



Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Tidings

May &
June '09

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

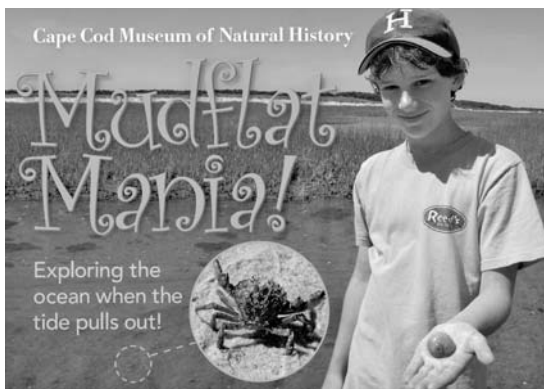
The mission of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is to inspire appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our natural environment through discovery and learning.

New "Mudflat Mania!" Guide Is On Its Way!

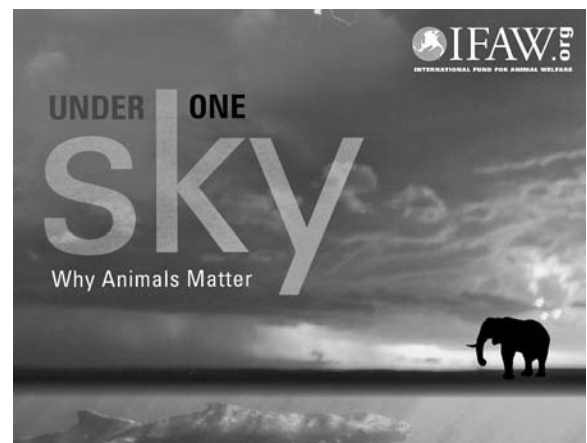
CCMNH's *Mudflat Mania! Exploring the ocean when the tide pulls out!* will be published by Rowley Bridge Press this month. This field guide, written by Irene Ledwith with introduction by CCMNH mudflat volunteers Betsy and Bud Ferris and photos by Bud Ferris, is the result of a collaboration between the author and the Ferris' which began last summer.

A memento of the museum's popular Mudflat Mania! Program, this publication is appropriately dedicated to Claudia Kren, long-time Museum volunteer and creator of "Mudflat Mania!." Twenty-five invertebrates commonly found on the Wing's Island mudflats are identified--each two-page entry providing information about the animal's attributes, range, and tips on how to find it. Interesting facts about the animals are included, and sometimes a "Maniac Alert" warns us of a potential danger. With the exception of a moon jelly in the Museum's aquarium, the animals were photographed on the Wing's Island mudflats adjacent to Quivett Creek.

With the Mudflat Mania! Training Program coming up in May, instructor Bud Ferris is anxiously awaiting the arrival of this new guide, which will be used as a text in the training course and will be available in the Museum Gift Shop for the price of \$6.95.



Cover photograph: Irene Ledwith



graphic artist: Garry Gates

Under One Sky: Why Animals Matter **Our 2009 Exhibit highlighting the mission of the International Fund for Animal Welfare**

Under One Sky: Why Animals Matter opens

Saturday, May 23 and will celebrate the mission of IFAW: To improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress.

IFAW's world headquarters is located in Yarmouth Port and has sixteen offices around the globe to protect animals and promote conservation policies that advance the well being of both animals and people in our shared environment.

IFAW has partnered with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in sponsoring KidSummer and CCMNH's mission to encourage and advance understanding of our natural environment through discovery and learning. IFAW and the Museum have also worked on creating teacher workshops (Beneath the Waves) in collaboration with the Cape Cod Times.

We look forward to an exciting year!

CCMNH Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 24 at 4pm



From the Executive Director

It has been a busy few months sharing with colleagues and other non-profit organizations our attempt to weather the current financial situation.

As a panelist on the 2009 Cape Cod Philanthropic Survival Forum held at the Cotuit Center for the Arts, I discussed lessons we learned and how we are addressing operational needs in the face of diminished funding with 80 non-profit representatives. A few weeks later I met with a number of museum directors in a New England Museum Association roundtable discussion about the same topic - survival during these economic times. I learned two things, we're not alone and there is a sense of potential opportunity.

These meetings came at an interesting moment in time for CCMNH. We have been accepted into the American Museum Associations' Institutional Self-Assessment Program that will afford us the opportunity to step back and take an in-depth view of where we are and where we'd like to go.

There are three stages to the assessment process: (1) Self-Study, (2) Peer Review and (3) Implementation. Activities in the assessment focus on our mission, how we compare to best practices and standards, the composition and skills of the board of trustees, financial analysis, training, customer service, and the Museum's place in its competitive environment.

Overall the process takes about a year to complete, including the implementation stage. At the end of the assessment we will become a stronger organization.

Finally, many of you may have already seen our improved parking lot. This project has been underway for two years with design and construction advice from Bob Bersin and Jeff Day of Brewster's DPW.

We also owe thanks to John O'Reilly, J.M. O'Reilly Associates, Inc., for donating \$5,000 in engineering services; Jay Merchant and his team from Merchant & Chase for completing renovations to the main and upper parking lots in four days while being sensitive to our parking needs; and Waste Management's assistance in replacing the old dumpster and relocating the new one.

And as always, none of this would have been accomplished without our volunteers who spent time planning, preparing, overseeing and cleaning up after the project. Special thanks go to Peter Johnson, Bob Lindgren, Jack Nixon, George Platt, Bob Smith, Roy Smith, Jack McNair, and CCMNH staffer David Fox.

2009 HOURS OF OPERATION

April 1 - May 31

Wednesday through Sunday 11 am-3 pm
(open daily during Massachusetts school vacation week)

June 1 - September 30

Every day, 9:30 am-4 pm

Staff

Executive Director

Robert Dwyer

Volunteer Coordinator

Pam Fearn

Office Manager

Julie O'Neil

Gift Store Manager

Donna Durkee

Administrative Associates

Joan Hood

Claire Tyner

Susan Jasinski

Senior Aquarist

Doug Smith

Aquarists

Kathy Sherman

Jim Dudac

Custodians

Norman Gallagher

David Fox

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Ellie Johnson, *Secretary*

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Life Trustees

John Hay

Richard Wheeler

Tidings

Editor

Julie O'Neil

Committee

Sue Carr

Ellie Johnson



The Museum is very grateful to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State agency, for its support.



The Museum is handicapped accessible.

MUSEUM NEWS

Naturally Speaking...

Notes from our Volunteers

Today's field walk was a little challenging with the blustery weather, but I want to share a comment made by one of the male students in my group. On our way back from the beach, one of the boys was walking beside me for part of the way and out of the blue said, "This field trip rocks!" I responded, "Well, does that mean it's a good or bad experience?" (Of course I knew what he meant.) He then said, "It's good it's great!" Remembering that little dialogue makes me smile and I thought of the other field guides/volunteers as well and how truly wonderful all their efforts and work are. Sometimes it's nice to realize that we do make a difference in a child's life.

Deborah Leone, Field Guide

Nancy Church is not only our KidSummer Director but is also our Education Director one day a week. We are so thrilled to have such a talented and knowledgeable staff member here (again). Nancy was the Education Director here at the museum a number of years ago and we are delighted to have her back! Nancy will be featured in our next issue of *Tidings*.

Next time you see her make sure you say "welcome back!"

Around the Museum



with Todd M. Kelley Field Guide and Naturalist

The sure sign of seasonal change comes in the form of the busy sounds of red winged blackbirds. But they are not the only participants in this annual demonstration of establishing territories.

Our year-round cardinals share a prominent voice in the early opening act as well as chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, goldfinches, and even blue jays who are all vying for a safe spot to claim. But the nest builders have to wait for the vegetation to leaf out. And the first to do that are the skunk cabbages that abound on both sides of the Stony Brook Valley to the south of the Museum. It is from the Stony Brook Conservation Area that northern flickers can be heard at this time every year.

Next comes the arrival of the second act of nesting birds like phoebe, great crested flycatcher, summer robins, prairie warblers on Wing's Island and of course the ever cheerful gray catbird. But perhaps the most anticipated of familiar shapes and sounds are the distinct chirping whistles of the returning ospreys, official acknowledgement that summer is on its way. And with that we tend to revel in relief for the departure of winter.

However, we might consider offering gratitude for the benefits of the winter season because any and all precipitation that we received in the form of rain, sleet and, yes, snow is entirely responsible for the recharge of our water table. And water is the most critical issue facing Cape Cod in the near future. Now with the arrival of spring, all further precipitation is drawn up by plant transpiration and increased human use.

So it is with gratitude that I know that if it weren't for the gifts of winter, spring could not be.

Do You Know....

Julie O'Neil, Office Manager



Julie O'Neil is now officially a heroine. She received the American Red Cross Environmental Hero Award in March for her years of volunteer work with environmental organizations on the Cape and with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural

History. But she's been a CCMNH hero since becoming our office manager in 2005. As such, she oversees much that goes on in our busy office - publicity, payroll, audiovisual equipment, web site. She's *Tidings* editor and works with our office staff and Volunteer Coordinator Pam Fearn on a variety of projects. She is also caregiver for Arne and Jim, young southern slider turtles (with attitudes!) who reside next to her desk.

Julie grew up in Wellesley and now lives in East Dennis. After graduating from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, she took graduate courses in natural sciences at Harvard University and was for many years a free-lance photographer and natural history and travel writer. Her photographs have been published in textbooks, calendars and magazines. CCMNH has benefitted from having her as our resident photographer as she records everything from our osprey to our activities and events.

Before joining our team, Julie was Executive Assistant to the Director of Harvard University's Chemical Laboratories, responsible for the overall operation of a large scientific research and teaching department of over 450 faculty, students and staff. No wonder she can keep things flowing smoothly in our office!

On the Cape, Julie now follows her passion as a volunteer and specimen/data collector for IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue program, volunteer and board member of Wild Care and the Cape Cod Bird Club, data collector for SEANET, and volunteer for Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary's Sea Turtle Stranding Network. In these roles, she uses her photographic skills to chronicle local wildlife.

On a more personal level, Julie is the doting "mother" of Krystabelle, a charming three-year-old Keeshond, who spent her puppyhood at CCMNH.

We are lucky to have Julie, a dedicated and talented naturalist, on our staff!

Our deep gratitude to:

Tom Thompson of **Wild Birds Unlimited of South Yarmouth** for his continuing contribution of bird seed that keeps our avian neighbors in excellent health! When you need supplies for your backyard birds, **Wild Birds Unlimited of South Yarmouth** is your source!

**13th Annual Cape Cod
Maritime History Symposium
Saturday, May 30 8:30 am-2:30 pm
A Cape Cod Maritime Days Event**

*\$20 per person, includes breakfast, lunch
and four illustrated presentations
that will explore and commemorate
the Cape's extensive maritime heritage.*

To pre-register, contact the Museum - 508-896-3867.

Following the Symposium, enjoy a complimentary tour of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, the new home of the Cape Cod Maritime History Symposium.

"Each year presentations immerse and connect Cape Codders to their cultural history, and we are delighted to host this event."
Robert Dwyer, Executive Director

8:30 - 9:15 am

Continental Breakfast

9:15 - 9:30 am

Opening Remarks

Bob Dwyer, Executive Director

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Welcome & Moderator

Theresa Mitchell Barbo, Symposium Founder & Director

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards

9:30 - 10:30 am

The Last Breachs Bouy Rescue on Cape Cod:

The 1962 Coast Guard Rescue of the F/V Margaret Rose

Daniel Davidson

CPO ENG USCG (Ret.)

10:30 - 11:30 am

Encountering History Might Just Be a Walk on a Cape Cod Beach

Victor T. Mastone

Director, Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Luncheon Catered by Ardeo

Historical Societies' Gift Shop & Showcase

Exhibits

Book Sales & Signings

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Celebrating Falmouth's Favorite Daughter: Katharine Lee Bates

Carolyn T. Powers, Executive Director

Falmouth Historical Society

1:30 - 2:30 pm

From Whaling to Whalewatching:

A History of Whales Around Cape Cod

Heather Rockwell, Board of Directors

Cetacean Society International

and

Regina Asmutis-Silvia, Senior Biologist

Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society

We hope to see our friends at this special event!

Reading with Ruby and Friends

Saturday, May 2 1-2 pm

Free with Museum admission

A special children's story hour
with canine companions

from the Cape Cod Therapy Dog Program

The May 2 Therapy Dog Team

Dottie Vesperman

and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel,

Miss Lucy!



Photographer: Elizabeth Hayes

Miss Lucy is looking forward to her Museum visit
with her owner/handler, Dottie Vesperman.

Dig It! Organic Gardening

Wednesday, May 6 4 pm

\$3/M \$5/NM

Learn how to grow delicious, nutritious lettuce,
tomatoes and herbs!

Master Gardeners will speak on their specialties,
followed by a question-and-answer session.

Lettuce

Veronica Worthington

Tomatoes

Celeste Makely

Herbs

Donna Eaton

June 29-August 21

Family Nature Programs

Monday-Friday 1 pm

Marine Invertebrates

Bats

Reptiles

Lives of Insects

Wonderful World of Whales

Brewster residents have the opportunity to preserve a 4-acre scenic vista, the old Skyline Motel property, on Route 6A and to help protect the water quality of the Quivett Creek Watershed by voting **YES** on Warrant Article #32 at Town Meeting Monday, May 4.

Osprey, Turtles, Frogs, Snakes and Birds - Oh, My! The Marshview Room Comes Alive with New Exhibits

“And To Think, They’re All Out There!”

While looking at the pictures of birds that nest in the Wing’s Island area, a visitor commented, "And to think, they're all out there!"

The windows in the Marshview Room offer us a view of woodlands, salt marsh, and the water of Cape Cod Bay. A quick look is wonderful, but, one sees only the tip of the iceberg. There are plants, bugs, birds, and so much more to look for "out there." The exhibits in the Marshview Room offer the information about the wildlife that you might find.

After years of observation, the Museum’s master birder, Susan Finnegan, has determined that there are 45 nesting species. Therefore, there is the possibility that one might view any of these birds out on the marsh or the island in season. There are also dozens of species passing through.

Four years ago, a camera was set up on the **Osprey** nest in the marsh behind the Museum. Each year an osprey male has chosen this site in late March and a female has joined him a few days later. The camera captures their home life that appears live on a monitor in the Marshview Room. The male osprey courts his mate, offering her choice sticks which she then uses to build or decorate the nest. Last year a tennis ball was one of his gifts!

On the front table are the wildlife notebooks: **Plants Plus**, recently produced by Nancy Wigley and Sue Carr, which include descriptions and photos of 98 plants, lichens and seaweeds; **Insects** with text by Fran Cormier and photos by Lou Cormier; **Birds**, currently being revised; and **Mudflat Mania!**, with introduction and photos by Bud and Betsy Ferris.

Hands-on activities include: wooden **Puzzles**; wildlife caricatures etched in glass for **Rubbings**; a **Sand-Box** for little ones; and **Magnifiers** for viewing items that have been found on the beach--up close and personal.



Then, there is the *piece de resistance*: the three terrarium tanks holding live **Snakes, Toads, Frogs** and **Turtles**. They're in there, even though it might take a moment to locate them.

A table that features the **Insects** that live outside will be appearing soon. Keep your eyes open for its arrival.

Learn about the wildlife outside the window in the Marshview Room and then go out exploring for yourself!

Three bow-front terrariums hold center stage in the Marshview Room, stunning new habitats for the Museum’s resident Box Turtles, Tree Frogs and Eastern Milk Snakes.

...and the Aquarium Brings Our Cape Waters and Residents to You.

A Whale of a Tale

Marjorie Mellor, a local artist who has lived on the Cape for seven years, offered to help the Museum create a special exhibit in our Aquarium this spring. An artist for over 50 years, Marjorie grew up in an artistic family. Here on Cape Cod she enjoys permanent vacationing with her husband Bob, Pepper--her rescued Dalmation, and all that nature provides. Her relationship with the Museum is one of "giving back," donating her art to raise funds for other organizations such as the Figawi Ball and Auction, Cape Wildlife Center and the MSPCA.

Stewardship is what Marjorie is all about. She feels a sense of duty and strong commitment to the planet and giving back through art is right up her alley.

"Having someone look at my art and really enjoy it is what it's all about for me."

Please visit Marjorie's newest art work in the Museum’s Aquarium.



Artist Marjorie Mellor puts finishing touches on her handsome new whale mural now installed in the Aquarium.

Wednesday Walks With Connie Boyce

May-June 2009

10 am-12 noon

Approximate length of walks: 3-4 miles

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

- May**
- 6** Wylie Park, Eastham
Leave CCMNH 9:30 am. Van Trip.
 - 13** Morris Island, Chatham
Leave CCMNH 9:20 am.
 - 20** Thompson Field, Harwich
Leave CCMNH 9:30 am.
 - 27** Bass River Rod & Gun Club, Yarmouth Port
Leave CCMNH 9:45 am.
- June**
- 3** Indian Lands, Dennis
Leave CCMNH 9:40 am.
 - 10** Beebee Woods/Peterson Farm, Falmouth
Leave CCMNH 9:00 am. Van trip.
 - 17** End of season walk and picnic
Free to regular walkers.
Site & time to be announced.

Sunday Family Nature Program

May 3 1- 2:30 pm

Free with Museum admission

All About the Earth

Hands-on activities at learning stations
for families of all ages!

The Friends of CCMNH

Friends/free, Guests/\$3

Tuesday, May 12

1 pm Membership Meeting

1:30 pm IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue Program
with Peter Holster and Misty Niemeyer

Tuesday, June 9

1 pm Membership Meeting

1:30 pm *Marc Songini*

Whalers of the Cape & Islands & Their Wives

Join the Friends of CCMNH!

We are asking that Museum members support the Friends of CCMNH by becoming members (\$15-individual and \$25-couple). You do not have to be an active fundraiser or attend meetings. Every dollar we receive goes to support the Museum. We have interesting monthly programs and four pot-luck meetings. Friends promote CCMNH throughout the Cape Cod community. We also have a committee to help gain new members for CCMNH. Friends foster friendships. We can put you temporarily on our newsletter list to see if you are interested in joining. Please contact Jim Van Baalen, President (508-896-9048), or Membership Chm., Charles Firnhaber (508-430-0054). Of course, you can just come the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm, September through June, and try us out.

Mudflat Mania! Training is Now!

Auditorium/Class Sessions

Thursday, May 14 9 am-12 noon

Thursday, May 21 9 am-12 noon

Outdoor Session - participants must attend **at least one**

Thursday, May 28 9-11:30 am

Tuesday, June 2 1:30-4 pm

Professional Development for Educators

Beneath the Waves Workshop

Saturday, May 16 9 am-3 pm

Sunday, May 17 10 am-2 pm

Registration fee \$25. Limited to 30 participants.

Call 508-896-3867, ext. 133 for information

Once again the Museum teams up with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and The Cape Cod Times/Standard Times News in Education Program to present an exciting science workshop recommended for Grades 3-9 teachers. Participants earn 10 PDPs towards recertification and explore concepts related to marine wildlife and climate change. Led by Nancy Church, M.Ed., and Maureen Dwyer, MA, CAGS, the workshop includes participatory indoor/outdoor activities and ways to incorporate technology in the classroom. Participants also receive a set of standards-based lessons, classroom video, teacher guides, Museum passes and a goody bag of gifts from the sponsors. Saturday lunch included.

Mountain Lions in New England

Sunday, May 17 7 pm

\$3/M \$5/NM

Seating is limited. Call the Museum
508-896-3867 for information

Bill Betty, a mountain lion advocate from Rhode Island, will give a ninety minute PowerPoint presentation that covers all aspects of cougar behavior, including sport hunting, predation, reproduction, pets, and habituation. The various theories explaining how cougars have rapidly occupied the Northeast will be discussed.

Mr. Betty is very knowledgeable and a fascinating speaker with more than a dozen sightings of America's most secretive animal in the last thirty-five years. His narrative of close encounters with nature's perfect predator gives compelling testimony to the presence of *puma concolor* in New England.

Many show-and-tell items such as a skull, tracking maps, a motion detection camera, cougar lures, scat samples and various books and pamphlets will be available for attendees to examine. Part of this program will include a segment on how to recover evidence as well as advice on where and when to search for this fascinating mammal.



MAY 2009

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1-2 pm Reading with Ruby and Friends
3 1 pm Family Nature Program	4	5 9:30 am Friends Board Mtg. 9 am Members Trip to Woods Hole	6 9:30 am Wednesday Walk 9-11 am Digital Photography 4 pm DIG IT	7 9 am-3 pm Field Guide Training	8 9 am-12 pm Nauset Garden Club Workshop	9
10	11 9 am Members 2nd Trip to Woods Hole 7:30 pm Cape Cod Bird Club	12 1 pm Friends Membership Meeting & Program 1:30 pm	13 9:20 am Wednesday Walk	14 9 am-12 pm Mudflat Mania! Training	15	16 9 am-3 pm IFAW Teachers Workshop
17 10 am-2 pm IFAW Teachers Workshop 7 pm Mountain Lions /New England	18	19	20 9:30 am Wednesday Walk	21 9 am-12 pm Mudflat Mania! Training	22	23 IFAW Exhibit Opens
24	25 Memorial Day Observed	26	27 9 am Lighthouse Charter Schl. 9:45 am Wednesday Walk	28 9-11:30 am Mudflat Mania! Training	29 5-8 pm Orleans Camera Canon EOS Discovery Day	30 8:30 am-2:30 pm Cape Cod Maritime History Symposium
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JUNE 2009

Open to the public
Every Day
9:30 am-4 pm
and for scheduled events.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 am Friends Board Mtg. 1:30-4 pm Mudflat Mania! Training	3 9:40 am Wednesday Walk 4-6 pm Cape Cod Life Wine & Cheese Festival	4	5	6
7	8	9 1 pm Friends Membership Meeting & Program 1:30 pm	10 9 am Wednesday Walk	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 TBA End of season Wednesday Walk	18	19	20
21	22	23 8 am WIB Annual Meeting	24 4 pm CCMNH Annual Meeting	25	26	27
26	29 KidSummer begins!	30				

Family Nature Programs each weekday through 8/21 1 pm

Family Field Walks each weekday 10 am and 2:30 pm and weekends at 10 am through 8/21



Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Route 6A
Brewster, MA 02631

Non-Profit
Organization
Permit No. 1
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brewster, MA
02631

Our Cape Cod spring is best enjoyed
filled with new gifts, books and toys!
Members receive a 10% discount
(purchases over \$5.00,
sales items not included)
by visiting our beautiful Museum 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.

Phone: 508-896-3867 - Fax: 508-896-8844 - E-mail: info@ccmnh.org