

You are invited to a party!

It has been 150 years since the discovery of the dinosaur that would later become the official State Dinosaur of Maryland.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ASTRODON JOHNSTONI!



Artist's rendition of *Astrodon johnstoni* by Mark Crowell (1998) - Maryland State Archives

In November 1858, Philip Tyson, State Agricultural Chemist, discovered two teeth of a large, extinct animal in an open-pit iron mine near Muirkirk, Prince George's County. He gave them to Dr. Christopher Johnston, a local physician and dentist, who sliced a tooth into cross sections, revealing a star pattern. Dr. Johnston named the extinct animal *Astrodon* ("star tooth"). In 1865, pioneer of American paleontology, Dr. Joseph Leidy, formally described the new species and named it *Astrodon johnstoni*, in recognition of Dr. Johnston's contribution. It was the first sauropod ("lizard hip") dinosaur described from North America. In 1998, *Astrodon johnstoni* became Maryland's official state dinosaur.

The public is invited!

- What:** Talks by scientists
Activities for young children
There will be dinosaur fossils and other exhibits through the end of January related to dinosaurs and the nearby Dinosaur Park (soon to open).
- When:** Saturday, January 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Montpelier Mansion* at the junction of MD route 197 and Muirkirk Rd.
9650 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD 20708

**Admission to the festivities is free, but reservations are strongly recommended.
For reservations or for more information, call 301-377-7817 or 301-627-2270
(TTY 301-454-1472).**

For more information about *Astrodon johnstoni*, go to <http://www.mgs.md.gov/esic/fs/fs12.html>.

* Montpelier Mansion is a National Historic Landmark operated by the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.