AZA Announces Online Training Programs for FrogWatch USA™

_Volunteers, Zoos, Aquariums, Nature Centers and Parks Get Ready for the Sound of Spring_

Silver Spring, MD (Vocus/PRWEB) January 19, 2011 -- With spring just weeks away, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) today announced the launch of its new, online training programs for future chapter coordinators and volunteers of FrogWatch USA, the flagship citizen science program of AZA.

“FrogWatch USA allows individuals and families to learn about the wetlands in their communities and help conserve amphibians by reporting the calls of local frogs and toads,” said Dr. Paul Boyle, AZA’s Senior Vice President for Conservation and Education. “Many previously abundant frog and toad populations have experienced dramatic population declines, and it is essential that scientists understand the scope and cause of these declines.”

The more than ten years of data collected by FrogWatch USA volunteers can be used to identify the ranges and peak breeding seasons of these important and beloved species. There are currently 18 FrogWatch USA Chapters across the country, mostly hosted by AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, but the online training program will allow many new chapters to launch before the spring breeding season. In addition to zoos and aquariums, nature centers and preserves, state parks, parks and recreation departments and similar institutions are all encouraged to host their own FrogWatch USA chapters.

The self-paced, interactive online training courses, designed by NP Training Works, teach chapter coordinators how to start a chapter and certify members of the public as citizen scientists for FrogWatch USA. The training courses are available at [http://www.aza.org/web-based-training.aspx](http://www.aza.org/web-based-training.aspx).

“FrogWatch USA participation showcases dedication to amphibian and wetland conservation, community engagement in research and education, and is essential to the advancement of frog conservation science,” added Boyle.

This is the first in a series of online training courses AZA will launch over the next year. To learn more about FrogWatch USA, becoming a volunteer, or to find a local chapter, please visit [http://www.aza.org/become-a-frogwatch-volunteer/](http://www.aza.org/become-a-frogwatch-volunteer/).

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. To learn more, visit [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org).

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Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.