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Aquarium Serving Up Jellyfish Fun

Newly Renovated Gallery Combines Interactive Elements with Serene Viewing

Newport, Ky. — To some, they're squiggly, jiggly, wiggly fun. To others, they are the most serene, graceful and mesmerizing animals on the planet. They are jellyfish and they are featured in the newly renovated Jellyfish Gallery, now open at Newport Aquarium.

Eight tanks containing hundreds of these amazing creatures, as well as new, fun interactive elements and state-of-the-art displays, await guests. It all adds up to the largest, coolest jellyfish exhibit in the Midwest.

The original jellyfish gallery had been open since the Aquarium's inception in 1999. Renovating the gallery allowed the Aquarium to utilize the latest technologies to essentially improve upon one of the most beloved exhibit areas in the building.

The improvements include:

- More and bigger tanks
- The ability to showcase more species
- New cylinder tanks that provide a 360-degree view of the animals
- A new interactive jellyfish "touch wall" where kids can "play tag" with computer-projected jellies
- An interactive tank where guests can make moon jellies change colors before their eyes
- A propagation area, where the biologists can oversee the creation of more jellies to go on exhibit

The 2,000-square foot Jellyfish Gallery features the following species: Colored jellies, Spotted jellies, West coast sea nettle, Moon jellies, Upside down jellies and Egg yolk jellies. The total water volume for the exhibit is about 3,000 gallons.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is a new, 9-foot tall, 6-foot wide cylinder featuring dancing Moon jellies. The massive display (containing more than 1,700 gallons of water) greets visitors from the Coral Reef tunnel.

To the left of the gallery entrance, kids will be immediately drawn to the 14-by-10 foot "touch wall." Kids (and kids at heart) can use their shadows to touch the computer-generated moon jellies and watch them react to the movement. Caregivers and chaperones will appreciate the nearby couches, as they watch the action from close-by.

In the back-right corner of the gallery, guests will enjoy the hands-on fun of the small cylinder of moon jellies. Turn the knob on the pedestal and watch the jellies change colors.

The Gallery was renovated with energy-conservation in mind. In addition to the latest water pump technologies, all of the overhead lighting in the area is LED-based, the most efficient lighting system in the world. Over 75 percent of the tank lighting is LED-based as well. (Some tanks require other types of light for the animals' survival.)

The newly renovated Jellyfish Gallery joins the Frog Bog and Shark Central as the newest exhibits at Newport Aquarium, one of the premier attractions in the region. Newport Aquarium recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Newport Aquarium is open to the public 365 days a year. Extended summer hours begin on May 22 and last until Sept. 5, during which the Aquarium is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on Newport Aquarium or for tickets and directions, visit www.newportaquarium.com.

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Newport Aquarium showcases thousands of animals from around the world in a million gallons of water. You'll be amazed at all there is to see and do, including fun and interactive activities, like touching a shark or meeting penguins. Like its sister aquarium, Adventure Aquarium, on the Camden Waterfront, Camden, NJ, Newport Aquarium is a Herschend Family Entertainment company (www.hfecorp.com) and a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. Newport Aquarium is open to the public 365 days a year and is located only two minutes from downtown Cincinnati at Newport on the Levee. For information, visit www.newportaquarium.com or call 859-261-7444.