



Spring Newsletter 2007

Marion Natural History Museum Presents:

SEA TURTLES OF MASSACHUSETTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007 - 7:00 PM

BOB PRESCOTT, director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, will discuss the five species of sea turtles found in Massachusetts waters and the threats to each of them. As the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeastern Massachusetts coordinator for the Northeast Sea Turtle Stranding Network, he has been actively involved in coastal issues and research.

His talk will focus on:

Leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

return to our area in late June, depart by late September. Ship strikes, plastic ingestion, and buoy line entanglement are their greatest threats. The loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) is the second most common species of sea turtle to strand in Mass. Loggerheads are thought to spend the summer in our bays and sounds feeding on crabs and shellfish.

Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*) is the most frequently stranded sea turtle .

An increasing number of these 2-6 yr. old turtles are recovered, alive and dead, during annual cold stunning episodes.

Our only records for green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) are from strandings, mostly annual cold stunning episodes.

Cost: \$4.00 for Members, \$5.00 for non-Members

Marion Music Hall, Front St.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 7:00 pm

Natural History Museum, 8 Spring St., Marion

FISHERIES and HABITAT:

Sustainability in the Face of Human Development

Vin Malkoski, Senior Marine Biologist with the MA Department of Marine Fisheries, will speak. He is responsible for coordinating the review of coastal alteration projects which may impact fish habitat, ranging from docks and piers to wind farms and LNG terminals.

Vin also sits on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Artificial Reef & Habitat Committee as well as the New England Fisheries Management Council's Habitat Plan Development Team.

Although harvest is heavily regulated, fish habitat and fisheries are also significantly impacted by ever increasing coastal development. Along the Massachusetts coast, nearly 700 coastal alteration projects are reviewed annually by the DMF, and each project produces individual impacts and contributes to a cumulative effect almost too big to measure!

Regional fish stocks such as Southern New England winter flounder and Area 2 lobster have crashed. Runoff from lawns and roads overwhelms our estuaries with nutrients. American eels and herring can't get upstream to breed due to obstacles like dams or water withdrawal rates that are so high there is not enough water to swim.

Eelgrass, bay scallops and blue crab abundance has plummeted due to poor water quality.

All projects from someone's restoration of their dock, seawall, or beach maintenance up to the big projects like dredging harbors and Cape Wind affect our fish stocks. Come learn what we can do to turn the tide.

SPRING BIRD WALK with Mark Sylvia

Saturday, May 26th at 8:00 am.

We will be walking the Hagemann Woods and Peirson Thirty.

Please park near the water tower, about 1 mile down Point Road from Route 6. This is a good time of year for Wood Warblers, Vireos, Cuckoos, Thrushes, and other woodland birds both passing through and settling in to breed.

Contact Mark Sylvia at 508-951-8867 for weather cancellations, etc.

ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

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

Your Annual Membership Dues allow us to continue and expand our programming, maintain our open hours, and develop new educational exhibits.

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

Our financial year goes from July 1 to June 30 each year.

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

MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY - ANNUAL DUES

Membership Category:

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ **email** _____

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Many thanks to the following for their generous support:

Contributing Members

Keith & Kristina McDavid
Peter & Asha Wallace
Mrs. Gertrude Burr

Supporting Members

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Norweb
Mr. & Mrs. David Stone
Richard & Faith Morningstar
Anne Butler

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VIEW OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.marionmuseum.org
Contact our Director, Elizabeth Leidhold: lizeleid@msn.com

Starlab Portable Planetarium has put on some miles!

The Museum's Starlab has become a very popular traveling exhibit, helping the public school system cover MCAS and curriculum-related requirements in science and astronomy. So far this school year we've been from Wareham to Dartmouth with stops in New Bedford and Mattapoisett. In the near future we are traveling back to New Bedford and Wareham for spring programs. Many thanks to Eastern Bank and all those that donated to this worthy program so that we could provide it at a low-cost to assist the local schools.

To book a STARLAB showing, contact: lizeid@msn.com

Natural History Book Club Off to a Great Start:

After community inquiry, the Museum was Encouraged to launch a book discussion group which would meet monthly to discuss seminal classics as well as new provocative or evocative books about this planet we inhabit.

Call John Cederholm at 508-748-2947 for more details and upcoming meeting dates.

Lego Robotic Club

Many Thanks to the McDavid Family for their kind donation of legos for our lego club.

Our members are currently saving up for a new robotics set; donations would be greatly appreciated.

The lego and lego robotic club meets every other Saturday at the museum from 10 – 11:30. Upcoming meetings dates can be viewed on our website – www.marionmuseum.org.

Marion Natural History Museum

P.O. Box 644

Marion, MA 02738

**Marion Natural History Museum
After-school Programs for
Spring 2007**

Thursday, March 29 – **Vernal Pools**. During this annual favorite we will learn to identify some of the animals that make their home in these temporary pools, then take a closer look at live specimens.

Thursday, April 26 - **Birding with Mark Sylvia**. During this introduction to birding students will look at the Museum’s bird collection, study their differences and similarities, and take a walk to listen for bird calls. Please dress appropriately.

Thursday, May 17 – **Ecology of an Eel Grass Bed**. What is eel grass and who lives there? Department of Marine Fisheries Biologist Ross Kessler will help us learn about this important piece of our seashore habitat.

Thursday, May 31 – **Playing with Plants**. We will look for patterns and diversity in leaves and puzzle over how they function. We will learn the names of some of the plants we see and collect their leaves in a notebook for pressing.
This is a walking field trip so please dress appropriately!

Thursday, June 7 - **Terrific Terrapins!** – The museum has been helping to raise two baby terrapins until they can be released to their home this summer. Let’s learn a little about these animals that live in our saltmarshes before we release our visitors to the wild. We’ll be working on posters and natural history projects for display and to bring home.

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

Please register my child for the following afterschool programs:

Vernal Pools _____ **Birding** _____ **Eel Grass** _____
Playing with Plants _____ **Terrific Terrapins** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **email:** _____

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

**SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE:
MARION NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

JOIN US FOR A GREAT SUMMER NEAR THE WATER!

LIFE ALONG THE SHORE: for Grades entering 1 – 2

This program will find us seining the shore 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.

Lead Teacher: LYNNE CONNOR

Dates: Session I July 9 - 20
Session II August 6 – 17

Note: New program

WATERSHED DISCOVERY: for Grades entering 3 – 4

From light-harvesting producers to the countless consumers that rely upon them, watershed life is diverse and exciting. Using field guides, microscopes, and other equipment, participants will examine fresh water food webs and the local ecosystems that support them.

Perfect for the curious and inquisitive young mind.

Lead Teacher: GEOFFREY KELSEY

Dates: Session I July 9 – 20

REGISTER: Please fill out the information below, and submit with payment. Our programs will fill on a first come, first served basis. Registration is limited to 15 children per session.

Cost per session: \$150.00 members \$200.00 Nonmembers

Life Along the Shore – Grades 1 & 2 Watershed Exploration - Grades 3 & 4

Name _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Ph: _____

Ph: _____

Session 1 _____ **Session 2** _____



