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BEETLEMANIA INVADES BUG FEST AUGUST 13 AND 14

Eat them, examine them, hunt for them, and sing with them!

PHILADELPHIA (July 14, 2011) — Beetlemania invades Philadelphia Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13 and 14, when the Academy of Natural Sciences celebrates Bug Fest with thousands of beetles of all kinds – including a Beatles tribute band.

The Academy is THE place to be to see amazing live beetles, to eat delicious cooked beetles, to cheer on racing cockroaches, to hunt for beetles outside, to see the Academy's world-renowned beetle collection, and to dance to your favorite Beatles song. Beatle tunes will be performed by the costumed tribute band Britishmania of Cherry Hill, N.J. (Two shows both days, at noon and 2 p.m.)

Bug Fest is free with museum admission and is held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Other fun activities include:

- Cajun Chef Zack Lemann, who will cook buggy dishes including “beetle juice” and chocolate chirp cookies and offer samples.
- Steve the Beeman, who will grow a beard of live bees and share tips on this important pollinator.
- The Ask A Scientist booth, where visitors can ask questions and show a photo of a bug to get it identified.
- Buggy games and arts and crafts, including lessons on how to collect and pin insects.

Beetles are the most numerous species

According to Academy entomologist Dr. Jon Gelhaus, there about 400,000 known species of beetles, which means every third kind of organism on earth is a beetle. “Whether we realize it or not, beetles impact our lives every day. They have a major impact on agriculture, sometimes helpful, sometimes destructive,” said Gelhaus.

Visitors to Bug Fest will get a close-up look at thousands of beetles from the Academy's collection representing many of the shapes, forms, colors, and types of beetles. Of particular interest will be some beetles that have been in the news recently, including the Emerald Ash Borer and the

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purple traps scientists are using to monitor them. This new invasive wood-boring beetle is steadily making its way from western Pennsylvania to the east, killing thousands of trees as it goes. Also on display will be the tiny Southern Pine Beetle, currently infesting the New Jersey Pinelands, and the American Burying Beetle, the only beetle on the federal Endangered Species List.

Not all beetles wreak havoc. The Vedalia Beetle (a type of lady bug) was pressed into service more than a century ago to save the California citrus crop that was being attacked by an invasive species. The beetles devoured the troublesome Cottony Cushion Scales, and the citrus thrived.

For more information about the many fun activities at Bug Fest, visit www.ansp.org/bugfest.

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Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

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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