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Buena Vista Museum of Natural History and Science 2018 Chester Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93308 661-323-6350 buenavistamuseum@gmail.com



The Museum will be CLOSED

July 4th





From One Small Room at CALM to Owning a 20,000 sq ft Building

1995-2015 Celebrates BVM's 20th Anniversary serving the community as an educational resource. In 1995 a small group of science minded individuals gathered and soon the Buena Vista Museum was formed to share with our community a stunning collection of Miocene fossils collected by Bob Ernst from the Sharktooth Hill area. At the dinner, on April 17, a slide presentation from Mark Hodson, one of the founding members, outlined twenty years and the many accomplishments the museum has achieved during that time. Today, Twenty Years later, the Museum is more than just a repository and display for Sharktooth hill fossils. While the Miocene fossils remain one of the significant attractions. The museum has grown from that small room at CALM to be housed in a building with approximately 20,000 sq ft with 16,000 sq ft of diversified exhibits from Anthropology, Archaeology, Astronomy, Anatomy, Biology, Geology, Paleontology and a hands-on interactive discovery center. Additional space includes classroom, paleo cleaning and specimen lab, workshop, and unique gift shop.

(continued on page 2)

The Museum is open: Thursday - Saturday 10 am - 4 pm and Sunday 12 pm - 4 pm , during high heat days hours are subject to change please call the museum at (661) 324-6350 for more information..

We Bought the Building!

This was a bold step but we felt it was time to take it! We cannot thank our many donors enough who have helped the museum successfully raise over \$160,000. This was enough for the down payment and escrow fees to purchase the building. A special thanks to Louise Juracek with Coldwell Banker and previous building owner, Mike Artz, for making this dream come true! We have traded a lease payment for a Mortgage payment! However, we would like to make the mortgage go away as soon as possible. The Museum has kept the building fund active for anyone who would like to donate and designate funds towards the mortgage and/or repairs needed.

We are very grateful to the Bakersfield Californian Foundation who recently blessed the museum with a grant of \$30,000 to fully replace the leaking roof. This is just one of the repairs needed. There are many practical improvements the museum would like to fix in the near future, such as, insulation to the attic and air-conditioning to the upper floor which only has fans to cool it. Both of these improvements will make the upper floor more enjoyable for the visitors. The museum is also looking at some needed repairs and upgrades to the plumbing and electrical. It is an antique building and due to the age has many needs however, was affordable, building equity, and financial stability. All of these things will help improve exhibits, programs, and enable us to better serve the community.



Our volunteers are a major part of the Museum's success. Each and every volunteer is appreciated more than words can say. April 17th dinner also honored our many volunteers who served during 2014, accumulating over 7800 hours keeping the museum open and operational. BVMNH has very limited staff, our Executive Director, a part time assistant, and front desk help. Every other position within the museum is filled with volunteers. The volunteer team is made up of helpers with diverse backgrounds and a wide range in ages, from 12 years old to 80 years young. Daily, weekly, monthly you will find volunteers giving their time helping at the front desk, as docents for tours, office help, displays, website, kids camps, library, Curation, Paleo lab, field guides, maintenance and cleaning just to name a few. Every area of the museum has volunteers involved in making it happen. It is the many volunteer duties and activities that keep the museum energized. A Big Thank You to all of you who work so hard to make the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science so successful!

"The Museum is truly blessed to have so many dedicated, talented and diversified individuals. No one is more cherished in this world than someone who helps lighten the work of another. With the wonderful volunteers I work with, my job is much more rewarding. It is with all who help even just an hour that the museum survives and thrives!"

With Sincere Gratitude,

Koral Hancharick. Executive Director

How valuable are our volunteers? Each and every volunteer is extremely valuable bringing a different skill set, talent, and time. Words cannot express how much we value them. However, The National Association of Volunteers, places a value per hour.

Total 2014 Volunteer Hours 7874

National Volunteer Value per hour $x \pm 22.14$ Value of Hours \$173,223.00

In Memory of Ben Nafus 1928-2015



May 02, 1928 — April 27, 2015 Benjamin E. Nafus Jr. was born in Niagara Falls New York to Benjamin E. Nafus Sr. and Jean Gordon Taylor-Nafus and graduated from LaSalle High School, upon Graduation he joined the Coast Guard where he was trained as an electrician and attained the rank of Electricians Mate 1st Class, he served in the Great Lakes and Alaska until 1954. On July 4th 1954 he and Jean Mary Kersell were engaged and married the same year on September 11th. Their marriage was blessed with 3 children Benjamin Nafus III (Jill), Laurie Nafus-Hemingway (Scott), David Nafus (Laura), 10

grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren who were his pride and joy. Just two weeks short of their 60th wedding anniversary when Jean passed (8-29-14).

Ben was employed with Bell Aircraft as a Machinist, Hall and Rich as an Engineering Technician, while he attended the State University of New York College at Buffalo majoring in Geology and earned his Degree in Highway Technology. In January 1963 Ben was hired by Robert Martin & Associates in California, the family moved from Niagara Falls NY, to Ventura California where he worked for the Real Estate, County Planning Dept. and the Merchant Marines. 1967 He was hired by Getty Oil as a Geologic Draftsman. In 1969 was offered a position in Bakersfield, moved the family and worked in Bakersfield until his retirement with Texaco Oil Company in 1986.

In retirement Ben & Jean were among the first docents at CALM where they actively participated in giving youth tours for the local school kids as well as their involvement at Sharks Tooth Hill, assisting with the excavation of fossils, collecting specimens and historical artifacts that are on display at CALM and Buena Vista Museum(BVM). Ben and Jean were founding members of BVM and assisted in the development of the BVM paleontology project. Ben devoted himself to research with Jean's endless support and donated many hours painting historic scenes such as his first two Miocene murals (a Marine and Land Animal mural) that were at CALM since 1995- Spring 2015. These two murals can now be seen at BVM.

Ben and Jean travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and several trips to the United Kingdom, were members of the Sierra Sailing Association actively competed in many regattas and sail boat races. He loved camping and family outings and was a positive force in his family. He will be fondly remembered for his never ending stories of past adventures and will be missed by all.

Nafus Murals Find A New Home

Ben was a passionate artist. In the Spring 2015 CALM blessed BVM with a gift of the first two Miocene Murals painted by Ben Nafus. While they are not new, they are new to BVM. The two murals stand 8ft x 16 feet. They depict what life was like in Bakersfield 14 million years ago. Due to the generous time and talents of Steve Collett, the murals are now framed and on display. We hope that you will stop in, see, and enjoy them in their new home on the main floor of the museum.





We hope to have the light bars secured at ceiling height so that the murals will be unobstructed.

2015 Buena Vista Museum Calendar

Save these dates! More information available on our website.

JULY

July 1st-4th Visit the Museum's firework stand on Mall View Rd in the Big O Tires parking lot



July 6th – August 6th Summer Science Camp for Kids in 1st through 6th grades. See insert for details!!

AUGUST

August 1st Family Day at BVM, 10am - 4pm 2 adults and up to 6 kids - admission is only \$20! Ask at the register for Family Day Special admission price!

SEPTEMBER

September 5th Family Day at BVM, 10am - 4pm 2 adults and up to 6 kids - admission is only \$20! Ask at the register for Family Day Special admission price!

September 12th Weird Science for Adults Only, 6:30pm - 9pm Why should the kids have all the fun? Have you ever been watching a program just for kids and thought Wow! I would like to do that. Well this is a night for you! Join Weird Scientist Dave Hanley as he explores the many diverse aspects of Science. This is a night for parents, grandparents, teachers and any adults that would enjoy a night of pure wild and wacky fun! Reserve your space today for a really Fun Night! All this for just \$15 a person or \$25 for a couple.

OCTOBER

October Paleo Dig Near the Famous Sharktooth Hill TBA with BVM Would you like to be a paleontologist for a day? Do you like to dig in the dirt? Would you like to find fossils? Join the museum field guides on this adventure to the Quarries near Sharktooth Hill. No experience necessary. More details on BVM website.

October 3rd Family Day at BVM, 10am - 4pm 2 adults and up to 6 kids - admission is only \$20! Ask at the register for Family Day Special admission price!

October 16th - 17th Night at the Museum Small groups will be guided through the dark and dimly lit Museum exhibits areas, past groups have reported odd noises and a visit from the friendly and prankster ghost. WOW! OHHHH!Thump! And what was that? A visit to the Weird professor's lab is a must! A night for the whole family. Let your imagination run wild with a Fun and Fearful time. Space is limited.

NOVEMBER

November 7th Family Day at BVM, 10am - 4pm 2 adults and up to 6 kids - admission is only \$20! Ask at the register for Family Day Special admission price!

Closed for Thanksgiving November, 26th

Watch for more events to be added to our website calendar www.sharktoothhill.org



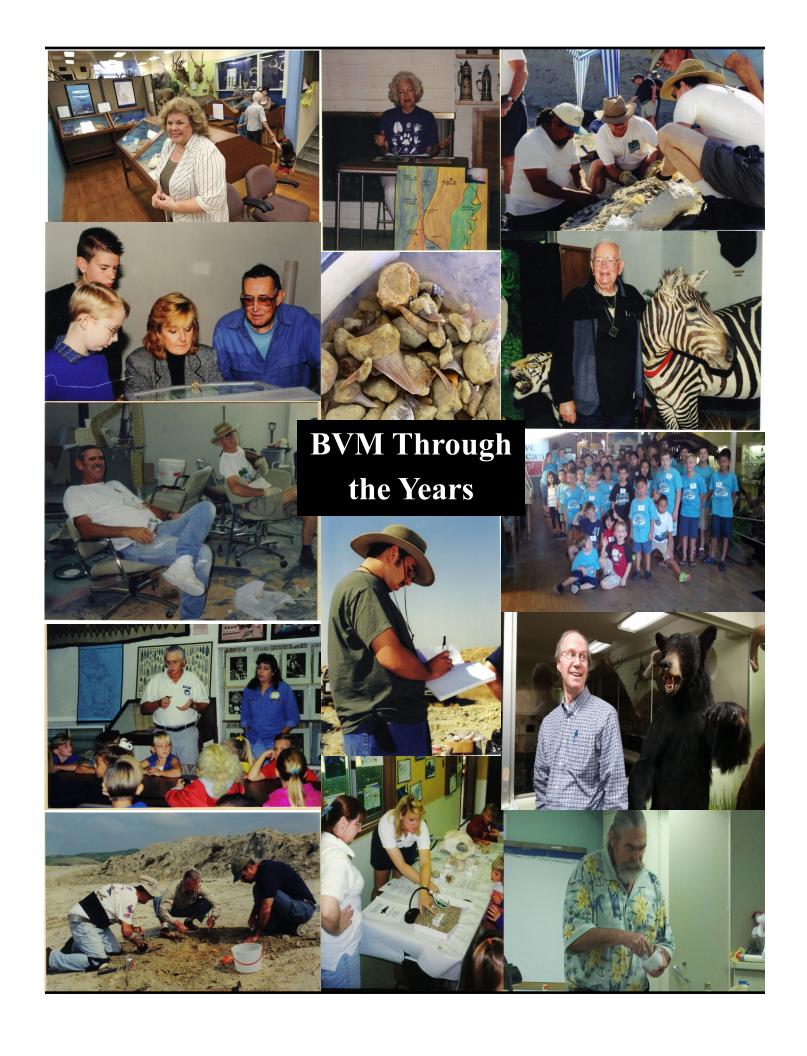
The 5th Annual Spectacular World of Science!

Scientists, Robots and friends gathered on Saturday May 9th at the Marriott Downtown Bakersfield for the Spectacular World of Science promoting Science, Engineering, and Technology, as well as honoring the First Place Winners of the Kern County Science Fair. Youngsters from grades 6th-12th showed their Science Fair projects one more time before going on to State Competition. Students received certificates from Congressman Kevin McCarthy and the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science for their scientific achievements in science.

Children, families and persons of all ages explored and enjoyed science up close through the science fair exhibits, live demonstrations, experiments, and interactive hands on activities as well as enjoying special presentations: The energetic Weird Science of Dave Hanley and CSUB students.

This year we were privilege to have two awesome representatives from NASA, Astronomer Dr. Dan Masters presented the Joys and Sorrows of a young Astronomer. This year's Key note speaker Dr. Robert Anderson from NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab presented an informative visual power point arrangement of Mars Exploration, technology and what this means for the future! This "spectacular" event was appreciatively sponsored by CHEVRON, KGET Ch17, Don & Diane Lake Family, Marriott Downtown Bakersfield, JLM Associates, Grimmway Farms and NASA. Thank you for your support!





Kern County Historical Society visited BVMNH on March 21st



By John P. Stegall, Curator & Historian

On Saturday March 21, 18 members of the Kern County Historical Society made a visit to the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science as part of their year-long schedule of local history lectures and field trips. They were guided by BVM's Curator John Stegall on a two hour tour of the museum's three and a half floors including a

special tour of the repository storage room. The curator also briefly discussed the scientific works of Dr. Edward Mitchell, a paleontologist, who wrote the famous book *History of Research at Sharktooth Hill, Kern County, California* which was at the center of the discussion. This year marks the book's 50th Anniversary of its publication since it was published by the Kern County Historical Society in 1965. The field trip ended with a nice luncheon at Tina Marie's restaurant.

This field trip was truly a historic event for many members of the Historical Society who have never visited our museum, but have always heard about it. They were all very impressed with the special tour of the museum's exhibits and repository, especially a chance to get a first look of a few fossils that may be put on display in the near future. The Kern County Historical Society wants to wish the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science a Happy 20th Anniversary.

Kern County Historical Society visitors at Buena Vista Museum Gift shop, March 21, 2015



New Exhibit: California Black Bears & a Javelina

Thank you to Connie and John Ward for their generous donation of two beautiful full sized Black Bears, a Javelina, and many other miscellaneous specimens that will enhance our North American Animal Exhibit area.





Of Soap and Cinnamon

By: David Hanley

Poison free way to get rid of insects

Ready for the "March of the Ants?" The ant and roach season is upon us. Here are a couple of "organic" tips to get rid of these undesirables.

Ants and roaches are both arthropods. This means that they need surface tension to breath and live. Surface tension is force that is part of the molecular arrangement on the surface of water. It behaves like a "skin". We use soap to make water "wetter". It interferes with surface tension. If you mix one part dish soap to three parts water in a spray bottle, it works as a direct application bug killer. For the most part, it works on all arthropods. If you spray it on roaches, ants, or even black widows, they usually die within seconds. This is not a latent poison. There is no residual poisoning. It only works on the bug you spray it on.

Materials:

- spray bottle
- dish soap (Joy, Dawn, or any generic liquid soap for doing dishes)
- 3 X's the soap in water

Contrary to popular opinion, cockroaches are very clean. They incessantly lick their feet clean. It does not mater what is on their feet, they will constantly clean. Boric acid is a white powder that is often found in mustard like bottles in "dollar stores". The powder is toxic if ingested by

humans so should only be placed where it will not get in human or pet food. Because of the warmth, behind microwaves and stoves are favorite hangouts for roaches. Pets might have difficulty getting behind a stove, microwave, or refrigerator.

When the roaches walk through the boric acid it feels dirty to them. They will mandatorily lick their feet clean. After consumption of boric acid, cockroaches die within one and a half to two days. You will find them out in the open doing "air pushups".

Like many other arthropods, ants smell with their feet. This means that they are carful of what they step on. They are sensitive to strong smells and poisons. Cinnamon powder will create an un-crossable barrier. If you place a line of powder across their path it will block them. If it is only a short line they will go around. If the issue is ants in dog or cat food and water, a tray larger than the food and water dishes may be sprinkled with a thin layer of powder. If the dishes are beyond one inch from the edge of the tray, the ants will not cross the cinnamon layer. This will work until water or food particles get on the between area.

Sometimes ants find holes in counters and walls to enter your kitchen/house. To stop them coming through a hole, make a doughy paste of water and cinnamon, and plug the hole with that paste. The ants will not remove it even when it dries.

Have a poison free, organic summer.

Purchase your fireworks and help raise funds at our Fireworks Booth on Mall View Road in the Big O

Tires & TARGET parking lot!

Fundraiser benefitting
BVMNH & Future Fauna's educational programs



MEET SAM SIKOLA, OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER!

Born and raised in Bakersfield, Sam Sikola graduated from South High School in 1971. He attended California State Bakersfield College. Sam began his banking career on February 24, 1974, as a Teller. He was accepted into the managers training program after ten years. Working in Delano for three years as the Service Manager, Sam was promoted to a manager in Bakersfield. When that office was closed, at Ming and Ash, seven months later he became the manager at the Wasco office were he stayed for the next twenty-five years. Sam retired after 40 years with Union Bank June 20, 2014.



During this time Sam married Sheryl (Moore) July 17, 1976. They have a son, Brett, and a daughter, Karen. Both received a Masters and have full employment, which he and his wife are very proud of. They also have two granddaughters, Zoe, 4, and Zin 2. While working at the bank, and raising a family, Sam became involved in many community organizations. He has been a Cub Master, Scout Master, District Chairman, Vice President of Programs, V.P. of Finance, and the Treasurer of the Southern Sierra Council of the Boy Scouts of America where he had been a board member since 1996. Sam was involved in the Wasco Rotary for 26 years serving as Treasurer of the Club, President twice, and Club Bulletin.

When Union Bank was supporting Habitat for Humanity, Sam helped build seven homes at the Kern County Fair. He also has been a volunteer for United Way of Kern County for the last 11 years, as Chairperson for 10 of those years, and serving on the Allocations Committee for Homelessness and Food Insecurity.

Community service was a great part of his life while being the manager, and he was happy to support these wonderful organizations. Sam's cousin, Dave Hanley asked him to come visit the museum and attend a board meeting and consider being on the board. He says "I was very impressed with the work that the museum does and how the meeting was ran. I was very happy and honored to be ask to be a part of what the museum does for our community."



School Tours January - May 2015

A Big Thank You to the 38 Tour Groups, Students and Teachers, Who Visited the Museum From the Schools Listed Below

January, 2015 - Connections Academy Charter School, Exeter, CA; Midway Elementary, Fellows, CA; KHSD ABLE Program, Bakersfield, CA

February, 2015 - Veterans Elementary; Downtown Elementary, Bakersfield, CA

March, 2015 - Norris School; Olive Drive Elementary; Bimat Elementary; Virginia Avenue Elementary, Bakersfield, CA; Wasco United School District—ACES Program, Wasco, CA; Carden School, Tehachapi, CA; Fremont Preschool, Delano, CA

April, 2015 - Olive Knolls Christian School; Harding Elementary, Bakersfield, CA; Terrace Elementary, Delano, CA; Bear Mountain After School Program, Arvin, CA

May, 2015 - Harding Elementary; Downtown Elementary; Neighborhood Place Community Learning Center; BSA - Pack 33, Bakersfield, CA; Carden School, Tehachapi, CA; Pleasant View Elementary, Porterville, CA; Crestwood Elementary, Visalia, CA; Alpine Vista School, Tulare, CA

What Students Are Saying About Us....

Taken from student letters sent to our director after school tours

"I'd like to thank you for taking us through the museum, it was amazing! There were three areas I liked. Sharks, animals from Africa have camouflage so they can hide from people, and there was rocks and minerals and pink and green and purple rocks."

"I learned about cool things and cool rocks in the museum. Finally there was the touch room. That was

"I saw copper in its normal state color, hmmm interesting. Also, a great big amethyst geode was sitting on a table glowing at me. Very pretty."

"Thanks so much for a great tour! They had a great time. You all made my kids feel extremely welcome."

-Mrs. Gundry, Evergreen Elementary 2nd grade teacher



"Dear Docents, Thank you for the museum. The rocks and minerals part was my favorite. I learned about and had great fun holding fossilized sloth poop. Really exciting stuff!"

"I learned that the mama lion goes hunting for food"

"I liked learning about the T-Rex and other cool dinosaurs and fossils! Thanks!"



A big thank you to all of our Volunteers/Docents for guiding, educating, and helping the visiting tour groups have an enjoyable time!



<u>2015 CELEBRATES OUR 20th YEAR OF OPERATIONS</u> and it is an Exciting time! We have purchased our building trading a lease payment for a mortgage. However, we have left the building fund account open for designated donations to help with early payoff of the mortgage, complete needed repairs, upgrades to the plumbing and electrical.

Or consider a general donation for one of the other designated areas listed below.

BVM's average year operating expenses are about \$175,000 per year, or about \$14,583 a month, \$486 per day. No donation is too small...a few dollars or even spare pocket change all adds up! Please know that your donation will help the museum continue the many Science Educational Programs Children and Adults.

Name	E-mail		
Address	City	State	Zip
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Enclosed is my donat	ion for the general operations i	n the amount of \$	
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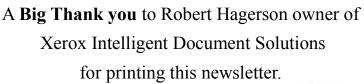


many THANKS to those who support us in so many ways!











GREATER BAKERSFIELD



















