

Heritage Happenings

**Creatures of the Deep
Snake Talk**

**And...
A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT**



Summer 2019



**Heritage of the
Americas Museum**



Heritage of the Americas Museum

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Our Mission:

To educate and to promote respect and appreciation for the early cultural heritage of the Americas and natural history of the world.

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Saturday 12 - 4pm

Adults - \$3

Seniors/Military - \$2 Children 17 & Under- Free

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Director's Report

We have some exciting news we'd like to share with you! The Museum has suffered some leaks with the recent rains and now will be getting a new roof and windows to remedy the leaks. However, because of this large renovation, we will be closed from October to December to properly prep and execute the project. Don't worry though! We will have a temporary office on campus to work on some exciting new Museum projects as well as work with schools to offer outreach sessions to the schools. We're working hard to make sure the Museum is cared for and will continue to thrive. Should you have any questions, please always feel free to call the Museum and we're happy to answer any questions to the best of our ability.



Brittany Gardner

August Event Snake Talk Saturday, August 10th 12PM



Lifelong reptile enthusiast, Lew Parlette, will present a 1-hour program at the Museum on August 10th at 12 noon. He has studied and collected reptiles in Australia, Mexico and Fiji in addition to the United States. The emphasis will be upon local species and several will be on display, including kingsnakes and rattlesnakes. There is much misinformation about snakes and he will answer any questions you may have. People will have an opportunity to touch and hold harmless snakes...Great photo op for parents. Children are encouraged to come as they will have the opportunity to learn more about snakes.

Closures

**Saturday, August 31st - Labor Day
Mid October-December - Renovations**



A Big Announcement

This October through December, we will be closed for new roofing and window renovations.

During our closure, we will be working on a variety of projects to enhance the Museum and will continue our outreach to schools.

Additional details such as specific dates will be available on our website soon.

www.HeritageOfTheAmericasMuseum.com



Creatures of the Deep



Ammonites

Ammonites are an extinct form of cephalopods that roamed the seas 240 million years ago and went extinct 65 million years ago. Today, only the fossils of their coiled shells remain, but inside the shell there used to live a squid-like creature with a beak for its mouth. Ammonites could grow as large as 3 feet and used its tentacles to capture its prey of small fish. They typically lived in schools and trekked around warm water. A tube in its shell allowed air to move through to scoot them around the waters. Since they are such a prolific and well-studied fossil, archaeologists use different variations of ammonites to help date the fossils they find around them. You can find dozens of examples of ammonites throughout the Natural History Wing in the Museum.



Trilobites

Trilobites are an extinct arthropod that had many different species. Some species were scavengers while others were predators. It is believed that some blind species of the trilobites were able to burrow into the sand to scavenge. Appearing over 520 million years ago, it is held they went extinct during a mass extinction event in the Permian period about 252 million years ago. This event is believed to have occurred through an initial massive volcanic eruption. Just like horseshoe crabs, they have exoskeletons that protect their internal organs and are shed as they grow. Varying species and sizes can be found in the Museum's Natural History Wing.



Horseshoe Crabs



Horseshoe crabs have been in existence for around 445 million years, making it older than the dinosaurs. Despite its name, horseshoe crabs are arthropods with three main sections in its anatomy, relating more closely to an insect and arachnid than a crustacean. In fact, they are more closely related to trilobites (now extinct). The first section of the body is the prosoma. This is known as the head and houses the brain, heart, nervous system and glands. The abdomen or opithosoma houses spines for movement as well as muscles and book gills. The book gills are able to absorb oxygen from the water for breathing. The third section is known as the telson or tail. Although the tail looks like a stinger, it is a harmless tail that is used for aiding in movement if flipped over. In addition, the horseshoe crab has ten eyes distributed all over its body with the ability to see UV.

These creatures are important to our ecology today. Horseshoe crab eggs are eaten during the migration of shorebirds and other threatened birds mostly in the Delaware Bay. They are also eaten by sea turtles, important to maintaining their survival. In addition, horseshoe crab blood cells contain a protein that aids us in protecting our bodies from invading bacteria. These proteins can be found in flu shots, vaccines and an array of other uses as well. You can find an example of a horseshoe crab in the Museum's Natural History Wing.

Scrimshaw

Scrimshaw is defined as “...any fancy article made by sailors in their leisure hours; engraved whale’s teeth, baskets, fancy rope work, and the like...” The origin of the term “scrimshaw” is unknown, however it is thought to be derived from the Dutch or English expression meaning “to waste time.”



The origin of the art form itself is also unknown. Some historians claim that it is “considered to be the only truly American Folk Art,” while others argue that this form of art originated with the Inuit tribes as far back as 6000 years ago. Eskimos used whale and walrus ivory for many of their tools including needles, awls, fish weights, etc. It is thought that the Eskimos passed on this art form to New England sailors and whalers and that these men refined the art form.

The most common form of decorated scrimshaw uses whale or walrus ivory. To make a scrimshaw piece, a sailor would start with a tooth from a sperm whale and smooth down the rough outer ridges with knives then use shark skin to smooth the surface. Various methods were used to scrim the whale bone. Earliest scrimshanders practiced a stipple method by pricking small holes into the bone and filling them with black pigment made from a combination of lamp black, carbon and whale oil. Tea, vinegar, berries and octopus dye could also be used to provide a change of color.

With the decline of the whaling industry toward the end of the 1800’s the art of scrimshawing also declined. It wasn’t until the 1960’s when President John F. Kennedy, an avid scrimshaw collector, brought back the nearly lost art into fashion displaying many of his pieces in the oval office. In 1962, Mrs. Kennedy commissioned Milton Delano to carve a piece of scrimshaw bearing the presidential seal. The piece measured 9 ½ inches long and the project took over 240 hours of etching, coloring and polishing to complete the masterpiece. The President was given this gift for Christmas of that year and displayed the piece on the right corner of his desk.

This piece of scrimshaw meant more to President Kennedy than any other piece in his collection. It was buried along with the President’s remains at Arlington National Cemetery.

Located in Cases 46 and 47 in the Anthropology Wing are several beautiful examples of scrimshaw showing various methods of “scrimming” including a whale’s tooth dated 1847, an ivory scrimshaw pipe dated 1980 and an Eskimo Ivory Story Stick dated 1850.



Thank You New/Renewing Museum Members

Below is a list of our new members and renewals since March 10, 2019!

Benefactor - \$500.00

George & Kathy Tomlanovich

Grantor - \$200.00

Perry & Nancy Durning

John & Linda Yeager

Tony & Sherry Zambelli

Patron - \$100.00

Roger & Lindy Brazil

Steve & Gloria Chadwich

Linda Todd-Limon & Ken Limon

Larry & Jean Nelson

Susan McDowell

Gary & Kathleen Oatsvall

Rick & Heather Phillips

Trudi Raleigh

Fred & Joan Thompson

Contributor - \$50.00

Judith Allen

Laura Autio-Cress

Angela & Garry Cannon

Marianne & Steve Hall

Jim & Linda Michael

Lew Parlette

Family - \$30.00

Theresa & Luke Andreen

Celia & Enrique Arballo

Steve & Theresa Clippinger

Karen Cruz

Alejandro Curiel & Brenda Ruiz

Darcy & Troy DuGal

Betty & Dave Feldman

Beth & Mark Ferguson

Pat Fitzsimmons & Bill Evans

Denise & Larry Fraser

Joanne Frazier & Dave Boyle

Catalina & Miguel Gonzalez

Maria Huerta & Sergio Cruz

Judith & Guy Hunter

Thera Krug & Jeannie McBurnie

Landon Lay

Carlos Loureiro & Lucy Silva

Nancy & John Mitchell

Patience Niemoth-Coleman

Sandi & Ted Phoenix

Shannon Rankin

Cyndy Reynolds

Lori Senini & Alejandro Junco

Doug Sperber & Teresa Bulatao

Janille & David Todd

Kimbrie Touchet

Rachel & Jason Vedder

Michelle Wallis

Tania Walpole

Debra Wappler

Individual

Criselda Abad

Doris Albrecht

Kim Asfazadour

John Beckman & Barbara Bender

Sylvia Binley

Richard Bordwell

Tricia Bostard

Karen & Mark Bowers

Patricia Brown

Rosa Buenroostro

Sydney Buffet & Jerome Walker

Lynn Caruso

Marika Catania

Ruth Contino

Randy & Sally DeGeorge

Marilyn Deitrich

Mary Kay Engh

Richard Ernst

Linda Ferguson

Barbara Hamm

Louise Holloway

Tom Jakovac

Kellie Kandybowicz

Ruth Kramer

Roberta Labastida

Cheryl Lendvay

Steve Love

Kathleen McLaughlin

Jacquelyn & Tom McWhorter

Brenda Meeks

Nancy Michalowski

Elizabeth Milne

Becky & Rich Mitchell

Connie Muther

Rickey Owens-Smith

Ann Pagliai

Vicki Pool

Katherine & David Porter

Jo Ann Ramstead

Ingrid Ratini

Doug & Gail Rector

Lynette Ruhl

Kate & Mark Schwendener

Barbara Simon

Steve Stangland

Don & Linda Tabor

Allison Ray-Tingzon & Joe Tingzon

Judy & Tom Trussell

Laura & Nicolo Vaiasuso

Shaina Valencia

Juliet & Zoe Van Der Linden

Yuki Yamamoto

Judy Zint



Consider Donating Today

Consider donating today to have your extra contribution go towards funding more educational programs and projects at the Museum.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Your Change Makes a Change!

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