



NEWS RELEASE

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State Museum Celebrates Return of Marshalls Creek Mastodon, Other Prehistoric Specimens on Sunday, February 27

Harrisburg, PA - The State Museum of Pennsylvania will reintroduce the Marshalls Creek Mastodon to the public with a special celebration on Sunday, February 27 when the new exhibit *Life through Time* opens. The mastodon, last exhibited in 2010 has been waiting patiently for its new home to be completed.

Excavated in 1968 in Monroe County, PA, the Marshalls Creek Mastodon is one of the most complete skeletons of its kind discovered in the eastern U.S. Nearly 20 feet long and 9 feet high at its shoulder, the creature weighed 4 to 5 tons.

Festivities will run from 12 noon to 4 pm and features performances by singer-songwriter Louie Miranda at 1 pm and 3 pm., a chance to meet Dr. Robert Sullivan, Curator of Paleontology/Geology at 2 pm, self-guided tours of the new exhibit and more. Admission to the celebration is FREE with museum admission. As usual, State Museum members and Pennsylvania Heritage Society members are admitted FREE. No reservations required

The new 3,350 square foot paleontology exhibit explores “life through time,” looking at the change in life spanning 296 million years with the dramatically remounted mastodon,

new interpretive panels and educational materials, as well as numerous specimens from the museum's collections. Through state-of-the-art dioramas the new exhibit will provide a fresher and deeper experience for visitors.

In addition to the mastodon, others "residents" of the exhibit include Coelophysis, Phytosaur, Camarasaurus, Seymouria, Triassic specimens, Parasaurolophus T-Rex, and Platybeladon.

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.

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.

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