

# The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

California  
Academy  
of Sciences



March 1989

## March Members Meetings The Inland Island—Sutter Buttes

Wednesday, March 8 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 9 7:30 p.m.



Far from the Coastal Range and Sierra Nevada, a lone volcanic range rises above the lowlands of the Central Valley. Long held sacred by the native peoples of the region, the Sutter Buttes are considered by naturalists to be an "island" of diversity and contrast whose steep domes of rhyolite and andesite are home to a unique assemblage of flora and fauna.

On Wednesday, March 8, at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. and March 9 at 7:30 p.m., Walt Anderson, artist, photographer and guide, will provide an insider's view to this special range. Combining an artist's eye and a scientist's quest for knowledge, Anderson celebrates the unique ecosystem of the Buttes with a slide presentation and will

discuss how this unique landscape of learning and inspiration is also a valuable model of public use of private lands.

For those adventurers not content to just hear about the Sutter Buttes, but would like to experience them first hand, a special tour is being offered through the Academy's Adult Education Department. This expedition sponsored from March 17-19, will be led by this month's lecturer, Walt Anderson. For more information on this study tour, please call the Adult Education Office at 750-7100. The Academy Store will be open before and after the March evening meetings. Next month, the Academy will present "Frogs, Hormones, and Paraguay" on April 12 and 13.

## Planetarium Concert

Tuesday, March 14 8:00 p.m.



Heath Curdts

Jody Stecher and Kate Brislin

The Planetarium Concert series offers a unique and different alternative to traditional concert halls and musical settings. Come and experience traditional "old time music" from Appalachia under the starry dome in the Morrison Planetarium on Tuesday, March 14, at 8:00 p.m. Jody Stecher, on fiddle and banjo and Kate Brislin, on banjo and guitar have performed together since 1974 and have recorded extensively. They are joined by Alan Senauke on guitar.

Jody Stecher has won international acclaim both as a tradition bearer and as a unique creative force. Musically multi-lingual, he has participated in several inspired trans-cultural collaborations.

Kate Brislin is in demand for her expressive and touching vocal solo work, her uncanny ability to mirror other voices as a harmonizer and her rhythmic surety as an instrumentalist.

Alan Senauke has recorded and toured with the Fiction Brothers, Blue Flame (with Kate Brislin), and High Country. He performs children's music with Gerry Tenny and has recently released an album, "Two Guitars," with Eric Thompson.

Tickets are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Morrison Planetarium, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For more information, call (415) 750-7129.

## Traditional Arts



Storyteller  
Georgia  
Churchill

The Traditional Arts programs offer Academy visitors an opportunity to see and experience music, folk art and cooking from all over the world. The programs which take place each Saturday in Wattis Hall, are endowed by a gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. All programs begin at 1:00 p.m.

**March 4**—Using traditional brush techniques, Aiko Yabe demonstrates the ancient art of *shodu juku* (Japanese calligraphy) explaining its relationship to other Asian styles of lettering.

**March 11**—Storyteller Georgia Churchill presents a cross-cultural program of folk tales from many countries, encouraging the children in the audience to act out some of the stories.

**March 18**—Jim Bartz shows us how to make Appalachian clog dolls or “limberjack puppets.” The jointed wooden figure is a unique musical instrument that accompanies the beat of old-time string bands. Jim and his wife Jan will also play the dancing dolls to fiddle music.

**March 25**—The Reverend David Ponedel is a tarot card reader who will share his knowledge of the origins and historical development of tarot, the meanings behind the picture symbols on the cards, and how the cards are clairvoyantly interpreted. Following the talk, Ponedel and other tarot experts will be available for personal readings. Come and learn what the future has in store for you!

## Lecture The Discovery of Pluto

Thursday, March 2 7:30 p.m.



Clyde Tombaugh with his home-made 9-inch Newtonian telescope, taken in the summer of 1928 on the family farm near Burdett, Kansas, 18 months before the discovery of Pluto.

Clyde Tombaugh, professor emeritus at New Mexico State University, and the only man in the 20th century to discover a planet, will present a lecture at the Academy on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Tombaugh, now 82, will discuss a lifetime of achievements, the most notable being his discovery of Pluto on February 18, 1930. After his talk, the public is invited to meet Dr. Tombaugh personally for a poster signing. All proceeds from the event benefit the Clyde Tombaugh Scholarships at New Mexico State.

## Young Audiences

With funding from the McKesson Foundation, Young Audiences of the Bay Area, Inc. is pleased to sponsor a series of performing arts programs for children, taking place one Sunday every month through June in Wattis Hall.

On Sunday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. Kerrigan Black traces the history of Afro-American music in the United States, from slavery songs to modern rap through piano, guitar and a capella singing.

## Science Fair

April 8-12

The 36th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair will be held at the California Academy of Sciences from April 8 through 12. The fair will display the winning science projects of junior and senior high school students who have developed original scientific experiments and worked them into project form. Each year the fair presents an impressive array of projects reflecting a high level of understanding of scientific problems and research processes. The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on Saturday, April 8. Please note that in order to set up the Science Fair, African Safari, Wattis Hall and Wattis Gallery will be closed from April 4 until the opening on April 8.

### Ticket Order Form — Discovery of Pluto

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

\_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$4

\_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets at \$5

Please send this form, your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

For more information call  
750-7217.

No refunds/No exchanges

*Lecture*

***Lessons From the Roof of the World***

*Monday, April 10 7:30 p.m.*



Dr. James W. Larrick, Director of Exploratory Research at Genelabs Incorporated in Redwood City, has been studying patterns of adaptation among the native peoples of South America and the Himalayas. He will share his studies with us in a lecture, "Lessons From the Roof of the World: Studies of Indians of the Andean Altiplano and Tibetan Natives of the Transhimalaya," on Monday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. In his talk, Dr. Larrick will present cultural as well as physiological information—specifically on high altitude hypoxia related acute mountain sickness that would be relevant to Sierra Nevada sojourners. His lecture features beautiful photos of both populations, especially the Mani Rimdu Festival in Thami, Nepal.

*Film*

***Wild California***

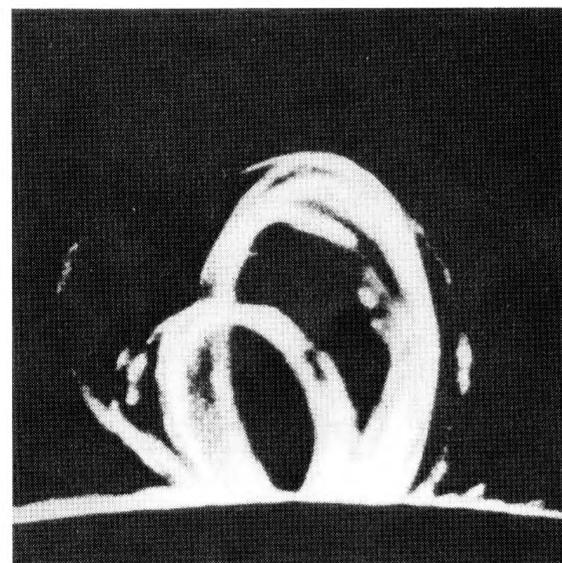
*Wednesday, March 22  
7:30 p.m.*

On Wednesday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m., the Academy and the California Nature Conservancy will present a screening of 'Wild California,' a film written and directed by award-winning National Geographic photographer, David Oyster.

Actor Parnell Roberts narrates this beautifully photographed documentary essay that features stunning footage of both the endangered and abundant wildlife found in California. Presented in conjunction with two important exhibits at the Academy—the new hall of Wild California and Academy photographer Susan Middleton's show, 'Sliding Toward Extinction: The Vanishing Wildlife of California,' the film documents California's natural diversity and celebrates the people dedicated to its protection. Steve McCormick, Director of the California Nature Conservancy will be on hand to discuss the Conservancy's efforts to save endangered species, emphasizing models for success. This film and lecture are being presented free of charge and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call the Academy's Public Information office at 750-7142.

***Sky Show Fire in the Sky***

*March 31 – June 11*



From the explosive birth of the cosmos to the fiery evolution of stars and the fleeting glow of meteors burning in the night sky, the universe is far from being the cold, dark void we often think it to be. The new sky show in Morrison Planetarium, "Fire in the Sky" explores flaming suns, volcanic moons, glowing clouds of gas, and radiant quasars in an encounter with the hottest things in the sky. The Academy's Morrison Planetarium is Northern California's largest "indoor universe." Visitors can experience a realistic simulation of the night sky as observed from any place on earth, as well as depictions of numerous celestial events and cosmic phenomena. Sky shows are presented Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Also, be sure not to miss "Startalk," a look at the current night sky over San Francisco. What constellations and planets can be seen this season? What phase is the moon in? What upcoming astronomical events are worth looking for? This brief tour of the heavens tells you—and shows you—what's up in the sky from sunset to sunrise. "Startalk" is shown Saturday and Sunday at noon. Can't get outside on a clear night? The Morrison Planetarium is the next best thing to being there! For more information on these sky shows call 750-7127.

**Ticket Order Form — Lessons from the Roof of the World**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

\_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$3

\_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets at \$4

Please send this form, your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

For more information call 750-7217.

No refunds/No exchanges

## Academy Expedition Foods of France



Narsai  
David

The Riviera, Provinces, Burgundy, Normandy and Paris are names which raise but one vision—France. A country of great beauty and colorful history, France is also known for its superlative cuisine. It is true that the French have raised the preparation and enjoyment of food to an artistic level, however food in France is not all truffles, pate de fois gras and champagne; it is also good veal stews, crusty bread, pungent cheeses, tasty cider and the aroma of fresh garden herbs. A food lover's journey through France touches on many wonderful things and this tour, sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences from June 17-July 2, will guide you through some of the best of what France has to offer. From the southern coasts of the Riviera and neighboring Provence to the vineyards of Burgundy, through the lush Normandy countryside and the opulence of Paris, the Foods of France tour will lead you through shops, market places, agricultural areas, restaurants and cheese caves on what will be a gastronome's delight. Accompanying the tour will be well-known Bay Area restaurateur and food critic, Mr. Narsai David. Many of you who have eaten in his restaurants, heard him on the radio or read his newspaper column will find him to be the perfect choice as host for this tour. The land arrangements for this excursion are \$3,924 per person and air travel, based upon current high season fares is \$1,050. The costs of this excursion also include a \$350 tax-deductible donation to the California Academy of Sciences. For more information or to make reservations, call 750-7222.

## Adult Education

Spring is here at last and the Adult Education program still has some class and tour openings for those of you eager to jump into this most exhilarating of seasons.

**The Role of Fire in the California Landscape**—We'll look at how fire fits into the ecosystem and how man in California has chosen to view fire in the past, present and future. (Includes a field trip to view and discuss burned areas.)

Lectures: March 21 and 28

Field trip: April 1

**Introduction to Fish Pathology**—Keep your fish healthy and happy. Explore the nature and causes of fish diseases in this class taught by Steinhart Aquarium's aquatic pathologist, Pat Morales.

March 6-20

**Basketry of the Iberian Peninsula**—A close look at the basketry traditions of Spain and Portugal through slides and demonstrations.

March 20

**Inside Morrison Planetarium**—Join us for this special behind-the-scenes look at the Academy's planetarium, its instrumentation and how shows are created.

March 28

**Coyote Hills Regional Park**—The open waters, mudflats, marshes and uplands of this park provide avian habitat variety unmatched along the Bay shore. Waterfowl, waders and shorebirds will highlight our visit. Bus transportation included.

March 4 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Monterey Bay Aquarium**—A bus trip to this unique aquarium which focuses on one of the richest and most varied marine areas of the world—Monterey Bay. The aquarium has expanded with a tropical display featuring the sea life of the Baja California coast.

March 10 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For more information on these classes and study tours, contact the Adult Education Office at 750-7100.

## Travel the World on Academy Expeditions

Let an Academy scientist lead you to a foreign shore! The destination might be almost anywhere on the globe, and your leader will offer special insights to the world around you. Academy Expeditions in 1989 offer a busy schedule of wild and wonderful tours all over the world.

### Guatemala

*Heartland of the Ancient Maya*

March 31-April 15

Leader: Dr. Peter Mathews

### Costa Rica

March 28-April 8

Leader: Dr. Frank Almeda

### The Silk Road

April 30-May 24

Leader: Nancy Pickford

### Mongolia and Siberia

June 8-July 1

Filled - Waiting list only

### Foods of France

June 17-July 2

Leader: Narsai David

### Greenland and the

*Canadian Arctic*

July 26-August 9

Leader: Dr. James Kelley

### Canada: Prairies and Peaks

August 2-13

Leader: Jacques Gauthier

### Caravans of Central Asia:

*Samarkand, Tashkent, Bukhara*

September 9-22

### New Zealand, Tasmania,

*and Australia*

September 27-October 17

Leader: Dr. Frank Talbot

For information on Academy expeditions call the Academy's Travel Office at (415)750-7222.

## Ichthyology Expedition



Researchers on board the Soviet vessel "Vityaz"

Dr. Eric Anderson of the Academy's Department of Ichthyology returned in January from a two month oceanographic expedition to the Indian Ocean aboard the Soviet research vessel "Vityaz." Dr. Anderson was part of a nine-member delegation of invited scientists aboard, the largest number of foreign scientists ever to participate in a Soviet expedition. The party included ichthyologists from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, West Germany, and the United States. The voyage took the scientists through the Mozambique Channel (between Africa and Madagascar) to Walters Shoals, a submarine bank about 650 miles south of Madagascar, then to the

island nation of Mauritius. The objective of the cruise, under the direction of Dr. N. V. Parin of the Institute of Oceanology, Moscow, was to collect and study the deep-sea bottom fishes of offshore seamounts and ridges of the western Indian Ocean. Dr. Anderson collected important specimens for his own research on southern hemisphere fishes, as well as some for Dr. Tomio Iwamoto, also of the Academy's Ichthyology department. Dr. Iwamoto has several joint papers planned with the Moscow group on the grenadier fishes of the Indian Ocean and spent three months last summer in Moscow with this group of ocean-going fish researchers.

## Laserium

Laserium lights up the dome of the Academy's Morrison Planetarium on Thursday through Sunday evenings with a variety of music enhanced by mesmerizing laser effects. Current shows include "Moonrock," a space age rock experience with spectacular animation and 3-D computer graphics, "Laseroq: The '80s," featuring music by the Talking Heads, Oingo Boingo, The Cure and many other

popular rock groups, "Pink Floyd: Now and Then," including music from their most recent album *A Momentary Lapse of Reason*, and "Rainbow Cadenza," featuring favorite classical music pieces. For complete schedule information, call (415)750-7138. Sorry, because Laserium is not an Academy program, we cannot offer a members' discount.

## Continuing Exhibits

A Great White Shark has invaded the waters of the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium. Actually, the shark is frozen and exhibited in a specially designed freezer display case, located near the amphibians and reptiles. This 13 1/2-foot, 1500-pound male was caught in the Gulf of the Farallones and donated to the Academy by Half Moon Bay fisherman Michael McHenry.

The Academy also has two spectacular exhibits of environmental photographs. "Sliding Toward Extinction: The Vanishing Wildlife of California," co-sponsored by the Academy and the California Nature Conservancy, features 25 large-scale color photographs by Academy photographer Susan Middleton of the more than 250 native California plants and animals already listed as endangered, threatened or rare. The exhibit is funded by Chevron USA and the Dean Witter Foundation, and will be on display through May 18.

"Gorilla," co-sponsored by the Academy and the Aperture Foundation in New York, features the compelling photography of Nick Nichols with on-location recording by Dr. Bernie Krause. Major funding for "Gorilla" has been provided by Mr. and Mrs. George Roberts with generous support from Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Soo-Hoo and the Institute of Museum Services. The exhibit will be on display through April 30.

## Newsletter Revision

Pardon our appearance, but we're under construction. The newsletter will be going through a period of transition during the next few months, and we would appreciate your comments and advice. The object of a revision is to present information to you, our members, as clearly as possible. Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter, what's working and what isn't. Suggestions can be addressed to the Public Information Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco CA 94118.

587  
Time Dated Material  
Please Expedite

Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, California 94118-9961  
(415) 221-5100



Open daily 10 am to 5 pm

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 7544  
San Francisco



Arch.  
no. 587  
Copy 2

## March at the Academy

Continuing exhibitions:

“Sliding Toward Extinction: The Vanishing Wildlife of California” through May 18  
“Gorilla” through April 30  
“Pedro Gonzalez: Wildlife Illustrations” through June 18  
Great White Shark in the Steinhart Aquarium

- 2 Lecture—“Discovery of Pluto” 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Traditional Arts—Japanese calligraphy 1:00 p.m.
- 8 Members Meeting “The Inland Island—Sutter Buttes” 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Members’ Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Traditional Arts—Storytelling 1:00 p.m.
- 14 Planetarium Concert 8:00 p.m.
- 18 Traditional Arts—Appalachian music 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Film—“Wild California” 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Traditional Arts—Tarot Reading 1:00 p.m.
- 26 Last performances of “Skywatch ’88 in the Morrison Planetarium
- 26 Young Audiences—Kerrigan Black Afro-American music 1:00 p.m.
- 31 Fire In the Sky opens in the Morrison Planetarium



Cultivate your child's green thumb with the sturdy and informative “Kids Gardening—A Kid's Guide to Messing Around in the Dirt” the latest addition to the bountiful garden of nature activity books available in the Academy Store.

## Looking Ahead to April

- 4 Closure of African Safari, Wattis Hall and Wattis Gallery for Science Fair Set up.
- 8 Science Fair opens
- 10 Lecture—“Lessons from the Roof of the World” 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Members’ Meeting—“Frogs, Hormones, and Paraguay” 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Members’ Meeting—7:30 p.m.