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PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW FEATURES EXOTIC TREASURES OF THE SEA, OCT. 10 and 11

Renowned evolutionary biologist presents free talk on "Nature's housing market" Oct. 10

PHILADELPHIA—Thousands of exotic treasures of the sea will be on display and for sale Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, when the 27th annual Philadelphia Shell Show washes ashore at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The largest show of its kind in the Northeast, the shell show draws crowds of hobbyists, artists and dealers, as well as families who beach-comb when they go "down the shore." The show is **free** with museum admission and is open during regular museum hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will enjoy:

- Competitive displays by dozens of collectors and amateur scientists.
- A huge international shell market featuring exotic shells, shell crafts, jewelry, books, and more.
- Skilled craftspeople and illustrators showcasing their unique artworks including a wide selection of Sailor's Valentines, octagonal wooden cases displaying intricate designs composed entirely of tiny seashells.
- Behind-the-scenes tours of the Academy's malacology collection, the fourth largest in the world with some 12 million specimens. Scientists will be on hand to answer questions.
- Fun activities including squid dissections, a shell matching game, story readings, face painting, aquatic animal tattoos, and crafts. There will be free shells for the kids.

Evolutionary Biologist Talk

At 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, Dr. Geerat Vermeij (ver MAY), a renowned evolutionary biologist at the University of California at Davis, will present a **free** talk on "Nature's Housing Market: How Predators, Molluscs and Hermit Crabs Have Colluded Through Time." Blind since age 3, Vermeij has published nearly 100 scientific papers and four books. He is best known for his work chronicling the arms race among long-extinct mollusks and their predators. His talk will illustrate how shells demonstrate the economy of nature. Pre-registration is not necessary.

The shell show is co-sponsored by the Academy and the Philadelphia Shell Club. For more information on the show and on Dr. Vermeij, see www.ansp.org/shell and <http://courses.washington.edu/uncommon/pages/vermeij.html>

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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!"