

VILLAGE VIEW

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Few of us who have lived on the Cape for the past fifteen or twenty years can escape the realization of the many changes wrought in this special place. Roads carry more traffic; woodlands become residential areas; business centers in villages expand. More and more people are choosing to live here year 'round.

Some of the changes are good ones; others place additional burdens on us all. More families mean more children in our schools; schools become overcrowded; more classrooms are necessary, more buses needed, more supplies and equipment purchased, and more teachers hired.

More families also mean more police protection is required, more roads must be maintained, more streets lighted, more fire protection provided. Disposal areas fill up faster. Beaches overflow with residents and tourists alike. Recreation facilities are in demand. Real estate taxes rise.

Along with changes such as these, we have certain positive ones, such as cultural and educational facilities that enrich the quality of our lives and give all residents of the Cape, and summer visitors, too, an opportunity to participate in activities through which they can meet others who share their interests and concerns. These add nothing to the tax rates for they are supported by private funds and contributions.

Among the growing number of facilities now available to those of us fortunate enough to make our homes on this sandy strand and to those who visit as well is the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Membership is open to all, and every member is invited to participate in the excellent programs the museum offers; many programs are open to non-members.

For newcomers to the Cape seeking to establish themselves and make new friends and acquaintances, the museum offers an introduction to an understanding of the entire area and draws people from all walks of life, all age-groups, and all parts of the Cape. It's an excellent vehicle for becoming a part of the Cape's social life and finding compatible people who share a common interest, the world around us, the microcosm in which we live.

During the month of June, for instance, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is conducting family walks each Saturday. These begin at 1:30 in the afternoon and participants may enjoy them for as long or short a period as they choose.

A week-long course on seaweeds will be given between 1:00 and 3:00 beginning June 9th. An oceanology cruise on Cape Cod Bay will accommodate forty fortunate people on June 10th. The registration fee is \$10.

On June 13th a field walk emphasizing geology and birds will be conducted in Falmouth; it starts at 1:00 p.m. at the parking lot, Beebe Woods. On the 16th, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. members interested in learning about edible wild plants may find, collect and sample the bounty of the fields. Registration is \$6, limited, and you're asked to bring a bag lunch; you aren't expected to survive on what you gather. Call ahead for a place.

Anyone with curiosity about the Galapagos Islands will enjoy the program and slide show to be presented at the museum on June 20th at 8:00 p.m. On June 25 at 1:30 p.m. and again on the 26th at 10:00 a.m., there will be a wildflower workshop. If you're interested, register; space is limited.

Whale watching has become a favorite pastime among those who enjoy boating; to learn about whales in Cape Cod waters without going to sea, attend the 7:30 p.m. session on June 27th at museum headquarters. You may even be inspired to participate in one of the fall whale trips scheduled for September 14 and 21 and again on October 5, 19, and 26.

The museum, like other facilities of its kind, always seeks volunteers. If you've a little time on your hands you'd like to put to good use, and if you want to meet people dedicated to knowing and preserving the natural beauties of Cape Cod, attend the Volunteer Party on June 23rd at 5:00 p.m. at headquarters. Meet the staff, the Board and other volunteers. Everyone's welcome.

In addition to the museum's newsletter, mailed periodically to its membership, a fine small magazine, THE NATURALIST, is published and distributed. It's a quality production.

During the summer, programs for children are sponsored by the museum on Wednesdays, morning and afternoons,

at the Osterville Community Center. Registration is required.

An annual event is the Birdcarvers' Exhibit; this year the dates are September 26, 27 and 28. It's a perfect time to take your visiting guests or new neighbors in your community, a good way to introduce them to the museum and to interesting and interested people ready to extend a cordial welcome.

The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is but one of several cultural facilities which have risen. Phoenix-like, on the Cape in the past few decades. Its members are intelligent, though not necessarily intellectual; people who enjoy all facets of the Cape, eager to share their pleasure and knowledge with everyone else who is concerned for the environment surrounding us all, are on its membership roster.

Newcomers to the Cape aren't the only people who can use the facility to broaden their knowledge and friendships; native Cape Codders have plenty to learn about the place they think they know inside and out. Summer visitors are welcome as well. The programs offered are designed to meet the needs of everyone on the Cape who is curious about the world of nature, the world we share with other forms of life, and the Cape's inanimate structure, too. Membership is inexpensive and rewarding; members may be as active or inactive as they choose. It's something you might like to investigate.

For further information, or to sign up for any of the programs that require registration, dial 896-3867 during office hours, or stop at the headquarters building on Route 6A in Brewster and introduce yourself. You'll be glad you did.

It could change your life for the better.