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***Rare, Beautiful & Fascinating: 100 Years @FloridaMuseum***

**Sept. 23, 2017-Jan. 7, 2018**

**Did You Know?**

* Lionfish have long, venomous fin spines and are an invasive species in North and South America. “Rodeos” help control their spread and educate anglers on safely collecting them.
* The invasive Cuban tree frog is the largest tree frog species in Florida—up to 5 inches long.
* The air potato is a plant native to tropical Asia that thrives in Florida due to the warm climate – it can grow 8 inches a day.
* A sea cucumber can throw out its gut when disturbed and regenerate it.
* The luna moth evolved long tails that it spins as an acoustic deflector against predatory bats.
* Humpback whales don’t eat in the winter when breeding--they live off their fat preserves.
* The northern mockingbird can imitate the songs of at least 50 other species of southern birds. It can even mimic car horns and car alarms.
* Titanoboa is the world’s largest snake. Scientists estimate it could have been 45 to 50 feet long and 3 feet wide, weighing over a ton.
* Agatized coral forms over time when the coral’s original calcium carbonate skeleton is slowly dissolved by acidic groundwater and partially replaced by dissolved silica, which creates beautiful specimens with cave-like appearances.
* The oldest-known grapes were growing in Central India before humans existed.
* In the Caribbean, native people frequently used alcohol or hallucinogens during ceremonies to communicate with spirits.
* Highly skilled potters sculpted animals onto effigy vessels, giving a glimpse of creatures that held symbolic importance.
* Christopher Columbus established the short-lived settlement La Navidad in what is now Haiti. Artifacts from the site, such as musket balls, suggest violent interactions between the Spaniards and the local Taíno.
* The Nazca people of Peru often painted figures such as the fox deity, known in Peruvian religion as the animal counterpart of the moon, on their pottery.
* Clam shells form yearly growth rings that record changes in the marine environment.
* Early Seminoles made traditional baskets from split saw palmetto stems but introduced sweetgrass baskets in the early 20th century to sell for extra income.
* The Lakota traditionally used dyed porcupine quills to adorn items such as tobacco pouches.