



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

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PALEOPALOOZA FEATURES RARE FOSSILS, “DINOTOPIA” ARTIST, FOSSIL CASTING, GAMES, FEB. 14, 15 AND 16

PHILADELPHIA—Get your fossil on at The Academy of Natural Sciences’ Paleopalooza, a three-day extravaganza of rare fossil displays, dinosaur art lessons, trilobite races, paleontology talks, games, crafts, and the chance to meet a famous dinosaur book illustrator.

Paleopalooza takes place Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Feb. 14, 15 and 16 and is **free** with regular admission. There is something for everybody: It makes for an interesting Valentine’s Day date and a fun family outing when schools are closed for President’s Day. Displays, talks, animated films, demonstrations, and games will be spread throughout all floors of the museum.

Visitors will see rare fossils from the Academy’s collection including fish, turtles, pigs, dinosaurs and, from President Thomas Jefferson’s personal cache, mastodon teeth and a ground sloth. “Dinotopia” book series artist-author James Gurney will talk (Saturday only) about the process of putting into words and pictures the imaginary lost island where dinosaurs and humans live peacefully together. He will sign copies of his newest book. Academy educator and dinosaur illustrator Jason Poole will give drawing lessons, and short animation films will be shown in the auditorium.

Academy paleontologist Dr. Ted Daeschler, world-renowned in science circles for his discovery of *Tiktaalik roseae* (a creature with features of both fish and limbed animal) will talk about his amazing fossil finds in Pennsylvania. His colleague, Dr. Jason Downs, will discourse on his recent research on the brain of *Tiktaalik* and visitors can see the prehistoric creature on display. Paleontologists from the tri-state area will give illustrated talks on dinosaurs, and members of the Delaware Valley Paleontology Society will mount extensive interactive displays.

Children will enjoy making dinosaur finger puppets, digging for fossils, playing a dinosaur detective game, listening to dinosaur stories, and seeing live animal shows starring those dinosaur descendants: birds. Throughout each day there will be trilobite races, demonstrations of fossil casting and preparation (Monday only), and guided tours of Dinosaur Hall and the special exhibit “*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World.”

For a full schedule of activities, see www.ansp.org/paleopalooza. Here are some highlights:

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Saturday, Feb. 14

12:30 p.m. and 3:30 pm – Dinosaur Animation Films

Includes the silent classic “Gertie the Dinosaur”

1 p.m. – “Dinotopia” Fact and Fantasy

“Dinotopia” artist-author James Gurney talks about his creative process and signs copies of his new book.

2:30 p.m. – Dinosaurs in Your Back Yard

Dr. Bill Gallagher of Rider University talks about local dinosaur finds.

3:15 p.m. – *Tiktaalik roseae*

Dr. Jason Downs of the Academy talks about the evolution of the skull in the “fishapod” *Tiktaalik*.

Sunday, Feb. 15

12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. – Dinosaur Animation Films

Includes the silent classic “Gertie the Dinosaur”

1 p.m. – Meet Dr. Peter Dodson

Dr. Peter Dodson of the University of Pennsylvania discusses his latest paleontological research.

1:45 pm – Digging Dinosaurs in the Land Down Under

Meet Dr. Steve Salisbury of Carnegie Museum of Natural History and hear about his search for dinosaurs in Australia.

2:30 p.m. – China's Feathered Dinosaurs (also Monday at same time)

Dr. Matthew Lamanna of Carnegie Museum of Natural History talks about feathered dinosaurs from China.

Monday, Feb. 16

12:30 p.m. and 3:30 pm – Dinosaur Animation Films

Includes the silent classic “Gertie the Dinosaur”

1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. – Ancient Pennsylvania: Fossil Discoveries from the Devonian Period

The Academy’s Dr. Ted Daeschler talks about tetrapods and other Devonian fossils from Pennsylvania.

1:45 p.m. – Unearthing Chinese Dinosaurs

Dr. David Parris of the New Jersey State Museum gives updates on some important finds.

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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!”

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