



AST EXHIBITS
NO STORY LEFT UNTOLD

2630 TAFT AVENUE

ORLANDO, FL 32804

PHONE: 407.481.9291

FAX: 407.481.9230

WWW.ASTEXHIBITS.COM

*"If history
were taught
in the form
of stories,
it would never
be forgotten."*

- Rudyard Kipling

SFSM Exhibit Construction Progress Report 03/08/2013

Today's update is all about **Swamps, Gators, Cats and more Swamps**. But first let's talk about the **Whole World**.

What do you see when you visit the new Science on a Sphere exhibit at the South Florida Science Museum? You see the whole world and you see it in a way that you haven't seen before. In mid-January AST Exhibits installed the supporting cabinets and railings for this exhibit which is now open to the public.

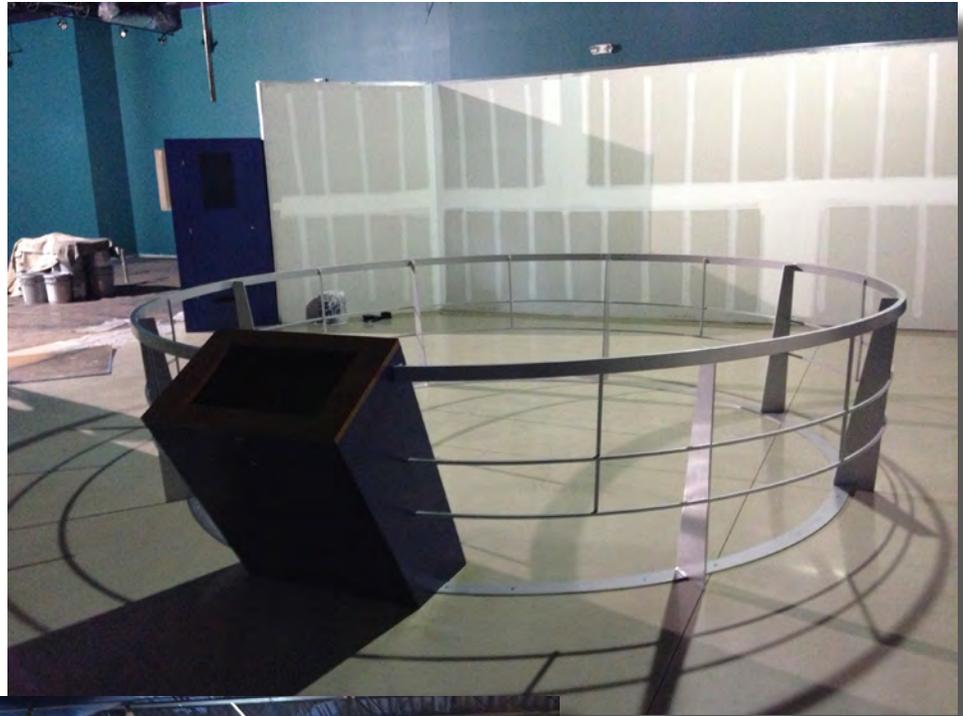


Installing the first piece: the touch screen control console. Assisting gravity and holding the console down is President and Founder Scott Metelko. Actually shown working are Michael and Marc.



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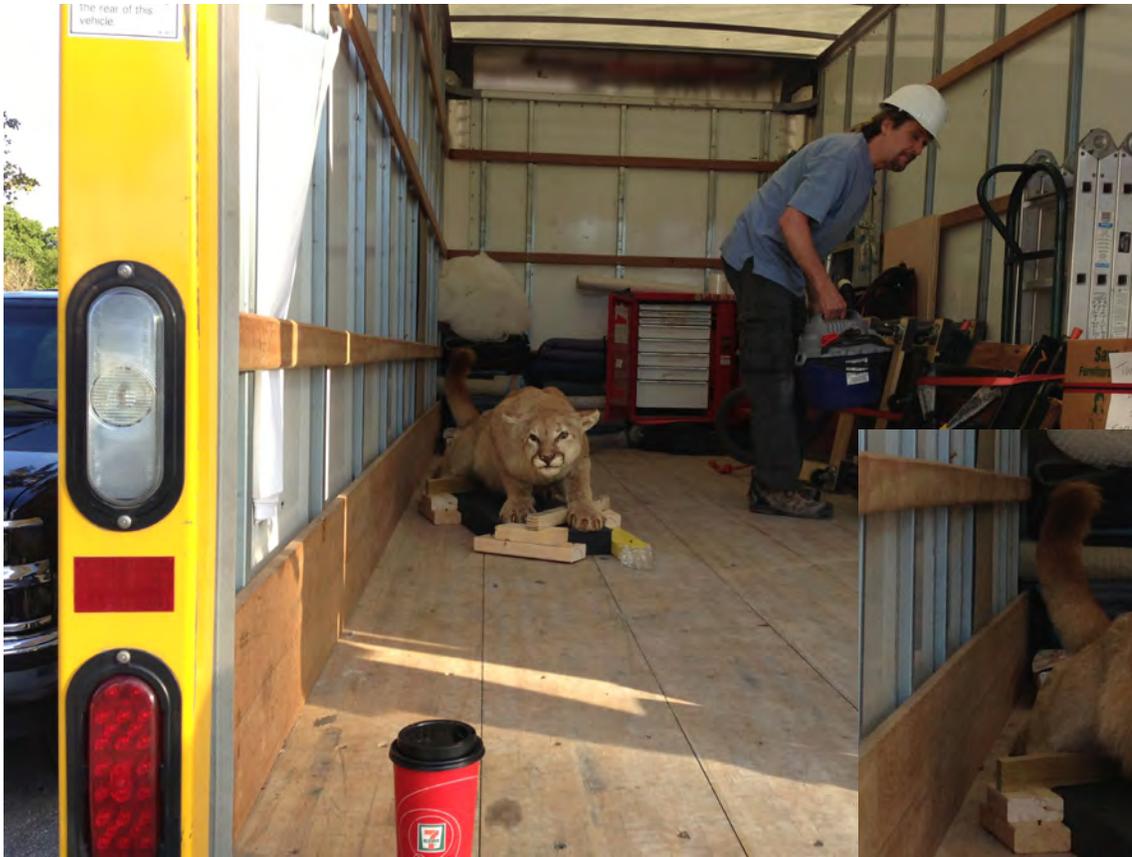
Railing and control console installed and in place.



The NOAA crew installed the electronics, the projectors, and the globe after the AST Exhibits installation.



And now, the Swamp. To be accurate, we are not really talking about a Swamp. We are talking about the Florida Everglades, which is an immense and complex ecosystem. But calling it a Swamp sure makes it sound scarier.



Packing the truck to head back to Orlando, Jeff from SFMS brought us this Florida Panther. The panther will join an otter and some water birds in a new everglades exhibit.

LOOK OUT MARC, THAT CAT APPEARS TO BE GOING FOR YOUR COFFEE!!!!

A quick note: Knowing we were going to transport this guy back with us to Orlando but unsure of the legality of transporting him, Mike took a quick trip to Google and found out that transporting this panther is perfectly legal.





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A few days later, the UPS guy knocked on the door and delivered this:



The two make quite an impression on our conference room table.



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OK, so that's enough scary stuff for now. Back to the exhibits, like these cabinets for the River of Grass and the Everglades displays.





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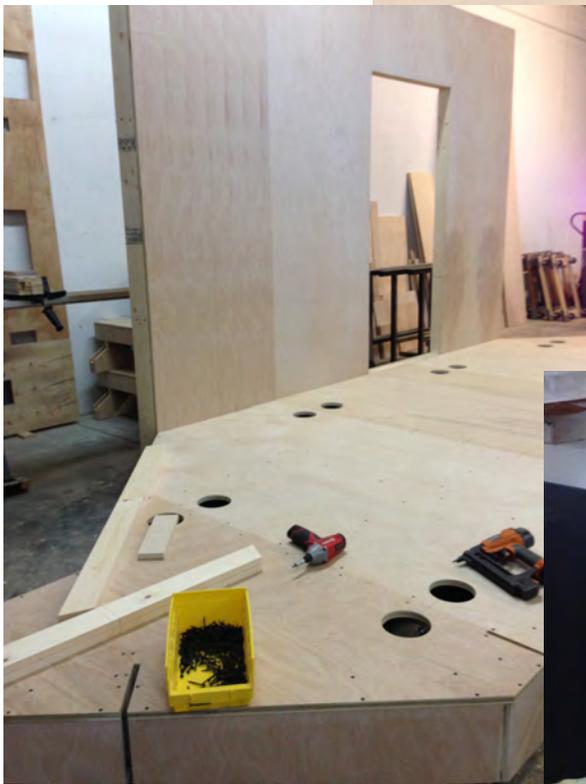
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Decks for the Everglades Exhibit. The holes are drilled so that the decks can be bolted together once installed. The terrain will be sculpted on another layer of plywood and attached to the top of these decks. Our experience tells us to avoid linear seams in the finished surface when possible. By using the contours to help hide the seams, we are able to provide a realistic looking terrain without visible seams.



Walls being assembled. The next steps are fitting the access door, back-painting everything and then prepping the walls for the mural painting. The electronics and taxidermy will be installed after the railings return from the metal fabricator and the graphics have been printed.





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Speaking of railings...



The railings are nearly finished. A few finishing touches left to complete and they will be ready for their powder coat finish.



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That wraps up this report. Here are a few pictures from our recent trip to West Palm Beach.

