



# Newsletter

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## George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens

### In This Issue

Mount Vernon

The Museum of Art Fort  
Lauderdale / Nova  
Southeastern University

The San Dieguito River  
Park

The Solar Sign Kit

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The Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens recently started using Tour-Mate's [SC550 hand held Listening Wand System](#). The self-guided audio tour leads visitors on a journey as they travel through the grounds and gardens of the estate, home to George Washington, the first President of the United States.

The SC550 Listening Wand System allows Mount Vernon to provide visitors with an on-demand interpretive experience, enhancing the visit experience at the estate. Two versions of the tour, an adult tour and a family version, are available for rental.

Privately owned since 1858 by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the estate has welcomed more than 80 million visitors. Open 365 days a year, Mount Vernon sees an average of 1 million visitors annually. The estate, gift shops, and dining facilities employ over 500 people and together with more than 400 volunteers, create an immersive visitor experience.

For more information on Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens please visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

For more information on the SC550 Listening Wand System, please click [here](#).



## The Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale / Nova Southeastern University



The Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale / Nova Southeastern University is a rich contemporary arts museum that highlights the cultures of South Florida and the Caribbean. The museum's newest exhibition is called *Shark!* It is being presented in association with Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center. Acclaimed wildlife artist, author and environmentalist Richard Ellis guest-curated this unique exhibition, which runs from May 13, 2012 - January 6, 2013. The exhibition includes drawings, photographs, sculptures and videos of all the known varieties of sharks. There is also a section dedicated to Steven Spielberg's infamous 1975 film *Jaws*. The recent campaign to protect shark habitat is also highlighted in this exhibition.

The exhibition's audio tour was created and produced by [Tour-Mate's production team](#) and is being delivered to the public via [Tour-Mate's SC550 hand held Listening Wand System](#).

To find out more about this exhibition please visit <http://www.moafll.org>.

To find out more about the SC550 Listening Wand System please click [here](#).

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## The San Dieguito River Park



Just north of San Diego, CA is the San Dieguito River Park. The goal of this geographically diverse park is to create a multi-use trail system for hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders; a trail system that will extend from the ocean at Del Mar to the San Dieguito River's source on Volcan

Mountain. This linear trail system named the "Coast to Crest Trail" is approximately 55 miles long.

One particular project underway in the park is "Activity Hill". A series of lookout towers are being built using old railway ties and telephone poles to support the structures. A selection of these lookout towers will be equipped with Tour-Mate's [Solar Eco-Post](#). Mounted to the lookout towers, these solar powered devices will each deliver 8 educational audio messages informing visitors about surrounding flora and fauna.

The Solar Eco-Post is designed to withstand the varied weather throughout the "Cost to Crest Trail". It's powder coat painted heavy gauge aluminium casing provides a durable shell for the post. With over 300 days of sunshine, the Solar Eco-Post is a great way to provide dynamic interpretation for these uncontrolled environments.

For more information on the San Dieguito River Park please visit [www.sdrp.org](http://www.sdrp.org).

For more information on the Solar Eco-Post, click [here](#).

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## Tour-Mate Introduces The Solar Sign Kit



With the [Tour-Mate Solar Sign Kit](#), outdoor signs can become 'talking signs'. Whether creating new signage or updating existing signs, the self-powered Solar Sign Kit delivers engaging, accessible and dynamic interpretation.

Tour-Mate's is committed to providing eco-friendly interpretive audio solutions for the outdoors. The Solar Sign Kit is a self-contained unit that

installs onto a sign. It is engineered to withstand extreme weather conditions.

The audio speaker component is securely installed inside a protective casing which is mounted to the back of a sign. The step-by-step Sign Integration Guide allows for easy installation by on-site staff.

The kit can accommodate between 2 to 8 buttons. Each button provides access to one discrete audio message. A remote solar array (included in the kit) is connected via a cable providing the flexibility to be mounted remotely. The marine-rated speaker plays MP3 audio files that which stored on a removable memory card within the hardware casing. Even on overcast days the sign will continue to operate, with back up power provided by either battery or super capacitor array.

For more information on the Solar Sign Kit, please click [here](#).



*Tour-Mate Systems creates audio and multimedia tours for museums, art galleries, historic sites, parks, gardens and temporary exhibitions.*

*Offering a wide range of interpretive platforms ranging from handheld tour systems, to environmentally friendly stationary systems, to cutting edge mobile phone and multimedia platforms, Tour-Mate can tailor an interpretive system to meet your interpretive needs.*

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