

MEDIA CONTACT: Sharon Dewar
312-742-2246; sdewar@lpzoo.org
WEB SITE: www.lpzoo.org

Lincoln Park
Zoo

Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House



What: Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House (SMRH) features approximately 60 different species of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds in a naturalistic, mixed-species environment divided into two distinct areas "The Gallery" and the "Ecosystem." Upon entering the building, guests first discover the wet and wonderful world of amphibians and the important role of reptiles. The Gallery features a vast array of these species, including Mexico's mysterious and highly endangered axolotl, vibrant green pythons and stunning poison dart frogs, as well as rare Eastern massasauga rattlesnakes.

It also features a 25-seat auditorium for educational programs, videos and presentations.

As visitors journey through the Gallery toward the steamy, tropical Ecosystem they'll encounter a magnificent baobab tree that measures 25 feet in diameter forming a dark cave where straw-colored fruit bats "hang around." Take a peak into the underground burrows of naked mole rats that live inside the termite mounds beneath African dwarf mongoose.

Visitors will feel, hear and smell a world of lush tropics as they immerse themselves into the Ecosystem, a humid jungle area covered by a 45-foot-high glass dome. Featuring several mixed species habitats, this area is home to cotton-top tamarins, howler monkeys, sloth, dwarf crocodiles, otters and much more.

Size: 32,000-square-feet
Opened: 1997
Cost: \$11.8 million



Featured wildlife (see a list of animals here): <http://www.lpzoo.org/regenstein-small-mammal-reptile-house>

Noteworthy exhibit awards:

- **Environmental Improvement Award – 1997**
Award of Merit
Associated Landscape Contractors of America

- **Excellence in Landscape Awards – 1998**
Gold Award
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association

Conservation and Science Efforts Underway at SMRH and abroad:

- **Conservation efforts for Eastern massasauga rattlesnake**

The Eastern massasauga rattlesnake is listed as threatened or endangered by every state and Canadian province in its range. Lincoln Park Zoo is the lead zoo for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Species Survival Plan (SSP). In addition to leading the zoo community effort to ensure the continued genetic diversity and demographic stability of the SSP massasauga population, Lincoln Park Zoo is part of a multidisciplinary team including US Fish & Wildlife Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources diligently working to conserve and recover this rare species throughout its native range.



- **Conservation efforts for Aruba Island rattlesnake**



The Aruba Island rattlesnake is a critically endangered species, primarily impacted by human development throughout its native range in Aruba. The zoo is one of 35 participants in the Aruba Island Rattlesnake Species Survival Plan which manages approximately 100 animals. The goal is to grow the population to 175, a number that would maintain 95 percent genetic diversity in the managed zoo population for the next 100 years.

These initiatives include programs for Aruba's educators, support of the island's Arikok National Park and creating a field research project to determine the effect of competing species on the rattlesnake's survival.