

Reading Public Museum
500 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611

Ronald C. Roth, Director and CEO

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

**Prehistoric Marine Creatures Featured in Spectacular
Exhibition at Reading Public Museum**

February 2, 2009 – *Dinosaurs of the Deep: Savage Ancient Seas* opens at the Reading Public Museum on Saturday, March 28, 2009 and continues through Sunday, June 28, 2009. Opening day festivities on March 28, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., include family-friendly activities, exhibition tours and light snacks. This exhibition features creatures from the aquatic world of the late Cretaceous period over 70 million years ago.

Experience a world of huge carnivorous marine reptiles with double-hinged jaws and teeth in the middle of their palates, gigantic flesh-eating fish big enough to swallow an adult human being whole, flying reptiles with three-foot skulls and the biggest sea turtles to have ever lived. Unrivaled for their amazing varieties, voracious appetites, incredible teeth and gaping jaws, the creatures in this exhibition are unlike anything known in today's world. When dinosaurs ruled the land, these spectacular creatures ruled the American Inland Sea.

Gaze out at the world from the jaws of a giant *Megalodon* shark. Gasp in awe at the world's largest *Protostega*, a 15-foot-wide sea turtle, and a tiny juvenile turtle, *Toxochelys*. "Swim" with a school of the first three-dimensional reconstructions of the carnivorous fish of the day, the largest being a record 17 feet long! Sift through time and sediments as flying reptiles soar overhead. Learn how these ancient aquatic creatures lived and died... and who survived to today.

Ronald C. Roth, the Museum's Director and CEO said, "This is a great exhibition to have fun with your family and learn about these amazing sea creatures. There are a lot of interactive activities for kids, and parents and grandparents will have plenty to enjoy as well."

This exhibition, developed and created by Triebold Paleontology, includes 16 prehistoric marine skeletons including casts and life restorations, as well as engaging informational kiosks, graphic panels and touch specimens. Together, they provide visitors with a greater understanding and appreciation for these magnificent denizens of the distant past — how they lived and how they are believed to become extinct. You can also learn how the animals sank to the bottom of the sea when they died, where they were buried in chalky sediment layers and eventually became fossilized.

Triebold Paleontology has collected and preserved Mesozoic Era fossils for more than twenty years. The process of casting enables the "re-inflation" of a pile of crushed bones to the animal's original shape, and allows for a life-like exhibition of these animals. The casts included in this exhibition were made from specimens collected by Triebold or loaned to the company for casting by institutions that hold the specimens as part of their permanent collections.

RELATED PROGRAMMING – "Under the Sea Family Day"

Parents can bring their families for an "underwater" adventure on Saturday, June 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., to see distant relatives of the ancient sea creatures in our live reptile demonstration; let the kids participate in a "dino dig"; create underwater paintings; make their own "sea monster-diorama"; and enjoy story readings and family tours throughout the day with a special performance by the Institute of the Arts theater students. The Museum will be open free to the public on this day.

The Museum is located at 500 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is: \$7 adults (18-59), \$5

children/seniors/students (w/ID) and free to Members and children under four years old.

The Reading Public Museum is supported in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Web: www.readingpublicmuseum.org.

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Images available – Contact michael.anderson@readingpublicmuseum.org with request and technical specs