



New England Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet for 40 years

Central Wharf
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Summer at the Aquarium!

The Aquarium has everything you need for a great summer day:

The New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center—get close to the seals and see how humans and marine mammals compare!

Marine Mammals in Motion—get moving to experience this fun program for yourself.

Whale Watch season is in full swing—adventure awaits you aboard our high-speed catamaran.

Simons IMAX Theatre—cool off by taking in one of our IMAX 3D films such as *Under the Sea 3D*.

The Reef—our outdoor eatery overlooking the harbor has something for everyone.

Take advantage of your membership discount! Plan your visit now at neaq.org or call 617-973-5206.

Move It!

Marine Mammals in Motion

Exclusively sponsored by



New England Aquarium Telephone Numbers

General Information: 617-973-5200
Reservations: 617-973-5206
Functions: 617-973-5205
IMAX: 866-815-4629
Marine Animal Stranding Hotline: 617-973-5247
Membership Office: 617-973-6564
Development Office: 617-226-2134
Volunteer Office: 617-973-5235

Web site: www.neaq.org

Summer Hours

July 1-Labor Day
Sunday-Thursday and holidays: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday, Saturday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Winter Hours

Day after Labor Day-June 30
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday, holidays: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day
Open at noon on New Year's Day

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions! Send an email to jives@neaq.org.

*Members, keep up with the latest Aquarium news with **Sea-Mail**, the members-only e-newsletter. Sign up at neaq.org/members.*



New England Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet for 40 years

blue

It's time for a blue lifestyle.

***New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center:
All about the new exhibit, the animals
and the summertime fun***

A brand new way to live blue

Searching for sea turtles with Connie Merigo

Volume 42, Number 3 SUMMER 2009

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Connie Merigo
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Leatherback sea turtle/Seapics.com

Cover Photo:
Fur seal/Seapics.com

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@neaq.org

Dive into the sea of resources at neaq.org. The site is full of conservation information, animal facts and details that will help you plan your next trip to the Aquarium.

Throughout the issue, look for this icon to point out items that you can further explore on our website.



Plan Your Visit
This summer is sure to be a fun one at the Aquarium! Get directions, find out parking options and download a Visitor Guide.

Check Out the Film Listings
See the films in the Simons IMAX Theatre, including *Under the Sea 3D* and more.

Interact With Us: neaq.org/blogs
Hear from the divers in our Giant Ocean Tank, our marine mammal trainers and our global explorers.

View Upcoming Events
Make the most of your member discounts on Family Field Trips, Celebrate Seafood Dinners and much more!

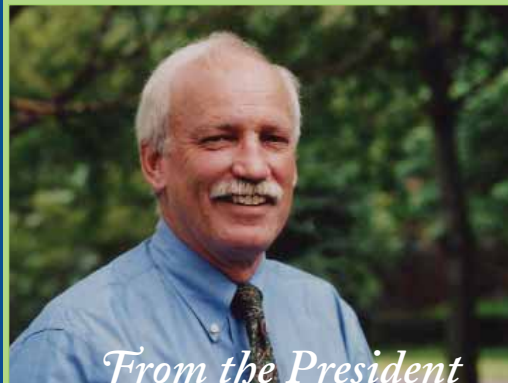
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From the President

Welcome to summer, *blue* readers. It's the time of year that makes the windy, snowy, icy winter seem like a distant memory. Here on Central Wharf, we are certainly doing our part to provide a fantastic summer.

Thanks to a generous gift from the New Balance Foundation and the hard work of our construction and architectural teams, we are thrilled to unveil the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center. The new exhibit is located on the waterside of the Aquarium and features a new Harborwalk and spectacular views of Boston Harbor, as well as two new pools for pinnipeds.

Five fur seals will arrive during June and July, as we join only three other institutions in North America in providing homes for this entertaining and athletic mammal. We are also launching *Marine Mammals in Motion*, an engaging program showing the connections between marine mammals and people—and how we all need exercise and a healthy diet. Visitors will also learn about the challenges marine mammals face today and how the Aquarium is helping to protect them.

We continue to make strides for our blue planet, now with the launch of the Live Blue Initiative on the web. It's incredibly easy to get involved. Just visit LiveBlueInitiative.org and learn how you can help save a critical "piece" of the ocean. Then share this information with others and watch how your "plot" of the world is protected. It shows that the work you do as one person does indeed make a difference.

Bud Ris
Bud Ris
President & CEO

at the aquarium



new balance foundation MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

This summer, drop by the Aquarium's spacious new back patio. Thanks to the generosity of the New Balance Foundation, the Aquarium has completed its latest signature exhibit on the harborside of the main building.

The New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center is a naturally lit, open-air exhibit that gives visitors a front seat to see northern fur seals in action. In addition to photo opportunities with the life-size fur seal statue and marine mammal silhouettes, the exhibit features interactive panels that allow visitors to touch fur seal teeth and see an underwater image through their eyes.

The entire experience centers on the expanded northern fur seal pool where visitors can witness these amazing animals in action. The new enclosure gives these sleek animals plenty of room to gallop and swim. There is also a shallow pool for mid-summer lounging and speedy surface skimming. Thanks to the newly designed tiered seating, seal fans can get a good view of all these behaviors.

Meet the New Mammals

The new harborside exhibit space is one of the few places people can see northern fur seals. There are only 13 of these rare animals in zoos and aquariums across the United States, including these individuals you're likely to see at the Aquarium.

Cordova

Cordova frequently interacts with visitors through the glass and chases reflected light.

Baranov

Since Baranov's vision is impaired due to cataracts, his long whiskers are often extended forward so that he can feel his way around the exhibit or maintain contact with a trainer.

Ursula

Ursula has a light colored patch of fur on her chest. She is about the same size as Cordova, but her whiskers are shorter.

Isaac

Isaac's vocalization is an interesting clicking sound. His mane is more silver than Baranov's.

JD

JD is the oldest and largest female in the exhibit. Her initials stand for "Jimmy's Daughter." JD was named after her father, Jimmy.

—Jeff Ives



Cordova



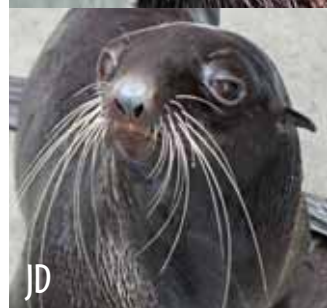
Baranov



Ursula



Isaac



JD

Curator of Marine Mammals: Kathy Streeter



Kathy Streeter is the Aquarium's curator of marine mammals, but you might recognize her from the 1985 film *Cocoon*. She was the movie's dolphin trainer until the crew discovered that actor Tahnee Welch (Raquel's daughter) wasn't scuba certified. Kathy ended up on camera diving with the dolphins among a maze of creepy underwater props. And that's not even her strangest movie experience.

She also trained dolphins for the 1986 drama *Where the River Runs Black*. That screenplay called for a pod of Amazon River dolphins to raise an orphan boy and help avenge his mother's death. "It was an offer I couldn't refuse," Kathy remembers, "despite the many inherent challenges of working with free-ranging species I knew nothing about in the middle of nowhere!" Kathy's can-do attitude has opened doors to a series of eyebrow-raising jobs beyond her two Hollywood gigs. Kathy has trained harbor seals to retrieve guns from riverbeds; worked with beluga whales, dolphins and sea lions in open waters; assisted with the rehabilitation and release of stranded pilot whales, Atlantic white-sided dolphins and harbor porpoises; and conducted groundbreaking research on sea turtle hearing.

"Each species has unique, awe-inspiring ways of interpreting their environment and the challenges they face," Kathy says. "Finding a window into how animals think, learn and perceive their world is the most exciting aspect of my job," Kathy says. That applies to more animals than marine mammals. Recently, Aquarium trainers have started working with turtles, snakes, lobsters, fish and frogs. The results? "We have learned that these animals are quite thoughtful, emotional and engaged when presented with choices."

At the Aquarium, "the trainers are encouraged to rely on their own intuition and creativity," Kathy says. "We give them guidelines and let them get to know the animals and explore different training techniques."

That exploratory style helped launch Kathy's career in the field. One of her first breakthroughs was training a blind dolphin at the Miami Seaquarium. The other trainers considered the dolphin "untrainable" because dolphin trainers traditionally rely on visual aids and hand gestures. But Kathy was able to train the blind dolphin to do more behaviors than the sighted ones using touch and verbal cues.

Trainers use the same methods today with the various sight-impaired animals at the Aquarium. The lack of vision doesn't slow the animals down

at all. One of those sight-impaired animals is Baranov the northern fur seal. He and the other fur seals have a new environment to explore in the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center. Visitors can see the fur seals gallop (run) along the pool's edge, porpoise (jump) out of the deep water and even skim the surface of the shallow wading area.

"Fur seals are like Dr. Seuss animals," Kathy says. She introduced the species to the Aquarium several years ago because they display an intriguing and comical combination of characteristics that are traditionally associated with sea otters and sea lions. They can also help share important messages about ocean health.

Fur seals are some of the many animals impacted by fisheries interactions and global climate change. Encouraging people to act on these issues is one of the central goals of the Aquarium's new exhibit and the training programs presented by Kathy and her team.

—Jeff Ives

On the Web

**Mammals in Motion:
Let's Play Video Contest**
www.neaq.org/letsplay

Come to the Aquarium and check out the *Marine Mammals in Motion* theme program! Once you've seen the seals in action, submit a video of yourself or your family playing like a seal. The entry with the most votes will win a chance to go behind the scenes and see the seals up close!

**Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice
and Sunsets**
coralnotesfromthefield.blogspot.com
The life of a coral researcher and advocate isn't all glamour. Rick MacPherson of the Coral Reef Alliance covers the latest news on coral conservation and offers his expert analysis.

Oceans4Ever
www.oceans4ever.com
Combine a freelance-writer mom, Cindy, and a manatee-loving 9-year-old, Alexa, and you get this new family-owned ocean blog. The pair report on their favorite ocean news and share Aquarium experiences. Alexa's Freaky Fish Friday is the vehicle for Alexa's favorite odd fish stories—don't be surprised if you see New England Aquarium bloggers show up in these features!

New England Aquarium Blogs
www.neaq.org/blogs
Get the latest from the Marine Animal Rescue Team, Giant Ocean Tank Divers and Marine Mammal Trainers. Catch all of the posts by following the Aquarium on www.neaq.org or friending us on Facebook (www.faceto.us/NEAQ).

Some Hot Eco-Topics

Bioelectricity
Biomass may generate more energy as electricity than ethanol fuel.

Goat Mowers
Google's Mountain View campus saves energy with a yearly goat herd mowing.

Relaxation Rechargers
New Chinese relaxation balls hold batteries and charge kinetically.

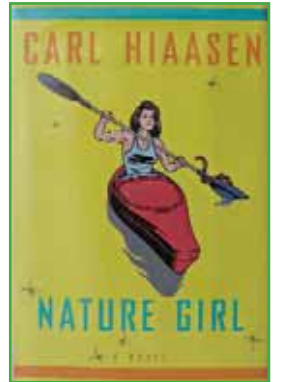
Beach Books for a Blue Lifestyle

With summer upon us, it's time to break out the beach blanket and find a tasty page-turner. Here are two new novels that will satisfy your love of the blue planet and your summer story cravings.

Nature Girl (2008)

by Carl Hiaasen

Hiaasen has staked his claim on modern fiction by combining two things: madcap pacing and Florida environmentalism. Pick up any of Hiaasen's titles and you're guaranteed a cast of quirky characters, a rapid-fire series of shocking events and a villain who exploits the natural environment. *Nature Girl's* character parade is led by eco-idealist Honey Santana, her drug-running ex-husband, her sexually harassing coworker, the telemarketer who won't stop calling her during dinner and the telemarketer's mistress. (Fun fact: Hiaasen's one-word-title novels such as *Hoot* and *Flush* are meant for young readers. This isn't one of them.) Honey takes her band of misfits into the Everglades, where they discover the negative human impact on the nation's most famous wetland. They also discover a failed alligator wrestler and his coed groupie, but we'll let you read that for yourself.

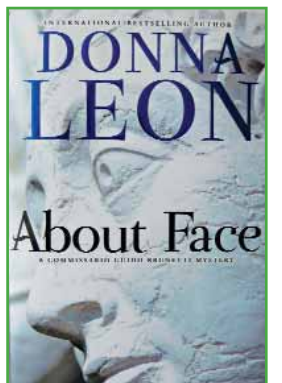


About Face (2009)

by Donna Leon

Arthur Conan Doyle gave us Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie gave us Poirot, and with 18 critically acclaimed novels, Donna Leon has added Commissario Guido Brunetti to the list of fastidious European detectives. The Venetian sleuth has already faced old-world murderers and master criminals, but in *About Face* he faces the precarious environmental future of Venice—a city subject to the Mediterranean's health and whose fate rises and falls with the sea level. The novel seamlessly blends setting and plot as picturesque Italian canals fall victim to trash-burning mobsters and polluting chemical companies. Brunetti's investigation uncovers how deep the industrial forces behind these environmental crimes go when the trail leads to his own father-in-law. The mystery itself is spellbinding, but the reader is also treated to luxurious pacing and a captivating setting that reminds us our most treasured civilizations are rooted in the sea.

—Jeff Ives



Together We Can Make a Difference

Join the New England Aquarium's Live Blue Initiative today.

www.LiveBlueInitiative.org

Teri's cube is in the waters off the coast of Fiji. She chose it after watching schools of tropical fish wash over Fijian corals and discovering how the Aquarium works with local chiefs to protect marine biodiversity from overfishing. She pledged to help by purchasing ocean-friendly seafood.

Now Teri is sharing the cube with her friends, family and social networks. She's inviting them to make their own Live Blue pledges, get their own cubes and pass the initiative along. As more and more people select cubes from crucial conservation areas around the globe, their pledges appear on the interactive map and scroll across the screen for everyone to see.

We all know our blue planet faces serious challenges, but with the Live Blue Initiative we can see the strength of ocean lovers is in our numbers and our willingness to take simple steps that will make a difference.

—Jeff Ives

liveblue
INITIATIVE



Choose an area of ocean to protect.



Learn about the animals that live there.



And pledge to protect a plot of ocean.

THERE ARE TWO THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME. FIRST, MOST PEOPLE DON'T CONSIDER ME AN ATHLETE. SECOND, I DON'T CARE. YES, I'M 30% BLUBBER, BUT WHEN I HIT THAT WATER, IT'S LIKE TIME STANDS STILL. PEOPLE SMILE. HANDS CLAP. JAWS DROP. AND YET, I'M STILL NOT CONSIDERED A SUPERSTAR. BUT DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND COME CHECK ME OUT. BECAUSE SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'LL RECONSIDER. LET'S PLAY. MARINE MAMMALS IN MOTION. SPONSORED BY NEW BALANCE FOUNDATION.



Move It!

Like a Marine Mammal!

Marine mammals, kids and adults all need to stay healthy by being active and eating right. When our seals get regular exercise and proper nutrition, they are attentive to their trainers and excited to start their training sessions. Check out the activities and illustrations on these pages to get up, get active and get to know some of the most athletic animals in the world—marine mammals! Then visit the animals at the Aquarium this summer to see them in action.

—Annie Iles



Dance

Our trainers have taught our seals to perform dance-like motions. They can reach out and stretch each of their front flippers and also move their hips from side to side.

Now you try!

Dance for 30 seconds. Wiggle your hips, move your arms and get your feet off the ground. Try dancing to your favorite song—don't stop moving until the song is over!



Touch Your Toes

A fur seal is flexible enough to rub its back with its head. This motion keeps the seal's fur clean and groomed. It also traps a layer of air bubbles in its coat, which helps it stay warm in icy water.

Now you try!

Improving your flexibility is an important part of staying fit. Try touching your toes and holding that stretch for 10 to 15 seconds. The more you do it, the more flexible you will get.



Swim

Marine mammals have a much easier time maneuvering through the water than they do on land. Fur seals propel themselves through the water by pulling against the water with their front flippers. Harbor seals move their hind ends and hind flippers from side to side to swim.

Now you try!

Have races with your friends to see who can swim fastest. You can practice your strokes on land, too. Make the arm motions for the backstroke, breaststroke, front crawl and butterfly.



Stretch Your Calves

To release muscle tension and relax, seals will lean against a wall or rock or stretch their bodies. Stretching is important for both kids and adults to maintain flexibility and prevent injury. You should always stretch before and after you exercise.

Now you try!

Stand a few feet away from a wall and lean forward to put your hands flat against it. Move one leg closer to the wall and bend that knee. You will feel a stretch in the lower part of your back leg. Hold it for 10 seconds, then switch legs and repeat.



Spin

Seals spin while swimming underwater by maneuvering with their front flippers in the same way that people use their arms to spin while skating. Seals are great observers, and spinning helps them watch their surroundings.

Now you try!

Spin around in a circle for five seconds—don't go too much longer, or you might get dizzy. How many revolutions, or complete spins, did you make?



Jump

When seals and other marine animals rocket themselves out of the water in a perfect arc, it's called porpoising. Seals can generate enough speed to propel themselves completely out of the water.

Now you try!

How high do you think you can jump? Try jumping from a standing position, then see how much higher you can get if you bend your knees first.



Who moves it better?

Think about the following questions and about whether the answer is people or seals. You'll learn the answers at the Aquarium this summer by following the *Marine Mammals in Motion* program. The answers may surprise you!

- Who has a better training routine?
- Who has the best dance moves?
- Who is more flexible?
- Who leaps higher in water?
- Who spins quicker?
- Who leaps higher on land?
- Who swims faster?

Chasing Leatherbacks



Connie Merigo searches for endangered sea turtles to gain clues about their decline

As a preschooler, Connie Merigo remembers curiously hopping up on a rock near the stream on her family farm, but then the rock started to move. Startled, she jumped off the annoyed snapping turtle's shell and ran away. Times have certainly changed.

Now the head of the Aquarium's Marine Animal Rescue Team, Connie can often be found on a fishing boat in Nantucket Sound searching for leatherback sea turtles that average several hundred pounds and can tip the scales at 1,000 pounds.

Connie is in search of these monstrous black sea turtles to help save them from impending extinction.

"Leatherbacks have been here for 100 million years, and they are disappearing. I don't want people coming to visit me in the nursing home because I was one of the last people to see them alive," explains the 16-year veteran of the Aquarium's rescue programs.

Leatherback sea turtles sound more mythical than real. These sea jelly-eating machines are the world's largest turtle and the second-largest reptile on Earth. "They look prehistoric and are the size of deflated Volkswagen Bugs with giant flippers

attached," Connie describes. Those flippers, which can span 9 feet, propel these soft-shelled behemoths to depths of more than 4,000 feet, making them the world's deepest-diving reptiles, as well as the fastest-swimming.

Despite their great stature and ancient bloodlines, these sea turtles are rapidly disappearing from the oceans. They are a critically endangered species, and one recent study predicted that they will be extinct in the Pacific by 2030.

Huge leatherbacks are among several species of sea turtles that are summertime visitors to the waters around Cape Cod. Connie, a Bridgewater State grad, saw her first live leatherback under difficult circumstances. Shortly after starting with the Aquarium, the rescue team responded to a rare call for a live leatherback stranding. They found it on a Bourne, MA, beach, near death with entanglement injuries on its huge flippers. Connie quietly recalls, "I was up close. It was still breathing and looking around. I was amazed that it was still alive with wounds that would have killed a mammal." The team quickly and humanely euthanized the turtle.

But Connie's fascination was piqued by the undeniable majesty of these rugged reptiles. Unlike most other sea turtles, leatherbacks have some warm-blooded features. Over the course of Connie's study, she found that leatherbacks maintain a body temperature nearly 10 degrees higher than the water temperature—allowing them to forage for food in much colder waters than other sea turtles. Leatherbacks often migrate beyond Cape Cod into the Gulf of Maine and even into coastal waters of Canada's Maritime Provinces.

The most common human-related threat to leatherbacks in New England waters is the tendency for them to get their flippers wrapped around vertical lines in the water, such as those attached to lobster pots or



Connie assesses the health of a leatherback sea turtle in the field.

boat moorings. Many years ago, Connie worked with Bob Prescott of the Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary at Wellfleet Bay to learn life-saving yet hazardous disentanglement techniques. Recently, she responded to a struggling leatherback entangled in fishing line. As Connie worked to free the animal, its flipper smacked her face and broke her nose. Yet Connie and her fellow rescuers still managed to free the turtle—even while the team nursed a broken nose and a mild concussion delivered to one of the other rescuers.

A few years ago, another call came in for a live leatherback stranded in Chatham, MA. To her team's surprise, they found a healthy and robust 700-pound leatherback that had been dropped on a sand spit by a falling tide. Tracks indicated that the distressed turtle had wandered in all directions trying to find his way back to the disappearing sea. "We slid two dolphin stretchers underneath it, and with the strong backs of many rescuers, we walked it back into the surf," she recalls.

Soon after, a 350-pound turtle was found on the Cape critically ill, and they brought it back to the Aquarium for treatment. No Aquarium has ever kept a leatherback on exhibit, mainly because leatherbacks are open-ocean turtles that rarely encounter a boundary. Sick turtles would continuously crash into the walls of their rehabilitation tanks, further injuring themselves. Connie reached out to her resourceful Aquarium colleague Barbara Bailey to solve the problem. Staying up much of the night, Barbara and Aquarium staff designed and built the huge turtle a harness in the center of the rehabilitation pool. This ingenious solution allowed the leatherback to swim continuously in circles without crashing into the tank's walls. A few days later, the leatherback quietly passed away.

This unique case prompted Connie to realize that there was almost no baseline medical data available on leatherbacks in the wild. She wrote a grant to conduct health assessments on them and discovered that her proposal could work with a research project on leatherback migration patterns being supervised by former Aquarium scientist, Dr. Molly Lutcavage, who now works at the University of New Hampshire's Large Pelagics Research Center.

That leads us back to Connie hunting leatherbacks. Using a retrofitted lobster boat and hiring a spotter pilot who usually searches for large tuna, the leatherback researchers found themselves on the south

side of Nantucket. They left the dock at 3:30 a.m. and soon found their boat surrounded by a bevy of leatherbacks feasting on sea jellies. They picked out one extremely large turtle and approached it from behind. They extended a long pole with a hoop and net attached and placed it into the swimming path of the turtle. He swam into it perfectly. The net broke



A leatherback sea turtle fitted with a satellite transmitter

away from the pole as designed, and the turtle was carefully and gently hauled onto the deck of the boat. At more than half a ton, this magnificent but bewildered creature found itself on a deck surrounded by strange beings. Connie describes excitedly, "Once on board, they will sometimes vocalize. It's a deep, guttural sound like a low rumble that sounds like it's coming around a lot but are not aggressive." Less than 45 minutes later, that leviathan was comfortably back in the water with a small satellite transmitter glued to the back of its shell while Connie was busy organizing a variety of medical data and samples.

From her first naive encounter with a snapping turtle near her childhood home, to an awe-inspiring meeting with the world's largest turtles on the open sea, Connie has been dedicated to better understanding and protecting the amazing animals around us. She sums it up simply, "It's always been a way of life."

—Tony LaCasse

You can read more about sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation at neaq.org/blogs.

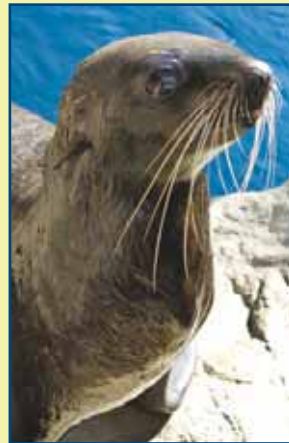


Maximize Your Membership This Summer!

Members get discounts on all of the Aquarium fun—take advantage this summer and plan a great staycation for your family and friends.

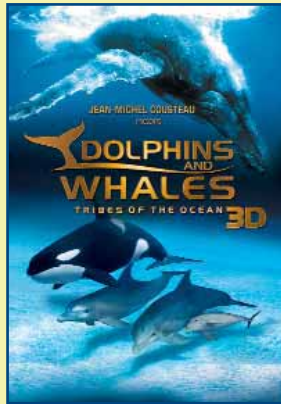
Free Admission for You and Discounts for Extra Guests

Check your membership level for info on the number of free guests you may bring as well as discounted tickets you may buy. For example, Patron-level members may bring three guests and purchase three additional discounted tickets for that day's visit.



Be the First to See the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center

Bring the whole family or a bunch of friends and check out the just-opened New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center! Get up close to the animals and see how they compare to humans.



Add an IMAX Film

Cool off inside the Simons IMAX Theatre and catch a hot 3D film such as *Under the Sea 3D* or *Dolphins and Whales 3D* for a discounted price!

Set Sail on a Whale Watch

Aquarium Whale Watches travel 30 miles east of Boston to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, a busy feeding area for whales, dolphins, sea birds and other marine life. Members receive a discount on tickets. Voyages last three to four hours, and reservations are strongly recommended.

Get Sailing Savings Aboard The Liberty Clipper

The Liberty Clipper will be docked at the Aquarium this summer and will take passengers on sails daily. Aquarium members receive a 10% discount. Call 617-742-0333 or visit libertyfleet.com for more information, or purchase tickets on the Aquarium Plaza.



Hop Aboard a Boston Duck Tour

Your Aquarium membership now grants you a discount aboard Boston Duck Tours! Journey around the city for a tour you will never forget. Purchase tickets on the Aquarium Plaza.

Share Your Email Address to Live Blue

Did you know that for every ton of paper that is recycled, 7,000 gallons of water are saved? One of our goals this year is to reduce the amount of paper we use to communicate with our members. You can help us make a difference to the health of our planet by visiting our website and sharing your email address with us. By doing so, you will receive our monthly member newsletter, *SeaMail*, as well as electronic invitations to exclusive members-only events and activities.

To update or add your email address to our list, visit us today at neaq.org/members. We appreciate your help!



Happy Birthday to You!

Congratulations to our friends who celebrated their birthdays with us this spring.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Demepris, 5 | Calla, 3 |
| Addy, 5 | Campbell, 5 |
| Sheridan, 6 | Ben, 4 |
| Zak, 5 | Alexandra, 3 |
| Pietro, 6 | Nikhial, 4 |
| Lorenzo, 4 | Kathryn, 3 |
| Olivia, 10 | Molly, 9 |
| Alexander, 6 | Elizabeth, 3 |
| Oliver, 3 | Shira, 6 |
| Paul, 7 | Leo, 4 |
| Lily, 5 | Annabell, 5 |
| Cate, 2 | Audrey, 7 |
| Nicholas, 7 | Cason, 4 |
| Paul, 4 | Devin, 8 |
| Ava, 5 | Michael, 1 |
| Spencer, 3 | Josune, 7 |
| Alex, 3 | Jomari, 6 |
| Nicole, 3 | Zoey-O, 7 |
| Shante, 5 | Joel, 4 |

Aquarium birthday parties are available exclusively to members. Book a Summer Splash birthday party and receive a discount—visit neaq.org/birthdays for more information.

To take advantage of the special members-only privilege of hosting a birthday party at the Aquarium, please call 617-973-5206.



new balance foundation

Throughout its nearly 30-year history, the New Balance Foundation has worked toward the prevention of childhood obesity by providing funding to organizations that contribute to the overall health and well-being of local communities. Now, with a \$3 million gift to the Aquarium's New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center, they have broadened that mission to include connecting personal health to the environment.

"We really aim to support community programs and non-profits that instill a love of activity in children and encourage children to take care of their bodies," said Megan Bloch, Charitable Programs Manager at the

New Balance Foundation. "We are really excited about the Aquarium initiative because the exhibit brings kids into the natural world and gets them to be active while having fun."

The new exhibit and the *Marine Mammals in Motion* program, along with Fitness Fridays, Mammal Maniacs week of Harbor Discoveries Camp and Splash—the Aquarium's new fitness mascot—are all sponsored by the Foundation and promote activity and fitness while increasing awareness of marine life and conservation in a fun and engaging way.

"I'm particularly excited about the opportunity to bring large numbers of kids into this



New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center groundbreaking

Donor spotlight

fantastic new exhibit," Megan said. "We already have a number of in-school initiatives, and through our work with the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club, we reach children after school as well. Now, the Aquarium initiative enables us to really get involved with the larger community in a tremendous way."

That's exactly what Jim and Anne Davis had in mind when they established the New Balance Foundation in 1981, to fulfill the company's commitment to the community in good times and bad. The New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center reflects their passion for encouraging children to develop and maintain healthy and active lifestyles.

"Our ultimate goal is for New England to have the healthiest kids in the country, and our work with the Aquarium will help us get there."

—Annie Iles

Volunteer spotlight



Annie Rohan, Penguin Volunteer

Annie Rohan grew up in sunny California, but her position as a volunteer in the Aquarium's penguin exhibit has made her very comfortable in cold weather. During the past winter, she braved many snowstorms to come in for her Sunday shift, and the penguin exhibit itself is notorious for the chilly water temperature!

Annie has been a volunteer for a little more than a year, and her supervisor, Paul Leonard, said that her enthusiasm and work ethic has made Sunday the day that things get done.

"Annie takes pride in her work, and this attitude has spread to the other Sunday volunteers, making them a dedicated group with a can-do attitude. With Annie leading the effort, they pride themselves on

accomplishing tasks in one day that would usually take a week to finish," Paul said.

Annie's willingness to work even extends to mundane responsibilities, such as washing all the wetsuits worn by volunteers. In fact, Annie has even given up opportunities to

feed the animals—one of the most exciting aspects of volunteering at the Aquarium—to get the "unglamorous" tasks done.

"When Annie comes in, she definitely makes it count!" Paul said.

—Annie Iles

For information on becoming an Aquarium volunteer, please visit www.neaq.org/get_involved.



Illustration: B. Harmon



Opening July 1

The New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center

Get active, get moving and get up close with our marine mammals this summer at the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center.

Entertaining and engaging programs, along with a new innovative and interactive exhibit, will promote fitness while increasing awareness of marine life and conservation. Draw connections between marine mammals and humans, and learn about the challenges marine mammals face in our oceans today. Interact with our fur seals through daily presentations that highlight animal health, fitness and diet.

Seal Programs Trainer for a Morning

Learn what it's like to work with marine mammals while you observe and/or participate in training sessions behind the scenes at our harbor seal exhibit. Discover the individual personalities of the seals and learn how different training techniques create successful learning environments.

Fee: \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members (includes Aquarium admission)

Come Play with the Seals!

Our seals love to have fun. Entertain your newest friends and get up close to watch them splash around in the water. No two sessions are alike!

Fee: \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members (does not include Aquarium admission)



July

7/18

**Family Field Trip—
End of the World
1 to 3 p.m.
World's End, Hingham**

We will explore the unique terrain of World's End, part of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park, and compare the different habitats we find, from the rocky shore to salt marshes.

Fee: \$15 per person for members, \$18 per person for non-members. A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket.

7/26

**Two of a Kind—Family
Musical Act
3 p.m.
Aquarium Plaza**

Two of a Kind delights audiences of all ages with their music, good humor and audience participation. The husband and wife duo David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans love bringing people together and building community through music. They present concerts for families and children, including songs, puppets, movement and stories.

August

8/15

**Family Field Trip—Boston
Harbor Island Excursion
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (approximate)
Lovell's Island, Boston Harbor**

On this excursion, we will spend the day tidepooling, hiking, discussing the history of the island and enjoying the sights of beautiful Boston Harbor.

Fee: \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members (includes ferry ride). A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket.

For more information on tours, classes, camps and members' nights, please call Central Reservations at 617-973-5206 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. Reservations are required for most programs, unless otherwise noted. Space is limited, so sign up early! Some fees and restrictions may apply.

Little Fishes Play Group

Age 1 (members only)

Fee per series: \$70

A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket.

Children must be accompanied for this informal one-hour program in the Aquarium's Curious George Discovery Corner. Toys and activities will be provided and your child will interact with you and other children.

Fall Sessions (all at 9:30 a.m.):

Wednesdays: September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14

Thursdays: September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15

Rainbow Ocean Play Group

Ages 2 to 5

Fee per class: \$15 members, \$18 non-members

A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket.

Spend your summer Saturdays exploring the ocean one color at a time! These one-hour sessions include free play, circle time with songs, stories, and activities, art projects, and games in the Aquarium's Ocean Center from 10 to 11 a.m.

July 11: Red, **July 18:** Orange, **July 25:** Yellow, **August 1:** Green, **August 15:** Blue, **August 22:** Purple

Family Explorers

Ages 2 to 4 (according to schedule)

Fee per series: \$50 members, \$95 non-members

A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket.

Save! Sign up for three or more series at a time and receive a \$5 credit per session.

Learn about the world of water alongside your young child. We focus on developing children's motor and language skills and encouraging early science skills. Classes include free play, circle time with songs, stories and activities, art projects, and games. Classes are held in the Aquarium's

September



9/8

**Summer Crowds Are Gone—
Time for a Visit!**

If you haven't yet visited the Aquarium's recently-opened New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center, now is a fantastic time! Whale Watch season is still going strong as well, so visit neaq.org to plan your day on Central Wharf.

Ocean Center. The fee includes the cost of all four classes. Adults are included in the cost of each child since children must be accompanied.

Series 4: Ocean Opposites

Study how various pond animals move. Who hops? Who swims? Who flies? And who walks?

Toddler Explorers (Age 2)

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.: September 18, 25, October 2, 9

Preschool Explorers (Ages 3 to 4)

Tuesdays at 11 a.m.: September 15, 22, 29, October 6

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.: September 18, 25, October 2, 9

Ocean Detectives

Ages 5 to 13 (according to schedule)

Fee: \$17 members, \$30 non-members

A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket.

Save! Sign up for three or more classes at one time and receive a \$2 credit per session.

Classes will meet for an hour and a half on Saturdays to learn about the watery world. Children will work with parents and peers to unlock the secrets of the deep while developing their math, science and literacy skills. We may track turtles, study crab movement or look for trends in penguin behavior. Programs take place in the Harborside Learning Lab, across the plaza from the Aquarium. Junior Detectives classes are for 5- to 7-year-olds, and Advanced Detectives classes are for 8- to 12-year-olds. Classes run from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

August 8

Junior Detectives: Whales

Advanced Detectives: Dockside Detectives

September 12

Junior Detectives: Investigating Invertebrates

Advanced Detectives: Tunicates

Call Central Reservations at 617-973-5206 to reserve your space.

Celebrate Seafood Dinner Series



**Celebrate
Seafood with
the Aquarium!**

The Celebrate Seafood Dinner Series provides

a delicious three-course meal, paired with wines, as well as informative and fun cooking demonstrations by Aquarium chefs and special guest chefs. Guests also receive printed recipe cards for all featured dishes of the evening. Reservations are required. Call 617-973-5206.

Fee: \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members

Upcoming dinners

August 25, with Guest Chef Mary Dumont of Harvest, highlighting quahogs, squid and wild stripers

October 6, with Guest Chef Jose Duarte of Taranta, highlighting mussels, Alaska salmon and sablefish

Visit www.neaq.org/celebrateseafood 

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Get an inside view of how we feed the animals, keep the exhibits clean and make sure the animals are robust and healthy. Ask our educators all of your questions and photograph the exciting sights as you take a sneak peek behind the scenes of one of our galleries.

Fee: \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members (does not include Aquarium admission). A \$2 service fee will be added to each ticket. Tours can accommodate groups of 2 to 10 people. Please book two weeks in advance through Central Reservations. Ages 5 and older.

Films



Under the Sea 3D

• 45 minutes

Transport yourself to some of the most exotic and isolated undersea locations on Earth. Experience face-to-face encounters with some of the most mysterious and stunning creatures of the sea, and explore the impact that global climate change is having on the ocean wilderness through this inspirational and entertaining film.

New! Star Trek: The IMAX Experience
Limited engagement: playing through July 31.

• 126 minutes

Experience the non-stop action and mind-blowing visual effects of *Star Trek* on New England's largest screen. Follow the incredible story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created. An unlikely partnership of two rivals must stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind.

Dolphins & Whales 3D

• 44 minutes

Get face-to-face with humpback whales, sperm whales, right whales, orcas, porpoises, bottlenose and spotted dolphins and become part of these ocean tribes.

Members receive discounts on ticket prices!

Purchase member tickets at any Aquarium ticketing location or by phone at 1-866-815-IMAX (4629).

Films, prices and showtimes are subject to change.

• Private screening and facility rentals, call 617-720-5104.

• IMAX birthday parties, call 617-973-6508.

Keep checking www.neaq.org for information on our new releases! 