



NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release
February 4, 2011**

**Contact: Howard Pollman
hpollman@state.pa.us or (717) 705-8639**

February 2011 at The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, Pa. – The State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth’s official museum, announces its program schedule for February 2011:

A Night with the Mastodon and Friends – A Special Preview Reception for the New Paleontology Gallery: The Friends of the State Museum, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, will celebrate the opening of the museum’s new paleontology gallery with a special preview reception on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at 6 pm. Enjoy music by Tetyana Pyatovolenko and Jonathan’s Jazz and raise a glass to toast the new home of the Marshalls Creek Mastodon. See www.statemuseumpa.org for more details and reservations information; RSVP deadline is February 19.

Grand Opening of The State Museum’s New Paleontology Exhibit, Featuring the Marshalls Creek Mastodon: The State Museum’s long-awaited new state-of-the-art paleontology gallery will open on Sunday, February 27, 2011. Designed as a special day for families at the museum, the day will feature performances at 1 pm and 3 pm by popular children’s entertainer and songwriter Louie Miranda. Free Planetarium shows will also be running on the half hour, 12:30 pm – 3 pm. More information, interviews, and photos are available – contact Howard Pollman at hpollman@state.pa.us or (717) 705-8639.

MORE

The Dōshi Gallery at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, a Project of the Susquehanna Art

Museum: While the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) of Harrisburg is undergoing a transition to a new facility, The State Museum of Pennsylvania is loaning special exhibition space to house the DŌSHI Gallery in 2011. The first of SAM’s two art exhibits at The State Museum opens on Sunday, February 4, featuring 38 juried art works by more than 35 artists. The show, which runs through Sunday, June 19, 2011, will open with a reception at The State Museum on Sunday, February 6. Admission is free to members of The State Museum of Pennsylvania and The Susquehanna Art Museum. The reception is free to non-members with admission.

Planetarium Featured Shows, through Sunday, March 13:

“Legends of the Night Sky: Orion” (Educational Content Pre-K to Grade 2):

For our younger viewers, this fully animated cartoon narrated by Aesop the owl and Socrates the mouse, takes a light-hearted look at the myths and stories associated with the winter constellation Orion, the great hunter. Saturdays, 11 am & 1 pm; Sundays, 1pm.

“Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity” (Educational Content Grade 4 & up):

Explore the latest discoveries & observations concerning the formation of the early universe and stars, and take a flight to the super massive black hole at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. Saturdays, 12 noon and 2 pm; Sundays, 2 pm.

Planetarium shows are \$2 per person in addition to general admission; free to museum members.

Through May 1, 2011 – Special Exhibit – Wood on Glass: The Lumber Industry

Photographs of William T. Clarke: William T. Clarke (1859-1930) photographed the transformation of North Central Pennsylvania’s forests during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He produced stunning images that tell the story of lumbering in the vast stands of old-growth white pine and hemlock. **Wood on Glass** showcases Clarke’s historic visual legacy from the State Archives and a private collection and will be on view November 21, 2010 – May 1, 2011.

MORE

Holiday Closures in February: The State Museum's administrative offices and galleries will be Monday, February 21, 2011, for the President's Day holiday.

State Museum Store February Hours: Offering an array of museum and Pennsylvania-related products, children's items, and souvenirs, The State Museum Store will be open weekends in February 2011: 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays, and 12 noon to 4 pm on Sundays.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located at 300 North Street, is one of 25 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trails of History®, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children and Senior Citizens and includes admission to the popular young children's space, Curiosity Connection. Planetarium shows are \$2 per person in addition to general admission.

Members of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society (including State Museum affiliate members) receive free general admission (some programs require a separate fee) and free admission to Planetarium shows. Please contact (717) 772-6997, Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm to register for the program and to learn more about State Museum and Pennsylvania Heritage Society membership.

Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-6778 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. For more information on museum programs, planetarium shows, exhibitions and other events at The State Museum, click on www.statemuseumpa.org.

###