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New “Amazon Giant” Welcomed to Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

Draper, UT (March 20, 2019) – At three feet long and 20 pounds, you might not think of this animal as a giant. But Loveland Living Planet Aquarium’s new Arapaima could reach up to eight feet in length and 200 pounds when it’s full grown. The new Arapaima was only about six inches long when it arrived, and it grows about an inch a month.

The Arapaima is currently white, but over time will darken to match its new surroundings. There is no way to know the gender of an Arapaima.

Arapaima are one of the largest freshwater fish in the world. Perhaps the most unique thing about them is they’re air-breathers. They can stay under water for 10-20 minutes before coming up for air. Arapaimas are found in Brazil, Peru, and Guyana and in the Amazon River.

“One thing we can do to help Arapaimas is to not to buy one as a pet. Many people think it would be a good addition to their home aquarium, but they grow much larger than people can handle. If they were released in our local habitat, it would be an invasive species and would damage our ecosystems and biodiversity,” said Anthony Siegle, Curator of Freshwater for Loveland Living Planet Aquarium.

The Aquarium has another Arapaima who is ten years old and about seven feet long.

We invite the media to view the new Arapaima and attend a River Giants Feed on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. The Arapaimas are target trained, and they make a loud booming sound when they take a bite of food. River Giant Feeds are every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

WHO: New Arapaima

WHAT: River Giants Feed

WHEN: 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21

WHERE: Journey to South America habitat, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium
12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway, Draper, UT 84020

About Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

LLPA is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization that inspires people to Explore, Discover, and Learn about Earth’s diverse ecosystems. A world-class facility, LLPA provides learning opportunities at all levels, interests, and ages. Since opening in Draper in March 2014, the Aquarium has welcomed 4.2 million visitors. Additionally, LLPA reaches more than 82,000 Utah students each year through its Outreach Education programs.

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