



**Fall 2007 Newsletter**  
**Marion Natural History Museum**

**MILDRED RAY PICKLES MEMORIAL SALTWATER TANK**

**DEDICATION: September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**

On Thursday, Sept. 27, at the Museum, we will formally dedicate the new 120 gallon acrylic 'Display' Saltwater Tank purchased with Memorial Donations made in memory of Mildred Ray Pickles. A naturalist, an artist and an independent thinker all of her life, Mildred loved the out of doors, serving as an inspiration to all. A resident of Marion for the past

27 years, she suggested that the Marion Natural History Museum be the recipient of memorial donations. We will always be grateful to her and her family for their kind thoughts. This tank will let us present displays of native salt water animals. Please join us to dedicate this lovely new tank in remembrance of Mildred Ray Pickles.

Our director, Elizabeth Leidhold,  
& friends, with the new tank.

**UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 pm**

**Marion Natural History Museum**

**VICTOR MASTONE**, Chief Archaeologist of the MA Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources, will present this illustrated lecture on the overview of our diverse submerged heritage and the state agency that protects it. [Every day we see Massachusetts' maritime heritage on land, such as lighthouses and ship captains' homes, and even floating examples such as the U.S.S. Constitution and the Schooner Adventure. However, there is a wealth of heritage most of never see lying under the ocean, lakes, and rivers of our state. These resources span the breadth of human occupation of Massachusetts.](#)

Please join us for this presentation in observance of MA archaeology month.

The **Marion Natural History Museum's Book Club** will launch its second season **Thursday, September 20, 2007, 7:00 pm** at the **Museum on the second floor of the Elizabeth Taber Library, 8 Spring Street.** It is suggested that we fix the third Thursday of each month, thereafter, with the probable exception of December, as our meeting time.

At our last meeting in May, we selected Bill McKibben's seminal work *The End of Nature* for our first book of the new season. Selections last year included classics such as *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey and *The Grand Canyon, Today and All its Yesterdays* by Joseph Wood Krutch, as well as recent works such as *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv and Jared Diamond's *Collapse*.

A number of interesting new titles have been published since we last met, and we have a substantial number of excellent suggestions from last year to reconsider. I look forward to seeing you on the 20th!

My best, John Cederholm  
**508-748-2947**

***Cederholm@comcast.net***

## **STARLAB has become well-traveled!**

The Starlab, our traveling portable planetarium, has become a very popular exhibit, helping the public school systems cover MCAS and curriculum-related requirements in science and astronomy.

Last school year we traveled from Wareham to Dartmouth, with stops in New Bedford and Mattapoisett, presenting programs. We wish to thank Eastern Bank and all those who donated to the purchase of this exciting dome, enabling us to provide this enriching program for the local schools and organizations. The cost to schedule a program is \$150.00 for the first two programs and \$50.00 for each additional one. If you would like to schedule a Starlab program please contact us through our website:

**[www.marionmuseum.org](http://www.marionmuseum.org)**.

## **Summer Programs Report:**

This year we welcomed Geoff Kelsey as our new Watershed Exploration teacher, Nick Ciffolillo as his able assistant.

Under their thoughtful guidance the children studied and picked up rocks, hiked through woods, waded through pools and streams and visited Ospreys who live in the saltmarshes that make up our watershed.

They also learned to pitch a tent, play games and listen to music when caught in a downpour. Apparently that was the most fun.

The kids all had a great time and even learned a little too!

The Life Along the Shore program continues its success under the leadership of the daring duo, Lynn Connor and Michelle Cordeiro.

The children identified the animals that live along our shoreline and talked about how these animals grow, move, eat and the survival techniques they employ along our coast.

They also played games, worked on craft projects - they all will have many many happy memories of their summer along Marion's shoreline.

The museum participated in **Sippican school's Orientation Day** on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Museum Director, Elizabeth Leidhold, brought in photos of the museum's displays and select artifacts for examination by parents and others involved with child care in Marion. The museum is an important local environmental educational resource and we were happy to participate.

## **LEGO & ROBOTICS CLUB**

Lego and Robotics Club remains a gathering place for Those creative-minded kids who want to exchange ideas. We meet every other Saturday from 10 – 11:30. Please contact the Museum at 508-748-2098 for the fall schedule. We would welcome monetary donations towards the purchase of a new robotics kit and/or your used legos.

Hopefully you've noticed the **new Redeemables Canister placed at Island Wharf**. Thanks to the Barry Family and Mike Cormier, Marion's Harbormaster, the museum now receives donations in the form of deposit money from your redeemables. This worthwhile project began as Steven Barry's Eagle Scout project; with Mike Cormier's help in the form of a grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, a new redeemables canister was located across from the Marion Harbormaster's office. The Museum has been collecting and redeeming small sums for future projects. Please don't throw out those cans and bottles, we can put them to use!

**VIEW OUR NEW WEBSITE: [www.marionmuseum.org](http://www.marionmuseum.org)**  
**Contact our Director, Elizabeth Leidhold: [lizeid@msn.com](mailto:lizeid@msn.com)**

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Marion Natural History Museum  
P.O. Box 644  
Marion, MA 02738

# **Marion Natural History Museum**

## **Afterschool Programs:**

September 20 at 3:00 – **HELP US MAKE A DISPLAY!** We will be working on identifying the animals that live in our new tank, learning something about them, drawing them and posting a brief display write-up about each animal within the inner walls of the display just in time for the tank dedication on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

October 4 at 3:00 pm, **Soils Program – LET’S GET MESSY!** Museum Director Elizabeth Leidhold will introduce us to the wonderful world of dirt (soils) by looking at soil profiles, texture and colors. We will finish the program by painting with soil. **WARNING:** we **WILL** be getting dirty!

October 11 at 3:30 pm. **PLANTING SHELLFISH!** Let’s help the Marion Shellfish Officer plant clams for the future. Feel free to bring rakes and please dress appropriately. This is a walking field trip.

October 25 at 3:00, **COMPOSTING FOR KIDS** with Cathal O’Brien. Lets learn a little about composting for garden health. What can be used for compost and what can’t. What types of animals are healthy for the compost and garden? Hands on fun.

November 15 at 3:00, **“BLUE EYES BLUE WATER”** – Using an educational model of a Bay Scallop and live scallops we will discuss what is needed for a healthy bay.

\*December 7<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 2 pm, **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**. It’s a half day so let’s have a party! Refreshments will be available along with craft supplies to help you with making a gift for special people. Board members and volunteers will be on hand to help with craft making activities.

**Unless otherwise designated, all programs are from 3:30 to 4:30 at the Museum and the cost per program is \$4.00 for members, \$5.00 for nonmembers. Please register with the museum, not your school or library. Thank you!**

**\*Holiday Open House is a free program**

**Please register my child for the following afterschool programs:**

Design a Display \_\_\_\_\_ **MESSY!** \_\_\_\_\_ Composting for kids \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Eyes/Blue Water \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send registration to Marion Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 644, Marion, MA 02738.**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

The Marion Natural History Society is a non-profit organization, dependent upon the goodwill and donations of its members for its financial survival. Your Membership Dues allow us to continue and expand our programming, maintain our open hours, and develop new educational exhibits. Please take a moment to fill out the membership form, and forward it, along with your check to:

Marion Natural History Society  
P.O. Box 644  
Marion, MA 02738

**Membership Categories:**

Basic Membership.....	\$ 40	_____
Contributing.....	\$ 75	_____
Supporting .....	\$100	_____
Sustaining .....	\$250	_____
Sponsor or Corporate .....	\$500	_____

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

*Many thanks to the following for their generous support:*

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