



## MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Susan Swiatkowski  
Communications Manager  
(716) 896-5200, Ext. 312  
[sswiatkowski@sciencebuff.org](mailto:sswiatkowski@sciencebuff.org)

### UNEARTH ANCIENT HISTORY

#### *Volunteers Sought for Buffalo Museum of Science's 2006 Hiscock Dig Season*

The Buffalo Museum of Science is calling for volunteers to help at the Hiscock Dig, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites, located in Genesee County, NY, from July 22 through Aug. 12, 2006. Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> season, the dig allows volunteers to help unearth rare fossils left behind by mastodons and other ancient Western New York inhabitants from more than 10,000 years ago.

"Experience is not necessary, as we will train you, but your commitment and passion definitely are," said Dr. Richard S. Laub, curator of geology, who leads the dig each summer. Together with scores of volunteers, he and his group meticulously sort through dirt and stone for three weeks searching for clues about Ice Age life.

Interested participants must be in good health, able to negotiate uneven ground (mud at times) and be at least 13 years old. Teenagers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a participating parent. Once accepted, participants must provide their own camping equipment as well as transportation to and from the dig site. Meals are communal with costs of approximately \$13 per person per day. Everyone is expected to help with kitchen and camp chores.

Discovered in 1959, the site is named after Charles and Charlotte Hiscock, the former land owners who allowed the museum generous access for excavation. The Hiscocks donated 10 acres to the Buffalo Museum of Science in 1989. The Smith Foundation of Buffalo purchased another 42 acres for the museum to protect the site and provide space for work crews. To date, about 25 percent has been excavated, but each year surprises surface that

inspire further research. With these revelations, many consider Genesee County to be one of North America's most important locations for archaeological investigations.

The site has yielded many historic finds over the years, from a mastodon's jaw, tusks and teeth, to countless pieces of bone, tools, ceramics, metal and leather.

Anyone wishing to become a new volunteer should contact Dr. Laub at (716) 896-5200, Ext. 368, or [rlaub@sciencebuff.org](mailto:rlaub@sciencebuff.org). Previous volunteers will be contacted separately.

*The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. The Museum also operates Tiffi Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land, and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.*

*For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org).*

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