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25th ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW WASHES ASHORE OCT. 6 and 7

PHILADELPHIA—Amazing treasures of the seas will be on display and for sale Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6 and 7, when the 25th annual Philadelphia Shell Show washes ashore at The Academy of Natural Sciences. A three-day Mollusk Mania of crafts and fun activities will continue Oct. 8.

The largest shell show in the Northeast features competitive exhibits by dozens of collectors and amateur scientists. Thousands of fascinating and beautiful shells will be presented in scientific and artistic displays. Craftspeople will showcase their masterpieces made with and from shells and will compete for major national and regional prizes.

Caribbean shells will take center stage at a free evening talk by the Academy's Dr. Gary Rosenberg, whose extensive research in Jamaica and other Caribbean islands has resulted in the discovery of new species of snails and other mollusks. Just 30 years ago, scientists thought they had discovered all the mollusk species to be found in the Caribbean, except for those at the deepest depths. But, as Rosenberg, Vice President for the Academy's Center for Systematic Biology and Evolution, will illustrate in his talk at 5:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, there are many more waiting to be discovered in shallow water and on land.

At the shell show, visitors will enjoy shopping at the International Market, where dealers from around the world will sell individual shells, shell crafts, jewelry, books and shell-themed accessories. A unique Sailor's Valentine, a beautiful octagonal case with shells arranged in a traditional design, will be raffled off and free shells given to children. Academy scientists will be on hand to answer questions and to guide visitors on behind-the-scenes tours through the museum's world-renowned mollusk collection that contains about 10 million shells. From 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 6, 7 and 8, Mollusk Mania offers visitors the chance to make seashell animal crafts and engage in other fun activities. Naturalist presentations featuring live animals that live near water will take place at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The show, tours, activities and evening talk all are **free** with museum admission. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The shell show is sponsored by the Philadelphia Shell Club. More information: www.phillyshellclub.org

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, military personnel and students, and free for children under 3. There is a \$2 fee for Butterflies!