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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Award-winning Author PaleoJoe to Open *DINOSAURS: Just Imagine!*
at Grand Rapids Public Museum February 21, 2009**

Grand Rapids, MI (December 2, 2008) – Award winning paleontologist, author and storyteller Joseph J. Kchodl, “PaleoJoe,” will bring dinosaurs to life when he presents “*Fascinating Fossils, Digging Dinosaurs*” at 11 am Saturday, February 21st at the Public Museum. His presentation is free with Museum general admission.

PaleoJoe’s high-energy look into the world of fossil collecting and study kicks off opening day of the ***DINOSAURS: Just Imagine!*** exhibit, Saturday, February 21st. He will share specimens and models including a T rex tooth, a Velociraptor skull, actual dinosaur bones and a variety of amazing fossils, and will be available to sign copies of his popular children’s book series, *PaleoJoe’s Dinosaur Detective Club*. His titles will be available for purchase in the Museum Curiosity Shop.

Running through May 25th, the scenes in the fantasy-fueled ***DINOSAURS: Just Imagine!*** exhibit, along with its companion planetarium show, ***Dinosaur Chronicles: History of the Earth***, will remind young and old of the power of imagination. The Public Museum will turn back the clock millions of years to show lifelike creatures juxtaposed against unique backdrops that will start minds racing. For when dinosaurs are the subject matter, even paleontologists will agree, much of what we “think we know” is subject to imagination and interpretation.

Guests will have more opportunities to take in the exhibit and show with expanded evening hours during the run. Normally closed at 5 pm, the Museum will stay open until 8 pm during **Grand Rapids Jaycees Foundation DINOSAUR Discovery Nights:** February 23, 24, 25, 26; March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20; April 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; and May 4, 5, 6, 7. GR Jaycees Foundation



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Dinosaur Discovery Night ticket packages include Museum admission, the planetarium show, a pizza meal, unlimited carousel rides and special exhibit admission for just \$10 per adult or child. (Member price is \$5.) Stay tuned for information on additional dinosaur-themed weekend programs and Spring Break activities.

Joseph J. Kchodl "PaleoJoe" began to develop his fossil collection and subsequent search for knowledge as a young boy growing up in the fossil rich Niagara Falls area. After graduating from Niagara University with a degree in Education in 1979, Joseph taught classes on fossils and gained a reputation as an energetic and entertaining speaker in the persona of "PaleoJoe." Dressing and playing the part of a "digger," he has taught throughout the Midwest.

The Public Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 am – 5 pm, and Sunday Noon - 5 pm. Admission to the exhibit is \$2 and to the planetarium show is \$3 in addition to general Museum admission (Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children \$3. Members are free.) For more information call 616/456-3977 or go to grmuseum.org.

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