



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Editor's Note:

- **Press Event/Media Tour on Thursday, March 5 from 4-8 p.m. or another pre-scheduled time**
- Interviews with Zoo executives and Board Members
- Full access tours
- Photo/Video live-shot opportunities

TITANOBOA SLITHERS HER WAY TO JACKSONVILLE WITH GRAND OPENING OF EXHIBIT THIS SATURDAY

March 4, 2015 – Jacksonville, FL – The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' newest exhibit *Titanoboa: Prehistoric Mega Snake* celebrates its grand opening with live music, crafts and giant serpents on Saturday, March 7th at 9:30 a.m. A brief ceremony including comments by Zoo executives and the ribbon cutting will start promptly at 9:25 a.m.

The fossilized remains of Titanoboa (meaning titanic snake) were found in a coal mine in Colombia, South America by researchers from the University of Florida and the Smithsonian Institution. The snake is estimated to have been 45 feet long with a diameter of 3 feet and weighing in at 2,500 pounds – making it the largest snake in recorded history.

The Zoo created a 65' replica of the now extinct snake in the Discovery Center in Play Park. The exhibit will also feature actual fossils, artifacts, biofacts and live, giant snakes found throughout the world today.

Join the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and its 20,000 scale friend at the all day grand opening celebration of *Titanoboa: Prehistoric Mega Snake* on Saturday, March 7, 2015.

We invite media for a preview and VIP reception on Thursday, March 5 from 4-8 p.m. in preparation for the grand opening on Saturday. Please RSVP to meersl@jacksonvillezoo.org or call (904) 757-4463 ext. 211.

About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,400 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit JacksonvilleZoo.org.