



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 25, 2009

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## **OCEANARIUM RENOVATION RECEIVES GENEROUS SUPPORT**

**CHICAGO** – The John G. Shedd Aquarium would like to thank these organizations for their generous support and contributions to the Oceanarium renovation project and featured exhibits.

### **REGENSTEIN FOUNDATION OTTER HABITAT AND OTTER TRAIL**

Twenty years ago, four orphaned Alaska sea otter pups were rescued from the Exxon-Valdez oil spill and relocated to Chicago to begin a new life at the John G. Shedd Aquarium. In 1989, Joseph Regenstein, Jr. directed the Regenstein Foundation to support the initial construction of the Oceanarium and otter habitat. The foundation's support allowed Shedd's animal-care experts to continue the intensive rehabilitation of the pups and carry out long-term monitoring of their health. Since their arrival, and later arrivals of other orphaned sea otter pups, millions of guests have come face-to-face with these endearing animals.

Under the direction of Susan Regenstein, in 2008 the Regenstein Foundation generously renewed its support of Shedd's otters through another significant leadership gift to support the current Oceanarium renovation campaign. Once complete, the newly renovated and renamed Regenstein Otter Habitat and Otter Trail will continue to be a national focal point for otter rehabilitation, conservation and education. The Regenstein Foundation's generous support provides for upgrades to the existing otter habitat, as well as expands the pup nursery behind the scenes. Shedd Aquarium is extremely thankful for the Regenstein Foundation's generous support.

### **ITW FOUNDATION BELUGA TRAIL**

New and exciting exhibits and experiences are vital to the continued success of Shedd's Oceanarium, and they further support our mission of connecting guests to the natural world, inspiring them to make a difference. In 1991 when the Oceanarium opened, the world's premier marine mammal pavilion showcased the natural habitat of the Pacific Northwest. Thanks to the generous support of the ITW Foundation, Shedd is adding a new exhibit in the Oceanarium that continues to tell the story of North America's temperate rain forest. The ITW Foundation Beluga Trail provides guests an opportunity to walk alongside a rushing river that leads to a pristine estuary featuring new salt- and freshwater fishes. Millions of guests will trek through this forest as they venture to see Shedd's beluga whales.

The corporate charitable branch of Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW), the ITW Foundation, supports organizations like Shedd Aquarium that focus on education, the arts, health and human services, social welfare, housing, environmental and youth issues. Shedd Aquarium is pleased that the ITW Foundation is supporting the ITW Foundation Beluga Trail.

### **THE GRAINGER BELUGA ENCOUNTER HABITAT**

Known as the "canaries of the sea," beluga whales have delighted and educated millions of Shedd visitors since the Oceanarium opened in 1991. As an original donor to the campaign for the Oceanarium, The Grainger Foundation supported the beluga habitat and helped bring these amazing animals to the aquarium. The gift enabled millions of visitors to understand and appreciate beluga whales and their habitat in the frigid waters near the Arctic Circle. The Foundation has renewed its support of Shedd's beluga whales by establishing The Grainger Beluga Encounter Habitat, which will open later this summer.

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One of Shedd's most popular animals, these beluga whales continue to be animal ambassadors and provide critical information vital in protecting and preserving beluga populations in the wild. Through its animal care and training techniques, Shedd's research has directly helped beluga populations in the St. Lawrence Seaway rebound from near disaster. Now guests will get a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet a beluga whale – literally – and learn first-hand the extraordinary measures Shedd takes in caring for these amazing animals through programming in The Grainger Beluga Encounter Habitat. Extensive and independent research shows that a meaningful connection with animals inspires humans to care for the environment and the animals that live in them.

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*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.*