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‘Human Origins’ headline Discovery Trail Weekend

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Tompkins Weekly Staff

ITHACA – As part of the larger, ongoing series of exhibitions and events around the theme of “Ithaca Explores Human Origins: A Three-Month Exploration of What It Means to be Human,” the Discovery Trail is highlighting its member organizations this weekend.

The Tompkins County Public Library, one DT organization, is hosting the American Library Association/Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History traveling exhibit, “Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean To Be Human?” through Thursday, December 22. The exhibit is on display at TCPL, located at 101 E. Green St. in Ithaca. For more information, visit www.tcpl.org.

Discovery Trail Weekend will feature several special events taking place Saturday, December 17, and Sunday, December 18.

On Saturday, December 17, The History Center will present a talk by Robert Kibbee, a History Center trustee and retired Cornell University map and geospatial librarian, titled “Seeing the World for the First Time: Early Human Concepts of Space and Place.” The talk will take place at 2 p.m. at The History Center, located at 401 E. State St., Suite 100, in Ithaca. For more information, visit www.thehistorycenter.net.

Also on Saturday, December 17, the Sciencenter will present “Insect Revolution,” a video from Linda Rayor’s Naturalist Outreach series at 11 a.m. The Sciencenter is located at 601 First St. in Ithaca. For more information, visit www.sciencenter.org.

On Sunday, December 18, the Johnson Museum of Art will present a program on human origins. Art Educator Carol Hockett will lead the program; using works from the museum’s permanent collection, participants will look at a broad range of understandings of creation and human origins, from ancient Egyptian sculpture to contemporary painting. The Johnson Museum is located at 114 Central Avenue in Ithaca. For more information, visit museum.cornell.edu.

Paleontological Research Institute’s Museum of the Earth will be unveiling the exhibit “Evolution of the Human Skull.” Featuring real specimens and casts, the display will discuss evolutionary forces that shaped the human skull by examining skull characteristics of apes, hominids and humans. PRI’s Museum of the Earth is located at 1259 Trumansburg Road in Ithaca. For more information, visit www.priweb.org.

Cornell Botanic Gardens will continue to have its indoor exhibit – “Ah-Theuh-Nyeh-Hah: The Planting Moon,” a collaboration with Cornell University’s American Indian and Indigenous Studies program – on display. The exhibit explores the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) agricultural knowledge and traditions, and represent the story of the Earth’s creation. Cornell Botanic Gardens (formerly Cornell Plantations) is located at 124 Comstock Knoll Dr. in Ithaca. For more information, visit cornellbotanicgardens.org.



*Photo provided by Smithsonian’s Human Origins Program
The American Library Association/Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History traveling exhibit, “Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean To Be Human?” is on display at the Tompkins County Public Library through Thursday, December 22. It features replicas and images of specimens from the Smithsonian’s “David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins,” including a reproduction of this bronze statue created by Trumansburg artist John Gurche of a two-year old Homo neanderthalensis learning from his mother.*

The Discovery Trail is a partnership of educational organizations based in Tompkins County. The Discovery Trail members include: the Cayuga Nature Center, the Cornell Botanic Gardens, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell, the History Center in Tompkins County, the Museum of the Earth at PRI, Sciencenter and the Tompkins County Public Library. The Discovery Trail promotes awareness of participating organizations' programs and collections to the broader Ithaca community and across New York State to help foster understanding of the connections among art, history, literature, science, and the natural world. The Discovery Trail's collective vision is of a community where curiosity flourishes and every child, community member, and visitor enjoys opportunities to explore science, nature and culture.

More information on Discovery Trail Weekend and Ithaca Explores Human Origins can be found at www.discoverytrail.com or www.tcpl.org.

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