



Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Tidings

September &
October '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.

Nature Through the Creative Eye

“To inspire” is central to our Mission. Its richest expression is found in the art of the creative eye, interpreting the natural world that lies outside our door on Cape Cod.

❖ Greeting the visitor by the front walkway is the arresting Steve Kemp relief sculpture “Wildlife of Stony Brook Valley.” (1)

❖ In the display of *Life From the Sea* hangs the haunting painting “At the Weir” (2) by Eugene Fitsch (1892-1972), founder of The American Artists School, artist and set designer for the Cape Cod Playhouse.

❖ The current exhibition on the International Fund for Animal Welfare features children’s imaginative animal art. (3)

❖ Stunning creations of master birdcarvers such as June Noll and Arnold Melbye grace the Clarence Hay Library and the Marshview Room that also displays a set of five lyrical stained glass panels by John and Donna Knight and compelling photographs of birds by Sue and Elliott Carr, Roger Everett and other local photographers.

❖ The *Herring Run* stained glass on loan from Steve Kemp illuminates the auditorium window, reflecting the changing daylight on the fish and gull flying overhead.

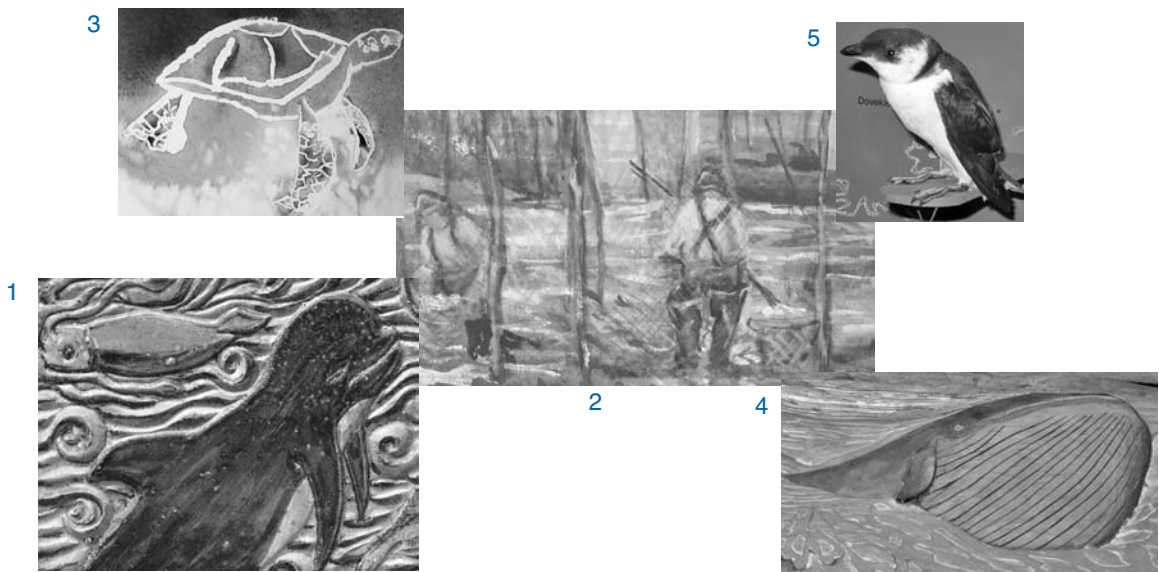
❖ Marjorie Mellor’s exciting marine mammal mural in the aquarium features the bold forms of sperm, humpback, and minke whales as well as dolphins. Four oak relief panels on the lower level by Nancy Lee celebrate our connection to animal and marine life. (4)

❖ Sculptures of porbeagle, opah and porpoise join Capt. Mike Orbe’s striking wood carvings of striped bass, Atlantic cod and sperm whale along the aquarium walls.

❖ The Museum’s collections of mounted birds and mammals illustrate native animal life. (5)

Throughout the year courses and programs are offered that inspire our own visions of the natural world. See our Programs page for detailed information.

Everywhere we look in our Museum nature through art celebrates the seasons of the year and enriches the days of our lives.



Details of artwork displayed in our Museum



From the Executive Director

A Special Appeal

The weather took a great toll on our roof. Built in 1987, our roof is now 22 years old and showing serious signs of wear. (See photo)

We're reaching out to our friends and asking for a donation to help replace the roof before we experience any inside damage.

We know these are tough economic times for everyone and are asking for a small donation of \$19.87 (or more if you can possibly afford it) to help replace the roof, damaged shingles, sills, gutters, and other building repairs. If everyone contributed, we could preserve the building exterior for another 20+ years.

Please send your check (with Roof Fund designation) for \$19.87 to: Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Main Street/Route 6A
Brewster, MA 02631

You can also go to our Web site (www.ccmnh.org) and donate electronically by clicking on "see how \$19.87 can help." Thanks in advance for your support!



Around the Museum



**with Todd M. Kelley
Field Guide, Naturalist
and CCMNH Aquarist**

It may be that this year's pair of ospreys are not the same as last year's but instead may be fledglings from the area of at least three years ago. This is, of course, merely an opinion based on their slightly tardy arrival and observations of their nest building skills and effort. They did not build the nest up as high as last year and because of the camera this and other observations of the ongoing changes to the nest could be made...such as the cup-like layer of grasses added in the center to help incubate the eggs and provide a soft bed for the hatchlings. But the most profound observation that I was able to witness was watching the female rearrange and add branches to the top perimeter of the nest creating a railing to keep the new hatchlings from wandering and falling out. Like a human mother raising the railings on a crib to protect her newborn, so it appears to be the same with the osprey.

We are delighted to welcome Todd Kelley to our staff as Aquarist. More about Todd and his considerable knowledge of natural history to come!

Staff

Executive Director
Robert Dwyer, Ext. 113
Volunteer Coordinator
Pam Fearn, Ext. 119
Office Manager
Julie O'Neil, Ext. 129
Gift Store Manager
Donna Durkee, Ext. 122
Administrative Associates
Joan Hood, Ext. 133
Claire Tyner, Ext. 133
Susan Jasinski, Ext. 133
Senior Aquarist
Doug Smith, Ext. 136
Aquarists
Jim Dudac
Todd Kelley
Maintenance Supervisor
Jerry Fitton
Custodians
Norman Gallagher
Reggie Donnithorne

Board of Trustees

Jack McNair, *Chair*
Myer Singer, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Ellie Johnson, *Secretary*
Enzo Allegretti, *Treasurer*
Jim Van Baalen, *President, Friends*
Sue Carr
Charles Ferris
Michael Lach
Myles Marcus
Sally Neese
Jean Smith
Robert Smith
Roy Smith
Bobbie Williams

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

Meet Our New Maintenance Staff



Jerry Fitton



**Reggie
Donnithorne**

Jerry was born in Daytona Beach but grew up in New York City. After he graduated he traveled, as a surfer, looking for the great wave. He describes himself as "young and reckless." In 1980 he moved to the Cape and took over as manager at a bait and tackle shop in West Dennis with his brother. He was married in 1983 to Debbie Shiflet who was a naturalist at the time at the Museum.

They have two children, one 22 and one 16. For awhile Jerry carried two jobs, working for the Cape Cod Times and running the bait store. Now, he is working only at the CCMNH. He reports, "This is a great place to work. I love being up here."

Reggie is the international member of the staff. He was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. He served in the Air Force and Army Reserve and spent his working career with Boise Cascade in Montreal and in the north country, in marketing and as a guide for fishing expeditions. When asked what was his most memorable experience in the woods, he replied, "When we got off the plane and found a grizzly bear running full tilt toward us. Fortunately, he was running away from something else and didn't bother us."

Reggie is married, has two children and three grandkids. He and his wife have recently retired to the Cape and he enjoys working at the Museum. As he says, "I have been a nature person all my life and I enjoy being around kids. I've discovered that the fingerprints I clean off the front door are not at about 2 or 3 feet. No, they are mostly at 5 or 6 feet." Hmm...

Together with Norm Gallagher, they keep the Museum in top shape!

Gift Shop News

A big THANK YOU to all my gift shop volunteers who helped to make our summer a success. They are: Connie Boyce, Renee Dwyer, Cynthia Wieboldt, Marje Miller, Susie Burrell, Barbara Maxwell, Marge Marion, Dee Moore, Beverly Firnhaber, Debbie Sheehan, Priscilla Davis, Jean Fletcher, Doris Riddle, Evelyn Russ, Sophie Collins, Barbara Knoss, and Jane Nixon.

Donna Durkee, Manager, Gift Shop

**Please remember to recycle your trash
and bottles/cans in the appropriate bins.
Thank you for recycling!**

Do You Know....Joan Hood and Claire Tyner Administrative Associates?



Joan Hood



Claire Tyner

Joan and Claire are two key players in the team of staff and volunteers who keep our busy office running smoothly. They handle memberships and donations of all kinds, the annual appeal, KidSummer registrations and registrations for the many programs held here. They also process bills for payment and answer the multitude of phone calls that come in to the Museum, to name just a few of their duties.

It's no wonder they work so well together - they both grew up and went to school in the Boston area: Claire in Hyde Park (Hyde Park High School and Fisher Jr. College) and Joan in Dorchester (Girls' Latin School, Boston). Both worked in schools before moving to the Cape. Now they each live in East Dennis. Once on the Cape, they started volunteering at the Museum's front desk in the early 2000's, work that has evolved into job sharing their office duties.

Joan enjoys knitting, cross stitch, reading and spending time with her grandchildren. Claire is an enthusiastic grandmother too and uses her spare time gardening, decorative painting and other crafts, cooking and baking (the results of the latter are often temptations for office visitors). Claire also confesses to liking dark chocolate. Both Joan and Claire love what they're doing. "A great job with a great group of people." They are a big part of that "great group" and make it a pleasure to visit the office whether you're a member, visitor, volunteer or fellow staff member.

Friends Bicycle Raffle!

We are asking for your help in meeting our goal of making a \$7,000 contribution to the Museum.

We need additional ticket sales of \$2,000 by September 8. Thank you!

Jim Van Baalen, President of the FRIENDS

Friends Meeting

Tuesday, September 8

12:30 pm

Potluck Luncheon and Program

Elliott Carr

***"Why photographing birds is more interesting
than playing golf!"***

Raffle Drawing

for the fabulous touring bikes!

Buy your tickets by September 8th!

You could be the BIG winner!!

A Special Farewell to Brianna Shaughnessy

Brianna Shaughnessy, CCMNH's 2009 summer intern, started her time here in slightly leaky waders counting horseshoe crabs off Crosby Landing beach and in the waters off Wing's Island. She has gone on to be "chief feeder", spending 3-4 hours each day feeding many of our critters. As she says, "While I am feeding I get a chance to talk to visitors at the Museum and answer any questions they have. Most of the time - especially with the Tide Pool - my feeding turns into a sort of program where kids and parents watch and ask questions (they like the bullfrog the most!). It's really great for everyone."

A native of Cape Cod, Brianna lives in Yarmouth Port and attended the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School and Sturgis Public Charter School. Now a biology major in her junior year at Wheaton College in Norton, MA, she hopes to have a career in field biology and environmental conservation. Next spring she will be studying abroad at the University of Wollongong in Australia.

Brianna has been coming to CCMNH for many years ever since her grandmother brought her to marvel at the beehive exhibit and to enjoy the puppet shows. Last summer she studied diamondback terrapins on Lieutenant Island with Wellfleet Audubon.

Brianna has many talents - she loves music, plays the violin, and has a black belt in karate although reconstructive knee surgery has slowed down that activity. An art history minor at Wheaton, her passion is painting. She has made good use of her creative talents at CCMNH putting together visual aids about the size of certain snakes, the difference between frogs and toads for our KidSummer program, and making crossword puzzles and other activities for the Marshview Room. She has contributed a lot to the Museum this summer and has loved her time here. We wish Brianna well in her Australian adventure and her future career!



The Museum has been a family tradition for Brianna whose delight in many childhood visits brought her back this summer! She is seen here with (L to R) her mother, Susan Savage; her grandmother, Natalie Savage; and her aunt, Wendy Kingman.



Once in a Blue Moon?

High tides in the marsh between Wing's Island and the Museum generally allow easy passage over the board walk. However, on July 24th this summer, several factors combined to make the tide very high at 2 pm. A group on a field walk (l) was temporarily marooned, yet managed to return safely. Field Guide Gayle Kenerson (r) shows how deep it can get. The moral of the story? Know when high tide will arrive and be alert to weather conditions as well!



Pam Fearn, Volunteer Coordinator (l), and Doug Smith, Senior Aquarist (r), celebrate a special summer with CCMNH interns Scott Larsen and Brianna Shaughnessy.

A Note from Scott Larsen CCMNH Aquarist Intern

I am a junior at Wheaton College in Norton, MA where I am receiving my Bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in computer science. I hope to continue working within the field of biology and combine it with computer programming.

Last summer Brianna and I spent over a month interning with Professor Brennessel of Wheaton College studying the northern diamondback terrapin in the Wellfleet area. We captured, marked and measured female terrapins during the mating season as well as studied and protected many nests. It was a great experience in which I learned what it really takes to become a professional in this field. Along with this study, I have gained from the opportunity you gave me to further my education and propel me forward in my career as a biologist.

Scott Larsen

Stony Brook Salt Marsh and Fish Passage Restoration and South Trail Improvements Planned for 2010

Museum aficionados already know that the Stony Brook Valley contains some of Cape Cod's most valuable natural resources. These include the Stony Brook herring run, one of the healthiest and most popular herring runs in the state, enabling herring to reach 386 acres of spawning area in five ponds. It also contains acres of salt marsh and brackish marsh, four rare species, diverse fish and wildlife habitat, a historic mill, preserved open space, and beautiful vistas. Now the marsh south of Route 6A will be the site of a major restoration project to restore 20 acres of salt marsh and improve the herring run.

In the 1990's, state coastal managers determined that this salt marsh was not receiving enough salt water to remain healthy. The southern marsh is starved for salt water because the two culverts beneath Route 6A are too narrow for enough tidal flow to reach the marsh.

Over time, such tidally-restricted salt marshes begin to change into brackish marshes, and woody and invasive plants such as *phragmites* begin to encroach. In the Museum's 2004 trail feasibility study, Museum board member Michael Lach noted the spread of *phragmites*. He suggested looking into widening the culverts under Route 6A to increase tidal exchange and flow of Stony Brook. Small culverts hamper fish passage, as herring don't like to pass through narrow dark openings with little air space.

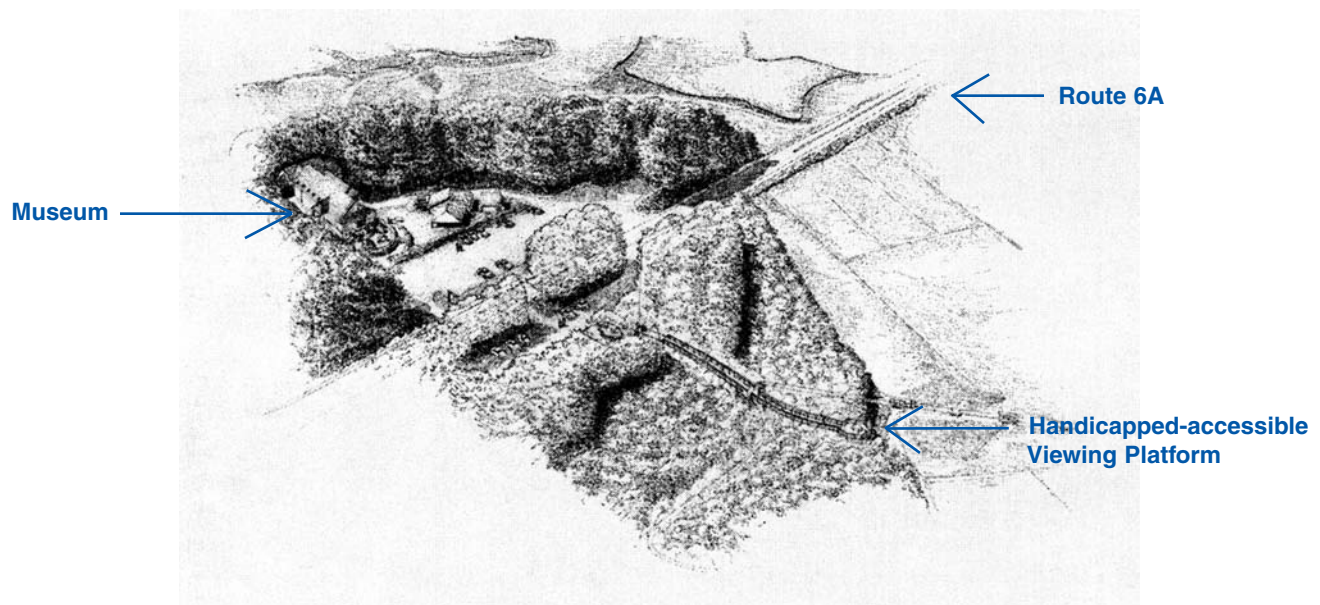
The Town plans to replace the easternmost 3-foot culvert with two 9-foot box culverts, restoring natural tidal flow to the southern marsh and about 20 acres of salt marsh, improving fish passage. Improvements in the South Trail will also help to restore salt marsh. Several new openings in the trail, spanned by small wooden boardwalks, will allow saltwater to spread more easily throughout the marsh. A new handicapped-accessible platform will provide exciting opportunities for outreach.

Work on the South Trail and platform is planned for June-July 2010. Culvert replacement is planned for fall 2010. This restoration is funded by a \$1.3 million federal stimulus grant to the Town from NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Program, under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

For more information, contact Chris Miller, Brewster Department of Natural Resources (508-896-4546). Partners include Jeremy Bell, State Division of Ecological Restoration (617-626-1264), and Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto, Association to Preserve Cape Cod and Massachusetts Bays Program (508-362-4226).

Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto
Association to Preserve Cape Cod
and Massachusetts Bays Program

Proposed South Trail Improvements and Platform courtesy of Brock Cutting, Dodson Associates



Last Mudflat Mania! of the Season

Discover the world beneath the sand. Bring your pail and shovel, sunscreen,

a hat, water shoes and your curiosity!

Tuesday, September 1 at 4:00 pm

Members: Adult/\$4, Senior/\$3, Child/\$2

Non-Members: Adult/\$6, Senior/\$5, Child/\$4

Wednesday Walks With Connie Boyce

September-October 2009

10 am-12 noon

Approximate length of walks: 3-4 miles

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

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| September 9 | Lieutenant Island, Wellfleet Leave CCMNH 9:15 am. Van trip. |
| 16 | Bass River Rod & Gun Club, Yarmouth Port Leave CCMNH 9:45 am. |
| 23 | Long Pond, Falmouth Leave CCMNH 9:00 am. Van trip. |
| 30 | Danforth Recreation Trails, Barnstable Leave CCMNH 9:15 am. |
| October 7 | Truro Walk, site to be announced. Leave CCMNH 9:00 am. |
| 14 | Island Pond, Harwich Leave CCMNH 9:30 am. |
| 21 | Punkhorn Parklands, Brewster Leave CCMNH 9:45 am. |
| 28 | Syrjala Conservation Area & Yarmouth Cranberry Bogs, West Yarmouth Leave CCMNH 9:15 am. |

Theresa Barbo, Author

“Cape Cod Bay” and “Nantucket Sound”

Presentation and Booksigning

Friday, September 11 7 pm

Free/M \$3/NM

Theresa Barbo, noted local author of historical non-fiction, will speak about her novel **Cape Cod Bay: A History of Salt & Sea** --the first book to be set in the bay. She will also speak on her current scholarly work **Nantucket Sound: A Maritime History** with a Foreword by Massachusetts Congressman William Delahunt.

Theresa Barbo is the Founding Director of the annual Cape Cod Maritime History Symposium.

Book Discussion

Thursday, October 8 2 pm

Free

The Life of the Skies by Jonathan Rosen will be the topic of the October book discussion at the Clarence Hay Library. A book that is ostensibly about bird watching becomes so much more. It is about man and his relationship with his animal cousins. With references to literature, history, birding and beyond, Rosen meditates on human nature.

Join Sue Marcus in the Clarence Hay Library as she leads a discussion of **The Life of the Skies**, a thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking book.

Botanical Color Pencil Art with Gillian Rogers

Six-session course on Wednesdays

September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14 - 1:00-3:30 pm

\$100/M, \$120/NM

Limited to 10 people. Registration required.

Drawing experience is helpful, but not required.

The course will teach the use, application and technique of color pencil to create your own unique botanical painting. Gillian Rogers is a member of the Color Pencil Society and an artist member of the Cape Cod Art Association.

Supplies needed:

graphite pencil #4, sketching HB Pencils #2B, 6B, 9B, sketch pad, tracing paper, set of Prismacolor pencils (36), portable pencil sharpener, kneaded eraser, Pentel “Clic eraser”, white magic rub eraser, brush such as draftsman’s mini-duster or any soft brush, masking tape, color wheel, Canson acid free vellum or Strathmore acid free vellum paper.

Cape Cod Photo and Art in Orleans will apply a discount for course participants. Staples (Orleans and Hyannis) also has some of the supplies.

Mushroom Safari Program

with Lawrence Schuster

Member, Boston Mycological Club

Thursday, September 24 10 am-12 pm

\$5/M, \$7/NM Pay at site. Reservations required.

Meet at Nickerson State Park in the parking lot.

Participants need to wear sturdy walking/hiking shoes and warm clothes and bring rain gear, insect repellent, sunscreen and a paper bag for specimens.

Program takes place rain or shine.

4th Annual Honeybee Jamboree

Saturday, October 10 1:00-3:00 pm

\$3/M, \$2/NM (with Museum admission)

Co-sponsored by the Barnstable County Beekeepers Association (BCBA)

Meet members of the Museum bee group who will explain the honey extraction process. BCBA club members will present demonstrations and sell their bee-related products, such as honey, candles, ointments and lotions.

A share of the profits will go to the Museum.

National Marine Life Center (NMLC)

Stranded Marine Animal Hospital

with Don Lewis, Chief Operating Officer, NMLC

Friday, October 23 7 pm

Free

Don Lewis will present a program on the NMLC Stranded Marine Animal Hospital that opens this fall. Already caring for stranded sea turtles, the hospital will soon be the only regional facility to receive dolphins and small whales for treatment and rehabilitation. The NMLC admits patients rescued by Marine Mammal Rescue & Research of IFAW and the Seaturtle Stranding Network. Its role is to treat, rehabilitate and release these marine animals back into the wild.



SEPTEMBER 2009

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|----------|
| 2009 Exhibit <i>Under One Sky:</i> <i>Why Animals Matter</i> The International Fund for Animal Welfare | | 1 4 pm Mudflat Mania! | 2 1 pm Family Nature Program | 3 1 pm Family Nature Program | 4 1 pm Family Nature Program | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Museum Closed Labor Day | 8 12:30 pm Friends Potluck Luncheon Program: Elliott Carr <i>Raffle Drawing!!</i> | 9 9:15 am Wednesday Walk 1-3:30pm Botanical Color Pencil Art | 10 | 11 7 pm Theresa Barbo "Cape Cod Bay" | 12 |
| 13 | 14 7:30 pm Cape Cod Bird Club | 15 | 16 9:45 am Wednesday Walk 1-3:30 pm Botanical Color Pencil Art | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 9 am Wednesday Walk 1-3:30 pm Botanical Color Pencil Art | 24 10 am Mushroom Safari at Nickerson State Park | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 9:15 am Wednesday Walk 1-3:30 pm Botanical Color Pencil Art | | | |



OCTOBER 2009

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2009 Exhibit <i>Under One Sky:</i> <i>Why Animals Matter</i> The International Fund for Animal Welfare | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 9 am Wednesday Walk 1-3:30 pm Botanical Color Pencil Art | 8 2 pm Book Discussion <i>The Life of the Skies</i> | 9 | 10 1-3 pm 4th Annual Honeybee Jamboree |
| 11 | 12 7:30 pm Cape Cod Bird Club | 13 1 pm Friends Meeting & 1:30 pm Program | 14 9:30 am Wednesday Walk 1-3:30 pm Botanical Color Pencil Art | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 9:45 am Wednesday Walk | 22 | 23 7 pm NMLC Stranded Marine Animal Hospital Program | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 9:15 am Wednesday Walk | 29 | 30 | 31 |



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

or current resident

*Buzzzzz into fall with
bee books, bee balm
and our Annual Honeybee Jamboree on October 10!*



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.