



Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species"

**Presented by Warren Allmon, Ph. D.
Director, Paleontological Research Institute**

**March 18, 2010
Sophistications Café, Syracuse, NY**

Charles Darwin's book, "On the Origin of Species", is one of the most influential books ever written. It changed forever the way humans see themselves, and how we see, understand, and interact with the natural world. It founded whole new areas of science, and made biology scientific. But its impact and importance are not only in the past. Even though it was published 150 years ago (November 24, 1859), the "Origin" is still the best single book ever written about evolution, with much to teach us even today. It is also among the most eloquent and readable of scientific books; it is fine literature in every sense. The "Origin" is truly among the "great books" that we should all read to be educated human beings.

Dr. Warren D. Allmon is the Director of the Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) in Ithaca, New York, and Hunter R. Rawlings III Professor of Paleontology in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University. He earned his A.B. in Earth Sciences from Dartmouth College in 1982, and his Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences from Harvard University in 1988. For four years he was Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, and became PRI's fourth Director in 1992. Since 1992, he has been instrumental in rejuvenating PRI's internationally-known fossil collections; starting its local, regional, and national programs in Earth science education; and in planning and fundraising for the Museum of the Earth, PRI's \$11 million education and exhibit facility which opened in September 2003. In November 2004, Dr. Allmon helped secure a formal agreement of affiliation between PRI and Cornell University, ending more than 70 years of official separation.

Dr. Allmon's major research interest is macroevolution and paleoecology, especially the ecology of the origin and maintenance of biological diversity and the application of the geological record to the study of these problems, particularly using Cenozoic marine gastropods (snails of the last 65 million years). He is the world's leading expert on the gastropod family Turritellidae.

Dr. Allmon is the author of more than 200 technical and popular publications. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the recipient of the 2004 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of Geoscience from the American Geological Institute.

MEETING LOGISTICS: The meeting will take place on **Thursday, March 18, 2010**, at **Sophistications Café**, located at 441 South Salina Street (Inside the Galleries of Syracuse) in Syracuse, New York. Free parking is available in the Galleries Parking Garage located immediately adjacent to the Syracuse Galleries. A social gathering will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. The presentation by Dr. Allmon will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The cost of the dinner is \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members and \$15 for student members. CNYAPG will sponsor the cost for dinner for the first five students who register for this meeting. People may also attend the presentation only for a nominal fee of \$3. **Please RSVP by Monday, March 15, 2010**, to Annette at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at info@pwinc.com or (315) 437-1429.

