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PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW AND FESTIVAL FEATURES BEAUTIFUL TREASURES OF THE SEA, OCT. 10 and 11

Preview Party Fundraiser on Oct. 9

PHILADELPHIA—Exotic treasures of the seas will be on display and for sale Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, when the 27th annual Philadelphia Shell Show and Festival washes ashore at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The evening before the public event, a fundraising preview party will be held at the Academy at which guests will have private access to the show and the shell marketplace.

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Shell Club, the Philadelphia Shell Show is the largest show of its kind in the Northeast. Free with regular museum admission, the show features thousands of beautiful shells from around the world presented in scientific and artistic displays. A highlight of every show is the variety of Sailor's Valentines, octagonal wooden boxes displaying intricate designs composed entirely of tiny seashells. In the 1800s, sailors brought them home to loved ones as souvenirs of their voyages to far-flung islands.

The shell show features competitive exhibits by dozens of collectors and amateur scientists. Visitors can browse and shop at the International Shell Market for individual shells, shell crafts, jewelry, books and shell-themed accessories. There will be free shells for children and behind-the-scenes tours of the Academy's world-renowned mollusk collection. In the evening, the public is invited to a free, illustrated talk by Dr. Geerat Vermeij, an evolutionary biologist at University of California, Davis, who is best known for his work chronicling the arms race among long-extinct mollusks and their predators.

For more information on the Shell Show, visit www.phillyshellclub.org.

The preview party on Oct. 9 is co-chaired by Christine and Wade Berrettini of Haverford and Francie Ingersoll and Matt Taylor of Newtown Square. Young Friends co-chairs are Susan and Gui Costin and Vanessa and Sam Halpert, all of Bryn Mawr, and Rory and Brandon Whitaker of Devon. For more information on the preview party, contact Heather Sullivan, events and contributions manager, at 215 405-1542 or sullivan@ansp.org.

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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: \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-12, seniors, military personnel and college students, and free for members and 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 and is a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.