

Calaveras: The Most Significant Fossil Find in the Bay Area in Decades

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The construction of the new Calaveras Dam has revealed a suite of fossils from previously unexplored strata, including a new species of baleen whale, and well over 2,000 shark teeth. This is the most significant fossil find in the Bay Area in decades. The talk will focus on the finds from Calaveras (additional ones are being identified daily), salvage paleontology, and how sites like this fit into the larger picture of Earth's history.

Biography: **Cristina Robins** studied geology as an undergraduate at Carleton College, Northfield, MN, and completed master's and doctorate work in Applied Geology at Kent State University, receiving her Ph.D. in 2013.

Dr. Robins has served in various teaching and museum curatorial jobs. A major highlight was her role as a project manager and post-doctoral associate with the Panama Canal Project – Partners in International Research and Education (PCP PIRE) through the Florida Museum of Natural History, where she oversaw a \$4.5 million NSF grant to excavate as many fossils as they could in advance of construction in the area of the planned expansion of the Panama Canal.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, Dr. Robins served as a lecturer at San Jose State University, and since July 2017 she has been Senior Museum Scientist at the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, CA, overseeing the Calaveras Fossil Project.