

June 07, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Animals Wild About Art

"Animals Wild About Art," featuring paintings by animals at Dickerson Park Zoo will be exhibited beginning June 29 at Maschino's, 1715 S. Campbell. The exhibition will continue through Aug. 30, Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Among the animal artists are an Asian elephant, tortoise, Madagascar hissing cockroach, Malayan tiger, various primate species and the hippopotamus. Zookeepers' photographs of the animals and of the animals painting will be exhibited also.

The "Animals Wild About Art" painting project is an enrichment program for Dickerson Park Zoo's animals. While some paintings are paw prints and brush work, other paintings are skin prints done by zookeepers. A "People's Choice" award will also be given to the painting receiving the most votes during the exhibition.

Maschino's will host two receptions honoring the artists and demonstrating some of the artists' techniques from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 14, and Saturday, Aug. 18. Animal cookies and lemonade will be served. The receptions are free and open to the public. Animal artists demonstrating their work may include a snake, a Madagascar hissing cockroach and a blue-tongued skink.

The public is encouraged to attend to purchase animal paintings and participate in a "People's Choice" vote for the favorite animal painting. Proceeds from the sale "Animals Wild About Art" paintings benefit the Ozarks Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers.

The American Association of Zoo Keepers is a non-profit volunteer organization of professional zookeepers and other interested persons dedicated to professional animal care and conservation. Locally, the Ozarks Chapter of AAZK supports the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya and projects at Dickerson Park Zoo.

Painters Wild About Art

Following the "Animals Wild About Art" exhibit, Maschino's will show artwork by Springfield's Plein Air Painters from Sept. 5-Nov. 1. This exhibit, titled "Painters Wild about Art," will feature paintings created this summer by Plein Air Painters observing the zoo's animals painting. While some art will depict zoo animals painting, other paintings will be created on top of a base of the animals' art.

The "Painters Wild About Art" exhibit may viewed at Maschino's, 1715 S. Campbell, from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. A wine and cheese reception honoring the Plein Air Artists will be Thursday, Sept. 5, from 4:30-6 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact: Melinda Arnold, Public Relations Director, 417-833-1570 (office) or 417-848-0162 (cell), marnold@dickersonparkzoo.org