

From Denise Rendina, Public Relations Director

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Naples Zoo Announces Wild Shots Photo Contest *Plus, Photography Workshops for Amateur Shutterbugs*

Naples, FL – Choices abound for those looking for the perfect picture to enter in Naples Zoo's *Wild Shots Photo Contest* this summer. From gibbons swinging through the trees and the colorful African wild dogs romping through their new exhibit to the various native wildlife species that make use of Zoo grounds, Naples Zoo presents a diversity of wildlife and botanicals.

Photos taken at Naples Zoo anytime in 2006 can be submitted to one of three categories for the inaugural *Wild Shots Photo Contest*, sponsored by Ritz Camera. The grand prize winner from each category will receive:

- **Children (12 and under)** – a digital camera provided by Ritz Camera and a year-round Family Membership to Naples Zoo
- **Novice (beginners and non-professionals)** – a digital camera provided by Ritz Camera and a year-round Family Membership to Naples Zoo
- **Advanced (considerable photographic experience to professionals)** – a \$300 gift certificate to Ritz Camera and a year-round Family Membership to Naples Zoo

Photographers will select which category they enter. Photos must be color, 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" and should be unmounted and unframed. Submissions are due to Naples Zoo by September 5, 2006. They can be mailed to Wild Shots Photo Contest, Naples Zoo, 1590 Goodlette Frank Road, Naples, FL 34102 or dropped off at the Zoo's gift shop. Each entry must be accompanied by an official entry form available at the Zoo or www.napleszoo.com. Contest rules are available at the same locations.

Winners of the contest will be notified by October 4, 2006 and award presentations will be held on Saturday, October 7 at Naples Zoo during the Serpents: Fangs & Fiction Show. Contestants need not be present to win.

Photography Workshops: Learn from an Expert

Discover how artistic composition and camera techniques can transform everyday photography into works of art. Naples Zoo is hosting two photography workshops in conjunction with the *Wild*

Shots Photo Contest. Novice and amateur shutterbugs will discover the art of nature photography during a three-hour session with nature photographer and wildlife biologist Larry Richardson.

Larry Richardson's images have been published in numerous magazines including National Geographic, Reader's Digest, Audubon, Outdoor Photographer, Wildlife Conservation, and National Wildlife. Beyond his images, Richardson's passion for wildlife can be read in the pages of national and regional publications as well as in the book *Florida's Unsung Wilderness - the Swamps*. Besides teaching the art of nature photography, Richardson also lends his voice to conservation through appearances as a wildlife expert on national television and radio programs as well as public speaking engagements across the country.

Using the video screens in the Safari Canyon theater, the workshop will begin with a presentation on artistic composition and nature photography as an art. Participants will gain personal instruction and insights, concentrating on the gardens, butterflies, native wildlife, and, of course, the exotic animals.

Larry will also be assisted by two promising photographers, John Yuccas and Gabby Salizar. As university students, both are pursuing full-time careers in nature photography, writing and conservation. John and Gabby are also scholarship recipients from the North American Nature Photography Association.

Sessions are being offered June 10 and June 17 from 9 a.m. to Noon. The cost for the three-hour session is \$54.95 for the public or \$49.95 for Naples Zoo members. Participants must bring their own camera and be at least 14 years of age. Reservations are required and space is limited. For more information or to sign up for the workshop, call the zoo at 239.262.5409 or click www.napleszoo.com/photo.

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens is nationally accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Zoo is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road in Naples across from the Coastland Center mall. In addition to innovative presentations like *Serpents: Fangs & Fiction* and *Planet Predator*, the Zoo offers a historic botanical garden and many rare animals. Guests board the Primate Expedition Cruise to glide by islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes living in natural habitats. Admission (\$15.95 adult/ \$9.95 children) includes all shows and the boat ride. Visitors can also pick up a healthy lunch and snacks at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. The Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:30 to 5:30 with the last ticket sold at 4:30. Discover more at www.napleszoo.com or call (239) 262-5409.

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