

Podcast: Celebrating Charles Darwin's 210th birthday

[February 12 was] Darwin Day. [Charles Darwin was born 210 years ago](#) Ten years ago I went to a Darwin Day event here in New York City. The program included some three hours of talks and tributes, some of which I turned into podcasts back then. For this episode, we'll hear about 12 minutes of the event.

We'll hear Darwin's great-great-grandson Matthew Chapman, [and former *Scientific American* editor in chief John Rennie](#), who read excerpts from *The Origin of Species*.

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Matthew Chapman reading from *The Origin of Species*:

As man can produce and certainly has produced a great result by his methodical and unconscious means of selection, what may not natural selection effect? Man can act only on external and visible characters. Nature, if I may be allowed to personify, the natural presentation of survival of the fittest, carries nothing for appearances except and so far as they are useful to any being. She can act on every internal organ, on every shade of constitutional difference, on the whole machinery of life. Man selects only for his own good; nature only for that of the being which she tends.

<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PodcastFinal459DarwinBirthday.mp3>

Read full, original post: [On the Origin of Darwin](#)