

NEWS FROM...



FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: PALM BEACH ZOO PRESENTS DR. WILLIAM KARESH

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March 21, 2008-The Palm Beach Zoo will present its second annual Conservation Leadership Lecture on April 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at The Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach. The event will be presented in collaboration with The Society of the Four Arts "Campus on the Lake," an ongoing cultural education series that offers lectures and workshops on a variety of topics. This year's guest lecturer will be Dr. William B. Karesh, director of the Field Veterinary Program (FVP) for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) based at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. This event is generously sponsored by the Big Cat Club and is open to the public at no charge.



Dr. Karesh will speak on his global efforts to focus attention on problems raised by the interactions among wildlife, people, and domestic animals. This topic will be a primary area of focus for the new Center for Conservation Medicine now under construction at the Palm Beach Zoo. Dr. Karesh is internationally recognized as a leading authority on the subject of animal and human health linkages and wildlife. He has published over one hundred scientific papers and several books on the subject.

The initiatives of Karesh's FVP program cover terrain from Argentina to Zambia. He is leading efforts in the Congo Basin to reduce the impact of diseases such as *Ebola*, measles, and tuberculosis on endangered species such as gorillas and chimpanzees, as well as humans living in the region. The FVP currently has one of its teams in Mongolia where in 2006 they found a strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds that has been selected by the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control as a human pandemic vaccine candidate.

Dr. Karesh has worked with thousands of wild animals, and his efforts have led him to some of the most remote corners of the world. Under Dr. Karesh's direction, the FVP has expanded from critically needed wildlife disease assessments and surveillance to now include training and professional development for foreign government workers and non-governmental organizations. All work is designed to inform policy development to ensure health and conservation.

For additional information on the Conservation Leadership Lecture or the Big Cat Club, please contact Ms. Taryn Tuerpe' at (561) 533-0887 ext. 214. For more information on The Society of the Four Arts visit www.fourarts.org.

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach. Its mission is to provide an open-air classroom of living creatures to foster awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world. The zoo is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for the zoo is also provided by the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council, the Board of County Commissioners and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Admission: Regular \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.) For more information visit www.palmbeachzoo.org.

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**Palm Beach Zoo • 1301 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach FL, 33405-3098
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