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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarasota Jungle Gardens Brings Largest Snakes in the World to Sarasota

Sarasota, FL (May 21, 2021).....Sarasota Jungle Gardens is pleased to introduce its guests to the largest snakes in the world. Experienced at working with large snakes, Sarasota Jungle Gardens' newest exhibit features five species of giant snakes. These amazing reptiles are showcased in a cave-like structure with glass enclosures and natural elements.

"These snakes are of particular interest not only because of their size, but because they are found in jungles all around the world. Recently, the State of Florida deemed them a prohibited species," explained Flavio Morrissiey, Director of Operations for Sarasota Jungle Gardens.

"As time goes on, it will be a rarity to see these types of animals in captivity. The exhibit gives you an up-close view of just how big the snakes are and can leave you imagining what they might be like in the wild," he added.

Snakes featured in the Giant Snake exhibit include:

The *Green Anaconda*, which is the largest snake in the world reaching weights up to 500 lbs. They have been known to eat adult White-Tailed Deer, Jaguars, Caimans and possibly even humans. Jungle Gardens' Green Anaconda is 11 feet in length.

The *Reticulated Python*, the longest snake in the world, reaches more than 30 feet in length and is capable of eating hoofed stock, crocodiles, primates and even humans. Jungle Gardens' young female is 18' long.

Burmese Python, a highly adaptable species, has taken a foothold in the Florida environment and poses a threat to native wildlife, especially in the Florida Everglades. Referred to as “The Burm” in the professional community, this snake can grow to more than 20 feet long and has a fiery disposition when approached in the wild. The Jungle Gardens’ resident pythons are 8 and 12 feet in length.

The *Yellow Anaconda* is a smaller aquatic version of the Green Anaconda but with a larger-than-life personality. Working with these snakes in captivity is tricky, requiring experience and confidence.

The *Boa Constrictor* is one of the most famous of the big snakes and has a gorgeous cryptic pattern that gives it a camouflage in its environment. This makes it a deadly ambush predator to birds, mammals, crocodilians and primates. “The Boa” can reach lengths up to 18 feet. The Jungle Gardens’ boa is almost 12-feet.

The Giant Snake Exhibit is open to all visitors of Sarasota Jungle Gardens, located at 3701 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, 34234. The Gardens are open from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$21.99 for adults and \$14.99 for children ages 4-12. Children under 3 are free. For more information visit www.sarasotajunglegardens.com or call (941)355-5305.

About Sarasota Jungle Gardens

Sarasota Jungle Gardens features acres of lush tropical vegetation, winding jungle trails and entertaining, educational bird and reptile shows throughout the day. Established in 1939, Sarasota Jungle Gardens is home to native and exotic animals, including birds of prey, many different species of parrots and macaws, free-roaming flamingos, primates, small mammals, dozens of snakes, lizards, iguanas, crocodiles and other reptiles. Visitors have a unique opportunity to interact with and experience the animals, many of which found their home at Sarasota Jungle Gardens through approved private donations.