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EARTH DAYS AT THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES FEATURE REAL SCIENCE AND FILM EXCLUSIVE

PHILADELPHIA—Find out how clean your local stream is. See the notorious snakehead fish from South Philly. Learn how scientists test crabs for toxic chemicals. Climb aboard a real fish-shocking boat. It's all happening at The Academy of Natural Sciences Saturday, **April 18**, for Earth Day.

Some of the same Academy scientists that people see in waders measuring salt intrusion in Delaware marshes and in boats collecting fish from the Schuylkill River will set up shop in the halls of the museum for the day. Chemists, engineers and other scientists in the Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research will bring their equipment and fish tanks out from their labs and explain to visitors how they monitor pollution and other environmental hazards affecting the Philadelphia region. Visitors will get tips on how they can be stewards of their environment and "go green."

In addition, from **Monday, April 6, through Saturday, April 19**, visitors can enjoy an exclusive engagement of "Ocean Odyssey," a nearly hour-long film featuring rarely witnessed underwater life in exotic locales from the Galapagos to French Polynesia. The film, shown in big-screen, high-definition format in the auditorium, was created by Philadelphia-area filmmaker and ocean conservationist Feodor Pitcairn for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's new Sant Ocean Hall.

Daily craft-making and wildlife author talks—one on **April 23**—offer something for both children and adults. All activities are free with museum admission. Here are a few ways to celebrate Earth Day:

Monday, April 6 through Sunday, April 19

2 p.m. Weekdays, 2:30 p.m. Weekends. Film.

- "Ocean Odyssey." See this beautiful film featuring rarely seen, exotic underwater sea life from around the world.

Saturday, April 18

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Meet Academy Scientists

- Find out what scientists learn about the health of local streams and rivers by studying fish. See the notorious snakehead fish up close and learn how to tell a fish's age.
- Climb aboard the shocker boat that scientists use to collect fish in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.
- Examine the inside of a sediment core—one dating back 200 years—and find out how scientists use cores to monitor pollution and climate change.
- Bring in a water sample from your local stream and have it tested for nitrogen by our chemist.

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- Find out how organic chemists test fish, crabs and sediments for toxic chemicals like PCBs and DDT.
- Peer through a microscope and marvel at the diversity of diatoms, single-celled algae, collected from area coastal streams. Diatoms are important indicators of water quality and produce some 70 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Guess how many diatoms are in the diatom jar and win a prize!
- See how scientists interpret environmental conditions in your local watershed with the help of a high-tech model developed for government water resource managers.

3:30 p.m. Illustrated Talk

- Doug Scott, policy director for Campaign for America's Wilderness, presents an illustrated talk on "Our Wilderness: America's Common Ground." Using gorgeous photographs of America's wilderness from his upcoming book, Scott will discuss the recreational, educational, economic, environmental and spiritual value of these natural lands. He will show a short film about Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.

Thursday, April 23

6:30 p.m. Illustrated talk

- Michael J. Bean, senior director of wildlife programs for the Environmental Defense Fund, provides an illuminating look at some of the nation's most endangered animals in this beautifully illustrated talk on "The State of the Nation's Imperiled Wildlife: An Earth Day Assessment." Bean is the author of "The Evolution of National Wildlife Law" and has written numerous articles on wildlife protection. This is a Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Lecture.

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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 until 5 p.m. on weekends. Admission is: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, 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 science research institution and museum in the Americas. Our mission is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.