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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO INVITES VISITORS TO A  
PARTY FOR THE PLANET!  
SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

Milwaukee, WI -- What better place than the Milwaukee County Zoo, a place famous for its exhibits and habitats highlighting the importance of animals and conservation, to learn how to care for planet Earth?

On **Saturday, April 19**, join with millions of other zoo and aquarium visitors across the country as we host a “party for the planet,” with family fun and a renewed commitment to wildlife conservation.

The 2008 Party for the Planet highlights all frog species, as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) recognizes this year as “The Year of the Frog.” Activities will focus on these animals, and the need to save them (as many species are facing possible extinction) and their precious habitats.

**Highlights include:**

**FROG JUMP (Aquatic & Reptile Center)** – Just like humans, frogs have big, strong muscles in their thighs. But, for their size, these muscles are immense! This allows frogs to jump much further, relative to their small size, than a human could.

( m o r e )

Party for the Planet 2008

Add one

**Highlights (continued):**

**FROG JUMP (cont'd)**

For instance, the bullfrog can jump a distance of 10 times its body length. For an adult man who is 6 feet tall, this would be equal to jumping 60 feet in a single jump! Join us, and try your luck at leaping like a frog in our Frog Jump Competition!

*(10 a.m. to noon)*

**FROG ORIGAMI (Aquatic & Reptile Center)** – Answer the call of the wild, and fold your own frog friend using this traditional Japanese art.

*(Noon to 2 p.m.)*

**FANTASTIC FROGS (Aquatic & Reptile Center)** -- Learn more about amphibians residing at the Zoo during a “Zookeeper Chat.”

*(11:30 a.m.)*

**FROGS IN CRISIS (Peck Theater)** – Learn about the problems facing frogs today and the ways to save them.

**“Zoo Amphibian Conservation:”** presented by Craig Berg, Milwaukee County Zoo Curator / Reptile and Aquarium

**“Amphibian Diversity, Decline and Conservation:”** presented by Dr. Gerlinde Hobel, UWM / Biological Sciences

*(Times to be announced)*

**FROG TATTOOS (Aquatic & Reptile Center)** – Be a “Friend to Wildlife,” and show off your own frog tattoo!

*(11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)*

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOKEEPERS (AAZK)**

**OUTREACH BOOTH (Polar Bear Exhibit)** – Talk with zookeepers about global changes affecting animals in our world, particularly polar bears. The year 2008 also has been named “The Year of the Polar Bear,” and the AAZK booth will display polar bear artifacts such as a replica skull, claw, pelt and radio collar.

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Party for the Planet 2008

Add two

**Highlights (continued):**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOKEEPERS (cont'd)**

Applications will be available for the Teen Leadership Contest, in which one teen will win a trip to Churchill, Canada, to ride the Tundra Buggy and study polar bears. Examples of food and enrichment given to the Zoo's two polar bears will be featured, as will posters and conservation information.  
*(10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)*

**FACE TO FACE WITH FROGS (Aquatic & Reptile Center)** – Visit several species of frogs the Zoo has on display including:

- Chacoan frog
- Poison frog
- Pacman frog
- Surinam toad

Other amphibians on display:

- Hellbender
- Tiger salamanders

*(Throughout the day)*

All Party for the Planet activities are free with regular Zoo admission. For additional information, call the Zoo's Public Affairs and Services Division at 414.256.5466.

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