



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Learning through Innovation

NEWS RELEASE: October 19, 2009

For Release: Immediate

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**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Brings Story of North Texas Dinosaurs To Life**

DinoLabs Features State Dinosaur of Texas – “Paluxysaurus jonesi”

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Who knew you could find dinosaurs in your own backyard? When exhibition ideas for the newly constructed Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) were being formulated, one of the major stories the Museum was excited to tell focused on the dinosaurs discovered in North Texas. DinoLabs and DinoDig® at the FWMSH bring this fascinating story to life with full articulations of dinosaur skeletons native to the region and a dig site replicating a local paleontological field site.

DinoLabs is a 3,700-square-foot-gallery where guests can experience the immensity of the State Dinosaur of Texas for the very first time: *Paluxysaurus jonesi*. Skeletons of *Tenontosaurus dossi* and an ornithopod dinosaur are also fully articulated in the exhibition. Fossils and casts of two other dinosaur species are displayed, as well.

Within this exhibition, guests have the opportunity to experiment with fossils, measure bones to determine dinosaur size and surrounding environment, and use microscopic discovery to compare dinosaur characteristics to those of present-day creatures.

In recognition of the family’s generous contribution to the Museum’s capital campaign to construct the new building, brushed aluminum lettering on the entrance to the gallery housing this exhibit will designate the space the “Perry and Nancy Lee Bass Gallery.”

“We are extremely proud to house the State Dinosaur of Texas, the *Paluxysaurus jonesi*, in our gallery. Ours is a large specimen – measuring 12 feet high at the shoulder and more than 60 feet in length,

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Fort Worth Museum of Science and History – DinoLabs/DinoDig
add one

and weighing 22 tons,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “Another unique aspect of DinoLabs is that all of the dinosaurs are articulated from as many actual fossils as possible, rather than solely from fossil reproductions.”

The culmination of DinoLabs is an interactive imaging station where guests can begin to reconstruct their own dinosaur based on information they’ve gleaned from the exhibition, as well as to find the right flora and fauna for their dinosaur creation.

“Guests can actually create a dinosaur – determine its size, skin color and texture, diet, and living environment – by entering basic information into a computer system,” explained Chick Russell, president of Chick Russell Communications and Creative Director of the Museum’s Dinolabs/DinoDig[®], Energy Blast, and Cattle Raisers Museum.

“From a design aspect, we started with the focal point of the gallery – the *Paluxysaurus jonesi* articulation – and worked from there,” said Randall Webster, vice president of Emerald Palms Design Group, who was designated Director of Design for the Museum. “It is such a large structure, it was important that we balance the space somehow. That’s what we’ve done with the large color illustrations and line drawings on the walls.”

DinoDig[®], and outdoor experience, began with the Museum in 1993. An historical all-time favorite for young guests to the Museum, this updated exhibition invites guests to “become a paleontologist,” as they discover the skills needed to uncover and excavate fossils in a reproduction of the Jones Ranch where the *Paluxysaurus jonesi* was discovered in 1982. DinoDig[®] features rock formations embedded with fossils based on the actual dig site.

“It was important for us to bring DinoDig[®] back to our patrons,” said Romans. “However, we wanted to bring it back in a contemporary, interactive fashion. The updated version enhances the learning experience by allowing our guests to understand the science and physics involved in fossil excavation and preservation.”

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As museum guests explore the sandy ground of DinoDig[®], they will discover authentic local fossils of shark teeth, clams, snails, sea biscuits, and ammonites dispersed throughout the exhibit.

“In addition to the fun of discovering and digging up fossils, DinoDig[®] offers field guides that allow guests to experience the methodology behind fossil excavation,” said Russell. “It’s important that guests understand the science paleontologists use, so we incorporated an additional science overlay into DinoDig[®].

“DinoDig and DinoLabs provide our guests with two important aspects of paleontology,” said Museum of Science and History Curator of Science Dr. Aaron Pan. “DinoDig gives one a taste of the exhilaration and joy of fieldwork and discovery, while DinoLabs allows our guests to see how scientists prepare and study fossils to determine how these amazing animals lived and interacted with their environment.”

About The Museum

Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the “Fort Worth Children’s Museum,” the new \$80 million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum’s dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new Museum’s environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children’s Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX[®] Theater; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and Museum School.

Paluxysaurus jonesi
State Dinosaur of Texas
Fact Sheet

Paluxysaurus jonesi lived around 112 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period and was common to North Texas, based on fossils from Hood County and dinosaur foot prints from near Glen Rose, Texas. It measured close to 12 feet high at the shoulder, was approximately 60 feet in length, and weighed roughly 20 tons. The species in the Fort Worth Museum of Science and The History was discovered at the Jones Ranch in Hood County.

The dinosaur was originally identified as the *Pleurocelus*. However, in 2006, based on years of research, the massive sauropod was re-identified by then Southern Methodist University Geology Master's student Peter Rose, as belonging to a different species and was named *Paluxysaurus jonesi*.

North Texas is home to at least six species of dinosaurs including Acrocanthosaurus, Paluxysaurus, Pawpawsaurus, Protohadros, Tenontosaurus, and an (as yet) unnamed small ornithopod dinosaur.