



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2010
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS, OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2010

Featuring new exhibits, classes and the Philadelphia Shell Show

PHILADELPHIA—Explore your world with the Academy of Natural Sciences this fall when the nation's oldest natural history museum offers new exhibits, adult classes, and hands-on fun for the whole family.

Three new exhibits will be on display celebrating the art of science and discovery, and the annual Philadelphia Shell Show and Festival has a new theme this year: pearls. Don't miss the chance to learn about your environment and about nature through the following activities. All are free unless otherwise noted.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
A MANY-COLORED GLASS: ETHEREAL IMAGES OF MICROSCOPIC MARINE LIFE
Saturday, August 7–Sunday, October 31

Art and science come together in *A Many-Colored Glass*, an exhibit of 24 color-enhanced photomicrographs of diatoms (single-celled algae) created by Florida scientist Dr. Paul Hargraves and Rhode Island artist Fay Darling. The beauty of the diatom and its scientific role as a key indicator of water quality are explored. The Academy of Natural Sciences' collection of these important microalgae is the biggest in North America and includes invaluable survey and research data covering many years.

SHELL SHOW PREVIEW PARTY
Friday, October 8, 6-9 p.m.

Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at this event to benefit the Academy of Natural Sciences' Department of Malacology. Guests will be the first to see the extraordinary shell displays by artisans and to browse the shell marketplace for jewelry and home decor before the Philadelphia Shell Show opens to the general public the next day. Co-chairs for the party are Sarah and Eric Bazilian, Francie Ingersoll and Matt Taylor. Young Friends co-chairs are Lesley and Frank Coulson, and Colby and Matt Paul. Supporter tickets: \$150 each; Patron tickets: \$500 for two people. Cocktail attire, valet parking. For more information, contact Heather Sullivan, 215-405-1542 or ShellShowParty@ansp.org.

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PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW AND FESTIVAL
Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10, all day

Thousands of exotic treasures of the sea will be on display and for sale when the Philadelphia Shell Show and Festival, this year with the theme of pearls, washes ashore at the Academy of Natural Sciences. The largest show of its kind in the Northeast, the Shell Show features competitive displays by collectors and amateur scientists; an international market with pearl jewelry, exotic shells and shell crafts; and behind-the-scenes tours of the museum's world-renowned mollusk collection, the oldest in the U.S. and the third largest in the world. A festival of family activities includes squid dissections, shell games, story time and a craft to make and take home. Free with museum admission.

MIGRATING RAPTORS
Wednesday, October 13, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

See live raptors and touch and study real raptor specimens in this workshop. Beginning birders and raptor enthusiasts will have fun while learning something new. Join the Academy's experienced instructors—Live Animal Center Manager Laura McRae and Outreach Supervisor Michele Bassler, a lifelong birder—as they share tips on identifying local raptors and explain raptor anatomy using live birds, specimens and gorgeous bird images from our VIREO collection. Leave more confident in your skills to identify raptors as they migrate through Pennsylvania this month. Fee: \$15 Academy members, \$20 nonmembers. To register, call 215-299-1060 or e-mail reservations@ansp.org

Main Changing Exhibit
CRUISIN' THE FOSSIL FREEWAY WITH ARTIST RAY TROLL
AND PALEONTOLOGIST KIRK JOHNSON
Saturday, October 23–Sunday, January 2

Experience a 5,000-mile adventure into the world of fossils through the eyes of an artist and a scientist. *Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway with Artist Ray Troll and Paleontologist Kirk Johnson* combines art and science with a strong dose of imagination. Ancient killer pigs, saber-toothed cats and "the angry bugs of Zion" are once more given life through the whimsical artwork of Alaska artist Ray Troll. Visitors will explore evolution, extinction and early life through Troll's imagined scenes from millions of years ago as well as rarely seen fossils from the Academy's world-renowned collection.

AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR JAY KIRK
Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.

Philadelphian Jay Kirk, author of *Kingdom Under Glass*, *A Tale of Obsession*, *Adventure*, and *One Man's Quest to Preserve The World's Great Animals*, will give a talk about his fascinating new book and sign copies, which will be available for purchase. In this epic account of an extraordinary life lived during remarkable times, Kirk follows the adventures of the brooding genius Carl Akeley who revolutionized taxidermy in the late 19th century. Akeley's artistic methods were used in

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natural history dioramas across the country, including at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Kirk's nonfiction has been published in *Harper's GQ*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *The Nation*. Starting at 5:30 p.m., visitors are invited to view rarely seen specimens from the Academy's collection and hear stories about the Academy's own dioramas. Photos and field sketches from pioneering Academy explorers who followed in Akeley's footsteps also will be on display. Free. To register, call 215-299-1060 or e-mail reservations@ansp.org.

ALASKA WILD!
Wednesday, November 3, 6-8:30 p.m.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, marking its 50th anniversary, is home to a vast array of birds, grizzly bears, musk oxen, caribou, and much more. Monica Scherer, Pennsylvania Field Organizer for the Alaska Wilderness League, will lead a class on the critical issues that are facing Alaska's public lands, their unique species, and the native Gwich'in people. Participants will gain insight into the many ways Alaska Wilderness League and other advocates bring attention to issues in order to affect Congress and federal agencies that shape policies. Fee: \$15 Academy members, \$20 nonmembers. To register, call 215-299-1060 or e-mail reservations@ansp.org.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
NED SMITH'S PENNSYLVANIA
Saturday, November 6–Sunday, January 9, 2011

Explore Pennsylvania's breathtaking wildlife and landscape through the eyes and artwork of popular wildlife artist Ned Smith. Fifteen of his beautiful oil paintings combining creativity and science will be on display for a visual celebration of the Keystone State.

ANIMAL DETECTIVES
Sunday, November 14, 1:30-3 p.m.

Animals are all around; you just need to know where to look. Learn to read the signs of nature in this hands-on family workshop. Practice looking at what animals have left behind and meet some of the live animals you could encounter in your own backyard. Each family will take home a guide to help track local animals. Fee: \$20 member adult-child pair, \$25 nonmember adult-child pair. \$5 each additional adult or child. To register, call 215-299-1060 or e-mail reservations@ansp.org.

DINOSAUR DAYS
Friday, November 26, through Sunday, November 28

Celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday weekend with fun activities featuring dinosaurs and their closest living relatives, birds. Enjoy teacher-naturalist presentations and live bird shows throughout the day. Enjoy dinosaur story time and make a dinosaur craft to take home.

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ALL STAR WEEK
Monday, December 27, through Thursday, December 30

Some of the most popular features of the Academy of Natural Sciences are celebrated during this special week, each day with a different theme.

Dinosaur Day

Monday, Dec. 27

Dinosaurs come back to life through special presentations in Dinosaur Hall. Take what you have just learned and test your knowledge at the science stations, make a dinosaur craft to take home, and enjoy a live animal show.

Animal Day

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Live animals will be roaming the halls of the Academy for visitors to get a close-up look and to talk with the teacher-naturalist handlers. Learn more about the animals you'll see at the Live Animal Shows, and make a craft to take home.

Butterfly Day

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Observe an array of beautiful butterfly specimens from around the world and learn about their life cycle. Make a craft to take home and attend live animal shows.

Weird Things in a Jar Day

Thursday, December 30

They're strange. They're fascinating. They're weird things in jars! See up close the animal specimens that reside in the darkest corners of the Academy's vast research collection. After 200 years of collecting, our drawers and shelves are stocked full of weird and wonderful specimens. Learn how specimens are prepared for storage and study, and make your own 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!