

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

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Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

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New Exhibit Combining Fossils and Photography Opens June 12th at the Everhart Museum

Scranton – May 29, 2009: The Everhart Museum will open ***Ancient Microworlds*** on June 12, 2009. Applied science collides with the visual arts in ***Ancient Microworlds*** as the high-tech practice of macro photography introduces viewers to a new way of appreciating fossils – magnified over 30 times their true size. The exhibit showcases the combined talents of Giraud Foster, a retired physician, archaeologist, and photographer and Norman Barker, a scientific photographer, and their desire to introduce people to the world of fossils as seen through the lens of a microscope. Theirs is an ancient world as artfully beautiful as it is scientifically engaging. ***Ancient Microworlds*** marries paleontology with photography to attain an intriguing exploration of past life. Foster and Barker, who collaborated on this 12-year project, demonstrate that fossils can dazzle the mind and the eye. Many of the fossils depicted here are older than dinosaurs and feature unique and aesthetically beautiful patterns, gemstones, and colors.

While some of the exhibit's images such as a leaf or shell may be easily recognizable to the perceptive viewer, other objects photographed at even greater levels of magnification gradually become more geometrically abstract and pique the imagination as true *objets d'art*. New textures materialize and arrestingly vibrant colors erupt.

Fossils are the ancient legacy of the first life forms on Earth. Millions of years old, these creatures and plants were compacted, mineralized and preserved, to be uncovered by the archaeologist or fossil collector. Fossils are a window into a past that is very different from our world today, in atmosphere, size and shape.

Whether you approach the exhibit with in-depth knowledge of micro-paleo-photography or are simply curious about the swirls of colors and shapes that may be hidden in a dinosaur bone, ***Ancient Microworlds*** promises to intrigue. Commenting on their work, Barker and Foster note: *"All the images are harsh reminders of the precariousness of life and the uncertainty of man's future."*

The exhibit is on loan courtesy of Ancient Microworlds and is complemented by the Everhart Museum's collection of Carboniferous period fossils, found locally in regional anthracite coal mines, together with fossils from other eras and regions. Carboniferous fossils were created over 350 million years ago and feature the first plants, insects, and reptiles known on the planet.

The Everhart Museum is open: Thursday, Friday and Monday, Noon-4:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; and Sunday, Noon-5:00 pm. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students & seniors, \$2/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members. For more information, contact the museum at 570-346-7186 or email general.information@everhart-museum.org.

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About the Everhart Museum: Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science and fine arts. Through our exhibits and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton. For more information on the museum visit our website at www.everhart-museum.org or contact us at 570-346-7186.