Celebrating 140 years

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM HONORS THE PAST
AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

“Wow! All these bones were really dug up in Nebraska?” a little girl asks her mother as they walked through Morrill Hall’s new highway paleontology exhibit, Life in the Past Lane.

Moments of discovery like these are sparked every day at the University of Nebraska State Museum, which celebrates its 140th year in 2011 as the state’s premier museum of natural history. This milestone is celebrated not so much in calendar years but in the countless number of lives that have been touched by the Museum’s wonders.

Established in 1871 by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, the State Museum has grown into one of the nation’s leading university research museums. The Museum was established just two years after the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and was one of the first natural science museums west of the Mississippi River.

Today, the Museum enriches the lives of more than 100,000 visitors and students each year who visit Morrill Hall, Mueller Planetarium, the research collections, and branch locations at Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park, and the Trailside Museum of Natural History at Fort Robinson State Park. In 2009, the Museum again earned a 10-year reaccreditation by the American Association of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded U.S. museums.

Continued on page 6.
Morrill Hall Staff:

- **Director**: Priscilla C. Grew
- **Associate Director**: Mark Harris
- **Informal Science Education**: Judy Diamond, Curator
- **Research Partnerships Coordinator**: Brett Ratcliffe
- **Anthropology**: Alan Osborn, Curator
- **NAGPRA/Collections Assistant**: Susan Curtis
- **Nebraska Archaeological Survey**: Alan Osborn
- **Botany**: Robert Kaul, Curator
- **Collection Manager**: Thomas Labedz
- **Geology**: Samuel Treves, Curator
- **Parasitology**: Scott Gardner, Curator
- **Vertebrate Paleontology**: Ross Secord, Curator
- **Zoology**: Patricia Freeman, Curator
- **Highway Salvage Paleontologist**: Shane Tucker
- **Highway Salvage Preparator**: Nicholas Famoso
- **Mueller Planetarium Supervisor**: Jack Dunn
- **Public Relations Coordinator, Friends Liaison, & Mammoth Newsletter Editor**: Dana Ludvik
- **Public Service Associate**: Linda Beran
- **Research Collections Staff Secretary**: Gail Littrell
- **Scientific Illustrator**: Angie Fox

Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum:

- **President**: Mark A. Brohman
- **Vice President**: Lois Mayo
- **Treasurer**: David Rowe
- **Secretary**: Diane Pratt
- **Museum Associates**: Ann Cusick, Cindy Loope, Annie Mumgaard, Ina Van der Veen
- **Research Partnerships Coordinator**: Brett Ratcliffe
- **Affiliated Courtesy, Adjunct, and Emeritus Faculty**:
  - **Anthropology**: Thomas Myers
  - **Entomology**: Mary Liz Jameson
  - **Geology**: Robert Diffendal
  - **Invertebrate Paleontology**: David Watkins
  - **Parasitology**: John Janovy, Mary Lou Pritchard
  - **Vertebrate Paleontology**: Michael Voorhies, Robert Hunt, Jr.
  - **Zoology**: Hugh Genoways, Paul Johnsgard

Trailside Museum Staff:

- **Director's Office**: (402) 472-3779
- **Museum Information Line**: (402) 472-2642
- **School Program Reservations**: (402) 472-6302
- **Friends Office**: (402) 472-3779
- **Mueller Planetarium**: (402) 472-2641
- **Nebraska Hall Office**: (402) 472-2643
- **Ashfall Fossil Beds**: (402) 893-2000
- **Trailside Museum**: (308) 665-2929

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**MORRILL HALL CALENDAR AT A GLANCE**

**FEBRUARY**

- **February 20**: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
  Sunday with a Scientist “Parasites”
- **February 24**: 5:30-7:00 p.m.
  Nebraska Highway Paleontology Program Talk by Museum Highway Paleontologist Shane Tucker
- **February 25**: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  State Museum 2011 “Thank You” Reception
  RSVP Required by Feb. 18.

**MARCH**

- **March 20**: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
  Sunday with a Scientist “Lasers & Photonics”

**APRIL**

- **April 2**: 1:00-4:30 p.m.
  Colorful Creature Day!
- **April 17**: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
  Sunday with a Scientist “Fruit”

**MAY**

- **May 7**: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  Astronomy Day!
- **May 15**: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
  Sunday with a Scientist “Extreme Weather”

**ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS**

- **86930 517 Avenue**: (402) 893-2000
  Royal, NE 68773
  Located seven miles north of Highway 20 between Royal and Orchard, Nebraska.

**TRAILSIDE MUSEUM**

- **PO Box 462**: (308) 665-2929
  Crawford, NE 69339
  Located on Highway 20 at Fort Robinson, Nebraska.

- Connect with us:
  - www.museum.unl.edu
  - museum.unl.edu
  for more event details!

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  for more event details!
When Associate Director Mark Harris suggested six months ago that we celebrate the Museum’s 140th anniversary in 2011 (“Why should we wait 10 years for the 150th?”), little did I realize what a huge boost this would be for the Museum! Working on the anniversary has given all of us a much greater awareness and appreciation of the Museum’s rich history, thanks to the efforts of George Corner, Shane Tucker and other staff and students who have compiled fascinating historical information and located wonderful old photographs in the Museum’s archives. Mark, Dana Ludvik, and Angie Fox have done a fantastic job with their hard work and creativity, developing new Museum promotions, new experiences for visitors, and we have an exciting year ahead! Visitation and Friends memberships are up, the media placements (print, television, radio) have been unprecedented, and we are moving forward on our best year ever.

We are especially grateful to the Nebraska leaders who joined us at the anniversary kickoff event on January 7. I just wanted to share a few of their quotes on this page, and you will find Ellen Weissinger’s special message on page 15, along with photos of our gala evening. —Priscilla C. Grew, Director

Excerpt from the statement by Regent Bob Phares, Chairman of the NU Board of Regents:

“We celebrate here the creation of a museum like this only two years after the University of Nebraska was founded, and at a time when very few of these natural history museums existed in this entire country. This is a definite tribute to the vision, persistence, and foresight of our predecessors. This is a magnificent facility. I have enjoyed visiting it with my children and my grandchildren and if you don’t believe that this is a really ‘cool’ place, I would simply invite you to stroll through here with my 11-year-old grandson Andrew and I guarantee you he will explain it to you. I congratulate you on continuing the land grant mission of the University of Nebraska as you move forward with your research, your education and your outreach.”

Excerpt of letter from U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, read by Lt. General (Ret.) Roger Lempke:

“The Museum is a spectacular showcase of Nebraska’s rich and varied natural history... Generations of Nebraska schoolchildren have acquired a better understanding of and appreciation for the forces of nature that shaped our state. Since the earliest days of the Museum, it has been a highlight of the capital city, which attracts visitors from around the world. …Congratulations on the 140th anniversary and thank you for your commitment to showcasing Nebraska’s history. Best wishes as the Museum continues its important mission of preserving our history and educating new generations of Nebraskans.”
FROM THE PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FRIENDS MEMBERS!

2010 was a great year for the University of Nebraska State Museum, and it was capped off by the wonderful Friends Annual Meeting held January 7, 2011, in Elephant Hall at Morrill Hall. This was also a joint 140th Anniversary celebration of the State Museum. We had several guest speakers, including Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler, who gave congratulatory remarks to the Museum for its important place in Lincoln, the state, and beyond. Bob Phares, Chairman of the NU Board of Regents offered some wonderful comments along with staff from Senator Johanns and Congressman Smith reading letters from the Congressionals. The evening was completed by a fabulous presentation by noted National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore. The State Museum is currently displaying an exceptional display of Joel’s photos of amphibians from around the world in its Cooper Gallery. If you haven’t visited Morrill Hall to see the exhibit yet, I strongly encourage you to make a trip. There are frogs that look like aliens and tadpoles so small that there are dozens in one drop of water hanging from a leaf.

I want to thank everyone for their part in the 2011 Annual Meeting/140th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration. It was a wonderful evening. At the business meeting we welcomed two outstanding new board members, Art Zygielbaum and Natasha Vavra. We also re-elected to the board Marcia Hollestelle, Diane Pratt, David Rowe, and Keely Rennie-Tucker. Lois Mayo was elected Vice President, David Rowe was elected Treasurer, and Diane Pratt re-elected Secretary. I was fortunate to be re-elected as President.

Here is to another great year at the State Museum and don’t forget on those cold, snowy winter days, to bring those kids, grandkids, and neighbor kids to the Museum and enjoy the day watching them explore. Check out the website (museum.unl.edu) and see what is coming up: Colorful Creature Day, Astronomy Day, Sunday with a Scientist, and much more. See you at the Museum!

Mark A. Brohman, Board President
Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum

COLORFUL CREATURE Statewide Art Contest
Friends members in grades K-5 are encouraged to participate in the State Museum’s “Colorful Creature” art contest. All submitted artwork will go on display at Morrill Hall beginning April 2 during Colorful Creature Day!

Entries must be received by March 25.
Rules and entry forms available at museum.unl.edu.

AMPHIBIANS: VIBRANT AND VANISHING
An exhibit by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore
Morrill Hall • Cooper Gallery • On display through October 2011
NEBRASKA HIGHWAY PALEONTOLOGY PROGRAM

Road to destruction or path to preservation?

FEBRUARY 24 • 5:30-7 p.m.
MORRILL HALL

Museum Highway Paleontologist Shane Tucker will take visitors on a virtual road trip through Nebraska, highlighting the spectacular fossil discoveries unearthed during highway construction projects over the past 50 years.

The new exhibit “Highway Paleontology: Life in the Past Lane” will be on display at Morrill Hall through Sept. 30.

UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

At the University of Nebraska State Museum

From historic Morrill Hall – home to “Archie the Mammoth” on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus – to Ashfall Fossil Beds near Royal and the Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson, the University of Nebraska State Museum enriches the lives of more than 100,000 visitors and students each year, creating lifelong memories and inspiring a love of science and learning.

The University of Nebraska is involved in a campaign to raise $1.2 billion to support students, faculty, research and programs. You can choose to help the museum by making a contribution to the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum Fund.

To learn more about the museum and the campaign, contact Connie Pejsar, cpejsar@nufoundation.org, 402-458-1190 or 800-432-3216.

To give online, go to nufoundation.org/friendsofthestatemuseum.

WEAPONS THROUGHOUT TIME

Back by popular demand! Now on permanent display at Morrill Hall.

MEET ARCHIE

www.museum.unl.edu/140

The Museum’s new Archie mascot has been spreading “Mammoth Mania” across the state in celebration of the Museum’s 140th anniversary. Watch fun videos of Archie busting a move with students from Lincoln Public Schools on our Web site today.
From its humble beginnings as the University’s “Cabinet,” the Museum has flourished over the years through public support and the tireless efforts of its staff who seek to carry on the legacy of those who laid its foundation, particularly Board of Regents member Charles H. Morrill (1890-1903) and Museum Director Dr. Erwin H. Barbour (1891-1941). In the late 19th century, the Museum experienced a period of major expansion through the leadership and collaboration of Barbour and Morrill, who shared a passion for uncovering and preserving the state’s prehistoric past.

In the summer of 1892, Morrill began financing paleontological expeditions led by Barbour, who was accompanied by his sister, Carrie Barbour (one of the earliest female paleontologists), and other scientists to western Nebraska, the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota, and eastern Wyoming. On these Morrill Geologic Expeditions, large amounts of significant mineral, rock, and fossil specimens were discovered that would become the nucleus for the Museum’s future collections, helping to establish its reputation as an important repository for information about life on Earth. Morrill was the Museum’s primary benefactor of these and future expeditions undertaken by Barbour and the University for the next thirty years.

In 1927, after previously outgrowing spaces in University Hall, old Nebraska Hall, and the old Museum Building, the Museum moved into newly constructed Morrill Hall. The research collections underwent rapid growth between 1927 and 1941, and many of the permanent Morrill Hall fossil displays were mounted and installed during this era.
It was here that Barbour’s dream to devote a space entirely to the evolution of the modern elephant came to fruition. World-famous Elephant Hall has been the star attraction of the Museum ever since. Mighty mastodons and mammoths lead the parade of 13 million years of Nebraska elephants. Over the years, thousands of people have entered the grand corridor and looked in amazement at the magnificent array of ancient beasts that once roamed the plains. Above them all towers “Archie,” the world’s largest articulated mammoth.

In the years that followed Morrill Hall’s construction, the Museum continued to grow and carry out Barbour and Morrill’s mission to preserve Nebraska’s natural and cultural heritage. In 1961, the Museum acquired the Trailside Museum of Natural History. This historic jewel nestled in the heart of Fort Robinson features the stunning “Clash of the Mammoths” exhibit, which continues to attract visitors from far and wide. It is the world’s only fossil of two mammoths that fought to the death with locked tusks. In 1971, Ashfall Fossil Beds was discovered by Mike Voorhies (now curator emeritus). Each year since Ashfall opened to the public in 1991, visitors have flocked to witness this remarkable display of creatures preserved in volcanic ash where they perished over 12 million years ago. In 2006, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated Ashfall as a National Natural Landmark. Three years later, the expanded Hubbard Rhino Barn opened, enclosing and protecting the fossil beds from the elements and allowing visitors share in the thrill of scientific discovery as paleontologists continue to unearth new specimens.

Museum Director Pricilla Grew points out that many visitors may not be aware that only a fraction of the Museum’s total collections are on display.

“Our visitors admire Morrill Hall’s amazing dinosaurs and mammoths, but probably many don’t realize that behind the scenes, the Museum holds an irreplaceable research collection of millions of specimens and objects, collected from before Nebraska became a state, right up through last week,” said Grew. “The Museum collections are constantly growing as UNL researchers uncover new species and unique life forms.”

Since the Museum’s founding, its collections in anthropology, entomology, parasitology, botany, zoology, and paleontology have grown to more than 14 million specimens and artifacts. These are housed in today’s Nebraska Hall.
where the collections were centralized in 1969. The Museum’s internationally recognized collections not only help to explain the past, but also provide insight relevant to the most pressing scientific and social issues of today, such as global climate change and the threats to endangered species. Museum researchers are as dedicated to maintaining the collections as they are to building them, sometimes traveling across the globe to collect specimens. From expeditions in Mongolia’s Gobi Desert to study vertebrate parasites, to late nights in Brazilian jungles to collect rare beetles, to archaeological field work in Nebraska’s Sandhills—Museum research is being conducted every day to enhance the collections for future generations and help the public gain a better understanding of biodiversity, Earth history, and human cultures.

In accordance with Barbour’s wish for the Museum to be a “source of great civic pride as well as an unlimited source of pleasurable information, study, and instruction,” the Museum continues to play a vital role in serving the community. Annually, Mueller Planetarium and Morrill Hall provide gallery programs, shows, and outreach resources to more than 15,000 elementary and high school students, 1,000 college students, and 3,500 adults. The Museum’s array of public events featuring hands-on science activities has steadily increased throughout the last decade, inspiring a love of science in children and encouraging families to make repeat visits throughout the year.

Associate Director Mark Harris says the Museum’s 140th year stands to be one of the most exciting yet. “This milestone comes at a time when the Museum is busier than ever and its contribution to the University and the community has never been higher. With six major public events planned and over 100,000 visitors expected to come through our doors again in 2011, we are poised to have one of our best years yet,” said Harris.

Highlights of the Museum’s year-long anniversary celebration include exciting new exhibits and events for all ages. New temporary exhibits in Morrill Hall’s Cooper Gallery this year will include “Amphibians: Vibrant and Vanishing,” featuring striking images of wildlife by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore (through November 2011), and a spectacular display of rare minerals and meteorites opening in December. In October, Morrill Hall will have a grand re-opening of its Native American gallery showcasing the newly renovated exhibit “People of the Plains: Traditions Shaped by the Land.”

Additionally, the Museum’s popular new “Archie” mascot will make appearances at local schools and University events.

As the Museum looks back on 140 years of history, it also looks to the future. Through its research, exhibits, and educational outreach, the Museum looks forward to making new discoveries, creating more memories, and introducing a new generation of budding scientists to the power and richness of the natural world. With the ongoing support of donors, friends, and staff, the Museum will continue to thrive as one of the state’s most beloved institutions in the coming century.

—Dana Ludvik, Public Relations Coordinator

Visit our Web site to view videos and learn more about the Museum’s history, as well as upcoming events and exhibits.

museum.unl.edu/140
YOU CAN SUPPORT THE STATE MUSEUM

If you would like to help the Museum continue to flourish as one of Nebraska’s most beloved institutions, please visit www.nufoundation.org or contact Connie Pejsar at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Thank you.

cpejsar@nufoundation.org or 800-432-3216

FROM LEFT: Members of “Team Scarab” in the State Museum’s Entomology Division collecting in Belize in 2008. Parasitology Professor and Curator Scott Gardner conducting research inside a lab ger in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia in 2010.

HIGHLIGHTS IN MUSEUM HISTORY

**June 14, 1871** - The Museum is established by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Its first home is University Hall.

**1881** - The first vertebrate fossil is catalogued into the Museum’s scientific collections. It is a Cretaceous fish vertebra collected in Dixon County, Nebraska.

**1891** - Erwin H. Barbour becomes Museum Director.

**1892** - The Morrill Geological Expeditions begin.

**1922** - The Museum’s renowned fossil mammoth, “Archie,” is discovered on a family farm in Lincoln County, Nebraska.

**1927** - Morrill Hall opens at UNL.

**1939** - Institution name was officially changed to University of Nebraska State Museum.

**1941** - C. Bertrand Schultz becomes Museum Director. Board of Regents And Chancellor reorganize museum and expand it to include four research divisions: Anthropology, Geology, Paleontology, and Zoology. These collections remained in their “home” departments.

**1945** - Plans announced for construction of ‘Hall of Nebraska Wildlife’ to include 16 dioramas. The last three were completed in September 1961.

**1947-1948** - First Entomology and then Botany were added under the Museum’s umbrella and remained in their departments.

**1958** - Mueller Planetarium opens.

**1960** - The Nebraska Highway Paleontology Program was established to salvage and preserve fossils during road construction projects.

**1961** - The Trailside Museum of Natural History opens.

**1968** - The Museum receives NSF grant to remodel and refurbish west 4th and 5th floors of Nebraska Hall and all museum research divisions move in by 1971 including: Anthropology, Botany, Entomology, Parasitology, Invertebrate Paleontology, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Zoology.

**1971** - Museum paleontologist Mike Voorhies first discovers a rhino fossil at Ashfall, the site of an extensive fossil bed that would later reveal the remains of at least 20 species of prehistoric animals.

**1980** - Morrill Hall’s hands-on children’s Encounter Center opens (Now the recently renovated Marx Science Discovery Center).

**1983** - The Friends of the State Museum organization is established.

**1989** - The first three floors of Morrill Hall are renovated with funds appropriated by the legislature and contributions from donors, installing climate control for specimen conservation and enhancing exhibits.

**1991** - Ashfall Fossil Beds Historical State Park opens.

**1999** - The U. S. National Collection of scarab beetles from the Smithsonian Institution (a third of a million specimens) is transferred to the Museum for off-site enhancement.


**2007** - Mueller Planetarium introduces 360-degree full-dome programming.

**2009** - The expanded Hubbard Rhino Barn opens at Ashfall.
A WALK THROUGH TIME

Since its founding in 1871, the Museum has captured the imagination of those who have entered its hallways. Dynamic exhibits, events, and people have shaped it into what it is today. Here are selected activities from the past 140 years.

January

1927 As construction of Morrill Hall neared completion, a tar wagon caught fire outside the structure. Two weeks later another fire burned a rubbish pile. Neither fire damaged Morrill Hall.

1928 Frederick Collins, museum educator, began a series of weekly morning broadcasts on KFAB radio regarding the museum, its purposes, and specimens.

1929 Edwin "Ned" Colbert completed the chalciothre mount in the Agate case on the second floor of Morrill Hall. After finishing his studies at Nebraska, Colbert enjoyed a long career as a writer, professor, and curator at several institutions. He collected fossils from all seven continents during his lifetime.

1931 The cape buffalo display in the African mammals case opened on the lower level of Morrill Hall.

1935 Erwin H. Barbour was given the official title of Professor of Paleontology and Museum Director. Barbour served in these roles since his arrival in 1891.

1937 Brantley Beck, a student from Grand Island, discovered an oreodont tooth in a parking area of the newly formed Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area south of Gering. Highway construction uncovered a treasure trove of fossils 62 years later within a mile of this find.

1979 Trailside Museum was expected to close due to inadequate funding.

1981 National Geographic Magazine featured an article entitled "Pompeii of Prehistoric Animals in Nebraska" about discoveries at the site that would later be named Ashfall Fossil Beds. In 1978-79, National Geographic funded preliminary excavations at this site.

1983 The Friends of the Museum held an organizational meeting.

1985 The Division of Parasitology received a National Science Foundation facilities grant ($194,000).

1990 Mark Marcuson’s "Nebraska Landscapes" mural above the north entrance to Morrill Hall was dedicated.

February

1906 A contract was signed to construct a new Museum building, the precursor of Morrill Hall. In 1908, it opened on Valentine’s Day at a cost of $50,000. The building was located near Hamilton Hall on UNL’s city campus and razed in 1970.

1927 Ten months after ground breaking, Morrill Hall construction was completed. The Fine Arts (Music and Art) Department moved into the third and fourth floors. They hosted the Museum’s first event on February 9.

1933 The male and female lions put on display in the African mammals case on the lower level of Morrill Hall.

1933 Henry Reider and Frank Bell finished the mount of "Archie" in Elephant Hall.
1950 Stegosaurus mount neared completion in the rhino gallery on the second floor. Currently, it is displayed in the Dinosaur Gallery on the third floor.

1954 The Great Plains Trilogy debuted on public television (KUON-TV). This three-part series focused on fossils, Native Americans, and European settlement. Each series consisted of thirteen 30 minute episodes.

1975 Henry Doorly Zoo donated an Indian rhinoceros skeleton to the Museum’s Zoology Division. “Tiny” weighed 5000 pounds and was 14 years old at the time of his death.

1981 The Hagan family endowed $350,000 to the museum for enhancing the museum collections and creating exhibits in Morrill Hall.

1985 A temporary exhibit entitled "Celebration of the Sauro pods" opened in Elephant Hall. Subsequently, the display was moved to the Dinosaur Gallery on the third floor.

1989 Planetarium reopened after renovation.

1994 "Cellars of Time" was published by Nebraskaland Magazine.

1998 "Charles Darwin - A Life of Discovery" exhibit opened in the lower level of Morrill Hall.

2005 The first Dinosaurs and Disasters event was hosted by the Museum and Department of Geosciences. This family science day attracted 1,444 visitors setting a single-day attendance record at MH. The current mark was set at D&D in 2009 (2,609).

March

1912 A fire in the staircase of the "Old Museum" building destroyed and/or damaged several specimens and exhibits.

1929 Adam Breede's African mammal collection was donated to the Museum. This includes several specimens that are on display including the modern African elephant taxidermy mounts in Elephant Hall.

1943 World War I grenades and explosives including a 1000 pound bomb made by the Nebraska Defense Corporation at Mead were displayed in Morrill Hall.

1957 Great blue heron and white-tailed deer dioramas were installed in the Hall of Wildlife on the first floor of Morrill Hall.

1963 A traveling exhibit featuring working models of Leonardo da Vinci’s inventions was displayed on the third floor of Morrill Hall.

1968 The first research collection was moved into Nebraska Hall. Nebraska Hall houses 14 million specimens in the anthropology, botany, entomology, parasitology, paleontology, and zoology divisions.

1971 Parasitology became a division of the Museum.

1975 The American Association of Museums accredited the Museum after a rigorous self-study and peer review process that focused on program excellence, accountability, and high professional standards.

1976 The Garden Corner with live plants and a fountain was completed in the area now housing the Explore Evolution exhibits on the third floor of Morrill Hall.

1990 UNL Regents and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission signed an agreement for the creation of Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park.
1992 "Botanical Explorations of Nebraska", a temporary exhibit opened on the third floor of Morrill Hall.

1993 Elephant Hall renovation and conservation work on the mounted specimens was completed.

1994 The Friends of the Museum commissioned a life-size bronze sculpture of Archie to be placed outside the north entrance of Morrill Hall.

2002 Platte River waterfowl diorama reopened after renovation. Originally installed in November 1959, the exhibit depicts an early spring scene near the mouth of Ash Hollow Canyon, Garden County, NE.

2004 Nebraska County Fossils website went online. This site highlights some of the spectacular specimens from the Vertebrate Paleontology research collection.

2005 Miss Mie was displayed temporarily on the third floor of Morrill Hall.

From the Field

1931 In March, hunters discovered a mastodon skull and jaw at the edge of a lake near Milford. The skull was encased in ice but discernable in the transparent matrix. C.B. Schultz and Loren Eiseley collected the specimen which is on display in Elephant Hall.

1939 Museum associate and Friends member, Loren Toohey, collected an eighteen million-year-old horned rodent skull near Hemingford. His Jan. 27th journal entry reads "I found an excellent MYLAGAULID skull east of Quarry 4. There was too much snow on the south side of the canyon . . ."

1936 In February, museum field associates S.R. Sweet, B. Chaloupka, and T.C. Middleswart discovered the Broadwater Quarries. WPA field crews excavated more than 10,000 bones from this 2.5 million-year-old deposit between 1936 and 1941. In 1939-40, field crews worked all winter braving snowstorms and cold temperatures. In a March 11, 1940 letter to Museum Director C.B. Schultz crew chief Joe Johnson wrote "...Would guess that we moved about 1700 (cubic) yards of dirt to expose a ledge about 130 feet long averaging 30 feet wide. The bones started coming out in fine style today with some good horse material coming to light. . . It is snowing heavily tonight, but if it does not turn cold we will be able to work according to schedule tomorrow. Everything is very much under control."

2009 On January 22, Highway Paleontologist Shane Tucker found a six million-year-old rhinoceros lower jaw during highway construction near Kimball.

The Broadwater Stegomastodon exposed in the field. Dec. 11, 1939 journal entry: "Visitors day at pit. Over 300 persons viewed the remains of the Stegomastodon." This specimen is displayed in Elephant Hall.
140 Years of Discovery
University of Nebraska State Museum

Celebrate with us at these upcoming events at Morrill Hall!
www.museum.unl.edu

**Sunday with a Scientist**
Event: 3rd Sunday of each month

**Colorful Creature Day**
Event: April 2

**Fright at the Museum**
Event: Late October

**Amphibians: Vibrant and Vanishing**
Exhibit: January 2011

**African Heritage**
Exhibit: Summer 2011

**Weapons Throughout Time**
Exhibit: January 2011

**First Peoples of the Plains**
Exhibit: Fall 2011

**Minerals & Meteorites**
Exhibit: Winter 2011

UNL is an equal opportunity employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.
The Friends of the State Museum 2011 Annual Meeting was held Jan. 7 at Morrill Hall in conjunction with the start of the State Museum’s year-long 140th anniversary celebration. Approximately 125 guests attended the gala, including Museum staff, Friends members, and various dignitaries from UNL and the state of Nebraska. Special thanks to the Friends of the State Museum and the University of Nebraska Foundation for hosting this fabulous event.

The social hour included appetizers, jazz entertainment by Sarabande, and a presentation of the Museum’s new “Mammoth Mania” dance videos featuring the Archie mascot and LPS students. Guests also enjoyed National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore’s new exhibit “Amphibians: Vibrant and Vanishing” in the Cooper Gallery. A formal dinner was served by UNL Catering. The bar service was provided by Meier’s Cork n Bottle. After dinner, remarks congratulating the museum on its anniversary were given by the following individuals:

- Priscilla Grew, Director of the State Museum
- Bob Phares, Chairman of the NU Board of Regents
- Ellen Weissinger, UNL Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Hon. Chris Beutler, Mayor of Lincoln
- Jessica Whalen, Community Liaison for Congressman Adrian Smith
- Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Roger Lempke, representing U.S. Senator Mike Johanns
- Matt McNair, UNL Campus Director of Development, NU Foundation
- Mark Brohman, President, Friends of the State Museum

*See Ellen Weissinger’s remarks on page 15*

Mark Brohman presented the 2010 Anderson Award to Rick Otto, Ashfall Fossil Beds Superintendent, in honor of his outstanding service and dedication to the State Museum. The 2010 Tuttle Award was presented to Mel Thornton, long-time Friends Treasurer, recognizing his valuable service and efforts on behalf of the Friends. State Museum Associate Director Mark Harris then introduced a short video about the Museum’s past and where it plans to go in the future. The museum video was produced by UNL Communications and can be viewed at www.museum.unl.edu/140.

Lastly, Photographer Joel Sartore gave an entertaining photo presentation about his experiences working for the National Geographic Society, with an emphasis on wildlife the environment.

Thank you to everyone who attended this special event. We hope to see you at the next Friends Annual Meeting in January 2012!

—Dana Ludvik, Public Relations Coordinator
Congratulatory Remarks on the 140th anniversary of the University of Nebraska State Museum
By Ellen Weissinger, UNL Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Some people assume that Memorial Stadium is the most beloved spot on UNL’s campus, but I’ve always thought it was this building, as an embodiment of the State Museum’s far flung enterprise. This is where generations of Nebraskans have had their eyes opened to the very long history of our beautiful and fascinating state, and to the important ways that Nebraska’s natural and human resources will be essential in the centuries to come. This is where many of us, as Nebraska school kids, imagined for the first time a broader and deeper sense of place – as we gained an understanding that Nebraska is more varied and more complicated than just our neighborhood or our town or our family’s land.

Chancellor Perlman believes, as do I, that teaching and research are intertwined, that research informs teaching and that both are the foundation for meaningful outreach. Scientists and ordinary Nebraskans discovered the natural and cultural treasures housed here, professors and students have studied these treasures to reveal their secrets, and curators and volunteers have displayed them in ways that helped the rest of us to understand their importance and meaning. It is clear that no other building on our campus, no other organization at the university, actualizes the integration of our teaching, research and outreach missions more effectively than the State Museum.

Thanks to the support of the people of Nebraska, and to the exceptional generosity of the Museum’s Friends, the State Museum has proudly realized the dreams of its founders. On behalf of UNL’s faculty, staff and students, I am pleased to congratulate the University of Nebraska State Museum on its first 140 years.
Sunday with a Scientist

'Sunday with a Scientist' events are held the 3rd Sunday of each month from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Morrill Hall. Join us to interact with scientists and explore new topics!

January

Volcanoes & Hotspots

Museum Educator Cindy Loope and UNL Geology Professor David Loope educate visitors about volcanoes, hotspots, earthquakes, tectonic plates, and more!

December

Amphibians & Turtles

Dennis Ferraro (at right), UNL Professor of Herpetology and Extension Educator, shows a turtle to visitors. A variety of other aquatic and semi-aquatic critters native to Nebraska were on display for children to investigate, including frogs, toads, and salamanders.

November

Ancient People & Killer Beans

Research Associate Professor and State Museum Curator of Anthropology Alan J. Osborn shares his research on "killer beans" and innovations in cooking technology among ancient Puebloan people who lived on the Colorado Plateau circa 1000 to 1400 A.D. A visitor enters a contest to guess the correct number of Anasazi beans in a jar.

Please join us for these upcoming events!

Feb. 20 - Parasites
Mar. 20 - Lasers & Photonics
April 17 - Fruit
May 15 - Extreme Weather
June 19 - Tissue Mechanics
July 17 - Fish
Aug. 21 - Climate Change
Sept. 18 - Plants
Oct. 16 - Fossils
Nov. 20 - Viruses
Dec. 18 - Minerals

For more information on these and previous programs, visit museum.unl.edu.
The word is out! People know or have heard that D&D is a ‘must’ on the list of things to do! Over 1,000 people were in the building by 11:15! February 5th marked the 7th annual Dinosaurs and Disasters, a collaborative event between the Museum and the UNL Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Elephant Hall showcased the meteorology faculty and students this year. Their new station was ‘green screen’ technology, giving young visitors a chance to broadcast the weather under lights and cameras. There were 132 weather videos made at D&D this year and over 50 have already been downloaded and shared with family and friends. Visitors learned more about tornadoes, hail, and weather. One station investigated tectonic plates with Oreo cookies, while another explained the clues left in fossil puke and poop. Others were microscopic topics: nanos, diatoms, and tiny fossils not visible with the naked eye. Visitors played games at many stations too. They climbed a volcano, went through geologic time, and explored a raging river, geyser, and tsunami. Over 2,360 visitors enjoyed the day, and many watched National Geographic’s Sea Monster show in the planetarium. It was a day to remember! —Kathy French, Education Coordinator

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made D&D a great success!
Entomologist Brett Ratcliffe shares how collecting butterflies in 1960s Japan can lead to deep trouble.

It was not a dark and stormy night but a hot summer’s day on the outskirts of Tokyo, Japan in 1960. I was 14 years old and near the beginning of my life-long passion for scarab beetles. With a collecting friend of mine (a competitor, actually), we had just exited the small patch of woods of one of our favorite collecting places, when I saw a magnificent swallowtail butterfly, resplendent with wings of velvety black, moss green, and shimmering purple, tippy toeing on top of a flower. I had to have this gorgeous specimen. On the first swing of the net I missed, and it took off.

Now in real life, collectors of butterflies stealthily stalk their prey like seasoned and professional hunters. They never actually run after them. That only happens in cartoons. But in my zeal, I ran. Big mistake.

In Japan in the early 1960s, it was common practice (maybe still is in rural areas) for farmers to maintain honey bucket pits. This is a wonderful euphemism for ... poop. Poop used as fertilizers on the vegetable fields. Human merde, no less. Wealthier farmers would have a concrete-lined bunker in the ground, open to the sky, in which all the household “night soil” was placed. It became gloppy as the rains altered its consistency. Periodically, the farmer would come with wooden buckets on each end of a long pole carried over the shoulder and fill the buckets with the ... uh, fertilizer. Hence, honey bucket. It was then spread on the farm fields, where, indeed, it was good fertilizer. Not all farmers were well-off enough to have a concrete-lined bunker, and so they just excavated a large hole in the ground. In such a situation, the non-solid surface gradually becomes covered with falling leaves, and with this camouflage it looks like solid “ground.” Much like a tiger pitfall trap. You see what’s coming, don’t you!

I ran after that swallowtail butterfly. And, by now, you know where I ran. Right onto that leaf-speckled “ground.” Before I knew it, I was ten inches deep in the gloop. And sinking ... like quicksand. But wait, it gets worse. Not only did I not know how deep it was, but I was wearing open topped, rubber boots. And at ten inches depth they promptly shloorped as they abruptly filled up with ... lumpy, brown fertilizer. Now I was really in deep poop ... to coin a phrase. Well, I was far from “shore” and kept sinking at a steady rate with boots on that seemed like they weighed a ton each. I am sure that Papilio was perched on a high vine snorking hysterically through its proboscis! I wasn’t laughing. It was up to my knees now as I steadily sank, and I was asking myself, “how deep IS this stuff, anyway?” Then it was above my knees. My young life flashed before my eyes!

You’ve heard of using the “buddy system” when in the wilds? Believe me, it works. My collecting friend was able to grab the handle of my long, tropics net and pull. And, ever, ever so slowly, I was sucked out of the mire and onto the “shore.” But wait, it gets worse! I was alive ... but my open-topped boots were filled to the brim with a slurry of liquified and lumpy ... poop. I jostled out what I could without actually having to touch the boots. And then I walked the half mile to my house ... with a distinctive squishing sound at each step. The feeling between my toes inside my boots was not very good either.

But wait, it gets even worse. I was a 14 year old young male, and it was broad daylight in a high density housing area where we lived on the edge of the farm fields. My mother, naturally, did not permit me to come into the house looking and smelling like I had just slept with the pigs. And so I was compelled to ... strip! Outside! Buck naked! In broad daylight! At adolescence! As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Great actions, from their nature, are not done in the closet; they are performed in the face of the sun, and on behalf of the world.” Amen. Fastest strip I ever did ... on behalf of the world. Probably wrenched my neck looking over my shoulder concerned about who would notice. I never did find out what happened to my clothes and boots ... not that I cared. And while I still collect butterflies, I rarely run after them anymore. Too much like a cartoon. —Brett Ratcliffe

**CONGRATS!**
Brett Ratcliffe, Curator of the Entomology Research Collections at the University of Nebraska State Museum and Professor in the UNL Department of Entomology, was conferred honorary membership in the Coleopterists Society at its annual meeting in San Diego, California in December 2010. This is the highest honor bestowed by the Society. It is given in recognition of devotion to the society and dedication to the discipline. The Coleopterists Society is an international society devoted to the study of beetles.

**“Life can only be understood backward, but it must be lived forward.”**
—Kierkegaard

Check out the Entomology Division’s updated homepage!
museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/index.htm
(Special thanks to Aura Paucar for all her efforts on this.)
Those of you who have visited the Ashfall Fossil Beds over the summer months recently have undoubtedly enjoyed talking with or listening to interns while they work in the Hubbard Rhino Barn, prep lab, or discovery pavilion. Visitors to the park appreciate the information gleaned from these interns, the work they do uncovering fossils in the ashbed, and cleaning and prepping everything from microfossils to rhino skulls. You may not have noticed, however, the student staff person taking admission fees or working in the office and bookshop, but that person is a very important part of the park’s summer staff too.

This year that person was Anne Brogie from Creighton, Nebraska. Anne graduated from high school last May and enrolled in classes at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, seeking a degree in the health field. Like so many things, it’s hard to appreciate all that Anne did this summer without doing it yourself. The office/shop helper must be able to master many different tasks and must be able to do several of them simultaneously. In addition to multitasking, the position requires an ability to think on the fly and to work well with the public. It is not a job for the faint-of-heart! Anne met the challenge head-on…

So, what, you ask, could be all that hard about taking admission fees, operating a cash register, or answering the phone? Well, there’s a lot more to it than that! The front person, the one at the visitor’s point of entry and exit, needs to have an ever-ready smile and must possess a wealth of knowledge. They need to efficiently relay all kinds of information from admission requirements to how to get to the Rhino Barn or restrooms or what the rules are for pets, to name a few. They often field questions about the geology or history of the park, and so they have to have a good understanding of Ashfall basics. For visitors on their way out, the person at the desk/shop must know answers to all kinds of other questions. For instance, they need to know what other local attractions are available, where to get a good meal or find a motel, or how many miles from here to there. In addition, there are inquiries about bookshop merchandise ranging from “Do you have a book about Nebraska fossils?” to “Can I see that ceramic rhino in the display case?” And, if a moment without visitors needing something comes along, there are always lots of other things to do. Shelves constantly need to be restocked and/or straightened, and new inventory needs to be to checked in, priced, and put away. There are things to be cleaned so the shop always looks its best, and the exhibit cases, doors and windows are usually in need of touchups throughout the day. In addition, there are often office tasks like making photocopies, faxing documents, or sending out brochures that need to be taken care of. And honestly, I am just scratching the surface here.

I warned Anne from the beginning that she would be one of the busiest employees at the park, and indeed, she was. But I also promised her that the new skills she would learn would be useful for a lifetime. To her credit, she made every effort to do each task right and efficiently, and her help was invaluable to us.

So, the next time you visit the Ashfall Fossil Beds, take a minute to notice the “kid behind the counter” and appreciate all they do to make the park run efficiently and to keep visitors happy. A great Ashfall experience is the result of a true team effort that includes everyone on staff… full-time employees, seasonal staff, future paleontologists, and a college kid working the summer to pay the bills and learn new skills. We couldn’t do without any of them. —Sandy Mosel, Ashfall Fossil Beds

Anne Brogie helps keep the office/bookshop running smoothly in 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR…

The 2011 Friends Excavation at the Ashfall Fossil Beds is scheduled for July 21-23.
Make a note of the dates and watch for a reservation form in the next issue of The Mammoth.

ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS RE-OPENS MAY 3, 2011

Spring and Summer Operating Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 3 to Memorial Day weekend:</th>
<th>Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Closed Sunday and Monday)</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday</td>
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ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS
RE-OPENS MAY 3, 2011

Spring and Summer Operating Schedule:
Abel Foundation
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Bambang & Caroline Adiwijaya
Jerry & Ora Adler
Bill Alexander & Jackie Reeves-Alexander
Jeanette Alexis
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Todd & Jodi Alva
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Elizabeth & Brooks Hitt
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Mary Hogan Borakove & Andrew Borakove
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Juelle Holz & Leslie Troutt
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Barbara C. Hughes
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February 2011

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Welcome New Friends Members!

Special thanks to all of our renewing members for your continued support!

Your membership in the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum helps to support Museum development, exhibits, and programs. Thank you for making a difference.

Benefits
* Unlimited FREE admission to Morrill Hall, Trailside Museum of Natural History, and Ashfall Fossil Beds (Note: Each visit to Ashfall Fossil Beds & Trailside requires a park entry permit: $4 one-time / $20 annual.)
* Free subscription to The Mammoth, the Museum’s quarterly newsletter
* 10% discount on purchases from our gift shop
* 10% discount on Museum birthday parties
* Discounted Planetarium admission (Adults $2.50, Kids $2)
* Invitations to our Annual Meeting, events, and exhibit openings
* Your name listed in Friends publications
* Free or reduced admission and/or discounts at thousands of museums belonging to the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) “Passport Program.” Visit www.astc.org for a current list of participating institutions.
* In addition, many museums belonging to American Association of Museums (AAM) offer discounts. Visit www.aam-us.org for a list of accredited museums.

Annual membership levels
Basic Membership Levels: Individual $30 OR Family $45
(Family memberships include two adults with their children or grandchildren under age 18.)

Donor Membership Levels (includes Individual or Family membership):
* Tusker’s Club – Donations between $60 and $99
* Fossil Funder – Donations between $100 and $249
* Nautilus Club – Donations between $250 and $499
* Scarab Society – Donations between $500 and $999
* Mammoth Circle – Donations $1,000 and above
  * Special incentive items are offered at each donor level. See details online!

Add membership with the Ashfall Fossil Beds Friends Chapter: $10 / year

friendsofthemuseum.org | (402) 472-3779 | info@friendsofthemuseum.org
Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum, 307 Morrill Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0357
Save the Date!

The State Museum is teaming up with the Lincoln Children’s Museum, Lincoln Zoo, Pioneers Park Nature Center, and the LUX Center for the Arts this summer for a NEW day camp! Campers ages 6-9 will visit each of the five sites throughout the week, one per day.

JULY 25–29
$210 PER CAMPER

For more information and to register, visit: lincolncchildrensmuseum.org

Friends Members are encouraged to start taking photos now for the State Museum's 2011 Wildlife & Nature Photo Contest

Mammals
Plant Life
Birds
Other Wildlife
Landscapes & Skyscapes
Nature & People

More details will be announced on museum.unl.edu

ALL PHOTO ENTRIES WILL GO ON EXHIBIT AT MORRILL HALL IN LATE SUMMER
HELP US GO GREEN!

If you would like to support the Museum and the environment by receiving the Mammoth electronically, please send an e-mail with your name and preferred e-mail address to morrillhall@unl.edu or phone (402) 472-3779.