

The Maria Mitchell Association

# 2015 Annual Report

## Nantucket's Science Center



**Maria  
Mitchell**  
Association  
Nantucket's  
Science Center

[www.mariamitchell.org](http://www.mariamitchell.org)



*There is something of the same  
pleasure in noticing the hues of  
the stars that there is in looking  
at a flower garden in autumn.*

*Maria Mitchell*





## Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association is to promote the legacy of Maria Mitchell and exploration, education, and enjoyment of Nantucket's land, waters, and skies beyond. In fulfilling our mission, we recognize the historic persona of Maria Mitchell, the foremost American woman scientist and educator of the 19th century, and her potential impact on contemporary thought by passing on her legacy of intellectual curiosity, respect for and love of nature, learning by doing, and the ideal of individualism.



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# President's Report

A year ago the MMA Board of Directors decided to put our Washington Street project on hold while we focused on: 1) strengthening our development and marketing capabilities; and 2) executing on our core science and education mission. I believe this strategic focus is starting to pay off. Our education offerings had record attendance, our Astronomy programs got a new strong leader in Dr. Regina Jorgenson, the MMA has become much more visible and able to attract new donors and grantors, and, most importantly, we hired, after an extensive search, a terrific new Executive Director, David Gagnon, who is well prepared to lead us into the future.



Dave brings with him a passion for this legendary organization. As Executive Director, he will flesh out and implement the Strategic Plan developed by the MMA Board and Staff that outlines a new vision for our existing buildings and programs. Dave's initial focus is working to complete the Research Center, the site of the former MMA Science Library. Under Dave's leadership, new corporate sponsors are being cultivated and support from individual donors is increasing. Grants to the MMA have grown as well. But there is still more work to be done.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the MMA's Acting Executive Director for much of the last year. I couldn't have done it without the support of our great Staff and fellow Board Members. I would like to especially thank all of you named in this Annual Report for the generous support you give us which allows the MMA to continue its proud tradition of science research and education.

The future of the Maria Mitchell Association – Nantucket's Science Center – has never been brighter and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board and the Staff.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Daniels".

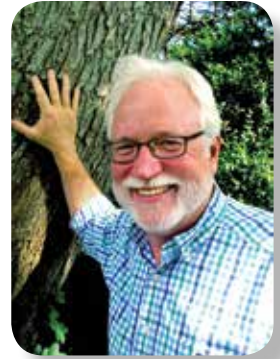
John L. Daniels

President, MMA Board of Directors

# Executive Director's Report

Dear Friends of the Maria Mitchell Association:

As I reflect on my first seven months as the Executive Director, I am struck by the impact Maria Mitchell, America's first woman astronomer and acute observer of the natural world, has had on me and everyone touched by her legacy. Her careful observations in 1847 led her to discover the comet that would be named for her and would make her a household name and icon of the mid 19th century. Without a doubt, thousands of children and adults have been impacted by the organization formed in her name over one hundred years ago.

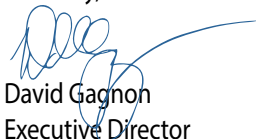


Today, the Maria Mitchell Association, Nantucket's Science Center, is a dynamic place of learning and exploration. With almost 600 children enrolled in our camp programs, a newly revived Science Speaker Series, improvements to our facilities underway, ground-breaking scientific research and expanded programming for our year-round residents and visitors alike, the Maria Mitchell Association is well positioned to provide meaningful and lasting science research and education, fostering curiosity about our world and beyond.

One of the best ways to measure the success of an organization is through those directly impacted by the work of the organization. Recently, Hannah, one of our former summer camp participants and now a summer intern in high school, wrote a letter in support of MMA that beautifully describes the impact MMA has had on her life and I wanted to share a quote from her letter. *"As a participant in the MMA Teen Leadership Program, a volunteer, and now a high school intern, who hopes to be a repeat high school intern, and perhaps a college intern as well, my exposure to, and experience with the MMA has been tremendously positive and influential for me. I can only imagine that I speak for numerous other young people who have passed through the aquarium doors (and then onto the science museum and the observatory) as visitors, volunteers, and interns. It has helped me foster a love of science and provided me with access to young scientists, teachers, and researches as role models".*

On behalf of Hannah and all the others who have been impacted by the MMA, I am profoundly grateful to all our members and generous supporters who have provided the financial and in-kind support required to continue our work. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,



David Gagnon  
Executive Director

*P.S. And a special and heartfelt thanks to John Daniels, Board Chair and volunteer Interim Director of the MMA for almost one year prior to my arrival. His devotion to MMA, science research, and education on Nantucket through countless hours of work, is a testament to the legacy of Maria Mitchell. John is a MMA shining star!*

MMA's Astronomy Department had an exciting year in 2015. The flagship summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program continued to be a great success with generous support from the National Science Foundation. Nearly 200 applications were received and after the difficult process of reviewing all of them, six excellent students were chosen to spend summer 2015 on Nantucket:

- Lizzie Apala (East Central University, Oklahoma)
- Patrick Drew (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
- Missy McIntosh (Harvard University)
- Rayna Rampalli (Wellesley College)
- Madison Smith (New College of Florida)
- John Weaver (University of St. Andrews, Scotland)



This talented group of young scientists had a full summer of astronomical research, and participated actively in MMA's public outreach and other activities. Each student worked on an individual research project under the joint tutelage of MMA's Director of Astronomy, Dr. Michael West; Gary Walker; and an affiliated astronomer from another university. Student projects covered a diverse range of topics, including galaxies, star clusters, and distant explosions known as Gamma Ray Bursts. Our affiliated astronomers this summer were :

- Dr. Michael Gregg (University of California, Davis)
- Dr. Kathy Rhode (Indiana University and MMA Board Member)
- Dr. John Salzer (Indiana University)
- Dr. Alicia Soderberg (Harvard University)
- Dr. Peter Stetson (Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics)
- Dr. Vladimir Strelitski (MMA Director Emeritus of Astronomy)

The REU students presented the results of their research at the annual winter meeting of the American Astronomical Society, held January 2016 in Orlando, FL. Patrick Drew won the prestigious Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award that "recognizes exemplary research by undergraduate and graduate students who present at one of the poster sessions at the meetings of the AAS." Patrick was one of eight undergraduate students given this honor, out of nearly 130 undergraduate students who entered the competition. He has since been accepted into the Ph.D. program in astronomy at the University of Texas.



Public viewing nights at Loines Observatory were well-attended throughout the year, with the usual large crowds during the summer months. Additionally, there were daily tours of the Vestal Street Observatory. In partnership with MMA's Education Department, a number of astronomy-themed classes were also offered for kids, such as ARTstronomy, Blast Off! (rocketry), and Robot Explorers.

Dr. Michael West published three papers in leading scientific journals during 2015 with an international team of collaborators. His new book, *A Sky Wonderful with Stars: 50 Years of Modern Astronomy on Maunakea*, was also published in July 2015 by the University of Hawaii Press. Additionally, he published an invited opinion piece titled, "On Mauna Kea, Astronomers and Hawaiians Can Share the Sky" in *Scientific American*.



The Science Lecture Series was restarted in late July with a variety of astronomy, as well as science, talks held at 33 Washington Street during August and September. With support from a ReMain Community Foundation Grant, we extended the use of Drake Cottage to include visiting Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston who helped with Loines Observatory Open Nights.

This year, we mentored our fourth Field Work Term (FWT) student from Bennington College in January and February. Brenden Walter studied and operated the telescope to take data for a project. Our first FWT student, Alexa Vallumme is currently in a Ph.D. program at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

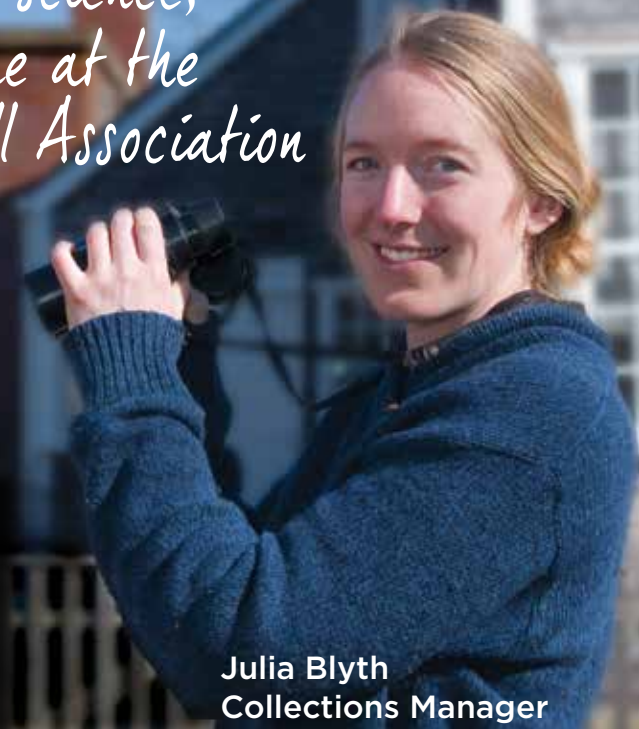


Regina Jorgenson, Ph.D.,  
Incoming Director of Astronomy

Michael West left MMA at the end of July 2015 to take up a new position as Deputy Director for Science at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ. MMA looks forward to welcoming our new Director of Astronomy, Dr. Regina Jorgenson, in January 2016. Kudos to Gary Walker for his excellent job of keeping the program running smoothly during the transition period.



*As a woman in science,  
I found a home at the  
Maria Mitchell Association*



**Julia Blyth**  
**Collections Manager**

***From my first summer at the Maria Mitchell Association,*** I have been devoted to the preservation and expansion of the biological collections. I began my internship at the Natural Science Museum where I discovered that there hadn't been a thorough dragonfly survey on Nantucket since 1918. I decided to take the task on. Digging into drawers with dragonfly specimens collected almost one hundred years ago to compare them to modern ones, helped me appreciate the importance of the Maria Mitchell Association's incredible collections. My objective is to add to them so that future scientists can understand the changing trends of plants and animals on this unique island.

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## Aquarium

The Aquarium had a very successful year. Our volunteer program continues to grow and there are now eleven high school interns who "graduated" from the program. We hope they return as college interns. Retaining volunteers and staff members helps create community within our programs, and allows us to build rapport with patrons. The added benefit of staff with their own housing on Nantucket also significantly reduces the housing pressures on the MMA.



Like our volunteer program, the year-round live animal collection continues to grow. The summer season brought in a variety of tropical fish and the Aquarium now has a live trunkfish in addition to the permits, flying gurnard, and doctor fish. Elliot Sudal, a.k.a. "The Shark Wrestler," found a short bigeye and donated it to the Aquarium. We would like to thank all of the fishermen and charter captains listed on the MMA Scientific Permit for their donations of specimens to the Aquarium. And thanks to special support from the Kemmerrer Foundation for helping us install two new large aquarium systems.



Although the Aquarium is continuing to flourish, early August did not come without trials. We lost one of two phases in our hook up to the electrical grid due to a deteriorating electrical meter. This meant that multiple electrical sockets in every room stopped working. The interns collaborated and managed to get filtration equipment operating for the tanks. To get the filtration equipment running meant giving up the lights – using their problem solving skills, the interns came up with the idea to provide patrons with flashlight tours. Over the next day, the staff worked to shut down and consolidate tanks to make the Aquarium presentable with only



# Natural Science

fifty percent power. It was incredible luck that the 400-gallon, the outdoor circle tank, and the new 200-gallon systems were already using functioning outlets. Despite our unfortunate luck, the staff demonstrated its ability to take challenges in stride, and make the most out of any situation. The Aquarium still held the public release day event on September 5<sup>th</sup>, attracting a crowd of over 184 people.

## **Natural Science Museum**

In addition to the Aquarium, we had a very strong core of volunteers at the Museum this year. As with 2014, several students logged many hours talking with visitors and caring for the animals. Their dedication and development was evident to visitors and has inspired more volunteers to join the program.

Overall, the Museum saw a drop in admissions but the new, all-inclusive pass system (initiated midsummer) helped increase admissions revenue. Our "Carnivorous Critters" program numbers were down, but "Meet the Animals" was above average. Overall, Museum facility-based programs increased in revenue.

In 2015, the Natural Science Department ceded all off-season programming to the Education Department and did not run any Museum programs allowing staff to focus on wrapping up research projects, initiating new ones, and completing research papers. The usual off-season Museum programs were instead offered at the Nantucket Science Festival.

The Natural Science Department organized and hosted numerous classes and public and private programs during the summer reaching an estimated 892 people. Many programs were free for participants and many were collaborations.

## **Research**

Research remains focused on invertebrates, snakes, osprey, and barn owls. We actively worked on twelve projects in 2015. We also added to the biological collections and continued to make the collections available to the public.

Research programs consisted of ongoing projects and new projects. The biological collections were used eighteen times: twice for education programs, four times for MMA research or photography, and twelve times for research by other organizations.

The Specify™ database is almost at 100% functionality. The only large collection not uploaded is the Edith F. Andrews Ornithology Collection. The Herbarium data is in Specify™ and a project for 2016 will be updating the taxonomy table with current names. Additionally, seven frozen bird specimens were delivered to the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, MA under the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding with the MMA.

# My Path to the Stars Began at the Maria Mitchell Association



**Regina Jorgenson, Ph.D.**  
*Director of Astronomy  
Maria Mitchell Association*



When I first arrived on Nantucket as a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates intern, I could never have imagined the impact that the Maria Mitchell Association would have on my life. It was here at the MMA that I had my first taste of real research — using the historic photographic plate collection to write and publish my first scientific paper — which gave me the confidence to pursue a career in science. At the same time, learning about the long history of women in science at the MMA inspired me to work towards creating a more inclusive scientific community — work that I am still passionate about today. I am proud to be continuing the legacy of Maria Mitchell and I'm honored to now be in a position to give back to the MMA and the community of Nantucket by helping to inspire and train the next generation of explorers of the Universe.

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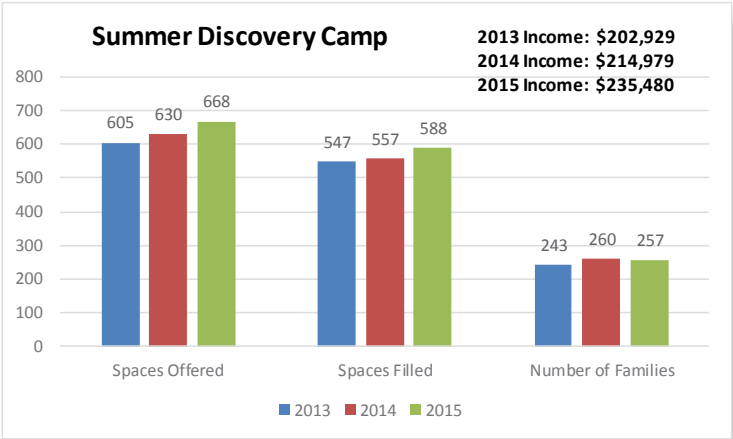
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# Education

In 2015 our Discovery Camp program continued to grow. We offered more camp spaces, filled a record high number of spaces, expanded age offerings, and generated more income than ever before.



Some exciting changes in 2015 included full scholarships for English language learning families, an all-new Pre-Wee Explorers camp for children ages three and one-half to five years with an adult companion, and community service camps including Green Guardians for 10-12 year olds and Community Service and Ecology for 13-16 year olds enrolled in our Naturalist Leadership Program. Additionally, we also offered a new Eco-tech Explorers program for 10-12 year olds that uses technology to study nature and included such activities as geocaching, underwater digital photography, invasive plant mapping, and more. The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation awarded a grant to help support this program.



After just one year with MMA, Kim Botelho, the Director of Education, joined the Board of the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES). In her role at MEES, she is working to promote environmental literacy throughout the Commonwealth with a particular interest in the development of the Massachusetts Environmental Literacy Plan.



Thanks to the generosity of EGCF, a nonprofit foundation, we were able to provide twenty camp scholarships this year, compared to only eight awarded in 2014, with a total value of \$9,097. Ten scholarships provided an 80% reduction in camp costs and ten provided 100% of the camp cost as part of an effort to reach more English language learning families. Due to a number of challenges reaching this audience, we would not have been successful without the help of Patricia Harding from the Nantucket Elementary School.

We continued to offer weekly lesson plans and evaluations to parents. This year, we had 171 responses to our evaluation compared to 107 in 2014. Parents and children remain excited about our program with 156 responses indicating that their child's camp experience exceeded all expectations.

The Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association and the Nantucket Community School held the Second Annual Nantucket Science Festival on Saturday, March 19th in the Nantucket High School Cafeteria. The free family event lasted four hours and was held at the Nantucket High School. The event attracted 375 individuals. Last year, the event attracted 260 individuals.



Designed to inspire the next generation of inventors and innovators, the Nantucket Science Festival was a family-friendly event where participants explored STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) concepts. Activities included robots, electricity experiments, crafts for little ones, nanotechnology, and science demonstrations. Local businesses also donated door prizes for the children attending the event. The Nantucket Science Festival was supported by Dr. David and Beverly Barlow and the Community Foundation for Nantucket.



# I Know Where I'm Going

## Thanks to the Maria Mitchell Association



*Emily Parker*

*Lead Educator, Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region*

Working as a summer intern at the Maria Mitchell Association was a huge turning point for me and my career. I learned so much, both about the field of outdoor education and about myself. Since leaving MMA, I have continued teaching marine science, predominantly to under-served youth in Washington, DC.

Most of my students have never even seen the ocean before, and our lessons are the bridge between them and the marine world. I dream of someday becoming a director of a nature center or aquarium, and I thank MMA for showing me that dreams can become a reality.

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# Mitchell House, Special Collections, Facilities

2015 was again a busy year of activities for the Mitchell House. We offered several walks and workshops including our popular Historic Stone Monument Conservation workshop in conjunction with the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association and *Four Centuries Domestic History Walking Tours with Nantucket Preservation Trust* and the Nantucket Historical Association.



The MMA had numerous requests for the use of historic photographs. BBC America's "*Great American Railway Journeys*" production sought several photographs concerning a piece they were doing on Vassar College. Requests were made for information on Maria Mitchell for inclusion in various books – including one on eclipses – and articles.

Tours of the Mitchell House are special and unique with tours based on the visitors' interests. Tours are given to whomever comes to the door and whenever – there are no timed tours. And of course our days are also filled with our popular Junior Historian classes and special group tours.

The focus this past summer was mildew remediation throughout the House. Additionally, the summer intern worked to create master floor and artifact plans of every room and every artifact in the House. The intern also cleaned and cataloged the extensive Nantucket book collection donated to the Special Collections by Mort and Reva Schlesinger.



The old Science Library is in the process of being converted into a Research Center using a light touch to preserve the historic fabric and architectural features of the building. The major conservation of the exterior was completed in 2015, largely funded by Nantucket's Community Preservation Act. Masonry and steel work was

completed as was carpentry work including gutters, downspouts, and re-shingling. The building had an intensive three-day mold cleaning and remediation, and all of the exterior trim and sashes were painted, as well as the stucco. MMA hopes in 2016 to have the preservation easement completed for the exterior and permits in-hand to begin work on the interior of the building which will include the new structural support and HVAC systems, an accessible bathroom, an accessible ramp at the rear of the building, and some light carpentry work as well as furnishings.

# Mitchell House, Special Collections, Facilities

Other preservation and repair activities for the remainder of the MMA included:

*Aquarium* – new front light, new electrical service, re-shingling, ramp and deck repairs, doors replaced on back buildings.

*Drake Cottage* – new flooring in dorm bedrooms and hallways, all locks repaired or replaced, cleaning out of basement and grounds clean up, new dorm protocols and rental prices, repairs to various appliances, windows professionally washed inside and outside, basement stairs reinforced, gutters and downspouts repaired, gravel installed for clean-up area for Education Department, black out curtains in Astronomy dorm bedrooms, new outdoor furniture for front porch, new glassware and utensils for dorms, new refrigerator for Administrative office.

*Loines Observatory* – exterior bench repaired, doors repaired/replaced on domes, brush cut back, electrical repairs.

*Maria Mitchell Observatory* – electrical repairs in Astronomical Study, wood grates for cellar windows to replace missing and broken ones, repairs and re-pointing where MMO meets Mitchell House and in areas around parapet over Astronomical Study.

*Hinchman House* – Shower and various bathroom repairs in dorm bathrooms, former Gift Shop ceiling repaired, painting of two front exhibit rooms and front stair hall with grant funding, clean up of driveway area, new garbage enclosure, repairs to a historic interior transom, estimates for roof replacement, new dormitory fridge, new glassware and utensils for dorms.

*Astronomer's Cottage* – estimates for roof replacement and re-shingling, temporary roof repairs.

*33 Washington Street Site* – repairs to cottages, clean ups inside buildings and around grounds, code review of main building and code/use update with Town, various electrical and carpentry repairs, replace sewer line and replace landscape after sewer work, lighting for lectures.



# Thirty Years Later and the Journey Still Continues

**Valerie A. Hall, Ph.D.**  
*Marine Research Scientist*



I have been involved with the Maria Mitchell Association for over thirty years in many capacities; as a board member, Aquarium volunteer, teacher, and research associate. But the most important way that the MMA affected my life has happened over the past twelve years.

Soon after I retired from teaching in 2004, Dr. Bob Kennedy, former Director of Natural Sciences, asked me to join the MMA Bay Scallop Research team. I was so inspired by this work that I decided to go to graduate school at the University of Massachusetts.

With Bob's encouragement, I wrote my dissertation on the results of our research here on Nantucket.

I earned my Ph.D. in 2014, a lifelong dream, and something which would never have been possible without the Maria Mitchell Association. I am now able to continue my research on Bay Scallops thanks to the Maria Mitchell Association.



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# Development & Communications

The Nantucket Golf Foundation awarded a significant grant to MMA for the purpose of renovations for the new Research Center. Several other gifts were given as restricted donations to that project including a major commitment from the Tupancy - Harris Foundation. Some individuals who made pledges to the Nantucket Science Center requested their pledges be redirected to the completion of the Research Center. As a result of grants, gifts, and pledges, the Research Center earned \$402,288 towards the estimated \$750,000 project. When complete, the Research Center will provide a year-round classroom and lab, as well as serve as the permanent repository of the specimens representing a century of flora and fauna from Nantucket. The space will also provide adequate research space for scientists using the specimen collection as part of their research.



After fifteen years of being called "An Evening Under The Stars," the largest fundraiser of the Maria Mitchell Association re-branded the event to become the "Nantucket Red Tie Soirée." The goal was to increase revenue and to engage a younger crowd, especially the parents of children attending our programs and camps. Held at the Sankaty Head Golf Club on the evening of July 10, the event urged guests to wear quintessential "Nantucket-style" clothing. The evening also included dance music and an electronic silent auction. The re-branding of the event increased revenue over 2014 by over 30%. A partnership with Murray's Toggery Shop helped to establish the theme of the event. Social media, including several videos presenting, "What to wear to the event," were produced and distributed via social media outlets.

The trip by the Executive Director to Washington, D.C. to attend "Astronomy Night at the White House" garnered media attention locally and nationally. Following the event, a press release was sent to local media. The radio station 97.7 ACK interviewed Executive Director Gagnon about the experience and role of MMA in science education. The interview was aired in its entirety on the station. An audio file of the interview was forwarded to MMA Board Member, Judy MacLeod, who was able to place the story through Rivet Radio, a national all-news streaming application based in Chicago.



## 2015 Donors and Supporters

*We strive for accuracy in this list. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please let us know at (508) 228-9198 or by email to [gdonnelly@mariamitchell.org](mailto:gdonnelly@mariamitchell.org).*

### Soirée Individual Sponsors

#### Corona Borealis (\$15,000)

Bebe Archibald Poor, D.V.M., M.S.  
Anonymous

#### Ursa Major (\$5,000)

Anna-Karin & David Dillard  
Toni & Martin McKerrow  
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#### Ursa Minor (\$2,500)

Howard & Maureen Blitman  
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Suzanne & Andrew Viens  
Helene & Tim Weld  
John & Mary West

### Soirée Business Sponsors

Murray's Toggery Shop  
Nantucket BLACKbook

### Soirée Donations

James & Barbara Duffy  
Dan & Judith Drake  
Irene McGrath  
William Moore  
Donald and Debra Van Dyke  
Marie Watkins

## Supporting Members

#### Miss Mitchell's Comet (\$5,000)

Falconwood Foundation, Inc.

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Howard & Maureen Blitman  
David Swope

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Hattie Ruttenberg & Jonathan Molot  
Laura Debonis & Scott Nathan  
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Oppenheimer  
Keith & Betsy Wilson  
Suzanne & Bob Wright

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Philip & Janet Villiotte

#### Nova (\$250)

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Julia Blanchard  
Robi & Ruth Blumenstein  
Chris & Allison Bovard  
Robert & Eileen Butler  
James Carey  
Ray & Dennice Carey

# Our Galaxy of Support

† deceased

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John & Margaret Falk  
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Peggy Gilfoy  
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## Honorary Members

Peter Boyce  
Frances Fergusson  
Eileen McGrath  
Kitty Pochman  
Derek Till

## Restricted Gifts

### Barn Owl Box

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John & Margaret Falk  
Karon & Joseph Fisher  
Eric & Lisa Frost  
Sarah & William Goodman  
Peter & Maria Kellner

Robert & Sarah Knauff  
Sherry Lowe  
Meg Reynolds & William McKee  
Toni & Martin McKerrow  
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James & Gladys Stedman  
George & Ann Thom  
Susan & Bill Untereker  
Brace & Landis Young

## Birdathon

Edith Andrews†  
Ginger Andrews  
Ken & Cindy Blackshaw  
Kim Botelho  
Richard & Patricia Brauman  
Sarah Erichsen  
Jascin & Eric Finger  
Richard Foster  
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Irene Porter  
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## Nantucket Science Center

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Bebe Archibald Poor, D.V.M., M.S.  
Bernard & Patty Brennan  
Cartar Cafritz  
Toni & Martin McKerrow  
Beth Moyer  
Laura Debonis & Scott Nathan

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Donna Henry Nizolek  
PlaneWave Instruments, Inc.

## Education

Dick Cumbie

## Mitchell & Hinchman Houses

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Nancy Giragosian & Burton Went

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Nantucket Shellfish Association



# Our Galaxy of Support

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The Archibald Family Foundation  
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### \$10,000 +

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Robert Gambee  
Robert & Sharon Gardner  
Eva Gaw  
John Gettier  
Henry Gewirtz

# Our Galaxy of Support

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Mary-Elizabeth Young  
Lee & Philip Zinn



## Remembering Edith Folger Andrews

by Jascin N. Leonardo Finger, Curator & Deputy Director

I was probably nine or ten when I first met her. My parents took my brother and I on a Maria Mitchell Association (MMA) nature walk. I think there were probably some groans from the adults who saw two children coming along – little did they know how enthusiastic we were about this walk.

I quite literally learned at her knee as she sat in the old black rocker in the Mitchell House. I was twelve, she was in her early seventies. Edith Folger Andrews began her MMA career in the Mitchell House, as an assistant to the curator; herself working with Maria Mitchell's cousins. Over time, Edith became curator and served for many, many years and at several different times as curator – into 1980. She knew about the Mitchells and the House inside and out.

I always knew Edith in connection to the Mitchell House. After all, that is my world. It was not until maybe four or five years ago that I became more involved in the bird world of Edith Folger Andrews. She and Ginger asked if I would help to organize and compile Edith's journals – written in composition books, to small little purse sized day planners, to scribbles on an envelope if that's all she had with her when she saw something.

For several hours a week, we organized together, found all sorts of treasures, and dug through wonderful photographs. I typed up journal entries, Edith reading many of them to me aloud, took dictation about certain birding events, and learned all about the Reef Heron, Rocket, and of course dear, sweet Owlbert. I quickly learned her short-hand for different birds and got better about my own amateur birding. We birded from the living room, sitting in front of the sliders looking at the feeders. I learned more about birds during those several hours a week over those few years than I could have imagined. I also learned more about Edith, her life in her younger years, all sorts of great stories about the old days at MMA.

Thank you, Edith for everything you have given to all of us with brain, with heart, with hand. You have left a tremendous legacy and a path to follow. I love you.

*The step, however small, which is in advance of the world, shows the greatness of the person, whether that step be taken with brain, with heart, or with hands. – Maria Mitchell*



MMA Ornithologist Emeritus, Mitchell House  
Curator Dies at Age 100



# Donations and Gifts



† deceased

## **Mort† and Reva Schlesinger†**

Their entire Nantucket book collection, including various Nantucket ephemera

## **Hugh Harwood**

A bracelet given to his great aunt and MMA's first Director of Astronomy, Margaret Harwood, by the MMA

## **Ronald M. DaSilva**

Eight Nantucket Town reports from the late 19th century

## **Janet Coryell**

Nine reels of microfilm containing Maria Mitchell's papers

## **Christine Albers**

Several books and pamphlets concerning 19th century astronomy from her father's, Henry Albers, collection

## **Marine Home Center**

Discount on two new refrigerators for MMA

*We have a hunger of the mind which asks for knowledge of all around us, and the more we gain, the more is our desire; the more we see, the more we are capable of seeing.*

*— Maria Mitchell*



# Membership & Support

## Membership

Membership in the Maria Mitchell Association brings you into the heart of MMA's activities and programs to explore and learn about the unique and special marine, terrestrial, and celestial "habitats" of Nantucket. Annual Members provide important unrestricted gifts to support our programs. The benefits enjoyed by our members include:

- Discounts on classes, programs, and workshops
- Invitations to join our citizen science research activities
- Free admission to the Natural Science Museum, the Aquarium, the Mitchell House, Vestal Street Observatory tours, and Stargazing Nights at Loines Observatory
- A 10% Discount in the museum shops
- A subscription to the *E-comet* newsletter



*For a complete list of 2015 members, please contact the MMA at (508) 228-9198*



## Our Galaxy Of Support

Thank you for your generosity! Your membership dues, gifts to the Year-End Appeal, sponsorships to the Nantucket Red-Tie Soirée, and donations to our special campaigns allow MMA to continue a legacy of exploration, education, and research.

There are many ways to give to MMA. You may choose to support a specific program or department or give an unrestricted gift which can be directed to where it is most needed. We also hope you will consider the MMA in your estate plans with a bequest. Many of our donors provide support through a gift of stocks or securities, or with a matching gift from their employer. For questions, please contact the Director of Development and Communications, George Donnelly, at (508) 228-9198.









# Financial Report

The Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association, Inc.  
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2015  
(With Summarized Audited Financial Information for 2014)

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 995,166	\$ 802,959
Inventories	1,318	2,006
Pledges receivable	615,981	713,261
Grants receivable	25,000	-
Other receivables	8,333	67,349
Investments	3,004,312	3,568,782
Real estate interests	65,500	211,090
Remainder interest in property	560,729	532,001
Property, plant, and equipment, net	<u>4,963,084</u>	<u>4,857,705</u>
	<u><u>\$ 10,239,423</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 10,755,153</u></u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 78,079	\$ 71,353
Not payable	<u>924</u>	<u>6,361</u>
	<u>79,003</u>	<u>77,714</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 5,873,418	\$ 6,180,466
Temporarily restricted	2,358,363	2,568,334
Permanently restricted	<u>1,928,639</u>	<u>1,928,639</u>
Total net assets	<u>10,160,420</u>	<u>10,677,439</u>
	<u><u>\$ 10,239,423</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 10,755,153</u></u>

# Financial Report

Revenue and Support	Unrestricted	Temporary Unrestricted	Permanently Unrestricted	Totals	
				2015	2014
Programs	\$ 279,612	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 279,612	\$ 263,627
Admissions	53,723	-	-	53,723	45,254
Museum Shop	13,517	-	-	13,517	14,892
Memberships	81,500	-	-	81,500	83,475
Grants	-	183,327	-	183,327	126,797
Contributions	136,909	10,396	-	147,305	123,009
Special events	116,525	-	-	116,525	108,820
Investment return designated for operations	171,817	-	-	171,817	300,000
Rental income	47,287	-	-	47,287	54,430
Interest income	2,888	-	-	2,888	3,391
Net assets released from restriction					
Satisfaction of program restrictions	95,259	(95,259)	-	-	-
Satisfaction of capital-related activities	413,349	-	-	413,349	275,231
Total revenue and support	1,412,386	94,464	-	1,510,850	1,368,955
<b>Expenses</b>					
Program services	957,991	-	-	957,991	1,090,287
Management and general	297,000	-	-	297,000	272,230
Development	287,542	-	-	287,542	139,569
Total expenses	1,542,533	-	-	1,542,533	1,503,086
Change in net assets from operating activities	(130,147)	98,464	-	(31,683)	(134,131)
<b>Non-operating activities:</b>					
Investment return, less amounts designated for operations	(173,292)	-	-	(173,292)	(255,500)
Contributions & grants restricted for capital activities	-	(76,186)	-	76,186	234,109
Loss on disposal of equipment	(3,609)	-	-	(3,609)	-
Donation of remainder interest in property	-	28,728	-	28,728	27,256
Net assets released from restriction					
Satisfaction of capital related restrictions	-	(413,349)	-	(413,349)	(275,231)
Change in net assets from non-operating activities	(176,901)	(308,435)	-	(485,336)	(269,366)
Change in net assets	(307,048)	(209,971)	-	(517,019)	(403,497)
Net assets, beginning of year	6,180,466	2,568,334	1,928,639	10,677,439	11,080,936
Net assets, end of year	5,873,418	2,358,363	1,928,639	10,160,420	10,677,439



# Board of Directors & Staff

## Board of Directors

### Officers

John Daniels, President  
Deb Manus, First Vice President  
Malcolm MacNab, M.D., Ph.D., Clerk  
Michael Nelson, Treasurer

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Robert W. Noyes, Ph.D.

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Toni McKerrow  
Bebe A. Poor, D.V.M.  
Eileen Rudden  
Anne P. Strain  
Edward Symes, III  
Helene Weld

## Maria Mitchell Association Staff

### Interim Executive Director *(to June 1, 2015)*

John Daniels, President of MMA Board

### Executive Director *(starting June 1, 2015)*

David Gagnon, Executive Director

### Administration

Joan Alison Stockman, Director of  
Finance & Administration

Lauren Berlin, Administrative &  
Marketing Assistant

### Development

George Donnelly, Director of  
Development & Communications

Sarah Erichsen, Development Coordinator

## Astronomy

Michael West, Ph.D., Director of Astronomy  
*(to July 2015)*

Gary Walker, M.S., Interim Director of Astronomy,  
(July 2015 to January 2016), Telescope Engineer  
and Astronomer

## Education

Kim Botelho, Director of Education

## Education Assistants

Allison Gayo                      Seth Englebourg

Summer Staff

## Assistant Camp Director

Lauren O'Brien

## Senior Environmental Educator

Christopher Coomey

## STEM Coordinator/Environmental

## Education Instructor

Erik Lokensgard

## Mitchell House, Archives & Special Collections

Jascin N. Leonardo Finger, M.A., Curator, Deputy  
Director *(starting February 2015)*

## Natural Sciences

Andrew McKenna-Foster, M.S., Director of  
Natural Science

Julia Blyth, Collections Manager

Peter B. Boyce, Ph.D., Research Associate

Valerie A. Hall, Ph.D., Research Associate

Robert S. Kennedy, Ph.D., Senior Research  
Fellow, MMA and Department of Ornithology,  
Harvard University Museum of Comparative  
Zoology

Virginia Andrews, Natural Science Program  
Assistant

Edith F. Andrews, M.A., Ornithologist Emeritus†

† deceased



# Interns & Volunteers



## **Mitchell House**

Catherine Bradley

Pat Michaelson, Ph.D., Volunteer Tour Guide

Jacqueline Ray, Nantucket Student Volunteer

Avery Hylton, Volunteer

## **MMA Natural Science Museum at Hinchman House**

Brendon Donoghue

Elisabeth Sorrows

## **MMA Aquarium**

Brian Chesnut

Erin Downing

Kimberly Mulvehill

Alison Swan

Isaac Hersh

W. Forrest Kennedy, Aquarium

Advisor and Technical Support

## **High School Interns**

Daniel Blatt

Grace Manning

Cate Boulter

Ned Manus

Kara Falck

Charlie Sziklas

Sadie Goetz

Chandler Zinn

Heyward Lathrop

## **Nantucket Shellfish Association**

### **High School Interns**

Dominic Costanzo, Nantucket High School

Karen Murtagh, Nantucket High School

## **Natural Science Volunteers**

### *Adult Volunteers:*

Ginger Andrews

Cheryl Beaton

Kenneth T. Blackshaw

Luke Cadrin

Ryan Flannery

Maris Humphreys

Hannah Johnson

Scott Leonard

Annie Mendelsohn

Eric Nordby

David Ryan

Jacques Zimicki

## **Environmental Education Instructors**

Andrew Baik

Taylor Brennan

Lily Evanston

Natalie Frendberg

Allison Gayo

Benjamin Loiselle

Ken McCormack

Molly McDermott

Jordan McHugh

Alexander Pfeufer

Julia Texiera

## **Astronomy Education Intern**

Caprice Phillips



# Volunteer Support & Collaborations

## Museum and Aquarium Volunteers

Gillian Berglund  
Rachel Blatt  
Gabriel Bouchard  
Thomas Carroll  
Lars Caspersen  
Christopher Chai  
Guy Davidson  
Tori Dixon  
Kara Falck  
Megan Farr  
Andrew Flax  
Hope Gagnon  
Sam Gaynor  
Jenna Genthner  
Ella Griffiths  
Jack Halik  
Will Halik

Claudia Hofford  
Edward Johnson  
Skyler Kardell  
Timothy Kihiczak  
India Kilgore  
Wyatt Leske  
Shea Lyden  
Isobel Mackinnon  
Julie Malony  
Ella Mare  
Hannah Moiser  
Ashley Olivia  
Broghan O'Hearn  
Elizabeth Panner  
Harry Panner  
Sarah Paulsen  
Madeleine Phillips

Will Pincince  
Afnaan Qureshi  
Riya Rampali  
Tristram Ravenscroft  
Sophie Roosevelt  
Jared Rosen  
Roy Ryder  
Stephanie Ryder  
Cade Sargent  
Duke Cassels-Smith  
Jared Soltys  
Jack Tolkan  
Sammy Walkey  
Francis Wallace  
Samson Weiner  
Jack Wilson  
Zephyr Zimicki

## 2015 Research/Program Collaborators:

### *American Burying Beetle*

Lou Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs, Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Cynthia Maynard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Anita Barstow, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### *Scallops*

Dr. Steve Estabrooks  
Tara M. Riley, Nantucket Town Shellfish Biologist and interns

### *Horseshoe Crabs, Insects, Scavengers*

Dr. Derek Perry, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
Dr. Sarah Oktay, Managing Director, UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station  
Dr. Jennifer Karberg, Research Supervisor, Nantucket Conservation Foundation  
Karen Beattie, Manager of the Department of Science and Stewardship, Nantucket Conservation Foundation  
Danielle O'Dell, Research Technician/Field Supervisor, Nantucket Conservation Foundation

### *Herbarium, Flora*

Pam Polloni, Research Assistant, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute  
Roberta Lombardi, Herbarium Assistant, UMass Amherst  
Kelly Omand, Research Technician/Field Supervisor, Nantucket Conservation Foundation  
Annie Mendelsohn, Rotary Club of Nantucket

### *Snakes, Birds*

Scott Smyers, Environmental Consultant, Oxbow Associates Inc.  
Joe Martinez, Curatorial Assistant, Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Vern Laux, Senior Naturalist, Linda Loring Nature Foundation  
Dr. Rob O. Bierregaard, Distinguished Visiting Professor, Department of Biology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

### *Other*

Jessica Cundiff, Curatorial Associate/Collections Manager, Museum of Comparative Zoology – Sankaty fossils  
Jason Bridges, Nantucket Bike Tours

## Education Volunteer

Elizabeth Pelegrin



The Maria Mitchell Association is proud to establish collaborations with other non-profit organizations and universities to offer the best in programs and to conduct research vital to understanding and preserving Nantucket's natural areas and to pursue cutting edge research in astronomy using MMA's telescopes and leading telescopes around the world and in space.

American Association of Variable Star Observers	Nantucket Shipwreck and Lifesaving Museum
Artists Association of Nantucket	National Collaborative of Women's History Sites
Willis Blount, <i>Ruthie B</i>	National Grid
Boston University	National Museum of Natural History
Children's House of Nantucket	National Research Council of Canada
City University of New York	Oxbow Associates, Inc.
Connecticut College	Peking University, China
Egan Maritime Institute	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
European Southern Observatory	Preservation Institute Nantucket
International Astronomical Union	Prospect Hill Cemetary Association
Josh Eldridge, <i>Critter Cruises</i>	Roger Williams Park Zoo
Mark Genthner, <i>Just Do It Too</i>	Rotary Club of Nantucket
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Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology	Shearwater Excursions
Keck Observatory	The Trustees of Reservations
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Long Island University	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Massachusetts Audubon Society	University of California, Davis
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	University of Ghent, Belgium
<i>Monomoy Charters</i>	University of Hawaii
Nantucket Atheneum	UMass Amherst
Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative	UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station
Nantucket Boys and Girls Club	UMass Dartmouth School of Marine Science & Technology
Nantucket Community Sailing	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Nantucket Conservation Foundation	University of Paris, France
Nantucket Historical Association	University of Rhode Island
Nantucket Islands Land Bank Commission	University of Turku, Finland
Nantucket Land Council	University of Western Australia
Nantucket Marine & Coastal Resources Department	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nantucket Preservation Trust	Vassar College
Nantucket Public Schools	Yale University
Nantucket Shellfish Association	









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