



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2010

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ENVIRONMENTAL FORUMS FOCUS ON MARCELLUS SHALE, SPECIES LOSS AND GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

The April forums at the Academy of Natural Sciences are free and open to the public

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences will host three free public discussions in April—including a gubernatorial candidate forum—concerning the environment, sustainability and natural resources.

The forums, sponsored by the Academy's Center for Environmental Policy, come during the month when the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. "It is fitting that the Academy—with our long history of biodiversity and environmental research—is presenting this informed discussion of critical environmental issues," said Acting President Dr. Ted Daeschler. "We invite the public to join in and let their voices be heard."

On Thursday, April 15, the major party candidates in Pennsylvania's gubernatorial primary race will share the stage to discuss their positions on key environmental issues facing Philadelphia and the commonwealth. The candidates who have committed so far to participate are Pennsylvania Auditor General Jack Wagner, Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Hoeffel, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and Pennsylvania Senator Anthony Williams. The event begins with a public reception at 6 p.m., followed by the forum at 6:30 p.m. Seats are limited and reservations are required. To reserve a seat, register online at: www.pennsylvaniagubernatorialforum.eventbrite.com/. The event is presented in conjunction with the Academy's partners in the [Urban Sustainability Forum](#).

A topic likely to be addressed at the gubernatorial forum is the controversial Marcellus Shale geologic formation and that is the focus of another public forum on Tuesday, April 20. "Marcellus Shale: The Science and the Policy" will feature a panel discussion with scientists and other experts on the environmental impacts and effects on residents of plans to drill for natural gas. A mile deep into Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale region is one of the world's largest natural gas reserves, and with ever increasing demands for energy, many people are looking to exploit this region as an important resource.

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The panelists are Dr. Terry Engelder, professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University; Dr. Michel Boufadel, chairman of Temple University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; and Kenneth Warren, co-chair of the Environmental Practice Group of Hangle, Aronchick, Segal and Pudlin and general counsel for the Delaware River Basin Commission. The event begins with a public reception at 6 p.m., followed by the forum at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are encouraged. To reserve a seat, register online at: www.marcellusshaletownsquare.eventbrite.com/.

On Tuesday, April 13, a panel of science and health experts will discuss how protecting species and ecosystems affects public health and the economy. Co-sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts, "Why Saving Species Matters" will focus on the rapid worldwide loss of species and ecosystems, such as rainforests and coral reefs, and present solutions that are under way to conserve natural resources and help protect plants and animals.

Panelists are Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy, biodiversity chair of the Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment and chief biodiversity advisor to the president of the World Bank; Sherri Goodman, senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of CNA (a non-profit science research institution); Dr. Samuel Blackman, pediatric oncologist and associate director of experimental medicine and oncology at Merck Research Laboratories; Jeff Wise, director of the Alliance for Global Conservation; and Dr. David Velinsky, Academy vice president and director of the Patrick Center for Environmental Research. The event begins with a public reception at 6 p.m., followed by the forum at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are encouraged. To reserve a seat, register online at: www.biodiversityspeciesmatter.eventbrite.com/.

Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas. Located in the heart of Philadelphia's Parkway Museums District, the Academy is known for its research, collections, exhibitions and educational programs. The Academy's Center for Environmental Policy sponsors programs to enhance public awareness, decision-making, and public action on environmental issues.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences is a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. Its mission 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!

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