



New England
Aquarium

blue

It's time to *live blue*™



Skip the Straw You Don't Need
Creating a More Inclusive Aquarium
Young Ocean Stewards
Make a Difference

Members' Magazine

Volume 52, Number 1 Winter 2019



From the President and CEO

Happy New Year! At the New England Aquarium, ocean conservation is at the forefront of everything we do, and each year we resolve to do even more to help our oceans adapt to climate change and other human impacts.

Everyone here, from those who work in food service to our scientists conducting research in the Gulf of Maine, does their part to help protect our blue planet—and your membership support is an important contribution. Here are some ways we can resolve to ensure healthier oceans together.

Conservation begins at home

We're taking a number of steps both on Central Wharf and around the globe to create a more sustainable environment. Using renewable energy credits, 100 percent of the electricity that powers the Aquarium comes from renewable sources, like wind and solar power. And if you've recently visited, you may have noticed our Larval Fishes exhibit, where we feature some of our fish species raised onsite—we even raise the plankton we feed them. This program reduces fuel needed for shipping, stress on the animals, and other environmental impacts. In our Café, we've eliminated single-use plastics and encourage visitors to drop compostable materials into our specially marked bins. You can learn more about our Café plastics campaign and how you can help on page 5.

All hands on deck

The petition we launched in September to protect the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument from rollbacks by the Trump administration has surpassed 700 supporters, exceeding our goal of 500. The overwhelming response from all of you to an op-ed I wrote that was published by *The Patriot Ledger* and *Bangor Daily News*, our social media callouts, and *SeaMail* posts in support of this ecologically diverse area located only 130 miles off Cape Cod has been enormously gratifying. Together, we can and do make a difference for the oceans.

Transforming science into action

Using the Gulf of Maine as a living laboratory, our scientists at the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life are putting to work a grant from NOAA Fisheries to test ropeless fishing equipment. Working with the lobster industry, the goal is to aid the endangered North Atlantic right whale from becoming entangled in fishing gear—the leading cause of whale fatalities—while helping the New England lobster industry survive too. Visit the Anderson Cabot Center's website at accol.org to learn more.

Ocean conservation is at the forefront of everything we do at the New England Aquarium. Each new year is a new opportunity to help our oceans adapt to a changing climate. We couldn't do it without you.

Vikki N. Spruill
Vikki N. Spruill

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Anthomastus coral in Oceanographer Canyon in the North Atlantic Ocean. Photo: NOAA

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

On the cover:

Amy Kukulya (WHOI) puts Dr. Kara Dodge in the perfect position to tag a leatherback turtle as part of their TurtleCam project, a collaboration with Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. Photo: Sean P. Whelan/WHOI/NMFS Permit #15672.

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Editor: Jon Kinson
Designer: Cathy LeBlanc

Contributors: Emily Bauernfeind, Emily Greenhalgh, Jon Kinson, and Amy MacKinnon

General Information: 617-973-5200

Marine Animal Stranding Hotline: 617-973-5247

Membership: 617-973-6555, members@neaq.org

Navigator and Conservation Societies: 617-226-2622, giving@neaq.org

The Tide: 617-973-5224, thetide@neaq.org



At the Aquarium: Fresh Faces in the GOT

"Is that fish OK?"

Educators at the top of the Giant Ocean Tank (GOT) are often asked about the health of our new Atlantic tripletail.

It swims slowly and flops around on its side, never venturing far from the platforms at the top of the GOT as it pretends to be in distress. And that's good, as the mottled brown fish is an ambush predator.

In the wild, when a small fish happens by thinking it's safe ... WHAM! It becomes an instant meal for the tripletail.

The 18-inch, 2-pound fish is one of many fishes—including 300 smallmouth grunts and five Atlantic needlefish—recently added to our GOT.

The 3-year-old tripletail came from an aquarium in the Azores, where a colleague who once worked on Central Wharf now works, according to

Mike O'Neill, supervisor of the GOT.

"It's a very personable fish that will stare you right in the eye when you dive in the GOT," Mike said.

Its name was inspired by the dorsal and anal fins extending from its body, making it appear that the Atlantic tripletail has three tails.

A group of 300 smallmouth grunts are also GOT newcomers. These fish, which are about 7 inches long with yellow horizontal stripes on a silver background and yellow fins, swim in the middle of the GOT's water column.

The grunts are about 18 months old, having been spawned and raised at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island as part of our joint Larval Fishes Program. With the addition of these fish, now more than half of our 900-fish collection in the GOT

was raised in larval fish programs, thus conserving fish in the wild.



Mike O'Neill

The five Atlantic needlefish were collected off Cape Cod in summer 2017. The fish, which are a foot long with extremely pointy beaks, swim at the surface and will leap out of the water to evade predators.

Learn more about these fascinating fish and others on your next visit to the Aquarium.

—Jon Kinson



The Atlantic tripletail can be found at the top of the Giant Ocean Tank, usually around one of the two platforms.

—Emily Greenhalgh

Dr. Kara Dodge

Turtle Ecologist

Have you ever dreamed of seeing through the eyes of a turtle? For Dr. Kara Dodge, that dream is a reality.

Kara is a turtle ecologist with the New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, and her specialty is leatherback sea turtles. Leatherbacks are the largest sea turtle species, and adult turtles can weigh from 400 to more than 1,000 pounds!

"It's still thrilling every time we go out on the water and see a leatherback come to the surface," said Kara. "That never gets old."

During the summer and early fall, leatherbacks can be found in the waters off New England. That's peak field season for Kara and her team. A small spotter plane flies above the water and relays the location of any turtles, and, if the weather is good, Kara and her team take to the water to tag these turtles. Depending on the project, the team can also include veterinarians, engineers, and fishermen, and the scientists try to get as much data as possible during every interaction with a turtle.

The turtle capture team—which includes Dr. Charles Innis, New England Aquarium's head veterinarian, and Connie Merigo, Director of the Aquarium's Rescue and Rehabilitation program—collects blood, tissue samples, and swabs to perform baseline health

assessments and collect genetic information. They also insert long-lived microchip tags similar to those used on dogs and cats into the turtles' flippers.

To study the turtles' migrations and behavior in New England and beyond, Kara uses satellite tags that can relay the location and depth of the turtles in real time for up to a year. These

"I feel like our team really helped to push for better practices in leatherback tagging," said Kara.

are attached orthopedically—through the bone—in a technique pioneered by Kara's Ph.D. advisor, Dr. Molly Lutcavage. Before this method, satellite tags would be strapped to leatherbacks with big, cumbersome, backpack-like units that caused a lot of drag when the turtles swam. It's no longer possible to get a permit to tag turtles in this way, because it's so disruptive to the animal.

"I feel like our team really helped to push for better practices in leatherback tagging," said Kara.

There are a variety of ways to monitor the under-studied leatherback population in New England, but the *TurtleCam* project is an Aquarium favorite. During her postdoctoral work at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), Kara teamed up with WHOI engineer Amy Kukulya to use a "smart" underwater robot that Kukulya and her team originally developed to track and film white sharks in the wild. Using a combination of a specially programmed autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV)

and an acoustic tag that's suction-cupped to the turtle's shell, Kukulya and Dodge were able to see the ocean through a turtle-eye view.

The WHOI TurtleCam robot can track the turtle for up to eight hours before the team releases the suction cups and retrieves the camera tag. "Every time you put a camera on an animal, you get something back you didn't expect," said Kara.

While the team recorded expected behaviors such as feeding (on sea jellies!) and diving, there were a few surprises too. If the underwater robots get too close, the turtle will respond like it's a threat.

"If the turtle gets startled at the surface, it will dive straight to the bottom. If it is startled during a dive, it will sometimes roll over and even surface upside down because then it's able to watch what's going on below it," said Kara, adding that this gives researchers potential insight into the types of behaviors that get the turtles entangled in fishing gear.

"Getting a glimpse into a turtle's daily life makes you realize that even without all the human impacts, which are obviously a lot, the natural world is tough enough," said Kara. "It's not easy to make a living as a turtle."

And those human impacts are many. Climate change, fishing gear,

vessel traffic, coastal development, and plastic pollution all affect the turtles' environment. The world's seven species of sea turtles have been around for tens of millions of years, but today, they all face threats from human activities. Some of the best areas for turtles to feed are known as convergence zones or weed lines—areas where two distinct water masses come together. Seaweed and floating plankton, like sea jellies, can accumulate in these areas, along with floating debris.

"We always see plastics in those weed lines. From small pieces of balloons and wrappers all the way to flip-flops and mylar balloons," Kara said. "It's a real problem."



An adult male leatherback turtle is satellite tagged and ready for release. Photo: Connie Merigo/NMFS Permit #15672.

"Dr. Dodge's work has many times multiplied our knowledge of leatherback turtle habitat use, behavior, and conservation threats in New England



The team uses a flexible tape to take curved measurements of a leatherback turtle on deck. Photo: Mike Dodge/NMFS Permit #1557.

waters," said Dr. Innis. "Her methods have become accepted as the gold standard for leatherback research, and she continues to advance the field each year."

What's her favorite part of the job? "The turtles, of course!"

In the future, Kara is hoping to move beyond leatherbacks. While the Aquarium's Rescue team works with several species of cold-stunned sea turtles, Kara hopes to use her research techniques on wild-caught loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles in the region.

Conservation Note:

The world's seven species of sea turtles have been around for tens of millions of years, but today, they all face threats from human activities.

"We always see plastics in those weed lines. From small pieces of balloons and wrappers, all the way to flip-flops and mylar balloons," Kara said.

—Amy MacKinnon

A Voice for the Oceans: Talking Conservation Advocacy with Dr. Kelly Kryc



Do what you love.

It's advice Kelly Kryc took to heart when she was a child considering her future. Her passion brought her to a career serving the oceans and eventually to the New England Aquarium as the Director of Conservation Policy and Leadership. Kelly joined the Aquarium last year after serving in various roles in Congress and in the Obama administration.

Before her work in government, Kelly earned her Ph.D. from Boston University in earth science, with a focus on extreme climate variability in Antarctica. Like so many visitors to Central Wharf, Kelly is an advocate for vital and vibrant oceans.

AQUARIUM: Tell us how you came to be a voice for the oceans.

KK: I became a marine scientist and oceanographer because I wanted to study climate change in Antarctica. I got to go to the continent four times between 1997 and 2004. But even as a student, I knew I didn't want an academic career. Once I finished my post doc, I was lucky enough to find a job at a nonprofit that managed the integrated ocean drilling program. That's what got me started in ocean program management.

AQUARIUM: So if academia wasn't your passion, how did you come to do what you love?

KK: What I really, really wanted to do was work in policy. I applied for an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellowship through the Geological Society of America. When I got it, I moved to Washington from California and started over. It was exhilarating! I was so excited to be doing exactly what I wanted to do and I loved every minute of it.

Through the fellowship, I worked for the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on energy and water policy issues. From there I went to the U.S. State Department to continue working on international energy and water policy. As an oceanographer, I was asked if I wanted to also work on then-Secretary of State John Kerry's first Our Ocean Conference in 2013-2014. It was an amazing

opportunity, which led to a position in the State Department's Office of Marine Conservation, where I worked on international fisheries negotiations.

I also got to work with Dr. Jane Lubchenco on her policy goals in her role as the first U.S. Science Envoy for the Oceans. That led to an offer to work at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where I managed a freshwater portfolio. During my time there, we did the first White House Water Summit, focusing on a sustainable water future for the United States, including droughts, water quality, and flooding. After the White House, I got picked up as an appointee at the U.S. Department of the Interior at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, focusing on offshore oil and gas. My job was to ensure there wasn't another Deepwater Horizon catastrophe.

Once the Obama administration ended, I wanted to find a job that was as equally meaningful and impactful as serving the American people. While seeking a new, permanent position, I started teaching science policy at Georgetown University, which was incredibly rewarding. But I realized the Aquarium was where I could continue to do policy work and give the oceans a voice. I started in May 2018.

Deep sea coral in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. Photo: NOAA

AQUARIUM: What conservation projects are you focusing on now for the Aquarium and the oceans?

KK: We're doing so much already. We're focusing on marine protected areas, specifically advocating for the protection of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, located about 130 miles off Cape Cod, against proposed Trump administration rollbacks.

We just wrapped up some work trying to prevent the administration from weakening the Endangered Species Act, and we're working to ensure the administration doesn't open the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas exploration and production.

AQUARIUM: How is the Aquarium an effective advocate for the oceans?

KK: I think there are a number of things that make advocacy effective. The first is finding your partners. It could be state and local officials, nonprofits, policymakers. Find your allies, work in partnership, and then find the right levers to pull and which are most effective.

I can't tell you how many times the stakeholders out there tell me they're excited the Aquarium is exercising its voice. The New England Aquarium has a reputation

as a scientific authority and trusted cultural institution. As a voice for it, I walk in the room and people listen because of that reputation.

AQUARIUM: What is a key priority for the Aquarium right now?

KK: I think the most important action right now is that the Aquarium is engaging in

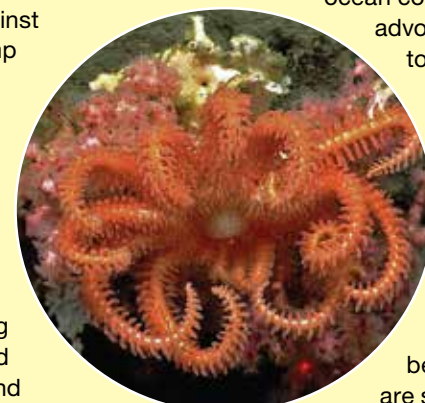
ocean conservation advocacy on topics that we have prioritized over our nearly 50 years. It's not just one issue, it's all of them because there are so many threats the oceans

face. It's going to take an all-hands-on-deck approach to counter those threats. But because people here care so much about the oceans, there are so many reasons to be optimistic about what we can accomplish when we work together to protect the oceans.

AQUARIUM: What's the best part of your job?

KK: The Aquarium is trusted across all audiences, and that has made my job so easy. It's been both an internal and external warm welcome.

I'm so glad I followed that advice to do what you love because I really love what I do.



Learn More

In the months ahead, Anderson Cabot Center researchers will share more exciting science-based solutions to problems facing our oceans. Please visit accol.org to learn more about our work or to make a donation.

 **Anderson Cabot
Center for Ocean Life**
at the New England Aquarium

—Emily Bauernfeind

The First Step Skip the Straw You Don't Need

Have you seen the YouTube video of the sea turtle with something in its nose? The eight-minute clip has been viewed more than 33 million times, and it's tough to watch. Marine biologists use pliers to wrest something deeply embedded in a sea turtle's nostril, all the while it sneezes and hisses. Turns out it was a plastic drinking straw, several inches long.

This is but one isolated and incredibly poignant illustration of how plastics are impacting our aquatic friends. Unfortunately, there are countless others.

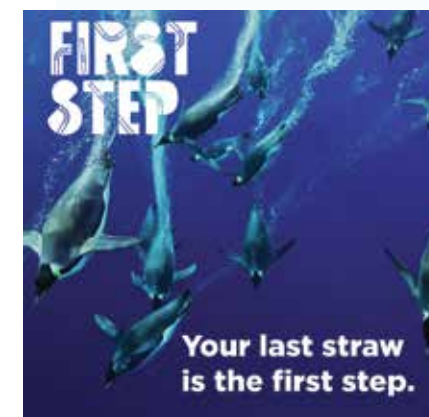
From plastic bags to toothbrushes, flip-flops to ballpoint pens, plastics are part of our everyday lives. It's the throwaway nature of many plastic items that is wreaking havoc on natural ecosystems. Plastic grocery bags and drinking straws, for example, are only in our hands for a moment. But for the animals who live in rivers, lakes, and the oceans, our plastic pollution piles up and can last forever.

The New England Aquarium is joining with 24 other aquariums across the country because there are simple actions we can all take in a stand against single-use plastics. The nationwide campaign, called The First Step, offers suggestions on how we can make a difference—individually and as a nationwide community that cares about our blue planet.

At our Harbor View Café, we've worked to eliminate all single-use plastics in favor of recyclable, compostable, or reusable materials. Paper straws and compostable cup lids are now available only upon request. Look for a new condiment station with paper cups and refillable pump dispensers. Bottled water now comes in single-use aluminium bottles that are recyclable, or you can purchase a reusable Aquarium water bottle to take everywhere.

Make the steps you take here at the Aquarium the first of many toward reducing plastic pollution. Join others across the country in pledging to skip the straws you don't need. Ask your favorite restaurant to only offer straws on request. Invite your friends to take their first step. Every tiny change is a step in the right direction. Make your last straw the first step to plastic-free waters.

Be Part of the Movement



Visit our website to see what's happening in our Café and learn how you can be part of the nationwide The First Step campaign. Take the pledge to skip the straws you don't need. neaq.org/ourhands

Big Inspiration from Young Ocean Stewards

Our blue planet is huge. Its oceans are facing some serious threats, and so are the animals that live there. Sometimes it's hard for kids to imagine how they can help solve such big problems. But these kids are making a difference in their own ways.

Meet some inspiring youngsters who are doing what they can to help ocean animals. You might just be inspired to act yourself.

Small Steps to Help Sea Turtles

Heidi Bell

Age: 10
From: New Hampshire
Awesome Action: Raised more than \$1,000 to support the New England Aquarium's sea turtle rescue program

Heidi's parents say she's always been an animal lover and very caring. When an inspiring speaker—our friend and internationally bestselling author Sy Montgomery!—visited her school to talk about endangered animals, she knew she wanted to help. So for one of her school projects, Heidi decided to fundraise to help one particular group of animals: sea turtles.

"Coming up with the idea of helping sea turtles was the hardest part because there are so many endangered animals," she said.

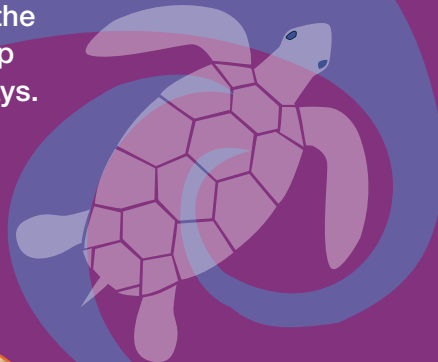
With help from a teacher and guidance from her parents, Heidi worked out a plan to sell shopping bags with hand-painted turtles and handmade figurines, bracelets, and rings to raise the money. A local

shop also gave her permission to set up a table outside. Heidi spent 12 hours at that table talking to customers about sea turtles. Not only did people love her products, they were able to talk to her about the challenges sea turtles face in the ocean, like plastic pollution.

Over two days, Heidi raised more than \$1,000 for the Aquarium's sea turtle hospital, which rehabilitates and releases cold-stunned turtles after they wash up on Cape Cod beaches. Before the rescue season began last fall, Heidi visited the Aquarium to present a check. She also met and fed one giant sea turtle ambassador—Myrtle. Myrtle must have known that a true turtle champion was in her midst because she gobbled up every morsel Heidi offered. Way to go, Heidi, and thank you!



Heidi hand-crafted many turtle-themed bags and figurines (above) and set up shop to sell her wares and talk about protecting sea turtles.



Champions for Right Whales

The CALVIN Project

Who: Seventh- and eighth-graders
From: Maine

Awesome Action: Raising awareness about the endangered North Atlantic right whale

In 2003, a small animal rights club at the Adams School in Castine, Maine, decided to focus all its attention and concern on one really big, endangered animal: the North Atlantic right whale. The CALVIN Project was born. Named for a particular right whale well known to the Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life researchers, the group's motto is "endangered species recovery through education."

Teacher Bill McWeeny remains a constant as seventh- and eighth-graders graduate through the program. He facilitates weekly meetings and helps the group—nicknamed the Calvineers—plan ways to educate people about the problems affecting right whales and what we can do to help them.

Major field trips punctuate the school year, including visits with Aquarium researchers at their field station in Lubec, Maine, the annual New England Right Whale Festival at the Aquarium, and the Right Whale Consortium meeting in New Bedford, Massachusetts. And that's on top of all their regular schoolwork!

Engaging with experts means the students can stay abreast of the latest,



The Calvineers are an inspiration to many! Maine filmmaker Thom Willey (center) is making a documentary about McWeeny (top right), the student scientists, and the right whale known as Calvin. Look for "The Calvineers Movie" on social media.

sometimes discouraging, news about the species. They constantly update and hone a 40-minute presentation about the plight of this endangered whale and present to groups large and small. Just this fall they spoke to scientists and educators at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Not only are the Calvineers researching right whales, they're also learning how to engage the public—skills that can serve them well throughout their lives. Many students have gone on to professions in marine science and education.

"Once a Calvineer, always a Calvineer," said McWeeny. "There are many Calvineers who are working in the sciences and getting their doctorates in ocean sciences and marine biology."

One is even an educator here at the Aquarium. This club is quite literally inspiring future ocean protectors. Bravo, Calvineers!

Fostering a Future Ocean Protector

If your youngsters express an interest in helping the oceans or supporting ocean animals, here are some tips to set them on an early path to protecting our blue planet.

Calling All Teachers

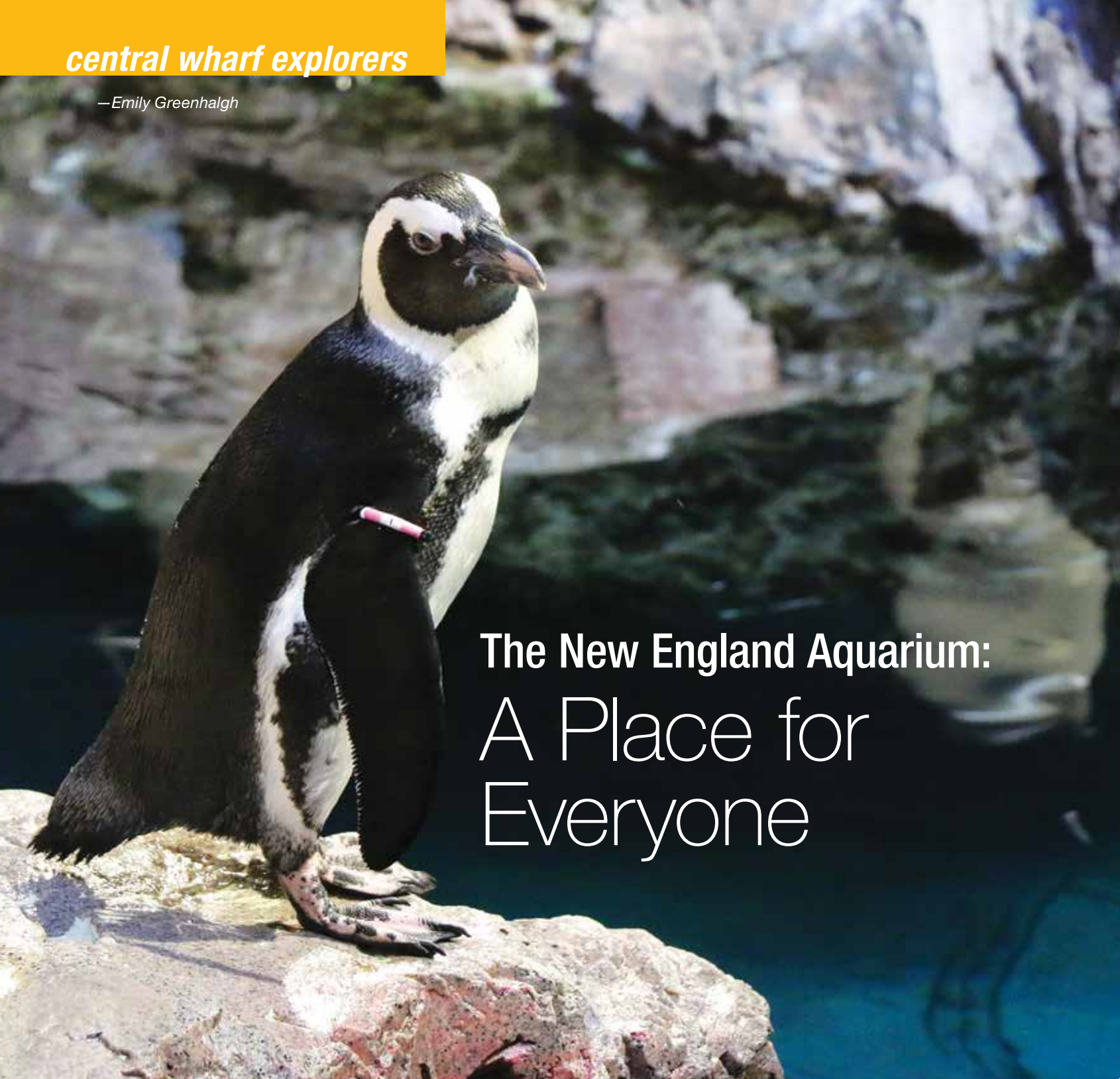
"I think other teachers should play on their own passions and look for scientists who are working on their passions. Get to know those scientists and introduce their students to them. My students are very inspired to hear scientific talks from researchers and then talk with them one on one. Let's do this with more teachers and students."

— Bill McWeeny, teacher

Parental Assist

"It's too easy to say no, too easy to say you're too busy. The important thing is to decide to do it! Support your kid whole-heartedly, make realistic plans, and be ready for it to fail. If you keep your child included in all aspects, not only are they succeeding, they are learning the financial and time investments. These are important life lessons."

— David Bell, Heidi's father



The New England Aquarium: A Place for Everyone



At the New England Aquarium, we believe the oceans should be accessible to us all. We also believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn about ocean conservation and be inspired by the animals and exhibits here. We are committed to an Aquarium that is open, accessible, and inclusive to every visitor, including those with visual, auditory, physical, and/or sensory-processing needs.

In an effort to grow our mission of inclusivity, the Aquarium has partnered with KultureCity to help people with sensory-processing requirements enjoy their visit. KultureCity assists institutions like ours create a world where all individuals with autism and others can be accepted, included, and fulfill their potential.

Our efforts begin in the lobby. Our Information Desk offers sensory kits to anyone who requests one during their visit. These kits include fidget tools, noise-canceling headphones, and other resources to help make the Aquarium a more welcoming place for people with sensitivities. Guests who feel overwhelmed are always welcome to visit the first aid room for a few minutes of privacy.

This fall, the Aquarium partnered with Autism Alliance—a Massachusetts-based organization providing support, programs, and resources to families and individuals affected by the autism spectrum—to welcome families to our sensory-inclusive events. Designed specifically for those with special sensory-processing needs, the two events featured soft lighting, limited the use of microphones, and implemented other sensory-modifications—all to make our guests feel more comfortable.

Our work to create a more inclusive Aquarium is ongoing, but a generous gift from the Magill-Dohan family in honor of their daughter Anna, who passed away in 2013, helped make our sensory-inclusive events possible. Anna volunteered at the Aquarium from 2011 to 2013, and had a special connection with our organization and the animals that live here.

“When she was 15, Anna started volunteering at the Aquarium. She felt like it was a place where she was comfortable with both the people and the animals,” said Marion Magill, Anna’s mother.

“It was really where she was the most at home and the most happy.”

The Magill-Dohan family wanted to honor Anna’s memory and acknowledge her love of the Aquarium by helping make every visitor feel as welcome as possible.

The first event was a rousing success. Feedback from participants, who expressed a desire to attend other sensory-inclusive events at the Aquarium, was positive.



“What struck me at the event were the kids and families—people who clearly were enjoying the fact that they could be who they really are,” said Marion. “I think that’s what Anna always felt at the Aquarium. That she was who she was and was accepted.”

The New England Aquarium was such a special place to Anna, and Anna and her family have helped to make it even more special. We are continuing to strive to make sure it’s available and accommodating to everyone who wants to visit.

Above, Anna Magill-Dohan wears her Aquarium uniform on her first day as a volunteer.



The contents of the Aquarium’s sensory bags, available at the Information Desk

Congratulations, Linda Cabot!

New England Aquarium friend, Board member, and ardent supporter Linda Cabot was named a 2018 Global Changemaker by New England International Donors. Linda is the founding partner of the Anderson



Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium and founder and president of Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs, which seeks to inspire and support the next generation of ocean protectors through arts, science, and advocacy. Her dedication to philanthropy helps our scientists and researchers protect the blue planet.



New Food Service Provider at Aquarium



The Aquarium has announced a new, exclusive partnership with Patina Restaurant Group (PRG), which will manage all of our food services, including catering, events, and visitor dining.

The Harbor View Café and The Reef will both undergo a significant refresh to create new, exciting dining experiences.

The Café will be transformed into a modern casual dining experience for Aquarium guests with new furnishings and a mix of communal tables, banquets, and tables for two. New farm-to-table menus will embrace New England coastal cuisine, such as lobster rolls, Gloucester fish fry, and North End subs, all sourced locally.

The Reef, outdoor dining situated on the Aquarium Plaza with views of Boston Harbor and Boston, will

be renovated with a new al fresco glass pavilion structure. A sweeping sail tent will house seating, with a large bar featuring views of the open kitchen. Simply grilled fresh-caught fish, mezze bowls, and iced shellfish will be on the menu, alongside craft cocktails.

The selection of Patina Restaurant Group as the exclusive caterer at the Aquarium comes after a competitive national search for a food partner that could meet the needs of the Aquarium's growing community and clientele, while upholding our longstanding dedication to sustainable practices.

For PRG, based in New York City and Los Angeles, this is an exciting step that builds upon its Boston ties as PRG's parent company, Delaware North, is the owner and operator of the TDGarden.

Leave a Legacy

The New England Aquarium was launched 50 years ago, ensuring a legacy of education and engagement around ocean conservation. Now, imagine your legacy.

There are many ways to create a lasting legacy that will benefit the New England Aquarium and help you reach your own personal goals—whether they are to honor the memory of a loved one, receive important tax benefits, or make a more substantial gift for the future than you can afford right now.

Planned giving vehicles can take many forms, including bequests, living trusts, beneficiaries on your life insurance or retirement accounts, minimum annual distributions from your IRA, or charitable annuities and trusts. We're happy to work with you and your financial advisors to help you achieve your desired impact and focus.

If you have already arranged a gift to the Aquarium in your estate plan, please let us know so we can thank you and invite you to special events throughout the year!

To explore legacy giving opportunities, contact Robin Elkins, Vice President of Development, at relkins@neaq.org or 617-226-2160.

Photo: Brian Skerry

Join Our Divers in the Bahamas

WHEN: April 19 – 27, 2019

WHERE: Bimini Island and surrounding area dive sites

Do you enjoy diving? How about in the warm, crystal-clear waters of the Bahamas? Plan an inspiring vacation with Aquarium divers on their annual expedition to the Bahamas. Working with authorities, you will help to responsibly collect colorful reef fishes and invertebrates for the Giant Ocean Tank and other tropical exhibits. This unusual “working” vacation is open to certified divers of all levels, ages 18 and older. During this week-long adventure, you will explore beautiful underwater sites throughout the Bimini area in the Bahamas. The last day of the trip is spent in Miami preparing specimens for shipment to the New England Aquarium.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXPEDITION:

- \$3,795 (not including airfare to and from Miami)
- Accommodations aboard the *R/V Coral Reef II*, including professionally prepared meals plus beer and wine
- Visits to renowned tropical dive sites throughout the Bahamas that are teeming with vibrant coral reefs
- Up to five dives per day (weights and tanks provided), some may be at night
- A rare opportunity to dive in the Giant Ocean Tank



For more information about upcoming expeditions, contact Chris Bauernfeind at cbauernfeind@neaq.org.

2019 Members' Program and Events Guide

By now, you should have received your 2019 Members' Program and Events guide in your mailbox or with your new membership materials. It's full of events to attend this year, from member happenings to courses and programs, and other ways to get involved at the Aquarium.



If you haven't received it yet, email members@neaq.org and we will be happy to send you one. You may also view it online at neaq.org/membership.

Sign Up for SeaMail

By providing insider information, member alerts, and late-breaking news, *SeaMail* is the best way to stay in the know throughout your membership year.

Sign up at neaq.org/SeaMail and never miss out!

Introduce Kids to the Wonders of the Aquatic World!

Exciting programs with Aquarium educators

Sea Squirts and Sea Squirts Advanced

Ages 4 – 5

Learn about the blue planet alongside a young child. Each hour-long program focuses on developing motor and language skills, encourages early science skills, and includes play, songs, and activities. Classes are held in the Aquarium's Ocean Center.

Jan. – Feb.: **Colder Climates** — **NEW**

Feb. – March: **Ocean Giants**

March – April: **Amazing Amazon** — **NEW**

April – May: **Ocean Babies**



Sea Squirts Preview

Check out this introduction to Sea Squirts for children ages 12 months to 24 months.

Starts January 22.

FEE PER SERIES: \$55 for members, \$100 for nonmembers*

*Nonmember fee includes Aquarium admission. A \$2 service fee will be added to each reservation for nonmembers.

For more information, call 617-226-2123, visit neaq.org/seasquirts, or email kids.ed@neaq.org.

January

1/7

Member Advance Registration Begins for Harbor Discoveries Summer Camps

Children entering grades 4 through 10 will have fun while learning about marine biology and environmental science through the Harbor Discoveries summer camps. The one- and two-week programs include behind-the-scenes activities in Aquarium galleries, excursions to Boston Harbor Islands, daily field trips to North Shore and South Shore habitats, and an overnight stay – all allowing nature to serve as an outdoor classroom.

To learn more or register, visit neaq.org/camps or call 617-973-5206.



Harbor Discoveries camps give kids hands-on experiences.

1/20

Premium Member Morning 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Premium members are invited to visit the Aquarium while staff members prepare the exhibits for the day. This is a great opportunity to get an early start on your Aquarium adventure without the crowds. Admission is limited to the number permitted with your Premium-level membership.

neaq.org/memberevents

February

2/8

That's A-Moray 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

We invite you to a very special Valentine's Day event for all those who love the oceans. This member-exclusive, 21-plus evening features live music, a strolling buffet dinner, and a signature cocktail amidst unparalleled ambiance. Keep an eye on your mailbox for more details.

neaq.org/memberevents

2/24

Member Appreciation Night 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Join us at the Aquarium to spend time with our awesome marine residents: Carolina, the loggerhead sea turtle; Freya, the giant Pacific octopus; Luna, the northern fur seal; Sierra, the California sea lion; and Amelia and Chacoda, the harbor seals. No reservations are required for this event, but admission is strictly limited to the number permitted with your membership level.

neaq.org/memberevents

March

3/23

Whale Watch Season Begins

Be among the first of the year to get a front-row seat to view some of the oceans' most magnificent and fascinating animals. Participants will travel to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, where the whales can be seen in the wild. Be sure to show your member card to get your discount on tickets.

Check neaq.org/whale-watch for the trip schedule.

Use your member card for your discount!



presented by
BHC
BOSTON HARBOR CRUISES

3/24

Premium Member Morning 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Another opportunity for Premium-level members to visit the Aquarium before we open the doors to the public. Admission is limited to the number permitted with your Premium-level membership.

neaq.org/memberevents

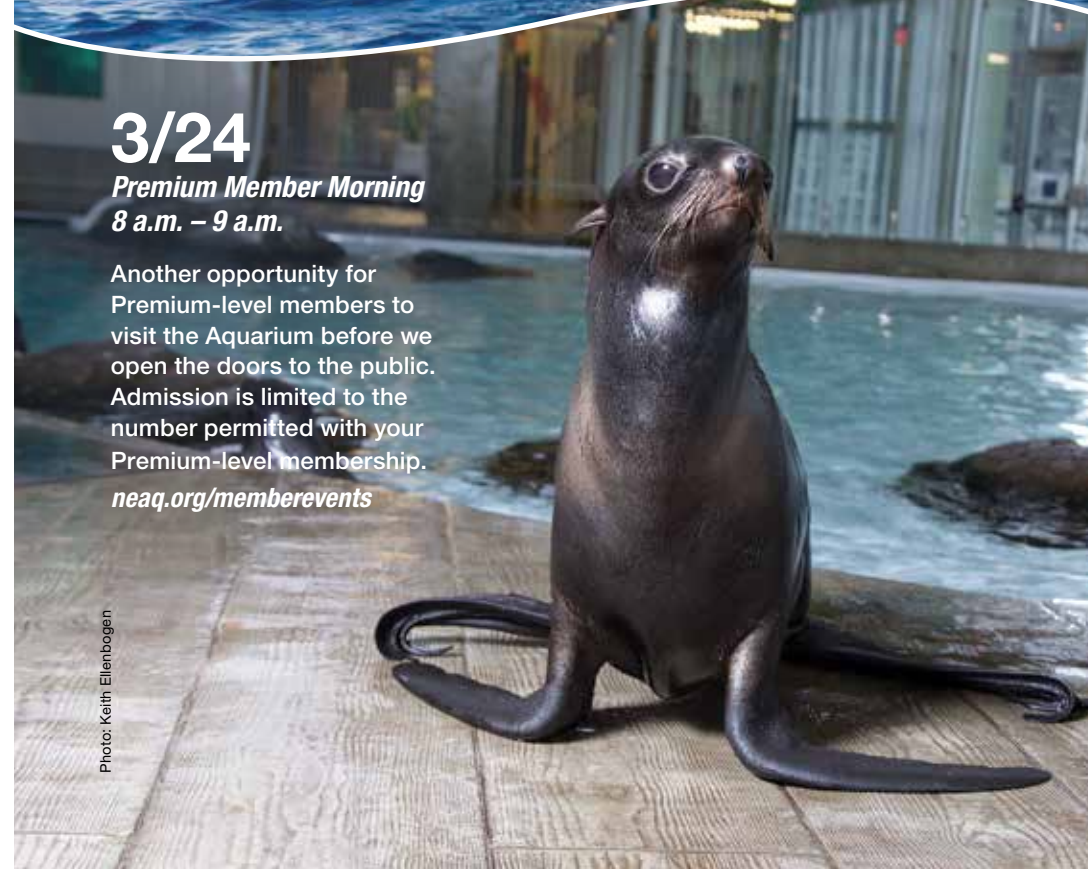


Photo: Keith Ellenbogen

Films

Oceans 3D: Our Blue Planet 40 minutes

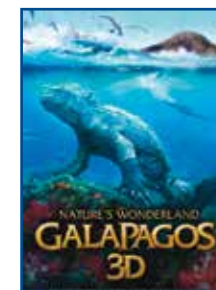
The glittering oceans contain profound mysteries beneath the waves, and *Oceans 3D: Our Blue Planet* reveals those breathtaking stories from the deep. Watch athletic dolphins at play and a clever octopus hiding in plain sight. From the ice-crusted Arctic to the crystalline tropics, explore the dramatic events and intimate lives of the oceans' most extraordinary creatures. Astonishing marine animals are within reach as they are splashed across the big screen thanks to revolutionary underwater filming technology. Packed with drama, awe, and spectacle, this film presents the last frontier on our blue planet, the only place on Earth where the rate of new scientific discovery is increasing. Through these encounters, we'll also discover how we all depend on the health of our oceans, the largest environment on Earth.



Galapagos 3D: Nature's Wonderland

39 minutes

There's only one place on Earth where grinning iguanas claw their way along the seafloor alongside tropical penguins and the largest fish in the ocean. Go there with *Galapagos 3D: Nature's Wonderland* on New England's largest screen. Soaring aerial footage affords sweeping views of this unique constellation of volcanic islands, while intimate wildlife footage puts you in muddy bogs with grunting giant tortoises and basking on lava rocks alongside black iguanas. Slip underwater for glimpses of whale sharks and flightless seabirds rocketing through the water. Take the trip of a lifetime to the islands that gave us a greater understanding of life on our blue planet—both above and below the water.



Standard 4 members and above receive a select number of one-time-use IMAX e-passes, and all Giving Society members receive discounts on ticket prices!

Tickets Purchase member tickets at any Aquarium ticketing location or by phone at 617-973-5200. Films, prices, and showtimes are subject to change.

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

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

Check neaq.org for a complete list of films and showtimes!

SIMONS IMAX THEATRE New England Aquarium



**New England
Aquarium**

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2019 is the Aquarium's 50th Anniversary!

*Be part of the celebration by sharing
your member memories with us.*

neaq.org/memberstories

20M/RD

Premium Member Mornings

Get an insider's view of the Aquarium before we open to the public.



January 20, 2019

March 24, 2019

April 28, 2019

Starting at 8 a.m.

*Join us for a member-exclusive,
family-friendly evening at the Aquarium.*

Member Appreciation Night

Sunday, February 24, 2019

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

*Bring your friends and family to discover the Aquarium after the
school vacation crowds have left for the day. Details inside.*

