



## **Celebrate Mother's Day with a preview of the new mother and calf whale sculpture at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center (May 2013)**

SANTA CRUZ, CA— Bring your mother to the Seymour Marine Discovery Center for Mother's Day, May 12, 2013. To celebrate this special day, you'll enjoy a preview of our newest exhibit, "Gray Whale and Calf," the recently installed whale sculpture inside the Center.

Moms visit free this Mother's Day from noon until 5 p.m. and every mom receives a free flower. Kids can create a gray whale-themed craft between 1 and 3 p.m.— and voila! A special gift is in hand to give mom, right on the spot. Plus, you can help suggest names for our beautiful, solid wood, gray whale mother and calf. You may even see a real gray whale migrating past just outside. Gray whales have been seen regularly this spring from the Center's exhibit hall and decks.

The new exhibit of 1/3-scale, gray whale mother and calf models by master whale sculptor Wick Ahrens, hangs inside the Seymour Center entry. Although gray whales are commonly seen along our local coast today, they were hunted to the edge of extinction in the 1850s. The gray whale was given full protection in 1947. Since that time the Eastern North Pacific gray whale population (the population visible along our coast) has made a remarkable recovery and now numbers between 19,000 and 23,000, probably close to the original population size.

The exhibit pays homage to the positive recovery story relating to human culture and endeavors. It will also help visitors understand what they are seeing as these animals travel, literally, right by the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. Our vantage point on a coastal bluff gives people an outstanding opportunity to see whales from shore as they pass by, hugging the northern edge of Monterey Bay. (Gray whales are one of the animal kingdom's great migrators, with some swimming more than 12,000 miles round-trip between Mexico and Alaska.)

The official "opening" of the exhibit will take place on Friday, May 24, 2013 at the Rotary of Santa Cruz's fundraiser "Raise the Whales" here at the Seymour Center. Proceeds from the Rotary's event will help offset the expense of purchasing and hanging the whales, and developing interpretive panels that will provide educational content for use by volunteer educators. More information on "Raise the Whales" or to purchase tickets, visit BrownPaperTickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/374289>.

Mother's Day at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center is sponsored by *Merritt Taylor*.

Located in Santa Cruz on the bluffs overlooking Monterey Bay, the Seymour Center provides exciting and engaging ocean education programs for the visiting public and for students of all ages. It is dedicated to educating youth, families, and the general public about the role science plays in the understanding and conservation of the world's oceans. The Seymour Center is open six days a week, year-round, and serves more than 65,000 people each year.

WHAT: *Mother's Day at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center*

FEATURING: *Gray Whale and Calf* by Wick Ahrens

WHEN: Sunday, May 12, 2013  
Noon to 5 PM

WHERE: Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab  
End of Delaware Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA

ADMISSION: **Free admission for Mothers**  
Regular admission as follows:  
(\$6 Adults / \$4 Students, children, and seniors)  
**Free for Seymour Center Members and UC Santa Cruz  
undergraduates with valid student ID**

INFORMATION: (831) 459-3800 or <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu>

#####