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**“Lizards on the Loose!” Opens Saturday**

*Dubuque, Iowa – June 4, 2009*— The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium’s new “Lizards on the Loose!” exhibit opens Saturday, June 6. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning at 9 a.m. with a special members-only viewing at 8 a.m. The exhibit will be displayed in the Norman Changing Gallery on the second floor of the Woodward River Discovery Center. “Lizards on the Loose!” is presented in partnership with the Telegraph Herald and the Iowa Science and Mathematics Education Partnership.

“Lizards on the Loose!” features 25 different types of lizards and focuses on the amazing diversity and the unique adaptations lizards have developed to survive in their varied environments. Lizards are a large and widespread group of squamate reptiles of nearly 5,000 species that range across all continents, except Antarctica. This interactive exhibit teaches visitors how lizards see each other; control their body temperature; what they eat; and how they use color for defense, mating and communication.

A public display of lizard sculptures accompanies the “Lizards on the Loose!” exhibit. Large fiberglass lizard sculptures are available for “adoption” by local businesses and groups in the Tri-state Area to decorate and display.

The Telegraph Herald and the Museum & Aquarium will hold special promotions and events in conjunction with the lizard exhibit and the public art display. The sculptures will be on public display throughout the summer. The “Lizards on the Loose!” exhibit will run through March 2010.

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