



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS, APRIL–JUNE 2009

PHILADELPHIA—Spring is a time of renewal and rediscovering nature, and The Academy of Natural Sciences is the place to do it.

A new exhibit featuring live geckos from around the world opens on May 30, following “*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World,” which runs through April 19. Mother’s Day and Father’s Day each offer special opportunities to celebrate animals with mom and dad on an affordable family outing. And what better place to mark Earth Day than the “environmental museum” where we’re planning two weeks of daily be-good-to-the-earth programs. Here are some of the fun activities in store at the oldest natural science research museum in the Americas. All are **free** with museum admission.

Current Exhibit

“HADROSAURUS FOULKII: THE DINOSAUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD” Now through April 19

In 1868, only one museum in the world had a complete dinosaur skeleton on display: The Academy of Natural Sciences. Now through April 19, the Academy once again displays this historic skeleton, reinterpreted for the 21st century, in “*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World.”

EARTH APPRECIATION DAYS

Monday, April 6–Sunday, April 19, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

In celebration of Earth Day this month, visitors will learn many different ways they can work to keep the planet healthy. Each day will have a different theme and include a naturalist presentation with live animals, a demonstration at our Science Live station, and Earth friendly crafts to take home. Daily themes include energy conservation, clean water, climate change, recycling, species diversity, and clean air.

ANIMAL MOMS WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate moms of every species as the Academy shows off the nurturing residents of its Live Animal Center, home to some 100 animals that are injured and cannot survive in the wild. Live animal shows at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Make a Mother’s Day card to take home.

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New Exhibit
“GECKOS – TAILS TO TOEPADS”
May 30–September 7

Bulging eyes, night vision, “sticky” toepads, squawking voices, neon-colored skin, and disposable body parts—sounds like a horror movie, but this describes a gecko. In “Geckos – Tails To Toepads” you will meet live geckos of all sizes, shapes, and colors in lush naturalistic habitats. Hands-on activities make it a unique experience for the whole family.

“GECKOS – TAILS TO TOEPADS” Opening Weekend
Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Geckos invade the Academy with games, crafts, and interactive presentations. Hear them, see them, experience them live and up close. Have your face painted to look like your favorite lizard and create your own gecko sculpture to take home. Naturalist Presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

CATFISH WEEKEND
Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate Father’s Day weekend by bringing your dad on a “fishing trip” to the Academy to explore the natural history of one of the most successful species of fish: the ubiquitous catfish. Meet the Academy’s fish scientists and learn about their role in discovering new catfish species as part of a worldwide survey. Interactive presentations with live animals or research specimens at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Make a catfish craft to take home.

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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.