

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010

MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

8 SPRING ST., MARION, MA



WINTER FAMILY EVENING PROGRAM:

PETER STONE

Marion Resident, Artist &
Natural Scientist presents:

THE POSSIBILITIES OF LIGHT IN A COLD PLACE

A knowledgeable speaker with a contagious enthusiasm for teaching ways to observe and understand the natural world, his illustrated lectures fuse the creative dynamics of art and science with our spiritual relationship with the lands that sustain us.

At a time when our attention has been drawn to fragile arctic environments and the gravity of climate change, Peter Stone explores the landscapes of Atlantic Canada and Quebec as a metaphor for human experience. His work invites us to consider that the symbols of suffering environments and struggling communities are archetypal, no matter what the perceived boundaries of our cultures. Drawn from over fifteen years of discovery on foot and by boat the paintings comprise a rich collection of intimate perspectives and vast arctic and sub-arctic panoramas, alive with cross-cultural symbols plus mythological and historical references. They celebrate humankind's natural heritage and challenge us to consider the values of the stewardship of lands, creatures, and cultures—and what happens when we forsake them.

TIME: 7:00 PM

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010

PLACE: MARION TOWN MUSIC HALL, 164 FRONT ST., MARION

ADMISSION: \$6.00 - ADULTS; \$4.00 - CHILDREN

WINTER BIRD NOTES

By MARK SYLVIA

Ordinarily, a migration season offers the hope of a stopover from some lesser-seen bird species happy to find your feeder along its route south, or maybe a fallout of warblers, thrushes, and such in the trees and shrubs around your locale. It was the rudest of rebuffs this year to find usually busy feeders hanging vacant and unappreciated by even the most homespun and steadfast of year-round resident species once we turned the corner from summer to fall this past year. People throughout New England wondered what could be keeping chickadees and cardinals and even mourning doves away.

There had been some spraying in the wake of concerns about mosquito-borne diseases, but no convincing link between these programs and significant bird mortality has been shown. More likely is a combination of seasonal weather factors: adverse nesting conditions in the spring, which had a negative impact on the bird population, and great seed growing conditions in the summer, which provided the birds more appealing food, for the time being, than we have to offer at our feeders.

I could offer anecdotal support to the hypothesis that the rainy nesting season was deleterious to many species of birds by noting that one of the few species which did not abandon my feeders in the fall was goldfinches, which as it happens, breed later than most other species, not starting until mid July, which was when the monsoon ended this year.

As the native food is exhausted, our familiar feeder guests can be expected to return to the fold, and the transition is indeed in progress. Flocks of winter robins have emerged from the woods and have been roving about the suburbs. They're not feeder birds, strictly speaking, but if you have a berry-laden holly tree in your yard, expect to see the first of these robins and the last of your berries soon.

NATURAL HISTORY BOOK CLUB ** Winter 2010 Reading Selections

Dear Friend: Whether or not you are able to join us for the discussions of these terrific books, we think you might enjoy reading these titles. For those of you intrigued enough to join the discussion on any of these books, we list below the meeting dates, and welcome you to our lively discussions!

The Natural History Book Club meets at the Museum, 8 Spring Street, Marion.

Discussions are held on the third Wednesday evening of each month, starting at 7:30 and lasting for about an hour. Light refreshments are provided.

Contact: John or Tess Cederholm – 508-748-2974; cederholm@comcast.net

The Marsh Arabs by Wilfred Thesinger.

During the years he spent among the Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq--long before they were almost completely wiped out by Saddam Hussein--Wilfred Thesiger came to understand, admire, and share a way of life that had endured for many centuries. In this account of a nearly lost civilization, he pays tribute to the hospitality, loyalty, courage, and endurance of the people. **February 17th**

Encounters with the Archdruid [Narratives about a conservationist and three of his natural enemies], by John McPhee. The Archdruid is David Brower, founder of the Sierra Club, member of the 10th Mountain Division in WWII, renounced, mountaineer and three time nominee for the Noble Peace Prize. His adversaries are a resort developer, a builder of gigantic dams and a mining geologist. The

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 !

SUMMER PROGRAM 2010:

LIFE ALONG THE SHORE for Grades entering 1 – 2

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. 9 – 12, Mon – Fri.

COASTAL EXPLORATIONS for Grades entering 3 – 4

We will feature explorations of our rocky intertidal shoreline, salt marshes, and estuaries, as well as freshwater riverbanks, swamps, ponds, and bogs. We will look at the birds, amphibians, fish and invertebrates that make these areas so special. 9 – 12, Mon – Fri.

Cost both programs: \$200.00 members \$250.00 Nonmembers
**membership covers the calendar year

Dates: July 5-16 Session I
 August 2-13 Session II

For inquiries or to register, Contact our Director: Elizabeth Leidhold
Museum Ph: 508-748-2098 email: lizleid@msn.com

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

MARION NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
WINTER SCHEDULE OF AFTER-SCHOOL & FAMILY PROGRAMS - 2010

WEDNESDAY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

February 10 BIRDS AT THE FEEDER. Let's get to know who's who at your bird feeder. Avid birder Mark Sylvia will introduce us to some of the more common birds we see at our feeder during the winter months.

March 10 - BUTTERFLIES OF THE MUSEUM with museum director Elizabeth Leidhold. We will be looking at the museum's historic butterfly displays and working on a project.

March 31 - LET'S LEARN ABOUT THOSE SIGNS OF SPRING - VERNAL POOLS! Finally! The ground is warming up, the plants are starting to stir and our slimy little friends are making their way to the pools. Let's take a close up look at these special little critters.

April 14 - GARDEN AS A PLACE OF PLAY - Laura Mclean - Standard Times garden correspondent will teach us about the garden as a place to play and experiment. A place to experiment (with plant edibles), play, relax and dream.

April 28 -TOUR OF BIRD ISLAND- Let's see the island before the terns do. Space is limited so this program will close at 15 children or 12 people total. Bring your own life jacket. No life jacket, no ride sorry! This program will last an hour longer than normal, 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Pick up will be at the Harbormaster's office.

May 12 - LIFESTYLES OF THE LOCAL FISH with Vinnie Malkoski of the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries. Let's see who is swimming in our local waters.

WHERE: All of the above programs will be held at the Museum,
located above the Elizabeth Taber Library, 7 Spring Street, Marion, Mass.

WHEN: Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

COST: is \$4.00 for members, \$6.00 for nonmembers.

FAMILY PROGRAMS:

Friday evening program at the museum: February 26th from 5 to 6:30 pm

"PICNIC IN THE PAST" - Archaeology of Southeastern Massachusetts, 5 - 6:30 pm. Bring your picnic blanket & picnic and sit back with the family to learn about who lived in our home before we did. Program partially funded by the Marion Cultural Council.

Saturday Family Program: June 5th from 10:00 to noon

TOURS OF THE HARBOR ON THE NEW BOAT From 10:00 to noon we will be touring Marion harbor with the people who know it best, the Marion Harbormaster. Mike will point out interesting features of our harbor to those of us who may not own the boats to tour it ourselves. BRING YOUR OWN LIFE JACKET! No life jacket, no ride, sorry!

FAMILY PROGRAM COST: \$4.00/child, \$6.00/adult, \$10.00/family.

LEGO ROBOTICS CLUB meets at the Museum every other Saturday from 10:00-11:30.

Please call the Museum at 508-748-2098 to find out when the next meeting date is.

We ask for an annual donation of \$25.00 to cover the cost of batteries.

A parent should plan to stay with the child to help.

Please sign my child up for the following AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

_____ Birds at the feeder _____ Butterflies of Museum _____ Vernal pools

_____ Garden as Play _____ Tour of Bird Island _____ Local Fish

Programs are \$4.00 for members, \$6.00 for nonmembers.

FAMILY PROGRAMS _____ Picnic in the past _____ Harbor Tour

Programs are \$4.00 for members, \$6.00 for nonmembers, \$10.00 family

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Museum Membership: Family Member _____ Nonmember _____

I give permission to have the Museum's Director, Elizabeth Leidhold, retrieve my child _____ from Sippican School and walk him/her to the museum. I understand that the program ends at 4:30 pm and I will pick up my child at that time.

_____ Name of parent or guardian

PLEASE NOTE: After-school registration forms are to be mailed or dropped off to the Marion Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 644, Marion, MA 02738. Please do not bring the forms to the school or library, thank you!

Sippican School families - if registering your child to be picked up from school and walked over to the museum by the Museum Director please remember to make two extra copies of the form: one for the school, one to be mailed to the museum with payment, and keep one for yourself.



PLEASE HELP US & BECOME A MEMBER!

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.

DUES: MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Family \$ 60 _____
- Contributing \$ 100 _____
- Sustaining \$ 250 _____
- Sponsor or Corporate \$ 500 _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____