

**Polar Bear Photo Exhibit at Como Park Zoo & Conservatory**  
**On display through April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Background Information**

The exhibit runs through April 26<sup>th</sup> and highlights polar bears and documents Dr. Steven C. Amstrup, a Research Wildlife Biologist with the United States Geological Survey at the Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, AK, tagging and researching polar bears for population counts. Dr. Amstrup led the team of researchers which prepared 9 reports that became the basis for the recent decision to list polar bears as a threatened species.

Photographer Daniel J. Cox will be visiting Como Zoo to kick-off the exhibit and providing a slide presentation highlighting his extensive work photographing polar bears on Saturday, March 7 at 10:30am and 12:00pm. Cox will also be signing copies of his latest book and posters.

For 25 years, Cox has been pursuing his life long dream of photographing nature in all its elements. He's traveled to all seven continents, plying his craft in search of the images that help tell the stories and inspire his art. Driving rain, spitting snow and howling wind are all part of the environment he calls home. For Cox bad weather means great light, unusual clouds and dramatic settings. Internationally recognized, Cox has used his exceptional vision and passion for nature to bring it to life for his viewers. His dedication and love for his photography and the environment has earned him high regard in his profession.

In 1990 and 1997, Cox was awarded with 1st runner-up in the annual portrait division in the prestigious British Broadcasting "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" competition. In 2003, he placed first in the Landscape category of Natures Best Photography contest. His natural history pictures have been feature in galleries such as Nikon House, NY and the Natural History Museum in London. He is a regular contributor to natural history publications worldwide. His most personally satisfying accomplishments have been the two cover stories he produced for National Geographic; Snowy Owl in December 2007 and the Great Gray Owl in February 2005. His is sole photographer to ten books.

Cox grew up on the outskirts of Duluth, Minnesota in the town of Twig. He graduated from Proctor High School and went on to college at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

The exhibit runs through April 26<sup>th</sup> and is provided by Como Friends and Polar Bears International.

**Como Zoo is in the midst of building a new polar bear habitat, Polar Bear Odyssey opening in 2010. Como's resident polar bears, Neil & Buzz are vacationing at the Detroit Zoo while their new home is being built.**

