhood Educator. Maximum class size is 12 children and their adult companions.

#### **Fall Session 2: Rocks & Volcanoes**

What's the difference between a pink rock and a black rock? How does a volcano explode? Will extinct volcanoes ever erupt again? Are Mars red rocks like New Mexico red rocks? Come explore rocks and volcanoes of New Mexico and Mars! Includes optional Sunday Rock Hunt.

Classes are every other week. Choose Thursday, Friday, or Saturday morning 10 am to noon, or Thursday or Saturday afternoon 1 to 3 pm.

**Preregistration is required. Scholarships available.**

**\$90** for first child, **\$81** for second child in the same family. **10% discount for Museum members or Museum volunteers.** Scholarships available.

**Pro-rated registration** available after classes have started.

**For more information or to Register for classes, go to** <http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/preschool.html> **Questions?** August Wainwright at [programs.nmmnhs@state.nm.us](mailto:programs.nmmnhs@state.nm.us) or **(505) 841-2861**

## New Exhibits

### NatureScapes Photo Salon:

"Colors of Nature in New Mexico"

**Opened October 23**

This year's theme celebrates the many beautiful colors occurring naturally in the land, sky, minerals, flora and fauna of New Mexico. Photographs will be selected for display from photographers of all levels of experience. Prepare to be amazed by the colors of enchantment.

**No preregistration required.**

**FREE with Museum admission**

## Coming Soon....

### Special Gem Exhibit: The Post Tiara

This fall we will have an amazing "treasure from the vault" exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Gem and Mineral Collection.

The *Post Tiara* will be on display for the very first time in New Mexico. Made around 1840 and believed to have been created in France, the tiara was made of silver and gold and contains 1,198 old mine and rose cut diamonds set in a nature motif of leaves and flowers. Once the property of a British noble, the tiara was purchased at auction for the Smithsonian by Marjorie Merriweather Post in 1970.

Visit our website for more about the grand opening event and for news about the exciting reason we will have this amazing museum piece.

**No preregistration required.**

**FREE with museum admission**



## Beginning January 2016....

### Prehistoric Preschool – Winter Session

Prehistoric Preschool will be welcoming back Ms. Heather for our 2016 classes. Ms. CC will be coordinating the Family Garden Workshops. The Preschool classes may spend time with her in the Garden.

Visit [www.nmnaturalhistory.org](http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org) for new Prehistoric Preschool offerings beginning in January!

## Coming up.....

### YOUNG EXPLORERS WINTER HOLIDAY CAMP 2015-2016

Become a New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science scientist for a day! Investigate Museum exhibits and explore geology, biology, technology, and space science.

Each day's session is a stand-alone science camp. Sign up for one session, more than one, or for all of them.

For camp descriptions, schedules, and registration, go to [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org) for more information, cost, and registration.

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## The Volunteer Association Newsletter (The VAN)

The VAN is published bimonthly. There are six regular issues each year: January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, and November-December with an occasional Special Issue. The deadline for submitting articles and photographs for the next regular issue is always the fifteenth of the month prior to the publishing date of that issue. The deadline for the **January-February 2016** issue, for example, will be **December 2015**.

Please send items for the VAN to Louise Harris, VAN Editor, <[vannmmnhs@gmail.com](mailto:vannmmnhs@gmail.com)>, with a copy to Chris Sanchez DCA <[chris.sanchez@state.nm.us](mailto:chris.sanchez@state.nm.us)> and Doug Simon DCA <[doug.simon@state.nm.us](mailto:doug.simon@state.nm.us)>

The VAN mission is to inform, engage, and enhance the experience of NMMNHS Volunteers by acting as a vehicle of continuing education, keeping volunteers informed about the Museum, and relaying news of volunteers and their activities.

*Your articles pertaining to the museum are most welcome.  
Articles may be edited for clarity and space limitations.*

EDITOR'S REQUEST: Please put the word "VAN" in your email title

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