

Darwin Days 2014
Sunday, February 9th and
Wednesday, February 12th, 2014

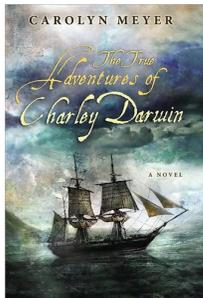
Two separate days of activities and talks celebrating the birthday (Feb. 12th) and life of the founder of modern evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin.

Most events are at the NM Museum of Natural History and Science; Wednesday's Darwin performances are at Explora!

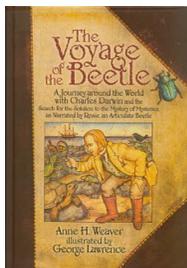
Sunday, Feb 9, 2014
At the New Mexico Museum of
Natural History & Science
1801 Mountain Rd NW

Museum Family Activities: Free with museum admission, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special Programs:
11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Authors **Carolyn Meyer** (*The True Adventures of Charley Darwin*) and **Anne H. Weaver** (*The Voyage of the Beetle and Children of Time: Evolution and the Human Story*) will engage families in stories about Charles Darwin and his adventures, and learning about our early human ancestors.



--Their books will be available at NatureWorks Store and they will be available for signing.

3 p.m.



A Dramatic Portrayal of Mrs. Charles Darwin by **Liz Burck**. Emma Darwin has a story to tell. Her unique perspective weaves together science and society—revealing a deeper understanding of her husband and his work.

Charles and Emma were married for 43 years. Emma's perspective provides insights into their lives, the times in which they lived, and especially, her husband's humanity.

Ms. Burck is an award-winning educator; she lives in Kasilof, Alaska. The Museum is very excited to host Liz Burck portraying Emma Darwin!

Throughout the day:

Family-friendly investigations of variation and the foundational ideas of natural selection through activities and games--featuring specimens from the Museum's Bioscience Collections. Plus, videos art projects and library resources—all day long.

Multi Purpose Room talks--FREE
10:30 a.m. SUNDAY at the NMMNHS
Tom Williamson, Ph.D.



Curator of Paleontology, NMMNHS
"The Beginning of the Age of Mammals in New Mexico"
 After the mass extinction of the dinosaurs, mammals dramatically diversified, and New Mexico has one of the best records in the world showing this amazing evolutionary event.

11:30 a.m.

Dwight Jennison, Ph.D.
 NMMNHS

"Evolutionary Developmental Biology (Evo Devo) and Compound Interest"
 There are rapid changes that occur in organisms when a niche opens up and the spread of these new characteristics can be understood with the same math as compound interest--the ideas of Sean B. Carroll.



12:30 p.m.

Becky Reiss, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biology, NM Tech
"What's in your DNA?"



Neanderthal sequences, nature AND nurture, and some ill-fitting genes"
 Evolutionary principles are not just about Darwin's work anymore, Gregor Mendel shares half the blame. We can now sequence entire genomes, revealing the details of molecular evolution. I'll discuss three examples: findings from ancient DNA studies, reconsideration of Lamarckian inheritance (a.k.a. we are what we eat), and the age of personalized medicine.

1:30 p.m.

David Thomas, M.S

New Mexico Tech

"New Findings That Would Have Thrilled Darwin"

Darwin did not know of DNA. There has been an explosion of information in the over 150 years since Origin of Species, and it strongly confirms Darwin's basic ideas of descent with modification. Even if all the fossils of the world mysteriously disappeared, we would still be able to test and verify evolution by comparing the DNA and protein sequences of living plants and animals. Dave will discuss molecular evidence and other new discoveries that would have thrilled Darwin.



2:30 p.m.

Bud Hodgkin, M.D.

"Archaeopteryx – A Classic Example of Species Transformation"



The process and mechanism of transformation of one species into another is a major part of the theory of biological evolution. One hundred and forty million year old archaeopteryx fossils beautifully illustrate this transformation.



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Wednesday, Feb 12, 2014

At Explora:

11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"Darwin" Performance by Mr. Fred Schwab

--Free with Explora admission

**Wednesday, Feb 12, 2014 –
 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**At Natural History Museum MPR -FREE
 New Mexicans for Science and Reason
 monthly meeting**

Paul Watson, Ph.D. 7:00-8:00

UNM Biology, Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology, Evolutionary Psychology

"A History of Strong Natural Selection for Religiosity"

(The informational boundaries hypothesis and super-normal placebo effects.)



Member of the Research Faculty, in the UNM Department of Biology, since 1991. Also, Adjunct Faculty, since 2008, in UNM's Religious Studies program. Current specialty course, each Spring: "The Evolution of Religiosity and Human Coalitional Psychology." This course is uniquely offered either for Biology or Religious Studies credits. Over 25 years of ongoing field and lab research on the sexual selection system of the sierra dome spider.

Paul did a 16 month NATO-NSF post doc at Oxford with William D. Hamilton (1990-91), and a one year NSF- funded post doc here at UNM with Randy Thornhill (1989). Got his Ph.D., 1988, in the Evolution of Behavior, from the Section of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University:

Lifelong interest, since high school, in examining religion and spirituality, both experientially and scientifically, but always under the overriding "objectifying influence" of evolutionary biology / modern Darwinism.

Paul will share a few tentative conclusions from that 40-year expedition... made possible by Darwin and his scientific progeny.



8:00 - 9:00, Ron Herman of FFR-ABQ will present "*A Brief comparison of Science and Religion.*"

and

Jim Travis of the Humanist Society of NM (HSNM) will

discuss "*Evolution of Morality*";

and

Jerry Gilbert of HSNM will discuss

"*Evolutionary Science & the Continuing Battle for Truth through Science*"

Topic: Evolutionary sciences are the result of many people engaged in scientific research over long periods of time. Evolution is as strongly



grounded as any "theory" is today. Yet there are religious extremists who are greatly committed to using their wealth & influence to undermine evolution in particular, & science in general. We must be more committed than they to defend the work of Darwin & others, & educate our children in the ways of reason, skepticism, inquiry, & the scientific method.

Sponsors

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

preserves and interprets the distinctive natural and scientific heritage of our state through our extraordinary collections, research, exhibits and programs designed to ignite a passion for lifelong learning. We inspire a greater appreciation, understanding and stewardship of science and our natural world.

Website: www.nmnaturalhistory.org



New Mexicans for Science & Reason (NMSR)

is a non-profit group with the goals of promoting science, the scientific method, rational thinking, and critical examination of dubious or extraordinary claims. NMSR meets at 7 PM on the second

Wednesday of each month, in the Multi-Purpose Room of the NM Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. NMSR publishes a monthly newsletter, *NMSR Reports*, and hosts dozens of articles on its web site,

www.nmsr.org.

Humanist Society of New Mexico

Our Mission: The purpose of HSNM is to educate our members and the public concerning humanist ideals and humanist approaches to solving personal, social, and environmental problems, while providing a welcoming and supportive community for NM humanists and freethinkers.

Website: hsnm.wordpress.com



Freedom From Religion, Albuquerque

A chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation . FFR-ABQ is working to keep state and church separate and to educate the public about the views of non-theists. We call ourselves "non-theists" or "free-thinkers," which means "a person who forms opinions about religion on the basis of reason, independently of tradition, authority, or established belief."

Website: www.meetup.com/FFRABQ/