



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Red Bank Humanists Celebrate Birthday of Evolution Champ

Red Bank Humanists will join hundreds of organizations around the world celebrating the 200th Birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th Anniversary of his seminal work, On the Origin of Species. The event will be presented at the Red Bank Charter School, 58 Oakland St. in Red Bank, NJ on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 10:30 a.m., and will feature guest speaker Dr. Alan Mann, Princeton University professor and noted expert on evolution, who will present "The Scars of Human Evolution," revealing our less than perfect evolution from four to two legs. A discussion will follow.

Darwin Day is an international celebration of science and humanity. It is specifically a celebration of the discoveries and life of Charles Darwin -- the man who first described biological evolution via natural selection with scientific rigor.

"We want to honor Mr. Darwin, his discovery, his character, his use of the scientific method, and to acknowledge how much his discovery has helped humanity," said Ron Steelman, President of Red Bank Humanists. "Darwin explains evolution very clearly when he says, 'It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.' I think we can all see that happening around us in our lives every day."

Dr. Alan Mann, Professor at Princeton University and Professor Emeritus of University of Pennsylvania, holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Mann is a physical anthropologist whose interests include paleoanthropology and human evolution. Professor Mann is also affiliated with Evolution at Princeton. He teaches courses on human adaptation and evolution and a summer field course on modern human origins in France. He jointly developed, with Janet Monge, an exhibit on the biological consequences of our evolution, which is presently open at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia ("Survivors: Body of Evidence"). Dr. Mann is a long time Humanist.

(more)

There is an organized movement against the teaching of biological evolution through natural selection. Those opposing evolution have spread a tremendous amount of misinformation. Also, efforts to reduce the teaching of evolution have left many people without a quality scientific education. This event seeks to give more people a better understanding of evolution and to demonstrate how important responsible scientific inquiry and education is to both our understanding of the world and our well being.

The Darwin Day Celebration (www.darwinday.org) started with one event in 1995. Last year there were more than 850 Darwin Day events world-wide. Darwin Day festivities can include debates, lectures, essay contests, film festivals, museum exhibits, art shows and even an "Evolution Banquet" with "Primordial Soup" followed by a "Darwin Fish Fry."

Red Bank Humanists seeks to understand the universe through science and critical thinking and represent an overall objective of developing a more humane society. More information about Red Bank Humanists is available at www.redbankhumanists.org. RBH is a chapter of the American Humanist Association.



(Caption: Princeton University Professor, Dr. Alan Mann, excavating a Neanderthal fossil at the French site of Artenac.)

(Link to hi-res photo)

http://www.redbankhumanists.org/hi_respix/DrAlanMannAtArtenac.jpg

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