The San Lorenzo Valley Museum’s
New Mountain Echo

Look • Act • Inspire

The San Lorenzo Valley Museum has partnered with the Ken Norris Center for Natural History at UC Santa Cruz to produce an exhibition about the diverse and changing faces of naturalists in Santa Cruz County.

The Look, Act, Inspire, exhibition features the contributions of notable past and present naturalists, as well as envisioning the future naturalists of Santa Cruz County. A major display is devoted to the enormous contributions the late Fred McPherson made to our understanding and conservation of the San Lorenzo Valley watershed. The exhibition also highlights contributions from Randall Morgan, Ken Moore, and many other contemporary naturalists who are currently managing and restoring landscapes, educating the public and younger generations, and advocating for conservation of the natural areas and species in our county. One display highlights the diverse young naturalists being trained at the Norris Center for Natural History.

The exhibition will be on display at the Museum’s Faye G. Belardi Memorial Gallery in Felton with COVID-19 precautions and reduced capacity, as soon as Santa Cruz County has moved out of the Purple Tier.

For those who could not make the virtual opening, the video can be found on the Norris Center’s YouTube channel.

The associated online exhibition can be found here: http://santacruzcountynaturalists.ucsc.edu

Gadgets and Gizmos

This exhibition celebrates the ingenuity of the people of the Santa Cruz Mountains through the patents they filed or the patented machinery they built here.

The exhibition, which will be expanded throughout the coming weeks, has launched online at www.slvmuseum.org, and will open in-person at the Grace Episcopal Gallery in Boulder Creek as soon as COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

The U.S. Army has a language all its own. A "gizmo" means everything and anything. An example, a soldier asks another to lend him his bayonet. "Lend me your gizmo," he says. Or, "Boy, what a gizmo," referring to a beautiful new car streaking by. Los Angeles Evening Citizen, May 8, 1941.
President’s Letter

In December, board member Stephen Payne was elected president-elect. Officer terms are one year, so Stephen will become president of the board in January 2022. I will step down and become past-president. It is my great pleasure to introduce Stephen to you, if you have not already met him.

Stephen is a graduate of Cabrillo College, UC Santa Cruz (BA Anthropology), San Jose State University (MA History), and UC Santa Barbara (PhD Public Historical Studies). His publications include books and articles on the history of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa Clara County, and the sardine industry in Monterey, California, as well as on imperialism and military history. He has lived in the Santa Cruz Mountains since he left active duty with the Navy Seabees in 1968, other than during 1979-1980 when he attended UC Santa Barbara.

He taught history at San Jose State University in the 1980s, was the broker of Loma Prieta Properties until 1994 when he became the Command Historian at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC). While at DLIFLC he also served as the Associate Provost, Senior Vice Chancellor, and Interim Chancellor, as well as the DLIFLC Accreditation Liaison to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. He retired from DLIFLC in 2019.

Stephen has served on the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society board since January 2019 and is pictured above working on the grounds at the Faye G. Belardi Memorial Gallery.

I would like to thank Jennifer Foster who retired from the board in December. Jennifer was elected to the board in September 2016. She lost her home in the CZU Complex Lightning Fires and decided not to rebuild, but relocate out of the area. Jennifer also served as our docent coordinator. She will be sorely missed.

We currently have open positions on the board and we strongly encourage members in good standing to apply. Board meetings are once a month on the first Wednesday at 4pm via Zoom and are open to the public. If you are interested in serving on the board please email or call me.

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Lisa Robinson
CZU August Lightning Complex Aftermath: Alba Schoolhouse

As many people in the San Lorenzo Valley are aware, the historic Alba Schoolhouse, (aka Little Red Schoolhouse of Ben Lomond) was lost to the 2020 CZU August Lightning Complex fire. The school was largely reduced to ash.

The school was originally built in 1895 by the neighborhood community in the upper Alba Road area. Alba Road was just too steep and difficult to traverse during periods of rain, or thick dust during the summer. Wagons and buggies got stuck frequently. So in order to get the children to school, the community petitioned the Santa Cruz County school superintendent, John W. Lindscott, for permission to build a school. But because there were already 46 out of 67 county schools that were isolated one-room schools at that time, he was hesitant to approve it. Community leader D. R. Guichard offered Lindscott a chicken dinner if he would walk up to the Guichard property, a little over a mile up Alba Road. Lindscott declined to walk, but as he sat enjoying his chicken dinner he became convinced that the families up Alba Road needed a school the children could get to consistently.

The school was raised by the community and for over 125 years the community used the school not only as a school (it ceased operation in 1940), but as a touchstone for such projects as road improvement, acquiring postal service and electricity, and as community center and library.

As community members returned to the area after the fire, many were devastated to learn that the Little Red Schoolhouse had burned completely down.

But not everything was lost. Discovered by Dan Arndt, a local fireman/hero, the old school bell was found amongst the ashes. Badly cracked and in need of serious repair, but still viable. Not only was that found, but a commemorative plate from the century celebration in 1995 was discovered also.

The school bell has an interesting history. Although the school was built in 1895 it wasn’t until 1906 that it acquired a school bell. Very important for calling school in and out of session and for marking recess times. However, in 1971 the school bell was stolen. A replacement bell was bought at auction. It had hung at the old Brown School, which had been located at the summit of Bear Creek Road, and had burned a few years prior. The Brown school bell was placed in the bell tower in 1975. The original bell turned up in someone’s back yard in 1978. The Brown school bell was auctioned off at an Alba School 4th of July Celebration some time around 1980 and the original bell placed once again in the bell tower. The Brown school bell now hangs on a farm in Centerville, Washington.

Lucia MacLean

Photographs courtesy of Dan Arndt.
Historic Tales of Henry Cowell
Redwoods State Park – Big Trees Grove

Hot off the press, this new book by Museum member Deborah Osterberg traces the history of the first redwood resort and the role it played in the evolution of redwood tourism and the beginning of the redwood preservation movement.

Purchased by Joseph Warren Welch in 1867, Big Trees Grove became a renowned resort for the next sixty years. From the late 19th century Big Trees Grove attracted visitors from across the country, yet there was no single book which told this engaging history. Deborah’s book sprang from her work as a park volunteer. Her research sheds light on the nation-wide popularity of Big Trees Grove, creating a vivid portrait of the people who promoted, enjoyed, and preserved the grove.

In 1885 a lady visitor from Kansas described the grove as:

… beautifully located on the banks of the San Lorenzo river and shaded by the dense foliage of these giant trees … [where is] found all the accommodations a traveler can require; for here on the one side is a hotel, dining halls, sleeping rooms, besides the beautiful grove with its rustic seats, tables, swings and all things needed to have a grand good time … [and] aside from all these we find it very interesting to listen to the histories of some of the largest trees, which the proprietor of the hotel kindly gave us.

Naming individual trees began in 1846 when pioneer Isaac Graham dedicated the largest redwood on his rancho to visiting explorer John Charles Frémont. Most trees continued to be named for notable men in American history from General Ulysses S. Grant to famed boxer James J. Jeffries (110 tree names). But there were exceptions including trees named for first lady Martha Washington, Crown Prince Vajiravudh of Siam (Thailand), and José Antonio Castro, Comandante-General of the Mexican Army in Alta California. On the day of his 1903 tree dedication President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed that large signs marred the beauty and symmetry of the trees and instead suggested that smaller labels be used. Roosevelt also expressed his displeasure for the grove tradition of plastering the largest redwoods with personal calling cards as seen in the image here. Despite the president’s admonitions, these practices persisted at the grove for several more decades.

Deborah’s book includes a tree name list and map of named trees on the Redwood Loop Trail. She continues to post new stories of Big Trees Grove’s history on her blog - bigtreesgrove.blogspot.com.

Deborah Osterberg
Celebrating Earth Day: Discovering Nature at the Belardi Gallery with iNaturalist

In association with the *Look, Act, Inspire*, exhibition, please join us for a socially distanced event on the weekend of Earth Day 2021. We will meet at the San Lorenzo Valley Museum, Faye G. Belardi Memorial Gallery, in Felton on April 25 at 1pm, to learn more about the nature around the Gallery and how to build your own iNaturalist profile.

We will have a short introduction on nature journaling and using iNaturalist, an application for recording and identifying species, on your mobile device. We will then set out to make observations to document the natural history. Please bring your mobile device or nature journal to this event.

Cost free, donations welcome. All attendees 2+ years old must wear a face mask. Please watch the Museum website www.slvmuseum.org for registration information.

April 25
Save the Date

Museum Store Featured Books

NEW RELEASES

**Historic Tales of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park: Big Trees Grove**
by SLVMuseum Member Deborah Osterberg

**Evergreen Cemetery of Santa Cruz**
by SLVMuseum Lifetime Member Dr. Traci Bliss

**Davenport**
by Alverda Orlando

**Lost Restaurants of Santa Cruz County**
by Liz Pollock
Become a Part of Our Community Today
The San Lorenzo Valley Museum is owned and operated by the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society, a 501c3 non-profit organization. Membership dues and donations are 100% tax deductible. We are solely funded by our members, our supporters, and grants, and depend on the goodwill of our community volunteers’ time and skills.

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Please make checks payable to the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society. For payments by credit card please visit our website www.slvmuseum.com.

For more information call us at (831) 338-8382, or email us at slvhm@cruzio.com.

Interested in volunteering?  □  Check out our volunteer opportunities at www.scvolunteercenter.org

**Membership Options**
- Annual Individual  .................. $25  □
- Annual Family  .................. $40  □
- Annual Business  .................. $40  □
- Individual Lifetime  .................. $250  □
- Family Lifetime  .................. $400  □
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**Donation Options**
- Bronze Supporter  .................. $500  □
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