

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Room: www.ansp.org/press

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, APRIL–JUNE 2012

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University celebrates its Bicentennial with new exhibits and fun activities for all ages

PHILADELPHIA (December 16, 2011) — This spring the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University celebrates its Bicentennial with a fascinating lineup of new exhibits, educational activities, after-hours events, and more.

A major new exhibit, *The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery*, is open all year to showcase rarely seen items from the institution's world-renowned collections and its research of the past, present and future. Specially themed discovery weekends offer educational and family-friendly activities, crafts and cool take-home items along with chances to find out more about featured collections. A bicentennial book talk and signing, Art of Science exhibits, a spring break camp and a monthly science café provide learning opportunities for naturalists of all ages.

The following exhibits and programs are free with museum admission, except where noted. Check online at ansp.org for updates.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN: NEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF ACADEMY SPECIMENS BY
ROSAMOND PURCELL
Saturday, March 3–Sunday, May 20

Photographer Rosamond Purcell captures the extraordinary nature of everyday objects. A world-renowned Boston artist and author who has photographed natural history and anatomical collections for years, Purcell was the official photographer for Robert M. Peck and Patricia Tyson Stroud's new book *A Glorious Enterprise: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Making of American Science* (University of Pennsylvania Press, April 2012). In this exhibit, Purcell presents a selection of the book's stunning color photographs that depict some of the amazing specimens in the Academy's vast collections. Purcell shot all of the objects in natural light, and her artistry reveals hidden wonders. In the Art of Science Gallery. Free with museum admission.

Bicentennial Exhibit
THE ACADEMY AT 200: THE NATURE OF DISCOVERY
Saturday, March 24, 2012–March 2013

The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery celebrates the Academy of Natural Sciences' groundbreaking discoveries of the past and present and provides a glimpse into the future of one of the world's great natural history museums. Through this spectacular new exhibit, visitors will journey alongside Academy scientists to search for new species and explore how human activity is affecting the environment. See rare and amazing plants and animals from the Academy's collections and learn how scientists use these specimens to understand environmental issues including pollution and climate change. Free with museum admission.

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ACADEMY EXPLORERS CAMP
Wednesday, March 28–Tuesday, April 10, Weekdays from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Looking for a way to entertain the kids during spring break? The Academy will host a fun and educational day camp for children ages 5 to 12. Each day includes a teacher-naturalist presentation, exhibit exploration, games, crafts and other interactive activities. Each camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with optional before- and after-care. Days may be reserved individually or as part of a longer experience.

Topics and Dates

March 28 and April 6: Awesome Animals

March 29 and April 5: Wild Science

March 30, April 4 and 9: Dynamite Dinos

April 2 and 10: Buggin' Out

April 3: Wonderful Water

Fee: Members: \$55 per day, \$50 for each additional day after the first day; Nonmembers: \$60 per day, \$55 for each additional day. Before- and after-care additional fee. To register, call 215-299-1060.

Science On Tap
MONGOLIAN FISH HUNT
Monday, April 9, 6 p.m.

Science on Tap is a monthly science café in Philadelphia for anyone interested in gathering with others to discuss a range of engaging science topics. This month Academy Ichthyology Collection Manager Mark Sabaj Pérez describes his exciting adventures in Mongolia hunting for fish. Lively discussion encouraged. Location: National Mechanics Bar and Restaurant in Old City. Must be 21 or older. Those under 21 may attend with a chaperone 25 years or older. Free.

ACADEMY EARTH DAY AT THE
PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Academy's bicentennial year features a specially themed, April Earth Day Festival highlighting important aspects of the institution's research on the earth and its resources. On Saturday, April 21, Academy scientists will set up outside the museum along with 80 other exhibitors as part of the Philadelphia Science Festival Science Carnival. The carnival includes family-friendly experiments, activities and games, and Academy scientists will showcase their sustainability research and provide information on preserving natural resources. Throughout April visitors can take part in environment-themed activities, watch science demonstrations and receive a free mineral to take home. Free with museum admission.

WOMEN IN NATURAL SCIENCES DISCOVERY WEEKEND
Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13, all day

The Academy's bicentennial year features a specially themed Women in Natural Sciences Discovery Weekend highlighting important aspects of the institution's historic support of women in science. This history will be shared through presentations and activities featuring the Academy's Ewell Sale Stewart Library and Archives. Meet scientists, make a nature-based gift for Mom, and learn about women's contributions to biodiversity and environmental research. Activities for all ages, historical demonstrations and a surprise take-home gift extend the theme throughout the month. Free with museum admission.

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BIRD DISCOVERY WEEKEND
Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10, all day

The Academy's bicentennial year features a specially themed Bird Discovery Weekend highlighting important aspects of the institution's Ornithology Collection. Birds are the center of attention throughout June, when visitors can learn about the collection and take a look at VIREO, the world's largest bird image bank. On June 9 and 10, meet a real ornithologist, learn to identify local birds, participate in a bird migration and banding activity, and make binoculars to take home. Special bird-themed activities throughout the month are topped off with a free feather giveaway. Free with museum admission.

A GLORIOUS ENTERPRISE BOOK TALK AND SIGNING
Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Academy Senior Fellow Robert M. Peck and historical biographer Patricia Tyson Stroud chronicle 200 years of Academy history in their newly published coffee-table book *A Glorious Enterprise: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Making of American Science*. This beautifully illustrated history includes natural-light photographs of Academy specimens by noted photographer Rosamond Purcell. Find out more about the making of science in Philadelphia at this book talk and signing.

SAFARI OVERNIGHT
Friday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.–Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m.

Experience the Academy after dark! Bring your 7- to 14-year-old children to enjoy a night of interactive activities and encounters with live animals. Socialize and enjoy refreshments, then sleep next to the lions, tigers or *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Awaken to a light breakfast and more exploration. Each child receives a participation patch. Open to the general public and scout groups. For information and to register, call 215-299-1060. Fee: Members: \$35; Nonmembers: \$40.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit
FLIRTATIOUS FEATHERS: A COLORFUL COLLECTION OF ACADEMY BIRD PHOTOS
Saturday, May 26–Sunday, September 23

Whether in flight or in song, many birds display vibrant plumage that charms mates and photographers alike. This kaleidoscope of colored feathers is the subject of this exhibit that features stunning images from the Academy's Visual Resources for Ornithology (VIREO), the most comprehensive bird image bank in the world. Built by the Academy in collaboration with exhibit design students from Drexel University's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, *Flirtatious Feathers* provides a bird's-eye view into the intimate world of winged creatures. Free with museum admission.

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***Founded in 1812**, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For 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, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!
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