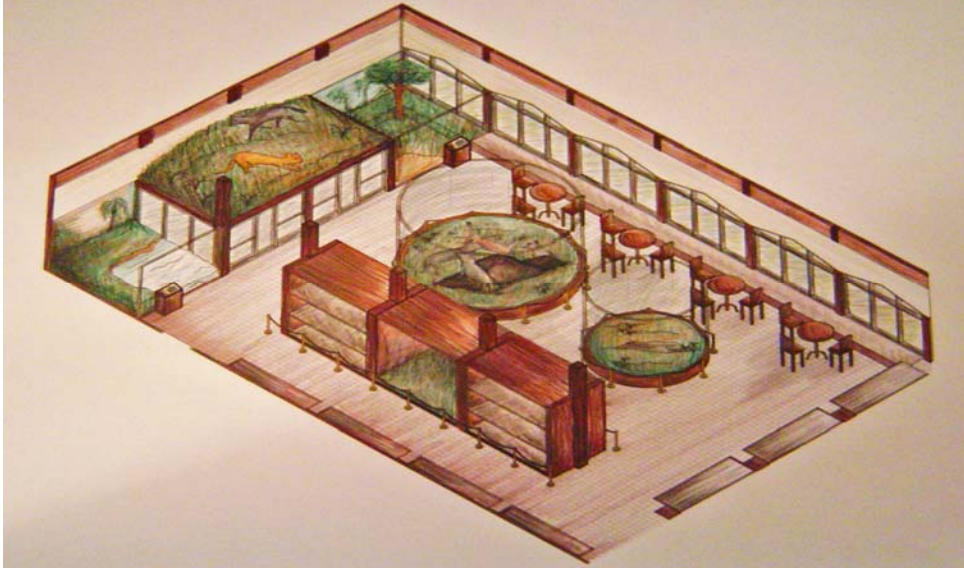


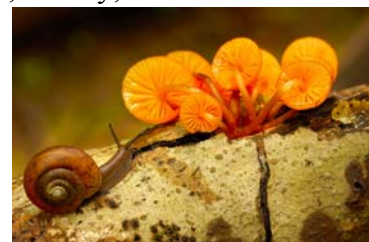
West Virginia University Natural History Museum
A proposal by the Davis College Division of Forestry and Natural Resources at
West Virginia University



West Virginia University Natural History Museum (Proposed).

West Virginia University is one of the few land-grant institutions without a natural history museum and in fact, West Virginia is one of the few states without such a facility. A natural history museum is an essential component of a comprehensive land grant institution particularly in a rural state like West Virginia where people embrace a strong connection with the land. A natural history museum is valuable for a state to ensure that future generations understand the history of environmental changes and to allow students to be properly trained in species identification and natural history. A natural history museum would provide the following benefits to West Virginia, WVU, alumni, and friends.

- ❑ Enhanced learning opportunities for students (our future professionals) enrolled in Wildlife and Fisheries; Forestry; Civil & Environmental Engineering; Geology; Biology; Entomology; Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Creative Arts; Education; Interior Design; and other sciences.
- ❑ Education of the citizenry about Appalachian natural history, the role of hunting in wildlife management, and encourage a stewardship approach to natural resources conservation.
- ❑ Promote economic development in the Morgantown area by attracting visitors, providing an intellectually stimulating environment for alumni to relax and reconnect prior to football or basketball games or other WVU events, and providing employment and experiential opportunities for students.
- ❑ Ensure maintenance of natural history collections in the state rather than exporting our natural history knowledge and databases out of the state.
- ❑ Help promote the recruitment and retention of outstanding students, faculty, and staff.



Photos courtesy of Jim Clark

West Virginia University Natural History Museum

We propose to create a West Virginia University Natural History Museum on the Evansdale Campus. Exhibits will include a pack of hungry wolves standing over a recent kill, an array of bird eggs, and a majestic golden eagle among others. We believe that the museum will excite visitors and prospective students.

The catalysis for this project is the recent acquisition of the Robert Estler Collection, which includes over 400 wildlife mounts. The Estler Collection will offer students and visitors the opportunity to view a broad range of specimens from hummingbirds to an adult black bear. Taxidermist Bob Estler and his wife Mary Lou have spent over seventy years developing this unique collection.

The Davis College Division of Forestry and Natural Resources along with West Virginia University are committed to creating a Natural History Museum. To achieve this goal we will need the financial support of private donors in our efforts to raise an estimated \$500,000 needed for renovation and display costs. The University, College and Division have gotten the project started with the allocation of \$45,000. The following represents identified needs for the project:

Wildlife Displays – Construction Costs

Appalachian Hardwoods.	\$25,000	Bird Display Case	\$2,000
Bird Eggs.....	\$8,000	Black Bear.....	\$7,250
Cats and Coyotes	\$6,500	Forest Ecosystem.....	\$36,000
Game Birds	\$5,000	Head Mounts.....	Funded
Hollow Hills.....	\$12,000	Hungry Wolves.....	\$60,000
Hunting and Trapping	Funded	Mountain Rivers.....	\$14,000
Northwoods	\$ 16,000	Prairie.....	\$14,000
Raptors.....	\$14,000	Room Audio.....	\$2,500
Southwest Brushlands.....	\$14,000	Tree Section.....	Funded
Trees.....	\$6,500	Up Close and Personal..	\$8,000
Vision Panel	Funded	West Virginia Wetlands..	\$32,000
Wetland Display Case.....	Funded	Wildlife Display Case....	Funded

Naming Opportunities

- Museum Space (Percival Hall Lobby or Ag. Sciences Annex) \$250,000
- Named Individual Wildlife Displays.....
 - 150% of construction cost to provide financial support for general maintenance and preservation needs. Each donor will be recognized for their commitment and support.
- Named Museum Preservation Funds..... \$100,000
 - This opportunity would create an endowed fund that would be utilized to meet ongoing maintenance needs of the museum. Each donor will be recognized for their commitment and support.

WVU Natural History Museum Fund

- Want to help us create a premiere museum at WVU? Then send your contribution today. Challenge your friends and fellow alumni to join us in this effort. Help us spread the word to make this happen!

To make a pledge of support or for more information please contact Jim Anderson at 304.293.3825 or Jim.Anderson@mail.wvu.edu. Visit our web site at wvnaturalhistory.org.