

Natural History Book Club's Next Title:
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: a Year of Food Life
prompts potluck dinner!

At our last meeting of the Natural History Book Club we concluded our discussion of Wendell Berry focusing on his wide breadth of subject matter and their common threads covered in the *Gift of Good Land*. The group thought that over the holiday period we should take on light fare. **Our choice is *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle a Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver** which will give us all food for thought and recipes for our enjoyment. The publisher is Harper Collins, ISBN 978-0-06-085255-9.

Probably best known for her novel *The Poisonwood Bible*, Kingsolver writes in a warm, delightful tone about her family's return from life in Tucson to a small farm in southwestern Virginia to grow, prepare and consume most of their food for an entire year! Her husband provides often surprising and sometimes shocking information on how supermarket food arrives at our tables. The couples elder daughter provides recipes at the end of each chapter while her young sister provides frequent humor as she manages a flock of chickens for eggs and meat in to finance purchase of a horse.

You'll have until January 17 to enjoy *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*; however, you'll want to start on it right away so that you can utilize some of the many interesting recipes during the holidays. It might also be a good gift for someone on your list.

**Our next meeting will be: January 17, 6:30 or when you can make it,
at the: Cederholms, 73 East Avenue, on Planting Island.**

Tess and I will be hosting a pot luck supper utilizing recipes from the book or any other dish that is seasonal, and primarily made from local produce and meat/fish. Along with a dish, bring a spouse or friend if you'd like.

Cheers, John and Tess

Please r.s.v.p. 748-2947

Marion Natural History Museum

P.O. Box 644

Marion, MA 02738

Please consider joining the Museum:

As you may note from the abbreviated Annual Report, The Marion Natural History Museum has become busier and busier with each passing year.

Families young and old continue to enroll their children and grandchildren in our superb after school and weekend programs, adults and families crowd to attend our fascinating programs about nature and outdoor activities. As National Public Radio says, "if you listen to us, please support us"... or as Marion's Natural History Museum might say, "if you use us, please support us... if you don't actively use us, please support us as an important institution in the culture of your town."

The Marion Natural History Museum needs 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.

MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY - DUES

Membership Category:

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

email _____

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



**Marion Natural History Museum
After-School Programs for Winter/Spring 2008**

Animal Tracks - Thursday February 6, a naturalist from the Thornton Burgess Society will help us learn to identify animal tracks and make a plaster cast of our own to bring home.

What is plankton really made of? - Thursday March 6, Bob Rocha of the New Bedford Whaling Museum will introduce us to the base of the oceanic food chain: Plankton!

Rocket Science! - Thursday March 27th. By using weights and balances we will investigate how rockets work. Each participant will build and launch their own rocket.

Vernal Pools - Thursday, April 17th. 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.

Wildflowers and pollination - Thursday, May 15th. Martha Schroeder is a retired elementary school teacher who works with the New England Wildflower Society. She enjoys leading nature walks and is very knowledgeable about our native plant life. We will create a plant press/journal to take home from our adventures.

**All programs are \$4.00 for members, \$5.00 for nonmembers
To be held at the Museum from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm .**

Please register my child for the following afterschool programs:

Tracking ___ Plankton ___ Rocket Science ___ Vernal Pools ___ Wildflowers ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please register with the museum, not your school or library. Thank you!

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

ANNUAL REPORT: 2006- 2007

REVIEW of last year's Programs at the Marion Natural History Museum

After School Programs: Last year fourteen popular after-school programs were held, on topics of timely interest. The students were introduced to the ecology of Marion, studying such areas as vernal pools, eelgrass beds, terrapins, soils and shellfish, all taught by experts in their fields.

In addition, the Lego and Robotics club continues to meet every other Saturday from 10 – 11:30, as well as serving as a popular field trip destination for Sippican School and many of the local preschools.

Summer programs: This year we welcomed Geoff Kelsey as our new Watershed Exploration teacher and Nick Ciffolillo as his able assistant. Under their thoughtful guidance the children picked up rocks, hiked through woods, waded through pools and streams and visited Ospreys who live in the saltmarshes that make up our watershed. 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.

Tank Dedication: On September 27th at 3:00 pm we hosted a formal presentation of the Mildred Ray Pickles Saltwater Tank. Mildred loved the outdoors and the museum, and suggested that the Marion Natural History Museum be the recipient of her memorial donations. We will always be grateful to her and her family for their kind thoughts. This tank will be used for educational purposes with year-round museum programming for children and adults.

Adult Programs: In January 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, gave a lively, illustrated account of this adventure. At our annual meeting Vincent Malkowski spoke about Fisheries and Habitat: Sustainability in the face of human development. 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. Mark Sylvia hosted a Spring Bird Walk ; we walked the Hagemann Woods and Peirson Thirty. Bob Prescott, Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary located on Cape Cod gave a program on "Sea Turtles of Massachusetts."

Book club: In addition to these wonderful programs, under the leadership of Board President John Cederholm, the museum continues to host a Natural History Book Club.

Thanks to our director, Elizabeth Leidhold, for a year of fascinating programming!!

BURMA, THE LAND OF SMILES

On Friday at 7:00 P.M., February 8th, at the Music Hall, an illustrated talk by John Cederholm will reveal how it is possible that after nearly a half century of military rule Burma (Myanmar) is still known as the Land of Smiles. John and Tess will discuss their month long journey from Yangon (Rangoon) along the Ayeyarwady River to the ancient capital cities of Bagan (with over 2,000 temples and stupas), Amarapura, with its mile long teak bridge, to the last royal capital of Mandalay. Other regions they explored included Shan State with the colonial hill station of Kalaw and Inle Lake, on which the Intha fishermen live in seventeen villages built on stilts and grow vegetables on floating islands. Far to the south, near the mouth of the Thanlwin River sits the port city of Mawlamyaing (Moulmein). Here George Orwell was stationed in the 1920s. It was also the site of the first American overseas mission establish by Adoniram Judson and his wife Ann, who sailed from Salem in 1812. Today the city is a moldering tropical time warp. WWII army vehicles have been converted into public buses. Colonial era buildings still predominate. South of Mawlamyaing lays the Japanese rail line portrayed in the film *Bridge on the River Kwai*. Rusting locomotives and a decaying museum contrast with a well maintained British cemetery for the prisoners of war who died building this infamous line. Undeveloped palm lined beaches stretch for miles along the Andaman Sea coast.

Tess will display and speak about the crafts of Burma. It is planned to have a student perform traditional Burmese dance.

Refreshments will be served following the show.