



Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

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<http://www.echovermont.org/media/photos.html>



DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

Prehistoric Collection at ECHO May 19–September 3

Sponsored by Merchants Bank

BURLINGTON, VT—ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center and Leahy Center for Lake Champlain presents *Dinosaur Discoveries*, May 19 through September 3, sponsored by Merchants Bank. The exhibit, designed by paleontology expert and ECHO's Executive Director, Phelan Fretz, features original prehistoric relics from around the world, including authentic dinosaur eggs, nests and bones, plus giant skeletons, animatronics and sculptures of the 'grown-up' beasts.

"It was truly exciting to create this exhibit for ECHO, because the space lends itself so well to large-scale works. With giant dinosaurs showcased against the backdrop of our

soaring ceilings and three-story waterfall, it's like ECHO has been taken back in time to prehistory.

"The compelling thing about dinosaurs is how much tangible evidence we have to explore," says Fretz. "All of science is a puzzle, but this puzzle is not limited to a microscope or a computer screen. You can really pick these pieces up in your hand and see if, and how, they fit together. Dinosaur Discoveries will inspire meaningful ideas and questions about planet Earth and our connection to it—and that is what science is all about."

Highlights of *Dinosaur Discoveries*:

- The actual Velociraptor sculpture from *Jurassic Park* (comparable to a life-size skeleton)
- *Baby Louie*, the almost fully-intact fossil of a dinosaur embryo discovered in 1993 and featured on National Geographic's cover and discovered by Charlie Magovern in 1993
- A mammoth Pterosaur—displayed as diving from the ECHO rafters; a prehistoric reptile resembling a platypus meets a crocodile with a wingspan of forty feet
- Monolophosaurus, a twenty-foot meat-eater with menacing three-inch-long teeth; and Stegosaurus, with his diamond-shaped ridge bones and plant-grinding molars
- Animatronics including an Oviraptor, a Protoceratops and a Saurolophus
- Large prints of dinosaur-themed works by renowned artists and photographers, highlighted by Louis Psihoyos and Dennis Wilson, whose artistry has chronicled prehistoric finds of the past twenty years
- Authentic, touchable dinosaur eggs, bones and nests, fossilized and preserved throughout millions of years, from the world-famous collection of Florence and Charlie Magovern, *Hatching the Past*.
- Pieces from renowned exhibits, including *Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park: The Lost World* and *Chinasaurus*, both curated by 'Dino' Don Lessem, author of more than forty paleontology books

"Merchants Bank is proud to support this educational extravaganza, and the mission of such a vital community resource. The interactive, hands-on exhibits will be a

thrilling learning experience for children of all ages and we are pleased to partner with ECHO to bring this unique opportunity to the region,” commented Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank.

For more information about Merchants Bank, please visit www.mbvt.com or call (800) 322-5222.

The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a state-wide community bank that blends a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 36 community bank offices and 43 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service, and streamlined products: FreedomLYNX® Banking, which consists of Free Checking for Life®, a low cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card and Free Automated Phone Banking; TimeLYNX® Flexible Certificates of Deposit; AutoLYNXSM Vehicle Loans; HomeLYNX® Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit; RealLYNX® Residential Mortgages; CommerceLYNX® Business Banking; and Q-LYNX Quick Decision Business Loans. For more information about Merchants Bank, visit mbvt.com. Merchants’ stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

For more information about Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center, please visit www.echovermont.org, visit the center at One College Street, Burlington, VT (on the waterfront), call (802) 864-1848. Contact Steven Leibman or Grace Per Lee at (802) 864-1848 ext. 125 or 131, or email sleibman@echovermont.org or gperlee@echovermont.org; photos: Downloadable high resolution exhibit images for unrestricted media use: <http://www.echovermont.org/media/photos.html>.

ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center is located at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, on Vermont’s Burlington Waterfront. ECHO features 70 species of live fish, amphibians, invertebrates, and reptiles, over 100 hands-on experiences, major traveling exhibits, and the multimedia Awesome Forces Theater. The 2.2 acre site is also highlighted by the Lake Champlain Navy Memorial, ECHO’s Eclectic Gift Shop, and seasonal café. Open year-round, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$7-\$9.50; children under 3 and K-12 classroom teachers with credential ID are free. For more information visit echovermont.org, call 1-877-ECHOFUN, or write to ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

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