



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Ryan Barber
(276) 666-8659

BUGS TAKING OVER VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Bug Daze event to feature fun, educational bug displays, activities

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (April 3, 2006) – The hallways of the Virginia Museum of Natural History will soon be crawling with bugs, and this is one time that museum staff couldn't be happier. VMNH will host its 1st Annual *Bug Daze* event on Sunday, April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m.

This event will feature fun and educational displays of unusual insects, crustaceans, arachnids and more, highlighting the roles of various bugs in people's everyday lives. Entomologists from Virginia Tech will be at the event with a pest management booth, where visitors can learn about bed bugs, termites and other potential household pests.



A highlight of this event will be the *Roachville 500* race, where visitors can cheer on their favorite giant Madagascar hissing cockroach. Kids can also get a removable bug tattoo or decorate a bug mask at the event. Special *Bug Daze* items will be on sale in the museum gift shop including insect t-shirts, edible insect candy and more.

This event is free with the price of museum admission. For more information, call 276-666-8613 or visit www.vmnh.net.

###

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville seeks to increase understanding of and appreciation for the natural history of the Commonwealth through education, research, collections, publications and exhibits. The museum – an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution – is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a distinction earned by fewer than 10 percent of museums in the United States. A new, \$28 million museum currently is being built in Martinsville. When fully completed in early 2007, the new museum will offer five times the exhibit and public space of the current facility.

The museum is a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Virginia Association of Museums, Heritage Preservation, and an agency of the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. With 22 million objects in its collection, it reaches nearly 1 million people annually through on-site and traveling exhibitions, classroom outreach programs, the museum's Web site, public events and publications.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. Members are always admitted free. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens and youth 12-18; \$3 for children 3 to 11; and free for children 2 and under. For more information about membership or volunteer opportunities, please call 276-666-8600 or visit the museum's Web site at www.vmnh.net.