



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2010
Carolyn Belardo, 215-299-1043, belardo@ansp.org
Press Room: www.ansp.org/press
RSS: www.ansp.org/feeds/ansp_media_rss.xml

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JANUARY–MARCH 2011

Featuring new exhibits, sleepovers and the annual Paleopalooza

PHILADELPHIA—Connect to nature with the Academy of Natural Sciences this winter when the nation's oldest natural history museum offers exciting new exhibits, encounters with working scientists, sleepovers, and hands-on educational fun for the whole family.

Two new exhibits—one celebrating the art of science and the other exploring prehistoric animals with bizarre adaptations—and the annual Paleopalooza provide fun opportunities to learn about your world, both past and present. The following exhibits and events are free unless otherwise noted.

Main Changing Exhibit

CRUISIN' THE FOSSIL FREEWAY WITH ARTIST RAY TROLL AND PALEONTOLOGIST KIRK JOHNSON

Saturday, October 23, 2010–Sunday, January 2, 2011

Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway with Artist Ray Troll and Paleontologist Kirk Johnson combines art with science to explore evolution, extinction and the treasure trove of fossil finds in the American West. Rarely seen specimens from the museum's vast fossil collection enhance the discovery experience, including the fanged skull of a saber-toothed cat and the bizarre skull of a killer pig that roamed the nation's western end some 30 million years ago.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit

NED SMITH'S PENNSYLVANIA

Saturday, November 6–Sunday, January 9, 2011

Explore Pennsylvania's breathtaking wildlife and landscape through the eyes and artwork of popular wildlife artist Ned Smith. Thirteen of his original paintings combining creativity and science will be on display for a visual celebration of the Keystone State. The exhibit was organized in collaboration with the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art.

-more-

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
FLORA FANTASTICA: THE WHIMSICAL BOTANICAL ART OF MF CARDAMONE
Saturday, January 15–Sunday, April 17

Flora Fantastica features a collection of mixed media works on paper from Philadelphia native MF Cardamone, who studied art at the Tyler School of Art and botany at the Barnes Foundation Arboretum School. Inspired by the pressed botanical specimens at the Academy of Natural Sciences and other natural history museums, Cardamone whimsically records the life histories of plants by combining specimens with images and words that playfully modernize the traditions of specimen mounting and botanical illustration. The result is complex visual narratives that reveal the science, history and beauty of their subjects.

Main Changing Exhibit
BIZARRE BEASTS PAST AND PRESENT
January 29–April 24, 2011

Travel back in time with this highly interactive exhibit and explore some of nature's more bizarre creatures, including strange sharks, amazing amphibians and marvelous mammals. Explore how evolution has changed animals over millions of years and the adaptations that they have gained and lost. Play the Natural Selection Game, re-create your own bizarre fossils, help build a dinosaur, learn how scientists discovered these bizarre beasts, and more.

BIZARRE BEASTS PAST AND PRESENT OPENING WEEKEND
Saturday and Sunday, January 29 and 30, all day

Celebrate the opening of the exhibit *Bizarre Beasts Past and Present* with a weekend of special live animal shows, rarely seen fossils from the Academy's collection, craft-making and more educational fun for the whole family. The highly interactive exhibit features some of nature's more bizarre creatures and explores how evolution has changed animals over millions of years.

SAFARI OVERNIGHT FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Friday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.–Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m.

Bring a sleeping bag and experience the Academy and its animal treasures after dark! Enjoy educational interactive activities and meet live birds, reptiles, insects and mammals—all with the guidance of experienced naturalists. Sleep next to lions and tigers or in the shadow of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Reserve at least one month prior. Fee: members \$35, nonmembers \$40. For details, visit www.ansp.org/activities/safari_overnight.php or call 215-299-1060.

-more-

PALEOPALOOZA
Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20, all day

Paleopalooza, a two-day festival of gigantic proportions, features rarely seen specimens from the Academy's world-famous fossil collection, including dinosaurs. Meet Academy scientists and learn what it's like to reconstruct the past using fossils, imagination and sound science. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts, guest speakers, and interactive presentations.

SAFARI OVERNIGHT FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Saturday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.–Sunday, March 13, 9 a.m.

Bring a sleeping bag and experience the Academy and its animal treasures after dark! Enjoy educational interactive activities and meet some live birds, reptiles, insects and mammals—all with the guidance of experienced naturalists. Sleep next to lions and tigers or in the shadow of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Reserve at least one month prior. Fee: members \$35, nonmembers \$40. For details, visit www.ansp.org/activities/safari_overnight.php or call 215-299-1060.

#

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, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!