

Aquarium IMAX 3D presents a soaring tribute

Whether they're made of scales, feathers or skin, every flap of an animal's wings is a testament to nature's miraculous defiance of gravity.

Even though the wonders of flight surround us, from the buzzing housefly on the porch to the silent gliding barred owl in the backyard, the many adaptations that help animals to slip the surly bonds of earth often pass unnoticed.

"Flight is amazing," says Kevin Calhoon, the Tennessee Aquarium's curator of forests. "When I think of flight, I think about how much we don't understand about how it works. I think about migration. I think about the fact that birds can not only fly but can be so maneuverable in the air. It's just amazing."

Conquest of the Skies 3D arrived at the Tennessee Aquarium IMAX 3D Theater, and thanks to innovative camerawork and eye-popping slow motion scenes, audiences will see nature's fliers in a whole new way on Chattanooga's largest screen through

March.

And with that newfound perspective, they'll be able to better appreciate the majesty of flight around them, whether it's soaring sparrows and darting dragonflies at home or aviators like the snowy egret, longwing butterflies and southern flyingsquirrel at the Aquarium.

In Conquest of the Skies 3D, the Emmy- and BAFTA award-winning team at Atlantic Productions explore the gamut of nature's approaches to flight, from the improbable take-off of the enormous atlas beetle to the leaping glides of harlequin flying frogs.

Conquest of the Skies 3D will be shown daily at the Tennessee Aquarium IMAX 3D Theater at noon, 2 and 4 p.m., with additional 6 p.m. screenings on Friday and Saturday through March. Tickets are \$11.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children (ages 3-12). For the best value, an IMAX Club Pass offers a year of unlimited screenings of all 45-minute IMAX documentaries and discounts for guest tickets, fea-



Overlapping feathers provide the whooper swans a smooth curved surface for long distance migration. Innovative camerawork and eye-popping slow motion scenes allow a newfound perspective of various aviators featured in "Conquest of the Skies 3D," which is showing at the Tennessee Aquarium IMAX 3D Theater.

ture film tickets and concessions.

To purchase tickets or an IMAX Club Pass, visit tnaqua.org/imax.

The Tennessee Aquarium inspires wonder, appreciation and protection of water and all life that it sustains. Admission is \$29.95 per

adult and \$18.95 per child, ages 3-12. Each ticket purchased helps support Aquarium conservation programs. The IMAX 3D Theater is next door to the Aquarium. Ticket prices are \$11.95 per adult and \$9.95 per child. Aquarium/IMAX combo tickets are \$37.95 for

adults and \$26.95 for children. Excursions aboard the new River Gorge Explorer depart daily into "Tennessee's Grand Canyon." Cruise tickets are \$32 per adult and \$24.50 per child (3-12). Advance tickets may be purchased online at www.tnaqua.org or by

phone at 1-800-262-0695. The Aquarium, located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Chattanooga, is a non-profit organization. Open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Aquarium and IMAX are accessible to people with disabilities.

BEST WISHES

Southern Standard readers are invited to extend happy birthday and anniversary best wishes to friends and loved ones through this weekly column. Please submit your messages by our noon deadline each Thursday. No more than three wishes to any individual, please.

- Jan. 8** – Happy birthday wishes to Joe Wright. Love, Ashley and Seth.
Jan. 9 – Happy birthday wishes to Brandon Stiles. Love, your family and friends.
Jan. 9 – Natalie Lovell, happy birth-

day to a sweet girl. Love, your family and friends.

- Jan. 10** – Happy birthday Patti Barnes.
Jan. 11 – Chance Hobbs, happy birthday to you!
Jan. 12 – Happy birthday Rylan Curtis.

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- Jan. 7** – Matt and Donna Crim, happy anniversary to you. Love, Marlene and Jimmy.
Jan. 13 – Anniversary greetings to David Mason and Tiffany Simpson.

Tennessee State Museum to hold homeschool day

The Tennessee State Museum will hold a free day of fun and historical activities for homeschool families on Friday, Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme of the day will be Black History Month, and will include an exclusive viewing of the award-winning traveling exhibit, Slaves and Slaveholders of Wessington Plantation, a "detectives of history" hands-on program, and many more educational activities. Participants will experience the Museum's living history programs and learn more

about the contributions that African Americans have made to Tennessee's history and culture. The Tennessee State Museum is located at Fifth Avenue and Deaderick Street in downtown Nashville, and metered and lot parking is available nearby. While the event is free, families should plan on paying for parking in downtown Nashville. The main branch of the Nashville Public Library, at 615 Church Street, has a public parking lot and is a convenient walk to

the museum. For questions about Homeschool Day, please contact Rachel Helvering at (615) 253-0149 or Rachel.Helvering@tn.gov. The Tennessee State Museum was established by law in 1937 "to bring together the various collections of articles, specimens, and relics now owned by the State under one divisional head," and "to provide for a transfer of exhibits wherever they may be." The Tennessee State Museum is housed in the James K. Polk building in downtown Nashville, where it has been for nearly 35 years. Gov. Bill Haslam proposed and the Tennessee General Assembly approved \$120 million in the FY-2015-16 budget to build a new home for the Tennessee State Museum on the Bicentennial Mall to maximize the state's rich history by creating a state-of-the-art educational asset and tourist attraction for the state. The governor also announced that \$40 million would be raised in private funds for the project. A 140,000-square-foot facility is being built on the northwest corner of the Bicentennial Mall at the corner of Rosa Parks Boulevard and Jefferson Street to tell Tennessee's story by showcasing one-of-a-kind artifacts, art and historical documents in an interactive and engaging way. More information on the museum can be found at tnmuseum.org.



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