

# The Explorers Club

## Northern California Chapter

March 2008

Note venues and dates with care.  
**Changed DATE at the GGYC**  
Our next event is at 6:30 on  
April 4, a Friday evening,  
at the Golden Gate Yacht Club  
San Francisco

In color at our web site: <http://www.diggles.com/ec/>

### San Francisco—April 4, 2008

#### Felicia Nutter, DVM, Ph.D.

### Saving Sea Animals on Land

Each Patient is Attended

Dr. Felicia Nutter is the Staff Veterinarian for the Marine Mammal Center located at Fort Cronkhite. She is a wildlife veterinarian with more than 15 years of experience working with species ranging from feral cats to black bears to mountain gorillas to whales.

Dr. Nutter attended veterinary school at Tufts University, and completed post-graduate training at North Carolina State University. Before moving to Sausalito, she was Regional Field Veterinarian with the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo for 4 years. In the 1990s she was a Fulbright Scholar and consulting veterinarian at Gombe National Park in Tanzania. She now is expanding her work with non-domestic animals and is focused upon the mammals of the sea.

Any of these assignments is intriguing; we have asked her to tell us about her current work. This is exploration in our back yard!

Founded in 1975, The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and releases injured, sick and orphaned marine mammals (seals, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises, whales and sea otters) along a 600-mile stretch of California coastline, from Mendocino County through San Luis Obispo County. Before The Center was established, stranded marine mammals were either left to die or were destroyed as threats to public health.

The Center is the largest marine mammal facility of its kind in the world to combine animal rehabilitation with an on-site research lab, and the only one to treat between 500 and 1200 animals a year.



Dr. Nutter preparing a Northern Fur Seal pup for surgery (above). Another patient recovering from anesthesiology. Animals successfully treated at the Center's hospital are released back into their ocean habitats.



Photos courtesy Felicia Nutter

Chippy, the California sea lion, resting on top of a Highway patrol cruiser 60 miles from the ocean. The Marine Mammal Center rescued him and after removing a bullet in his head, released him back into the ocean at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Attending to a gorilla in the field; Dr. Nutter was their doctor for four years.

# Watching Ancient Peoples Engage the Modern World

Lawrence Lansburgh  
San Francisco



Morton Beebe

The typical rain forest canopy of the Achuar (left). Larry Lansburgh (right), welcomed by Chapter Chair, Lee Langan

Larry Lansburgh sat on a jungle log for three days of meetings held by the tribal council members of the Achuar people of SE Ecuador. It was enough time to learn an introductory phrase in their language to ask, when his turn came, if a film he could create would be something they would find useful. He got applause for his effort and offer; they got a splendid film. You can now see and obtain *Dream People of the Amazon* by contacting him.

A chance 1998 visit to hear Santiago Kawarim, president of the Achuar tribe, at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral inspired Lansburgh to make contact; before he could have imagined he was deep in the verdant canopy of Achuar ancestral lands offering to help. These jungle people knew about the outside world, but they never made direct contact until just forty years ago. They were drawn to do so to protect their home from

the encroachment of oil exploration and its subsequent development. They had to do something; they did not want the forest despoiled.

So this small group of some 3500 people became pro active. Because of their dreams! Each morning, as a family or community, they recall the night's dreams and discuss their implication. The leaders interpreted from these that they needed to engage the forces they could see were imposing upon them. They travelled outside the forest and listened to what was happening.

As a result they undertook an advocacy to protect the rain forest for the good of all mankind. They focused upon the benefits of an expansive natural habitat: the cleansing of the air, the pharmaceutical treasure trove, the wildlife—and, their home. They created alliances to enhance this support: with outsiders, even with former blood enemies who faced a similar fate should oil production ensue.

Further, they decided they had to engage the modern world. They have created schools to teach their children to read and write Spanish and to add modern scholastic training while retaining the traditions of their indigenous world. So far this is work-

Parrots are abundant; Achuar man, traditionally painted with washable dye; building a blow gun (for poison darts), an art of the Achuar.



Achuar photos, Lansburgh



ing. They have a long-range view: the children must know both worlds.

The Achuar are optimists. They are, as well, fierce warriors. They are using their wiles to defend their way of life in a sometimes hostile world. So far their non-violent advocacy is succeeding. They, in fact, have much to offer the world at large in their approach.

We can thank our speaker for introducing these thought-provoking people to an increasingly larger audience. His enthusiasm for their ways and success is infectious.

Obtain "Dream People of the Amazon" at [www.larrylansburgh.com/](http://www.larrylansburgh.com/)

## The Chapter Chair

Let me be brief this month. Our delays to arrange a speaker for March were confounded by several factors; the details do not matter. We are very fortunate indeed to be able to have Felicia Nutter, vet at the Marin Mammal Center come speak to us. Note, please, the date was moved later by one week to April 4, to accommodate schedules. Do come. Felicia has a compelling story.

Speaking of schedules: we will move our April meeting to a Wednesday, 23 April, from the originally scheduled Friday of that week. Jeff Morgan will bring details of the activity of the Global Heritage Fund. Another great opportunity to bring friends to learn of real contributions that benefit the antiquities of our world. This young organization has found a meaningful formula that works!

The Langans and Nichols are off to ECAD weekend in New York. Expect a report in the next newsletter.

For those of you who have not paid their local Chapter dues (\$25) please do. These small amounts help! We managed to end our last calendar-year finances slightly ahead of the year before, as a result—\$4100 in the bank.

Join us on April 4 and April 23.

—Lee Langan (FN99)



© HERB LINGL

A preliminary selection of photographs to be exhibited can be seen at: [www.aerialarchives.com/showcandidates.htm](http://www.aerialarchives.com/showcandidates.htm)  
 You can help Herb choose from an astounding array of views taken while leaning out of his Taylorcraft.

## Photographers in Our Midst

Grant Johnson attended our February meeting; he was introduced by Zack Stewart as an accomplished photographer. He is! Take a look at his web site [www.grantjohnson.net](http://www.grantjohnson.net) just to glimpse at some of the wonderful pictures he has gathered, especially in the Southwest. It was a pleasure to have him join us, and it is a pleasure to see his work. Come again.

Below is a black and white version of his extraordinary capture of many lightening strikes on the south rim of the the Grand Canyon



© GRANT JOHNSON

A show entitled *Aerial Aesthetics / Herb Lingl* will be on display at the Louis A. Turpin Aviation Museum in the International Terminal of San Francisco International Airport from April 10-September 12. Herb is a Chapter member, FN02.

He has invited Explorer's Club members and our guests to a reception at the third-floor museum on Thursday, April 17 from 5:30-7:30 pm. (Free parking for the event will be available in the SFO parking garage adjacent to the international (front) terminal; it is being provided courtesy of the airport.

Explorer's Club members who would like to receive a printed invitation (although this is not necessary to attend) should email

[herb@aerialarchives.com](mailto:herb@aerialarchives.com)

Editorial comment: when have you *ever* parked free at the airport! (The bonus is that Herb's work is exceptional.)

## Guatemala's El Mirador Basin Attempt to Save an Ancient Treasure

On March 6th the Global Heritage Fund was hosted at the De Young Museum for a talk featuring their work in northern Guatemala—the El Mirador Project—under the direction of Dr. Richard D. Hansen. (You may remember this was the topic of our cancelled December 2006 meeting.) The DeYoung evening was sponsored by Gail & Alec Merriam, Trustees of the museum with a special interest in things Mayan.

Dr. Hansen gave a comprehensive summary of the importance of the pristine wild rain forest portion of the Petén that is known as the El Mirador Basin: it is a repository of tropical species of plants and wild animals and, becoming more and more evident, the site of the largest presence of pre-Classic Mayan ruins known. The most and the largest; huge cities that compete in scale to those of Egypt and Asia. Because this is remote territory, they are only recently being studied.

Most impressive perhaps is the largest pyramid that has been found; perhaps the largest ancient monument construction known. *El Dante* would completely cover and tower over the acropolis of Tikal, to give some scale. But, only the top portion is yet excavated.

The presentation by Dr. Hansen placed this giant into perspective with many other cities found within El Mirador, explained why there was such a concentration of ancient sites, and the most accepted belief why this civilization failed. He noted there are lessons to be understood for modern times, "Archaeology is the only science that lets us understand the consequences of the past."

The Global Heritage Fund is the force behind garnering support of the Guatemalan government, the U.S. National Park Service and private groups local to the site and from elsewhere, to build this area as a major attraction for research and tourism. Care is being taken to do so without erring on plans that would allow the intrusion of highways and roads. Easy traffic has allowed deforestation in so many Central American places because the lands are made available for other uses. In El Mirador they have built a small railway to bring visitors to visit the major site!

If the local people benefit economically from the development activity, and if this activity can be directed toward the protection of the land, animals, plants and sites, then the inclusion of this area as a heritage site is of great long-lasting value. The beginnings look good. The enthusiasm heard from Richard and the Global Heritage Fund are bearing fruit.

We will hear more at our April 23rd meeting when Jeff Morgan, Executive Director of the GHF, will speak to us.

March 2008



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Webmaster: Mike Diggles  
Newsletter: Lee Langan

Felicia Nutter — The Marine Mammal Center  
4 April — GGYC, San Francisco

**Northern California  
2007-2008 Calendar of Events**  
(Venues will be identified at time of event.)

Our next Meeting  
April 4 (Friday) Felicia Nutter  
The Marine Mammal Center GGYC

Future Meeting Schedule  
April 23 (Wednesday) Jeff Morgan  
Global Heritage Fund New Sites GGYC  
May 30-Jun 1 Hicks home; Monterey Peninsula  
September (tbd) Art Ford  
Tourism in Antarctica on the Peninsula  
October 24 (Friday) Guitty Azarpay  
From the Silk Road to UC Berkeley. GGYC  
November 21(Friday) in planning

Meetings earlier the season

September 23 . . . . . Rick Blake  
Meteorite Collision near Sacramento  
Gene & Sibyl Boudreau Home, Sebastopol  
October 19. . . . . Brian Fisher  
Save an Ant; Save a Planet: Madagascar  
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco  
November 8 . . . . . Laurence Bergreen  
Marco Polo  
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco  
December 9 . . . . . Lee & Karine Langan  
A gathering of Explorers  
Langan home, San Francisco  
January 26 . . . . . Vince Backen  
OR/V White Holly, SF Bay Model, Sausalito  
February 22 . . . . . Lawrence Lansburgh  
David & Goliath in the Amazon, the Achuar  
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco

**March (actually early-April) LOCATION**

**Date:** Friday, April 4, 2008  
**Place:** Golden Gate Yacht Club,  
San Francisco, CA  
**Time:** 6:30 - reception  
7:15 - dinner; 8:15 talk  
**Cost:** \$60 members and guests

Reserve \_\_\_ spaces for **April 4, 2008** at  
GGYC  
San Francisco, CA  
Cost \$60 each.  
Prospective members are welcome.  
Annual Dues payable @\$25

Please mail information (to right),  
with payment, to Dr. Anders Jepsen  
23 Dos Posos  
Orinda, CA 94563  
or email [ajviking@aol.com](mailto:ajviking@aol.com)  
or call 925 254-3079

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

If you desire a car pool from the  
Peninsula call Helen Klaben Kahn  
at 650 888-4058!

