

For Immediate Release, May 5, 2009

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Check Out the Heard's New Sparkling Exhibit Now!
Treasures from the Earth
Diamonds, Gold and Dinos

& the Native Texas Butterfly House Opens Saturday, May 23

Experience something new today! Check out *Treasures from the Earth*, a new exhibit featuring a beautiful, exotic collection of diamonds, gems, precious metals, rare minerals, pearls and fossils at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney. Many of these specimens are on loan from exclusive collectors and some have never been exhibited in public.

Treasures from the Earth includes some of the largest uncut diamonds (up to ten carats) ever found in the United States from the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas. You can also see dendritic gold, large birthstones and a silver ingot recovered from the Spanish galleon, Nuestra Señora de Atocha, which sunk off the Florida Keys in 1622.

A series of walk-through galleries describe the formation of these striking specimens as well as highlight their functions in our daily lives. See educational displays tailored for adults and children of all ages. Not to be missed are our Children's Activity Area, which includes *Panning for Pyrite* and our new interactive *Observation Station* where children can share and exchange information and observations about objects found in the natural world. A wide variety of unique, never-before-seen fossils including a dinosaur nest and a T-Rex skull, are featured next to our popular walk-through Mosasaur.

On **Saturday, May 23rd** the Heard will open their **Native Texas Butterfly House**. See a variety of native butterflies including the zebra longwing, the tiger swallowtail, red admiral, monarch and others. Get educated about butterflies and take beautiful pictures!

No matter what your family's interests, the Heard Museum has something for everyone including our *Animals of the World* exhibit featuring non-native animals as well as our collection of native Texas reptiles and amphibians. Enjoy the beauty of the native plant garden and a 289-acre wildlife sanctuary with seven nature trails. **Summer Camp** sign-ups are going on now. Also, find out more information about the Heard ropes course for team building. Visit the Heard Museum for fun education and nature exploration!

***Treasures from the Earth* Sponsors**

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Collections provided by

“The Arkenstone”

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Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary

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Mon-Sat, 9-5 & Sun 1-5

PICTURES (Collections from Rob Lavinsky)

Aquamarine, Pearls & Amethyst





Museum store pieces available

Butterflies from Native Texas Butterfly Exhibit (Opens May 23rd)

