## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## PEARLS ON PARADE AT PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW AND FESTIVAL Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10

PHILADELPHIA—Thousands of exotic treasures of the sea will be on display and for sale Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 9 and 10, when the Philadelphia Shell Show and Festival washes ashore at the Academy of Natural Sciences, home of the nation's oldest mollusk collection.

This year the theme is pearls, and visitors can explore the Academy's rarely seen pearls, along with the oyster and other shells in which they were made. Otolith Sustainable Seafood of Philadelphia's Fishtown (no pun intended) section will demonstrate the proper way to shuck oysters and will cook shellfish in unique ways for visitors to sample. There will be workshops on creating artworks with shells and tips on creative ways to display the shells as household decorations.

The largest show of its kind in the Northeast, the Philadelphia Shell Show draws crowds of hobbyists, artists and dealers, as well as families who beach-comb when they go "down the shore" in New Jersey. The show and festival of activities for the whole family are **free** with museum admission and are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show, now in its 28th year, features:

- Competitive displays by dozens of collectors and amateur scientists.
- An international shell market with pearl jewelry, exotic shells, shell crafts, books, and more.
- Skilled craftspeople and illustrators showcasing their unique artworks. One artist will create a Sailor's Valentine (intricate design made of tiny shells) inside the case of a pocket watch.
- Behind-the-scenes tours of the Academy's rarely seen malacology collection, the oldest mollusk collection in the U.S. and the third largest in the world with some 10 million specimens. Scientists will be on hand to answer questions and point out the pearl-making mollusks.
- Fun activities for the family including oyster and clam dissections, pearl craft-making, and, on Saturday only, a touch tank of live sea creatures from the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences.
- Free shells for the kids!
- For more events, visit www.ansp.org/shell.

A cocktail party to benefit the Academy's Malacology Department will be held Friday, Oct. 8, 6–9 p.m. For information, visit <u>www.ansp.org/shellshowparty</u>. The Philadelphia Shell Show is sponsored by the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Philadelphia Shell Club.

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## To download an image: http://www.ansp.org/press/photos/events\_programs.php

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!

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