



Annual Meetings of the
North American Maple Syrup Council & International Maple Syrup Institute
October 22-25, 2012 - Marriott Mystic Hotel & Spa, Groton, Connecticut

Companion Tours

The Mystic Aquarium

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:00 am -12:00 pm

In October 6, 1973, the Aquarium opened as a privately owned, for-profit corporation by an Ohio industrialist and philanthropist Kelvin Smith. Mr. Smith was a practicing chemist with an interest in marine biology. In the 1950s, Smith who also served on the Board of Trustees at the Cleveland Science Museum began working with a fellow chemist and board member William Kelley. Together, Smith and Kelley developed "Instant Ocean," a product that allowed labs and aquariums to create artificial seawater. This product is used at Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration and other institutions worldwide. In the 1970s, Mystic Aquarium, Inc. provided a venue to highlight this product.

In July 1, 1997, Dr. Robert Ballard and the Institute for Exploration joined Mystic Aquarium who brought with him his desire to share with the world the wonders of the deep ocean and the emerging science of deep-water archaeology. The Mystic Marine life Aquarium became Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration and as New England's hands-on aquarium; Mystic Aquarium offers unforgettable animal encounters, fun interactive experiences and dynamic learning opportunities for people of all ages. Come face-to-face with graceful rays and mesmerizing fish, meet playful sea lions, endearing African penguins, New England's only beluga whales and African penguins that make this a special place, while deep-sea exploration exhibits make it one-of-a-kind.

Step back in time and be part of the story in Mystic Aquarium's newest exhibit, *Titanic – 12,450 Feet Below*. This permanent exhibit is full of captivating imagery, breathtaking recreations, emotional soundscapes, hands-on activities and thrilling entertainment that transport you to the moment and inspire your course for exploration and discovery.

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Wednesday, October 24, 2012 8:00 am -12:00 pm

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, a new state-of-the-art, tribally owned-and-operated complex, brings to life the story of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and serves as a major resource on the history of the Tribe, the histories and cultures of other tribes, and the region's natural history.

Utilizing the latest in exhibit design and technology and based on years of discussion with Tribal members and scholarly research, the institution, with a total project cost of \$193.4 million, presents multi-sensory dioramas and exhibits of eastern woodland and Mashantucket Pequot life. Films and videos, interactive programs, archival materials, ethnographic and archaeological collections, and commissioned works of art and traditional crafts by Native artisans are featured in the exhibits.

The 308,000-square-foot complex, whose research facility serves as a major resource for scholars and the general public on American and Canadian Native histories and cultures, is one of the most innovative and comprehensive centers of its kind in the United States.

The permanent collection emphasizes the eastern region of North America from the 16th to the 20th centuries, including toys, prayer books, cooking utensils, mats, blankets, and Southern New England baskets. Commissioned works of art and traditional crafts made by Native artisans are also in the collection. The collections will be featured in exhibits organized by the Museum and Research Center as part of an ongoing series of temporary presentations in the Mashantucket Gallery.