



Marion Natural History Museum

Winter/Spring 2007

Upcoming Program: Natural History Museum Brings Famed Mountaineer to Marion

Friday, January 26, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Renowned mountaineer Rick Wilcox, who in 1991 led the first successful expedition organized by climbers from the eastern United States to the summit of Mt. Everest, will give a lively, illustrated account of this adventure at Marion's Music Hall. He will also display equipment needed for such expeditions. Wilcox, who grew up in Middleton and Fall River learned climbing basics as a youngster from the Appalachian Mountain Club and quickly scaled all 46 of the 4,000' peaks of New Hampshire's White Mountains, with the encouragement of his father, a Congregational minister who had introduced him to hiking in the mountains.

While pursuing a forestry degree from U MA-Amherst, where he was also a member of the gymnastic team, Rick went on an expedition to Alaska's 16,500' Mt. Bona. During his senior year he worked with the Arctic Institute of North America on 19,850' Mt. Logan, in the Yukon Territory. He was hooked. During the 1980's he climbed many of the higher peaks of North and South America, did the big walls of Yosemite, the Tetons, and Chamonix, and was ready for his first big expedition to the Himalaya. By the time he led the successful assault on Mt. Everest a decade later it was his sixth Himalayan trip, his 25th expedition overall. At the time he became one of only 300 men and women to have summited the 29,035' mother of all mountains. Wilcox is notable for a safety record unequalled by most professional mountain guides; none of the teams he has led has suffered serious injury or loss of digits-- a tribute to his long experience, mature judgment and healthy respect for the power of mother nature.

Today Rick Wilcox owns and operates North Conway's International Mountain Equipment, an outdoor emporium specializing in gear and clothing for rock and ice climbers, back country skiers and mountaineers, as well as summer hikers and backpackers looking for top quality equipment and expert advice. Rick remains President and Team Leader for the Mountain Rescue Service of New Hampshire, which he and two other climbers founded in 1974. These professionally trained and highly experienced climbers perform high angle rescues throughout the Whites under all conditions. Rick balances all of these activities with a wonderful family life with wife Celia and four teenage children. Days off are usually spent hiking the trails or skiing with family and friends.

An evening at the Music Hall with Rick and Celia and you will soon be digging out your hiking boots from the back of your closet

Cost: \$9.00 nonmembers, \$8.00 members, \$5.00 kids 13 and under for Show, Exhibits, Q & A and Refreshments.

Don't Miss a chance to meet this most personable New Englander!

Letter from the President:

It is a pleasure to share a review of Museum activities for 2006 with you. It should be well recognized that the Marion Natural History Museum is unique in its existence as it serves all of southeastern Massachusetts while the next nearest natural history museum is in Brewster on Cape Cod.

SIPPICAN SCHOOL AND THE MUSEUM: the Museum continues to focus on our upcoming generation of decision makers by its availability as a field trip destination and science resource for our local elementary schools.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS: The museum continues to offer a wide selection of afterschool programs to regional school-aged children, (see flyer).

STARLAB: a new 'traveling exhibit' addition to the Museum. We can present a variety of planetarium programs at the Museum as well as in area schools and for interested organizations including scout troops, etc. Purchase of this fine teaching-learning tool was made possible because of the pilot donation of Eastern Savings Bank and the remarkable gifts of several community and individual contributors.

THE SUMMER PROGRAM: During the summer months the Museum offered its increasingly popular program of Life Along The Shore for children entering grades 1 & 2. They explored the plants and animals that live in our coastal habitats; games, journals and introductory science techniques were used. This experience makes for a wonderful first look at life in our coastal environment.

New Special Interest clubs have been formed:

THE MUSEUM LEGO-ROBOTICS CLUB meets every other Saturday.

NATURAL HISTORY BOOKCLUB. Bookclub meets once a month.

ADULT EVENING PROGRAMS: Throughout 2006, the Museum has remained committed to expanding its evening programs for adult membership; it has chosen high interest topics on nature and the environment. Most notable among these was a presentation by Mark and Delia Owens, *Secrets of the Savanna*. The appearance of these renowned field zoologists drew a capacity crowd to the Music Hall, where they gave an inspiring power point show, complete with audio background of their successful struggle to save African wildlife by improving the lives of villagers.

Elizabeth Taber would be indeed pleased with our hard work and the charitable giving of its membership. Without the widespread support of our membership her vision and our ongoing mission could not be realized.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederico R. Medina, Jr., President

Marion Natural History Museum
After-school Programs: Winter/Spring 2007

Thursday January 25 - **Dinosaurs and Fossils** with the Thornton Burgess Society. Learn the latest dino-facts, handle dino fossils, uncover what a dinosaur might have sounded like and use your imagination on hunt for dinosaurs. Program will end with a“bang”!**

Wednesday February 28 – Marine Mammal Taxonomy otherwise known as “**Sorting it all out**” with Bob Rocha of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. With the use of plastic and stuffed models we will investigate the “inside story” on marine mammals.**

Thursday March 15 – **Rocket Science**. Using a variety of materials we will learn how rockets work. Each participant will build and launch their own rocket.**

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 kids will look at the museum’s bird collection and then take a walk into the woods to listen for bird calls.

Thursday May 17 – **Ecology of an Eel Grass Bed**. Department of Marine Fisheries Biologist Ross Kessler will help us learn about this important piece of our seashore habitat.

Unless otherwise designated, all programs are \$4.00 for members, \$5.00 for nonmembers and will be held at the museum. Please register with the museum, not your school or library. Thank you!

Please register my child for the following afterschool programs:

Dinosaurs___ **Sorting it all out**___ **Rocket Science**___

Vernal Pools ___ **Birding** ___ **Eel Grass**___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

** Programs are funded in part by a grant from the Marion Cultural Council.

THE MUSEUM LEGO-ROBOTICS CLUB meets every other Saturday.
Our next meeting dates are January 13 and 27, February 10, March 3 and 24.

Natural History Book Club off to a Great Start:

We have had two lively meetings thus far. Richard Louv’s “Last child in the Woods, Saving our children from Nautre-Deficit Disorder” was universally felt to be a book that all adults who love nature on any level, all parents of young children, and all teachers of children of any age should read. December’s selection was Joseph Wood Krutch’s classic “Grand Canyon and All of Its yesterdays” proved to be, not only an excellent description of the formation of the canyon and the present status of the areas myriad ecosystems but also, an evocative and at times wry look at the attitudes and habits of modern day visitors and politicians and businessmen who wish to exploit the canyon and its surroundings for personal gain. Our January meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday January 16 at the Museum will conclude our discussion of Krutch’s work and begin discussion of Edward Abbey’s “Desert Solitaire”. Even if you haven’t read either work please join us.

**MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Categories:

_____ <i>Basic Membership</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
_____ <i>Contributing</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>
_____ <i>Supporting</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
_____ <i>Sustaining</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
_____ <i>Sponsor or Corporate</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Many thanks to the following for your recent support!

Supporting Members

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Marguerite Foster
Nancy Braitmayer**

**Elizabeth Duncan
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Mr./Mrs. Henry Norweb**

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