

**The Pantagraph  
News Brief**

**'Amazon Rising' exhibit draws crowds**

"Amazon Rising: Seasons of the River," the new permanent exhibit at the Chicago's John G. Shedd Aquarium, is currently open.

The exhibit takes in the vast diversity, abundance and adaptations of creatures in the ever-changing ecosystem. From the tiniest to the gigantic, Amazon Rising introduces you to more than 250 species of animals in a re-creation of the Amazon basin, including piranhas, birds, sloths, insects, snakes, catfish, stingrays, and caiman lizards.

Guests begin their excursion in the low-water season when the river stays within its natural riverbanks. Visitors continue through the rainy season, when rainfall drenches the floodplain for weeks, extending the riverbanks nearly 20 miles on each side creating depths of 30 feet. Amazon Rising reveals how animals and humans adapt to survive the rise and fall of waters.

In addition, guests will learn about the connections between life forms on the Amazon and experience complete ecosystems. Visitors will come nose to fangs with Goliath bird-eater spiders, which can grow, from leg to leg, as large as dinner plates; see the peculiar two-toed sloth, having adapted to life as it hangs upside down from tree branches; peek at a green anaconda, a snake that can reach up to 30 feet in length; see the arawana, a three-foot freshwater fish, also known as a "water monkey," because it can leap up to three feet out of the water to capture insects and spiders resting on tree branches; and witness the world's smallest monkey, the pygmy marmoset, a six-inch, six-ounce creature found only in the western Amazon floodplain.

Shedd's 10,000-square-foot Amazon Rising: Seasons of the River is a permanent exhibit that replaces two galleries of the Aquarium and resides in the south wing of the original building. It is the largest permanent exhibit since the Oceanarium marine mammal pavilion opened in 1991.

The new Amazon Rising exhibit, among others, is at the Shedd Aquarium, 1200 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago; hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends, selected holidays and weekdays Memorial Day through Labor Day; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays Labor Day through Memorial Day.

For more information call (312) 939-2438 or visit them on the web at [www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org).