

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

rotunda

VOL. 34 NO. 3 MAY/JUNE 2009

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



General Information

HOURS

Museum: Daily, 10 am–5:45 pm
The Museum is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Space Show: Every half hour, 10:30 am–4:30 pm
Research Library: Tuesday–Thursday, 2–5:30 pm
Hours are subject to change.

ENTRANCES

During Museum hours, visitors may enter through the subway (lower level), Central Park West at 79th Street (second floor), and the Rose Center/81st Street entrances. The Columbus Avenue entrance is open on weekends and holidays. The 77th Street entrance is closed until further notice.

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 1: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (first floor)

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

Café on 4: Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–4:45 pm (fourth floor)

Hours are subject to change.

MUSEUM SHOPS

The following Museum Shops are open during regular Museum hours:

Main Shop (first and second floors)

Dinostore (fourth floor)

Planetarium Shop (Rose Center, lower level)

Cosmic Shop (Rose Center, second floor)

Online Shop (www.amnhshop.com)

PHONE NUMBERS

Museum Information	212-769-5100
Membership Office	212-769-5606
Central Reservations	212-769-5200
AMNH Expeditions	212-769-5700
Communications	212-769-5800
Development	212-769-5151
Education	212-769-5304
Event & Conference Services	212-769-5350
Library Services	212-769-5400
Member Birthday Parties	212-769-5606
Museum Shop	800-671-7035
Natural History Magazine	646-356-6500
Patrons Circle	212-769-5153
Planetarium Information	212-769-5900
Planned Giving Office	212-769-5119
Volunteer Office	212-769-5566
Web Site	www.amnh.org

AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY



Members are cordially invited to attend a private preview of

EXTREME MAMMALS: THE BIGGEST, SMALLEST, AND MOST AMAZING MAMMALS OF ALL TIME

Wednesday, May 20, 2009
6 to 8:30 p.m.
Gallery 4

Kindly RSVP to
the Membership Office
at 212-769-5606
before May 8.

Please use
the 77th Street entrance
(down the driveway)
between Central Park West
and Columbus Avenue.



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Museum Notes

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time

Opens May 23, 2009
Gallery 4
Free for Members

Explore the surprising and sometimes bizarre world of extinct and living mammals. This exhibition examines the ancestry and evolution of an astonishing range of mammal species, showcasing such “extreme” adaptations as oversized claws and fangs, jaw-dropping speed, and massive (or miniscule) body size. *Extreme Mammals* will also investigate how some lineages died out, while others diversified to form groups of well-known mammals living today. With fascinating specimens, spectacular models, dynamic media displays, and hands-on activities, the exhibition highlights mammals’ amazing qualities and illuminates the shared ancestry that unites these diverse creatures.

Extreme Mammals is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada; and Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Major funding for *Extreme Mammals* has been provided by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund.

Additional generous support for *Extreme Mammals* has been provided by the Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation, the Eileen P. Bernard Exhibition Fund, and Harlan B. Levine, MD and Marshall P. Levine.

Climate Change: The Threat to Life and A New Energy Future

Through August 16, 2009
Gallery 3
Free for Members

This timely exhibition explores the science, history, and impact of climate change on a global scale, providing a context for today’s most urgent headlines. Realistic dioramas, dynamic animations, and interactive stations allow visitors to witness potential effects, such as the flooding of lower Manhattan as a result of ocean warming. The exhibition lays the groundwork for potential solutions, empowering and inspiring visitors of all ages to take an active part in our planet’s future.

Climate Change is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage, United Arab Emirates; The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; The Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, São Paulo, Brazil; Junta de Castilla y León, Spain; Korea Green Foundation, Seoul; Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen; Papalote Museo del Niño, Mexico City, Mexico; and Saint Louis Science Center.

Climate Change is proudly presented by Bank of America.

Major support has also been provided by The Rockefeller Foundation.

Additional support for *Climate Change* and its related educational programming has been provided by Mary and David Solomon, the Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation, the Linden Trust for Conservation, and the Red Crane Foundation.

The Butterfly Conservatory

Through May 25, 2009
Hall of Oceanic Birds

Tickets are \$12 for Members and \$7.50 for Members’ children.

Once again, this popular exhibition includes up to 500 live, free-flying tropical butterflies in an enclosed habitat that approximates their natural environment with lush vegetation and live flowering plants. Visitors can mingle with the butterflies and view illustrated displays that describe the butterfly’s life cycle, defense mechanisms, evolution, and conservation.



Waxy Monkey Frog | AMNH/D. Finnin

Frogs: A Chorus of Colors

Opens May 30, 2009
Gallery 77, first floor

See p. 2 for ticket pricing information. Members’ tickets are \$12 adults; \$7 children

Back by popular demand, this delightful exhibition introduces visitors to the colorful and richly diverse world of frogs. More than 200 live frogs will be shown in their recreated habitats, complete with rock ledges, live plants, and waterfalls. Featuring approximately 25 species from around the world, the exhibition will explore the evolution and biology of these amphibians, their importance to ecosystems, and the threats they face in the world’s changing environments. Interactive stations throughout the exhibition will invite visitors to activate recorded frog calls, view videos of frogs in action, and test their knowledge about frogs.

This exhibition is presented with appreciation to Clyde Peeling’s Reptiland.

Frogs: A Chorus of Colors is made possible, in part, by the Eileen P. Bernard Exhibition Fund.

Saturn: Images from the Cassini-Huygens Mission

Through July 26, 2009
IMAX Corridor

This stunning exhibition reveals details of Saturn’s rings, moons, and atmosphere with images sent over half a billion miles by the Cassini spacecraft.

The support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is appreciated.

Special thanks to the Cassini imaging team, especially those scientists at Cornell University’s Department of Astronomy, along with the staff of Cornell University photography. The Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester, New York, printed the images.

On Feathered Wings

Through August 30, 2009
Akeley Gallery

This exhibition brings together the work of renowned wildlife photographers whose artistry showcases the majesty of birds in flight.

The presentation of both *Saturn* and *On Feathered Wings* at the American Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generosity of the Arthur Ross Foundation.

SLEEPOVER PROGRAM

A Night at the Museum

May 9, May 22, June 19, June 26
Call 212-769-5200, Monday–Friday,
9 am–5 pm
\$119 per person for Members

After-hours at the Museum: as the doors close and the lights dim, adventurers head out on flashlight tours before bedding down surrounded by Museum icons.

HAYDEN PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Cosmic Collisions

Journey into deep space to explore cosmic collisions, hypersonic impacts that drive the dynamic formation of our universe. Narrated by Robert Redford.

Cosmic Collisions was developed by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science; GOTO, Inc., Tokyo, Japan; and the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum. Made possible through the generous support of CIT. *Cosmic Collisions* was created by the American Museum of Natural History with the major support and partnership of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Science Mission Directorate, Heliophysics Division.

Field Trip to the Moon

Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Launched on a rocket and guided by a live presenter, children and adults see a sunrise in space and orbit and land on the Moon before discussing future Moon exploration.

IMAX MOVIES

Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Theater
For films and showtimes, visit
www.amnh.org or call 212-769-5100.

Wild Ocean

Experience the massive feeding frenzy that takes place each year in the oceans of South Africa as billions of fish migrate up the KwaZulu-Natal Wild Coast. Breaching whales, frenzied sharks, herding dolphins, and diving gannets compete in an epic underwater struggle for survival.

Dinosaurs Alive!

This stunning film tracks AMNH scientists past and present, including the famous Roy Chapman Andrews, the “real” Indiana Jones, on expeditions to New Mexico and Mongolia in search of dinosaurs. It also uses scientifically accurate, computer-generated images to bring to life these mystifying animals, from the earliest dinosaurs of the Triassic Period to the creatures of the Cretaceous.

AND DON’T MISS...

SELF COMES TO MIND Music, Art, & Science Come Together in a World Premiere about the Evolution of Mind

Sunday, May 3
7 pm

Yo-Yo Ma performs the world premiere of *Self Comes to Mind*, a musical composition by Bruce Adolphe, composer in residence at the Brain and Creativity Institute and resident lecturer of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, based on an evocative exploration of the evolution of human consciousness written especially for this collaboration by neuroscientist Antonio Damasio, Director of the Brain and Creativity Institute at University of Southern California, and author of *Descartes’ Error*, *The Feeling of What Happens*,

and *Looking for Spinoza*. The performance includes brain images by Hanna Damasio in a film by Ioana Uricaru.

The premiere is followed by a conversation with Antonio Damasio, Yo-Yo Ma, and Bruce Adolphe on mind, consciousness, creativity, and the collaboration behind *Self Comes to Mind*.

Co-produced by The Learning Maestros and the University of Southern California’s Brain and Creativity Institute.

AMNH Birthday Parties

Linda Kaye’s Partymakers presents four birthday-party themes for children ages 4 and up and available every day to Contributor and higher-level Museum Members only. For details and to request a date, visit www.partymakers.com or call 212-288-7112.

COVER: A Bumblebee Dart Poison Frog, one of more than 25 species represented in *Frogs: A Chorus of Colors*, opening May 30, 2009. | AMNH/R. Mickens

SAVE A TREE

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

rotunda

ISSN 0194-6110
USPS Permit #472-650
Vol. 34, No. 3, May/June 2009

Lewis W. Bernard, *Chairman*
Ellen V. Futter, *President*
Lynn DeBow, *Senior Vice President for Development and Membership*
Rosemary Caulk, *Director of Membership*

Rotunda is published bimonthly, except for a combined issue in July/August/September and a single issue in December, by the Membership Office of the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. Phone: 212-769-5606. Web address: www.amnh.org. Museum Membership of \$70 per year and higher includes a subscription to *Rotunda*. © 2007 American Museum of Natural History. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: please send address changes to *Rotunda*, Membership Office, AMNH, at the above address.



The now-extinct saber-toothed cat *Smilodon* is just one of the many remarkable specimens in *Extreme Mammals*. | AMNH/R. Mickens

Exciting in the Extreme

**Extreme Mammals:
The Biggest, Smallest, and
Most Amazing Mammals of All Time**

Opens Saturday, May 23 • Gallery 4
amnh.org/extrememammals

When you hear the word “mammal,” you probably think of an animal that feeds its young with milk. But there’s much more to mammals; for example, all species—from lions, tigers, and bears to the guy sitting next to you—evolved from a single common ancestor with fur. And that’s just average, run-of-the-mill mammal trivia. Start talking about the creatures at the center of the new exhibition *Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time*, which opens May 23, and it only gets more fascinating. In the exhibition, visitors will learn about mammals with 4-ton tongues, teeth the size of an average human, or antlers the size of small cars, as well as mammals so tiny, they weigh no more than a single dime and could easily perch on the tip of a pencil eraser. Some have claws, fangs, long snouts, horns, or armor; some move with the speed of a cheetah, some with the slowness of a sloth; and some burrow, hop, climb, jump, run, swim, glide, or even fly. In all, these extreme mammals showcase an astounding variety of extraordinary adaptations.

Curated by John J. Flynn, Frick Curator of Fossil Mammals and Dean of the



A preparator shows off a model of *Batodonoides vanhouteni*, the smallest mammal ever. | AMNH/R. Mickens

Richard Gilder Graduate School, *Extreme Mammals* brings to life the world of bygone and still-living wonders through lifelike models, dynamic media displays, animated computer inter-actives, hands-on activities, and touchable casts. The exhibition also draws extensively on the AMNH fossil mammal collection, the largest and most important of its type in the world with an estimated 400,000 specimens, as well as the Museum’s vast modern mammal collections, to illuminate the shared ancestry that unites these diverse creatures, as well as highlight mammals’ distinctive qualities.

“This intriguing new exhibition dramatically showcases some of the most extraordinary and extreme examples of mammalian life, past and present,” said Ellen V. Futter, President of the American Museum of Natural History. “Built upon the Museum’s longstanding research program to explore and deepen our knowledge of the natural world, *Extreme Mammals* will surprise and captivate visitors of all ages while also vividly illuminating the spectacular diversity of life.”

Upon first entering the exhibition, visitors will come face to face with the largest land mammal ever: *Indricotherium*, an herbivore that lived in the forests of central Asia between 30 and 16 million years ago and resembled a huge rhinoceros without its horns. Its skull alone was more

than four feet long and, some 16 feet tall at the shoulder, it weighed 20 tons—the size of three or four adult African elephants, the largest land mammals alive today. (The largest living mammal—or animal, for that matter—is the blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus*, which can grow to nearly 200 tons; its model, a Museum icon, floats above the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life.)

By contrast—and represented in a model reconstructed using evidence from a single fossil jaw—the extinct *Batodonoides vanhouteni* is the smallest mammal ever, with an estimated body weight of just 1.3 grams. The smallest living mammal, also featured in the exhibition, is the 2.3-gram bumblebee bat (*Craseonycteris thonglongyai*), a denizen of Thailand and Myanmar that has only been known to scientists since 1974. By the way, bats alone among mammals can fly, and this one beats its tiny wings like a hummingbird. In another example of remarkable locomotion, visitors will find a full-scale model of the extinct *Ambulocetus*, or “walking whale.”

Although none of the earliest mammals had horns, a wide variety of headgear has emerged over 200 million years of mammal history. One of the larger fossil displays is an entire skeleton of the *Uintatherium*, a large, extinct herbivore with two saber-tooth tusks and six robust bony knobs or horns on

its forehead. Among living mammals, one of the more spectacular adaptations is seen in the male babirusa, a pig from Indonesia whose upper canines don’t grow downward but directly upward instead, through the skull bone and out through the top of its head. And in case you’re wondering whether we humans qualify, the answer is yes. Our big brains and bipedal stance make us extreme mammals too!

Other highlights of *Extreme Mammals* include an engaging diorama of a scene on Ellesmere Island in northern Canada approximately 50 to 55 million years ago, when what is today a frozen tundra was a warm, humid environment of lush green swamps that supported such mammals as the hippo-like *Coryphodon*, the ancient tapir *Thuliadanta*, and the tree-climbing carnivore *Vulpavus*.

Extreme Mammals runs through January 3, 2010.

Extreme Mammals is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada; and Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Major funding for *Extreme Mammals* has been provided by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund.

Additional generous support for *Extreme Mammals* has been provided by the Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation, the Eileen P. Bernard Exhibition Fund, and Harlan B. Levine, MD and Marshall P. Levine.



The prehensile tail of the Kinkajou (honey bear), unusual among mammals, makes up nearly half the animal’s total length. | AMNH/R. Mickens

THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY

Science depends on the slow, methodical accumulation and interpretation of data. But it has moments of exhilaration too. Consider Roy Chapman Andrews, a young scientist who would later become director of the American Museum of Natural History, describing the day in 1922 when his team in Mongolia found the fossils of the largest land mammal ever, *Indricotherium*. “We made the sand fly as we took out piece after piece of bone,” he wrote. “At six o’clock, while the men were having tea, we burst into camp, shouting like children.”

A selection of those very *Indricotherium* fossils are featured in the exhibition *Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time*, as are some striking recent finds: the smallest known mammal ever and an unusual “sonar”-less bat that provides a missing link in its evolutionary family tree.

In 1998, the discovery of the smallest known mammal, *Batodonoides vanhouteni*, a shrew-like creature that lived 50 million years ago, was announced at the annual meeting of the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology. With an estimated body weight about equal to that of a dollar bill, the insectivore was identified from a tiny jaw embedded in a petrified tree trunk in northern Wyoming. It was so small that paleontologist Jonathan Bloch of the University of Michigan needed a microscope to study it. “At first I thought I was looking at a fish jaw,” he said. “Under the microscope, I realized I was looking at the smallest mammal teeth I had ever seen.”

And in 2008, a team of researchers led by Nancy B. Simmons, AMNH Curator and Chair of the Division of Vertebrate Zoology, described two fossils of the most primitive

member of the order Chiroptera known to date, some 52 million years old—*Onychonycteris finneyi*. The new species, discovered in a rock formation in southwestern Wyoming, differed from modern bats in several ways: it had claws on all five of its fingers, as opposed to only one or two digits; the hind legs were longer and forearm shorter, more similar to those of climbing mammals that hang under branches, such as sloths and gibbons; and while it could fly, it lacked the features in the ear and throat found in bats that use echolocation to navigate and hunt.



A cast of *Onychonycteris finneyi* | Royal Ontario Museum 2008

“When we first saw it, we knew it was special,” said Simmons. “In many respects, it is a missing link between bats and their nonflying ancestors.” And it answered a long-debated question: flying evolved first, echolocation second.

Thanks to these scientists’ methodical research and extraordinary discoveries, visitors to *Extreme Mammals* will experience excitement not unlike that of Roy Chapman Andrews, as they come face to face with these and other fossils of the most amazing mammals of all time.



A clay sculpture of *Ambulocetus*’s massive head | AMNH/R. Mickens

Members' Programs

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

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

EXPEDITIONS

Mineral Collecting by Moonlight

Saturday, May 2 MO050209
5:30–10 pm
\$95

Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ, is one of the most renowned zinc mining districts in the world, containing over 80 species of fluorescent minerals. Bring your rock hammers, ultra-violet lights, and eye protection to join geologist Joe Boesenberg on this unique NIGHT collecting expedition to the Sterling Hill Mine. Price includes transportation by private coach and up to 3 pounds of collected minerals.

Dinosaur Safari: The Bruce and Peabody Museums

Saturday, June 6 MO060609
9 am–5 pm
\$75 (Includes transportation by private coach)

Delve into the world of dinosaurs on this day trip to the Bruce and Peabody Museums in Connecticut. At the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, learn how

explorers “dig” for dinosaurs and examine various types of fossil remains. In “Dinosaurs: The Art of Reconstruction,” see how artists have reconstructed the world of dinosaurs in works by artists including Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, Charles R. Knight, and many others. Then, visit the Great Hall of Dinosaurs at the Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven, which first opened in 1926. You'll have the opportunity to view the newly constructed, life sized bronze statue of the dinosaur *Torosaurus latus*, which towers two stories over visitors!

Sunset Cruise On the Hudson

Wednesday, June 10 MO061009
6–9 pm
\$60 (\$75 non-Members)

This sunset cruise up the Hudson River with Sidney Horenstein surveys the geological features of the region and delves into the origins of the river and the Palisades, plant and animal environments, local history, and environmental concerns facing this important waterway today.

Exploring the New Jersey Pine Barrens

Saturday, June 13 MO061309
9 am–5 pm
\$95

The New Jersey Pine Barrens boast a diversity of plant and animal species, fascinating geology, and a rich cultural history. Led by Wayne Cahilly, a native of the region and horticulturist with the New York Botanical Garden, the expedition will explore pygmy forests where trees grow into unimaginable forms and rarely exceed 12 feet in height. Along the way, we will lunch at Batso Historic Park and conclude with a trip through the third largest cranberry-producing region in the United States.



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater in full glory. | Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Summer Solstice Sail

Sunday, June 21 MO062109
8–10 pm
\$95
(Space is limited.)

Set sail from the South Street Seaport with astrophysicist Charles Liu and watch the sunset on the longest day of the year. Cruise from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Statue of Liberty aboard Pioneer, an 1885 Delaware Bay schooner, and learn about the science and star lore that surrounds the summer solstice.



Alpine troughs in front of the Potting Shed at Stonecrop Gardens | Stonecrop Gardens

Hudson Valley Garden Tour

Tuesday, June 25 MO062509
9 am–6 pm
\$90 (includes transportation by private coach)

Spend a day touring three remarkable gardens of the Hudson Valley: Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate near Sleepy Hollow; the formal gardens of the Lasdon Park Arboretum in Somers; and Stonecrop Gardens, originally the home of Anne and Frank Cabot in Cold Spring, NY.



Shark Tooth collected at Big Brook in Monmouth County, New Jersey | C. Mehling

Fossils! Fossils! Fossils!

Saturday, July 11 MO071109
8:30 am–5 pm
\$85 (includes transportation by private coach)

Pack your collecting bag, old sneakers, and lunch, and join Carl Mehling, Fossil Collections Manager in the Division of Paleontology, for an expedition to Big Brook in Monmouth County, New Jersey. The area offers a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils from the Late Cretaceous period. Plentiful fossils and diverse fauna make it an ideal spot for collecting.

WALKING TOURS

Avian Dinosaur Tour

Sunday, May 3 MW050309
10 am–1 pm
Free

What do you get when you combine birdwatching with fossils of feathered dinosaurs? This out “out-of-the-box” Central Park tour is led by fossil explainer and naturalist John Delaney. Search for living dinosaurs (thrushes, finches, sparrows, warblers, orioles, and more) and learn about how the family trees of these familiar animals are traced back to the *Maniraptors*. You may never look at pigeons in the same way again.

Wild Plants of Central Park

Sunday, May 10 MW051009
9:30–11:30 am
\$30

There are hundreds of fascinating but overlooked wild vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, and herbs growing in our neighborhoods, backyards, parks, and forests. Because of its varied habitats and diversity of plant life, Central Park is a great place to find them. With “Wildman” Steve Brill, naturalist, author, and environmental educator, you'll learn what these plants are, where they are, and how they may be used as renewable resources.

Geology of Riverside Park and Drive

Thursday, May 28 MW052809
6:30–8 pm
\$30

Join geologist Sidney Horenstein on this walking tour starting at 116th and heading north to Grant's Tomb and beyond. Learn about the influence of geology on the design and development of the park and its surrounding area, and explore the origin of the building stone used in the construction of many structures.

HALL TOURS

Civilization and Culture of Ancient Egypt

Sunday, May 31 MH053109
3–5:45 pm
Free

Join tour guide Eileen Flood for a tour focusing on objects, artifacts, and displays related to the civilization and culture of ancient Egypt. An optional discussion group on ancient Egypt will take place in the Portrait Room after the tour for interested members.

PREVIOUSLY LISTED

(Space may be available for the following programs)

Behind the Scenes in Herpetology

Thursday, April 23
6:30 pm MBo42309A
7 pm MBo42309B
7:30 pm MBo42309C
\$35

Curatorial Associate David Kizirian and colleagues offer Members a unique opportunity to visit the rarely seen research collections of amphibians and reptiles in the Department of Herpetology, which houses more than 350,000 specimens from nearly every country in the world.

Coal Mining in Pennsylvania

Saturday, April 25 MO042509
8:30 am–6 pm
\$110

Watch the sky disappear as you slowly descend 300 feet into the Lackawanna Coal Mine in Scranton, PA, with geologist Joe Boesenberg. Together you'll explore the winding caverns that were used to mine three veins of anthracite, a high purity form of coal, in Pennsylvania's Llewellyn Formation, and visit the Anthracite Heritage Museum. Price includes admission and transportation by private coach.

EXPEDITION

Cape May Weekend

Friday, May 15–Sunday, May 17
MO051509
\$398 Double occupancy
\$165 additional for single occupancy

For two centuries Cape May, an historic Victorian beach town at the southern tip of New Jersey, has been known as a premiere location for observing birds, with over 400 bird species recorded. Paul Sweet, Collection Manager of the AMNH Ornithology Department, will lead the tour to the Cape May Point State Park, South Cape May Meadows, and Higbee Beach. On Saturday afternoon, take a boat

cruise around Cape May to view dolphins, shore birds, and maybe a whale or two. Price includes transportation by private coach, breakfast at the hotel, boat excursion, admissions, and two nights' lodging at the Grand Hotel, Cape May, NJ.



Ruddy Turnstones on the Beach, Cape May, NJ | R. Lego, Courtesy of the Cape May Bird Observatory

This spring, give that important graduate or young professional the gift of a membership combining scientific discovery with social interaction in one of New York's top junior groups. The Junior Council is a Museum membership group of young (ages 22–39), philanthropic New Yorkers. With its year-long program of special events, Junior Council membership is a great way to meet people while enjoying an intimate view of the Museum's collections and latest exhibitions.

One-year memberships, gift memberships, and membership renewals are available and are now accepted year-round. For more information, or

to purchase a membership or gift membership online, please visit www.amnh.org/join/junior_council

or contact Ashley Kaufman at (212) 769-5256 or akaufman@amnh.org.



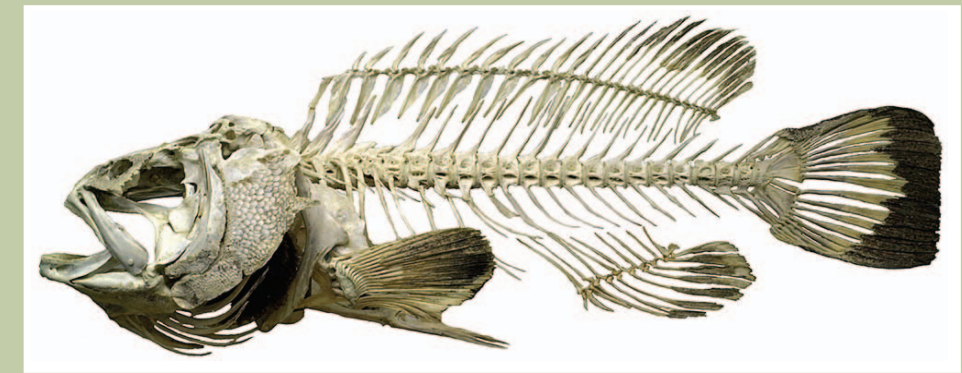
Junior Council members enjoying cocktails at the Climate Change: The Threat to Life and A New Energy Future event, December 4, 2008 | AMNH/R. Mickens

Paralamyctes prendinii, Zygothrica desallei, Pumilia novaceki: if you look closely at the scientific names of these species, living and extinct, Museum curators Lorenzo Prendini, Rob DeSalle, and Michael Novacek jump from the page. Now, Melanie Stiassny, who previously lent her name to an African electric catfish, has been doubly honored by the proposal of Stiassnyiformes as a name for a large order of fish within the spiny rayed group. Colleagues from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris are revising the messy taxonomic relationships among the 16,000 spiny rayed fish, which represent about a third of all known vertebrates.

“The spiny rayed fish are a massive problem for morphologists,” said Stiassny. “In 1993, I suggested that the grey mullet—at loose ends taxonomically—was related to guppies, damselfish, and other species. What is really cool is that the new molecular survey found strong support for this idea.”

Colleagues often use the names of scientists to honor their discoveries. Mark Siddall, for example, used DNA analysis and electron microscopy to upend what was known about a parasite known to infect fish; *Myxobolus siddalli* is not related to single-celled protozoans but to jellyfish and other cnidarians. Mammalogist Rob Voss also shares his name with a parasite. “So far, just one fossil mouse and one filarial parasite have been named for me,” said Voss. “I think both were well-intentioned, but with parasite names, one never knows!”

When scientists study animals encased in exoskeletons, the number of species bearing those scientists' names jumps. Wasp taxonomist Jim Carpenter recalls a Vietnamese stingless bee and five species of potter wasps named after him. Norm Platnick and Jerry Rozen, Curators in



A spiny rayed fish fossil from the Stiassnyiformes order, named after Curator Melanie Stiassny | AMNH

the Division of Invertebrate Zoology for 35 and 49 years, respectively, have each seen about two dozen species named after them. Platnick's work with tarantulas (whose species are highly sexually dimorphic) connected a genus known only from female specimens to a group of small, bizarre, and enigmatic males, and Rozen's shared fieldwork with his wife led to the scientific naming of the bee species *Zikanapis rozenorum*.

only in the southern hemisphere—into disarray.

Some species names, however, don't last for long. The scientific name of paleontologist John Maisey's genus of fossil shark, *Maiseyodus*, was never published, though his wife had better luck. “A good friend named a trilobite, *Tormesiscus gloriae*, after her,” he said. “She was thrilled...until she discovered it was blind!”

For others, species simply become endangered or extinct. *Propithecus tattersalli*, the golden-crowned sifaka first observed in northeastern Madagascar by Ian Tattersall, appears on IUCN's Red List as a critically endangered primate. Ichthyologist John Sparks believes that a Malagasy fish collected by and named for his wife and him may no longer exist, and the same fate has probably befallen the Central American alligator lizard from Guatemala, named for reptile expert Darrel Frost, and the tiny shrew-tenrec from Madagascar, named for Vertebrate Zoologist Ross MacPhee. “My only eponymous fame is to have one of the world's smallest extinct insectivores named after me (it would have weighed, at most, a few grams),” said MacPhee. “And I am presumably best known for working on big, Pleistocene, extinct species like mammoths!”



Propithecus tattersalli, a Madagascan sifaka named after Curator Ian Tattersall | AMNH

Numerous arthropods are also named after colleague David Grimaldi, but these are fossilized in amber. His favorite is a primitive spider from Burma that dates to 100 million years ago and throws previously neat predictions based on living species—namely, that this group was found

A Special Tribute to a Special Supporter



Caroline Boss | C. Boss

Margaret Boss worked for a large medical practice on West 81st Street, across from the Museum, in the 1950s. She spent most of her lunch hours exploring and enjoying the wealth of exhibits and educational programs the Museum had to offer. Her daughter, Caroline, grew up spending many Saturday afternoons at the Museum. One of her first memories is of lying on the floor under the giant whale in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life. Caroline credits her lifelong focus on education—and biology in particular—to her early family visits to the Museum. She currently works as the Director of Finance for a not-for-profit community learning resource center on Long Island.

Several years ago, Caroline began funding charitable gift annuities with the Museum. Instead of receiving her annuity payments immediately, however, Caroline chose to defer the payments until after she retires. She's still entitled to an immediate income tax charitable deduction, but by deferring the payments, those she receives will be much larger, and she'll probably be in a lower tax bracket when she gets them.

“Charitable gift annuities are a wonderful way to both supplement individual retirement planning and give back to those institutions that truly make a difference in our community,” she says. “The Museum continues to foster excellence in scientific research and educational programs that enrich us all.”

Public Programs

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

GLOBAL KITCHEN

Michael Pollan: In Defense of Food

Thursday, May 14 ELo51409
6:30 pm
Kaufmann Theater
\$15 (\$13.50 Members, students,
senior citizens)

Author Michael Pollan shows us how more thoughtful food choices can improve our health and enrich our lives. A book signing follows.



MILSTEIN SCIENCE SERIES

Fabien and Celine Cousteau with Ensemble ACJW

Sunday, May 17
1 pm
Milstein Hall of Ocean Life
FREE with Museum admission
Space is limited, recommended for
families with children 6 and older.
amnh.org/programs/milstein

Explore the underwater world of the orca, or killer whale, with Fabien and Celine Cousteau, third-generation ocean explorers. They will be followed by "Voice of the Whale" a special multimedia performance by Ensemble ACJW featuring George Crumb's landmark chamber piece *Vox Balaenae*. The young professional musicians of Ensemble ACJW are fellows of The Academy, a program of Carnegie Hall, The Julliard School, and The Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education.



Dan Zanes

Identification Day

Saturday, June 13
12:30–3:30 pm
Milstein Hall of Ocean Life
FREE with Museum admission

Bring your shells, rocks, insects, and artifacts to our annual Identification Day! Museum scientists will attempt to identify your mysterious finds and bizarre curios. In conjunction with the new exhibition *Extreme Mammals*, artifacts and specimens from the Museum's Collections will be on display. Comic book artists Larry Hama, Paolo Rivera, and Phil Jimenez (Marvel), will demonstrate how translating mammalian traits into Superhero powers created Wolverine, Beast, and other comic characters.

Note: No appraisals will be given, and gemstones will not be identified.

Dan Zanes: Wet & Wild Sing Along

Sunday, June 21
11 am and 2 pm
FREE with Museum admission
Tickets will be available onsite
on a first-come, first served basis
at 10 am on the day of the event;
limit 4 per family.

What better place to enjoy the music-hall style of Songmaster Dan Zanes than under AMNH's giant blue whale! Sing along to songs that celebrate the wonders of the ocean. Zanes and his band celebrate homemade family music that can be sung anywhere by everyone.

Proudly sponsored by the Paul and Irma Milstein Family

SCIENCE & SOCIETY

Annual IRIS Lecture: Roaring Oceans and Singing Icebergs

Wednesday, June 24 ELo62409
6:30 pm
Linder Theater
\$15 (\$13.50, members, students, seniors)

Rick C. Aster, Professor of Geophysics and Department Chair, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, examines seismic data in order to determine how the ice sheets and icebergs of Antarctica are affected by severe ocean storm waves. This ongoing research illuminates previously unsuspected links between climate, oceanography, seismology, and glaciology.

Introduced by Ed Mathez, Curator, AMNH, Division of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Co-presented with IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecture Series.

Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta

Wednesday, June 10 Efo61009
7 pm
LeFrak IMAX Theater
\$17 Adults; \$13.50 (children, students,
and senior citizens)

Shot in breathtaking IMAX, *Journey to Mecca* is the extraordinary adventure story of a young man named Ibn Battuta and his epic and perilous journey in 1325 from Morocco to the sacred city of Mecca.

This film is presented as part of Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas (June 5-14), a city-wide festival celebrating the cultural diversity and multiple perspectives that represent the Muslim World.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



MUSEUM SHOP

TIES GALORE FOR FATHER'S DAY!



Whatever his fancy, you'll find the perfect gift among these 100% silk ties, inspired by our exhibition halls, scientific research, and New York City:

- A. DNA strands
- B. Constellations
- C. Dinosaurs*
- D. Rocks and Relief
- E. NYC subway map
- F. Kente cloth design*
- G. Dino skulls

* Also available in blue

a gifted idea.

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

To place orders, call our Personal Shopper at 1-800-671-7035 or shop at

www.amnhshop.com