

PALM BEACH ZOO NEWS

Earth Day celebration of new Palm Beach Zoo Animal Hospital and Conservation Medicine Center

\$4.8 million complex marks beginning of zoo becoming a national leader in animal health care

WEST PALM BEACH, FL., April 14, 2009 - On Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, at 10:30 a.m., the Palm Beach Zoo will celebrate the opening of the new Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex.

The Animal Care Complex is home to the Conservation Medicine Center and the Salvatore M. Zeitlin Animal Hospital. This advanced facility will allow the zoo to do groundbreaking studies and provide highly advanced medical care for the zoo's vast animal collection.

It is the goal of the Palm Beach Zoo to become a national leader in animal health care, in the study of conservation medicine and in bringing together veterinarians and environmental scientists to help us discover new ways of protecting the planet's endangered species.

Construction began in 2007 bolstered by a \$2.5 million contribution by Melvin J. and Claire Levine who strongly believe in the mission of providing advanced medical care and the need for comprehensive study of conservation medicine to protect endangered species.

Leading the effort will be Dr. Michele Miller, DVM, PhD, who recently came to the Palm Beach Zoo from Disney World's Animal Kingdom.

"What we do here will be extremely important. With the expert guidance of Dr. Michele Miller – our new Chief Veterinary Officer and Director of Conservation Medicine – the Palm Beach Zoo will be at the forefront of developing new animal health care models and of understanding how we as humans have a medical impact on the well-being of animals in the wild," said Dr. Terry L. Maple, the zoo's president and CEO.

"Dr. Miller is one of the most respected veterinarians in our field," said Dr. William Karesh, head of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Global Health Program. "She has taken a leadership role in solving critical health issues for zoos as well as free-ranging wildlife around the world."

The hospital is named after Dr. Salvatore M. Zeitlin who has served as the zoo's veterinarian for three decades. He is a former executive director whose leadership helped Palm Beach Zoo become one of the best animal collections in the state. He also helped establish the zoo's high level of veterinary care. Dr. Zeitlin will continue his role as the zoo's senior consulting veterinarian.

FPL has become a partner with the Palm Beach Zoo in the building of the new Animal Care Complex. With FPL's generous donation of \$100,000, the complex will have state-of-the-art solar power.

The complex is also designed to become one of the first buildings in Florida to be LEED certified – a recognition that this building meets the highest environmental standards.

The Animal Care Complex was designed by Stuebben Architecture of Jacksonville. The complex was constructed by the Stiles Corporation of Fort Lauderdale. The project manager is Sharpe Project Developments of Fort Lauderdale.

About the Palm Beach Zoo

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non-profit zoological organization located in Dreher Park in West Palm Beach, housing more than 1,600 animals within 23 acres of lush, tropical habitat. Its mission is to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to inspire others to value and conserve the natural world. The zoo currently sponsors many conservation projects in numerous regions of the world. The majority of the work deals with animals that are represented in the zoo's collection.

The Palm Beach Zoo entrance is on Southern Boulevard just east of I-95. Admission: Adults \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-2 \$8.95, children under 3 and Zoo Members are free. For more information please visit palmbeachzoo.org.