

spark



Photo by Graham Paterson

Happy Autumn!

At CuriOdyssey, we're all about science. Did you know that you can find in nature the scientific phenomena that are at play in our exhibits? Join us in our autumn photo hunt and start seeing science everywhere!

Autumn Science Photo Hunt!

WHERE DO YOU SPOT SCIENCE?

Science is everywhere. From the swirling of water that flows down your tub drain to the heavy fog that rolls in across the Santa Cruz mountains on the coast of California, you can find scientific phenomena all around you in common places.

Inspired by some of our most-loved exhibits, we're challenging families to look out for scientific phenomena in their everyday lives this season.

Each month, from September through November, we'll be calling for photos of a particular phenomenon highlighted in one of our exhibits. Take a look at our schedule and keep your eyes open for real scientific phenomena in your backyard or community.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **September: Inspired by Fog Fall**
Look for fog on the coast or in cities!
- **October: Inspired by Vortex**
Check the tub drain or examine a fast-moving stream.
- **November: Inspired by Shadows**
Look for shadows cast at different times of the day.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

Post your photos to Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #CuriOdyssey and #CuriHunt to share examples of these concepts in nature.

- [Instagram.com/CuriOdyssey](https://www.instagram.com/CuriOdyssey)
- [Facebook.com/CuriOdyssey](https://www.facebook.com/CuriOdyssey)

Remember to use #CuriOdyssey and #CuriHunt when you post your photos on social media. Happy science photo hunting this autumn season!



Photo by Sanders Fabares



Photo by Justin Miel

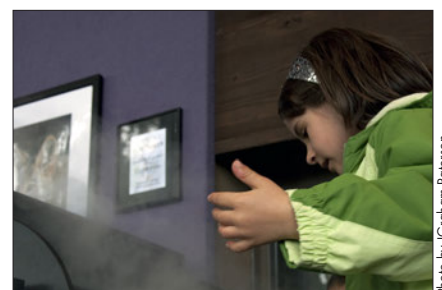


Photo by JGraham Paterson

Coastal Cleanup Day

September 21, 2013

10am-12pm

Join us for one of our favorite annual events! Make a difference in your backyard and be part of a global endeavor to clean up our oceans. Join CuriOdyssey and Coyote Point Recreation Area rangers to clean the beach and make the Bay cleaner and safer for wildlife and people.



Check in at the beach at Coyote Point park at 10:00 am. Be sure to plan for the weather and wear sunscreen, comfortable shoes, a hat, and gloves.

Help reduce waste by bringing your own reusable water bottle and trash collection bucket. Just follow the signs to the beach to begin your conservation project.

Gather your family and friends for this great community volunteer opportunity! You'll feel good knowing that you did your part to take care of your local beach.

Closer Look: Animal Enrichment



Photo by Stephanie Hong

“Animal enrichment” is a method of enhancing animal environments within the context of their behavior and biology, thus drawing out species-appropriate behaviors and abilities. It’s a chance for CuriOdyssey’s animal keepers to experiment and devise schemes for how to engage and mentally stimulate the creatures who live at CuriOdyssey. It’s also something the animal keepers take great pleasure in doing. Whether it’s a tire placed in an animal habitat, a box filled with hay, or worms hidden in a basket of dirt, the goal of enrichment is to mentally stimulate and challenge the animals in our care.

Our Animal Care Intern, Stephanie Hong, recently devised a food forage enrichment project for our Virginia opossum, Luna, as a precursor to a larger enrichment project she’ll

be doing. Because opossums are nocturnal animals, they spend most of their time out and about in the evenings. They also have a pointed snout, many whiskers, and a strong sense of smell. With those factors in mind, Stephanie devised a food forage enrichment project that utilized a stuffed penguin for which she no longer had use! This particular enrichment object was designed to encourage Luna to stick her nose into the penguin’s belly and forage for worms.

While designing this enrichment item, there were several things Stephanie had to consider: safety, cleanliness, and usefulness. For safety’s sake, she had to remove the beans from the stuffed animal due to choking hazards. For cleanliness, she had to ensure that the fabric used was washable and easily cleaned. For usefulness, she had to consider how Luna would use the item and how to make it stimulating for her.

In the end, this enrichment project was a success; Luna was able to obtain all the worms we placed in the penguin’s pockets!

Thanks to Stephanie Hong, Animal Care Intern, for her contribution to this article.



NEW VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE

Welcome to Deborah Wallace, our new Volunteer Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Deborah has volunteered as an Interpretive Guide since 2009. Trained to handle more than 20 of our education animals, she also assists with wildlife classes and special evening events.

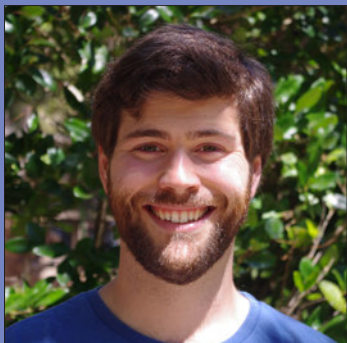
Deborah attended UC Davis where she earned a B.A. with honors in Economics and a juris doctorate. She practiced law for over five years before leaving to raise and homeschool her two children. Deborah is the co-founder of Welcome Homeschoolers, a local homeschooling support organization.



WELCOMING NEW STAFF

We are glad to welcome Lisa Hicks-Dumanske to our development staff. Lisa joined us in spring of 2013 to help with special projects and came on as Individual Gifts Manager in August.

Lisa comes to us from Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA), San Carlos, CA where she served for 13 years as Director of Development/Community Organizer. We jumped at the chance to get this seasoned, all-round fundraiser for CuriOdyssey.



Bryan Holmes, Science Educator

Q. How would you describe what you do?

Bryan: *I take abstract concepts and turn them into visible, changeable systems for learners to investigate. The idea is to create an experiment that illuminates a topic. In the experiment students can change variables, see the results, and figure out a concept for themselves.*

Q. What's the most exciting thing about working at CuriOdyssey?

Bryan: *CuriOdyssey is a special place. Given our educational philosophy and our audience, there is an air of inventiveness to the whole organization. We welcome visitors to try their own experiments, and children haven't been tainted by the words "impossible" or "impractical." As a result, I am taught every day to exercise my imagination and question limitations.*

Q: What's the best thing about being an educator?

Bryan: *For me the best part is developing new activities. I spend hours and hours experimenting and tinkering and problem-solving, all so that children can interact with some phenomenon for 30 minutes.*

Q: Which animal do you most enjoy observing?

Bryan: *The raccoon! I am continuously impressed by his intelligence.*

Experiment with Science at Home!



ACTIVITY: MAKING NAKED EGGS

A "naked" egg is simply an egg without a shell. Using vinegar, you can dissolve the shell without breaking the delicate membrane that contains the egg. Get ready - this activity will show you exactly how!

Grade level:

Kindergarten and above, with help from a adult

Timing:

This activity will take a few days from start to finish. But don't be intimidated; it doesn't take long to set up. You can do it in just a few minutes!

You'll need:

- An egg (or two)
- A cup or a container
- White vinegar
- A large spoon

What to do:

- Take a raw egg and place it in a cup or container
- Pour in your white vinegar (also called acetic acid).
- Observe the egg. What do you notice happening? Do you see little bubbles surrounding the egg?
- Place the egg and container in the refrigerator, and let it sit for 24 hours.
- The next day, use your spoon to scoop the egg out of the vinegar.

- Be gentle. Because the eggshell has been dissolving, the egg membrane may be the only thing holding the egg together.
- Carefully dump out the vinegar.
- Put the egg back in the container and cover it with fresh vinegar.
- Leave the egg in the refrigerator for another 24 hours.
- The following day, scoop the egg out again with your spoon and rinse it carefully.
- You should have a whole egg without a shell!

What's happening here?

The acid has reacted with the shell and "eaten" away at it. The shell is made up of calcium carbonate that gets dissolved by the acid. The inside of the egg should still be intact because the vinegar doesn't break down the egg membrane. The egg also swells up because some of the liquid seeps inside it by diffusion. You should be able to see the yellow yolk through the membrane.



What else can I try?

1. What happens if you use a boiled egg rather than a raw egg? Try it out and see what happens!
2. Experiment with placing the "naked" egg in different solutions. What happens when you place it in corn syrup or water? Or what if you try different types of vinegar? Make a few more naked eggs and try out this experiment for yourself!

So how did things turn out? Share your experiments and the results with us online!

[Facebook.com/CuriOdyssey](https://www.facebook.com/CuriOdyssey)
[Instagram.com/CuriOdyssey](https://www.instagram.com/CuriOdyssey)

Polly & Ted Taylor Celebrate 60



Polly, Ted and Kathryn Taylor

This July, CuriOdyssey was happy to join Polly and Ted Taylor and more than 150 of their friends in celebration of the 60th anniversary of their marriage. A longtime volunteer and former trustee, Polly's commitment to CuriOdyssey stretches back to the museum's early days and has continued nearly as long as her marriage to Ted – a testament to Polly's remarkable loyalty to the people and places she loves.

Polly's dedication to CuriOdyssey continues through her daughter Kathryn, also a former trustee, who remains deeply involved in our organization. We are grateful to the Taylor family and honored that Polly and Ted hosted their party to benefit us.

Thank you to these donors for their contributions in celebration of two milestones – sixty years of marriage for Polly and Ted and sixty years of learning at CuriOdyssey.

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Our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support between April 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013.

Every effort has been made to be accurate. If your name is not present or you are not recognized properly, please contact Sarah Clautero Soto, Development Manager, at 650.340.7571.

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CuriOdyssey Gala: 2013 Sponsors

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Special thanks to our event sponsors for our 4th annual Gala! Now is the time to reserve your seat. For more information or to sponsor or purchase tickets, please contact Sarah Clautero Soto at 650.340.7571 or visit www.curiodysey.org/gala.

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Events (September - November)

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Sunday, September 21, 2013
10am-12pm

Make a difference in your backyard and be part of a global endeavor to clean up our oceans. Join CuriOdyssey and Coyote Point Recreation Area rangers to clean the beach and make the Bay cleaner and safer for wildlife and people.

OTTER AWARENESS DAY

Sunday, September 22, 2013
12pm-5pm

In conjunction with National Sea Otter Awareness Week, CuriOdyssey will kick-off the week with Otter Awareness Day. Join us to learn about river otters and their relatives in the Mustelidae family!

CURIODYSSEY GALA

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Join us for CuriOdyssey's signature fundraising event!

For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact Sarah Clautero Soto at 650-340-7571

SLITHER & SQUEAK

Friday, October 25 2013
6pm-8pm

This event sold out last year! Wear your Halloween costume to a spooky science spectacular! Unmask the science behind Halloween tricks and explore spooky science. Meet our nocturnal animals who slither, squeak, creep and crawl, and go trick-or-treating in the name of science!

SCHOOL AND GROUP PROGRAMS

Begin October 2013
Registration begins in September

Interactive exhibits, amazing live animals, and high-quality educational programs - all on a personal scale - provide children with an unforgettable experience. For more information, visit www.CuriOdyssey.org/school-groups.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Begin October 2013
We offer engaging science Registration begins in early September programs for 3-4 year olds and their caregivers. For more information, please visit our website or contact us at scheduler@curiodyssey.org.

ON-GOING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Animals In Action
Tues-Sat, 11:00am

Otter Feeding
Tues-Sun, 12:00 noon

Bobcat Feeding
Tues-Sun, 1:00pm

Animal Connections
Wildlife Show
Sat-Sun, 1:30pm and 2:30pm