

JOIN US FOR A GREAT SUMMER NEAR THE WATER!

THE MARION NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IS OFFERING TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO GET YOUR KIDS OUT INTO THE FRESH AIR THIS SUMMER !!!!!

LIFE ALONG THE SHORE for Grades entering 1 – 2

Marine Biology teacher Lynn Connor will lead us in this program. We will be seining the shoreline and exploring the plants and animals that live in our area's many coastal habitats. With the use of games, journals and introductory science techniques, this will be a wonderful first look at life in our coastal environment.

COASTAL EXPLORATIONS for Grades entering 3 – 4

Naturalist/Museum Director, Elizabeth Leidhold, will lead this program which will feature explorations of both salt and freshwater environments including rocky intertidal shoreline, salt marshes, riverbanks, ponds and bogs to take a close-up look at the plants and animals that inhabit these unique areas. The focus will be on FUN with a little science mixed-in to make it interesting!

Time both Programs: 9-12, Monday – Friday

Dates: Session 1: July 6-17 Session II: August 3-14

Cost both programs: \$200.00 members \$250.00 Nonmembers

To register please fill out the below information and submit to:

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

Our programs will fill on a first come, first served basis and registration is limited to 15 children per session.

Please sign my child up for:

Life Along the Shore – Grades 1 & 2

Watershed Exploration - Grades 3 & 4

Name _____

Name _____

Address: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Email _____

Session 1 _____ Session II _____ Member _____ (pd. family dues in '09)

ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Marion Natural History Society is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization, dependent upon the goodwill and donations of its members for its financial survival.

We need your help to continue our growth and expansion of programs. Now more than ever, we need to educate the younger generations as well as our own about our natural world and the environmental threats we face.

Please, also consider a generous gift to enable the Marion Natural History Museum to keep our important community activities afloat, to empower us to expand them, and to be at the forefront of children's science activity, and relevant, timely adult programs.

Our Annual Membership Dues are due at the time of the Annual Meeting –

Our fiscal year goes from July 1 to June 30

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

We thank you for your Tax Deductible Donation.

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MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY - ANNUAL DUES

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Basic Membership.....	\$ 40	_____
Family	\$ 60	_____
Contributing.. ..	\$ 100	_____
Sustaining	\$ 250	_____
Sponsor or Corporate	\$ 500	_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009



MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2 SPRING ST., MARION, MA

EVENING PROGRAM & ANNUAL MEETING:

Sharks in New England: A Closer Look

Dr. Gregory Skomal's presentation will highlight current research being conducted by the Massachusetts Shark Research Program and will include new information on the biology and ecology of local shark species, while touching on the conservation and management of these often misunderstood creatures.

Dr. Skomal is Senior Marine Fisheries Biologist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and director of the Massachusetts Shark Research Program. An accomplished marine biologist, underwater explorer, photographer, and author, Dr. Skomal has been studying and diving with sharks for over 25 years. He is best known locally for leading the effort to extract the Great White Shark from the salt pond on Naushon Island and his work tagging basking sharks in Cape Cod Bay. He has written numerous scientific research papers and appeared in a number of film and television documentaries, including programs for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, and PBS. His most recent book, The Shark Handbook, explores the world of sharks.

Two autographed copies of The Shark Handbook will be given to audience members chosen at random during the Annual Meeting!

When: Thursday , May 14,

Time: 7:00 pm

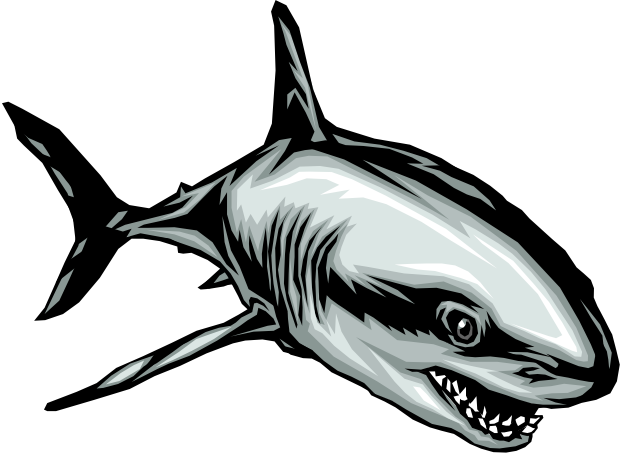
Where: Marion Natural History Museum,

8 Spring St., Marion, MA

Admission: Free

Information: call 508-748-2098

website: www.marionmuseum.org



NATURAL HISTORY BOOK CLUB

The Natural History Book Club is a group of people interested in the natural world who meet monthly (approx) to discuss seminal titles, classic and contemporary, which relate to the world we live in. **ALL ARE INVITED!**

Wednesday, May 20: - *Refuge; an Unnatural History of Family and Place* by

Terry Tempest Williams. This haunting and very personal book by a highly regarded naturalist and a leading voice within the “deep ecology” movement (a reaction to the oxymoronic traditional approach of wildlife and wilderness management) deals with two parallel disasters. The first was the rise of the Great Salt Lake to unprecedented levels which flooded the greater salt lake basin, disrupting human activities as well as those of resident and migratory wildlife, especially birds. Tempest Williams documents the human political response and that of wildlife to this unprecedented event. Throughout the flooding in the mid 1980 Tempest Williams attended to her mother who was fighting cancer—a disease which had afflicted seven other female members of her immediate family, as well as many neighbors in the Mormon community in which she was raised. The cause of the cancer epidemic becomes understood during the years of her mother’s struggles for survival. This knowledge altered the attitudes of her father and siblings family towards the natural world. For a combination of ornithology, geography, mortality and faith, this fascinating book can’t be beat.

Also Recommended: *Finding Beauty in A Broken World*, by Terry Tempest Williams has just been published and has received wide acclaim from a broad audience. Its subject may provide some comfort for those who despair of the loss of wild beauty around the globe. It is “a singular meditation on how the natural and human worlds both collide and connect in violence and beauty, this is a work of uncommon perceptions that dares to find intersections between arrogance and empathy, tumult and peace, constructing a narrative of hopeful acts by taking that which is broken and creating something whole. “

Discussions take place around a table; light refreshments will be served.

**Where: Marion Natural History Museum, on the 2nd floor of the
Elizabeth Taber Library, 8 Spring Street, Marion.**

When: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 20

Questions? Please call 748-2947

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

Look for Orioles and Hummingbirds on May 1

The seasonal return of our breeding species of birds, which began in late February with red-winged blackbirds and woodcock, has picked up the pace and reached its crescendo now that May is here. After the first of May, and before the trees are fully leafed-out, is the best time to catch a glimpse of the thirty-odd species of colorful wood warblers working the canopies, along with several species of vireo, and such showpieces as scarlet tanagers and rose-breasted grosbeaks.

For all the vagaries of spring weather in these parts, Mayday remains a fairly reliable date to expect the first appearance of two always enjoyable species, Baltimore oriole and ruby-throated hummingbird. Not perfectly reliable as swallows-to-Capistrano legend would have it, but certainly as reliable as swallows-to-Capistrano actually are (or used to be; that migration pattern has been changing of late, but that is a matter for another story).

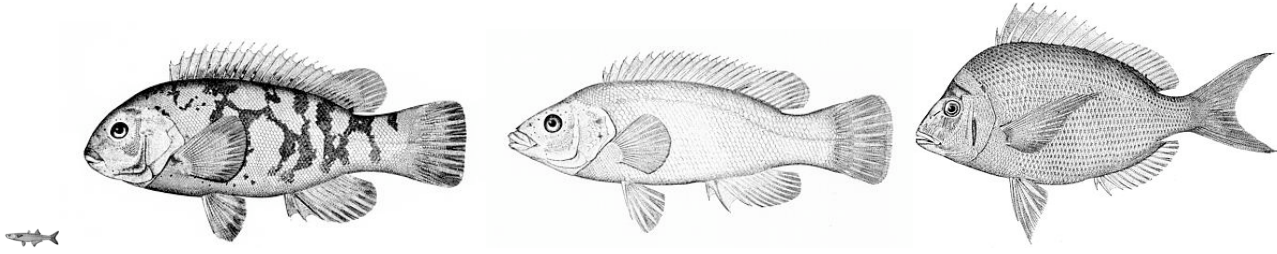
The male oriole is shamelessly gaudy, large for a songbird, brighter orange than any pumpkin and jet black at the extremities. Fearing that you, or his potential mate, will fail to spot him, he sends forth a stentorian whistled song of seven or eight notes to draw your gaze. Most people who have not seen an oriole have heard this song many times while in their yards or walking through town; make the connection once with the visual of this robin-sized show-off and you soon realize that a great many Baltimore orioles find the habitat of the southcoast to their liking.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only species of hummingbird which breeds in the northeast, or, for that matter, has any business here, if the field guides are to be believed, although a handful of other species show up as "accidentals" from time to time, a couple with some regularity. Nevertheless, in the summer, you can make book that the hummingbird at your feeder or in your flower bed is a ruby-throat. A feeder which is easy to clean (you need to change the sugar-water and clean the feeder every few days) will most likely keep hummingbirds coming to your house or apartment porch all summer. There are books which advise on the best flowers to attract them, such as trumpet vines and impatiens, but I have found them to be quite catholic in their tastes, not above probing tomato flowers and dandelions.

The hummingbirds will be with us until around mid-September, the orioles a couples of weeks later, with a few of the latter sticking it out into winter months, usually not with happy results. Still, this is the best time of year for viewing our migrating breeders, before they hunker down on the nest and go into secrecy mode. It's a great time for all species to kick off the winter cobwebs and be out amongst each other.

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We wish to thank Karl Kistler for maintaining our website !
For complete programming information, please visit us at: www.marionmuseum.org

Salt Water Aquarium



The Marion Natural History Museum is proud to unveil the newly renovated salt water aquarium. Donated in honor of Mildred Pickles, the aquarium has been refitted with a new stand, an improved filtration system, and a chiller to better maintain the collection. Local species of fish and invertebrates have been collected by Museum members and volunteers from the waters of Buzzards Bay. Come and see who you might be swimming with the next time you head down to Silvershell Beach.

The exhibits will come from the local waters, and may include:

Fin Fish:

Winter flounder
Black sea bass
Cunner
Northern pipefish
Scup
Striped killifish
Tautog
Silversides

Inverts:

Bay scallops
Periwinkles
Sand Shrimp
Spider crabs
Rock Crabs

Please help us develop and maintain this exhibit!

DONATE TO THE 'AQUARIUM FUND', and help us adopt a fish!



LEGO ROBOTICS

◆◆◆◆ The Lego and Robotics Club remains a gathering place for those creative-minded kids who want to exchange ideas.

◆◆◆◆ We would welcome monetary donations towards the purchase of a new robotics kit and/or your used legos.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO CATHERINE & CHRIS COLLINGS AND ROBERT POTVIN for all their work on the robotics club.

Lego Robotics meets every other Saturday from 10 - 11:30.

Please contact the Museum at 508-748-2098 for the schedule.

