



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JULY–SEPTEMBER 2009

PHILADELPHIA—This summer, The Academy of Natural Sciences offers the chance to beat the heat and do something people rarely do: eat a bug, learn to care for a pet gecko, and have fun doing both.

Some 100 live geckos of all sizes, shapes and colors are the stars of “Geckos – Tails to Toepads,” an exhibit on view from May 30 through Sept. 7. Geckos are among the world’s most adaptable lizards, but do you want one as a pet? Sign up for the gecko workshop and find out.

In August, insects are on the menu – in more ways than one – at the second annual Bug Fest. Here are some of the fun activities in store at the Academy this summer. All are **free** with museum admission unless otherwise noted:

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

Bulging eyes, night vision, “sticky” toe pads, squawking voices, neon-colored skin and disposable body parts—sounds like a horror movie, but this describes a gecko. “Geckos – Tails to Toepads” introduces visitors to nearly 100 live geckos of all sizes, shapes and colors, arrayed in lush naturalistic habitats. Hands-on activities make it a unique experience for the whole family.

**WORKSHOP: SO YOU WANT A GECKO AS A PET**  
**Saturday, June 27, and Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Join Academy reptile-keepers for this 3-hour, hands-on workshop to learn if a gecko is the pet for you. The first two hours of the workshop will cover the basic natural history and husbandry of selected geckos, including which geckos make the best pets for beginners. During the last hour of the workshop, keepers will discuss more advanced gecko husbandry for the more experienced gecko owner. Fee.

**SCIENCE ON TAP**  
**Monday, July 13, 6 p.m.**  
**Location: National Mechanics Bar and Restaurant, 22 North Third Street, Philadelphia**

There’s a new science café in Philadelphia hosted by four of the city’s most venerable science institutions: The Academy of Natural Sciences, American Philosophical Society Museum, Chemical Heritage Foundation and Wagner Free Institute of Science. The café, free and open to people 21 and older, will convene the second Monday of each month and take turns presenting a speaker. On July

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13, Academy paleontologist Dr. Ted Daeschler will talk about his research in a program entitled “Cold Hard Science: Fossil Discoveries in the Canadian Arctic and the Origin of Limbed Animals.” The setting is informal and involves a brief presentation and group discussion. No reservations are required.

**ART OF THE GECKO**  
**Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of geckos as seen through the eyes of local artists. Learn about gecko adaptations at our Science Live Station. See a live animal demonstration and make a gecko craft to take home.

**BUG FEST**  
**Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

If you’ve never tasted a bug, now is your chance. The Academy will be crawling with live insects for the second annual Bug Fest, featuring live bugs of all sizes, shapes and attitudes. Academy scientists will explain their importance to our planet. Touch a cockroach and cheer your favorite one on to victory in a race. Make an insect sculpture to take home. See hundreds of specimens from world-renowned collections.

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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 a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.*