



Explore • Experience • Engage

Contact: Rachel Somma  
Communications Coordinator  
75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY 10301  
P: 718.483.7117  
[RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org](mailto:RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org)

For Immediate Release

## **They're Baaack!!!** Return of the 17-Year Cicada

Exhibit Opening Preview Party and Family Cicada Day Opening Celebration

### Opening Preview Party

Date: Friday, February 15

Time: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Staten Island Museum

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY 10301

Price: \$25/\$15 Museum members

RSVP to Cheryl Adolph at 718.483.7113

### Family Cicada Day Opening Celebration

Date: Saturday, February 16

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Staten Island Museum

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island 10301

Price: \$5 Adults/\$3 Seniors & Students/Free for children under 13 & Museum Members

\$2 Activity fee for participants

(Staten Island, NY – January 2013) All over Staten Island and neighboring territories, naturalists are eagerly awaiting one of the more interesting natural phenomena to unfold, namely, the reappearance of the 17-year cicada. The last time the Island was privy to this display was back in 1996. This year, the Staten Island Museum is starting a bit ahead of the brood to ready the public for this once in a generation happening with their aptly named exhibit, ***They're Baaack!!! Return of the 17-Year Cicada.***

The exhibit opens with much fanfare, an exclusive Opening Preview Party on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm – 9:00pm which will include a feverishly fun-filled evening of fine fare, drinks, and disco dancing, with tours and talks of the extensive cicada exhibit. Tickets for the preview party can be obtained by contacting Cheryl Adolph at 718.483.7113. On Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Museum will host their Family Cicada Day Opening Celebration from 10:00am – 4:00pm which will have gallery workshops, hands on science lessons, microscopes and magnifiers, puppet films and more. Regular Museum admission rates apply (\$5 Adults/\$3 Senior & Student/Free for Children under 13 and Museum Members) with an additional \$2 material fee if one wishes to participate in the scheduled activities.

### About the 17-Year or Periodical Cicada

The cicada nymphs from the last emergence have been patiently waiting underground, sucking on plant juices, until the spring of 2013 rolls around. In mid to late May they will emerge from the ground in great numbers, split out of their nymphal skins, and become full-fledged winged adults. The chorusing will be especially heavy in June, and the air will be filled with cicada song. By late June things will be winding down, and by about July fourth, it will all be over for another 17 years. Periodical cicadas are found only in the eastern, southeastern and midwestern United States. In the north they have a 17-year life cycle; in the south it is only 13 years. It will be noted that both of these are prime numbers, and there is still no satisfactory explanation for why they emerge at these odd intervals. While they are not unique to Staten Island, there does seem to be a particularly heavy

emergence **in New York City's least populated borough**. All of the cicadas emerging in a single year are known as a brood. There are currently twelve broods of 17-year cicadas and three 13-year broods. On Staten Island, we have what is known as Brood II. This is a fairly widespread brood, extending north up the Hudson Valley to Germantown, New York, west to eastern Ohio and south through Virginia to northern North Carolina. On Staten Island they are not uniformly distributed, with areas of heaviest emergence being in the mid-Island and South Shore. Other parts of the Island, particularly the northwest and northeast, have very little cicada activity.

The Staten Island Museum is particularly interested in this occurrence. One of the **Museum's founders**, William T. Davis, was a renowned authority on cicadas during his time (1862-1945), and was responsible for naming over half of the 170 cicada species occurring in North America. He also built up the **Museum's cicada collection to be the largest of its kind in North America, and second largest in the world**, to the British Museum.

The Staten Island Museum will be celebrating all this and more in an exhibit, ***They're Baaack!!! Return of the 17-year Cicadas***. The Preview Reception is on February 15, 2013. Visitors to the exhibition will **see numerous cicada specimens from the Museum's extensive collection, sculpture inspired by the Cicada**, new work by syndicated cartoonist Taylor Jones, a timeline of past emergences linked to historic events, a time-lapse video of emerging cicadas, a hands on video microscope, a Google map showing where cicadas are emerging, big-bug sci-fi fun, unusual Cicada ephemera and facts from around the globe, activities for kids and more. For more information on this exhibit and the Staten Island Museum, visit our website at [StatenIslandMuseum.org](http://StatenIslandMuseum.org).

Image: Cartoon by Taylor Jones

*This exhibit is supported in part by:*



###

About the Staten Island Museum

**Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 131st year**, the Staten Island Museum, New York City's only general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum welcomes about 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs every year. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. In Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibitions, visit [Statenislandmuseum.org](http://Statenislandmuseum.org)

---

## Visitor Information

---

### Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Place

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 11:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Universal Accessibility

Recommended Admission

Adults \$5.

Students & Seniors \$3.

Members & Children under 12 FREE

### History Center & Archives

1000 Richmond Terrace, Snug Harbor, Bldg H

Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:00pm – 4:00pm

By appointment only.

Contact Cara Dellatte at 718.483.7122

History Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

FREE