

# MARION NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

## Fall 2006 Newsletter

We are proud to announce new adult programming!



A Natural History Book Club will be forming this autumn at the Marion Natural History Museum.

*Some of the titles under consideration include classics such as *Soil and Civilization* by Edward Hyams, Wallace Stegner's *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*, Joseph Wood Krutch's *Grand Canyon and Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey. More recent works such as *The Weather Makers* by Tim Flannery, Fred Pearce's just published *When the Rivers Run Dry, 1491* by Charles Mann and *Collapse* by Jared Diamond, *Secrets of the Savanna* by our recent guest speakers Mark and Delia Owens and the provocative *Last Child in the Woods* are also possibilities. Your suggestions are welcome.*

Our purpose or mission will be to broaden awareness of the Earth's natural wonders and all societies' dependence on the proper functioning of natural systems. We hope to inspire exploration of our natural heritage by auto, foot and also by arm chair by readers of all ages.

Please join us for an organizational meeting Thursday, October 12, at 7:00pm at the Museum, located over the library, Spring Street, Marion.

Our new website address is [www.marionmuseum.org](http://www.marionmuseum.org). Please visit this website to see examples of our displays, upcoming news and events, and to schedule a Starlab presentation. Many thanks to board member Karl Kistler for his help with this much needed project.

### Upcoming Evening Programs for Families:

## All programs will start at 7:00 pm

September 21, 2006 “STELLAR EVOLUTION: HOW STARS DIE!” Lecture given by David Pierce. This Program will be held at the Lyndon South - Tabor Academy beginning at 7:00 pm. This is a free program and open to all.

### Programs held at the Museum:

**October 5 – “A BIRD WATCHING STYLE FOR EVERYONE: FROM THE TYPE-A HEAVY METAL BIG-DAY MARATHONER TO THE BACKYARD BIG SIT”.** Our newest member, Marc Sylvia, will be covering what different facets of birding might appeal to different people. We will be investigating general approaches on getting a handle on identifying birds, how to find different birds using field guides and bird feeding.

**October 26th – “MARION'S PAST LANDSCAPE”:** An informal discussion about Marion's archaeological history. Artifacts in the museum provide a picture of regional prehistoric settlements. We will include a discussion with Rev. MacFarlane about Minister's Rock!

**November 16** John Cederholm will give slide presentation entitled “**THE VANISHING SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO:**” will take place in November. John and Tess Cederholm have climbed Kili three times each by a different route so we will have a comprehensive look at the mountain and its unique flora and fauna . The show will also feature the wildlife of the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire, Lake Manyara and other wildlife preserves of northern Tanzania. Glimpses into the lives of the Chaga people and the Masaii will also be included along with displays of indigenous crafts and jewelry.

**Price for the above programs are \$4.00 for members, \$5.00 for nonmembers, \$10.00 for a family with a basic membership.**

**“Tanks” to the family of Mildred Pickles:** The many donations made to the museum in Mildred's name will be used to purchase a 150 gallon acrylic fish tank so that we may set up a new salt water aquarium exhibit which. This will also be used as an educational tool for our many children's programs. We plan to set this up as a “marine tank” and will display indigenous fish, crabs and worms from our harbor to study and enjoy. In order to maintain the proper environment for our cold water animals, we will need to purchase a chiller and proper filtration equipment. We welcome any donations no matter how small.



**StarLab:** Interested in scheduling a Starlab Program for your club or class? View the Starlab program in detail on our new website: many are tailored to fit the current curriculum requirements. Starlab presentations may be scheduled through the museum's new website or by calling the museum at 508-748-2098.



## **After-school Programs:**

**October 12: 3:00 – 4:00 “Wet and Wild”**, lets learn the importance of wetlands. Weather permitting we will walk along Holmes Brook to identify common wetland shrubs and investigate wetland soil. We’ll also look for evidence of animals that use the brook and its wetland habitat. If it’s a rainy day we will look at specimens in the museum and watch a slide show.

**October 26: 3:00 – 5:00 “The Great Soft-Shell Clam Relay”**. Isaac Perry will show us how to “plant those clams”. Plan on getting muddy and having a great time learning about our favorite shellfish. Pick up will be at the Marion Town wharf. Program may run a little later than usual.

**November 9: 3:00 – 4:30 “Native Americans of Southeastern Massachusetts”**. This program focuses on the Native past that is still present in Southeastern Massachusetts. We will be discussing the Native history and place names within our town and about the people who lived here when the Pilgrims landed. Participants will be given handouts to take with them including including instructions on how to plant a traditional garden, lists of Native place names from our area and source of more information on New England’s Native people.

**December 7: Holiday Workshop.** Let’s work on crafts and enjoy refreshments during this annual event. We will be hosting this event on a Thursday afternoon this year to accommodate our after-school group. 3:00 – 5:00.

**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:**

**Wet and Wild** \_\_\_ **Shellfish Relay** \_\_\_ **Native People of SE Mass.** \_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**Summer Programs:** We had a banner year for our Life Along the Shore Program! Lead teacher - Lynn Connor and Assistant teacher - Michelle Cordeiro continue to educate our youngest members in the importance of our shoreline habitats. We filled our July program and came close to filling our August Program. The July program made a spectacular Man-O-War jellyfish for one of our display cases, with 80 foot long tentacles! Next year we look forward to incorporating our new fish tank into their rainy day activities.

**MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

## MEMBERSHIP

### Membership Categories:

___ Basic Membership.....	\$40.00
___ Contributing.....	\$75.00
___ Supporting.....	\$100.00
___ Sustaining.....	\$250.00
___ Sponsor or Corporate.....	\$500.00

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

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

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*Many thanks to the following for your support!*

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

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