

# PALM BEACH ZOO Bytes

## BABY SPIDER MONKEY



*Baby Spider Monkey - photo by: Keith Lovett*

"Raven" and "Xavier," a pair of Mexican spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi vellerosus*) at the Palm Beach Zoo became proud parents on November 18th. This highly anticipated birth is extremely important to the population of this critically endangered species in North American AZA zoos and to the staff here at the zoo, where New World primate species are one of our specialties. This successful birth is a tribute to the great animal care and expertise provided by our staff.



"Raven" gave birth high in the large ficus tree that is at the center of the Primate Island exhibit. The new baby immediately began clinging to mom and nursing. This is "Raven's" first baby and the first spider monkey birth at the Palm Beach Zoo since the birth of "Raven's" brother "Poquito" 14 years ago. "Raven" was born at the Palm Beach Zoo on October 10, 1993. "Xavier" came to the zoo from the Gladys Porter Zoo in Texas in February of 2004 to pair with "Raven" for breeding purposes.

Native to portions of Central America and Mexico, this species is critically endangered in the wild as a result of habitat loss, hunting and capture of wild animals for the pet trade. Captive North American AZA zoo populations are managed under the Spider Monkey Species Survival Plan (SSP) Breeding Program. Keith Lovett, Palm Beach Zoo's Director of Living Collections, serves as the Coordinator for this SSP and Gwen Lovett, Palm Beach Zoo's Curator of Animal Programs, serves as the studbook keeper for all *Ateles* species in North America.

The new family can be seen daily at the Primate Island exhibit in the Tropics of the Americas section of the zoo.

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. MAPLE



*Kali & Townee - photo by: Keith Lovett*

The Palm Beach Zoo has lost a devoted friend and benefactor in the passing of Ambassador Henry Kimelman on November 9, 2009. Ambassador Kimelman's heroic intervention resulted in the rescue of the jaguar "Muchacho" in 1997. "Muchacho" had suffered a brutal capture and confinement by poachers. The Palm Beach Zoo was designated as a suitable location for rehabilitating the malnourished cat and "Muchacho" has thrived under our care. To date, "Muchacho" sired five offspring, two in Houston and three at the Palm Beach Zoo. This represents a sizeable percentage of the entire population of captive jaguars in America, and he has become an ambassador himself as we tell the story of jaguars in the wild. Ambassador Kimelman's generous six figure gift enabled the Palm Beach Zoo to build our first major new animal exhibit, an award winning naturalistic habitat for tigers, providing state-of-the-art facilities for "Townee" and "Kali," and later for "Rimba" and "Mata," our rare Malayan tigers. Ambassador Kimelman will always be remembered by his many friends at the Palm Beach Zoo.

- Terry L. Maple, President & CEO

## Holiday Shopping Gone Wild

Make sure your holiday gifts are the Cat's Meow! [Shop the Palm Beach Zoo's on-line store](#) or [look through the digital catalog](#).

## Holiday Show Schedule

Dec 21-25th and Dec 28-Jan 1st

"Wings Over Water" Bird Show at 11am and 2pm

"Wild Things" Show at 12 noon

Serval Encounter at 3 pm

## New - Behind the Scenes Zoo Adventure Tours

### Conserve Wildlife & Money

Save Money on Sugar for the Holidays and Help Save Jaguars! In an effort to save



one of Earth's majestic big cats, the jaguar, Florida Crystals has teamed up with the Palm Beach Zoo. For every [coupon](#) redeemed for any variety of Florida Crystals® Natural and Organic sugar, Florida Crystals will donate an amount chosen by you to the Jaguar Conservation Fund at the Palm



If you want to see more of the Palm Beach Zoo then join us for one of the following Behind-the-Scenes Zoo Adventure Tours!

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL TOUR** - Visit the Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex including necropsy, animal holding areas, treatment, radiology, surgery, and laboratory. You will also learn about the "green" features that make this complex a certified LEED "green" building.

**TROPICS OF THE AMERICAS TOUR** - Join zoo staff on a guided tour of this amazing tropical exhibit which includes a behind-the-scenes look at our jaguar exhibit.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE TOUR** - Journey through our Florida exhibit and learn about the importance of native wildlife. The highlight of this experience will be a behind the scenes visit of the black bear exhibit.

**ASIA AND AUSTRALIA TOUR** - Discover wildlife of Asia and Australia on this guided zoo adventure. Guests will also experience a unique behind the scenes tour of the tiger exhibit.

All tours also include an up-close and hands-on opportunity with one of our animal ambassadors.

To register for this program [click here](#).

## Nature Workshop

During the holidays visit the Peggy S. Brown Pavilion - Events Tent and participate in a "Create an Animal" craft activity.

Free with paid admission and fun for kids of all ages.

You can also learn about other exciting education programs that are offered at the zoo for you and your family.



Beach Zoo.



Membership in the Big Cat Society places you in an elite group of zoo insiders, allowing you the unique opportunity to have interaction with zoo animals and special behind-the-scenes tours. As a Big Cat you never pay for admission & receive discounts in the Cafe and Gift Shops. Call today for more information and get your FREE behind the scenes tour.

### Become a Member:

Palm Beach Zoo membership is a wonderful way to make the natural world a priority in your family life. It's also a great way to save money. Your zoo membership card gives you unlimited free zoo admission all year round, discounted or free admission at 140 other zoos and aquariums across the country, discounts at zoo gift shops and restaurants, and discounts on special programs such as Summer Camp, Zoo Overnights, Home School Classes, and much more. Zoo membership is a great investment in your zoo, and a smart buy for your family budget. [More Details »](#)



### Make a Donation

The Palm Beach Zoo relies on charitable contributions to close the gap between earned revenues and operational expenses. Your tax-deductible gift will help us to provide the very best facilities, health care, and nutrition for the over 1,600 animals entrusted to our care. You can also help provide excellent education programs for under-served children in our community.



## Presents for the Animals

Saturday & Sunday, December 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th

As you make holiday plans for your family, please add the zoo animals to your gift list and experience the joy of giving in a special way. By donating a much-needed item from the list below, you can help the zoo take care of the animals and enrich their lives all year round. The first 100 guests to bring holiday gifts on these four days will receive a special surprise in return. **Santa Claus will be at the zoo each day of this event from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

[Click Here for the complete Animal Wish List](#)

For more information regarding possible donations, please contact us at: (561) 533-0887 ext 223 or via email at [info@palmbeachzoo.org](mailto:info@palmbeachzoo.org).

## Get Green Today Expo

Saturday, January 2nd

The Goddess Group, Inc, producers of healthy and pro-green events, have a history of bringing local communities to the forefront of conservation awareness is proud to present their "Get Green Expo" at the Palm Beach Zoo.

This 2010 "Green" New Year event will feature eco-friendly and healthy living themed games, activities, and "green" vendors for eco-conscious children and adults. Don't forget about the animals - children of all ages can "go wild" with up-close animal encounters, wildlife shows, keeper talks, and much more! Now Seeking Sponsors and "Green Vendors" For additional vendor information please call Cynthia Owen at 561-863-7884 or email [info@getgreentodayexpo.com](mailto:info@getgreentodayexpo.com) for vendor information.

## HOSPITALITY PARTNERS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GUESTS

As you plan to entertain friends and family during the holiday season, please consider using these hospitality partners who support the Palm Beach Zoo.



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## What is Zoo Bytes?

Zoo Bytes is our on-line newsletter designed to keep you informed about "what's new at the zoo." We will be sending more e-mail updates in the coming years to reduce paper waste, conserve our natural resources, and save the cost of printing and mailing. This is just one of many steps we are taking to honor our commitment to conserving our resources and our environment. Please pass it along to friends and family. Go Green!



The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches exists to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to inspire others to value and conserve the natural world. We advance our conservation mission through programs in field research, endangered species propagation, education, health and wellness, and conservation medicine.

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