

For Immediate Release
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Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services
taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

Hanna highlights Ferris' 'Outdoors Brought Indoors Week'

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University's Outdoor Club will be bringing the outdoors indoors with a series of free presentations scheduled for Feb. 21-24.

Highlighting the first "Outdoors Brought Indoors Week" is an appearance by television personality and wildlife enthusiast Jack Hanna on Feb. 22. Hanna, host of the popular TV series, "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures," will present various animals, tell stories and show video of his adventures around the world at 7 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. Free tickets for his presentation should be obtained in advance from the auditorium box office Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Through his weekly TV show, which reaches 95 percent of U.S. households and is seen in more than 60 countries, Hanna takes family viewers on exciting journeys to learn about animals and the places they live. The success of the series is attributed to his enthusiasm and wonderment with every new creature and experience he encounters.

Hanna began receiving national attention after he became director of a rundown Columbus (OH) Zoo in 1978. He not only transformed the zoo into a model facility, but through his media savvy, made it a household name. Hanna is a regular guest on "Good Morning America," "Larry King Live" and "The Late Show With David Letterman."

"Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures' gives me the platform to excite people and get them to care about animals," he said. "For me, this is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream." Hanna, who has served as director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo since 1993, makes countless personal appearances and speeches throughout the nation.

"Outdoors Brought Indoors Week" starts Feb. 21 with "Michigan is Cougar Country," a discussion of the controversial issue of the presence of cougars in the state. Pat Rusz, director of wildlife programs for the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, will share evidence that there is now an established cougar population in the state of Michigan. Dr. Rusz's talk is slated for 7 p.m. in Room 004 of the Instructional Resource Center.

Following Hanna's appearance on Feb. 23, Ferris faculty member Chuck Bonning presents "Stories from a Highpointer." He will share his experiences as a member of the Highpointers Club, an elite group of individuals who have climbed the highest point of all 50 states. His talk is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Rankin Center Mecosta Room.

Wildlife biologist Pete Kailing concludes the events on Feb. 24 with "The Basics of Wildlife Tracking." He will lead a presentation on track identification, patterns and "tracks that tell a story" at 7 p.m. in the Card Wildlife Education Center in the College of Arts and Sciences Commons building. Kailing also serves as a project manager for environmental consulting firm King & MacGregor Environmental, Inc., and previously was a wetland specialist for Mid-Michigan Engineering, Inc.

The appearance of Hanna is also sponsored by the University's Arts & Lectures Committee, Entertainment Unlimited, Honors Program, Residence Hall Association, Student Activity Fund of Student Government, University Advancement and Marketing, and the Carlisle,



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