

“Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived” Cruises into Jackson on June 5, 2010

The 60-foot, 2-million-year-old Megalodon looms life-size in this mega-exhibit of modern and fossil sharks, recently named a “AAA Southern Travel Treasure”!

Jackson, Miss. – You’ve probably never seen jaws like these before. They belonged to a behemoth 60-foot long, whose giant mouth bristled with 276 teeth. They belonged to Megalodon, the biggest prehistoric shark of all time that cruised all the world’s oceans more than two million years ago. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science will host the “Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived” exhibit from June 5, 2010 – January 9, 2011. “This traveling exhibit highlights the evolution, biology and misconceptions of Megalodon,” explains Libby Hartfield, museum director. Related to the modern great white and mako sharks, Megalodon was a dominant marine predator for 15 million years before vanishing 2 million years ago. The exhibit was recently named a “Southern Travel Treasure” by *AAA Southern Traveler Magazine*. “Megalodon” was produced by the Florida Museum of Natural History with support from the National Science Foundation. The exhibit conveys current research findings of Florida Museum paleontologists, and showcases both fossil and modern shark specimens and full-scale models from several collections.

“The Museum staff has developed special programming to bring Megalodon to life at the museum this summer. Join us for Fun Fridays and fascinating presentations about ancient and modern sharks,” invites Chris Zachow, president of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation board of directors.

- Visit the aquariums to see a cow-nosed ray recently born at the Museum, a hound shark in the barrier island aquarium, and baby bonnet head sharks in the Mississippi Sound aquarium.
- Fridays in June and July from 10 am - Noon: Join Museum Naturalists for exciting, hands-on Fun Friday programs.
- July 6 at Noon: Join Museum Paleontologist George Phillips for “Modern & Fossil Sharks – was Megalodon in Mississippi?”.
- August 3 at Noon: Join Dr. Eric Hoffmayer, shark biologist, for “Sharks Past & Present: From Megalodon to Megamouth”.

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The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation, Institute of Museum & Library Services, *The Clarion-Ledger*, The Walker Foundation, Comcast, Anonymous, Nissan North America, Inc., Regions Bank, Dr. and Mrs. Steve Zachow, Mississippi Power Company, Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Hughes, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, 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.

The museum is located at 2148 Riverside Drive in Jackson. Call 601.354.7303 or visit <http://msnaturalscience.org> for 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: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. **Admission:** \$5 adults; \$3 children ages 3-18; \$4 senior citizens (60+); free for children under 3; free for Museum Members; school teachers with classes: call for group information.

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