

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Carolyn Belardo 215 299-1043, belardo@ansp.org

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GREGOR MENDEL BIRTHDAY WEEKEND SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 19 & 20

PHILADELPHIA— Celebrate the birthday of Gregor Mendel, the father of genetics, with birthday cake, science presentations, live animal shows and craft-making at The Academy of Natural Sciences, Saturday and Sunday, July 19 and 20.

Mendel, the 19th-century Augustinian friar who worked by himself with relatively simple tools and cracked some of science's deepest mysteries, is the subject of the Academy's summer exhibit, "Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics." Philadelphia is the final stop on a limited national tour and the last chance to see items related to the man whose revolutionary experiments shaped the modern understanding of heredity. "Gregor Mendel" (born July 20, 1822) is presented by Villanova University and The Academy of Natural Sciences and will be on display at the Academy through Sept. 28. The exhibit and the following programs on both Saturday and Sunday are free with museum admission:

11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Live animal shows highlight the diversity of life on earth.

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Staff in *Butterflies!* will explain the fascinating genetics of butterfly wings as you encounter live butterflies up close.

Staff in Dinosaur Hall will explain what scientists know about ancient DNA.

Make a Mendelian craft to take home.

noon-2 p.m.

Find out how Academy scientists use genes to discover evolutionary relationships among species and to understand the incredible diversity of life on earth. Anthony Geneva, manager of the Academy's Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Ecology, will give a presentation.

noon-while the supply lasts

Celebrate Mendel's birthday with free cake!

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3–12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is an additional \$2 entry fee for "Butterflies!"