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***Fantastic Four* Character “The Thing” Coming to Jackson Zoo**

“The Thing” from the Marvel Comic and hit movie *Fantastic Four* will be visiting the Jackson Zoo **Saturday, June 16, 2007** from **10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer” opens in theatres nationwide Friday, June 15, 2007. The popular comic book character will meet and greet visitors throughout the day.

Other events will include:

- Face Painting
- Space Jump
- Coloring table
- Cool Keeper Chats throughout the day
- Animal ambassador programs and much more!

Take a ride on the endangered species carousel or ride the train for a charge of \$2.00. Zoo admission is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 2-12, and \$5.40 for senior citizens (65 and over). Children under the age of 2, and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free of charge.

The Jackson Zoo was recently named **Travel Attraction of the Year** by the Mississippi Tourism Association and is dedicated to its mission, to provide visitors with a quality recreational and educational environment dedicated to wildlife care and conservation. The new 4-plus acre Wilderness Mississippi was opened in 2006, and last year also marked the unveiling of a new entryway off Capitol Street and renovation of the orangutan exhibit. This year construction of a state-of-the-art Mississippi Discovery Center will begin. The Zoo also plans to make improvements to the elephant, tiger and leopard exhibits.

The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America’s leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.

The Jackson Zoo is located at 2918 West Capitol Street and is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Jackson Zoo, call (601) 352-2581 or visit www.jacksonzoo.org.