



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS, OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009

#### *Featuring new exhibit on the life of George Washington Carver*

PHILADELPHIA—This fall, The Academy of Natural Sciences will feature the first East Coast appearance of the exhibit “George Washington Carver” and also the 27th annual Philadelphia Shell Show, including a festival of fun activities for the whole family.

Opening Nov. 21, “George Washington Carver” delves deep into the legacy of the inspiring scientist who was born into slavery and whose foresight revolutionized agriculture in the South. And don’t forget to stop by in November and December for exciting shows and activities devoted to teaching all about dinosaurs, butterflies, insects and other favorite animals.

The following activities are **free** with museum admission:

#### **JOHN KIRK TOWNSEND DISPLAY** **October – December**

The Academy marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of explorer John Kirk Townsend with a display of letters he wrote about his experiences in the Wild West, bird and mammal specimens he collected, a beautiful miniature portrait and other memorabilia from the Academy's Ewell Sale Stewart Library and science collections. A Philadelphia Quaker, Townsend was one of the most important figures in early American natural history. In 1834 he made a pioneering trip across North America on behalf of the Academy to collect bird and mammal specimens, including many new discoveries. The materials on display and other original materials in the Academy archives and scientific collections served as the basis for a recent book on Townsend by Scottish historians Barbara and Richard Mearns entitled “John Kirk Townsend: Collector of Audubon's Western Birds and Mammals” (2007).

#### **PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW AND FESTIVAL** **Saturday – Sunday, October 10-11**

Exotic treasures of the seas will be on display and for sale at the 27th annual Philadelphia Shell Show, the largest show of its kind in the Northeast. Dozens of collectors and amateur scientists will compete for prizes, and craftspeople will showcase their masterpieces. Visitors can shop for the upcoming holidays from an array of stunning shells, shell crafts, jewelry, books and shell-themed accessories. Enjoy free shells for kids, naturalist presentations, craft-making and special interactive demonstrations. Explore the mysteries of cephalopod biology with squid dissections at 11:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Play a shell game by matching the shell with the animal that calls it home at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Grab a cushion and settle in, it’s story time in Outside In: 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Make your own shell critter craft to take home.

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**New Exhibit**  
**“GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER”**  
**November 14 – February 28, 2010**

Learn the exciting history and contributions of George Washington Carver, the trailblazing scientist who devised hundreds of practical uses for sweet potatoes, soybeans and peanuts. Born into slavery, Carver overcame much adversity and went on to revolutionize agriculture and help lay the groundwork for today’s research on plant-based fuels, medicines and everyday products. The exhibit features dozens of historical artifacts, videos, interactive displays and re-created scenes that trace Carver’s modest beginning to world-renowned scientist.

**DINO WEEKEND**  
**Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 27, 28 and 29**

Celebrate dinosaurs and their closest living relatives— birds—with a holiday weekend of fun activities. Enjoy dinosaur shows at 11 a.m. and live bird shows at 2:30 p.m., a fossil show at 1:30 p.m. and teacher/naturalist presentations throughout the day in our famous Dinosaur Hall. Pull up a cushion and get comfy for dinosaur story time in Outside In at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Make a dinosaur craft to take home.

**ALL-STAR WEEK**  
**Saturday through Thursday, December 26 through 31**

The Academy of Natural Sciences shows off its most popular attractions with live animal shows, museum specimens, craft-making and storytelling during this weeklong celebration.

**Saturday, Dec. 26, Dinosaur Day**

Knowledgeable naturalists bring dinosaurs to life with special presentations in Dinosaur Hall. Test your knowledge of dinosaurs at our science stations. Live Animal Show at 11 a.m. Ask the Expert! at 2 p.m. Make a dinosaur craft to take home.

**Sunday, Dec. 27, Animal Day**

Live animals will roam the halls (with their handlers) for a close-up meet and greet. Live Animal Shows at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Make an animal craft to take home.

**Monday, Dec. 28, Butterfly Day**

Learn about the fascinating life cycle of the butterfly and see an array of butterfly specimens from around the world. Live animal shows at 11a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Make a butterfly craft to take home.

**Tuesday, Dec. 29, George Washington Carver Day**

Join the Academy in exploring the many scientific discoveries of George Washington Carver. Learn how to make practical, everyday items, such as ink, from plants. Visit our Science Live Station to discover scientific inventions inspired by Carver.

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**Wednesday, Dec. 30, Reptile Day**

Meet the Academy's live reptiles and amphibians and learn the wild stories behind some of the fascinating research specimens from our rarely seen herpetology collection. Our volunteers will help you make a slithery craft to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 31, Bug Day**

Teacher-naturalists will roam the halls with some of our favorite spineless wonders. Now's your chance to get up close and personal with some Academy creepy crawlies! Learn how some animals can't survive without insects at our live animal presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Visit our Science Live Station to see some rare invertebrate specimens and join us for Insect Puppet Theater at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Make an insect noise maker craft to take home for New Year's Eve!

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*Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences 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.*

*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 \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is an additional \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"*