

For Teachers



Oxychilus draparnaudi, or Draparnaud's Glass snail

This Quarter's Issue:

A Wet and Wild(life) Winter

A New Place to Land

Highlighted Resource:
Insects of the L.A. Basin

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A Wet and Wild(life) Winter

Hello all! We hope your winter break was just what you needed and that the second half of the school year is going smoothly. As we all continue to prepare for El Niño, we want to encourage you to think about what all this possible rain might bring—snails and slugs! These creatures love wet conditions, and our museum scientists need your help to track their distribution in Los Angeles. Back in July, we had an educator workshop all about our latest citizen science project—SLIME—and how and why to submit snail and slug specimens and photos to the museum. If you didn't attend and want to get involved with your students, read more about the project on our [blog](#) and check out the [El Niño SnailBlitz](#) project page on iNaturalist.org. Let's put this rainy weather to use and get science-ing!

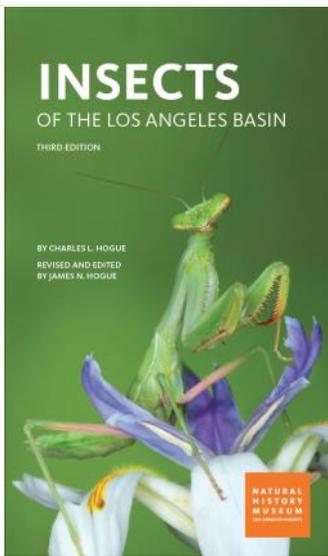
Another outdoor initiative I'm hoping to get into full swing this spring is the DIY [Bioblitz](#) (basically a wildlife and nature inventory day). Bioblitz fever is spreading nationwide, but it's something the museum has a lot of experience doing, and we're currently developing resources to help you participate on your school site. Look for those workshops in March and April. In the meantime, join us for a February workshop on engineering and biomechanics!

Molly Porter
Manager, School and Teacher Programs

A New Place to Land

We know how intense planning a field trip can be, and we always want to make it as easy on you as we can. Our latest project, our website, has a streamlined look, less text, and more direct access to the information you need when you need it. On the [booking form](#), we added tool tips so you can learn about our add-on programs as you book them. Our [Teacher Resources](#) page sports the latest workshops, lesson plans, resources, and opportunities. And we reorganized our info to help highlight our [free add-on programming](#). We love the new changes, and we hope you do, too!

Hilary Gan
School Programs Coordinator



Highlighted Resource: *Insects of the L.A. Basin*

by Charles L. Hogue (3rd edition; revised and edited by James N. Hogue)

This essential field guide was written by Dr. Charles Hogue, an NHM curator of entomology for thirty years, with a preface by our current curator, Dr. Brian Brown. The new third edition features more than 450 local insects, spiders, and arthropods with more than 500 photographs and illustrations to help students identify what they see in the schoolyard. [Pick it up online](#) or show your California teacher ID in our Museum store for a 10% discount.

Upcoming Educator Workshops

Engineering Dinosaurs

Saturday, February 27, 2016 | 9am - 12pm

Join the School Programs team at NHM for engineering in the new year. NHM and partner organization, Iridescent, will be leading engineering design challenges from curiositymachine.org all about dinosaurs! Participate in this hands-on workshop and engage with NGSS engineering practices you can take back to the classroom.

Using the Outdoor Classroom: Santa Monica Mountains Edition!

Saturday, March 19, 2016 | 9am - 4pm
Offsite Field Trip

This special educator workshop will take us into the Santa Monica Mountains! Learn from naturalist experts and each other in this beautiful and inspiring setting. If you are a 4th grade teacher, you could qualify for a **free bus for all your students to return to the King Gillette Visitor Center** and share your newfound outdoor educational prowess!

Survey your Schoolyard!

Saturday, April 16 | 9am - 1pm

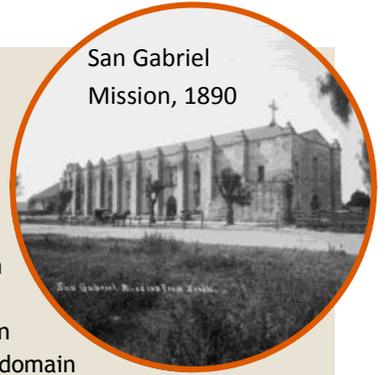
Come to the NHM and celebrate National Citizen Science Day with us! Be one of the first teachers to try out our DIY Schoolyard Bioblitz kits and learn how to survey all the wildlife on your school campus. From squirrels to bugs to birds, there's a lot of species for your students to find!

NHM's Seaver Center

As part of our History Department, the Seaver Center collects, preserves, and digitizes two-dimensional and flat historical objects from the American West, such as photographs. Most photos taken prior to 1923 are in the public domain and can be used in the classroom. View the Seaver Center's digital collections here:

<http://collections.nhm.org/seaver-center/>

San Gabriel Mission, 1890



Past Workshop Resources

All of our resources, including lesson plans, slideshows, activity how-tos and more, from past workshops are available for free downloads at <http://www.nhm.org/site/for-teachers/professional-development/workshop-resources%20>.

We recommend:

[Using the Outdoor Classroom \(July 2013\)](#)

[Creating an iNaturalist Account \(October 2013\)](#)

[Planting a Monarch Waystation \(February 2015\)](#)

[Building a Bee Hotel \(June 2015\)](#)

Request a Visit to the NHM!

Go to nhm.org/for-teachers and click on the [Book a Field Trip](#) link for instructions on how to plan your day and request a visit!