



Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Tidings

March &
April '10

869 Route 6A, Brewster, MA 02631 Ph 508-896-3867 Fax 508-896-8844 - www.ccmnh.org E-Mail info@ccmnh.org

The mission of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is to inspire appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our natural environment through discovery and learning.

The Museum Makeover



A Willet mount receives finishing touches under the expert eyes and hands of Elizabeth Taylor and Gayle Kenerson.

Through the considerable skill and efforts of our talented volunteers, the Museum has been transformed into a highly functional setting of eye-catching displays that strengthens the mission of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Improvements have ranged from infrastructure repairs to major changes noticeable to all visitors...from 'ladybug' pushpins in their own holder for the outside bulletin board to repainted walls, from a handmade brochure rack to refinished front greeting desks and from updated electrical wiring to reconstructed exhibits.

Bird Alley has "taken flight" into a new dimension of interpretation, highlighted by the captivating panels created by Marjorie Mellor, who also created the background for our whale bone exhibit. Our collection of bird mounts was cleaned, repaired and placed with new identifications and habitat locations. Many winter hours were spent in this delicate and specialized work. Some of our readers may remember that 700 bird mounts were donated to the Museum in 1964 from the estate of Ralph Stuart of Osterville.

Our Aquarium residents - from the Diamondback Terrapins to the freshwater Bullfrog and Painted Turtles - now have enlarged aquarium homes, including a 450 gallon tank given as a gift from the Cape Cod Academy.

A special insert in this issue of *Tidings* acknowledges the generous response to our Roof Fund appeal, including a major grant from the Mary-Louise and Ruth Eddy Foundation.

And with special appreciation and gratitude, the Museum thanks:

Painting: Al Williams, Fred Budreski, Bob Bradley
Carpentry: Bob Hood, Merle Mammato, Bill Zimmer, Jerry Fitton, Bruce Beane, Bob Smith, Darryl Ward, Richard Dill, Marc Stahl, Reggie Donnithorne
Front Desk Refinishing: Diane Smith, Al Williams
New Brochure Rack: Dean Smeltzer
Bird Cleaning and Restoration: Mary Binowski, Ken Cheek, Charles Firnhaber, Nancy Hipp, Gayle Kenerson, Carolyn Kennedy, Leslie Kramer, Elizabeth Taylor
Artistry: Marjorie Mellor



Under the watchful gaze of Fred Budreski, Bob Bradley begins to prep Bird Alley for the habitat paintings of Marjorie Mellor.



From the President & Executive Director

This issue of Tidings is highlighting some of the incredible work our volunteers do. Whether it is welcoming visitors at the front admissions desk or moving and installing a 450-gallon aquarium tank, this Museum is totally dependent on our all-volunteer army.

This past January was the busiest "closed" month we've had as the various photos and stories show. Bird Alley, the aquarium, and the KidSummer Building had major construction work going on along with the emergency repair of leaky pipes, installing new electrical panels and painting walls - all accomplished by our "inside" volunteers. Our outside crew continued to work through the cold weather maintaining the trails and making other visitor improvements in the parking areas.

Along with the physical labor, we had an ongoing series of volunteer committees working on school vacation programs, trail guide training, land stewardship, membership, development, the annual appeal effort and the 2010 special exhibit.

A common thread in keeping all these activities moving forward is the effort put forth by our Volunteer Coordinator, Pam Fearn. As many already know, Pam will be leaving the Museum soon as her husband Robbie takes on the Executive Director position at the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham, Alabama. She will be deeply missed by everyone associated with CCMNH, especially me.

Pam and I started at the Museum together in 2006, actually she has a month seniority on me. We bonded immediately as we worked toward understanding how this place ticked and where we fit in. Despite some chaotic moments, especially on those rainy days when thousands of visitors decided to come all at the same time, Pam never lost her sense of humor or calm demeanor as everything around us seemed to fall apart. We learned that although we could make a plan, we couldn't plan the outcome. Her many skills fit this place perfectly and contributed mightily to all the success we have experienced over the past 3-plus years.

Our loss is Alabama's gain and we'll be following Robbie and Pam's new successes albeit long-distance.

Thanks Pam.

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- President & Executive Director*
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- Volunteer Coordinator*
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- Office Manager*
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- Gift Store Manager*
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- Administrative Associates*
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Claire Tyner, Ext. 133
Susan Jasinski, Ext. 133
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The Museum is very grateful to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State agency, for its support.



The Museum is handicapped accessible.

A Special Message From Pam Fearn



Ciao, Au revoir, Shalom, Adieus....no matter what the language, I don't enjoy saying "goodbye", particularly to a group of people who are so very important to me - the volunteers and staff of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

When I arrived at the Museum 4 years ago, you all made my transition so easy. You were all so helpful, kind, fun, funny and thoughtful. Who could have guessed that I would have the pleasure of working with the best staff in the world and the greatest volunteer pool on the planet.

My husband, Robbie, has taken a job in Birmingham, Alabama, so we will be leaving the Cape by April. I will miss Sandwich (where we

live), the beautiful drive to work, my fantastic job here, all of my pals at the Museum and the others spread out in New England, the view from my office window onto the marsh (better than the Executive Director's!), Captain Frosty's, Scorton Creek at high tide, walking on the Bay, the drive to Provincetown, whale watching, just to name a few of the thousand things to do on Cape Cod.

What I love about being back in the South (I am from Richmond, Virginia) is the warm weather. I've been cold for 14 years since we moved from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to Rhode Island and then to Cape Cod. We'll also be closer to our families in the South and that's important to us.

My background in environmental education and volunteer coordination made my job at the Museum a perfect blend of those two worlds. I could not have asked for a better experience. I am eternally grateful.

So for now, I'll just say A bientot which is French for "see you later".

**Are your books getting the upper hand?
Take charge of your life!**



Sort through your books, eliminating all that give off a sense of having been stored in the cellar for years, all text books from your college days, and paperbacks that are missing their covers. In other words, select the cream of the crop, determine which you will never be able to read in a hundred years and take them to the small class room at the Museum during the first week in June. We will sell them at exorbitantly low prices on June 5th and you will benefit from a clean house and a new lease on life!

The Museum will reap the monetary benefits at our

Book Sale

June 5, 2010 9 am - 1 pm

With great appreciation, the Museum thanks:
Tom Thompson of Wild Birds Unlimited of South Yarmouth for the donation of 535 lbs of premium birdseed for our birdfeeders during 2009.
Mike Mann of Tree Co., Inc. in Harwich for donating his company's services in the removal of five large pine trees that posed a potential threat to the west side of our main building.
Will Daniels for repairing a portion of our entrance sidewalk.
Claire and George Tyner for their gift of a water heater for the bird bath outside the Marshview Room.

Volunteers

**are needed in the Gift Shop starting June 1.
Please call Donna in the Gift Shop
508-896-3867, Ext. 122
if you are interested in joining our group.**

Contributions for the **Friends Annual Flea Market** scheduled for May 1 may be left by the lower level doors starting March 15. Bric-a-brac, jewelry and women's accessories are always best sellers; books, kitchenware, small furniture, toys, artwork and sports equipment also sell well. Please, **NO** electronics.

Remember, last year's flea market netted in excess of \$1200, all used to help our Museum!

For questions or pick-up, call Alilce Berry, 508-385-8751 or Meredith Pollard, 508-896-2050.

Around the Museum with Todd M. Kelley, Aquarist and Field Guide



Just remember that the winter snow (any and all precipitation) recharges our vital water table, our environment and our spirits! And we all know how important that is!

Wednesday Walks With Connie Boyce

March-April 2010

10 am-12 noon

Approximate length of walks: 3-4 miles

\$4/M - \$6/NM Van trip - \$2

March

- 3** Syrjala Conservation Area to Plashes Pond, West Yarmouth. Leave CCMNH 9:20 am.
- 10** Truro walk, Truro. Leave CCMNH 9:00 am.
- 17** Historic Barnstable Village, Barnstable. Leave CCMNH 9:20 am. Van trip.
- 24** Long Pond to Cahoon Pond, Brewster. Leave CCMNH 9:40 am.
- 31** Childs River, Mashpee. Leave CCMNH 9:15 am. Van trip.

April

- 7** Bud Carter Trail, Yarmouthport. Leave CCMNH 9:40 am.
- 14** Eastham Walk, Eastham. Leave CCMNH 9:20 am.
- 21** Crowes Pasture, East Dennis. Leave CCMNH 9:45 am.
- 28** Bourndale Herring Run to Herring Pond, Bourndale. Leave CCMNH 9:00 am. Van trip.

Any questions? Call Connie at 508-394-2683
email: craffy02664@yahoo.com
Snow or heavy rain cancels the walk.

The 2010 Field Guide Course

Thursdays April 1, 8 15, 22, 29
Saturdays April 10, 17, 24 and May 1
beginning at 9 am

Anyone interested in Field Guide training, please call the Museum office (508-896-3867) and leave your telephone number and e-mail.

April School Vacation Programs

April 19-23

1 pm in the Auditorium
Free with Museum admission

Celebrate April, school vacation, spring, warmer days and our own special world, Earth.

Please bring a bag to bring craft projects home. Programs will include:

Beekeeper for a day

Wear a Beekeeper's veil, do a Bee dance, Make Beeswax candles and visit with real Beekeepers.

Signs of Spring Day

Make a fancy hat, sunflowers and the sun, Take cutouts of insects or animals, think of their needs and create an environment for them.

Recyclable Craft Day

Use things that have already been used once. Have fun using them again to make a bracelet, a litter bug or a litter bag.

Earth Day

Joining hands we'll think of ways to save the Earth and plant things to take home.

Weather and Wind Day

Discover and make things that move in the wind and measure the temperature.

An African Safari

with Smithsonian Study Leader David Clapp

Saturday, March 13 2 pm

M/\$3 NM/\$5

The African Serengeti is more than lions, zebra, and wildebeest; it is a complex system with tribal communities, domestic animals, and a wonderful array of wildlife. David Clapp has brought more than 25 Smithsonian groups to Kenya and Tanzania to marvel at the wildlife and geology of the Maasai Mara and Serengeti. The safari will include Olduvai Gorge, the Rift Valley, and the pastoral tribes that reside on the great plains of East Africa.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries' Commercial Sea Sampling in Coastal Massachusetts Waters

Brian Kelly, Biologist

Saturday, March 20 2 pm

Free

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has a commercial sea sampling program where biologists accompany day boats in fisheries directed at lobster, fluke, squid, black sea bass, whiting, scup, spiny dogfish and other species.

Biologist Brian Kelly has been working with this sea sampling program aboard commercial vessels for the past ten years, and has a total of 28 years with DMF. His PowerPoint presentation will show commercial fishing operations, and will explain the at-sea data collection/monitoring process that DMF utilizes, including information on fishing practices, fish abundance, fish length frequency, and bycatch of non-target marine species as well as shed some light on the economic realities of our local backyard fisheries.

Bee Training

Tuesday, March 23

10 am-12 pm

Book Discussion

Wednesday, April 28 2 pm

TBA

Free Admssion to the Museum

Friends Corner coming soon....stay tuned!

Friends Programs

Tuesday, March 9

1 pm Friends Meeting and Refreshments
1:30 pm WHOI Scientists Scott Gallager and Amber York on Ocean Monitoring Antarctica and the Food Chain.

Tuesday, April 13

12:30 pm Pot Luck Luncheon
1:30 pm Speaker: TBA

Donations to the Roof Fund

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Ms. Sally W. Woods
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**The Cape Cod Museum
of Natural History
is most grateful for the many
donations for our Roof Fund
and for the preservation
of our special buildings.**

**This list reflects the contributions
we have received through January,
2010. If there are any omissions or
errors, we apologize and trust that
they will be brought
to our attention.**

MARCH 2010

Open to the public
Thursday-Sunday
11 am-3 pm
 and for scheduled events.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:20 am Wed Walk	4 9 am Nauset Garden Club Workshop	5 9 am Nauset Garden Club Workshop	6
7	8 7:30 pm Cape Cod Bird Club	9 1 pm Friends Meeting & 1:30 pm WHOI Scientists	10 9 am Wed Walk	11	12	13 2 pm An African Safari with David Clapp
14  Take a walk along Bird Alley and marvel at the restored bird life and the handsome habitat panels created by Marjorie Mellor.	15	16	17 9:20 am Wed Walk	18	19	20 2 pm Mass. Div. of Fisheries Sea Sampling with Brian Kelley
21	22	23 10 am-12 pm Bee Trainng	24 9:40 am Wed Walk	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 9:15 am Wed Walk	 <i>Featured Book in the Clarence Hay Library: SUSTAINING LIFE by Chivian & Bernstein</i>		

APRIL 2010

Open during
**Massachusetts School
 Vacation Week**
 Open to the public
Wednesday-Sunday
11 am-3 pm
 and for scheduled events.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 <i>Featured Book in the Clarence Hay Library: A YEAR ON THE WING</i>				1 9 am Field Guide Training	2	3	
4	5	6 7 pm Andrew Buckley Film Screening	7 9:40 am Wed Walk	8 9 am Field Guide Training	9 9 am Nauset Garden Club Workshop	10 9 am Field Guide Training	
11	12 7:30 pm Cape Cod Bird Club	13 12:30 pm Friends Potluck Luncheon 1:30 pm Speaker TBA	14 9:20 am Wed Walk	15 9 am Field Guide Training	16	17 9 am Field Guide Training	
18	19	School Vacation Programs daily at 1 pm			22 9 am Field Guide Training	23	24 9 am Field Guide Training
25	26	27	28 9 am Wed Walk 2 pm Book Discussion	29 9 am Field Guide Training	30		



= Special Sightings



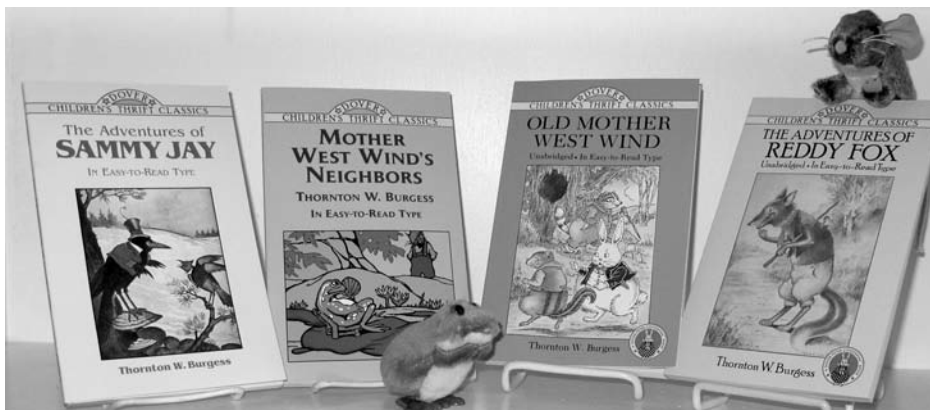
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2010 KidSummer Brochure enclosed

or current resident

Happy Birthday, Mother West Wind!
Celebrate the Thornton Burgess book collection
in our Gift Shop!



Become a member!
Join us
for a continuing
journey
of exploration
at your
Cape Cod Museum
of Natural History.

For information
about membership
call the Museum at
508-896-3867.

Check our website
www.ccmnh.org
for
on-going programs.