



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2010

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PALEOPALOOZA FEATURES RARE FOSSILS, FAMOUS PALEONTOLOGISTS, DINO ART LESSONS

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14

PHILADELPHIA—Get your fossil on at the Academy of Natural Sciences' Paleopalooza, a weekend extravaganza of rare fossils, dinosaur drawing lessons, trilobite races, talks by prominent paleontologists, and the chance to meet a famous dinosaur book illustrator.

Paleopalooza takes place Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14 (Valentine's Day!), and is free with regular admission.

Visitors will see rare fossils from the Academy's world-renowned collections including fossils belonging to President Thomas Jefferson, an avid naturalist. On display will be claws and bones from *Megalonyx jeffersonii*, a giant ground sloth that roamed North America during the Ice Age. On Saturday, visitors can meet and hear a talk by Academy paleontologist and Acting President Dr. Ted Daeschler, who has made many important fossil discoveries in both Pennsylvania and in the Canadian Arctic.

Also on Saturday, James Gurney, artist and author of the popular "Dinotopia" book series, will talk about how to draw from the imagination and sign copies of his newest book on that topic. On Sunday, meet British paleontologist Phillip Manning and Philadelphia's Dr. Ken Lacovara of Drexel University, both of whom will give talks about their most recent dinosaur discoveries. Throughout the weekend, Philadelphia paleontology artist Bob Walters and the Academy's Dinosaur Hall Coordinator Jason Poole will give drawing lessons for the budding artists in the family.

Children will enjoy making dinosaur sculptures, digging for fossils, playing a dinosaur detective game, listening to dinosaur stories, and seeing live animal shows starring those dinosaur descendants: birds. Throughout each day there will be trilobite races, guided tours of Dinosaur Hall, showings of short animated dinosaur films, and fascinating fossil displays from the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society.

For a full schedule of activities, see www.ansp.org/paleopalooza. Here are some highlights:

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Saturday Only

11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Philadelphia artist Bob Walters, one of the world's foremost paleo artists, demonstrates how to draw your favorite dinosaur in this hour-long class.

12:30 p.m.

James Gurney, the artist and author of the popular "Dinotopia" book series, will give a talk on "How to Paint What Doesn't Exist." He will sign copies of his newest book, "Imaginative Realism," which will be available for purchase.

3:30 p.m.

Academy Acting President and paleontologist Dr. Ted Daeschler will give a talk entitled "What Was Life Like 365 Million Years Ago: Exploring for Devonian-age Fossils in Pennsylvania."

Sunday Only

11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Jason Poole, the Academy's Dinosaur Hall coordinator and talented paleontology illustrator, will demonstrate how to draw dinosaurs with pencil and paper in this hourlong class.

12:30 p.m.

Dr. Phillip Manning, prominent British paleontologist and author of "Grave Secrets of Dinosaurs: Soft Tissues and Hard Science," will give a talk entitled "Hunting Dinosaurs in the 21st Century."

3:30 p.m.

Dr. Ken Lacovara, paleontologist and Drexel University professor of bioscience and biotechnology, will give a talk on "Giants at the End of the World: New Dinosaur Discoveries from Southern Patagonia, Argentina."

Saturday and Sunday

10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Create your own dinosaur sculpture with Model Magic and a little help from the colorful folks from the Crayola Factory.

10:30 a.m.

Dinosaurs are extinct, but their descendants are alive and kicking. See our live birds in the "Dinosaur Relatives" auditorium show.

2 p.m.

Test your knowledge of dinosaurs and win prizes by playing the "You Bet Your Raptor!" game.

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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, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"