

Jackson Zoo Animal Update

Press Release

Jackson Zoo Announces Beaver Births

Jackson, MS - July 5, 2011 - The Jackson Zoo hand raised a male beaver, who is now 7 years old, and a female, who is now 8 years old, who have been living in our Mississippi aquatic pavilion. Both animals had come to the zoo from a rehab center.

These two have now given birth to two kits of their own!! One born on Friday afternoon, July 1 and the other born on Saturday, July 2nd. Animal care staff do not know the sex of the young at this time.

Their mom is taking good care of them in the den (and is sometimes visible to visitors to the building). Pictures of the young are difficult as they are still in the den- only viewable through thick glass. We will release them as they become available.



Zoo Euthanizes Elderly Female Black Bear

One of the zoo's female bears was euthanized today after a very long life of 37.5 years (Most bears live between 20-30 years).

She had been at the Jackson Zoo since 2005 as plans were being set for the 2006 opening of the new Mississippi area. Many animals live longer in a zoo situation than they would in the wild and that requires that staff assess the animal's quality of life as they become much older. This bear had lost her appetite and had stopped drinking water. The vet along with her animal care team determined that the humane thing to do was to put her to rest.

Zoo admission is **\$9.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children** ages 2-12, and \$8.10 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 is located at 2918 West Capitol Street in Jackson and is open daily from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Visit www.jacksonzoo.org to check out exciting special events, 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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**1/2 off Wednesdays
this Summer!**

Visit us on Wednesdays over the summer and receive half off general admissions and rides all day long!!