



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

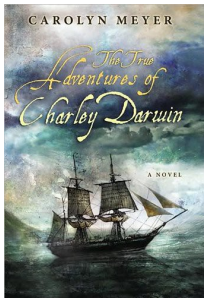
Two separate days of activities and talks celebrating the birthday (Feb. 12th) and life of the founder of modern evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin.

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

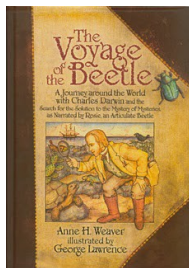
Sunday, Feb 9, 2014
At the New Mexico Museum of
Natural History & Science
1801 Mountain Rd NW

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.

Rebecca 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.