

NEWS

THE JACKSON



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Jackson, MS 39209

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JACKSON ZOO ANNOUNCES "PARTY FOR THE PLANET" EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

The Jackson Zoo will be hosting a "Party for the Planet" to recognize this year's Earth Day, Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with great family fun.

The Jackson Zoo chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers will be holding a Conservation Bazaar featuring hundreds of items to browse and buy from wildlife conservation organizations working around the world to save animals. All proceeds will go to benefit organizations such as:

**Cheetah Conservation Fund * Lemur Conservation Fund
Orangutan Outreach * SaveNature.org
Snow Leopard Trust * Wildlife SOS
And More!**

Other **Environmental, Conservation and Community** organizations will set up booths during the day as well. Some who have already signed up are: C.A.R.A., the Clinton Community Nature Center, MS Wildlife Federation, Keep Jackson Beautiful and the MS Forestry Commission.

Throughout the day, zoo keepers will be conducting "**Keeper Chats**" at various animal exhibits. The "Chats" give visitors a unique opportunity to learn specific behavioral traits of the animals and to ask questions about conservation issues and day to day care of the Zoo's animal collection.

Jackson Zoo Docents will also be setting up additional table displays and providing hands on Animal Ambassador programs, educational games and crafts during the event.

Visitors are also encouraged to check out **Penguin Plunge** while they are here. Penguin Plunge is a self-contained exhibit that houses six black-footed penguins and features a rock-cropped backdrop with nesting stations and a pool for the birds to swim in. Guests of the Zoo can view the penguins during normal visiting hours in the special exhibit installed in the Discovery Zoo for an additional \$2.00 fee.

The public may also see penguin feedings at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The temporary exhibit will be at the Jackson Zoo through August 15, 2009.

Take a ride on the endangered species carousel or ride the train for a charge of \$2.00. Zoo admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 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.

Join the Jackson Zoo as it celebrates 90 years (1919-2009) of Education, Recreation, Conservation and Community! Visit www.jacksonzoo.org to check out exciting special events planned, animal updates, one-of-a-kind education programs, membership and adoption packages, and so much more.

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.

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