



Exploring & Preserving Maryland's Natural Treasures

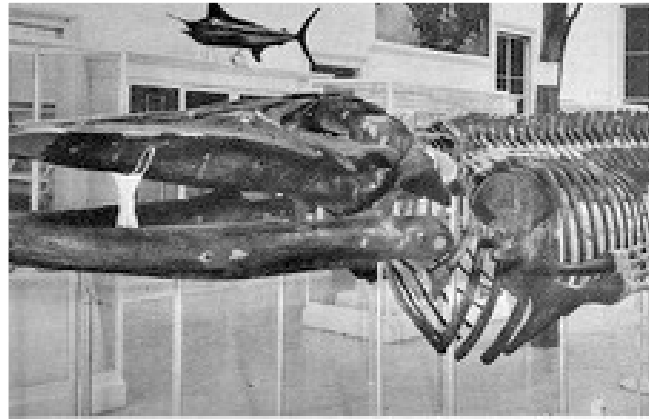
PAST
.....
PRESENT
.....
FUTURE

March, 2024



6908 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21206

410-882-5376
www.MarylandNature.org



SERVING MARYLAND FOR NEARLY A CENTURY

- Established in 1929 as a spin-off from the Maryland Academy of Sciences (founded 1797).
- Operated a natural history museum in Druid Hill Park (Baltimore) from 1936 to the mid-1970s, which hosted tens of thousands of visitors annually, including a thriving school engagement program for Baltimore City students.
- Continued hosting education programs, publishing journals, and supporting research activities in the period with no public museum, 1970s through 2006.
- In 2006, purchased the current 9,000 square foot building in Overlea, just over the Baltimore City line.
 - Re-established exhibits available for public viewing.
 - Created our dedicated collections facility, housing over 200,000 natural history specimens and artifacts that date from the 1800s to the present.



Through these transitions, we have prioritized stewardship of the state's most expansive interdisciplinary collections, including minerals, fossils, flora, fauna, and artifacts from Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region. Spanning geology, mineralogy, entomology, malacology, herpetology, ornithology, mammalogy, paleontology, anthropology and botany, these collections are both historically and scientifically significant, providing a unique and valuable resource for the state of Maryland.



JOY IN DISCOVERY: OUR CURRENT WORK

- In 2023, NHSM hosted 271 programs, workshops, and field trips which engaged more than 7,000 Maryland residents throughout the state, including an estimated 2,500+ children, in learning about the natural sciences.
- Our new Ice Age exhibit, opened in 2024, features the first-ever Woolly Mammoth skeleton to ever be displayed in our state, and admission is free to the public.
 - "Nature Connections" events throughout the year are specifically geared towards families with children.
 - "Must Learn Thursday" weekly online lectures dive into specialty topics for eager learners of all ages.
 - Lectures archived on YouTube form a catalog of 346 (and growing!) videos, available to all who wish to view.
 - Our 13-person volunteer curatorial team harnesses the talents of state experts.
 - Our clubs (Fossils, Archaeology, Herpetology, Lepidoptera) host monthly gatherings where experts and amateurs share meaningful connections around shared interests.





A BRIGHT FUTURE

We are ready to galvanize our role as a state leader in preserving, studying, and educating about Maryland's natural history. We are currently in planning stages for a multi-phase facility renovation, with \$1.7 million committed to date from county and state funds. Renovations will:

- Modernize collections storage and research facilities to ensure top-notch stewardship.
- Fully renovate exhibit and classroom areas to facilitate better public access.
- Renovate building exterior to better welcome visitors, while also supporting community revitalization goals for our portion of the Belair Road corridor.

The Time Is Now.

Maryland is in the minority nationwide, and lagging regionally, when it comes to institutional focus on natural sciences/natural history. Most states have a formal, comprehensive museum; all surrounding states (PA, VA, WV, DE) have well-established museums, and 3 of the 4 are state-sponsored.

A state-designated museum of natural sciences will benefit Maryland & its citizens by:

- Establishing a central repository for collections critical to Maryland's heritage;
- Ensuring dedicated protection of, and care for, critical collections;
- Creating a tourism attraction that brings regional visitors;
- Providing an educational venue not currently fully capitalized;
- Elevating a research venue to help better understand Maryland's natural heritage.



2024 UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, April 21

**Nature Connections:
*Archaeology***

Sunday, May 19

World Turtle Day

Sunday, June 2

**Nature Connections:
*Vertebrates***

Sunday, July 14

SharkFest



View our full calendar



<https://www.marylandnature.org/get-involved/calendar/>