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PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW AND FESTIVAL OPENS OCT. 11

It's enough to make Christopher Columbus proud

PHILADELPHIA—The largest and oldest shell show in the Northeast washes ashore at The Academy of Natural Sciences Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11 and 12, accompanied by a three-day shell festival of activities for beach and nature buffs of all ages.

What would Christopher Columbus say if he saw the treasures of the world's oceans gathered for display and sale at the 26th annual Philadelphia Shell Show and Shell Festival? Come find out.

The shell show and festival are open to the public and are free with museum admission. The show opens Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m. and closes Sunday, Oct. 12, at 5 p.m. The Shell Festival, presented by the Academy, runs concurrently with the shell show and continues into Monday, Oct. 13, Columbus Day, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The shell show features competitive exhibits by dozens of collectors and amateur scientists from around the world. Thousands of stunning and beautiful—and exotic and weird—shells will be presented in scientific and artistic displays, including intricate Sailor's Valentines. Craftspeople will showcase masterpieces made with and from shells and will compete for national and regional prizes. Visitors can enjoy shopping at the International Market, where dealers will sell individual shells, shell crafts, jewelry, books, and shell-themed accessories that never go out of fashion.

"It's fascinating to reflect that some of the same kinds of shells that Christopher Columbus crunched under his feet when he landed at those Caribbean islands will be on display and for sale here," said Paul Callomon, the Academy's collection manager for Malacology, and show chairman. "Not only that, we will have nautical treasures that people can buy and enjoy in their home."

Academy scientists will conduct free behind-the-scenes tours of the institution's world-renowned collection of 10 million shells, as just one of many activities during the show. Here is a partial list of Shell Festival activities. For a full list, log on to www.ansp.org/shell.

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Shell Festival activities each day: Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 11, 12 and 13

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Seashell Storytime

Cuddle up with a cushion and a kid and listen to sea and seashell stories.

11 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Ammonites Through Time

See how an ancient sea creature can give us a glimpse into the depths of geologic time.

11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Shell Matching Game

Play the Shell Matching Game and discover how each shell is unique, with characteristics that link it to other shells.

11 a.m. – 4:30 pm. Science Live

Examine rarely seen specimens from our world-renowned Malacology collection and find out the stories behind how they were collected and why.

11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Shells and the Animals That Make Them

Find out the difference between a shell and any old covering in this interactive auditorium presentation that explores one of nature's most impressive overcoats.

11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Shell Craft-making

Make a shell craft valentine or a shell critter to take home. You bring the creativity, we supply the shells.

11:30 a.m., 12:30 pm., 1:30p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Squid Dissection

Witness a squid dissection and see up close the anatomy of a cephalopod.

Ongoing: Library Display

View some beautifully illustrated and rarely seen Malacology books from the Academy's world-renowned collection.

Ongoing: Outside In Down the Shore

Dig in the sand, pan for shark teeth and learn about the animals that live at the beach in the Outside In hands-on gallery.

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, military personnel and students, and free for children under 3 There is a \$2 fee for Butterflies!

Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural history 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.