

# My ZOO Magazine

SUMMER 2022

CONSERVATION  
IN ACTION:  
**ANIMAL  
HEALTH  
CENTER  
OPENS!**  
P3

INSPIRING  
VETERINARIANS  
OF TOMORROW  
P7



**HONEYBEE  
CAFÉ  
IS ALL THE  
BUZZ!**  
P10



## A Message from the Friends Executive Director

We're preparing for an exciting summer here at the Zoo and can't wait for you to experience our new additions, as well as our lineup of fun events and activities!

I'm thrilled to share that the Animal Health Center is open and ready for visitors! After more than a decade of preparation and over a year of construction, the facility was officially opened in April with a ribbon-cutting by Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon.

We're so grateful to County Executive McMahon, our partners in county government, our donors, and our Friends of the Zoo, for making the center a reality. This investment ensures our veterinary staff and animal care teams have the tools they need to provide excellent healthcare to our animals, advance research, and conserve endangered species in the wild. Be sure to walk through the center on your next visit! (See page 3)

We're also excited for you to see our new Junior Veterinary Clinic, which is located inside the Animal Health Center. Created with support from The Friends of the Zoo and the Herbert S. and Eleanore L. Howard Charitable Foundation, the clinic is designed to provide a place for children to apply what they've seen and learned at the zoo. (See page 7)

While you're here, be sure to enjoy the beautifully renovated HoneyBee Café and sink your teeth into our delicious and healthy new menu! Remember, when you enjoy food and beverages at the zoo, you not only satisfy your appetite, you also further our mission. Funds go right back into the zoo, from education to animal care. (See page 10)

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our fun summer events, including Penguin Palooza on July 10, Brew at the Zoo on August 5, and the Asian Elephant Extravaganza on August 20. We'll be closing out summer in style with our Fall Conservation Ball on September 23 and we hope to see you there! Details on all of these events and more can be found in our Calendar of Events. (See page 13)

There's more to come than what you'll see in the pages of this MyZoo Magazine. To stay on top of the latest happenings, be sure to visit [www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

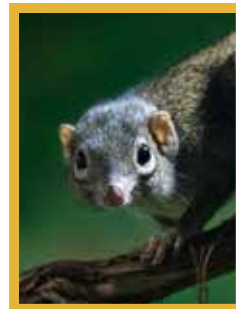
As always, we're grateful for our Friends of the Zoo member family and your commitment to supporting the work of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Thank you for your membership, and I look forward to seeing you at the zoo this summer!

*Carrie Large*

Carrie Large  
Executive Director, Friends of the Zoo



**ON THE COVER:**  
Northern Tree Shrew, Turmeric  
Photo by Terri Redhead



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# New Animal Health Center Opens to the Public

*The recently unveiled state-of-the-art facility offers behind-the-scenes views and an interactive play space to inspire the next generation of animal care providers.*

Visitors of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo know the excitement that builds as soon as you walk through the main entrance. And there's a good reason.

From new facilities and exhibits to new dining experiences and interactive educational spaces, there's always something new to see and experience at the zoo.

After more than a decade of preparation and over a year of construction, the long-awaited 20,000 square-foot Animal Health Center was officially opened to the public on April 12 with a ribbon-cutting led by Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon.

Onondaga County allocated \$7.5 million to design, engineer, build, and landscape the new health center, while the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo launched the One Health | One Mission Capital Campaign to furnish it with state-of-the-art medical equipment.

*continued on pg. 6*



Brian Kelley  
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Please direct questions regarding this publication to [editor@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:editor@rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204 is owned and operated by Onondaga County. Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a level of excellence that makes the Rosamond Gifford Zoo a national leader in animal care, conservation and visitor experience.

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# ANIMAL UPDATES

A male heritage breed **Scottish Highland calf, Fergus**, was acquired by the zoo on April 28 on loan from a local farm.



# CREATURE FEATURE: VICTORIA CROWNED PIGEON

AT THE  
ROSAMOND  
GIFFORD ZOO:  
1 Male  
1 Female



**Two lesser white-fronted geese** were sent to the Staten Island Zoo on December 29.

**Male Humboldt penguin chick Bruno** hatched at the zoo on January 1. Bruno was hatched to same-sex foster parents Lima and Elmer. He is the first chick to be hatched by a same-sex penguin pair at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

**Our male Netherland Dwarf rabbit** was donated to the Maritime Aquarium on January 27.

**Two Luzon bleeding-heart dove chicks** hatched on February 14.

**A variety of snails, crabs, coral, and fish** arrived from A&M Aquatics on February 16.

**Fifteen upside-down jellyfish** arrived on February 22. These unusual jellyfish spend most of their time resting on their back over sediment, giving them an upside-down appearance.

**One male American common goldeneye and one male emperor goose** were sent to Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy on March 9.

**A male Humboldt penguin chick** hatched on March 14 and another male hatched on March 20. Humboldt penguins are found along the West Coast of South America from Peru to Chile and they nest along the rocky coastal areas and the neighboring islands.

**Two more Luzon bleeding-heart doves** hatched on March 17. These birds get their name from a dark, red patch of feathers on their breast that looks like a bleeding wound.

**A male San Clemente Island goat** arrived at the zoo on March 22. San Clemente Island goats are a critically endangered Heritage Breed of livestock that originated from a herd left to run feral on San Clemente Island off the coast of California.

**Fifteen of our Touch-Me-Not stick insects** were sent to the Utica Zoo. The rest remain at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo for education classes.

**African Cape porcupines Holley and Bristle** welcomed their second set of porcupette twins on April 20! Holley gave birth to her first two porcupettes - female Fennel and male Nettle on December 3. Fennel and Nettle were wonderful with their new younger siblings, but to make more room for the nursing mother. Nettle has joined his father behind the scenes.

We welcomed five new baby lambs this spring. **Male Mokah and sister Biscotti were born on February 22, female Blackberry was born on March 11, and male and female Twigs and Sunrise were born on April 5.** These sheep represent a threatened species of Heritage Breed livestock that originated in Wales and was prized by spinners for its naturally black wool.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Araña, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's beloved Hoffmann's two-toed sloth, was humanely euthanized due to a congenital illness.** Born on August 1, 2013, Araña is among the very few hand-raised sloths in North America and made an impact serving as an ambassador animal for zoo education programs as well as events. In 2017, Wall Street Journal videographer Adya Beasley came to Syracuse to do a story on the "slothmania" sparked by several movies including "Ice Age" and Zootopia." The WSJ.com video that Adya produced starred Araña and increased her fame in the world of slothdom.



Scan the QR code to watch the video.



## FUN FACT:

Like other pigeons and flamingos, Victoria crowned pigeons have the unique ability to produce milk! This milk has a chemical composition similar to what is produced by mammals. Called "crop milk," it is a secretion of the adult crop which is fed to chicks during their first few days of life and is produced by both sexes.

Make way for royalty, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo has acquired two beautiful new birds, the Victoria crowned pigeons! The female arrived from Zoo Miami on November 29 and the male from the Columbus Zoo on December 7 - and they have since made themselves comfortable in the Diversity of Birds exhibit.

Native to northern New Guinea and surrounding islands, these beautiful birds are Near Threatened and their population is decreasing due to hunting and habitat loss from logging. They are herbivores who feed mainly on fallen fruits, berries, seeds, and occasionally small invertebrates. Victoria crowned pigeons are gray-blue in color, have a lace-like crest, maroon breast, and stunning red eyes. These are the largest species of pigeon in the world and were named in honor of the British monarch, Queen Victoria, because of their large, fan-shaped crest of erect lacy feathers that resemble a crown!

Their big size and royal disposition aren't the only unique thing about these birds - they differ from other pigeons in having sixteen instead of twelve tail feathers, the scaling of their legs, and lacking an oil gland and gallbladder.

Victoria crowned pigeons are known to be monogamous and mate for life. They make a deep 'hoota-hoota' sound while performing their mating calls and both parents help raise the young.

The Friends campaign was so successful, in fact, that the \$1.1 million fundraising goal was exceeded – all thanks to the generous support of community members, organizations and foundations.

That collective support, said Zoo Director Ted Fox, is nothing short of amazing. “My colleagues from other zoos around the country and I frequently talk about the community support and how important that is,” he said. “We are so lucky because this community loves the zoo.”

Situated near Primate Park, the Animal Health Center — the second-largest facility of its kind in New York state — was constructed to provide quality care for all of the zoo’s animals. With its beige stone facade and wide windows, the center offers visitors easy viewing into treatment rooms, a surgical suite, a nursery, an intensive care unit, a kitchen, and a research laboratory. Zoo visitors get to observe animal health care in action. This kind of transparent visibility and real-life education is intentional and important, Fox said.

“It ensures visitors experience first-hand what goes on with animal care behind the scenes,” he said. “One of the biggest parts of our mission is to educate and share what happens behind the scenes here. Zoos historically have not done a great job with that. We’re opening the doors here and showing folks what we actually do. What goes into taking care of the animals. How the animals come here and the quarantine they have to go through before they can join our collection.”

At the new Animal Health Center, the zoo’s veterinary and animal care teams now have the space and tools necessary to provide a wide array of treatment and surgical procedures and to conduct routine physicals and diagnostic testing.

### Meeting AZA Standards

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, an organization that applies rigorous, science-based standards in examining the zoo’s entire operation, from animal welfare, veterinary care, and conservation, to education, guest services, and safety. The new Animal Health Center not only meets the standards of accreditation issued by the AZA; it exceeds them.

With a dedicated laboratory and increased space, the center expands the zoo’s ability to treat more animals on-site and contribute to research advancing animal science, Fox said. It also includes an animal quarantine facility with four specialized areas to meet the needs of carnivores, primates, aquatic animals, and birds. The space ensures the health and safety of all zoo inhabitants when new animals arrive.

### More Room for Cornell

The new center not only provides world-class health care for the zoo’s inhabitants, from prenatal to geriatric care; it also expands the zoo’s role as a teaching hospital for the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine zoological medicine program. Through that partnership, which has existed for more than two decades, Cornell residents, interns, and students gain hands-on experience while providing the best medical care possible to the animals.

Prior to the new center, Cornell had to limit the number of participating students. But not anymore. “We now have a huge spacious room so a whole class could come if they wanted to,” Fox said.

### More Plans Ahead

With all the excitement surrounding the opening of the Animal Health Center, it’s important to note there’s more to come.

According to Fox, the center was part of a four-phase project with the engineering and construction of the center as phases one and two, respectively.

The remaining phases? Designing and constructing an African savannah exhibit alongside the center. “We’re always thinking about the next thing,” he said.

## Inspiring Veterinarians of Tomorrow

Tucked inside the Animal Health Center, is a colorful room focused on the zoo’s mission to educate. Filled with stuffed animals and play medical equipment, including test tubes, microscopes, and scales, this Junior Veterinary Clinic provides an interactive space for little hands and minds to learn about animal care.

Stations inside the room replicate a traditional veterinary clinic. Donned in white lab coats provided near the room’s entrance, junior veterinarians can visit a waiting room, exam room, surgery station, and kitchen area. At each stop, they can pretend to be a part of the animal care team, performing exams, diagnosing, providing treatment, and more.

The experience is a learning one. But for young visitors, it’s pure fun. “Kids can just go play and have a blast,” said Friends of the Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large.

Zoo supporter Karris Wiggins, of Karris Wiggins Designs, agrees. She recently brought her granddaughters — ages nine and seven — into the clinic for the first time. “The youngest one has always had an affinity for animals,” Wiggins said. “She spent time at every station and explored everything. She got a pet carrier with an animal in it, did the weigh-in, grabbed the doctor’s bag, and really got lit up at the kitchen station trying to decide what kind of food to feed her animal. It’s a real, interactive way to have an experience at the zoo.”

Created through support from The Friends of the Zoo and the Herbert S. and Eleanore L. Howard Charitable Foundation, the space is designed to provide a place for children to apply what they’ve seen and learned at the zoo.

As impactful as the clinic is, though, it wasn’t part of the original Animal Health Center plan, Large said. When she reviewed construction plans with Fox back in 2020 during her first week on the job, she was so inspired she had what she calls “a 3 a.m. idea moment.”

“I thought, why don’t we have a space where youth can have interactive stations they can use to pretend to be veterinarians,” she said. “I’m thankful the team here pivoted with the idea. We pulled in our education committee to help imagine the design. Now we have a space that will hopefully inspire youth to become veterinarians and, more importantly, be caring human beings.”

*“It’s really a tremendously exciting time for the zoo,” she said. “Every time I’m out there there’s just something new and there’s a buzz that’s wonderful. Between the renovations in the main building and the addition of the animal health center, there are so many new experiences for families to have.”*

Karis Wiggins



ONE HEALTH | ONE MISSION



# Where Were the Birds?

## Exhibit closures deemed essential to protect against Avian flu outbreak

*If you visited the zoo this spring, you may have noticed the zoo's birds were temporarily tucked away from the public.*

*And the reason why is an important one.*



A recent influx of avian flu, also known as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), has impacted birds throughout New York state. In April, it was discovered within a 20-mile radius of the zoo.

As a precautionary measure, all bird exhibits — including the eagles, penguins, waterfowl and flamingos — were moved indoors and the Diversity of Birds aviary was closed to the public until the threat is over. The courtyard pond has been drained to discourage migratory birds from landing.

"We just want to make sure we're doing the best we possibly can to protect them," said Zoo Director Ted Fox.

HPAI occurs annually and is caused by a highly contagious influenza type A virus. It's carried primarily by free-flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese, and shorebirds. However, it can also infect poultry, including chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks and geese, and guinea fowl.

Some infected wild birds can be asymptomatic and show no signs of illness. For others, the virus can be deadly.

According to Fox, the zoo monitors HPAI infections each year with the help of local, state, and federal health and environmental agencies. A response plan, he said, has been in place for nearly a decade.

"We developed a plan in 2014 and 2015 but didn't have to implement it because it came through really quickly and there

were no local cases reported," Fox said. "But this year, with it being as close as Montezuma, we felt we really needed to protect all of our precious birds."

HPAI viruses can sometimes infect other animals, so preventive measures are being taken facility-wide, especially with the zoo's big cat population. To avoid transmission, the animal care team is wearing protective Tyvek suits, shoe coverings, gloves, and masks.

"It's highly pathogenic and some animals, like big cats, can be more susceptible than, say, horses or cows or goats or any of those species," Fox said. "Not that infection is likely at all. But just like through COVID we want to be extra careful."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, infections among people are rare and the recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern.

In late May, some outdoor birds were reintroduced to their exhibits. The Stellars sea eagle exhibit and pole barn exhibits were opened as it was determined there was very little risk to them. We are now very happy to report that Diversity of Birds aviary is open, the penguins are out enjoying Penguin Coast, the flamingos have returned to the pond and the blue cranes are back on exhibit. "We thank everyone for their patience, said Fox. "I know that people understand we do everything we possibly can to keep the animals under our care safe every day.



# The Friends of the Zoo Hires Gina Rapasadi as the Director of Philanthropy

Gina Rapasadi of Clay has been hired as director of philanthropy. She is responsible for cultivating and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders to build effective strategies and sustainable revenue for major gifts in support of the zoo's mission and strategic plan.

Originally from Canastota, NY, Rapasadi attended Plattsburgh University for event planning. Two years into her degree, however, the major was changed to Hotel Restaurant Tourism Management. She adapted to the change and while she garnered a unique set of skills, she knew hotel and restaurant management was not her passion. After college, she began working at the Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse, where she spent 17 years. She started her career in their development department – steadily working her way up, taking over events and volunteer services. While incredibly passionate about her work with

the Rescue Mission, she knew it was time to start the next chapter in her life.

As a zoo member, Rapasadi and her son have been frequent zoo visitors for years. "I love the zoo and what it stands for, it's just a magical place," she said. Which is why when she saw there was an opening for the director of philanthropy position, she knew she had to jump at the chance. With a passion for supporting non-profit organizations and an incredible ability to connect with people, she knew she was the perfect addition to the team. "My expertise comes with event planning, donor relations, volunteer services, and a lot of working with and connecting with people," she said.

"Gina's ability to inspire others and get them excited about our mission is going to do wonders for the Friends of the Zoo," said Friends of the Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large. "We are so excited to welcome her to the team."

## Securing a Future for Red Wolves

Red wolves are native to the southern U.S. and are distantly related to both gray wolves and coyotes. They once ranged throughout the south, but by the 1960s they were hunted almost to extinction by ranchers seeking to wipeout a potential livestock predator. In the 1970s, conservationists captured the last 40 red wolves from the Texas/Louisiana border and established the captive breeding program. There are currently fewer than 20 red wolves remaining in the wild in the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge in eastern North Carolina. Less than 250 are in human care at 41 institutions - including the Rosamond Gifford Zoo involved in the Species Survival Plan for the species.

Conservation organizations including the Association of Zoos & Aquariums SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) program are working to raise awareness and lobby for stronger protections for wild red wolves, while the Species Survival Plan continues to build a population of these beautiful animals in human care to eventually be released into the wild.

At the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, hopes for future red wolf pups rest with Cheyenne and Waya a bonded pair who have breeding recommendations from the SSP - meaning they are genetically unrelated and have a great chance of producing healthy offspring while preserving biodiversity in the population.

Unlike most other animals at the zoo, the red wolves receive no close-up interaction and no training to participate in their own care, said Zoo Director Ted Fox. "They are treated as a hands-off species that are kept as naturally wild and cautious of humans as possible, in case we are able to release them into the wild population," he said.

To give these shy, elusive animals the best-case scenario for reproducing, the zoo has launched a capital campaign to make needed updates and improvements to their habitat on the Wildlife Trail. **We invite you, your family, your organization or your business to lend your support to this important endeavor! Please consider a donation of any amount to the capital fund on behalf of Cheyenne, Waya and all red wolves.**

## The Future of Red Wolves \$150,000 project will include:

- Doubling the size of the red wolf habitat to over half an acre to provide more space for potential pups.
- New perimeter fencing to allow for a larger exhibit while increasing opportunities for the public to see the wolves.
- A new camera system to monitor their behaviors 24/7, including inside their underground den.
- Needed maintenance of their den to reinforce the foundation and update the drainage system to keep it warm and dry.
- New interpretive and donor signage to tell their story and acknowledge contributors to the exhibit.



▶ PLEASE TEXT Redwolf TO 243725 TO DONATE  
Thank you for your support!





County Executive Ryan McMahon (second from left) joins Director of Food and Beverage Chuck Anthony, Friends Executive Director Carrie Large, Zoo Director Ted Fox and Executive Chef Dan Hudson for the official Honey Bee Café ribbon cutting on World Bee Day.



## New HoneyBee Café Now Open!

The tempting smells grabbing your attention are that of fresh, rich coffee and savory delights from the recently renovated HoneyBee Café.

With crisp white walls bearing a honeycomb design, a bee-inspired logo, new flooring, and a healthy new menu, the former Jungle Café is the newest dining spot at the zoo. After an eight-month renovation, the HoneyBee Café officially opened on May 20 - World Bee Day.

"It was a long time coming and a project we've been looking forward to," said Friends of the Zoo Food and Beverage Director Chuck Anthony. When the zoo closed down during the COVID-19 shutdown, Friends of the Zoo leadership took advantage of the opportunity to refresh and rebrand the café and determine how to better serve guests.

In March 2021, Anthony was hired to take over the reins of the zoo's event venue, Catering at the Zoo and oversee the café. He was immediately tasked with the renovation. "It was really the first project I wanted to tackle coming in," he said.

What was once a fast-food franchise with an '80s aesthetic is now a renovated space designed to make any zoo diner happy. After a floor-to-ceiling overhaul, the café now boasts a new counter, electronic menu boards, and a point-of-sale system courtesy of The Gifford Foundation. There's also a new walk-up service window coming this summer for warm-weather ordering and added seating on the patio.

On the menu, which was curated by Anthony and Executive Chef Dan Hudson, are fresh, made-to-order sandwiches and hand-tossed salads, white-meat baked chicken tenders, and fresh sides, such as pasta salad, fruit cups, and apples.

If you're looking for something sweet, there are still some treats like brownies and cookies on hand, Anthony said. But the focus is on healthier food and beverages and environmentally conscious products.



Friends of the Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large underscored the importance of providing healthier options to visitors. "We want to live our mission in everything we do," she said. "We all live on one planet and need to take care of the environment, the animals, and ourselves. With the One Health, One Mission in mind, we wanted to provide healthier options to enrich our guests, just like we do with the animals."

### Don't Expect Boring

Just because the menu is healthier, don't expect it to be boring, Anthony said. The HoneyBee team is invested in providing food that's not only good for you but tastes great, as well. "How do you take a turkey sandwich and make it unique? You add avocado and garlic aioli and punch it up a notch" Anthony said.

Diners will also be able to enjoy a new coffee bar featuring locally roasted coffee beans by Café Kubal and tasty beverages like espressos, lattes, cappuccinos, iced coffees, tea — pretty much anything you'd want from your favorite high-end coffee spot.



In keeping with the zoo's focus on conservation, all food packaging is eco-friendly, including biodegradable cutlery and plastic-free straws.

Anthony said guests can also expect local products whenever possible, such as Beak & Skiff apple cider, Dinosaur BBQ sauces, and Byrne Dairy chocolate milk, among others. "We'll have local honey and produce whenever feasible," he said. "We also want to change the menu seasonally."

### Preorder Online!

Perhaps one of the coolest features of the new HoneyBee Café is its new technology.

Want to order a coffee and have it ready when you arrive? How about preordering your lunch when you're halfway through the Wildlife Trail so that it's ready when you return to the courtyard? "One of the things we learned was the public was not only comfortable with online ordering, they expected it," Anthony said. "We wanted to integrate that option into the new café."

And when you enjoy food and beverages at the zoo, you're not just feeding your hunger; you're also making a contribution. "That's the beautiful part of this all," Large said. "The money goes back to support the mission of the Friends of the Zoo — right into education, care of the animals, and providing a phenomenal guest experience."

### All Thanks to the Community

Like all things at the zoo, the café renovation was the result of generous community support, Large said.

"The HoneyBee Café was a vision that turned into a reality thanks to the support of our project partners including Karis Wiggins Design, McGinnis Nelson Construction, The Effect Group, and the Friends of the Zoo board of directors and staff," she said.

"The result of our efforts will, hopefully, create lasting memories for families, and all of the zoo's visitors."

**The HoneyBee Café will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about online ordering, visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](https://rosamondgiffordzoo.org) or use the QR code below.**



**Order Ahead!**

## Cameron Price Food Service Manager



Friends of the Zoo has hired Cameron Price as food service manager for the HoneyBee Café. Cameron graduated from Chenango Valley High School in Binghamton, NY, but spent most of his formative years at West Genesee High School in Camillus, NY.

He stayed local and studied Cultural Anthropology at Syracuse University, but always had a passion for food. He spent a couple years as the kitchen manager at Strong Hearts before spending the last nine years at The Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles.

Cameron said he was drawn to this position because, "it was an opportunity to use my skill set in a fun and friendly environment and also because the ideals of conservation, community, and sustainability are actively promoted and practiced here." He has a new favorite animal every week, but says he currently enjoys watching the red pandas.

"My favorite part of working here is seeing so many members of the community having a great day. The interactions are a lot of fun and seeing so many happy faces makes each day even better."



Presented By  
Woodlawn Cemetery



Scan QR Code  
for race results

## 5K Run Recap

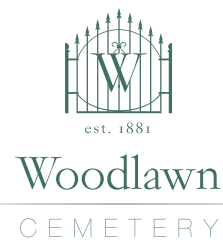
The Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo held its first-ever 5K run/walk on Saturday, April 23 with more than 380 runners of all ages participating. The run included a Hatchling Hustle 1K for the little ones.

Zoo Run Run kicked off at 7 a.m. in the zoo courtyard with multiple waves of running through the zoo's Wildlife Trail past camels, penguins, wolves, elephants, snow leopards and red pandas. Finishers received medals with additional prizes for those finishing in first, second and third place. To view the list of winners, go to [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/zoo-run-run](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/zoo-run-run) or scan the QR code to the left. **The Komodo dragon-themed run raised \$32,597 in support of animal care and conservation education.**

**Make sure to watch for upcoming news on the April 22, 2023 5K Zoo Run Run and Hatchling Hustle on our website and social media.**



THANK YOU TO OUR  
2022 ZOO RUN RUN SPONSORS:



# Calendar of Events

Party with our penguins! Raise a cup of craft beer amid animals on evening exhibit. Enjoy gourmet food and drink stations, live music and a champagne toast on a beautiful autumn evening. These and many more events await you in the upcoming months. Best of all, these events help your zoo pursue its key mission of animal care, conservation and nature education.

**Events are free for members or with paid zoo admission, unless otherwise noted. Scan QR code for full event details or visit, [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/events](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/events)**



## Daily Keeper Chats Begin June 25!



### Penguin Palooza Sunday, July 10

Kids of all ages will enjoy this ice cream extravaganza and incredible array of activities, entertainment, ice cream samplings, kid-friendly foods, fun music, face painters, keeper chats and more!



### Brew at the Zoo presented by CXTEC Friday, August 5

Make plans now to attend one of the most anticipated events of the summer. More than 100 tastings of craft beers, wines and other adult beverages, live music performances throughout the zoo and a great gathering of food trucks, plus animals on exhibit. This is one party not to be missed! **Tickets go fast get yours today!**



### Asian Elephant Extravaganza Saturday, August 20

This annual event celebrates Asian culture and honors the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's Asian elephant herd. The many activities planned for the event include elephant demonstrations, cultural performances, games, puppet shows and more!

## Special Hours



### Sensory Inclusion Hours

take place on the first Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. through August 2.

Visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org) to learn more or scan QR code:



### Fall Conservation Ball Friday, September 23

Join us for an evening of fantastic food, mesmerizing music and your favorite animals all to benefit animal care at the zoo and conservation in the wild. Highlighted by a sunset toast and a live auction of the best animal experiences – this is an evening you will not want to miss!



### Zoo Boo Weekends in October

Enjoy one of the zoo's most beloved family events with a safe, fun, "kooky-not-spooky" daytime Halloween celebration. Wear your costumes and bring your treat bags for this hauntingly awesome event!



### Holiday Nights Fridays and Saturdays in December

Celebrate the season with Holiday Nights at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo! Sing along with holiday carolers, visit with Santa, gather around and warm up by glowing fire pits with family and friends, enjoy festive lighting, ice sculpture carving, animals, and much more!



### Noon Year's Eve Saturday, December 31

Join us for our annual New Year's Eve celebration that keeps bedtime in mind – complete with a dance party, noisemakers, countdown to noon and a juice toast!



### Senior Mornings – Second Wednesday of Each Month

Senior zoo members 62 and older with valid ID are invited to come take advantage of early zoo access beginning at 9 a.m. and enjoy the quiet trails before the zoo opens!

### Freebie Fridays

Seniors 62+ receive free zoo admission every Friday during normal zoo hours.



# ECONOTES

## The Warm Weather is Here, It's Time to Start Thinking GREEN Again.

Getting the perfect yard with lush, green grass for the summer BBQ season doesn't have to be a water (or money) waster. In fact, having a lower maintenance yard in general can look just as beautiful, and be better for the environment! Did you know that 50% of residual water use is applied to lawncare and landscaping? To minimize this excess water-waste, consider Xeriscaping!

Xeriscaping is a creative landscaping and planning process designed to reduce water usage by more than 50%. The Greek word "xero" means dry, and the principles of xeriscaping can be applied anytime water conservation is a priority. Xeriscaping contains seven key principles to help you on your way to a beautiful yard, check out <http://ccenassau.org/resources/xeriscape-landscaping> for an in depth introduction.



The first three principles, which are useful for anyone working on a new lawn, are Landscape Planning, Wise Turf Selection, and Efficient Irrigation Systems. All three will help you save time, money, and water while maintaining your lawn. Check out the water-saving efforts being made at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at <http://www.savetherain.us/rosamond-gifford-zoo/>



The next three principles are great for both old and new lawns – Using Low Water Demanding Native Plants, Soil Improvements, and Organic Mulch Application. For low-cost resources and to learn about making your own mulch and compost, visit <https://ocrra.org/services/compost/>.



The last principle is Regular Maintenance! This includes pruning, weeding, limiting fertilization, and controlling pests. Using native plants and organic compost and mulch significantly reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticide application, and native plants can bring in more pollinators, including bees and butterflies! Reducing the turf area of the lawn can also significantly help reduce the fossil fuel consumption needed for gas mowers. Xeriscaping is aiding in more conservation rewards and bringing more green to your Summer fun!

## Senior Citizens Appreciation Day

presented by **Nascentia Health**

On a beautiful spring morning in May, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo honored seniors with a special zoo experience. Nearly 200 seniors registered for our first Senior Citizens Appreciation Day presented by Nascentia Health on May 11. The day started with free zoo admission and a complimentary continental breakfast that guests enjoyed in the sunlit courtyard.

The morning included senior-specific booths and vendors, including Nascentia Health, Humana, UnitedHealthcare, and Wellcare. There were also tables for RSVP of Onondaga County, Catholic Charities Elderly Services, Onondaga County Office for Aging, NY Connects, Long Term Care Resource Center, the Men and Women's Garden Club of Syracuse and more.

"Nascentia Health has worked with seniors in Central New York since our founding in 1890 and we loved the idea of sponsoring a day honoring senior citizens at an educational and fun venue like the Rosamond Gifford Zoo," said Ted Burke, regional outreach coordinator for Nascentia Health. "It was a wonderful opportunity to bring together so many nonprofits and social service agencies to connect older people with important local resources. We engaged with so many people at our table and got to learn what needs they had and how we could help."

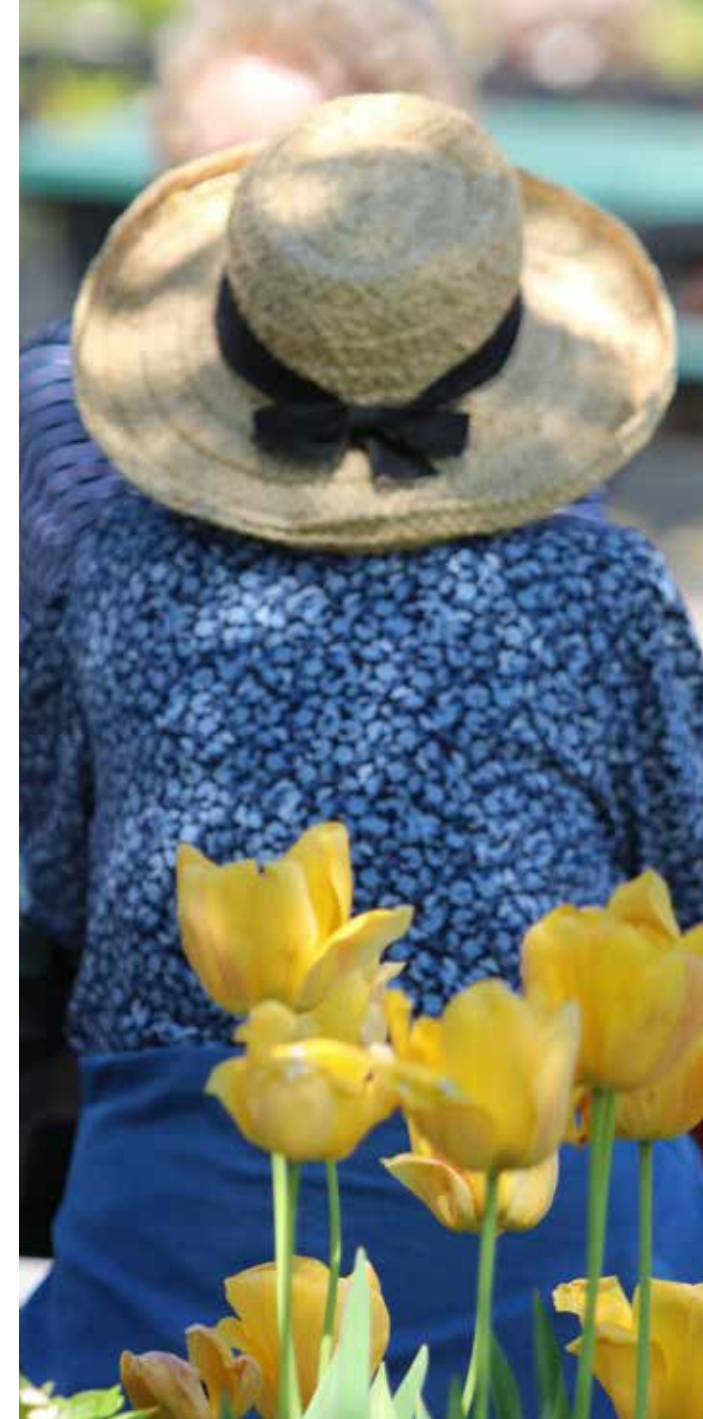
Seniors enjoyed a scenic, peaceful walk to the Helga Beck Asian Elephant Preserve for an elephant yoga demonstration by the zoo's oldest elephant, Siri who showed off how flexible she is. Her keepers discussed the effort that goes into caring for senior animals to maintain their flexibility and mobility. A series of informative keeper chats were also held throughout the morning.

"The zoo reflects our community," said Carrie Large, executive director of the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. "You don't have to be a kid to enjoy the zoo, and we know seniors want to enjoy the beautiful trails. We loved being able to partner with Nascentia Health because they're focused on seniors' livelihood and being healthy, and what a great way to partner and be able to walk through the zoo and enjoy the day."

The event was so well received that there are now plans for another Senior Citizens Appreciation Day next year. In the meantime, senior zoo members 62 and older are invited to attend a new series of early-entry mornings scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and seniors can be the first to tour the zoo or just enjoy a cup of coffee from the HoneyBee Café while taking in the quiet beauty of the courtyard. All seniors 62 and older will also receive free zoo admission every Friday during normal zoo hours.

"I heard so many people say they haven't been to the zoo in years, it's a win-win for seniors and the zoo," said Ellen-Rose Galgano, who attended the event with friends. "Hopefully it will encourage them to come back and take a walk in the park and see a collection of wonderfully interesting animals!"

### THANK YOU TO OUR ADDITIONAL SPONSORS:





# Animal Health Center Jr. Vet Clinic





## COUNT THE PATIENTS!


Did you know that animals at the zoo go for regular check-ups just like you do?  
Can you tell how many of each animal the Jr. Vet saw this week?  
Count each one and write the number in the answer key below.





### How many?


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ANSWERS: ON PAGE 18

Adopt  
an  
Animal 

## Red Wolf Senior Keeper Special \$55

**Package includes:**  
A certificate of adoption, 4x6 color photo of a red wolf, animal fact sheet, 12" animal plush, an adopt parent gift, copy of *MyZoo Magazine*, and listing in online adopt parent board for one year.



Adopt an Animal online at [syracusezooevents.org/shop](http://syracusezooevents.org/shop)  
Looking to adopt another animal at the regular rate?  
Call (315) 435-8511 x8563 or  
email [giftshop@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:giftshop@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)



### Totally Wild Trivia Night!

**Thursday, August 25 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
Test your animal knowledge in this "in it to win it" adults only game night! Compete for a variety of prizes and the bragging rights of being the smartest wolf in the pack. Includes pizza, soda, wine & beer (limit of 2 drinks per person)  
**Ages 21 and older only.**

**Individual Member: \$55 | Individual Non-member: \$60**  
**Member pair: \$100 | Non-member pair: \$110**  
**Member group (4): \$180 | Non-member group: \$200**



Register online today at:  
[rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org)  
For details, Call (315) 435-8511 x8559 or  
email [education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

*Wear your Pride T-shirt weekends  
in June and receive a  
free Pride Punch beverage!*



Available in The Curious Cub Gift Shop  
or shop online at: [syracusezooevents.org/shop](http://syracusezooevents.org/shop)  
Scan the QR code

### Bruno Update

Watch Bruno take his first swim!





## Why does my membership matter?

Your Rosamond Gifford Zoo membership invites you to visit the zoo as often as you'd like, attend our special events and programs, support our mission of wildlife conservation, and so much more. **You have always heard us say that our members are our #1 supporters—but in what ways does your membership directly benefit the zoo?**

### ANIMAL CARE

Membership revenue contributes to the thousands of dollars annually the zoo spends to provide the exceptional care that each of our animals receives. This ensures that our zoo animals are happy, healthy and protected.

### EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Your membership allows us to recruit a team of valuable educators who help to share the wonders of wildlife with a variety of learners and spark passion in our community to support animal welfare.

### CONSERVATION MISSION AND MILESTONES

We strive to be your local leaders in conservation-driven goals, plans and projects. Membership support has helped us to achieve so much, including our recycled rainwater project and other green initiatives around the zoo.

### SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS AND BUILD COMMUNITY TIES

By supporting your local zoo, you're also helping to support other local businesses as we continue to grow and partner with our neighbors in the Central New York community.

### MAINTAIN AZA ACCREDITATION

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation is the gold standard of zoos across the country. We are proud to have maintained this status for more than 50 years. Membership revenue plays a vital role in helping us maintain this important distinction.

**When you choose to renew your membership, you're making a connection from our world to yours—bringing you close enough to care.**

## New! Seahorse-Themed Items at the Gift Shop!

Check out our new seasonal items including newly arrived seahorse apparel plus a great selection of conservation-themed gift items for the animal lovers in your life.

### Members Receive 10% Off!

Best of all, your purchases benefit animal care at the zoo and conservation in the wild.



Can't come to the zoo? Scan the QR code to visit our online store or go to [syracusezooevents.org/shop](http://syracusezooevents.org/shop)



## Chef Dan's Gourmet Dinner Pairings a Success!

In fall 2021, Catering at the Zoo launched a series of dinner and wine/beer pairings carefully crafted by Executive Chef Dan Hudson, which garnered rave reviews and quickly sold out.

The first Harvest Dinners held in October, November and December were five-course, limited-seating dining events showcasing Chef Dan's culinary talents and knowledge of wine and beer pairing. The mission-based dinners were conservation-themed -- featuring some of our endangered species and enabling guests to learn more about zoo animals, as well as sustainable food. The first dinner paired South American inspired cuisine with Meiomi wines; the second, Bell's Big Cat Dinner, paired carnivore-inspired courses with Bells Brewery beers and the third, Penguin's Sustainable Seafood Feast, paired seafood courses with Kim Crawford Wines from New Zealand.

With our success as an inspiration, we continued the gourmet dinner series in 2022 starting with a five-course dinner themed around the zoo's Heritage Breed black sheep and paired with select beers from Brewery Ommegang in February. In March, we presented a Camel Caravansarai which paired select wines, ciders, and spirits from 1911 with a custom, five-course dinner inspired by the cultures of Central Asia – the native habitat of Bactrian camels. Guests learned all about this intriguing species and our very own camels, Patrick and George. A Slow Food wine pairing in April had record attendance - 66 diners enjoyed Heron Hill Winery wines with a custom five-course meal reflective of the "Slow Food" movement. The series sold out once again.

**If you missed these events, we are excited to announce another amazing dinner-pairing feast in honor of our red wolves, Cheyenne and Waya on Friday, June 24.** Taking advantage of the warm summer weather and scenic beauty of the zoo, the dinner will be an outdoor BBQ paired with select beers from Middle Ages Brewing Company held in the courtyard to accommodate more guests.



Our gourmet food pairings can also be arranged for private dinner parties with a minimum of 50 guests! For more information, contact [events@cateringatthetoo.org](mailto:events@cateringatthetoo.org)

For more details and to make a reservation, visit [cateringatthetoo.org](http://cateringatthetoo.org) or scan the QR code.



### MYZOO JR. ANSWER KEY



Learn more about hosting your own special event at the zoo. Contact us today! Email [events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org), call (315) 435-8511 x8543 or visit [cateringatthetoo.org](http://cateringatthetoo.org).



# Upcoming Events

See page 13  
for these and other  
exciting events!



Presented by CXTEC

**FRIDAY  
AUGUST 5**



**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 20**



*Fall  
Conservation  
Ball*

**FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 23**