



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carolyn Belardo, 215-299-1043, belardo@ansp.org
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JULY–SEPTEMBER 2010

Featuring U.S. debut of *Creatures of the Abyss* and third annual Bugfest

PHILADELPHIA—This summer the Academy of Natural Sciences offers hands-on opportunities for both adults and children to explore their world—from the deepest ocean depths to the great outdoors of the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

Creatures of the Abyss makes its U.S. debut on June 5 at the Academy with an array of rarely seen underwater creatures. Two summer camps for children, nature classes and field trips for adults and families are a great way to have fun, meet new people and do something different while learning about the world of nature.

Here is the schedule of summer programs and exhibits. All are free with admission unless otherwise noted.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit *All Types of Fishes: X-ray Images of Type Specimens from the Academy's Ichthyology Collection* May 15–August 1

Digital black-and-white radiographs of type specimens in the Academy's Ichthyology (fish) Collection reveal the complexity, intricacy and unexpected beauty that exist beneath the scaly, slippery skin of a fish.

Main Changing Exhibit *CREATURES OF THE ABYSS* June 5–September 6, 2010

Take a journey to the most inaccessible ecosystem on Earth—the deep ocean—in *Creatures of the Abyss*, making its U.S. debut at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Discover the unearthly creatures and fascinating landscapes of this largely unknown world. Full-scale models, preserved specimens, exploration vehicles, and a bioluminescence theater shed light on the mysteries of the deep sea and the bizarre creatures that live there.

ACADEMY EXPLORERS CAMP July 12–August 27, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Academy Explorers Camp invites children ages 5 to 12 to learn about natural science in a safe, fun and engaging way. Each week of camp explores an exciting new theme and features an off-site field trip. From fossils to saving the environment to animal adaptations, pick a theme that best fits your child's interest. Teens ages 13 and 14 are welcome to attend as counselors-in-training. Camp is from

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9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with optional before and after care for an additional fee. Details, registration forms and fees are online at www.ansp.org/activities/summer_camp.php or call 215-299-1060. The weekly themes are:

July 12–16: Airborne Animals
July 19–23: Prehistoric Beasts
July 26–30: Creatures of the Deep
August 2–6: Going Green
August 9–13: Fossils Rock
August 16–20: Natural Wonders
August 23–27: All About Animals

TINY TOT EXPLORERS
Wednesday from July 14-August 27, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

This weekly, one-hour program is for 3- and 4-year-olds and their favorite adult. Together, they explore a different science theme each week through games, crafts, songs, and museum explorations. Classes are held in Outside In, the Academy's hands-on discovery center. Details and fees are online at www.ansp.org/activities/summer_camp.php or call 215-299-1060. The weekly topics are:

July 14: Butterfly and Moth
July 21: Animal Defenses
July 28: Creatures of the Deep
August 4: Fruits and Flowers
August 11: Owl Prowl
August 18: Lucky Creatures
August 25: Incredible Eggs

CREATURES OF THE ABYSS WEEKEND
Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18, all day

The Academy has delved into the deepest, darkest corners of its collections and come up with some of the weirdest creatures ever to swim, walk or crawl. Learn how some strange adaptations can mean the difference between life and death in some of the harshest habitats on earth. Hands-on activities and creature crafts will be offered throughout the day.

THE BUGS BEHIND BUGFEST: EXPLORING THE DIVERSITY OF INSECTS
Tuesday, August 3, 6–9 p.m.

Learn about the incredible diversity of insects and related arthropods and examine the features that make them among the most successful animal groups on earth. Dr. Jon Gelhaus, the Academy's curator of entomology, will lead the class in exploring the major groups of insects, especially local species, to help in recognizing them in nature. Participants will be treated to a rare look at some of the Academy's 3.5 million insect specimens. Adults only. Fee: \$30. To register, call 215-299-1060.

BUGFEST
Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15, all day

Celebrate insects of all kinds and hear from the Academy's insect scientists why people cannot live without bugs. Touch live insects. Eat a bug! Cheer your favorite cockroach racer on to victory in the big Roach Race 500. Make an insect sculpture to take home. See hundreds of specimens from the Academy's world-renowned collections and hear from scientists why insects are important to the environment.

***Butterflies!* Closed**
Tuesday, September 7, through Friday, September 17

Butterflies! will be closed for annual maintenance.

BEGINNING NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
Wednesday, September 29, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Academy and
Saturday, October 2, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., in the N.J. Pine Barrens

Harness the power of your digital camera to capture amazing nature photographs. This two-part course for adults will examine the basics of nature photography using light, design principles, and natural subjects to create appealing, expressive photographs. The Academy's Doug Wechsler, director of VIREO (Visual Resources for Ornithology) will demonstrate some of the tricks of the trade to help you improve your technique. The course will include an evening session at the Academy and a daylong session in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Wechsler's photographs have appeared in hundreds of publications including 22 nature books for children which he has written. \$80. To register, call 215-299-1060.

FOSSIL CASTING
Saturday, September 11, 10:30 a.m.–noon

From the field to the museum, extreme care is taken to make sure fossils make the journey safely. In this family workshop, participants will learn how paleontologists excavate, "jacket," prepare and cast fossils, and try their hand at the process of casting. Families will experiment with the tools of paleontology and take home their own plaster cast. \$25 for adult-child pair. \$5 for additional adult or child. To register, call 215-299-1060.

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