



Golden frogs - photo by Pete Meenen

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## **Nashville Zoo Leaps into Amphibian Conservation with Six New Frog Exhibits**

Nashville Zoo will unveil six new frog exhibits on Leap Day, Feb. 29 in the Zoo's Unseen New World. The exhibits are part of a global effort to save amphibians and will showcase the threatened golden frog and Puerto Rican crested toad.

After thriving for over 360 million years, one-third to one-half of the world's approximately 6,000 known amphibian species could become extinct in our lifetime, and over 120 species have already disappeared. Because Earth is facing the largest mass extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs, Nashville Zoo and other zoos and aquariums worldwide are participating in emergency amphibian conservation efforts, which include housing threatened amphibians until dangers in the wild can be mitigated.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) declared 2008 the "Year of the Frog" to raise awareness and educate the general public about the vulnerability of amphibians and the extinction crisis they face as well as generate much-needed conservation funds. Nashville Zoo and other AZA-accredited institutions will kick-off "Year of the Frog" with Leap Day festivities.

On Leap Day, Feb. 29, Nashville Zoo visitors can see these new exhibits, learn about the plight amphibians are facing, and discover ways to help save these precious creatures. Visitors can also participate in some "toad-ally awesome" activities, like a special story time and a scavenger hunt through the Unseen New World, home to some of the wildest things you've never seen, like poison arrow frogs, hellbender salamanders and a giant anaconda. After closing on Saturday, March 1, Nashville Zoo will offer a new, family education program called "Twilight Adventure" that includes a night safari, snacks, crafts and live animal demonstrations. For more information on Leap Day activities and Nashville Zoo education programs, visit [www.nashvillezoo.org](http://www.nashvillezoo.org).

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of the Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, please call 833-1534, or visit our website at [www.nashvillezoo.org](http://www.nashvillezoo.org).

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