



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 biology, Charles Darwin.

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

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.*"

This talk presents a comparison of science and religion, not as evolving philosophies, but as they both stand in the world today. Are they in separate domains of knowledge, and should each be given the same stature? Or, are they incompatible and in conflict? Is one or the other false or corrupt and dangerous?

**Jim Travis of the Humanist Society of NM
(HSNM)** will discuss "*Evolution of Morality*";

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.



LOCATION

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

SPONSORS

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/