



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS, APRIL–JUNE 2011

Featuring spring camp for kids, Earth Day Festival, and environmental miniature golf!

PHILADELPHIA—This spring and summer the Academy of Natural Sciences presents new ways to experience two favorite leisure activities while learning about the environment: fishing and miniature golf.

An exhibit opening in the Art of Science Gallery in April will feature striking watercolor portraits of popular fish found in Pennsylvania rivers and lakes. Starting in May, families can test their putting skills and environmental knowledge by playing 18 holes of indoor miniature golf in *Fore! The Planet*, created by Academy staff. In late April, the Academy offers a convenient and enlightening place for young children on spring break from school to hang out. And what better place to celebrate Earth Day than at Philadelphia's "environmental museum?"

Here's is what we're planning. All programs and exhibits are free unless otherwise noted:

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
FLORA FANTASTICA: THE WHIMSICAL BOTANICAL ART OF MF CARDAMONE
Through Sunday, April 17 (opened January 15)

Flora Fantastica features a collection of mixed media works on paper from Philadelphia native MF Cardamone, who studied art at the Tyler School of Art and botany at the Barnes Foundation Arboretum School. Inspired by the pressed botanical specimens at the Academy of Natural Sciences and other natural history museums, Cardamone whimsically records the life histories of plants by combining specimens with images and words that playfully modernize the traditions of specimen mounting and botanical illustration. The result is complex visual narratives that reveal the science, history and beauty of their subjects.

Main Changing Exhibit
BIZARRE BEASTS PAST AND PRESENT
Through Sunday, April 24 (opened January 29)

Travel back in time with this highly interactive exhibit and explore some of nature's more bizarre creatures, including strange sharks, amazing amphibians and marvelous mammals.

Explore how evolution has changed animals over millions of years and the adaptations that they have gained and lost. Play the Natural Selection Game, re-create your own bizarre fossils, help build a dinosaur, learn how scientists discovered these bizarre beasts, and more.

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ACADEMY EXPLORERS SPRING CAMP
Choose day(s) from Monday, April 18, to Friday, April 29

It's spring break and what do you do with the kids? Drop them off at the Academy of Natural Sciences for a fun and educational day camp. This is for children ages 5 to 12. Each day includes a teacher-naturalist presentation, exhibit exploration, games, crafts and other fun and educational activities. Each camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with additional care offered before and after camp hours. Days may be reserved individually or as part of a longer experience. Fee per day per camper: \$55 Academy members, \$60 nonmembers. \$5 discount for each additional day. For more information and to register, call 215-299-1060.

Choose from these camp days and topics:

April 18 and 25, Prehistoric Wonders

Go back in time and get to know dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.

April 19 and 26, Amazing Animals

Meet the residents of the Academy's Live Animal Center.

April 20 and 27, Brilliant Bugs

Discover all things "buggy" and spend the day with live invertebrates of all shapes and sizes.

April 21 and 28, Wild Water

Dive into the mysteries of H₂O to learn more about the life forms that thrive in water.

April 22 and 29, Our Earth

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with earth-friendly fun.

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
Friday, April 22, All day

Meet the Academy of Natural Sciences' chemists, engineers and other scientists and find out how they monitor pollution and other environmental hazards affecting the Philadelphia region. Examine their equipment, tanks with live fish, and even the inside of a sediment core dating back 200 years! Find out how clean your local stream is and learn how scientists test crabs for toxic chemicals. Our staff will give tips on how to be a better steward of the environment, increase your sustainability practices, and become a "greener" person.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
A PENNSYLVANIA FISHERY: FISH PORTRAITS BY FLICK FORD
Saturday, April 23–Sunday, July 31

A Pennsylvania Fishery celebrates the beauty and variety of game fishes that inhabit the waters of the Keystone State. Twenty different species are portrayed in luminous watercolors by noted New York-based fish artist, Flick Ford. An avid angler, Ford began painting fish portraits in 1993 as a way to make a record of his catches. Over the years, he developed a watercolor technique that captures the perfection of the fish at the moment it was pulled from the water.

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FOUNDING GARDENERS
Talk by Historian-Author Andrea Wulf
Wednesday, April 27, Time TBD

Historian Andrea Wulf, author of *Founding Gardeners. The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*, will give a beautifully illustrated talk about the lives of the founding fathers and how their attitude about plants, gardens, nature and agriculture shaped the American nation. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison regarded themselves foremost as farmers and plants-men, and for them gardening, agriculture and botany were elemental passions, as deeply ingrained in their characters as their belief in liberty. In a unique retelling of the creation of America, award-winning historian Andrea Wulf will show how plants, politics and personalities intertwined as never before. **Fee TBD.**

USEFUL URBAN PLANTS WALK
Saturday, May 14, 10a.m.–noon (rain date: Sunday, May 22)

In the spring, Philadelphia is practically bursting with plants, herbs and wildflowers that have historical, cultural and economical significance. Join the Academy's Botany Department for a walk in the Northern Liberties neighborhood and learn about the ecological and morphological features of both native and introduced plants. Be prepared to get your hands dirty! Adults only. Fee: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. To register, call 215-299-1060.

MOTHERS DAY AT THE MUSEUM
Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, All day

Meet some moms who have made monumental contributions to science. Learn the inspiring stories of women who have shared their amazing intellectual gifts with not only their families, but also with the humankind. Make a Mother's Day craft for the mom who inspires you.

Main Changing Exhibit
FORE! THE PLANET
Saturday, May 21–Sunday, September 25

Explore a tropical rainforest, navigate a polluted waterway, follow the path of a migrating hawk—all while having fun playing miniature golf. Created by the Academy of Natural Sciences, *Fore! The Planet* features 18 holes of indoor golf in which players test their putting skills and environmental knowledge while gaining a better understanding of their environment. Each hole uses playful components to explore themes such as dinosaur extinction, bat sonar, pollution and recycling. Free with museum admission.

***FORE! THE PLANET* OPENING WEEKEND**
Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, All day

Be among the first to tee-off in this opening weekend of the *Fore! The Planet* exhibit. Meet our teacher-naturalists and find out about the Academy's global efforts to promote sustainability. Visit the craft tables and make an animal-inspired golf tee to take home.

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PLAY THROUGH DAD
Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, All day

Celebrate Father's Day with Dad's favorite game, golf. Play environmental miniature golf in the exhibit *Fore! The Planet* and teach Dad about the natural world. Then participate in a hands-on activity to learn how real golf courses can be sustainably "green." Make a golf-inspired Father's Day craft to take home.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES 1900 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY PHILADELPHIA 19103