



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AN ENTOMOLOGIST, AN EXPLORER, AN ARTIST AND A PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURED THIS FALL AT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Free talks, book-signings and opportunities to meet influential people

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences this fall and winter will present four free talks by a world-renowned entomologist, a polar explorer and two celebrated artists with a passion for natural history. Learn more about the natural world and meet the influential people who devote their life to studying and interpreting it. Here is the schedule of talks:

TAXON SEARCH: ON THE ADVENTURES AND MISADVENTURES OF AN ENTOMOLOGIST Thursday, November 12, 6 p.m. Free

Dr. Daniel Otte, the world's foremost authority on Orthoptera (grasshoppers and crickets), will receive the Academy of Natural Sciences' prestigious Joseph Leidy Medal and give a presentation on his storied entomological expeditions to Africa, Australia, North America, and Caribbean and Pacific islands. Otte, the Academy's curator of entomology, has spent four decades traveling the world—and risking life and limb in the process—to study, categorize and classify insects. He has described more than 1,500 new species of crickets, grasshoppers and other insects. He has vastly expanded the knowledge of insects through his publications, including more than 300 scientific articles and books. His latest book, *Caribbean Crickets* (The Orthopterists' Society, 2009), is the first comprehensive assessment of crickets in the Caribbean islands and includes descriptions of 585 species, of which 458 are new to science. Otte, who can mimic cricket calls and has extensive recordings, has said that he can walk into a forest anywhere in the world and determine its environmental health just by listening to which crickets are chirping. For more information: www.ansp.org/adult-programs/lectures.php

AN EVENING WITH POLAR EXPLORER LONNIE DUPRE Tuesday, November 17, 6 p.m. Free

Through glorious images and vivid stories, polar explorer Lonnie Dupre recounts his recent daring trek to the North Pole in commemoration of the 1909 expedition by Robert Peary and Matthew Henson, who claimed to be the first to reach the top of the world. During his 54-day trek earlier this year, Dupre carried the official flag of the Academy and unfurled it at the North Pole. He will present that flag to the Academy and will describe the difficult and often harrowing conditions he and his team experienced. RSVP requested: polarexplorer.eventbrite.com/. For more information: www.ansp.org/adult-programs/lectures.php.

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AN EVENING WITH WALTON FORD
Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. followed by book-signing
Free

New York Magazine called artist Walton Ford “Audubon-on-Viagra.” His large-scale, highly detailed watercolors of animals may remind some people of the 19th-century illustrations by John James Audubon and Edward Lear. But a closer look reveals a complex, sometimes disturbingly anthropomorphic universe full of symbols, sly jokes, and allusions to the 'operatic' nature of traditional natural history themes. Ford, whose works are in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, will discuss the inspiration behind some of his paintings and sign copies of the recently published, beautifully illustrated retrospective of his work, *Pancha Tantra*. This large-format edition will be available for purchase at the event. RSVP requested: 215-299-1060. For more information: www.ansp.org/adult-programs/lectures.php.

ANIMAL LOGIC: RICHARD BARNES
Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m. followed by book-signing
Free

New York- and San Francisco-based photographer Richard Barnes has a fascination with natural history exhibits. His behind-the-scenes photographs are beautifully haunting reminders that there is nothing natural about a natural history museum. *Animal Logic*, the recently published mid-career survey of his work, looks critically at both the natural world and the ways in which people attempt to institutionalize and classify nature within museums. Through his lens, sights and objects normally hidden from public view—half-installed dioramas, exploded skulls, and taxidermied animals in shipping crates—take on a strange beauty. *Animal Logic* will be available for purchase at the event. RSVP requested: 215-299-1060. For more information: www.ansp.org/adult-programs/lectures.php.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!

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