



Roy Chapman Andrews
Society

Join Us

For the 23rd Distinguished Explorer Award Event

Presentation & Acceptance Lecture Honoring

Dr. Nick Pyenson

“Follow the Whale Bone Road: Fossils, 3D Data, and Discovering the Past and Future of Ocean Giants”



Friday, April 10th, 4:30 p.m.

In-person FREE event at the Wilson Theater, Beloit College

Celebratory fundraising dinner immediately following at the Powerhouse

For reservations, complete the mail-in form on the reverse or online at RoyChapmanAndrewsSociety.org. Deadline is April 1st.

Meet Our 2026 Distinguished Explorer Award Recipient

Dr. Nick Pyenson leads the Paleobiology department at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) as a top expert on ancient marine life. His work earned him a spot as a National Geographic Explorer, and he frequently shares his discoveries on NPR, the BBC, and in *The New York Times*. For his groundbreaking research, he won the Smithsonian’s highest awards and received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the Obama White House.

Dr. Pyenson travels the globe studying how whales and other marine life evolved and what the future holds for them as the climate changes. In 2011, he worked at Cerro Ballena, or “whale hill,” in the Atacama region of Chile, one of the richest marine

mammal fossil deposits. This site holds the first definitive evidence of repeated strandings of marine mammals in the fossil record. Racing against construction, Dr. Pyenson documented this unique deposit using 3-D digitization technology before valuable data was lost to excavation and relocation. Today, these 3-D images, models, and findings are publicly available online.

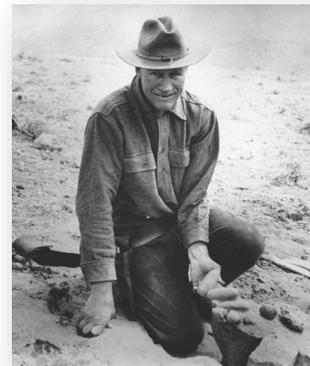
Beyond his groundbreaking work in Chile, Dr. Pyenson named nearly a dozen new species of fossils and discovered a new sensory organ present in living whales. He also shares his love of marine animals through writing, authoring the popular book *Spying on Whales* and co-authoring the children’s story, *The Whale Who Swam Through Time*.

Dr. Pyenson’s dedication stems from his belief that the past can help us understand our present and is key to protecting our future from climate change. He advocates for international collaboration, sharing data across borders, and supporting young researchers. He lives this mission through his travels and research, mentoring over 25 scientists, and partnering with colleagues around the world.



The Roy Chapman Andrews Society

Established in 1999, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society strives to build awareness of Beloit's most celebrated explorer, adventurer, naturalist, and educator, who later became director of the American Museum of Natural History. Roy Chapman Andrews (1884-1960), for whom adventure and narrow escapes were a staple of exploring, is said to have inspired the Hollywood character "Indiana Jones." The Society's mission is to inspire scientific discovery by engaging contemporary explorers who exemplify the legacy of Roy Chapman Andrews, Beloit's native son.



Each year, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society Distinguished Explorer Award recognizes an explorer for their outstanding achievements in scientific discovery through explorations that offer new insights into previously poorly known subjects or areas. The award presentation ceremony and acceptance lecture are free to the public. The recipient also presents a virtual talk with area middle and high school students and discusses their work with Beloit College classes.

Past recipients include John Hawks (2025), Shane Campbell-Staton (2024), Sarah Stewart Johnson (2023), Philip Currie (2022), Sarah Parcak (2021), Neil Shubin (2019), Richard Alley (2018), Wade Davis (2017) Alan Rabinowitz (2016), Edith Widder (2015), Meg Lowman (2014), John Grotzinger (2013), Nathan Wolfe (2012), Steve Lekson (2011), Sylvia Earle (2010), Paul Sereno (2009), Mark Moffett (2008), Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson (2007), Steve Squyres (2006), Robert Ballard (2005), Mark Plotkin (2004), and Michael J. Novacek (2003).

Student Programs Sponsored by the Society

The Society's student educational programs are designed to engage students throughout the Distinguished Explorer Award events. This student-focused program includes participating in the special seating at the public acceptance lecture, a private meet-and-greet reception with the recipient, a signed copy of their book, and attendance at the celebratory dinner. Your tax-deductible donation will help to support these and other educational programs in science and exploration for local youth in the Greater Beloit Community.

Join Us As We Celebrate the 23rd DEAE Event

In 2026, the Society will celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of the first Distinguished Explorer Award event, honoring modern-day explorers who exemplify the legacy of Andrews, Beloit's Native Son.

The RCAS Traveling Exhibit, "A Visual History of Roy Chapman Andrews, Beloit's Native Son," will be on display at the Beloit Public Library from April 1st until April 15th. The exhibit includes banners featuring expedition photos from the American Museum of Natural History, where Andrews retired as the director, as well as artifacts and personal photos of Andrews's life and career, donated by his granddaughter.



Membership & Reservations for April 10th Fundraising Dinner

Please indicate the following DEA celebratory dinner reservations:

- # Member \$90/person, # Non-member \$100/person, # Member table of 6 \$540, # Non-member table of 6 \$600
 We want to **sponsor a Student Table** \$630 (6 students and 1 chaperone) *includes student reception with recipient and reserved seating*
 We want to be a **Patron Sponsor** in the amount of \$_____ (\$101-\$500) and be listed as sponsor on the RCAS website and have reserved seats in the first 2 rows of the lecture. As a member, reserve _____ seats at the acceptance lecture. *Please be there by 4 p.m., as seats will be held for members until 4:15 p.m.*

We would like to renew our annual membership in the Roy Chapman Andrews Society at the following level:

\$5/Student, \$30/Individual, \$50/Family, \$100/Explorer Membership

We would like to support the Roy Chapman Andrews Society with a tax-deductible gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, Other

Total amount enclosed, including dinner reservations, memberships, sponsorships, and donations \$ _____

The Roy Chapman Andrews Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Your payment is considered a tax-deductible donation.

Please copy this form for your tax records.

Attendee(s) name(s): _____

Menu. Served with assorted roll basket, cucumber wrap salad, seasonal vegetables, flourless chocolate cake, coffee, and tea service.

- # _____ Airline chicken with spiced tomato jam and au gratin potatoes
_____ Fillet of beef 6 oz. with a red wine demi glaze and au gratin potatoes
_____ Spicy pomodoro pasta with caramelized onions, cherry tomatoes, kale, and chickpeas

Please seat us at dinner with: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Reservations & Payment **MUST** be received by **April 1st** with mailed checks made payable to:
Roy Chapman Andrews Society, P.O. Box 273, Beloit, WI 53512-0273

Reservations, membership, and donations can be made at Roychapmanandrewssociety.org