



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Endangered Species: What good are they?**

*Lecture Series to resume at new museum facility.*

**MARTINSVILLE, Va.** (April 24, 2006) – The Virginia Museum of Natural History Lecture Series resumes Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Mr. and Mrs. L. Dudley Walker Lecture Hall, the first time the series will be held at the new museum facility. Dr. John Pagels, professor and director of the graduate program at Virginia Commonwealth University, will speak of the importance of endangered species when he presents “Endangered Species: What good are they?” Dr. Pagels will emphasize his work on rare and endangered species and their importance in the overall scheme of conservation.

The event is sponsored by Ambassadors of the Museum. Museum admission applies. For more information, please call 276-634-4141.

## **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 facility is now open, offering five times the exhibit and public space of the old 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 over 22 million objects in its collections, the Museum 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 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 5:30 p.m. Members are always admitted free. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens and college students; \$5 for children and youth 3-18; members and children under 3 free. For more information about membership or volunteer

opportunities, please call 276-634-4141 or visit the Museum's Web site at [www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net)

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