

NEWS FROM..



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RE: NEW REPTILE HOUSE NOW OPEN AT PALM BEACH ZOO

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February 1, 2008, West Palm Beach – The Palm Beach Zoo has opened a new Reptile House on zoo grounds. The 1,000 square foot Florida Reptile House is located in the Zoo's Florida Wetlands exhibit near the Wildlife Carousel. The facility displays a variety of venomous and non-venomous reptiles and amphibians found in the State of Florida. An adjacent outdoor area exhibits three female White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus v. virginianus*), and two female Florida sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis pratensis*).

Dr. Terry L. Maple, President and CEO of the Zoo said, "We are very pleased to present this exciting new exhibit. Reptiles and amphibians play an important role in our Florida ecosystems, and we think this Reptile House will really help children and adults learn more about them. We also know that for many of our visitors, these creatures are among the most exciting and fascinating animals in the zoo."

Keith Lovett, Director of Living Collections said, "The new Reptile House allows the Zoo the opportunity to educate guests on the diversity of reptiles, amphibians and fish indigenous to the State of Florida. Observing and learning about both venomous and non-venomous species in a safe, naturalistic environment will help to garner a better appreciation of animals found in our backyards and neighborhoods."

The Reptile House contains exhibits themed after the different Ecosystems of Florida:

Tropical Hardwood Hammock

Pygmy rattlesnake, *Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*
Squirrel tree frog, *Hyla squirella*
Everglades rat snake, *Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni*
Yellow rat snake, *Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*
Green anole, *Anolis carolinensis*

Temperate Hardwood Forest

Timber Rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*
Corn snake, *Elaphe guttata*
Green anole, *Anolis carolinensis*
Green tree frog, *Hyla cinerea*

White Water River Swamp

American alligator, *Alligator mississippiensis*
American crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus*
Chicken turtle, *Deirochelys reticularia*
Red-belly turtle, *Pseudemys nelsoni*
Florida cooter, *Pseudemys floridana*

Pine Flatwoods

Eastern diamondback rattlesnake, *Crotalus adamanteus*

Southern toad, *Bufo terrestris*
Green tree frog, *Hyla cinerea*

Cypress Swamp

Florida cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*
Water snake, *Nerodia fasciata pictiventris*
Musk turtle, *Kinosternon odoratum*.

Black Water Swamp

Mud turtle, *Kinostemon subrubrum steindachneri*
Rough green snake, *Opheodrys aestivus*

Scrub and High Pine Forest

Florida pine snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*
Black racer, *Coluber constrictor*
Box turtle, *Terrapene carolina*
Green anole, *Anolis carolinensis*

Bay Swamp

Box turtle, *Terrapene carolina*
Squirrel tree frog, *Hyla squirella*
Ribbon snake, *Thamnophis sauritus*
Gulf hammock rat snake, *Elaphe obsoleta williamsi*
Florida pine snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*

Mangrove

Mangrove snake, *Nerodia clarkia compressicauda*
Florida east coast diamondback terrapin, *Malaclemys terrapin tequesta*
Red mangrove crab, *Aratus pisonii*
Mangrove snails, *Littorina sp*

Floodplain

Alligator snapping turtle, *Marcroclemys temmincki*

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach. Its mission is to provide an open-air classroom of living creatures to foster awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world. The zoo is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for the zoo is also provided by the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council, the Board of County Commissioners and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Admission: Regular \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.) For more information visit www.palmbeachzoo.org.

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