

NEWS FROM...



FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FROM: The Palm Beach Zoo
RE: "PARTY FOR THE PLANET" at the PALM BEACH ZOO
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March 6, 2008 – "Go Green" at the Palm Beach Zoo and Celebrate Earth Day and the "Year of the Frog" on Saturday & Sunday, April 19 & 20, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Palm Beach Zoo, along with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), is highlighting 2008 as the "Year of the Frog". This nationwide event is designed to help zoo and aquarium visitors discover ways to connect to their local environment and to spark a major conservation effort to address the amphibian extinction crisis.

There will be fun for everyone! • Take part in conservation and amphibian-themed games and crafts in our Nature Workshops • Stop by the new Reptile House, Amazon Marketplace, and Caracol Observatory to get an up-close look at the Zoo's amphibians • Meet our keepers and learn about what you can do to help conserve the world's amphibian population • Soar above the water at the "Wings Over Water" (WOW) free-flight bird show and experience the majestic yet sometimes comical behavior of birds as you learn about the importance of environmental conservation • Learn about recycling and have a "howling" good time at the "Wild Things" Show with "Mic" and "Sydney", our New Guinea singing dogs and their furry, feathered, and scaled friends • Face painting, air brush tattoos, live music, roving animal encounters, giveaways, and more "froggie" fun will be available all day.

Why celebrate the "Year of the Frog"? One-third of all amphibians on the planet are threatened with extinction. Amphibian declines are now attributed to a new cause - chytridiomycosis - an infectious disease that affects amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders, and caecilians) worldwide. It is caused by the chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*), a fungus capable of causing sporadic deaths in some amphibian populations and 100% mortality in others.

The Palm Beach Zoo as an AZA-accredited facility is committed to ensuring the survival of all amphibian species and is already playing an active role in amphibian conservation by exhibiting the following amphibian species: barred tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum mavortium*), giant marine toad (*Bufo marinus*), green-and-black poison dart frog (*Dendrobates auratus*), marbled tree frog (*Hyla marmorata*), red-eyed tree frog (*Agalychnis callidryas*), South American waxy tree frog (*Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis*), White's tree frog (*Pelodytes caerulea*), and the yellow-and-blue poison dart frog (*Dendrobates tinctorius*).

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non-profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach, housing over 1,500 animals within 23 acres of lush tropical habitat. Its mission is to provide an open-air classroom of living creatures to foster awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world.

All activities are free for Palm Beach Zoo members or with regular paid admission. Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Regular zoo admission: Regular \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. For more information regarding the Palm Beach Zoo or on how you can become a Frog Friend, please visit www.palmbeachzoo.org.