

PALM BEACH ZOO Bytes

Zoo Bytes Special Edition for April

Our commitment to conservation is "24/7" so every day is Earth Day at the Palm Beach Zoo. As we celebrate Earth Day throughout the month of April, we invite our readers and friends to engage in conservation in all the ways it is available to our community and our guests.

If you are a member, please consider stepping up to membership in our Big Cat Society. Big Cats have inside access to the zoo with behind-the-scenes tours, receptions for conservation dignitaries, and special events, such as the Big Cat celebration of Maya's first birthday. We had a blast and so did Maya. Big Cat funding enables the zoo to conduct field work in Argentina, Mexico and South Africa. Big Cats provide financial support for our many Species Survival Programs to enhance captive breeding.



Currently we are raising money to bring koalas to the Palm Beach Zoo. Their numbers are dwindling in the wild so zoos must act to strengthen the captive population. These rare marsupials, beloved by all zoogoers, cannot be easily obtained. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums has selected our zoo to receive animals on high priority breeding loan. We intend to produce little "joeys" for many years to come, and you will get to see them grow up at the Palm Beach Zoo.



We aim to be one of the world's most important zoos with credibility in animal welfare, conservation, medicine, science and education. Our new LEED Gold certified Animal Care Complex demonstrates our commitment to achieve our lofty goals. As you read this issue of Zoo Bytes, please remember that we are working every day to tell the story of endangered wildlife, and we need your help to protect their world. It's easy to support our conservation programs.

We appreciate your support.

Terry L. Maple, Ph.D.
President/CEO

Conference Room Named for Ted and Ruth Baum

Ted and Ruth Baum, members of our Big Cat Society, have generously contributed a six figure gift to name the Conference



Room in the Center for Conservation Medicine. We recently celebrated their gift with Baum family members who toured the Animal Care Complex and visited Maya the jaguar after the reception in the Ted and Ruth Baum Conference Room. Ted and Ruth are Palm Beach residents who travel often to Africa. We have made improvements to this venue where Big Cat receptions will be held in the future. We are very grateful to Ted and Ruth for their strong commitment to our conservation vision.



Celebrate our Koalas with Outback Steakhouse

"Oz" and "Netty" the koalas are coming to the Palm Beach Zoo, and we are throwing a "Barbie" as only Outback Steakhouse can do. Please join us for a special evening on Friday, May 14th hosted by Outback Steakhouse at the zoo's Tropics Café. Reception from 6 to 7 p.m., dinner from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$95 per person. Kindly RSVP to info@palmbeachzoo.org or call (561) 561-533-0887, Ext. 223.



Photo – Courtesy of Riverbanks Zoo

Zoo Meets the Styrofoam Challenge

As a certified Green Non-profit, the Palm Beach Zoo is committed to banning the use of Styrofoam. Finding alternative paper products was the first challenge. The second challenge was to achieve the substitution without increasing operational costs. The resourceful team at the Tropics Café has succeeded on both counts. Next time you visit the Café, notice that even the "to go" containers are now made of paper. To help protect our environment, we should encourage all restaurants in our community to do the same. For more facts on Styrofoam, [Click Here](#).



GreenNonprofits
CERTIFIED

Kristen Cytacki Named Director of Education and Sustainability

Conserve Wildlife & Money

Save Money on Sugar and Help Save Jaguars! In an effort to save one of Earth's majestic big cats, the jaguar, Florida Crystals has teamed up with the Palm Beach Zoo. For every [coupon](#) redeemed for any variety of Florida Crystals® Natural and Organic sugar, Florida Crystals will donate an amount chosen by you to the Jaguar Conservation Fund at the Palm Beach Zoo.



Membership in the Big Cat Society places you in an elite group of zoo insiders, allowing you the unique opportunity to have interaction with zoo animals and special behind-the-scenes tours. As a Big Cat you never pay for admission & receive discounts in the Cafe and Gift Shops. Call today for more information and get your FREE behind the scenes tour.

Become a Member:

Palm Beach Zoo membership is a wonderful way to make the natural world a priority in your family life. It's also a great way to save money. Your zoo membership card gives you unlimited free zoo admission all year round, discounted or free admission at 140



Kristen Cytacki, who has served as our director of education for over ten years, is now director of education and sustainability in recognition of her leadership in the area of conservation at the zoo. Kristen co-chairs our Conservation Task Force, and directs a wide array of innovative education programs that are teaching the next generation about conservation. When asked about her new role Kristen said, "At the Palm Beach Zoo it is important that we celebrate wildlife and wild places every day by practicing basic conservation habits such as recycling, efficient water use and keeping the environment clean. A healthy environment is important for everyone - we can all make a difference each and every day!"

2010 Declared "The Year of Biodiversity"

The United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout the year countless initiatives will be



organized to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage organizations, institutions, companies and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide. The celebrations for the International Year of Biodiversity are led by the [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#). Objectives of the IYB:

- Raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity for human well-being and promote understanding of the economic value of biodiversity
- Enhance public knowledge of the threats to biodiversity and means to conserve it
- Encourage organizations (and through them individuals) to take direct or indirect biodiversity conservation activities
- Celebrate the achievements of Countdown 2010 partners and other stakeholders
- Reporting on the possible failures for not achieving the Target
- Prepare the ground for communicating the post-2010 target(s)

Party for the Planet

Celebrate Earth Day and all things "froggie" at the Palm Beach Zoo on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 16th through 18th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Palm



other zoos and aquariums across the country, discounts at zoo gift shops and restaurants, and discounts on special programs such as Summer Camp, Zoo Overnights, Home School Classes, and much more. Zoo membership is a great investment in your zoo, and a smart buy for your family budget. [More Details »](#)

Make a Donation

The Palm Beach Zoo relies on charitable contributions to close the gap



between earned revenues and operational expenses. Your tax-deductible gift will help us to provide the very best facilities, health care, and nutrition for the over 1,400 animals entrusted to our care. You can also help provide excellent education programs for under-served children in our community.

What is Zoo Bytes?

Zoo Bytes is our on-line newsletter designed to keep you informed about "what's new at the zoo." We will be sending more e-mail updates in the coming years to reduce paper waste, conserve our natural resources, and save the cost of printing and mailing. This is just one of many steps we are taking to honor our commitment to conserving our resources and our environment. Please pass it along to friends and family. Go Green!

Beach Zoo, along with more than 75 members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), is continuing the celebration of "Year of the Frog" this Earth Day. This nationwide event was 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.



Yellow banded poison dart frog

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. For a full list of amphibians being exhibited and cared for by the zoo, [Click Here](#).

Party for the Planet entertainment and activities will include:

- Take part in amphibian-themed games and crafts at the "Year of the Frog" Nature Stations. To learn 8 ways to help frogs, [Click Here](#).
- Stop by the Florida Reptile House, Amazon Marketplace, and Caracol Observatory to get an up-close look at the zoo's resident amphibians where visitors can meet amphibian keepers and learn about what can be done to help conserve the world's amphibian population.
- Children's entertainment including performances by the Pied Piper of Percussion, roving animal encounters, giveaways, and more "froggie" fun will be available all day.
- 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.

Zoo Camp 2010

Summer will be here before you know it! Act now to reserve a place for your child in Zoo Camp 2010. You know your kids belong at the zoo! Join us for one week or



the entire summer. Each week offers a unique wildlife theme as participants experience zoo-keeping activities, behind-the-scenes tours, scavenger hunts, and enriching conservation education activities. Every day, participants will enjoy up-close animal encounters, animal exhibit visits, crafts, games, interactive fountain time, and much more! This program is for ages 5 - 14. Before and aftercare services are available. For prices and registration information [click here](#).



The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches exists to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to inspire others to value and conserve the natural world. We advance our conservation mission through programs in field research, endangered species propagation, education, health and wellness, and conservation medicine.

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