

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



May 1989

May Members' Meetings

A Naturalist in the Land of Genghis Khan

Wednesday, May 17 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 18 7:30 p.m.



Dr. Robert Drewes

A year ago in June, thirty intrepid Academy members, under the leadership of Herpetologist Dr. Robert Drewes, traversed the continent of Asia from west to east. By air and rail, this "Golden Horde" crossed eleven Asian time zones, visiting Moscow, central Siberia, the Soviet Far East and the remote, isolated People's Republic of Mongolia, returning home via Japan. In his lecture, on Wednesday, May 17 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m., and on Thursday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Drewes will recount the group's visits to Lake Baikal, the world's deepest freshwater lake, to Flaming Gorge in the south Gobi Desert, site of the famous Cretaceous dinosaur finds of Roy Chapman Andrews, and to the Valley of the Condors in the southern Altai Mountains. Here the group lived in *yurts*, traditional Mongol huts still in use since the days of Genghis Khan. A student of

human as well as natural history, our speaker will touch on the development of the town of Irkutsk, the old Russian exile system, the conquests of Genghis Khan and the effects of the Manchus on the birth of the Mongolian People's Republic.

This Academy trip afforded a unique opportunity to talk with Soviet scientists, as well as providing rare insights into the lives and thoughts of citizens of the Soviet "outback," particularly valuable in understanding these changing times of *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

The Academy Store will be open before and after the May meetings.

Please note that no members' meetings are scheduled for June, however members are invited to enjoy two special evenings to view DinoFest '89 on Wednesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 15 between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Roy Eisenhardt Appointed Executive Director



Susan Middleton

Roy Eisenhardt has been named the new Executive Director of the California Academy of Sciences. The announcement was made on Wednesday, March 15, by Board Chairman Jeffery Meyer following a special meeting of the Board of Trustees. Eisenhardt succeeds Dr. Frank Talbot, who is now Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Dr. John McCosker, Director of the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium, has been the acting Executive Director.

"Education about our natural world is a critical priority," said Eisenhardt. "I am eager to continue the Academy's programs, which stimulate the imagination of all who visit and participate in our exhibits and educational activities. In this way, we can have an impact on the adults who now are making, and on the children who will be making, the scientific decisions which affect our future."

In an extensive national search, Roy Eisenhardt was selected from a field of more than 400 applicants. Eisenhardt, 50, is a lawyer and the Executive Vice President of the Oakland A's. He received his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College and earned an LL.B. from Boalt Hall School of Law at U. C. Berkeley, where he has been an adjunct professor. He is also President of the Board of the Golden Gate National Park Association. Eisenhardt will assume his new position as the Academy's 17th Executive Director on May 15.

Traditional Arts In May Festival of Cambodian Cuisine

May 6, 13, 20, 27 1:00 p.m.



Sally Gatti

Throughout the month of May, the Academy will celebrate the culinary arts of Cambodia with cooking demonstrations by local Cambodian chefs. All programs will take place on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Academy's whale fountain courtyard.

Each Saturday in May, five dishes will be prepared, comprising a complete meal of appetizer, soup, salad, and two entrees. During the food festival, visitors will be able to sample and learn how to make a total of twenty dishes.

Today, approximately 40,000 Cambodian refugees reside in

Northern California with about 9,000 living in the Bay Area. Many of these Southeast Asian immigrants have established thriving family restaurants in San Francisco.

There is no single culinary tradition in Cambodia. Regional differences are strong and are reflected in food preparation, particularly in rural areas. French influence from the colonial period has also had an impact on Cambodian cuisine, especially in urban areas. Generally, the cuisine features aromatic and spicy sauces and is well known for its excellent soups, such as hot and sour fish soup. Although similar to Thai food, Cambodian dishes are more subtle and delicate, emphasizing lemon grass, chilies, basil, mint, coconut, fish sauce and pieces of fried garlic in almost every dish. Customarily, a variety of dishes is served at the same time with no division between courses.

Young Audiences

Sunday, May 28 1:00 p.m.

With major funding from the McKesson Foundation, Young Audiences is proud to present an exciting series of performing arts programs for children, taking place one Sunday each month through June in Wattis Hall of Human Cultures.

On Sunday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m., join the nationally-acclaimed Wordplay ensemble whose unique presentation introduces children to poetry. Combining theatre, song, and storytelling, children are taken to the imaginary "Land of La De Da" where rhyming can be fun.

Laserium Presents "Zodiacal Light"

Laserium lights up the dome of the Academy's Morrison Planetarium on Thursday through Sunday evenings. This month, Laserium presents Zodiacal Light, an all-new multi-laser extravaganza featuring the music of Andreas Vollenweider, Mannheim Steamroller, and many more.

The myths and music of the stars come alive under the brilliant night sky of Northern California's largest indoor universe. Hear Kenny G, Tangerine Dream, and Peter Gabriel as powerful lasers take you on a visual journey through the astronomical constellations of the Zodiac. Tickets are \$4.50, available in advance at any Ticketron outlet, or at the door 1/2 hour before showtime. Zodiacal Light is presented at 5:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. For information, call (415)750-7138.

Imagination Celebration

May 17-21

This year's Imagination Celebration/Youth Arts Festival is a cross-cultural exposition that encourages children to experience the arts and promotes a dialogue between the many cultures that are a part of our rich local heritage. The festival, held at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Asian Art Museum, and the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park, opens Wednesday, May 17 and runs through Sunday, May 21.

Weekday activities will take place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and weekend times will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A wide variety of entertainment is planned, including the San Francisco Youth Symphony's Brass Ensemble. Hands-on activities, sponsored by the San Francisco Arts Commission, will be available for children and include hat making, community mural painting, and juggling.

On Saturday, May 20, the Academy joins the festivities, offering children's activities inside Cowell Hall between 12 noon and 3 p.m. For information call (415)664-1680.

Touching Tidepool Re-Opens May 26

The California Tidepool exhibit, located under the Fish Roundabout in the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium, gives visitors the chance to get their hands wet and shake hands with a starfish or a sea urchin. The Tidepool has been remodeled and renovated and will re-open to the public on May 26.

An all new rock sculpture recreates the look and feel of the rugged California coast. Other improvements include twice the amount of touching area, new labels, better water circulation and more creatures to see and touch. Volunteers on duty make this a wonderful experience for children and adults alike. For more information call (415)750-7142.

Lecture

***The Living Maya:
Dream Weavers of the Yucatan***

June 12 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Walter Morris, Jr.



Cristina Taccone

Sixteen centuries ago, the Mayan people created a highly advanced culture most noted for its superior architecture, scientific discoveries and a complex stone calendar. Over time, Mayan civilization declined and collapsed, but the people themselves and their traditions did not disappear. Today, over four million Mayans live in the highlands and rainforests of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize and remain closely tied to their cultural past. Relatively isolated from the disruptive influence of the Spanish Conquest, Christianity came to the Mayas in the 16th century. Though western beliefs and social forms heavily influenced their culture, the Mayas have preserved and maintained their traditional religious beliefs over time and as a result, have developed a unique

form of worship that integrates and fuses both native and Christian practices. In this very special lecture on June 12 at 7:30 p.m., Walter Morris, Jr., discusses their fascinating history and the Mayan art of ancient dreams. In a dream, a Mayan shaman learns from the holy ancestors the prayers and gifts that return lost souls. Mayan women incorporate these dream images into their native art, weaving ancient visions of the universe and the underworld into beautiful and harmonious patterns. Copies of Morris's book, *The Living Maya*, will be on sale for \$40 after the lecture and the author will be available to sign them. Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. For further information or to purchase your ticket, call (415)750-7217.

***Science In Action
on the Air and in
the Classroom with
Jerry Kay***

Ever wonder what a solar flare is? Or how we know what's in the center of the earth? Or why sharks attack people? You'll hear the answers to these and other questions on Science In Action, a popular science call-in program that is broadcast every Sunday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. on News 74 KCBS. Every week, host Jerry Kay encourages listeners to call in and ask guest scientists about their current research and discoveries or other topics of scientific interest.

Now, thanks to a generous grant from The San Francisco Foundation, Science In Action will travel to Bay Area elementary schools and provide an opportunity for children to have scientists answer their many questions about the world around them. This new Classroom Radio Program will develop hands-on teaching units on fascinating topics such as sharks, earthquakes, astronomy, penguins, sound, and much, much more. Jerry will visit classes and record the children's observations and questions on a wide variety of topics. The interviews will be broadcast on the Science In Action radio program. Over the next few months, Jerry will invite his guests to tell us about the physics of hitting a baseball, where and how to see marine mammals in the Bay Area, and what it's like to be a penguin scientist in Antarctica. Dr. Bernie Krause, the man responsible for the recordings in the Academy's African Waterhole and in the recent exhibit, "Gorilla," will talk about the wonderful diversity of natural sounds. Bill Randolph's "Naturalist's Corner" will explore unusual facts and phenomena found in nature, and Jerry will test our "science literacy" with the Science In Action quiz. For more information about the radio programs or to receive the Science In Action newsletter, contact 750-7300.

LECTURE – Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

The Living Maya: Dreamweavers of the Yucatan

_____ member tickets at \$3

_____ guest tickets at \$5

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences.

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

Planetarium Concert

Tuesday, May 16 8:00 p.m.



Experience traditional music and love songs of 13th-century French and Iberian women when the Ensemble Alcatraz presents "Visage de Femme" under the stars of the Morrison Planetarium on May 16 at 8:00 p.m. Inspired by the court of Alfonso X the Wise of 13th-century Spain, Ensemble Alcatraz is dedicated to recreating the rich blending of spirit and imagination that thrived in medieval and renaissance Europe. An affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society, this five-member Bay Area musical group consisting of Susan Rode Morris, Kit Higginson, Shira Kammen, Peter Maund and Cheryl Ann Fulton, has performed throughout the Western United States and recorded an album, "Visions & Miracles."

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.

May Adult Education Classes

Every year the Academy presents a wide variety of courses in natural history and field trips to places of scientific interest. Here are some of the Adult Education offerings for the month of May.

The Search for Life in the Universe May 4-18 7:00-9:00 p.m.

In this three-lecture series, Dr. Peter Backus from the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute Project at NASA Ames Research Center will discuss his research and talk about how we might look for other civilizations in our galaxy, and what these "close encounters" could mean for us as part of the inter-galactic community. \$25 members/\$35 non-members.

Critters, Creeks and Campfires May 19-21

Guaranteed to be an exciting trip to the Coastal Range with our dynamic duo, herpetologist Jens Vindum and botanist Mona Bourell.

They will lead a trek through redwoods and grassy meadows filled with plenty of wildlife. \$120 members/\$140 non-members.

Basic Map Reading and Terrain Navigation May 13 & 20

In this two-day course, we will spend one day in class learning how to read a map. On the following weekend, trekkers will go to Marin County to test their newly-acquired skills in the field. \$40 members/\$50 non-members. \$20 materials fee to be paid in class.

The Birds of Pepperwood May 13 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Join Dr. Luis Baptista and Pepper Trail for a marvelous adventure through the forests and meadows of Pepperwood Natural Preserve in search of the birds of spring. Expect moderately strenuous hiking. \$30 members/\$40 non-members. Includes transportation and cold drinks.

Explore 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.

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

Exploring Alaska's Coastal Wilderness August 2-12 Leader: Dr. David Kavanaugh

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.

*The California Academy of Sciences
and the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation
present*

*The Allen O'Brien Memorial Lecture
Anthropoid Evolution in Africa*

Tuesday, June 6 Reception 6:00 p.m. Lecture 7:30 p.m.

The evolutionary lines leading to monkeys, apes and humans first appeared in Africa more than 30 million years ago. Since that time, the African continent has witnessed the evolutionary radiation of a repeated number of increasingly modern, higher primates. Dr. John G. Fleagle, Professor of Anatomical Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, will discuss "Anthropoid Evolution In Africa," in which he describes the changing players that have filled the various ecological roles in the primate faunas of the African continent.

Dr. Fleagle holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship



in 1982 and a MacArthur Fellowship in 1988. Tickets for the lecture are \$4 for members of the Academy and the Leakey Foundation and \$5 for non-members. Tickets for the lecture and reception are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. To purchase tickets, please use the enclosed order form. For other information, call (415)750-7217.

**Ticket Order Form —
Anthropoid Evolution
in Africa**

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

_____ member tickets for the lecture and reception \$20

_____ non-member tickets for the lecture and reception \$25

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

No refunds/No exchanges

**Free First
Wednesday May 3**

The Academy is now open until 8:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. This program is made possible by a generous grant from Mrs. Marriner S. Eccles.

Here is a list of Free First Wednesday events:

5:00–8:00 p.m. Join Jody Stecher and Kate Brislin in the Stones 'n Bones Bar while they play traditional Appalachian music.

6:30 p.m. Docent-guided highlight tour of the Academy.

7:30 p.m. Science In Action. Join Chuck Cecil, Senior Curatorial Assistant in the Academy's Anthropology Department as he talks about his experiences as a Forensic Anthropologist.

8:00 p.m. Emerald Web performs in the Morrison Planetarium. Tickets are \$7 for Academy members, \$9 for non-members.

**Great White Shark
Benefit**

On Tuesday, March 14, a benefit for the Academy's Great White Shark display was held at the remodeled Canterbury Hotel and Whitehall Inn. Guests feasted at the "Shark Bar," enjoyed a sumptuous buffet in Lehr's Greenhouse and were invited to taste a Micro-Brewery beer. Over 300 guests participated in the "Island Hop" raffle and one lucky winner received a weekend for two at the Canterbury while another won a week in Hawaii. Dean Lehr, President of the Canterbury Hotel/Whitehall Inn, announced an ongoing commitment to the Academy by dedicating one room in the hotel to benefit the Aquarium. The Steinhart Suite is decorated with posters and Aquarium memorabilia and each time a guest reserves the suite, the museum will receive a donation.

**Record-Setting
Animals**

**Book Signing May 6
12 noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Can you name a bird that tips the scales at more than 300 pounds, or a mammal that weighs less than a single dime? In her newest work, *Record-Setting Animals* now available at the Academy store, Melinda Bergman Burgener has developed a unique activity book for children of all ages that has perforated pages that come apart to form a deck of 48 playing cards. Each card features a full-color illustration of a record-setting animal on one side, and fascinating facts about the animal on the other.

On May 6, between 12 noon and 3 p.m. in the Academy Store's Ethnographic Art Gallery, Ms. Burgener will be autographing copies of her exciting new book.

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Open daily 10 am to 5 pm

May 1989



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San Francisco

May at the Academy

Continuing exhibitions:
"Sliding Toward Extinction" through May 21
Great White Shark in the Steinhart Aquarium

- 1,2,3 Emerald Web, 8:00 p.m.
- 2 Ozone Lecture, 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Free First Wednesday
- 6 Cambodian Food Fest, 1:00 p.m.
- 6 Record-Setting Animals booksigning, 12 noon
- 13 Cambodian Food Fest, 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Planetarium Concert, 8:00 p.m.
- 17 Imagination Celebration begins
- 17 Members' Meeting "A Naturalist in the Land of Genghis Khan" 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Members' Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Cambodian Food Fest, 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Imagination Celebration ends
- 26 Tidepool Re-Opens
- 27 Cambodian Food Fest, 1:00 p.m.
- 28 Young Audiences-Wordplay Ensemble, 1:00 p.m.



New From the Academy Store

The Academy Store is proud to announce the latest addition to its long line of products: *Antique Prints*. These meticulously accurate nature drawings with their brilliant hand-coloring, make the perfect addition to any home. Collectors and home decorators alike will enjoy the tremendous selection of popular prints now available at The Academy Store.

Looking Ahead to June

- 6 Lecture: Anthropoid Evolution in Africa
- 10 DinoFest '89 opens
- 12 Lecture: The Living Maya: Dreamweavers of the Yucatan
- 14,15 Members' Night: DinoFest '89