

# CURIODYSSNEY news FOR THE CURIOUS

## Conservation in Action



"Amala" the ringtail in her exhibit at CuriOdyssey

### OUT IN THE FIELD: RINGTAIL RESEARCH

At CuriOdyssey, we're committed to not only providing our animals with the best possible care, but also ensuring that our impact goes beyond our walls through a variety of conservation efforts.

Our latest conservation effort is focused on ringtail field research. And if the animal name "ringtail" sounds familiar to you, it's likely because you've seen one of these creatures at CuriOdyssey. Our science and wildlife center is home to a female ringtail named "Amala." And while Amala has her routine at CuriOdyssey, researchers are still working to fully understand ringtails' lives in the wild.

David Wyatt, a Biology professor at Sacramento City College, is one of the lead ringtail researchers in California, and CuriOdyssey is funding his important research on the ringtails who live in Sutter Buttes. In order to gather data, researchers in the field utilize observational methods, scat

dissection, and individual analysis on ringtails. Researchers set harm-free traps to capture the animals. The ringtails are temporarily tranquilized while their body measurements are taken.



CuriOdyssey Animal Keeper, Megan Hanks, in the field

Because of this research, a surprising discovery was made about wild ringtails who live in Sutter Buttes - they eat mistletoe! In fact, ringtails who live in this particular area even select their den sites based on the proximity of mistletoe plants. Knowing this fact may seem trivial, but it's actually important for facilities that house ringtails to know. That's because the discovery helps us more fully understand what kind of habitat is best for these animals.



Collecting data on a ringtail in the wild

While this discovery is important, it doesn't mean we'll start feeding Amala mistletoe anytime soon. More research is needed to see the kind of roll the plant actually plays. For this reason, CuriOdyssey is funding ringtail research and will continue to go out in the field with David Wyatt's team.

To learn more about this research, please visit David Wyatt's blog, <http://bassariscus.me>. To see a ringtail any time, you don't have to go out in the field - just visit CuriOdyssey! The best time to see Amala active in her exhibit is right before closing time.

*- Katie Hutchinson, Wildlife Assistant contributed to this article*

## NEW ANIMALS: BLUE-WINGED TEALS

We recently welcomed three female blue-winged teals to our walk-through aviary. These birds were captive born at the Akron Zoo and donated to us.



Photo by Kevin Shoban

*Did you know?* Blue-winged teals are quite fast in flight, reaching speeds up to 45 miles per hour (45 km/h).

## MEET US AT MAKER FAIRE!



May 16 & 17, 2015

San Mateo Event Center

Join CuriOdyssey and hundreds of other makers at the San Mateo Event center for a celebration of invention, creativity and resourcefulness - and a celebration of the Maker movement! Visit CuriOdyssey's booth to experiment with tops in our Spinning Top Battle Arena and play with our mobile exhibits.

# New North Gallery Exhibition



California-focused exhibition features native animals and landscapes

This spring, we're featuring photographs by Kevin Shoban on our North Gallery walls. Kevin is not only a gifted photographer, but he's also no stranger to CuriOdyssey where he serves as an Animal Keeper Intern, tending to our many non-releasable animals.

Kevin's exhibition is California-focused and features native animals like birds and bobcats, alongside stunning landscapes of places like Cascade Falls and Trinity Alps. Through his images, Kevin hopes to share knowledge of natural sciences and inspire people to explore and preserve fragile wilderness areas in this amazing state.

Please stop by in person to view his work this spring – afterward, you might even be inspired to plan a trip to see more of our beautiful state for yourself!

## All Things Being Equal & Canstruction Jr.



Saturday, 3/21



ON EXHIBIT:  
3/21-3/28  
W/F, 11am-2pm  
T/Th, 2pm-5pm

All Things Being Equal: A celebration of numbers at CuriOdyssey!  
Saturday, March 21, 2015 | Members-only admission at 9am

Play with probability, ponder patterns, and investigate principles of structures and shapes! Only members will experience our Sun Scope at 9:15am & 9:45am and view the sun safely with special lenses. Purchase lunch from Hill Country Barbecue food truck.

Canstruction Jr. Engineering

On Exhibit: 3/21 - 3/28, W/F; 11am-2pm, T/Th; 2pm-5pm

Observe colossal animal structures built from cans during our Canstruction Jr. engineering program! Structures will be built by children from the Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club, in partnership with the building pros at Skanska, and will be on display in CuriOdyssey's Redwood Hall. Cans will be donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Cans donated by: Del Monte, Skaggs Chili and StarKist.

# Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following donors for tribute gifts between October, 1 and December 31, 2014. Every effort has been made to be accurate. If your name is not present or you are not recognized properly, please contact Tavi Haberman, Development Associate at 650.340.7573.

## IN HONOR OF:

*The Boosalis Family:* Patricia and Angelos Dassios *Elizabeth Coonan:* Paul Resnick and Joan Karlin *Marian Erdelyi:* Holly Huyck *Jen Gale:* Anonymous *Lana Guernsey:* Bill Guernsey *Megan Hankins:* Tyson and Caroline Hankins *Cody Ignelzi Smith:* Patrice Ignelzi and Bruce Smith *Jordan's birthday:* Laura Coverson *Cathy Krikorian:* Joan Martel and David Mitchell *Linda and Sterling Lanier:* Paul Resnick and Joan Karlin *Linda Liebes:* Sue E. Berryman *Mason's 3rd birthday:* William and Hilary Seeley *Owen's 3rd birthday:* James and Gina Collins *Josephine Rietz:* Anonymous *Jeremy Stern:* Nancy Stern *Kat Taylor:* Susan Ketcham and Anne Casscells *Polly and Ted Taylor:* Drs. George and Elaine Cohen, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Nieberding *Elsa Valenzuela:* Dianna M. Herrmann *The Van Natta Family:* Leo Ickovic

## IN MEMORY OF:

*Kevin Barnes:* Clifford and Penny Kupperberg, Linda and Sterling Lanier, Mrs. Katherine Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Sharp, Polly and Ted Taylor *Elizabeth R. Ham:* Alfred and Carroll Archibald *Denison Hoover Taylor:* Polly and Ted Taylor Christopher Johnson: Dr. Marna Skaar *Mary Alice Kelly:* Linda and Sterling Lanier, Mr. and Mrs. D. Eugene Richard *Jo Kemling:* Mr. and Mrs. Henri Haber *Stef Mallory:* Jed E. Hartman *Jeanne Susan Martin:* Linda and Sterling Lanier *Merlin:* Anonomous *Barbara Peterson:* Dr. Lawrence H Peterson *Walter and Gretchen Smithey:* Peter and Linda Smithey

# An Exciting 60th Anniversary Year



CuriOdyssey's 60th Anniversary year has come to a close, and we'd like to take a moment to express to our supporters our gratitude for a successful 12 months. The year 2014 was an exceptional one that gave us much to celebrate – including the highest attendance in the organization's recent history. We also received numerous generous gifts from foundations, corporations and donors that have helped fund our programming.

This past year, we also received the largest corporate contribution in our history in the amount of \$100,000 from Wells Fargo. The generous gift is part of the nearly \$17 million that has been raised during the Leadership Phase of the capital campaign, and it serves as an investment in CuriOdyssey's next 60 years of building science literacy in children and inspiring future generations. The grant will go directly toward the organization's plans for a major renovation campaign that will be officially announced later this year.

We look forward to what 2015 will bring, and we're excited to share new developments with devoted supporters like you.



## CuriOdyssey Board of Trustees

**Chair**  
Cathy Krikorian

**Vice Chairs**  
Lana Guernsey  
Danielle Simon  
Jennifer Van Natta

**Treasurer**  
Joseph Winters

**Secretary**  
Anne Lynde

Ann Aristides  
Patricia Dassios  
Aaron Gruber  
\*Cheryl Hightower  
Brian Koch  
Linda Lanier  
Kimarie Matthews  
Amy Ramsey  
Holly Rockwood  
Tara Samuels  
\*Nancy Spencer  
Beth Springer  
Deborah Wallace  
Patrice Wilbur

\*Executive Committee

**Volunteer Representative**  
Deborah Wallace

**Emeritus Trustees**  
Thomas R. Brown  
Robert E. Henderson  
Kathryn Taylor  
Polly Hoover Taylor

**Advisory Council**  
Dr. Paul Doherty  
Edith Eddy  
Dave Holland  
Marilyn Loushin-Miller  
Dr. Vera Michalchik  
Beth Springer  
Peter Steinhart

**Executive Director**  
Rachel Meyer

*News for the Curious*  
is a publication  
of CuriOdyssey.  
1651 Coyote Point Dr.  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
Tel: 650-342-7755  
[www.CuriOdyssey.org](http://www.CuriOdyssey.org)

# Events (March - May)

## SAVE THE DATE

### All Things Being Equal

Saturday, March 21, 2015

Member hours: 9am-10pm  
General public: 12pm-4pm

Play with probability, ponder patterns, and investigate principles of structures and shapes!

Purchase your lunch from Hill Country Barbecue.

### Canstruction Jr.

March 21 - 28 2015

Please check website for times

Observe colossal animal structures built from cans during our Canstruction Jr. engineering program! All cans will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

## SCIENCE EXPLORERS

### Weather Wonders

March 20-April 24

Fridays, 8:30am-12pm

Your preschooler will explore weather patterns and observe wind, rain, and animals seen in the spring.

Pre-registration is required.  
Member fee: \$260  
Non-member fee: \$320

## WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

### Discovery Dissections

March 15

10:15am-12:15pm

Have you ever seen the lens of an eye, beak of a squid or brain of a fish? This workshop will have participants comparing and contrasting the organs of several different animals.

### Marsh Mucking

March 28

10:15am-12:15pm

Learn about the importance of protecting our wetlands while mucking about in the mud flats!

### Adapted for Survival

April 11

10:15am-12:15pm

Students will compare herbivores, carnivores and omnivores, observe adaptive disguises, such as camouflage and mimicry; and learn about defense mechanisms

### Coyote Point Conservation

April 25

10:15am-12:15pm

Learn about native and non-native plants and animals, remove invasive plant species and explore Coyote Point's tide pools!

Preregistration is required

Member fee: \$40/workshop

Non-member fee: \$50/workshop

## ON-GOING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Animals In Action

Tues-Sun, 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