



# News Release

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 21, 2012

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Melissa McCarville  
Shedd Aquarium  
312-692-3330

[mccarville@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:mccarville@sheddaquarium.org)

Bridget Stratton  
Public Communications Inc.  
312-558-1770, ext. 158

[bstratton@pci-pr.com](mailto:bstratton@pci-pr.com)

## **SPRING 'SHEDD'ULE OF EVENTS**

**CHICAGO** – Put a spring in your step with a visit to Shedd Aquarium this season! This Spring, catch the mesmerizing beauty of sea jellies at Shedd's special exhibit, *Jellies*, before it closes at the end of May. Grab your jammies and spend the night at Shedd during the aquarium's *Wishes for Fishes* event. Visit with your favorite Shedd animals and have an extraordinary up-close experience. Or sign up your favorite young explorers for their own adventure as they learn how to connect with our local ecosystem and make a difference.

### **JELLIES**

In Shedd's current special exhibit, *Jellies* sponsored by Walgreens, guests "dive" into the deep and mysterious world of sea jellies, learning how their simple bodies have allowed them to survive for millions of years. Among the educational experiences, guests will see how a jelly can devour enough food to double its weight each day, and learn how sea nettles hunt by trailing their long tentacles and frilly feeding arms covered with stinging cells that paralyze prey on contact. The exhibit also helps guests understand the jelly lifecycle, combining video and actual jellies in various stages of their lifecycle. Guests will even learn about the anatomy of jellies through illuminated features, focusing on the most vital organs of their simple bodies.

Hurry before it's gone! *Jellies* runs through May 28, 2012.

### **WISHES FOR FISHERS**

Grab your pajamas and sleeping bag for a nighttime aquatic adventure with your favorite Shedd animals! Before snuggling in your sleeping bag, immerse yourself in the underwater world with special experiences, games and hands-on, Earth Day-themed activities. In the morning, enjoy a continental breakfast and discover how your aquatic friends start the day. The family overnight program is geared for children ages 6-12 and includes admission to the aquarium, Abbott Oceanarium and *Wild Reef*, animal presentations, activities, dinner, bedtime snack and continental breakfast.

Friday, April 20: 6 p.m. - Saturday April 21: 9 a.m.

Price: \$65 per child or adult (\$60 for Shedd members)

### **SPRING BREAK: EXTENDED HOURS**

School's out for spring break and Shedd is staying open late with extended hours -- 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Take advantage of the late hours, while being mesmerized by *Jellies*, captivated by sharks in the *Wild Reef* and enchanted by the fishes of the Caribbean Reef.

Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30 - 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday, April 1 through Friday, April 6 - 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

-more-

### **SHEDD STEWARDS**

Join other middle- and high-school students in the Chicago area to explore local ecosystems while earning service learning hours. Spend a Saturday outside monitoring, maintaining and improving habitats so you, your community and our native animals all have green spaces to enjoy. The program includes light snacks and transportation to and from the field site.

Monday, March 5 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 28 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Price: FREE

Email [youth@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:youth@sheddaquarium.org) (middle-school students, ages 11-14) or [teens@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:teens@sheddaquarium.org) (high-school students, ages 14-18).

### **ACCA: MARINE & ISLAND ECOLOGY**

The four-credit course invites students to research the inter-dependent relationship that water, animals, plants and humans have on marine ecosystems in the Bahamas. Participants build research skills and work on a project connecting to real world problems. Classes occur in the aquarium's education center, online and in the field.

*Saturdays throughout March and April 2012. Boat trip held in May 2012.*

### **PARK VOYAGERS**

A free program developed and operated collaboratively by Museums In the Park. It is designed to provide Chicago youth with experiential, educational enrichment in informal settings. The program includes neighborhood-based after school and evening workshops in local park district facilities, and facilitated museum visits for children and their families. Activities are targeted toward children ages 8-10 and their families.

*February-April 2012*

### **ADOPT-A-BEACH EVENTS**

With cold days changing to sunny days, many of us are longing to hit the beach. Shedd Aquarium is offering an opportunity to do just that -- and help the environment too! Beginning in April and continuing through October, Shedd is offering volunteers the opportunity to help keep our Great Lakes great! Join us to help sweep the beach clean on Shedd's adopted 12<sup>th</sup> Street Beach all spring and summer long.

Upcoming Adopt-A-Beach Events:

April 18 - *12th St. Beach* (Earth Week Celebration)

May 16 - *12th St. Beach*

Interested volunteers should contact Sam Bugg, Manager of Great Lakes Public Outreach at 312-692-2739.

### **BELUGA ENCOUNTERS PROPOSAL PACKAGE**

This Spring, love is in the air at Shedd with this new beluga Beluga Encounter Proposal Experience! The unique opportunity features a beluga encounter experience for two, with a private poolside moment that is perfect for popping the question. Afterward, upgrade for a private lunch complete with champagne and strawberries to create the ultimate romantic setting. Professional photographers will be on-site to capture the once-in-a-lifetime setting and moment – one that the couple will share with family and friends for years to come.

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m.

\$450 (\$400 for members) for two people, with an option to upgrade for the strawberries, champagne and private dining experience for an additional \$50.

### **BELUGA ENCOUNTERS**

What does a beluga whale's skin feel like? How do Shedd's expert trainers care for beluga whales and other marine mammals? Now, guests at Shedd Aquarium can put on waders, get in the water with a beluga whale and find out! Awestruck guests will get nose-to-nose with these gentle white giants from the northern oceans of the Pacific Northwest, and learn firsthand how Shedd's animal experts care for these animals.

Morning and midday encounters are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday:  
\$250 per person, plus admission (\$225 for Shedd members)

### **BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS**

Ever wonder what it takes to make your favorite Shedd exhibits so great, or what the aquarium's trainers do to keep the animals healthy? Shedd's Behind-the-Scenes Tours will answer these questions and more! The 50-minute tour gives guests a unique perspective of the aquarium, through the eyes of the animal care staff. Guests have the rare opportunity to see the animal healthcare center, where preventive care keeps Shedd's residents healthy, and go behind the galleries to view the animals from a new angle, see how nutritious meals are prepared for a wide range of tastes and witness the aquarium at work.

Tours are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. \$18 per person, plus admission

### **PENGUIN ENCOUNTERS**

Guests now have the opportunity to get close to Shedd's most popular feathered friends: penguins! The aquarium's hands-on experience allows guests to touch a penguin's sleek, slick feathers and learn fascinating facts about the birds and their care from one of Shedd's trainers. The 30-minute sessions are limited to groups of 10 or fewer, and include a 4"x6" photo of the participant and the penguin.

Morning and midday encounters are available daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

\$59.95, per adult, \$50.96 per child

*Discounts are available for members or guests who already have aquarium tickets.*

Price includes 30-minute penguin encounter, a 4"x6" photo of you and your new penguin friend, all-access admission with express entry, tickets to the aquatic show and admission to the special exhibit, *Jellies*.

Shedd is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays until Memorial Day. For more information, please call 312-939-2438 or visit [www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org). For group sales information, please call 312-692-3333. Advance tickets on sale through Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

# # #

*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.  
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the  
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums*

**Connect with Shedd Aquarium online through [Facebook](#); [Twitter](#); [YouTube](#); and [Flickr](#)!**