



PHMC/PHOTO BY DON GILES

## PHMC Launches Natural History Initiative

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) recently launched an extensive project to rehabilitate science programs at The State Museum of Pennsylvania with the formation of a Natural History Advisory Committee. For the first time in the museum's history, education and content specialists from several state agencies are joining PHMC to plan exhibit upgrades, updated interpretation and new presentations for its third-floor natural history galleries. The agencies include the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

PHMC is responsible for the Commonwealth's official natural history collections and for providing a range of educational programs at The State Museum. "We've paid a good bit of attention in recent years to art and historical programs at The State Museum but have often neglected the large audience who enjoys our natural history collections," says James M. Vaughan, PHMC's executive director. "The great success of the new Paleontology Gallery and the Marshalls Creek mastodon 'Buy-A-Bone' campaign supported by many Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and State Museum Affiliate Members is a testament to our public's great interest in Pennsylvania's natural history."

Two projects are slated to come to fruition this year as part of the initiative. The 20-year old "Dino Lab" will be converted to an open demonstration laboratory space where visitors can see a variety of presentations by Natural History Advisory Committee member agencies, museum staff and various partners as well as enjoy hands-on interactive activities. The museum is creating a changing gallery space on the third floor for temporary exhibits on a wide

range of natural history and conservation topics relevant to Pennsylvania. The first exhibit planned for the gallery will present bird prints by Alexander Wilson (see *PH Recommends*), known as the "Father of American Ornithology," who worked in the Commonwealth 200 years ago, supplemented by related specimens of Pennsylvania birds from The State Museum's Botany and Zoology Section collection.

Other projects include cleaning and upgrading the Carboniferous Forest and the museum's most popular feature, Mammal Hall. These exhibits and spaces, in addition to Ecology Hall, were installed in the late 1960s and 1970s and have received few or no revisions and interpretive enhancements since. PHMC's collaboration with its new Natural History Advisory Committee and outreach to natural science organizations throughout the Commonwealth will re-focus attention on its science assets and provide new and exciting opportunities for visitors of all ages.

**Check our e-news-  
letter, website and  
Facebook for events  
related to this  
initiative!**



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# Calendar information for the Pennsylvania Trails of History® is available by



- Receiving the monthly Pennsylvania Heritage free e-newsletter (e-mail Bonnie Inscore, [c-binscore@pa.gov](mailto:c-binscore@pa.gov), if you would like to subscribe)
- Visiting individual site's websites
- Following the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation on Facebook
- Following the Pennsylvania Trails of History or individual sites on Facebook
- Reading our Trailheads blog at [www.patrailheads.blogspot.com](http://www.patrailheads.blogspot.com)

## Trails of History Sites and Museums

Individual, Family and higher level members receive free **GENERAL** admission to Trails of History museums and historic sites. Special events may require an additional fee.

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Chadds Ford, 610-459-3342  
[www.brandywinebattlefield.org](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org)

### **BUSHY RUN BATTLEFIELD**

Jeannette, 724-527-5584  
[www.bushyrunbattlefield.com](http://www.bushyrunbattlefield.com)

### **CONRAD WEISER HOMESTEAD**

Womelsdorf, 610-589-2934  
[www.conradweiserhomestead.org](http://www.conradweiserhomestead.org)

### **CORNWALL IRON FURNACE**

Cornwall, 717-272-9711  
[www.cornwallironfurnace.org](http://www.cornwallironfurnace.org)

### **DANIEL BOONE HOMESTEAD**

Birdsboro, 610-582-4900  
[www.danielboonehomestead.org](http://www.danielboonehomestead.org)

### **DRAKE WELL MUSEUM**

Titusville, 814-827-2797  
[www.drakewell.org](http://www.drakewell.org)

### **ECKLEY MINERS' VILLAGE**

Weatherly, 570-636-2070  
[www.eckleyminersvillagemuseum.com](http://www.eckleyminersvillagemuseum.com)

### **EPHRATA CLOISTER**

Ephrata, 717-733-6600  
[www.ephratacloister.org](http://www.ephratacloister.org)

### **ERIE MARITIME MUSEUM AND FLAGSHIP NIAGARA**

Erie, 814-452-2744  
[www.flagshipniagara.org](http://www.flagshipniagara.org)  
[www.eriemaritimemuseum.org](http://www.eriemaritimemuseum.org)

### **FORT PITT MUSEUM**

Pittsburgh, 412-281-9285  
[www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org)

### **GRAEME PARK**

Horsham, 215-343-0965  
[www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org)

### **HOPE LODGE**

Fort Washington, 215-646-1595  
[www.ushistory.org/hope](http://www.ushistory.org/hope)

### **JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE**

Northumberland, 570-473-9474  
[www.josephpriestleyhouse.org](http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org)

### **LANDIS VALLEY VILLAGE AND FARM MUSEUM**

Lancaster, 717-569-0401  
[www.landisvalleymuseum.org](http://www.landisvalleymuseum.org)

### **OLD ECONOMY VILLAGE**

Ambridge, 724-266-4500  
[www.oldeconomyvillage.org](http://www.oldeconomyvillage.org)

### **PENNSBURY MANOR**

Morrisville, 215-946-0400  
[www.pennsburymanor.org](http://www.pennsburymanor.org)

### **PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM**

Scranton, 570-963-4804  
[www.anthracitemuseum.org](http://www.anthracitemuseum.org)

### **PENNSYLVANIA LUMBER MUSEUM**

Galeton, 814-435-2652  
[www.lumbermuseum.org](http://www.lumbermuseum.org)

### **PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY MUSEUM**

Boalsburg, 814-466-6263  
[www.pamilmuseum.org](http://www.pamilmuseum.org)

### **RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Strasburg, 717-687-8628  
[www.rrmuseumpa.org](http://www.rrmuseumpa.org)

### **SOMERSET HISTORICAL CENTER**

Somerset, 814-445-6077  
[www.somersethistoricalcenter.org](http://www.somersethistoricalcenter.org)

### **THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Harrisburg, 717-787-4980  
[www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org)

### **WASHINGTON CROSSING HISTORIC PARK**

Washington Crossing, 215-493-4076  
[www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing](http://www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing)

# Spring Gardens on the Trails of History

Spring is a beautiful time to visit the Trails of History, with new green leaves and gorgeous blooms! Attend these special events to learn about gardening in Pennsylvania. (Remember, special events may require a fee as your membership card is only valid for free general admission.)



PHF/PHOTO BY RHONDA NEWTON

## Garden Highlights

Pennsbury Manor  
April 27, May 25, June 22,  
from 1-4 p.m.

## Herb and Garden Faire

Landis Valley Village and  
Farm Museum  
May 9-10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Garden Market and Spring

### Garden Workshop

Old Economy Village  
May 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Register for Workshop by May 9. Call for details.



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Have you ever thought much about chairs? Take a day to visit The State Museum in Harrisburg and the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum in Lancaster, which are (usually!) less than an hour's drive apart to explore chairs from throughout Pennsylvania's history as well as the history of Pennsylvania German chairs. *Chairs from the Collection of The State Museum of Pennsylvania* exhibit remains on view through April 27. Landis Valley's *Chairs! Chairs! Chairs!: Handcrafted Traditions from Rural Pennsylvania, 1750-1875*, runs through the end of 2014.

## Exhibits

### LANDIS VALLEY VILLAGE AND FARM MUSEUM

*Chairs! Chairs! Chairs!: Handcrafted Traditions from Rural Pennsylvania, 1750-1875.*  
Through December 31

### RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

*A First Class Restaurant on Wheels: The Story of the Railroad Dining Car*  
Opening April 26

### THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Chairs from the Collection of The State Museum of Pennsylvania.*  
South Central Pennsylvania Arts and Writing Awards.  
Through April 27

### Lost World/Found World

Presented by the Doshi Gallery of the Susquehanna Art Museum  
Through June 1

### National History Day in Pennsylvania 2013 Winners.

Through June 8

47th annual *Art of the State: Pennsylvania 2014*, juried statewide art exhibition co-sponsored by Jump Street and The State Museum of Pennsylvania.

Opening June 22

## WELCOME NEW PHF MEMBERS! September–December 2013

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Membership (individual level and higher) in the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation provides free general admission to all PHMC sites throughout the Commonwealth as well as Time Travelers benefits — free or discounted admission and store discounts at more than 250 museums nationwide. Contact us for additional information and a list of participating sites and museums.