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Jackson Zoo Unveiling New Frog Exhibit This Leap Day *Zoo Joins Worldwide “Year the Frog” Awareness Campaign*

Just how big can an African Bullfrog get, or which South American frog’s secretions are used by some indigenous tribesmen to poison their darts? Soon you’ll be able to find out the answer to those and many other questions when you visit the Jackson Zoo’s new amphibian exhibit. The exhibit will open on Leap Day, February 29, 2008.

The Jackson Zoo is joining forces with Zoos across America as part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ (AZA) “Year of the Frog” campaign. The campaign seeks to raise awareness of the serious amphibian crisis that is occurring around the world.

International organizations such as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the World Conservation Union have also joined forces with the AZA in designating 2008 as “Year of the Frog.”

Approximately one-third of the 6,000 amphibian species in the world today are in danger of extinction.

“We take our responsibility to raise awareness of this and other important conservation issues very seriously,” said Zoo Director Beth Poff. “At least four of the species that are critically endangered are in the United States, including the Mississippi gopher frog.”

Thirty seven other species of amphibians are threatened in the United States as well.

Among the causes for amphibian declines are habitat loss, the introduction of invasive species, and chytridiomycosis, a disease that wipes out frogs, toads, and salamanders.

The Jackson Zoo will be exhibiting at least twenty species of frogs and salamanders from Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America, North America and Australia.

During the “Year of the Frog” kick off on Leap Day (February 29th), visitors will be greeted by costume character “Ribbit the Frog” near the new amphibian exhibits. Frogs and salamanders will be available for adoption and animal ambassador programs will educate and entertain. Amphibian-focused games and activities will also be on hand, as well as keeper chats, education programs and much more!

For additional information, call the Jackson Zoo at 601-352-2580.

The answers to the questions above: The African Bullfrog can weigh up to an astonishing 4.4 lbs. and the Poison Dart Frog is named for its use by South American tribesmen. ---###---



Poison Dart Frog



African Bullfrog