



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CPTV and The Children's Museum Co-Host *Nature Mania*
Special Animal Event Series Starts May 1**

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., April 13, 2009 – The Children's Museum, Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and the PBS series, *Nature*, are partnering to bring three unique events to Connecticut's children and families throughout the year. Each event will feature a showing of PBS's acclaimed wildlife series *Nature* in the Museum's Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium, live animal demonstrations, and a related make-and-take craft activity for families.

The series kicks off with a special day about Crocodiles on May 1. The day will include an animal demonstration in the Museum at 2:00 pm and an abbreviated showing of the *Nature* episode *Supersize Crocs* at 3:30 pm.

In the evening, *Nature Mania* continues with *Croc Night* at 6:30 pm. *Croc Night* includes a showing of *Supersize Crocs* and a presentation by Mike Ralbovsky of Rainforest Reptiles. Audience members can get up close and personal with some alligator and crocodile friends, including special guest Creole, one of only 30 true albino alligators in the entire world.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with CPTV and bring quality, animal education experiences to the children and families in our community" said Kevin Sullivan, President and CEO of The Children's Museum. "This ongoing programming series will give a variety of opportunities for families to learn about wild animals, their habitats, and why we need to continue to respect the earth and all those with whom we share it."

"Our partnership with The Children's Museum and *Nature* is just one example of how member support helps us reach out to communities beyond broadcast, said Jerry Franklin, President and CEO of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network. "While viewers are aware of our work on air, we also provide outstanding community outreach programs and services."

The three events are being funded by the PBS series, *Nature*, now in its 27th year on public television. Support CPTV's *Nature* broadcast and community outreach events by becoming a CPTV member. Your contribution makes it happen.

Nature Mania Events at The Children's Museum

May 1, 2009 - Crocodiles

Daytime Events included with General Admission

2:00 pm Special live reptile demonstration and family crafts

3:30 pm Abbreviated showing of the *Nature* episode *Supersize Crocs*

Croc Night

6:30 pm A showing of *Supersize Crocs*, a special live presentation by Mike Ralbovsky of Rainforest Reptiles, and family crafts

Croc Night costs \$10/person for The Children's Museum Members and \$12/person for non-members. To register, call 860.231.2830 x44 or e-mail Events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

August 14, 2009 - Birds of Prey

Guests will get to meet several raptors and learn the natural history of each species.

November 13, 2009 - Wolves

Wolves events will include an up-close encounter with Atka, a live Artic Grey Wolf and a fascinating and informative presentation about the lives, history, and predatory roles of wolves.

CPTV is a media service of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (**CPBN**, www.cpbm.org). It is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming, including UConn Women's Basketball, original documentaries and educational programming. **CPTV** has built a reputation as a leader in children's programming, including playing an historic role in bringing *Barney & Friends*™, *Bob the Builder*™ and *Thomas & Friends*™ to public television. The station offers 11 hours of positive, nurturing children's programs each weekday, reaching 50,000 to 70,000 households daily. The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network also includes **WNPR**, an affiliate of National Public Radio, Public Radio International and American Public Media. WNPR serves over 200,000 listeners weekly in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island with news and information. Its award-winning local programming includes *The Faith Middleton Show* and *Where We Live*. Overall, the network

brings a broad spectrum of public affairs, entertainment, sports and educational programming to viewers, listeners and readers. For more information, visit www.cptv.org and/or www.wnpr.org.

The Children's Museum offers over 100 live animals, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, hands-on science exhibits, and programs for younger children and families. With over 210,000 visitors annually, it is one of Connecticut's top museum attractions. The Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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At Croc Night on May 1 at The Children's Museum, guests can get up close with Creole, one of only 30 true albino alligators in the entire world.