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Date: February 1, 2011

For Immediate Release

Crawl, Climb & Fly with ‘Amazing Butterflies’ at Jackson’s Attraction of the Year
Indoor Exhibit at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science February 5 – May 8, 2011

Jackson, Miss. – The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science invites visitors to transform into caterpillars and journey through one of the planet’s most amazing lifecycles at “Amazing Butterflies” - a new temporary exhibit featuring a giant indoor maze, caterpillar tunnel and live butterflies - from February 5 through May 8, 2011.

In “Amazing Butterflies,” visitors experience the challenges of being a caterpillar as it morphs into a beautiful butterfly through a hands-on human maze of larger-than-life leaves, grass and trees. Along the way, they discover the ways caterpillars move, what they eat and how other creatures help them achieve their transformation.

As butterflies seek out nectar for food, they often carry pollen from one plant flower to the next, and assist in plant pollination. “This exhibit provides a fun, interactive experience for families to learn about this amazing relationship,” explains Chris Zachow, president of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation board of directors.

The adventure begins as visitors look through eggs to see caterpillar friends climbing on leaves and beginning to feed. Families can learn to crawl like a caterpillar by slipping into a set of caterpillar legs and using teamwork and locomotion to sprint for the finish line. Visitors will discover why carpenter ants in Panama defend metalmark caterpillars from parasitic wasps and other predators, and feed a caterpillar its lunch through team games and contests.

Once the transformation from pupa to butterfly is complete, kids can practice flapping giant butterfly wings while avoiding spider webs that lurk around every turn. The “Nectar Food Path Puzzle” and “Squeeze and Sniff” stations explain how butterflies find food by sight and smell. Children and adults can find a butterfly mate by creating a wacky dance and then learn how butterflies select a specific plant on which to lay their eggs.

Visitors can mark their progress as a butterfly by stamping a souvenir garden card at eight stations before zooming out of the maze as a butterfly on “The Monarch Monorail!” After exploring the exhibit, visitors can ‘fly’ over to the Museum’s Terrarium to see live butterflies.

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FIRST TUESDAY LECTURE

Did you know that caterpillars were able to identify plants and plant relationships before humans were able to do so? Join us in the Museum's Rotwein Theater on March 1st at noon to learn more about butterflies, caterpillars, and plant taxonomy from Dr. Richard Brown as part of the Museum's First Tuesday Lecture Series.

BUTTERFLY CAR TAG

If you enjoy butterflies, then you'll love MDWFP's Butterfly Conserving Wildlife car tag. The tag costs \$30 dollars (in addition to the regular tag fee). Proceeds benefit the Wildlife Heritage Fund. Contact your local tax collector's office to get yours.

About the Exhibit: "Amazing Butterflies" was created by the Natural History Museum in London in collaboration with Minotaur Mazes. The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS), Anonymous, Clarion Ledger, Paul Benton, The Chisholm Foundation, Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Sanderson Farms, Trustmark Bank, Chris & Steve Zachow, Feild Co-Operative Association, Inc., Emme Wells, Jennie McIntosh, Ollye B. Shirley and other generous supporters.

This project was supported in part by a grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), creating strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibit do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

About the Museum: The Museum was recently recognized as Jackson's Attraction of the Year by the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau. The museum is located at 2148 Riverside Drive in Jackson. Call 601.354.7303 or visit <http://www.msnaturalscience.org> for directions, parking and details about this event and other programs offered by the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, which is a part of the [Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks](#). The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Museum Hours: M-F: 8am - 5pm; SAT: 9am - 5pm; SUN: 1pm -5pm. **Admission:** \$6 adults; \$4 children ages 3-18; \$5 senior citizens (60+); free for children under 3; free for Museum Members; school teachers with classes: call for group information. **Prices and schedule subject to change.**

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