“Volunteers are the lifeblood of our schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, and faith-based and community groups. From mentoring at-risk youth and caring for older Americans to supporting our veterans and military families and rebuilding after disasters, these everyday heroes make a real and lasting impact on the lives of millions of women and men across the globe.” This is a quote from President Obama’s proclamation kicking off National Volunteer Week 2011. Sixty-three million Americans this year unselfishly volunteer their time to a cause of their choice. Established by President Richard Nixon with an executive order in 1974, this national week of service brings together people from all walks of life to make a difference in their communities. This year Gary Florin made a beautiful banner to honor our CMA volunteers. The banner was displayed on the rail between the Auditorium and the Exhibit Hall. It was a fitting tribute to the hard work performed by the many volunteers who give countless hours to CMA. Thank you Gary, and thank you to Ed Mastro who helped spearhead this idea.

It feels like spring at CMA. The flags are flying on the beach and the docents are busy with the Spring Program. Volunteers are working hard in the Sea Search Program, Education, the Aquatic Nursery and Exploration Center. It isn’t unusual to see colliding groups of children in front of the Aquarium and the courtyard, trying to get to their assigned areas. Thanks to the staff and volunteers, these programs are finely tuned and well oiled. In their “spare” time this same staff and many volunteers prepare for the Autumn Sea Fair, Earth Day, grunion runs, Outreach and the many activities and programs that make CMA shine. It’s truly hard to believe how CMA touches the lives of so many visitors.

Our Volunteer Awards Dinner is set for Friday, June 10, at Simon's Restaurant in San Pedro. The invitations will be out soon. This dinner is a time to socialize and recognize volunteers for their outstanding service. Larry Fukuhara will present his special “Larry” awards and, if we’re lucky, we’ll all get a bonus or a nice raise. Please try to attend. It’ll be a nice evening. I’ll end with a few quotes that describe volunteers. They apply so well to the volunteers of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium:

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

“Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.”

~ Author Unknown

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

~ Elizabeth Andrew

“The true meaning of life is to plant a tree, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

~ Nelson Henderson

---

**Aquatic Nursery**

Stop by the Aquatic Nursery and see:

- Red Abalone – California is the only state with an established abalone aquaculture
- White Abalone – in danger of extinction – CMA is trying to grow and study them
- Purple-Striped Jellies – beautiful
- Big-Eyed Octopus - cute as a puppy

Then proceed to the Exhibit Hall and enjoy the magnificent Crystal Jellies!
Sam Domancich Dedication Ceremony was held Saturday, May 14, at Pirate Stadium, San Pedro High School. The SPHS track was renamed in honor of Sam.

Happy Birthday, Jan! A fun celebration was held at Spring Program for Jan Robertson’s 90th birthday, with great food from Kathy Eddy and photos by JoLinda Garnier.

Moby Dick Does San Pedro Channel
A pod of 14 sperm whales were spotted recently between San Pedro and Catalina Island. They are an endangered species, with about 2,200 left along the western coastline. This was a very rare sighting. If any of you were on the Harbor Breeze Cruises whalewatch and have photos, please e-mail them to me at hruffer@cox.net.

Earth Day
Earth Day was a huge success, with possibly the largest turnout ever and terrific weather! It was, as always, very well planned, and the vendors seemed to be enjoying it as much as the attendees.

Press Friends
Press Friends, a community service group of high school students helping elementary school students write their own newspapers, is doing very well. Their Spring 2010 issue of PV Kids News included a great interview with Mike Schaad about our youth-oriented programs at CMA. The Winter 2011 issue, CMA Kids News, included a tribute to John Olguin and stories on individual marine animals. Jellies, sea otters and sharks led the pack. The author/mentor teams were out in force on Earth Day at CMA. I was interviewed three times. They’re very serious in their approach, and the results are impressive.

!!! Gray Whale Floating On Its Back !!!

Henry Jurgens
Recognition Chair, Steering Committee

On March 31, aboard the whalewatch boat Spirit as a Whalewatch Naturalist, I saw an incredible sight — a gray whale floating on its back! This is very unusual, as most gray whales are in a migratory mode and do not take the time for a relaxing float. The whale was joined by some common dolphins, which may have helped relax the whale, and the fun continued. It was an opportunity almost missed. Another whalewatch boat further from shore had come across other grays. Rather than race out to their location – maybe too late – those on board decided to wait a few minutes to see if anything might come our way. It did! The captain cut the engines and I got these great photos.

This trip was most rewarding because the group on board was from an inner-city Los Angeles school. The children were thrilled by the sighting, and I’m sure it’s a memory that they’ll keep for a long time.
Summer at the Gift Shop:

Decorate your garden with new items from the CMA Gift Shop. You can plant garden stakes, hang animal wind chimes and use bamboo placemats and linens on your patio. Shell trays, coasters and Spanish green glass bottles could come in handy for entertaining. New aquatic-themed cotton towels could be used for cleanup.

Look good in the new bling “San Pedro” tops for the ladies. New colorful totes and canvas purses from Laurel Burch and Bungalow 360 will look great on your arm. Your fingers and wrists can be adorned with bling-bling fun rings and stretch Florentine bracelets. You can rub new Camille Beckman toiletries on your hands or smell the new Yankee Seaside candles.

If you missed the new art in the spring, you can catch up with viewing the Russian art vases, Nora Roberts animal figurines, Coastal stretch paintings, Tiffany aquatic lamps, Ocean glass birdbaths and inspirational seaside books.

Bring your grandchildren to check out the new plush animals, including the sea animals with CMA hoodies for $10.95. Look for orcas, dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, sharks and sea otters. Also available are CMA logo-embroidered dolphins and sea turtles for $8.95, along with tons of new toys.

Don’t forget summertime means “sale time” at the shop. Come in and check out more items on sale for almost half price. (Your 20% discount does not apply on these half-price sale items). After all, we don’t want to have to count them for inventory.

Happy Summer!

Views From Baja 2011

Spring gray whale encounters in San Ignacio Lagoon. 2011 saw over 300 whales in the lagoons of southern Baja. Lots of moms and babies greeted CMA visitors to this popular destination. Let’s hope 2012 is as fruitful.

Whale petting. Mom and baby “spyhop.”

The John Olguin Memorial Patch is in. It’s selling for a minimum donation of $5.00, and the proceeds will go to the Whalewatch program, a program started by John 40 years ago!

To order patches, send a check in the appropriate amount and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Susan Shaw
2427 S. Alma Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Group orders welcome.
Young Scientists Symposium

The Young Scientists Symposium, held on April 17, was a great success! The young scientists made presentations fit for advanced college projects. The proud parents and teachers were beaming, as were the CMA staff and volunteers who spent countless hours putting this together.

Coastal Bird Fest

Earth Day 2011

ADMISSION FREE

Beach Cleanup: 8-10AM

Earth Day Fair: 10AM–3PM

Start early with our coastal cleanup of Cabrillo Beach Coastal Park Inner and Outer Beaches. Later, join the fun at the Earth Day Fair with games, interactive activities, Earth-friendly displays and demonstrations. Bird watch at the Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh and learn how to make your home eco-friendly.

Food & drink

Live Music

Environmental-themed items & books for sale in our Gift Shop

Joel Harper, author of “All The Way To The Sea” will be present to sign his book

Beach parking is $1/hr. Share a ride!

For further information, call 310-548-7562

www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org

A facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

Funded through FRIENDS of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium by Las Candalistas Danny Croft Memorial Fund

Saturday, April 23, 2011

3720 Stephen White Dr.
San Pedro, CA 90731
May
19  Meet the Grunion • 8pm*
21  Grand Grunion Gala • Doubletree Hotel • 6pm
24  FCMA Book Club • Library • 7-9pm • Steig Larsson’s “The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest”
31  ACS Monthly Speaker Series • 7:30pm
    John M. Olguin Auditorium

June
1   Rinkes Scholarship applications due
3   Meet the Grunion • 8pm*
4   Native Garden Workday/Beach Cleanup • 8-10am
4   World Ocean Day celebrated
5   Salt Marsh Open House • 12 noon-2pm
8   “Official” World Ocean Day • Call 310-548-7562 for information
    A dive in the Channel Islands will be broadcast live on screen in the Auditorium
10  CMAV Awards Dinner • Simon’s at Ports O’ Call • 6pm • Invitations are in the mail
17  Meet the Grunion • 8pm*
28  FCMA Book Club • 7-9pm • Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring”

*Meet the Grunion – Aquarium will open at 8pm. The Grunion Program begins at 9pm in the John M. Olguin Auditorium. Dress warmly and bring a blanket to sit on and a flashlight.

Children’s Earth Day Art on View

In Memorium
Ken Tucker, our friend, part-time graphic artist and perennial Sea Scare pirate passed away May 6 from complications of cancer. He will be greatly missed by staff, volunteers and visitors who knew him.

Fins & Tales Editor: Sherry Ruffer • Graphics/Layout: Linda Ayers
Photos: Gary Florin, Henry Jurgens, Paula Boubary, JoLinda Garnier, Linda Ayers