

# Smithsonian Citizen Science Week

People in partnership with scientists, to study the planet, its plants and animals

April 5 - 10, 2009

Events are free!  
For More information:  
(951) 826-5273

Sunday,  
April 5  
1 - 4 pm

**"All About Wildflowers" First Sunday Program  
Riverside Metropolitan Museum**

Come to the museum for this family fun day all about wildflowers. Learn what makes a wildflower a wildflower, make your own pressed flowers, and find out about designing a children's meadow and other lawn alternative landscapes that use less water.

Tuesday,  
April 7  
8 - 1 pm

**Day Field Trip and Wildflower Walk  
Santa Rosa - San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center in Palm Desert**

Smithsonian botanist Rusty Russell and naturalist Tracy Albrecht of the Santa Rosa -San Jacinto Mountains National Monument will lead a road tour and series of short hikes - beginning at the Monument visitor center in Palm Desert - to explore the floral transition from desert wash to mountain meadow.

and

6 - 8 pm

**"California's Fading Wildflowers" Lecture and Booksigning by Richard Minnich  
Riverside Metropolitan Museum**

Dr. Minnich will discuss his research into changes in California's landscape over the past 300 years, and how large areas of the state's original plant cover has been replaced by introduced "weeds". Following his lecture, he will be signing copies of *California's Fading Wildflowers: Lost Legacy and Biological Invasions*. 2008 University of California Press.

Wednesday,  
April 8  
1 - 4 pm

**"Citizen Science" Day  
Riverside Metropolitan Museum**

A day of activities and programs for families with emphases on regional botany; observing, recording, and caring for nature around you; a botany lab including demonstrations of how plants are collected, preserved, identified & the results of field collecting analyzed.

Thursday,  
April 9  
9 - 5 pm

**Workshop: "The Record of Southern California Biodiversity, & a Role for Citizen Science"  
Riverside Municipal Auditorium**

A day of presentations and roundtable discussions, bringing together professionals and citizen-based programs, educators, and science students.

**Smithsonian Scientist in Residence:**

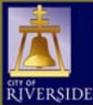
Rusty Russell, Botanist, US National Herbarium,  
National Museum of Natural History

**Edmund C. Jaeger, Collecting for the Smithsonian**

A week-long exhibit at the Museum featuring historic objects from the Jaeger archive and specimens from the U. S. National Herbarium.

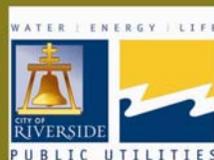


Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program

 RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN  
**MUSEUM**  
Nature • Culture • History

3580 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 826-5273 • [www.riversideca.gov/museum](http://www.riversideca.gov/museum)

Sponsored by



## Directions and Event Information

Riverside Metropolitan Museum  
3580 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 826-5273  
[www.riversideca.gov/museum](http://www.riversideca.gov/museum)

### Museum Hours

Tues-Wed-Fri 9am - 5pm  
Thursday 9am - 9pm  
Saturday 10am - 5pm  
Sunday 11am - 5pm  
Closed Major Holidays

### Nature Lab Hours

Tues-Sat 1:30am - 4:30pm

### Admission is free

Suggested Donation: \$3

Riverside Municipal Auditorium  
3485 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92501



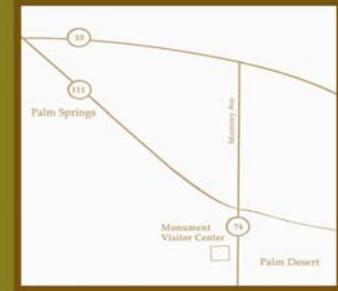
*From the 60 East*  
Exit on Market Street  
Right on Market Street  
Left on Mission Inn Avenue

*From the 91 West*  
Exit Mission Inn Avenue  
Right on Mission Inn Avenue

*From the 91 East*  
Exit University Avenue  
Left on Mission Inn Avenue

Santa Rosa - San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
Visitor Center  
51-500 Highway 74  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 862-9984

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains rise abruptly from the desert floor, reaching an elevation of 10,834 feet at the summit of Mount San Jacinto. Providing a picturesque backdrop to local communities, the National Monument significantly contributes to the Coachella Valley's lure as a popular resort and retirement community. It is also a desirable backcountry destination that can be accessed via trails from both the valley floor and the alpine village of Idyllwild.



*From the 10 East*  
Exit Monterey Avenue (exit 131)  
Right on Monterey Avenue  
Becomes Pines to Palms Highway  
CA-74 W

Participants should meet at the Visitor Center and bring sun protection, closed-toe shoes, and drinking water. Trip consists of driving and easy to moderate walking.

## Smithsonian Scientist in Residence

Rusty Russell, Collections Manager,  
US National Herbarium

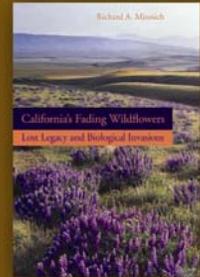
Botany, MRC-166 National  
Museum of Natural History,  
Smithsonian Institution



“The Smithsonian Institution/National Museum of Natural History’s 125 million specimens document the biological and physical changes that have affected the earth over time, and our reputation as a world-class institution makes it possible for us to elevate local issues to the national stage. As Collections Manager of the U.S. National Herbarium, I have spent more than 20 years developing programs that take advantage of the rich store of historical data that attends the almost 5 million plant specimens that comprise our collection. And in networking our resources with those of other regional or local plant collections, such as UC-Riverside or Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, we are attempting to address significant community issues that are scaleable to the national or even international level. The Santa Rosa-San Jacinto Mountains National Monument area presents us with both a challenge and an opportunity to demonstrate the enormous value of historical collection data in assisting and informing land management decisions, educating and involving the local community, and creating tools to more quickly collect and integrate data into future planning.”

## “California’s Fading Wildflowers” Lecture and Booksigning by Richard Minnich

Richard A. Minnich is Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. He is author of *The Biogeography of Fire in the San Bernardino Mountains of California: A Historical Survey and Land of Chamise and Pines: Historical Descriptions of Northern Baja California* (both from UC Press).



Early Spanish explorers in the late eighteenth century found springtime California covered with spectacular carpets of wildflowers from San Francisco to San Diego. Yet today, invading plant species have devastated this nearly forgotten botanical heritage. In this lively, vividly detailed work, Minnich synthesizes a unique and wide-ranging array of sources—from the historic accounts of those early explorers to the writings of early American botanists in the nineteenth century, newspaper accounts in the twentieth century, and modern ecological theory—to give the most comprehensive historical analysis available of the dramatic transformation of California’s wildflower prairies. At the same time, his groundbreaking book challenges much current thinking on the subject, critically evaluating the hypothesis that perennial bunchgrasses were once a dominant feature of California’s landscape and instead arguing that wildflowers filled this role. As he examines the changes in the state’s landscape over the past three centuries, Minnich brings new perspectives to topics including restoration ecology, conservation, and fire management in a book that will change our view of native California.