

Membership Department
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, New York 10024-5192
amnh.org

rotunda

VOL. 35 NO. 2 MARCH/APRIL 2010

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



General Information

HOURS

Museum: Daily, 10 am–5:45 pm

The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Space Show: Every half hour, 10:30 am–4:30 pm except on Wednesdays, when first show is at 11 am.

Research Library: Tuesday–Thursday, 2–5:30 pm
Hours are subject to change.

ENTRANCES

During Museum hours, Members may enter through the subway (lower level), Central Park West at 79th Street (second floor), the Rose Center/81st Street, and the Columbus Avenue entrances. The 77th Street entrance is open for events and programs.

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Subway: B (weekdays) or C to 81st Street; 1 to 79th Street

Bus: M7, M10, M11, or M104 to 79th Street; M79 to Central Park West

Parking Garage: Open daily, 8 am–11 pm; enter from West 81st Street. Members receive a discounted rate of \$10 if entering after 4 pm. To receive this rate, you must show your Membership Card or event ticket when exiting the garage. For more information, call 212-313-7275.

FOOD SERVICE

Museum Food Court: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (lower level)

Café on One: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (first floor)

Starlight Café: Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–4:45 pm (first floor)

Café on 4: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (fourth floor)
Hours are subject to change.

MUSEUM SHOPS

The following Museum Shops are open during regular Museum hours:

The Museum Shop (first and second floors)

DinoStore (fourth floor)

The Shop for Earth & Space (Rose Center, lower level)

Cosmic Shop (Rose Center, second floor)

Silk Road Shop (third floor)

Online Shop (amnhshop.com)

PHONE NUMBERS

Museum Information	212-769-5100
Membership Office	212-769-5606
Central Reservations	212-769-5200
AMNH Expeditions	800-462-8687
Communications	212-769-5800
Development	212-769-5151
Education	212-769-5304
Event & Conference Services	212-769-5350
Library Services	212-769-5400
Museum Shop	800-671-7035
Patrons Circle	212-769-5153
Planetarium Information	212-769-5900
Planned Giving Office	212-769-5119
Volunteer Office	212-769-5566
Website	amnh.org

AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY



Please join us for
a **Members-only**
reception for the major
new exhibition

**RACE TO
THE END OF
THE EARTH**

FRIDAY, MAY 28

Exhibition opens
exclusively to members
at 4 pm. Reception
will be held in the
Theodore Roosevelt
Rotunda from 6 to 8 pm.

Kindly RSVP
to 212-769-5606.

© Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

LIZARDS & SNAKES: ALIVE!

RETURNS MARCH 6

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Museum Notes

OPENING

Lizards & Snakes: Alive!

Opens Saturday, March 6
Gallery 77, first floor
Members' tickets are \$12 adults,
\$7.50 children

Featuring more than 60 live lizards and snakes from five continents, *Lizards & Snakes: Alive!* introduces visitors to a diversity of legged and legless creatures and showcases their remarkable adaptations, from projectile tongues, deadly venom, and amazing camouflage to surprising modes of locomotion.

Lizards & Snakes: Alive! is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta, and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Presented with appreciation to
Clyde Peeling's Reptiland.

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World

Gallery 3, third floor
Free for Members

This intriguing exhibition transports visitors to one of the greatest trading routes of all time, showcasing the goods, technologies, and cultures from four representative cities: Xi'an, China's Tang Dynasty capital; Turfan, a verdant oasis; Samarkand, home of prosperous merchants; and ancient Baghdad, a hub of commerce and scholarship. Live performances organized by the Silk Road Project take place in the exhibition every Sunday afternoon. Visit amnh.org/silkroad for more information.

Traveling the Silk Road is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with Azienda Speciale Palaexpo, Roma, Italy and Codice. Idée per la cultura srl, Torino, Italy; the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, Australia and Art Exhibitions Australia; the Museum of Science, Taichung, Taiwan and United Daily News, Taipei, Taiwan.

The Presenting Sponsor of Traveling the Silk Road is
MetLife Foundation.

Additional support has been provided by
Mary and David Solomon.

The Silk Road Project residency is generously supported
by Rosalind P. Walter.



Lizards and Snakes: Alive! showcases amazing reptile adaptations. | © AMNH/R. Mickens

The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter

Whitney Hall of Oceanic Birds
Members' tickets are \$12 adults,
\$7.50 children

A perennial favorite, the *Butterfly Conservatory* lets visitors mingle with up to 500 live, free-flying butterflies in an enclosed habitat that replicates a lush, tropical environment.

Highway of An Empire: The Great Inca Road

IMAX Corridor
Free with Museum admission

The Inca Empire owed its reach and power to an extensive network of



Visitors check out the live silk worm exhibit in Traveling the Silk Road. | © AMNH/D. Finnin

roads, the subject of this compelling photo exhibition featuring more than 35 images of cliff-side passages, suspension bridges, and other road segments set against stunning Andean landscapes.

Courtesy of the Consulate General of Peru in New York.

The presentation of Highway of An Empire at the American Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generosity of the Arthur Ross Foundation.

Alfred Russel Wallace Cabinet

Grand Gallery, first floor

Free with Museum admission

A Victorian rosewood cabinet that houses green-jeweled beetles, extinct moths, and more collected by the 19th-century naturalist and contemporary of Charles Darwin is now on display.

Spider Silk Textile

Grand Gallery, first floor

Free with Museum admission

This spectacular and extremely rare textile—the only one of its kind on display anywhere in the world—was woven from golden-colored silk thread produced by one million spiders in Madagascar. The contemporary textile took four years to make using a painstaking technique developed more than 100 years ago.

A 2010 Celebration

In 2010 the Museum will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Frederick Phineas and Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space and the 75th anniversary of the opening of the original Hayden Planetarium. Visit amnh.org throughout the year for details about upcoming events.

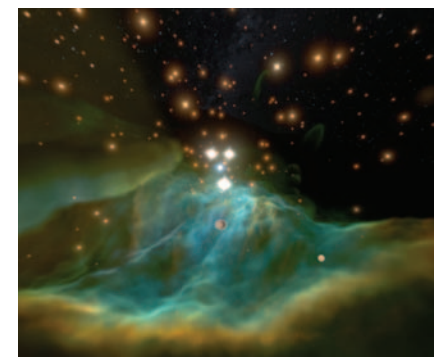
HAYDEN PLANETARIUM

ISAAC ASIMOV MEMORIAL DEBATE **Moon, Mars and Beyond: Where Next For the Manned Space Program?**

Monday, March 15
7:30 pm
Members' tickets are \$13.50

Director of the Hayden Planetarium **Neil deGrasse Tyson** will moderate. This year's subject: should NASA return to the Moon or proceed to Mars?

Made possible through the generosity of the Asimov family and friends.



Stars are forming in stellar nurseries in the Orion Nebula. | © AMNH

SPACE SHOW

Journey to the Stars

Members' tickets are \$12 adults,
\$7.50 children

This spectacular Space Show sends visitors through time and space to experience the life cycle of the stars.

Produced by the American Museum of Natural History, the Rose Center for Earth and Space, and the Hayden Planetarium.

Journey to the Stars was developed by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org).



Discover the secrets of the Great Lakes in the new IMAX feature at the Museum. | © Gary and Joanie McGuffin

in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; GOTO INC, Tokyo, Japan; Papalote • Museo del Niño, Mexico City, Mexico; and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

Journey to the Stars was created by the American Museum of Natural History, with the major support and partnership of NASA, Science Mission Directorate, Heliophysics Division.

Made possible through the generous sponsorship of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

And proudly sponsored by Accenture.

Super-computing resources provided by The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at the University of Texas at Austin through the TeraGrid, a project of the National Science Foundation.

IMAX MOVIE

Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Theater
Members' tickets are \$12 adults,
\$7.50 children

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Deep blue and beautiful, these five freshwater lakes hold the key to untold stories—and strange phenomena—explored in this exquisite giant-screen film. To watch the trailer, visit amnh.org.

For showtimes, visit amnh.org or call 212-769-5100.

MORE FOR KIDS

Sleepover Program **A Night at the Museum**

Please visit amnh.org/sleepovers for more details.

This after-hours extravaganza thrills Museum fans ages 7 to 13. The evening includes a flashlight tour and wraps up with a campout among Museum icons.

CELEBRATE A CHILD'S BIRTHDAY AT THE MUSEUM

Linda Kaye's Partymakers will throw an unforgettable bash for kids ages four and up. Choose from Dinosaur Discoveries, Safari Adventure, Underwater Treasures, and Cosmic Blast-Off, which includes an option to see *Journey to the Stars*. Parties are an exclusive benefit for Contributor and higher-level Members. For more information, visit partymakers.com or call 212-288-7112.

COVER: The Eastern green mamba is among more than 60 live animals featured in *Lizards and Snakes: Alive!* | © AMNH/R. Mickens

SAVE A TREE

The current issue of *Rotunda* is now available online! Download it at amnh.org. If you'd like to stop receiving paper copies, please email members@amnh.org.

rotunda

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Where the Bees Are...



This male carpenter bee was photographed in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. | © John Ascher

Mapping Pollinators with the Museum

This spring, stop and smell the roses. Even better, count the bees on them!

The Museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC), in collaboration with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, is looking for volunteer bee watchers in all five boroughs for its Great Pollinator Project this spring and summer. Now in its fourth year, the program tracks the pollination patterns of New York City's native bees with a view to conserving and improving bee habitat and plant pollination.

"By having all those different eyes out there, we are able to collect a lot more data than we ever could ourselves," says Liz Johnson, CBC manager of the Metropolitan Biodiversity Program, who works on the Great Pollinator Project with Ed Toth, director of the Department of Parks & Recreation's Greenbelt Native Plant Center (GNPC), and Kevin Matteson, an urban ecologist at Fordham University.

Moving from flower to flower, both male and female bees transport pollen, a process without which the plants might produce fewer seeds or no seeds at all, with serious

implications for the ecosystem. Researchers are interested in how frequently bees visit the flowers to determine what plants and habitats best support healthy bee populations. More bees usually lead to better pollination for wild plants in city parks as well as for vegetables in neighborhood gardens.

"Ninety percent of flowering plants require an animal pollinator, and bees are the primary pollinator in the Northeast," says Johnson. "Different bee species have unique adaptations specifically for carrying pollen. Butterflies, wasps, flies, and beetles also pollinate, but they are generally considered less efficient at moving pollen around."

Citizen scientists have played an important role in other broad efforts, including assessments of water quality that relied in part on public observations of aquatic insects. Some surveys, like those tracking birds and amphibians, rely more on volunteer ears than eyes. A recent example is the Cricket Crawl, the first auditory insect survey in New York City, sponsored last fall by the Museum and the U.S. Geological Survey.

For the Great Pollinator Project, would-be New York City bee watchers are asked to complete a brief orientation, transplant an annual sunflower and six native plants to a sunny location, and watch for bees for half an hour at least once every two weeks, then submit their observations online. If a volunteer doesn't have—or can't coax a neighbor into letting them use—a yard, terrace, patio, rooftop, community garden, or other suitable outdoor spot for the plants, they are encouraged to participate by visiting public gardens or parks and record observations there. (Information about suitable locales, as well as orientation dates, can be found online at greatpollinatorproject.org.)

Identifying bee species can be difficult, sometimes requiring close inspection of body parts such as wing veins, so bee watchers are schooled in the general characteristics of five

BEE WATCHING 101

Become an NYC Bee Watcher. Sign up on greatpollinatorproject.org, then follow these simple steps in the field:

- ✿ Get out the sun screen. The ideal time for bee watching is on a sunny day with no wind.
- ✿ Print out a data collection sheet so you can record the necessary information.
- ✿ Choose one of the recommended plants listed on the site.
- ✿ Write down the name of the plant and the number of open flowers.
- ✿ Watch for 30 minutes or until five bees have landed on the open flower heads, recording time and type of bee.
- ✿ Take notes. If fewer than five bees come, or none at all, record that too—that's important data.
- ✿ Remember to submit the data once you've finished collecting it!

broad categories of bees: bumble bees, honey bees, green metallic bees, carpenter bees, and "others" for the rest. (See "Know Your City Bees.")

Aside from mapping bee patterns across the city, another goal of the Great Pollinator Project is to increase public awareness of bees.

"When you talk of bees, people think of the honey bee and maybe the bumble bee," says Johnson. "But over the years, Museum scientists have documented more than 225 species of bees in the five boroughs."

There are more than 19,000 species of bees worldwide, according to John Ascher, manager of the Museum's Bee Database Project, who worked with colleagues around the world to compile all valid bee names for the World Bee Checklist (available at ITIS.gov.) These include 4,000 species in North America, 800 of which are found east of the Mississippi. Some 28 different bee species have been identified in one small community garden in East Harlem alone.

The Great Pollinator Project will use the data collected to carry out a land-use analysis that will serve as an aid to land managers in maximizing bee habitats. As a preliminary step, in February 2009 the CBC and GNPC organized a workshop that was attended by 120 people from the Parks Department and other organizations, to consider ways to improve existing habitats. Among the topics discussed were the introduction of native plants and the importance of nesting habitats. Similar brainstorming sessions are in the offing, but their ultimate success depends on the invaluable information patiently gathered one volunteer bee watcher at a time.

The Great Pollinator Project has been partially funded by the New York City Environmental Fund.

KNOW YOUR CITY BEES



Bumble Bees

Large and fuzzy, *Bombus* species can be distinguished by their banding pattern. This male *Bombus perplexus* was photographed last summer in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.



Green Metallic Bees

Think green: this category includes all green bees, including those with green heads and black abdomens or green heads and striped abdomens, like this female *Agapostemon virescens*.



Honey Bees

Compared to bumble bees, honey bees are lanky and lean. They can be golden or dark brown. One distinguishing characteristic: hairy eyes.



Carpenter Bees

These huge bees have no stripes, like this *Xylocopa virginica* spotted in Queens' Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, which is also a great place for bird watchers.



...And More

Other bees buzzing around New York City include leaf-cutter bees, wool carder bees, and giant Asian resin bees like the one above, snapped at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

© John Ascher

To learn more about the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, visit cbc.amnh.org.

Members' Programs

Programs are available to Members only, unless a non-Member price is given.

For tickets, call 212-769-5200, Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm, or visit amnh.org. Please have your credit card, your Membership number, and the program name and number ready. All Members' programs require advance registration.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

Behind the Scenes in Anthropology

Thursday, March 18
6:30 pm MB031810A
7 pm MB031810B
7:30 pm MB031810C
\$35

Go behind the scenes with Scientific Assistant **Mary Lou Murillo** and Museum Technician **Michael Quigley** for a glimpse of the Anthropology Division's vast collection. This tour will focus on artifacts that highlight the cultures and crafts along the Silk Road. Since 1989, the Anthropology Division, with major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, has been preserving its collections in a database that is now accessible online. Collections Manager **John Hansen** will offer an inside look at this innovative program.



Take a day trip to discover Queens with geologist Sidney Horenstein. | © John Roleke

HALL TOURS

Once Upon a Fossil

Tuesday, March 23 MH032310
6:30–8:30 pm
\$35

How do you move a 20-ton fossil? Join Paleontology Collection Manager **Carl Mehling** for a unique tour that focuses



Find out what it takes to move a T. rex. | © AMNH/D. Finnin and C. Chesek

on the hidden stories of specimens that were reorganized and remounted in the 1990s.

FREE HALL TOURS

Things That Creep, Crawl, Slither, and Sting

Saturday, March 27 MH032710
3–4:30 pm
Registration required

Creatures that slither, slide, wiggle, and squish come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Some are extinct, some are endangered, and some thrive. Join AMNH tour guide **Larry Bassett** for a unique afternoon focusing on creepy creatures on display in the Museum's halls.

Climbing the Tree of Life

Sunday, April 18 MH041810
3–4:30 pm
Registration required

Museum docent **Sasa Tomic** leads a tour that follows our evolutionary

tree, beginning in the Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth with our most distant cousins—viruses, bacteria, and archaea—and ending in the Spitzer Hall of Human Origins with an overview of species in the *Homo* genus.

Ireland: Fables and Some Facts

Sunday, March 14 MF031410
3–4:30 pm
Registration required

Come with Museum docent **Wanda Finch** and hear again, or for the first time, Irish legends and the science (if any) behind them.

Northwest Coast Indians Tour

Sunday, May 2 MF050210
3–4:30 pm
Registration required

Join Museum docent **Berna Villiers** for a tour of the Museum's oldest hall, the Northwest Coast Indians Hall, which showcases research conducted during the Museum's first research expedition.

LOCAL WALKS & CRUISES

Foraging in Central Park

Saturday, March 13 MW031310
Sunday, April 11 MW041110
Sunday, May 9 MW050910
9:30–11:30 am
\$45 each, \$120 for the series

Hundreds of fascinating and delicious wild shoots, greens, roots, herbs, and flowers thrive in our backyards, parks, and forests. As spring turns to summer, environmental educator **Steve "Wildman" Brill** will lead three Central Park walks with a focus on foraging.

Queens for a Day

Saturday, April 17 MO041710
Sunday, April 25 MO042510
10:30 am–2:30 pm
\$45

Pack your lunch and join geologist **Sidney Horenstein** for a whirlwind tour that runs from the iconic Pepsi-Cola sign to the Queensboro bridge and beyond. Stops include the Noguchi Museum and the Socrates Sculpture Park, an illegal dumpsite turned outdoor museum. Cost includes admission.

Cruise New York Harbor on Tugboat Pegasus

Saturday, May 8 MO050810
1–4 pm
\$95

Built in 1907 to serve the waterside refineries and terminals of Standard Oil, tugboat Pegasus hadn't been seen on New York's waterways in several years. Now, thanks to the Pegasus Preservation Project, this veteran is back in service. Join geologist **Sidney Horenstein** for a unique cruise that explores the nooks and crannies of New York Harbor.

EXPEDITIONS

Howl with the Wolves

Saturday, March 20 MO032010
9 am–5 pm
\$95

Listen to packs of tundra, timber, and arctic wolves high up on the ridge of the Kittatinny Mountains at New Jersey's Lakota Wolf Preserve. On a half-mile nature walk, it will be easy to imagine the days when the most densely populated state in the nation was a wilderness. Cost includes transportation by private coach and lunch at The Forge restaurant in Blairstown.



Watch for timber wolves at the Lakota Wolf Preserve. | © Jim Stein

Magnificent Mine and Minerals Tour

Saturday, May 1 MO050110
8:30–5 pm
\$95

Journey back in time with Museum scientist **Paul Nascimbene** and visit the Franklin Sterling Hill mining area in northwestern New Jersey. You will tour an underground zinc mine to explore stunning minerals. At the Franklin Mineral Museum, peruse an extensive selection of minerals before collecting at the site. Cost includes transportation by private coach and admission.



See shorebirds and more at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge. | Courtesy of Lloyd Spitalnik

Birding at Brigantine

Saturday, May 15 MO051510
8:30 am–6:30 pm
\$120

Grab your binoculars, put on your hiking shoes, and join ornithologist **Paul Sweet** for a day of birding at the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in southern New Jersey. You'll see migrating shorebirds in breeding plumage as well as resident breeding species of the coastal salt marshes such as herons, skimmers, and terns.

Whale Watch Weekend

Friday, May 21–
Sunday, May 23 MD052110
\$750 per person, double occupancy
\$850 single occupancy

Museum educator **Jay Holmes** leads an excursion to Provincetown, Mass., to discover the ecological riches of Cape Cod Bay. Relax with a New England lobster bake on Friday evening, explore charming Provincetown on Saturday morning, and enjoy two private whale watching cruises with Dolphin Fleet. Also on the schedule: a visit to the Mystic Aquarium and a guided bird walk. Cost includes transportation by private coach, meals at the hotel, two boat excursions, and lodging for two nights at the Provincetown Inn Seaside Resort. **Please register before May 1.**

Please be aware that ticket sales are final. All Members' programs go ahead, rain or shine; no refunds are issued unless the event is cancelled by AMNH.

Lang Science Program Seeks Kids With Passion

Ten years ago, Eugene M. Lang—who gained national attention for his 1981 promise to 61 sixth graders in East Harlem to personally pay their college tuition if they stayed in school—established the Lang Science Program at the American Museum of Natural History. Through this initiative, he hoped to increase participation in science by minority children and those from lower-income families. The businessman-turned-philanthropist underwrote the new program with an initial \$1 million grant from the Eugene M. Lang Foundation and a subsequent grant of \$250,000.

Through this innovative program, students commit to seven years of coursework, which takes place on two Saturdays a month during the school year and three full weeks in the summer, with the option of additional after-school classes and career workshops toward the end of the program. Subjects include major areas of Museum research, including invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, genetics, geology, paleontology, physical anthropology, and astrophysics, with some courses tracked to temporary exhibitions at the Museum. The Lang Scholars meet and work with scientists behind the



Biology teacher Bobby Habig discusses primate behavior with Lang Scholars. | © AMNH/R. Mickens

scenes, go on field trips, and design and carry out their own experiments. They are also encouraged to participate in the Museum's national Young Naturalist Awards competition. So far, Lang Scholars have won two Young Naturalist awards, for studies of turtles in Central Park and earthworms in Prospect Park. Another Scholar, who studied parrots in Pelham Bay, was recognized as a finalist.

Acceptance to the program is merit-based. Applicants are interviewed, as are their parents, and asked to submit school transcripts and a "shoebox diorama" on a scientific theme. The latter, says Lang Science Program Coordinator Bobby Habig, "is one of the best indicators for whether a student is going to be successful. You can see how much time and effort they put into it. It's also a comfortable way for them to talk about their interest in science."

Adds Habig, who is also a full-time middle-school biology teacher in East Harlem, "We want kids who really have a passion for science—who can't get enough of it."

Lang Scholars have been accepted to highly competitive New York City high schools, including Bronx Science and Stuyvesant High Schools. Those who successfully complete the program also receive invaluable help in applying for college, including SAT preparation classes. Lang alumni have gone on to colleges including Bard College, Brown University, and Cornell. But perhaps the experience of the program is its own reward, judging from comments made by current students to focus group interviewers from Bank Street College and SRI International last summer. "Here we can be creative," said one. "People are here because they want to be," said another. "This place is so much different from school," said another. "I think 'Oh darn it!' when Lang is over."

For more information about the program and applications, email lang@amnh.org or visit amnh.org and search for "Lang."

The AMNH Lang Science Program and Lang Scholar Awards were conceived by and established with founding support from the Eugene M. Lang Foundation.



A Lang Scholar bones up on comparative anatomy. | © AMNH/R. Mickens

Behind the Scenes at UNESCO Heritage Sites

The UNESCO World Heritage List—a roster of 890 of the world's most treasured natural and cultural properties—reads like a traveler's wish list: spectacular national parks, ancient ruins, and sweeping monuments across the globe. But it's one thing to visit the sites as a tourist and quite another to travel with UNESCO experts and site managers, with the benefit of behind-the-scenes access and insight into conservation efforts.

That's why AMNH Expeditions has been working with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre to create unique travel programs, two of which will be offered this fall. Led by UNESCO specialist Junaid Sorosh-Wali, "A Turkish Odyssey" (September 22–October 4) begins with a visit to

Ankara's historic citadels and includes trips to the underground cities of central Anatolia and snorkeling amid underwater ruins. A visit to Istanbul's illustrious mosques and churches, including the Hagia Sophia, caps off the trip.

"Ethiopia's Hidden Treasures" (October 12–22) is an extraordinary journey through Ethiopia's ancient cities, holy sites, and dramatic mountain landscapes, accompanied by Getu Assetu Wondimu, director of National and World Heritage Sites Management. Travelers will have a chance to visit the tombs of Ethiopia's ancient Axumite kingdom, see the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, and enjoy the spectacular views of Simien Mountains National Park. Final days in Addis Ababa include a dinner with a paleoanthropologist



Discover World Heritage Sites in Ethiopia with AMNH Expeditions. | © ATA

and visits to the National and Ethnographic Museums.

For more information, including detailed itineraries, please visit amnh.org/expeditions or call 1-800-462-8687.

For a list of World Heritage Sites, please visit whc.unesco.org.

Save the Date: The Museum Dance on April 15

For more than four decades, the Museum Dance has captured the imagination of 800 stylish New Yorkers in their 20s and 30s who enjoy a spectacular evening of dinner, dancing, fun, and philanthropy at the Museum.

The Museum Dance raises essential funds for the Museum's outstanding scientific and educational programs, which enable thousands of underserved New York City school children to visit the Museum annually.

Guests will have the opportunity to buy tickets to an exclusive and intimate dinner or to join hundreds of friends later in the evening for dessert, dancing, and a silent auction. For more information, please call Whitney Cary at 212-496-3495.



The Museum Dance is the highlight of the season. | © AMNH/D. Finnin

Public Programs

These programs are available to the general public.
Call 212-769-5200 for information and tickets.

NOW MONTHLY!

ADVENTURES IN THE Global Kitchen

Linder Theater
6:30 pm
\$20

Silk Road and Tea
Wednesday, March 24

History professor **Morris Rusabi** and **Sebastian Beckwith** of In Pursuit of Tea will discuss teas from the Silk Road era and modern variations. Tasting included.

Wines to Complement Spicy Food
Wednesday, April 14

Join award-winning chef **Julie Sahni** and **Ursula Masoud**, of Paumanok winery, for an evening of spicy pairings. Tasting included.

A Persian Celebration
Wednesday, May 19

Cookbook author and teacher **Najmieh Batmanglij** brings Silk Road-style fusion to the modern kitchen with a recipe for baklava. Tasting, with Persian tea, included.



Enjoy tea and more at Global Kitchen tastings. | © Sebastian Beckwith

FAMILY PROGRAMS

WILD, WILD WORLD

Linder Theater
11 am–noon; 1–2 pm
\$8 children, \$10 adults
Members' tickets are \$7 children,
\$9 adults

Predators
Saturday, March 27

In this special presentation with live animals, wildlife expert **Andrew Simmons** will introduce the world of the predator, with close looks at a Golden Eagle, python, and bear cub.



Learn more about ladybugs' important role in an ecosystem. | © Gail Starr

Ladybugs
Saturday, April 24

Join Cornell entomologist **John Losey** and a number of live ladybugs, including the nine-spotted ladybug, to find out how these beetles fit into a healthy ecosystem.

DR. NEBULA'S LABORATORY

Life with Lucy
Saturday, April 3
Kaufmann Theater
2 pm
\$8 children, \$10 adults
Members' tickets are \$7 children,
\$9 adults

Dr. Nebula has traveled back in time, and it's up to Scooter and the audience

to help him return to the present, all while exploring human origins and learning about our distant relatives.

Dr. Nebula's laboratory is supported, in part, by Ruth A. Unterberg.

TUESDAYS IN THE DOME
Hayden Planetarium Space Theater
6:30 pm
\$15 (\$13.50 Members, students, seniors)
Advance registration is encouraged.

VIRTUAL UNIVERSE
Our Solar Neighborhood with Jackie Faherty
Tuesday, March 2

Planetary Real Estate with Jason Kendall
Tuesday, April 6

The Earth Today with Carter Emmart
Tuesday, May 4

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS
Inferior Planets with Joe Rao
Tuesday, March 30

Beasts of the Spring Sky with Ted Williams
Tuesday, April 27

Celestial Treasure Hunt with Sam Storch
Tuesday, May 25

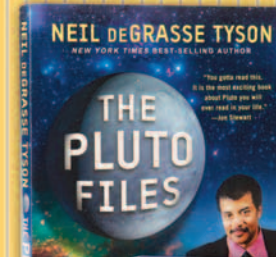
These programs are supported, in part, by the Schaffner Family.

LECTURE
Dark Matter, Revealed
Monday, April 12
Hayden Planetarium Space Theater
7:30 pm
\$15 (\$13.50 Members, students, seniors)
Dark matter plays a major role in the function of our galaxy and the universe. Join MIT physicist **Peter Fisher** as he explores the history of dark matter and the search to find it. He will also discuss new research at MIT that aims to discover how dark matter is created.

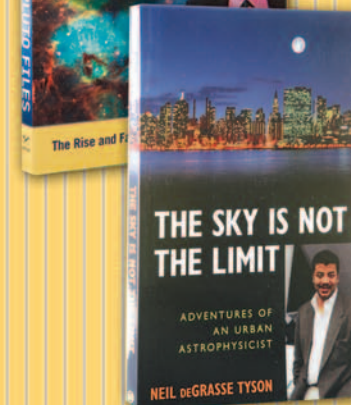
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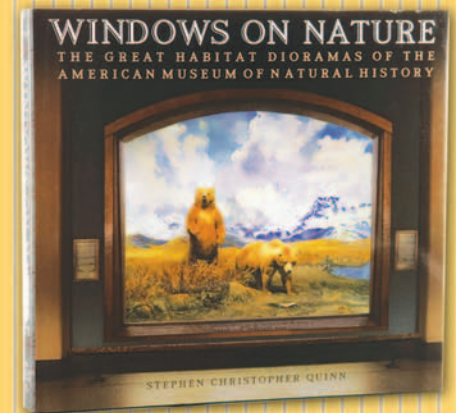
Authors of AMNH



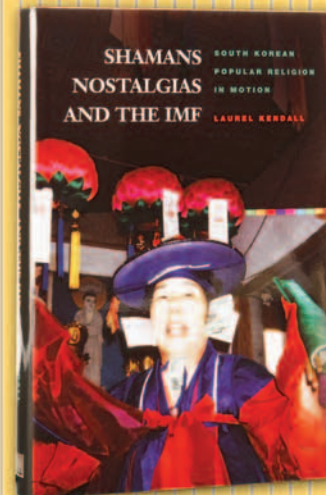
Hayden Planetarium Director **Neil deGrasse Tyson** details Pluto's rise and fall from planethood and offers a compelling memoir about becoming an astrophysicist.



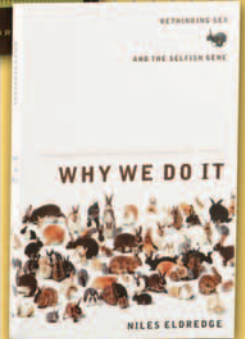
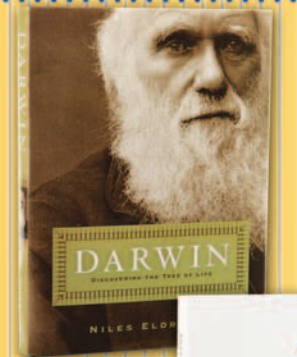
Stephen C. Quinn is an accomplished artist and naturalist who has contributed to virtually all aspects of exhibit design at the Museum.



Based on 30 years of research, **Laurel Kendall**, Division Chair and Curator of Anthropology, explains how the practices of South Korea's shamans have evolved to accommodate massive cultural changes.



Paleontology Curator **Niles Eldredge** wrote *Darwin* as a companion to the major Museum exhibition about the great scientist. In *Why We Do It*, he takes on the "selfish gene" theory.



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Public programs are made possible, in part, by the Rita and Frits Markus Fund for Public Understanding of Science.