



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEET SCIENTISTS, PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THIS JUNE AT ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

PHILADELPHIA—This summer the Academy of Natural Sciences presents the U.S. debut of the deep-sea exhibit *Creatures of the Abyss*, featuring opening weekend activities and talks on June 5 and 6 by scientists from Temple University and the Academy.

The recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico illustrates the importance of knowing the nature of the deep ocean and what lives there. On Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, visitors can meet scientists and learn about current research. Later in June, the Academy presents other water-related programs for both adults and children. Here's what's planned:

CREATURES OF THE ABYSS OPENING WEEKEND **Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6**

Be among the first to see the Academy's newest exhibit, *Creatures of the Abyss* and hear from the experts what life at the deepest, darkest depths of the ocean is like. On Saturday at 1 p.m., Temple University marine biologist Dr. Erik Cordes will talk about his research involving the submersibles Alvin and Jason and what the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill means to deep-water coral communities in his presentation "Creatures of the Abyss: The Extreme and Not-So Extreme Environments of the Deep Sea." On Sunday at 1 p.m., the Academy's fish scientist Dr. Katriina Ilves will talk about the differences and surprising similarities between deep-sea fish and tropical fish in her presentation "Lifestyles of the Reef and Nearly Famous: Behavior and adaptation on a tropical reef." Visitors can observe squid dissections up close, see unusual catfish specimens from the Academy's world-renowned collection, and make a creature craft to take home. Enjoy live animal presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. both days.

SHELLS: CREATURES AND COLLECTING **Sunday, June 13, 1:30–3 p.m.**

Bring the family shell collection to the Academy and receive expert help from Academy staff on how to identify and organize your treasures from the shore. Learn about the animals that left these beautiful shells behind and meet live shelled creatures. \$25 adult-child pair. \$5 each additional adult or child. For more information and to register, call 215-299-1060.

CATFISH WEEKEND **Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20**

Take dad on a "fishing trip" to the Academy and explore the natural history of one of the most successful species of fish: the catfish. Meet Academy fish scientists and view rarely seen species from the Academy's world-renowned fish collection. Learn about the high-tech methods Academy scientists are

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using to study fish anatomy. At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dr. John Lundberg, the Academy's curator of ichthyology, will describe the amazing diversity of fish in his talk on "A World of Catfish." At 1 p.m. Sunday, Dr. Mark Sabaj Pérez, the Academy's collection manager of ichthyology, will describe what it's like to be knee-deep in the world's largest river surrounded by danger, mystery and catfish in his talk on "Vicious Fishes: Fish Tales From the Peruvian Amazon." Follow clues on the catfish scavenger hunt and make a catfish hat to take home.

ELECTROFISHING FIELD STUDY
Saturday, June 26, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Join Academy fisheries scientist Paul Overbeck and help collect fish from a local stream using an electroshocking device. You can participate in the water or on the bank by netting fish, caring for captured fish, recording data, and then releasing the fish back to the water unharmed. Learn about stream ecology and how to identify fish. \$30. For more information and 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; from May 28–Sept. 6 military and up to 5 family members are free; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!