

THE EXHIBIT

The Newsletter of UL Lafayette Science Museum



Letter from the Director

DR. JENNIFER E. HARGRAVE, UL LAFAYETTE SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES



Greetings from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum. It's that time of year – when school is winding down and we are dreaming about the fun and freedom of summer. We are so excited to add to our open hours this summer. We will now be open on Wednesdays beginning May 31 to kick off our Summer of Science, with lots of activities to keep you engaged and entertained! Now is the time to purchase your annual membership so you can visit all summer and won't miss out on any of the fun.

I'd also like to tell you about sponsorship possibilities at the museum. We have a variety of opportunities for businesses and individuals to provide financial support so that we can continue to expand and enrich our programming and exhibits. Your support plays a vital role in our efforts to further our mission, which is to provide informative and interactive experiences in STEM fields to the community, K-12 students, and University students, provide innovative research opportunities, and preserve current and future museum collections for use in exhibits, classrooms, and scientific research. You will receive recognition, as well as museum benefits, for your generous gift. For more information about how you can play a pivotal role to the museum and its mission, please contact me at jennifer.hargrave@louisiana.edu or call 337-482-0678.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, Museum Director



Summer of Science at UL Lafayette Science Museum

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND VISIT ALL SUMMER LONG!

The school year is coming to a close and the summer schedule is heating up at UL Lafayette Science Museum! Never fear, we'll be sure to keep it cool as always for our **Summer of Science**. Now is the perfect time to become a member to enjoy the benefits all summer long. Beginning May 31, we will add open hours on Wednesdays from 9 am to 5 pm and offer additional planetarium shows each week - a children's program at 11:15 am and a public program at 2:45 pm every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Don't miss these **Summer of Science** events:

- **STEM Saturdays: 10 am to 2 pm**
 - **Endangered Species Day** - May 20: U.S. Fish & Wildlife and LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries will celebrate the 50 years of the Endangered Species Act and wildlife success stories in Louisiana.
 - **Summertime Science** - June 10: Hands-on activities all about summer and science. STEM Saturday activities are included with museum admission through a grant from Halliburton.
- **Mystery Animal Pop-Up with Schoolhouse Safari** - May 21, June 11 and July 16 - Schoolhouse Safari will visit the museum with a live mystery animal. Learn about snakes, reptiles, bugs and birds for hands-on, interactive fun!
- **Sensory Day with the Autism Society of Acadiana** - June 4, 11:30 am - Guests with special sensory needs can see planetarium show and explore the exhibits before we open to the general public. Admission is good for the whole day.
- **Club KEMET STEM Camps** - June & July (except 4th of July week) - Summer Camps are BACK! At Club KEMET kids are inspired to think like engineers while focusing on teamwork, adaptability, ingenuity and creativity.
- **Insect Day** - August 26 - Prepare to bug out at this insect takeover! See live and preserved insects, Louisiana natives, exotic species, butterflies & bees. Learn all about bugs from entomology experts at The Beetle Experience & more.

Stay tuned for more **Summer of Science** announcements!



STEM Summer Camps at UL Lafayette Science Museum

CHOOSE FROM 7 WEEKS OF SUPER SUMMER SCIENCE

UL Lafayette Science Museum has partnered with Club KEMET, Kids Engaging in Math, Engineering & Technology, to host a series of STEM summer camps for kids in elementary and middle school.

Club KEMET's mission is to engage kids in real world problem-solving activities that correlate to STEM learning objectives. Campers are inspired to think like engineers while focusing on teamwork, adaptability, ingenuity and creativity.

Each weeklong camp session will be held at UL Lafayette Science Museum. The sessions will focus on the science of magic and illusions, designing helmets for superheros and star athletes, aeronautical engineering and flying machines, automotive engineering and boxcar derby, ancient artifacts, petroglyphs, rocks and minerals, DNA and genetic engineering, process engineering and an ice cream design challenge.

Register today for the following sessions, June 5-9, 12-16, 19-23 and 26-30 and July 10-14, 17-21 and 24-28.

Visit <https://ullafayettesciencemuseum.totalcamps.com/shop/EVENT> to sign up for the UL Lafayette Science Museum Camps.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**STEM SATURDAY :
ENDANGERED SPECIES
DAY - MAY 20**

**NEW SUMMER HOURS
OPEN WEDNESDAYS -
STARTING MAY 31**

**SENSORY DAY W/ AUTISM
SOCIETY OF ACADIANA -
JUNE 4**

**STEM SATURDAY -
SUMMERTIME SCIENCE:
JUNE 10**

**MYSTERY ANIMAL VISIT
W/SCHOOLHOUSE
SAFARI: MAY 21 & JUNE
11**

**CLUB KEMET SUMMER
CAMPS: JUNE 5-9, JUNE
12-16, JUNE 19-23, JUNE
26-30**

LPL Bibliobike Visits



Lafayette Public Library's Bibliobike will visit UL Lafayette Science Museum with science-themed books and library card sign-ups on the following dates from 2:30-3:30 pm:

Fridays, May 5 & 26

Friday, June 16

Fridays, July 7 & 28

Friday, August 18

Check out books in the museum lobby with your library card or LPSS student ID. Don't have a card, no worries! You can sign up for one right there at the Bibliobike!

UL Students Visit Free with Valid ID



UL Lafayette Science Museum is now equipped with a student ID scanner, and we are pleased to offer free admission to students with a valid student ID.

Students can visit the museum, located in downtown Lafayette anytime during our open hours, which are Thursday and Friday from 9am-5pm, Saturday from 10am-6pm and Sunday 1pm-6pm. Beginning May 31, we will be open on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm.

Students are invited to visit for self-guided tours of our exhibits and planetarium shows, events and activities. Follow UL Lafayette Science Museum on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

Group Rates Available



We are now offering discounted rates for groups of 10 or more visitors. Group rate prices are \$10 for adults (16 and up) and \$5 for children (2-15).

Group rates offer a perfect opportunity for smaller clubs, groups and organizations to tour the museum's engaging and interactive science exhibits and view our planetarium shows at a discounted rate by booking in advance.

We ask for a single payment with a check or exact change. For more information, fill out the field trip form on our website.

Sensory Friendly Museum Hours



UL Lafayette Science Museum will host sensory-friendly hours for visitors with special sensory needs on Sunday, June 4 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. when the museum opens to the general public.

Families with children with special sensory needs are invited to visit the museum to explore the exhibits and planetarium during these dedicated hours and are welcome to stay for as long as they wish once the museum opens to the public at 1 p.m. Visit www.acadianautism.com for more information.



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



Endangered Species Day

CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND LOUISIANA SUCCESS STORIES

Join us Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 10am to 2pm at UL Lafayette Science Museum for a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act and Louisiana success stories.

Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act will present interactive, educational activities about Louisiana wildlife.

From the Louisiana black bear to the whooping crane, learn about conservation efforts and monitoring programs that have brought back species that were once endangered. Find out information about protected, threatened and endangered species in our state. You might even meet a real live Louisiana pine snake, a gopher tortoise and more!

Lafayette Public Library and other museum friends and partners will be on hand with activities and information. Join us for a fun-filled day all about wildlife!

Enacted in 1973, the Endangered Species Act establishes protections for fish, wildlife and plants listed as threatened or endangered and plans for their recovery.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

UL EMPLOYEE: \$45 (1 ADULT)

INDIVIDUAL: \$65 (1 ADULT, 1 GUEST)

DUAL: \$85 (2 ADULTS, 2 GUESTS)

FAMILY: \$115 (2 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN)

FAMILY FLEX: \$150 (2 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN, 4 GUESTS)

PREMIUM: +\$50 (2 GUESTS, 10% STORE DISCOUNT, PRIORITY EVENT REGISTRATION)

MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE MUSEUM STORE.



Meet Colin LeBlanc

UL LAFAYETTE STUDENT WORKER

We interviewed Colin LeBlanc, a UL Lafayette Student Worker. Colin is a senior majoring in general studies with a concentration in the arts. You can find Colin greeting visitors with a smile at the admission desk, helping in the gift shop, or with random projects around the museum.

Tell us a bit about yourself?

I am 24 years old and lived near Maurice for most of my life, but I like to say that I'm from Arnaudville. My mom's family is from there and we spent nearly every weekend there with my grandma, my brother and cousins. I was the youngest of all the boys, and we made lots of mischief. My youngest cousin and I are as close as brothers. I love having such close family around now that my brother has moved away.

After graduation, what's next?

Currently I am only working at the museum. My career after graduation is unknown to me. I'm still trying to figure out what I want to do. My job at the museum is only a part-time student position, so I would love to continue working at the museum and be a full-time employee, if that opportunity becomes available.

What's your favorite exhibit?

My favorite exhibit is definitely the planetarium -- 360 degree video and audio, learning about the wonders of space -- it's truly an amazing experience.

What is your earliest memory of the museum?

Before I started working last year, it had been about 10 years since I'd visited. At the time, the blue turbulent orb was on the second floor. I still get mesmerized by it all these years later.



What's the best thing you've heard from a museum patron?

I think the smiles on the kids' faces say a lot. They're so interested in learning about science and always so enthusiastic. I love it!

Why is a science museum in Lafayette important?

I think it's that there aren't as many science museums as there are just art museums. It gives people a hands-on experience to learn something new about science.

How is the University inspiring people of all ages through the museum?

It gives more opportunity to showcase the work of students and researchers at the university. We have the STEM Saturday once a month, and it's a great way to bring everyone together.

What's something people may not know about the museum?

The mammoth skeleton in the museum lobby is named Shakira.

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Colin LeBlanc, Continued

What's your favorite scientific fun fact?

While Earth is not the center of the entire universe, it is the center of the Observable Universe, which is approximately 94 billion light years across. With the expansion of the universe accelerating, there are galaxies and other celestial bodies beyond the edge of the observable universe that we will never be able to see. Light can only travel so fast.



Edwin Hubble, an American Astronomer for whom the Hubble Telescope was named, played a crucial role in establishing the field of extragalactic astronomy and observational cosmology.

In the Planetarium

MAY & JUNE SCHEDULE

The universe awaits in our state-of-the-art, all-digital, full-dome planetarium! Currently, planetarium shows run every Friday at 4 p.m. and through the weekend with a Saturday morning children's program at 11:15 a.m. Programs continue Saturday and Sunday at 1:30, 2:45 and 4 p.m. Starting May 31, we will offer an 11:15 am children's program and a 2:45 pm general program on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this summer.

MAY	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.		Accidental Astronauts	
1:30 p.m.		Dawn of the Space Age	Dawn of the Space Age
2:45 p.m.		The Sky Tonight/Little Star*	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*	Black Holes	Black Holes

JUNE	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.	Accidental Astronauts	Accidental Astronauts	Accidental Astronauts	Accidental Astronauts	
1:30 p.m.				Black Holes	Black Holes
2:45 p.m.	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*	The Sky Tonight/Little Star*
4:00 p.m.				Dawn of the Space Age	Dawn of the Space Age

**As we work to grow our planetarium team, our live planetarium show "The Sky Tonight" or an alternate special children's program will be shown based on staff availability.*

Neotragocerus: North America's Oldest Bovid is an Old World Antelope

SEE RARE NEOTRAGOCERUS FOSSILS IN NEW EXHIBIT AT UL LAFAYETTE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Recent expeditions to Oregon under the direction of James E. Martin, Curator of Paleontology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Geology Museum, have produced the first significant fossils of Neotragocerus, the oldest North American bovid, a mammal of the cattle family, which includes goats, sheep and bison.

Analysis of the new sample just published in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology indicates that Neotragocerus is most closely related to the Old World antelopes. Before this find, fossils of this small, short-horned antelope were extremely rare and fragmentary.

“For more than a century, scientists have wondered about Neotragocerus,” said Dr. Martin. “What type of bovid was it, and what exactly were its affinities to other North American bovids, such as goats, sheep and bison?”

Now, horn cores of calves and adults, as well as teeth, found in Oregon indicate a relationship to antelopes, particularly a rather primitive group known as Boselaphini. The nigali and four-horned antelopes of India are the only living boselaphins and are the closest living relatives to Neotragocerus.

Evidently, Neotragocerus dispersed to North America via an early Bering land bridge and spread at least across western North America. The enigmatic herbivore appeared suddenly in North America during the late Miocene, about 7 million years ago and disappeared by about 4.5 million years ago.

According to Martin, prior to this occurrence, the herbivores during the Age of Mammals were dominated by horses, camels, and deer-like hoofed creatures. Neotragocerus was the first to start a trend that culminated in bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goats dominating the North American herbivore scene.

“While scientists are still uncertain whether Neotragocerus gave rise to later Ice Age bovids in North America, we now know this antelope originated in the Old World and its anatomy is what would be expected of an ancestor, which gave rise to later bovids, particularly the goats,” said Martin.

The fossils are on display in a new exhibit at UL Lafayette Science Museum. The exhibit adds to the museum's display of North American mammals, including an ancient camel called Megatylopus, which was discovered in the same area.



The most complete skull of Neotragocerus, a primitive goat-like mammal from North America

Kids' Curiosity Corner

T G P C A L R E S I O T R O T R E H P O G
P P G G Y L H O Z U D Y V T M I L Z O U Y
C W F O E L A P N V Z X P R S Y X I Z F B
G H Q O Z Q X D U H Y V J H E V I H P R S
Y H C U L J C R M Q L T Z Y K Y P L G R Z
U S N X F C U I I H F R D Y Q A O Y W Z U
J D V M U E J M D P I N E S N A K E M R R
L L U E E K A Q M O V G O N A I Q W P G I
A L E S S U M L L E H S L R A E P T C Z U
N C B F B Y Q H D G M F P A M F S H L S K
B X Y X J O G H W P H B I Y B B Y Z R E S
E I V S V V S U X C N E M F S C D Y Z A Z
W H O O P I N G C R A N E Q A X I F D Y S
K I A X I M K E D A R K W R W J F F F D N
U U V Q F Z O W R E H P O G T E K C O P J
D A D K A I P B D A H S H O I S X A M K A
R E D C O C K A D E D W O O D P E C K E R
U Y G R X K K B U M T I J X B G K U J U T
I M F J O D U Y A K W L K A P N E A D C Z
Y C M G C Y C W S T H B Z M L F X M P D C
B R A E B K C A L B A N A I S I U O L Q T

Find the words related to Protected, Threatened and Endangered Louisiana Wildlife:

Red Cockaded Woodpecker

Louisiana Black Bear

Pearlshell Mussel

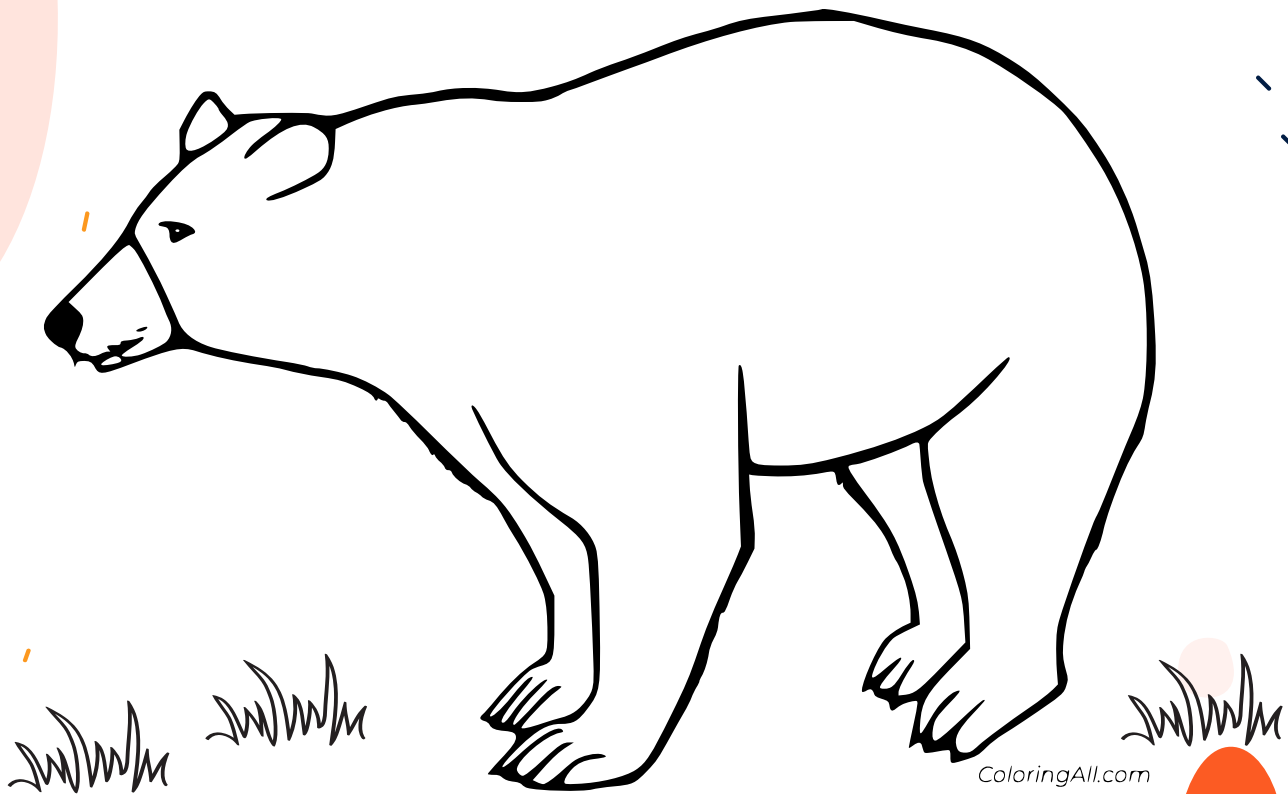
Pocket Gopher

Gopher Tortoise

Pine Snake

Whooping Crane

Louisiana Black Bear



ColoringAll.com

The Louisiana black bear is one of 16 recognized subspecies of the American black bear, which historically occurred from eastern Texas, throughout Louisiana and southwest Mississippi. It is distinguished from other black bears by possessing a skull that is longer, more narrow, and flat, and by possessing proportionately large molar teeth. The Louisiana black bear is a large, bulky mammal with long, coarse black hair and a short, well-haired tail. The facial profile is blunt, the eyes small, and the nose pad broad with large nostrils. The muzzle is yellowish brown with a white patch sometimes present on the lower throat and chest. Black bears have five toes with short, curved claws on the front and hind feet.