

Contact:
Sylvia Whitman
Lemur Conservation
Foundation (LCF)
Phone: (941) 322-8494
Fax: (941) 322-9264

P.O. Box 249
Myakka City, FL 34251
LCFservice@lemurreserve.org
<http://www.lemurreserve.org/>



LCF 2015 OPEN HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

Lemur Conservation Foundation Invites Public to Free 2015 Open House
Annual Celebration on December 5 at Myakka City Reserve Showcases Conservation Work with Endangered Lemurs

Myakka City, November 23, 2015:

Once again, the nonprofit Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF) is welcoming young and old to meet lemurs and learn about the organization's conservation activities in Florida and Madagascar.

The event takes place on Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 2-5pm at the Myakka City Reserve. Since the reserve is open to the public only for this one day a year, LCF asks attendees to RSVP for directions: nhendrickson@lemurreserve.org

Festivities will include educational activities and displays, snacks, music provided by Steve-O Entertainment, and a lemur parade at about 4pm. Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

LCF would like to thank our event sponsors to date: Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.; JB Underhill, a Sarasota accounting firm; and CMIT Solutions of Suncoast.

Founded in 1996, the Lemur Conservation Foundation is dedicated to protecting and preserving lemurs, the unique and endangered primates of Madagascar, through managed breeding, conservation, education, scientific research, and the arts.

Accredited by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the 120-acre Myakka City Reserve encompasses two fenced forests where many of the 52 resident ring-tailed, red-ruffed, mongoose, brown, collared, and Sanford's lemurs range freely. This nearly natural habitat invites authentic behaviors,

improving breeding success and enabling scientific research and field training for visiting university students. LCF is creating a safety net for wild populations through a conservation breeding program that has resulted in more than 50 lemur births since 2001.

As reported in the journal *Science* in 2014, lemurs are now “the most threatened mammal group on Earth.” The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that, at current rates, 90 species of lemurs face extinction in the next 20 years.

Lemurs' decline correlates directly with the degradation of their habitat, which in turn reflects the hardships of their human neighbors. Lemurs are native only to Madagascar, an island nation off the southeast coast of Africa rich in biodiversity but so poor that it ranks near the bottom of every measure in the [2015 United Nations Human Development \(UNDP\) report](#). More than three quarters of Malagasy live in “multidimensional poverty,” and the primary school dropout rate nears 60%.

LCF is working on two continents to educate citizens and scientists about lemurs and to support efforts to save these rare mammals from extinction.