



South Carolina
**STATE
MUSEUM**

NEWS RELEASE

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[Snakes Slither into
State Museum April 17](#)

Columbia, S.C. --- The image of a legless carnivore with fangs that can eat prey bigger than its head—whole— all while possessing a venomous bite, may conjure up fear in the minds of some. Though snakes have received much bad press over the years, they are some of the most misunderstood creatures on our planet. The South Carolina State Museum will host a program called “Snakes Alive!” on April 17 to explain why.

Chief Curator of Natural History and herpetologist Jim Knight will shed some light on the reality of the life of a snake, as well as dispel rumors, myths and lies surrounding the coiled creature. His talk will take place from 1-2 p.m. in the State Museum auditorium, and he’ll demonstrate some snake facts with a live snake.

“Rattlesnakes don’t always rattle before they strike,” says Knight, noting one of the many common misconceptions when it comes to snakes.

Knight will discuss the venomous snakes of South Carolina, and offer common-sense tips on staying safe in the forest or near a swamp. He will focus on the cottonmouth, a snake that is prevalent in South Carolina swamps, and touch on many more of the 38 species that live in our state.

Approximately half the time will be spent on an educational lecture, with the remaining time allowed for questions.

“The better educated the public is,” says Knight, “the longer our wildlife will last, because people will no longer kill snakes wantonly. Snakes are just as much a part of the ecological system as anything else.”

“Snakes Alive!” is a program for all ages and is free with museum admission or membership. For more information, call Celeste Wszola at (803) 898-4952 or e-mail publicprograms@scmuseum.org.

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CUTLINE FOR “SNAKES ALIVE!” PROGRAM APRIL 17

Chief Curator of Natural History Jim Knight handles a cottonmouth, a common species of South Carolina snake. Learn more about cottonmouths and other snakes at the South Carolina State Museum April 17 in Knight’s program “Snakes Alive!”

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Susan Dugan/courtesy S.C. State Museum.

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